

NOTES OF PROGRESS

LET ALL HAVE A PART

By E. A. Moon

Once again we are to have the privilege of bringing to the Lord an offering during the Week of Sacrifice. It is hoped that this year we will all have a part in giving a larger offering than we have ever before made during a Week of Sacrifice. The needs this year are greater than ever before. God's people in many places in the earth will not find it possible to bring their usual offering this year because of war conditions. This makes it all the more important that we who are more favourably situated do our very best to help with funds for carrying forward the Lord's work in the earth.

God has promised to bless us when we sacrifice for His cause and give to help forward the work in other lands. By giving of our means we can have a part in hastening on the preaching of the gospel and the finishing of the work in all the world. We do not know how many more years we may yet have to labour before we see the end of all earthly things. While there is yet opportunity shall we not do what we can and thus receive the blessings which God will surely bring to us.

"Spiritual prosperity is closely bound up with Christian liberality. The followers of Christ should rejoice in the privilege of revealing in their lives the beneficence of their Redeemer. As they give to the Lord, they have the assurance that their treasure is going before them to the heavenly courts."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, pages 344 and 345.

May we not appeal to every worker and every believer throughout the Malayan Union Mission to do his very best to bring the Lord the biggest Week of Sacrifice Offering that has ever been given in this union, and thus hasten on that glad day when sacrificing will all be over and the world will have been redeemed from sin.

"AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?"

By W. W. R. Lake

Many bitter things have been said about anonymous correspondence, and I have occasionally my-

self said some of them, and thought much more than I said; but for all that a man needs to keep a sensitive spirit lest he should fail to hear a cry from a tortured soul or to hear a plaintive chord to an erring one. There is much character, or want of character, in the written as in the spoken word, and a letter may be as expressive as a face. At any rate this letter which was sent to me contains so much character that it literally sobs with intense concern and appealing interest that I could do no other than ask that it be published as an encouragement to others in the quest, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The burden of this letter is an appeal from one member to another of God's communion to be

us. Let us not force Him to withdraw His grace, His protection, His guidance.

"Sometimes I wonder at my boldness in approaching you with a personal matter like this, yet I cannot say 'I am not my brother's keeper.' The money in itself is nothing, but O how hurt the heart of God must be, and yet how kind, loving, patient, and forbearing He is."

Such was the burden of this anonymous letter. It points imperiously toward our commission and the pulpit, provoking a challenge. Are we faithful in the discharge of our commission in preaching and representing the whole gospel? Do we feel that the matter of tithe-paying is a personal one and too delicate to speak about? Can we afford not to pay tithe? Does disobedience result in lukewarmness to things spiritual? Are we our brother's Keeper?

The genesis of disobedience to tithe-paying is revealed in the tragic lesson taught in the Garden of Eden when God reserved to Himself one tree. Satan's sophistries through man challenged God's right of ownership and appropriated it. "This tree God reserved as a constant reminder of His ownership of all. Thus He gave them opportunity to demonstrate their faith and trust in Him by their perfect obedience to His requirements. So it is with God's claims upon us. He places His treasures in the hands of men, but requires that one-tenth shall be faithfully laid aside for His work. . . . It is sacred. . . ." Vol. 6: 386.

To disregard any of God's commands brings in a spirit of defeatism not only to the defaulter but to the entire camp of Israel. Achan sinned by his disobedience to God's requirements, and that sin which he alone committed is spoken of in Joshua 7 as the "Tresspass of Israel, and, 'Israel hath sinned.'" With what result? Israel met ignominious defeat before greatly inferior forces both in numbers and military strategy because of one man's sin. What a lesson! What a tidal wave of disaster to Israel for one man's sin over one sin.

To those whose feet are slipping in these hours of closing probation read what Moses says in the

CHURCH CALENDAR

November and December, 1940

- Nov. 2—Home Missionary Day
- 9—Colporteurs Rally Day
- 16—23—Week of Sacrifice
- Dec. 7—14—Week of Prayer
- 14—Annual Offering
- 21—Christian Stewardship Day
- 28—13th Sab. Offer.—China Elementary Schools' Offering

faithful in all of the Lord's commands, especially in the matter of tithe-paying to which obviously the party addressed is a defaulter. Allow me to quote three short paragraphs: "I must now address myself to your irresponsibility to God in the matter of tithing. Firstly, it is wrong. Secondly, the danger of spending it. Thirdly, it brings in lukewarmness. Fourthly, it calls up great criticism. Fifthly, and last but by no means least, we cannot, we dare not take what does not belong to us. The tithe is holy unto the Lord.

"Please kneel down and pray over the matter. Let us not force God to lead us around a hard path, when He has already been leading us on an easy path. Let us not force Him to hide His face from

book of Deuteronomy 32:35. "To Me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them (shall) make haste." Why let us force God to lead us around a hard path. Let us not force Him to hide His face from us."

In this probationary time when the Lord's Spirit is searching hearts and churches to endow them with the Unction from above for the speedy finishing of His Work on earth, let no one who has taken His name default in his responsibilities thus bringing upon himself and the camp of Israel defeatism, and thereby frustrating God's plan for His people in this striking split-hour of the world's end.

**NOTICE TO THE ALUMNI OF
LA SIERRA COLLEGE**
(Formerly Southern California
Junior College and La Sierra
Academy)

By Keld J. Reynolds

October 3, 1922, was the birthday of La Sierra. It opened its doors with about one hundred students. The year just closing, in grades nine to fourteen the enrollment passed 650. God has been good to the college.

One of the blessings for which we are most thankful is that so many of the blessings for which many of the children of La Sierra are scattered over the World living and preaching the Message. Whatever your profession or station in life, and wherever you are, we want to re-establish connection. To that end we are asking your help to start a new custom, to hear from all of you every year on October 3.

Please write, telling where you are, what you are doing, and, if you have the time and inclination, something of interest about your work. If you have changed your name, tell us what it was. And plan to have your message in our hands by October 3. Your doing this will encourage former schoolmates, and be an inspiration to the students now in the college. Please write to Keld J. Reynolds, La Sierra College, Arlington, California.

ENCOURAGING

Tran Ngoc Té, field missionary secretary of Indo-China, has just sent in the colporteur sales reports for July and August. These reports are so much larger than ever before that we ask how was it done?

One reason is that it was vacation time and several students joined the colporteur force and did excellent work. One student sold Ps. 307 in July and Ps. 453 in August, while another sold Ps. 533 during August.

Another reason for larger sales is the larger number of hours at work. As usual those who put in the most time made the largest sales. If every colporteur in our union would put in as many hours as some of our best men our sales would show a great increase.

Especially encouraging and surprising, too, is that these sales were made in old territory and with a book that has been sold in it more or less for the past 6 years.

Not only do we hope for larger sales, but also for what larger sales mean—more gospel literature in the homes of the people. Wouldn't you, too, like to have the joy and the reward of Bro. Té and his colporteurs as related in his article.

**COLPORTEUR'S WORK
STARTS TO BEAR FRUIT**

By Tran Ngoc Te

Sometimes we leave a book in a home but we do not know what influence that book will have on that home. We can only pray God to make it bear fruit. We have sold many books in different places in this country although we so far have not seen actual results from our labours.

Recently, we stopped at Tamquan (Annam), a small town, to sell books. This is a place that our colporteurs do not like to stop because they think they can not sell books there. We stayed with a Buddhist family because there was no hotel. The first day, we asked them to give us vegetables and because that day was the fifteenth according to the Chinese calendar they also ate only vege-

tables and of course they thought that we were of the same religion as they so they did not pay any attention to us but the next day was the Sabbath. We worshipped God as we do in our own church, they thought it strange to hear us pray for them. After that the eldest son asked us many questions about our religion and our beliefs. He remembered that he received some literature some years ago so he knew that we keep the Sabbath and that we have the true Message, now he is interested very much in our work. We were in a hurry to leave for Tourane to attend some meetings so we did not have time enough to explain to him all about the truth. Three weeks passed and when we came back to Saigon, we received a long letter from this man asking for more literature. I have sent him a package of every kind of our literature we have here. After having read them over, he became very much interested in the truth. He is very anxious to have a reading-room in his community in order to bring light to his friends, who have just come out from Cao-daiism (a religion make up of Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity etc.) They are very anxious to know about the true God religion. This man promises to allow us to use his house for that purpose and also to provide a place for our worker to live. He earnestly desires to learn more about the truth and to join our church. We sincerely hope that God will help this soul to come to Him and be saved and that he will lead his friends there to worship the true God.

Let us sow the seed of the Gospel and God will make it grow according to His love. Do not be discouraged because we do not have success as quickly as we wish. We must keep on spreading the literature everywhere, and by God's power and grace it will bear fruit.

**COLPORTEUR SALES
FRENCH INDO-CHINA**

Colporteur	Hours		Sales	
	July	Aug.	July	Aug.
NGUYEN TAN VANG	124	36	Ps. 292.30	95.00
NGUYEN VAN PHI	100	40	157.00	112.00
NGUYEN VAN XA	—	35	—	62.80
NGUYEN NGON	—	150	—	168.40
PHAM TRUONG THANH	180	200	307.60	453.80
TRAN QUA	—	190	—	533.00
ROBERT SUNG	32	—	123.00	—
LEE KEE MIN	174	102	420.00	315.00
MISCELLANEOUS	—	—	95.20	33.00
TOTAL	610	753	1,395.10	1,773.00

REPORT OF TITHE AND SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERINGS

MALAYAN UNION MISSION — Nine Months ending 30th September, 1939 and 1940

(All items in Local Currency)

Mission	Tithe		Loss or Gain	Percentage Loss or Gain	Sabbath School		Loss or Gain	Percentage Loss or Gain
	1939	1940			1939	1940		
B. N. Borneo	1,577.92	1,473.27	104.65L	7%L	460.72	426.49	34.23L	7%L
F. I. China	1,489.44	3,770.85	2,281.41G	153%G	279.32	283.16	3.84G	1%G
Malay States	9,638.66	11,335.89	1,697.23G	18%G	3,540.52	3,975.62	435.10G	12%G
Sarawak	752.26	1,125.98	373.72G	50%G	368.56	474.94	106.38G	29%G
Thailand	1,664.10	2,400.28	736.18G	44%G	668.77	764.30	95.53G	14%G
Totals	15,122.38	20,106.27	4,983.89G	33%G	5,317.89	5,924.51	606.62G	11%G

Leonard F. Bohner, Treasurer

OUR LAYMEN ARE DOING THEIR PART

By D. P. Siagian

If you could visit our churches and companies you would see that our laymen in North Borneo are doing their part to spread the gospel within their surroundings. Of our fifteen groups scattered through the hills and valleys of this state only nine places have paid workers. The other six are taken care of by our faithful laymen.

One of these places has an organized church of 34 baptized members and a Sabbath School membership of 62. It has been two and a half years since the evangelist was called away and they have been visited only occasionally. Yet it is one of our strongest churches. The members are very faithful in paying their tithe and are liberal with their offerings. They attend services regularly and often bring friends with them. Many of them have received honour cards for their punctuality and their daily lesson study.

The lay member in charge is also the church treasurer. He keeps the records faithfully and brings all the tithes and offerings to our mission office at the end of every month. He holds the Fifteen Minute Missionary service, reading a text and asking the report of missionary work done. Only recently has he had a Malay Missionary Programme to help him. Last year's statement shows that this particular church has received the most tithe with the exception of the Sandakan Church where the tithe of Brother Tidbury is included.

They have kept their church building in good condition also, repairing or replacing the atap. A year ago when Pastors Youngberg and Sibarani visited them they made extensive repairs, lowering it, putting on a good porch in front and whitewashing the build-

ing. There was practically no cost to the mission, except a little to replace a few broken boards and buy nails.

During our last Annual Meeting which was held early in May, the writer was asked to have oversight of the above mentioned church, and in one of my recent visits the elder asked me if the mission could help them with two rolls of barbed wire so they could put up a fence and keep the carabao away from the church building. They will find the posts and put up the fence as soon as the paddy-weeding is over.

It is encouraging to see that these brethren have seen the need and take the responsibility of the church, helping those who are weak and bringing others to the Master.

Through the efforts of our laymen and the help given by our previous worker at the place, we are now conducting a baptismal class of five and sincerely solicit your united prayers that we may be able to bring this class through till they accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

URGENT NEED FOR CHINESE WORK IN INDO-CHINA

By Tan Kia Ou

Of the 24,000,000 people of Indo-China, 400,000 are Chinese. Ten years ago work was begun for the Annamese and from the start has made good progress until now there are 8 companies and over 250 believers.

Long before that, even as early as 1921 through contact with a colporteur we had requests from Chinese to open work for them, but because workers and money were scarce, nothing was done.

During the past three years many Chinese have left their war-torn homes and come to Annam. Among them several of our church members until now there are about 30 members and inquirers in and near Saigon.

Early this year when one of the members Chan King Fei, recently from China, paid Ps. 1,000 tithe, this was set aside for Chinese work. Pastor Wentland, the director of the mission, at once placed an urgent call with the Union and Division for a good worker from China. The name of Huang Cheong Wah of Swatow was suggested.

We heard that South China favoured our request and that Lee Shai Kwong would also come for a short time to assist in an effort and the opening of the work. We were very glad for this good news and hoped soon to see them. Already months have gone by but they have not arrived. This is a great disappointment.

Our brethren in Saigon feel that they must not wait longer. Mr. Chan has gladly offered the use of his knitting factory as a meeting place and agreed to lead out in the Sabbath School and worship until a worker can come and a regular chapel opened. As soon as Brother Howlett can obtain the necessary permission from the police they will commence their Sabbath School.

May our believers throughout the field pray that the urgent need of a worker and a chapel there will soon be granted and that the Third Angel's Message may be given to the Chinese of Indo-China.

INDO-CHINA INGATHERING

By R. M. Milne

It was a real pleasure to call on our Chinese friends in Indo-China again and present our yearly report. I believe we were better received than ever before and most of those who could responded more liberally than before.

Pastor Tan Kia Ou is welcomed everywhere. They remember him since he first sold the SIGNS and our mission books there in 1921, and the acquaintance has been of-

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Published monthly by the Malayan Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, 399, Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore, S. S.

LEONARD F. BOHNER—EDITOR.

ten renewed as he has called with literature and Ingathering.

Nearly every place inquired about the SIGNS. We were specially pleased to hear these inquiries for it show that they missed the paper when it was not received. For several months after the war began all foreign papers were detained at the Post Office and our Chinese SIGNS coming from China were not delivered. As soon as we learned of it special request was made at the Censor's office and permission was obtained for its entry and circulation. Later a special letter of authorization was obtained so that colporteur Lee Kee Min is having very good success taking orders.

Usually the first topic of conversation was war and world conditions. We took the occasion to point out that as they had read the SIGNS for several years they should know that trouble would come, and that we are surely living in the last days. It was surprising to see how many had a knowledge of these things. They will surely read the SIGNS with still greater interest in the future.

ANNAMENSE LITERATURE

Our first Annamese literature was printed at the *Malayan Signs Press* in Singapore, but in order to better serve the Indo-China field a branch was established in Saigon. Before the Press was set up three small books were translated and ready for printing but in the hope of soon doing the work at Saigon it was thought best to wait.

But there have been many delays. The machinery from France took much longer to come than anticipated. Several months more were lost trying to make type, then a type-casting machine was ordered from France. A few months ago we were informed that it had been shipped but nothing further has been heard of it. Finally, in desperate need and though prices were very high, type was ordered from a local firm. It is ready now and no time will be lost in getting the three books—**TUBERCULOSIS, MARKED BIBLE, THE SABBATH**,—through the press and ready for the colporteurs.

Besides these small books a new series of twelve tracts are being translated from Chinese and will soon be ready. These have been desperately needed as the former stock was exhausted more than two years ago and only two kinds have been available for missionary work.

During the last school vacation student colporteurs sold out all of the cheaper binding of **HEALTH & LONGEVITY**, and as suitable paper cannot be obtained in Saigon and the plates for this book are still at the *Malayan Signs Press*, they have asked for another edition of 2,000 to be printed in Singapore.

CAMBODIA

As it is almost impossible to obtain Cambodian type an experiment was made of printing with blocks made from written copy. Though not as uniform and clear as printing from type, it has been quite successful and the books are so cheap that even the very poor can afford them.

The first attempt was with the little book **HAPPY HOME**. As a cautious venture only 500 were printed in the first order. However these sold so well that our Press in Saigon has just finished 2,000 more.

Besides this cheap edition it is felt that there is a demand for a better one that could be used in the schools.

The **BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE**, which was prepared in Thai (Siamese) two years ago is also ready for printing. A shop in Phnompenh has given a very reasonable price on these two books and Brother Bentz is arranging to have them done immediately.

Both these books have much more material than the original copies and they have been nicely illustrated and adapted to the Cambodian needs so they should not only be of great help to the country but also have a ready sale. Several earnest members are waiting for these books. They will be our first Cambodian colporteurs.

How Pastor and Mrs. Pickett would rejoice to see this good literature. Over seven years ago while still studying the language they planned and worked toward producing literature. Their efforts produced a few tracts, a song book, and the mimeographed Sabbath School Lessons.

As in other fields we wonder how the work can go forward and the message be given without tracts. Cambodia now has a good supply. Sixteen very interesting and complete tracts have been printed by our press in Saigon by making blocks of the written copy.

Surely we can look for a great awakening of interest in the message when this truth filled literature gets into the homes of the people.

Just a little over two months ago Mrs. Bentz opened a maternity hospital in Phnompenh. It is having excellent patronage and the receipts during the second month have been more than expenses. Cambodian women are a little slow about going into a strange hospital but Sr. Bentz has been called to many homes. Chinese and Annamese have also been patients. At present she has four helpers, three Cambodians and one Chinese. Though opened such a short time ago it is already well and favourable known in Phnompenh.

NEWS FROM UBOL

By R. P. Abel

On July 24, the Ubol Mission School and Church enjoyed a visit from Pastor E. A. Moon, Superintendent of the Malayan Union Mission. Some good meetings were held with the teachers and students when new and old school problems were studied. We had the pleasure of staking out the location of the new school and selecting the contractor who will erect the new buildings.

On Sabbath afternoon, July 27 the members of the Ubol Church gathered at a quiet spot on the bank of the Moon River to witness the baptism of 13 candidates, four teachers; Kru Pajong, Kru Saing, Kru Wongse and Kru Kam-poon, and nine students; Miss Pien, Nai Wipong, Nai Kwang Ying, Nai Boon Tong, Nai Poeta, Nai Saa, Nai Prasong, Nai Kam Poon and Nai Pradit. These young people were carefully selected from a large class who have been taking a thorough course in Bible Doctrines conducted by Kru Choy. Others are still studying and will follow at some later date. It means much for these young people to turn their backs upon all their Buddhist practices and endure the jeers of their relatives and former friends, but we know that God will be with them to sustain them in every time of need.

We have laboured long and prayed much to see some results from the school in East Thailand, and we thank God for this fine class of young people whom we hope to train for some place of usefulness in giving the Message to the millions of Thailand. May we not ask all our members everywhere to pray for these young converts that they may remain faithful to their baptismal vows and in witnessing for the truth wherever they are.