

# MALAYAN UNION MISSION

## NOTES OF PROGRESS

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March and April, 1941

No. 2

### A VISIT TO

#### FRENCH INDO-CHINA

By E. A. Moon

During the latter part of February and early March I spent three weeks in the Indo-China field. In spite of somewhat unsettled political conditions at that time, I found all of the workers busily carrying on their duties and the work going forward as usual.

Brother Bohner was in the field during a portion of my stay there. After he had finished auditing the accounts of the Mission, the Training School, and the branch publishing house, we with Brethren Howlett and Te visited our new clinic for the Moi people at Djiring in the mountains. We found the building nearly finished and the brethren expected that very soon they would be ready to start medical missionary work there. We also spent a day or two searching for possible locations for the Indo-China Training School. It is hoped that soon the school can be moved from its present temporary location near the city of Saigon to a more suitable country environment.

Brother Te and I went on to Tourane by train while Brethren Bohner and Howlett returned to Saigon. At Tourane we found Brother and Sister Hammill hard at work on language study. Brother Hammill was also finding some time to help with the various activities of the Tourane church and to visit the interested group out in the country about twice a month.

It was a real pleasure to hold a meeting with these brethren and interested people out there in the country. We now have permission to work there and Sabbath meetings are being held regularly. Plans are under way for the erection of a chapel soon.

Brother Hammill and Brother Pham Thanh went with us to Saigon for the annual meeting of the Mission executive committee. During this meeting plans were laid for the various lines of work during the year and the budget worked out. Three of the young men who are finishing the two-year training course in May were invited to take up regular evangelistic work in the field, while one or two others who have been connected with the work in the field

### CHURCH CALENDAR

- April 5—Medical Missionary Day  
19—Christian Stewardship Day  
26—Elementary Schools' Offering
- May 3—Home Missionary Day  
10—Missions Extension Day and Offering

were asked to come to the school to take further training.

After the committee meeting Brother Bohner left for Singapore and the other workers who had been in Saigon for the meeting visited the churches and groups of believers in Cambodia and Cochin China.

Brethren Howlett, Bentz, Ham-mill, and I drove to Phnom Penh, where we found Sister Bentz at work in the Maternity Home. This little institution has had a good patronage from the date it was opened and is doing a good work. Brother Bentz is pushing forward with the evangelistic and literature work in Cambodia. Plans were decided upon for him to conduct a three-months Bible Institute at which five or six Cambodian young men will be given an intensive course in the doctrines of the Bible. We hope that out of this group of young men some will eventually develop into evangelists and others into colporteurs.

At Phnom Penh three converts were baptized in the great branch of the Mekong River which flows past the city. One of these converts was an elderly French sister sixty-nine years of age.

As we continued our tour of the churches we held a baptism at Omon, inspected a piece of property which it is hoped to obtain for our new chapel and school at Long-xuyen, stopped for a brief visit at our Triton chapel, and conducted a marriage at Cantho. During the last few days I was in the field I shared with Brother Hammill and Brother Pham Thanh in the work of conducting a week of prayer for the students of the Training School in Saigon. Just before I left for Singapore five young people were baptized.

And so the work is onward in French Indo-China, and in spite

of the shortage of trained workers and uncertainty progress is being made in all lines of mission endeavour.

### STOLEN

By R. M. Milne

Colporteur Chin Kong Tai writes of an interesting experience:—

"In the territory of Johore most officers are Malays. For this reason, I could not get as many subscriptions for the SENTINEL as I expected. Anyhow, under the blessing of our God, within two weeks I got about sixty subscriptions in Johore Bahru and Kluang. Now I am in Batu Pahat and have worked two days.

"Yesterday evening I returned to the hotel and prepared to send my subs to Kuala Lumpur, but when I opened my suit-case I discovered that my money, amounting to \$66.00 had disappeared. It was a great blow to me. The whole night I could not sleep. I had been taught how to keep my money safe and never thought I could lose such a big sum. This is very discouraging but I pray that God will help me to carry on His unfinished work."

Since the above letter was received we have heard the rest of the story. Brother Chin felt pretty blue over losing his money and went to Kluang over the week end.

Next week he returned to his territory with a heavy heart. Standing in front of a shop wondering what to do, he was addressed by a young man who asked what he wanted, what he was doing, etc. Seeing that he spoke English well, Brother Chin thought he had better try to take his order for the SENTINEL. On seeing the paper the young man was very pleased. He said, he had read it at a friend's home and highly recommended it. He readily gave his order, then lead Brother Chin to many of his friends and nine subscriptions were obtained that evening.

Brother Chin considered this experience as a direct blessing from the Lord to encourage him and he went to work with new power. In a few days the loss was made up and Brother Chin is richer in experience and confidence in the Lord, even if a little short on the dollars.

**COMPARATIVE REPORT OF HOME MISSIONARY AND MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER WORK  
FOR THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1940**

NAME OF UNION	NAME OF MISSION F. Indo-China		NAME OF MISSION Thailand		NAME OF MISSION Malay States		NAME OF MISSION B. N. B		NAME OF MISSION Sarawak		UNION TOTALS	
	3 Quarters Present Year	3 Quarters Past Year	3 Quarters Present Year	3 Quarters Past Year	3 Quarters Present Year	3 Quarters Past Year	3 Quarters Present Year	3 Quarters Past Year	3 Quarters Present Year	3 Quarters Past Year	3 Quarters Present Year	3 Quarters Past Year
<b>REPORT OF MIS. WORK</b>												
a. Number of Bible readings or gospel meetings.	1361	1366	293	285	3243	3355	533	448	633	397	6063	5844
b. Number of missionary visits.	2009	1929	474	396	5767	4521	366	330	1389	615	9832	7987
c. Number of persons taken to Sabbath school or other services.	497	513	162	136	883	884	154	241	413	124	2382	4070
d. Number of persons given needed help.	393	291	—	—	—	1236	170	297	5189	3840	8768	6492
e. Number of treatments given.	804	887	246	650	3016	524	167	172	2567	1508	4600	3697
f. Number of hours of Christian help work.	629	261	—	490	816	—	—	—	—	—	629	261
g. Number of articles of clothing given away.	232	176	53	—	—	926	93	124	488	216	2572	1531
h. Number of bouquets and fruit baskets distributed.	—	—	—	77	1706	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
i. Number of books, periodicals, tracts, Scrip. cards distributed	8936	6066	2584	9481	19999	40044	396	682	2764	1390	80137	64717
j. Number of missionary letters written.	419	339	1	57	1954	755	37	62	—	—	2571	1291

MALAYAN UNION MISSION — Month Ending 31st January, 1940 and 1941  
 REPORT OF TITHE AND SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERINGS  
 (All items in Local Currency)

Mission	TITHE		Loss or Gain	Percentage of Gain	SAB. SCHOOL		Loss or Gain	Percentage of Loss or Gain
	1940	1941			1940	1941		
B. N. Borneo	190.52	200.91	10.39G	6%G	39.57	32.03	7.54L	2%L
F. I. China	283.32	276.90	6.42L	21%L	19.31	15.64	3.67L	20%L
Malay States	934.57	1,391.59	457.02G	49%G	260.08	326.18	66.10G	26%G
Sarawak	118.02	89.61	28.41L	24%L	42.29	36.33	5.96L	14%L
Thailand	506.15	345.60	160.55L	32%L	78.44	78.93	.49G	½%G
	2,032.58	2,304.61	272.03G	13%G	439.69	489.11	49.42G	11%G

Leonard F. Bohner, Treasurer

WITH OUR VOLUNTEERS

By H. W. Jewkes

The year 1940 closed with the youth of Malaya full of courage. They have made a good record and deserve credit for all they have done. Let us examine a few of the reports and see how we stand.

Membership is a good starting point. We now record 944 members compared with 913 a year ago; whereas in 1935 there were only 373. A splendid increase indeed. By keeping up the average increase we will pass the 1000 mark before this year closes. Let us do it and make 1941 a banner year.

It is good to see the response that comes in the youthful heart to the call for service and active membership in the family of God. Forty-four young people were baptized during last year. Have you joined the army of youth that shall march triumphant into the city of God? Is your boy, your girl a Christian? Now is the time; tomorrow may be too late.

We all may have the privilege of studying the Guide Book. For the first quarter of 1940 there were 553 observing the Morning Watch, but in the last quarter only 287 are reported as being faithful. We hope that the report is incomplete and feel confident that more were among the faithful. Surely in a time like this we will determine to consult the Guide more frequently.

Progressive Class Work is where old and young can join hand in hand climbing up the ladder of attainment. The totals for the year are encouraging and reveal 180 Friends, 43 Companions, 9 Comrades, and 4 Master Comrades invested. Yes, and 89 vocational honours earned. An excellent record.

Commenting on this report we have the following from Pastor C. Lester Bond, associate secretary for the Young People's Missionary Volunteer Department of the General Conference; "With special interest I read what you have to say about the progress of the Progressive Class work. Surely it is interesting to know that so many young people have qualified for membership in one or another of our Progressive Classes these few months." Continuing he writes, "As you have opportunity I wish you would bear my greetings to the young people in the Malayan Union. I certainly learned to think a lot of them while I was there." Surely we wish to express our appreciation for the visit of Pastor Bond and invite him to come to our field again.

Let us go a step farther and examine the reports of Missionary work done by our youth. 1691 Bible studies were given; 3306 missionary visits were made. Look at this figure—107,522 items of literature distributed. Who can judge as to the number who will enter the pearly gates as a result of the faithful efforts put forth by our Volunteers.

We have passed the first quarter of 1941. New reports will be coming in. Youth will advance. Onward is our watchword to the finishing of the task. Volunteers, be very courageous.

WITH DR. MILLER'S  
 "WAY TO HEALTH"  
 IN THE STATE OF JOHORE

By S. N. Siregar

It was my privilege to work with Dr. Miller's "Way to Health" (JALAN KAPADA KASEHATAN) among the sons and daughters of the State of Johore during the August-September vacation and also part of the Christmas holidays. I found them a very friendly, appreciative people to deal with. I must have approached about 800 of them and secured about 250 orders, thus far, making a delivery of 80% with a possibility of 90%. We as a people are fortunate in having something to offer which even prejudiced Islam people can appreciate.

A prominent Malay government official in the presence of three others asked me, "Has your mission done much for the Malays?" I pointed out particularly to the quiet but effective work of our medical books that have been shedding light on healthful living. The State Commissioner of a certain town commented favourably on our worker in his town.

Among the many buyers of the book there are about ten Islam religious teachers and officials. One of them, the officiating priest of a central mosque gave me cash to pay for the book as I took his order. He was of the opinion that it was good work that I was doing and so set an example to encourage it.

A Police Inspector who refused on my first trip, took a book for cash, after a very pleasant talk.



Malayan Seminary Investiture — 1940

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LEONARD F. BOHNER—EDITOR.

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I met him strolling with his clerk and a Customs Officer one evening. Evidently he was prejudiced, and after a short friendly introduction, he put forward this question, "I saw in a certain building in Singapore the name Seventh-day Adventists; will you please explain it for me?" I expressed much pleasure in being privileged to do so as I was one of them. I informed them that we are a body of worshippers of God, now found in all countries of the globe. Our beliefs could be summed up in purity of soul, mind and body. As I brought to their attention the Bible rules for clean and unclean fish and animals, they showed such interest that I drilled them up on animals chewing the cud and cloven hoofs and also on fish with fins and scales. I further pointed out that we believe in health reform and that our body is the temple of God. He brought me over to the Rest House and we had a very pleasant evening together till mid-night. The following morning when I approached him with the book at his office, he took one for cash.

A sergeant-major who has about two hundred police under him surprised me with an order for sixteen books for sixteen different police constables. When I called at this office last September, four police constables bought a book each; during the Christmas holidays, I called again there and secured four more orders. The order of sixteen books that reached me sometime after I left the field speaks in no uncertain tone of the favour with which the book is esteemed.

Many that have received their book last September expressed their appreciation of the book when I met them in December.

I want to thank our heavenly Father for His guiding hand and for all that the field experience has meant to me personally, and pray that it may accomplish some good for the Kingdom of God in this Islamic country.

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### OVER THE TOP

By H. W. Jewkes

There was rejoicing in Singapore as the sun set March 29 closing another 13th Sabbath. The Chinese Sabbath school went over their financial goal and gave over sixty dollars last Sabbath. Likewise the English Sabbath school reports an overflow and a liberal 13th Sabbath offering.

The Seminary broke all past records. Totaling all the offer-

ings for the quarter the superintendent reports a splendid spirit of liberality to the tune of \$246.52.

Dear Sabbath school members, we surely can say from the bottom of our hearts "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." In a time when the cost of living has increased and when people are laying aside treasure in anticipation of distress and shortage; the people of God are realizing the needs of the hour. Never before was the need greater for funds to carry on the work of God. Let us cherish the spirit of liberality and rest assured that God will provide.

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### COLPORTEUR RALLY, KUALA LUMPUR

By R. M. Milne

March 13-17 were rally days for colporteurs of the Malay States Mission. These few days were devoted to a discussion of our problems, devotional meetings and seeking the Lord for more power and efficiency in the work. Two recruits came in for training. Two regulars were unable to attend because of sickness in the family. We have since learned that the little son of Mr. & Mrs. Lee Lok Thin passed away.

Monday evening all returned to their territory with fresh courage and consecration, determined to make 1941 the best year yet.



Malay States Mission Colporteur Institute