



SOUTHERN ASIA TIDINGS

VOP 30th ANNIVERSARY IN SOUTHERN ASIA

Adrian M. Peterson

Communication Advisor, Southern Asia Division



The staff of the Poona VOP with Elder Reeder when he visited Southern Asia recently.

The first project in a series of events to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Voice of Prophecy in Southern Asia was held in Poona on April 28. During an evening banquet, which was staged on the lawns of the VOP school, a full account of VOP work in Southern Asia was rendered.

It was Pr. A. E. Rawson who commenced the first Voice of Prophecy School in this Division. The first lessons were sent out from his home which was located on the Division compound at Salisbury Park in Poona, India. However, as the enrolments increased, so did the number of staff, and to accommodate a growing school, the location was changed 3 times in as many years. The second location was in the rear of the Salisbury Park English Church, and after a few months here, the school was re-located in a new primary school building still under construction.

After this, the VOP school was transferred to the ground floor offices in the Southern Asia Division building, where it remained until just last year.

The VOP school at Poona was, at the end of 1975, consolidated with the studio work into ACC, the Adventist Communication Centre. And a new home was given to the VOP school again; this time a self-contained building, still on the Salisbury Park compound.

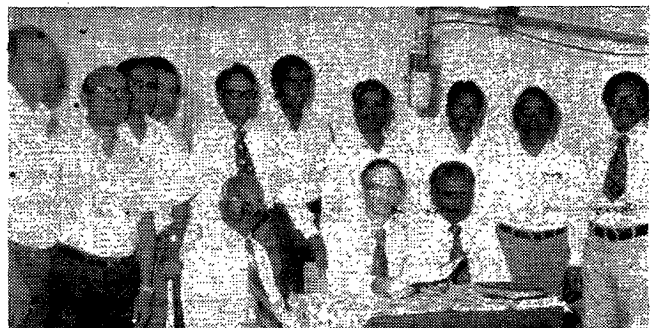
The first correspondence course offered by the new Voice of Prophecy School in 1947, was the English, "Senior Course", now known as "Bible Highlights" and "Treasures of Truth." The first applications for this course came through the post in April as the result of an advertisement in a Poona newspaper.

According to other Christian denominations in Southern Asia, the Seventh-day Adventist VOP Correspondence School was the first to be established over here, though many others have since been inaugurated.

With the abundant success of the new Bible correspondence method introduced by Pr. A. E. Rawson, it soon became evident that an additional

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The VOP Radio speakers with the communication staff.



The Resurrection of Christ

Ellen G. White

The disciples rested on the Sabbath, sorrowing for the death of their Lord, while Jesus, the King of glory, lay in the tomb. As night drew on, soldiers were stationed to guard the Saviour's resting-place, while angels, unseen, hovered above the sacred spot. The night wore slowly away, and while it was yet dark, the watching angels knew that the time for the release of God's dear Son, their loved Commander, had nearly come. As they were waiting with the deepest emotions the hour of His triumph, a mighty angel came flying from heaven. His face was like the lightning, and his garments white as snow. His light dispersed the darkness from his track, and caused the evil angels, who had triumphantly claimed the body of Jesus, to flee in terror from his brightness and glory. One of the angelic host who had witnessed the scene of Christ's humiliation, and was watching His resting-place, joined the angel from heaven, and together they came down to the sepulchre. The earth trembled and shook as they approached, and there was a great earthquake.

Terror seized the Roman guard. Where was now their power to keep the body of Jesus? They did not think of their duty, or of the disciples stealing Him away. As the light of the angel shone around, brighter than the sun, that Roman guard fell as dead men to the ground. One of the angels laid hold of the great stone, and rolled it away from the door of the sepulchre, and seated himself upon it. The other entered the tomb, and unbound the napkin from the head of Jesus. Then the angel from heaven, with a voice that caused the earth to quake, cried out, "Thou Son of God, Thy Father calls Thee! Come forth." Death could hold dominion over Him no longer. Jesus arose from the dead, a triumphant conquerer. In solemn awe the angelic host gazed upon the scene. And as Jesus came forth from the sepulchre, those shining angels prostrated themselves to the earth in worship, and hailed Him with songs of victory and triumph.

When Jesus, as He hung upon the cross, cried out, "It is finished," the rocks rent, the earth shook, and some of the graves opened. When He arose a victor over death and the grave, while the earth was reeling and the glory of heaven shone around the sacred spot, many of the righteous dead obedient to His call, came forth as witnesses that He had risen. Those favoured, risen saints came forth glorified. They were chosen and holy ones of every age,

from creation down even to the days of Christ. Thus while the Jewish leaders were seeking to conceal the fact of Christ's resurrection, God chose to bring up a company from their graves to testify that Jesus had risen, and to declare His glory.

Those risen ones differed in stature and form, some being more noble in appearance than others. I was informed that the inhabitants of earth had been degenerating, losing their strength and comeliness. Satan has the power of disease and death, and with every age the effects of the curse have been more visible, and the power of Satan more plainly seen. Those who lived in the days of Noah and Abraham resembled the angels in form, comeliness, and strength. But every succeeding generation has been growing weaker, and more subject to disease, and their life has been of shorter duration. Satan has been learning how to annoy and enfeeble the race.

Those who came forth after the resurrection of Jesus, appeared to many, telling them that the sacrifice for man was completed, that Jesus, whom the Jews crucified, had risen from the dead; and in proof of their words, they declared, "We be risen with Him." They bore testimony that it was by His mighty power that they had been called forth from the graves.

Those who have had no experience in the first and second angels' messages must receive them from others who had an experience, and followed down through the messages. As Jesus was rejected, so I saw that these have been rejected. And as the disciples declared that there is salvation in no other name under heaven, given among men, so, also, should the servants of God faithfully and fearfully warn those who embrace but a part of the truths connected with the third message, that they must gladly receive all the messages as God has given them, or have no part in the matter.

Jesus remained with His disciples forty days, causing them joy and gladness of heart as he opened to them more fully the realities of the kingdom of God. He commissioned them to bear testimony to the things which they had seen and heard concerning His sufferings, death and resurrection; that He had made a sacrifice for sin, and that all who would might come unto Him and find life. . . . He told them that He had overcome the temptations of Satan, and obtained the victory through trials and suffering. Satan could have no more power over Him, but would bring his temptations to bear more directly upon them, and upon all who should believe in His name.

His anxious followers gladly listened to His teachings, . . . Now they certainly knew that He was the Saviour of the world. His words sank deep into hearts. . . . As Jesus told them, that He would go and prepare mansions for them, and come again and receive them, that they might be ever with Him. He promised also to send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to guide them into all truth. "And He lifted up His hands, and blessed them." SG, 181-190. □



The library in Spicer College is inadequate to house the new books that arrive.

M. D. MOSES

Sabbath School Advisor, Southern Asia Division

Southern Asia Division to Receive

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

Hello Friend! Do you know that Southern Asia Division will receive this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath "Special Project" offering?

The Thirteenth Sabbath offering plan began in 1912 brought blessing and joy around the world. From the first leaflet put out for the first quarter of that year I quote the following paragraphs:

"Our Sabbath School offerings have increased so splendidly that it is thought we may now have a special object for which we may set apart the gifts of one Sabbath in each quarter. ...

The General Conference Committee has voted to allow us to select the last Sabbath in each quarter as a day when we may donate to a special object. The General Conference treasury department is to designate quarter by quarter the special object to which we may give."

India was the first field to benefit from the Thirteenth Sabbath offering. Note the following paragraph from the first missions quarterly:

"The first special enterprise selected to be the recipient of our Sabbath School offerings given on Thirteenth Sabbath of the first quarter 1912 (March 30) is the cities of India. ..." Africa, China and South America were the other fields which received the Thirteenth Sabbath assistance that first year.

From 1912 this plan of the Thirteenth Sabbath Special Project has helped in building needed enterprises around the world; training schools and colleges, hostels, churches, hospitals, dispensaries, office buildings, living quarters. Surely these gifts increased year by year have provided these urgently needed facilities outside the ability of the budgeted funds and appropriations.

During this quarter the Sabbath School members around the world are focussing their attention

to Southern Asia Division to help meet three of our urgent needs:

1. **Ranchi Hospital** needs added facilities to build up the nursing school which is a great need to the church as well as to the nation. In faith the work has started and let us help to finish the project.
2. **Qasid Publishing House** in Lahore is a must due to import restrictions, in order to provide truth filled literature to our literature evangelists and laymen. Printed page seems to be the most effective means in Islamic countries.
- 3: **Spicer College** has been working on affiliation to some university without sacrificing any principles given in "Blue Print" for our educational system. The university commission that was appointed visited our college and were greatly impressed by our institution except our Science and Library facilities. If we are prepared to improve these facilities the long expected recognition of our college by our country's educational system is sure says, the college president.

Providentially a portion of this quarters Thirteenth Sabbath "Special Project" offering will be going to Spicer college to meet just this need to build up its Science and Library departments.

The world membership is willing to help us. Many Division fields when their turn came to receive the Thirteenth Sabbath offering they not only gave three times that of their regular offering but they gave equivalent to one week's income. What is your plan to swell this "Special Project" offering which comes to our Division on June 25? May God impress you to give liberally.



Six workers from the Karnataka Section were ordained during a Worker's rally in Bangalore.

KARNATAKA LAYMEN'S RALLY

Mrs. C. C. Nathaniel

Members from twenty-two churches in the Bangalore City area met on Friday evening, April 1, for a unique and inspiring rally in the auditorium of the Spencer Road School. Pr. D. R. Watts, the South India Union President, spoke on KEYS (the Word of God). He challenged the members to use the KEYS, lest we be responsible for shutting out many worthy sinners from the Kingdom of God. His sermon inspired everyone to take the pledge "Woe unto me if I preach not the Gospel."

Members of the English, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu churches numbering about 250 remained behind for a All Night Prayer meeting. Pr. M. A. James, Union Ministerial Secretary and Pr. V. D. Edwards, Karnataka Section President were in charge of this meeting.

This prayer session began with singing, prayers and testimonies. The members first prayed for themselves and for help in overcoming their weaknesses. Next they prayed for others and the denominational leaders. Finally they asked the Lord to guide all the institutional leaders and the young people of the church. It was 2:00 a.m when this impressive and refreshing meeting came to an end.

A lively song service conducted by J. Koilpillai united the hundreds of voices raised in five dif-

ferent languages on Sabbath morning. This was followed by Sabbath School led by the Union and Section Sabbath School secretaries. For the lesson study, they were divided according to their different languages. The children were well cared for in separate classrooms.

Six workers were ordained during the divine service. D. Padmaraj, G. G. Isaiah, and Joel Israel are pastors of the Kannada, English and Tamil Churches in Bangalore City. C. C. Nathaniel, is the section treasurer and youth leader and K. I. Varghese is the principal of Lowry High School. The service was conducted by Pr. D. R. Watts; Pr. M. A. James gave the charge and Pr. J. Daniel welcomed them into the ministry.

A laymen's Symposium was conducted by the Union and Section Lay Activities secretaries. This was followed by a sundown worship taken by Pr. D. R. Watts which brought to a close two days of spiritual feasting. The thousand members who shared in this experience went back with renewed faith and determination to do their part in proclaiming the gospel. □

LAW PROFESSOR PASSES DECISION ON SMOKING

Charles Stafford

Persistence finally paid off for a distinguished lawyer, Mr. Sheikh Haider of Karachi, Pakistan. For nearly 38 years he has been wanting to stop smoking, and since the early 1970's, has been requesting

help from the Seventh-day Adventist Hospital in Karachi. At that time the 5-day Plan programmes were always in the evenings when Mr. Haider was busy as the principal of an evening school, the Sind Muslim Law College. Aspiring young student lawyers attend this school after working hours. Since a number of these students also smoke, Mr. Haider made yet another appeal in December of 1976 to the Seventh-day Adventist Hospital for a 5-Day Plan to be held on the college campus for both faculty and students.

On January 11, the film, "Time Pulls the Trigger," was shown to about 200 students, and a survey taken. Then on February 10th, the 5-Day Plan was started, using a classroom in which an average of 30 students gathered each evening. At 8 p.m. the evening call for prayer was heard on the night air, and the students were reminded to send up a petition for divine aid to overcome the smoking habit.

Dr. Andrew Haynal of Islamabad assisted on the first two nights and Dr. Harold Giebel and Dr. Alan Laughlin from the Karachi Hospital staff continued during the last three nights, giving the doctors' lectures. The psychological lectures each evening were presented by Mr. Charles Stafford, Chairman for the hospital's Health-Education Committee.

As a result, Mr. Haider, a colleague, and seven of their students signed decision cards to stop smoking or using tobacco in any form. □

Mr. Haider receives a certificate from Charles Stafford for successfully completing the five-day plan.



Philippine Union College Graduates

G. J. Christo

Sabbath, March 19, 1977 was a day of special interest to Mrs. Christo and the writer. I was invited by the North Philippine Union Mission and the Philippine Union College to be the speaker at the same time presenting the 74th graduating class. The occasion was unique, for Philippine Union College was celebrating its 60th anniversary and the SDA Theological Seminary (Far East) was at the same time presenting the first four candidates for the Master of Divinity degree; and of special interest to us was that two of the four candidates were from Southern Asia, one of them being our son Gordon and the other Lalchansanga Colney.

It mattered little that there was an earthquake early that Sabbath morning, when we who were sitting on the bed accused each other of shaking the bed! There were other little mishaps too, the power was cut off for an hour during Sabbath School, and the five thousand odd listeners were turned into a group of lip readers.

The Friday evening consecration service was taken by three of the seniors. In between speakers, special numbers were provided by groups of musicians. On Sabbath night PUC's Ambassador Choir put on a special programme for the parents and friends of the graduates. The programme began with several spiritual renditions, followed with semi-classical numbers and ended with Filipino folk and action songs. It was a delightful evening of fellowship and entertainment.

Sunday morning was com-

mencement. Doctor Emerito P. Nacpil, Executive Director of The Association of Theological Schools in South East Asia gave the commencement address. Dr. N. R. Gulley, Dean of the SDA Theological Seminary (Far East) introduced the special guest. The candidates for degrees were presented by Dr. Maria G. Tumangday and the degrees and diplomas were conferred by Dr. Alfonso P. Roda, President of PUC.

One hundred and eighty-nine candidates received their degrees, of which 52 received degrees in nursing. The seminary graduates numbered 18 of which six were from Southern Asia. Besides Gordon and Colney, postgraduate degrees in Religion were awarded to Paulraj Isaiiah of South India, Bonney Moses of Central India and John Waidande of SMC. John Nihar Biswas graduated in absentia. Two other students from Southern Asia, Charles David of Bangladesh and Iqbal Inayat of Pakistan received bachelors degrees in Biology and expect to pursue medical studies in the Philippines. □

The PUC graduates (Back row) with Pr. and Mrs. Christo and the college staff,



HISTORIC DAY FOR FAR EAST SEMINARY

Dr. Norman R. Gulley, Dean

March 20, 1977 was a historic day for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Far East). It was also a historic day for Southern Asia, because two of the four Master of Divinity degrees conferred were upon two young men from Southern Asia; that is, Gordon Christo and Lalchansanga Colney. Both have received calls to teach Bible at Spicer College.

The four Master of Divinity degrees conferred by the Seminary were the first ever earned in the school, and we are pleased that half the class came from Southern Asia. Elder Gerald Christo, Secretary of the Southern Asia Division, was one of the speakers for the graduation weekend. Dr. Emerito P. Nacpil, Executive Director of the Association of Theological Schools in South-East Asia, delivered the commencement address. The Seminary has membership in the Association.

The other two Master of Divinity candidates came from Indonesia. With these four, fourteen other students received the Master of Arts degree in Religion, coming from four countries within the Southern Asia and Far Eastern Divisions.

Students attending the Far Eastern Theological Seminary near Manila have come from four of our world divisions, all the way from Africa, Southern Asia, and across the Far East to Australasia.

We welcome students from Southern Asia. □

STEWARDSHIP COUNCILS

P. C. Mathew

Stewardship in Southern Asia received a big boost with the visit of the General Conference Assistant Stewardship Director, Elder Paul G. Smith. His visit helped promote stewardship in many of the churches of our Division.

Following the week long field school in Poona, Elder Smith conducted a 3-day meeting in Pakistan. He was joined in the next lap of his tour by Pr. P. C. Mathew in Bangladesh. Leaders of Goalbathan Adventist Academy, Gopalganj Hospital and field representatives, making a total of 25 personnels met together at the Union headquarters in Mirpur, Dacca. Along with the Stewardship Emphasis programme, emphasis was made for the need of the work in Southern Asia to be Self Supporting.

In Burma forty five workers attended the meetings. It was encouraging to see the Union on a sound financial self support.

The council for South India was conducted in Bangalore. Fifty five leaders from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala attended these important meetings.

The final meeting in Elder Smith's visit to Southern Asia was held in Sri Lanka. The workers with their families met at the YMCA youth camp centre, situated amidst the beautiful tea plan-



Ophelia Lal, a student, has completed her first year at Chuharkana. She is taking Teachers Training. She is sixteen years old. She works to help pay her school expenses. She made some bread to sell. People liked her bread so well that they asked for more. Soon Ophelia was baking 16 one pound loaves of bread at a time, three times a week. Each baking cost her Rs. 20/-. She sold each loaf of bread for Rs. 1.50. at the present time she has turned in more than Rs. 350/- for Sabbath School Investment.
Mrs. Helen Lowry

tations. As the highlight of the meetings all the workers pledged their total life along with another one-tenth of their earnings as offering for the Lord.

The response from the delegates from all the Unions was very encouraging. They returned to their respective places of labour with a new insight on the subject of stewardship. We felt the sense of their commitment in the matter of time, body temple and material

blessings to do their best to finish the work of the Lord in their respective areas. □

RELIEF SENT TO BANGLADESH TORNADO VICTIMS

Four destructive tornadoes have brought severe damage to a city in Bangladesh, prompting Seventh-day Adventist World Service (SAWS), in cooperation with the Southern Asia Division of the church, to send \$19,000 in aid.

SAWS Executive Director and Manager Howard D. Burbank said today the organization received a request to help 10,000 injured and 500,000 homeless persons in Gopalganj, Bangladesh, where one-third of all the city's concrete buildings and all of the bamboo houses were destroyed by early April tornadoes. The Adventist hospital of Gopalganj escaped damage but is overflowing with injured.

One hundred bales of clothing have been shipped from 'SAWS' East Coast warehouse in New York City, and the \$19,000 will be sent, Burbank said. In total, Bangladesh has received more than \$100,000 in food, blankets, clothing and other relief supplies from SAWS in recent months.

In other SAWS actions, the manager said 67 tons of clothing have been sent to rural people of southern Peru, and 50 tons will soon be shipped to Brazil. Another 55 tons are slated for SAWS in Pakistan.

Leaders and workers from South India Union attended a Stewardship Emphasis meeting conducted at Bangalore by Elder Paul Smith from the General Conference.



Bangladesh Tornado Victims Aided

D. H. Skau, *President, Bangladesh Section*



Dr. Solivio and Dr. Guerero attend to a victim of the tornado in Bangladesh.

"On the afternoon of April 3rd, the population of Gopalganj District and town was lashed with a violent tornado which completely flattened a large portion of the town and many villages in the surrounding district, leaving over 100,000 homeless, thousands injured, and hundreds dead. Providentially the storm just missed our hospital located in the northern part of the town, leaving it unscathed. Thus Dr. Solivio and Dr. Guerrero and their able staff of Gopalganj Adventist Hospital faced a tremendous task of caring for the hundreds of injured people who came streaming in for medical attention. The hospital has less than 50 beds with its uncompleted new wing, so was strained to the utmost to take in over double the capacity of the seriously injured who required urgent treatment.

An urgent request for victims of a fire in the Philippines resulted in a shipment of more than \$115,000 worth of clothing and relief supplies this week. Reports indicate 8,000 persons are homeless in the Mindanao Island city of Ozamis, where 21 square blocks were burned out in a fire April 6. □

The first report we received at the headquarters in Dacca which came by messenger reported that the Doctors have been on their feet for over 36 hours. An emergency meeting of the Section Committee was called and they voted 10,000 takkas to be sent to the hospital to help care for the emergencies. Pr. L. N. Powrie, SAWS Director, was asked to go to the hospital along with two nurses to assist the doctors in any way possible.

Every year heavy storms funnel

Homes of a number of our workers were destroyed in the tornado. They had to use makeshift kitchens till their homes were repaired.



through Bangladesh in April and May, then again in October and November wrecking their usual havoc especially on those folk who are living in bamboo-mat houses with thatched roofs. This creates a continual hardship for the mission as the workers in many places here are housed in these very temporary quarters due to lack of sufficient funds and the galloping inflation which has made it impossible to construct all-weather homes and church structures where over three-quarters of our workers are located. It has been almost more than we can manage to provide temporary repairs for the temporary houses. At the present rates it would cost \$2000 for the construction of a simple church cum school, with a small worker's quarters attached made with corrugated iron sheet roof, and adobe-bamboo walls, which should be sufficient to give adequate protection in most places. Land is owned by the mission in almost all of the 42 localities where we have local companies and churches, much of it donated by the members themselves but for years the building of anything better than very temporary quarters has not been possible.

We appreciate all the prayers and help which our dear brothers and sisters from all over the world field have given and are looking forward to the day when "calamities will no longer be a way of life."

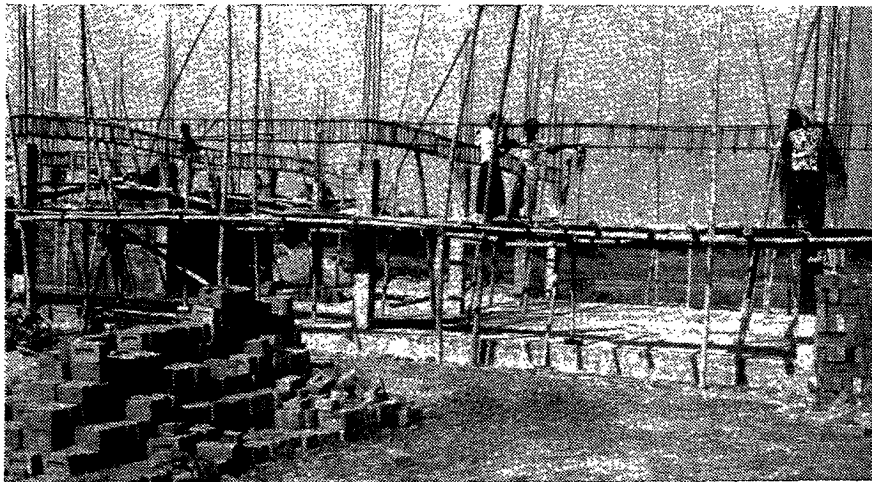


The Year-end meetings were held in the Dacca church.



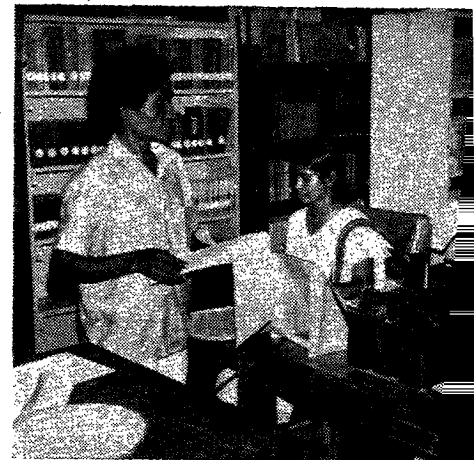
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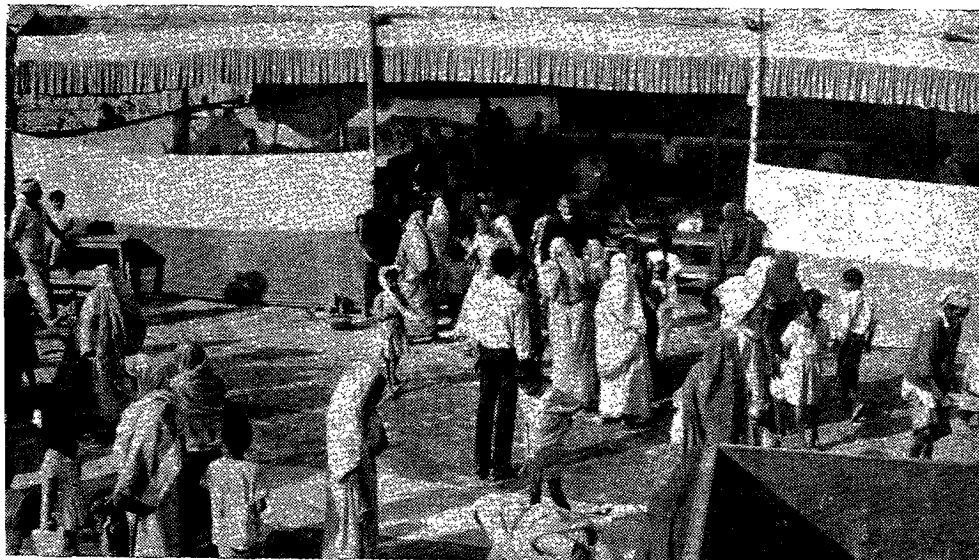
Goalbathan boys hostel, sponsored by 'Sharing International', under construction.

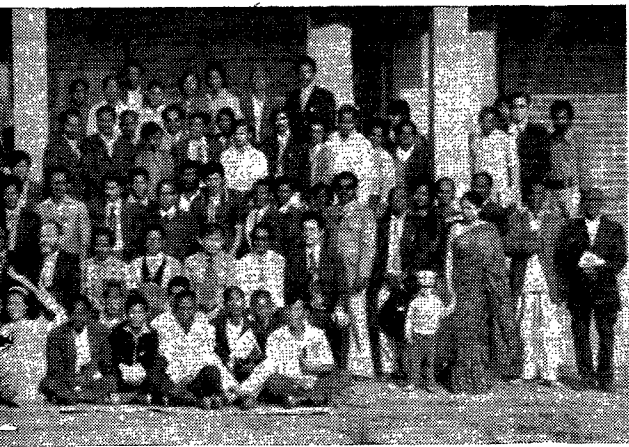
Food distribution to widows and children.



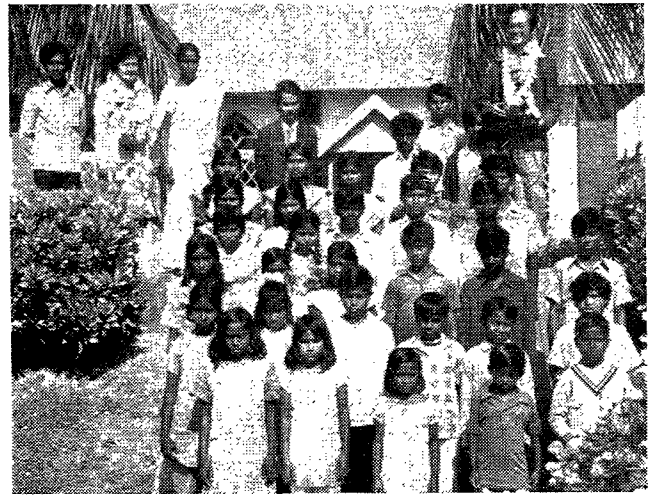
Secretarial classes are also taught

Asian A





to the year-end meetings.



'Asian Aid' children at Jalipar with Mr. and Mrs. Fook.

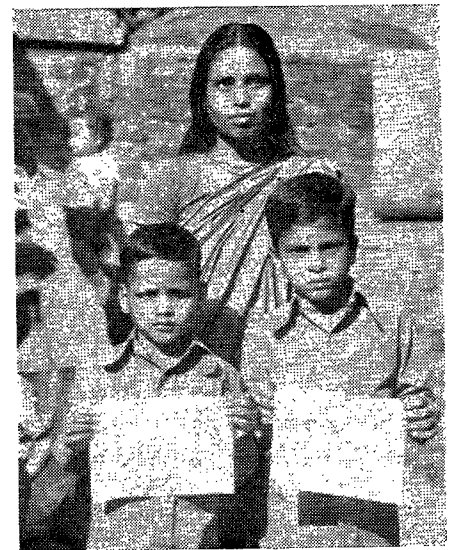
MAKES PROGRESS



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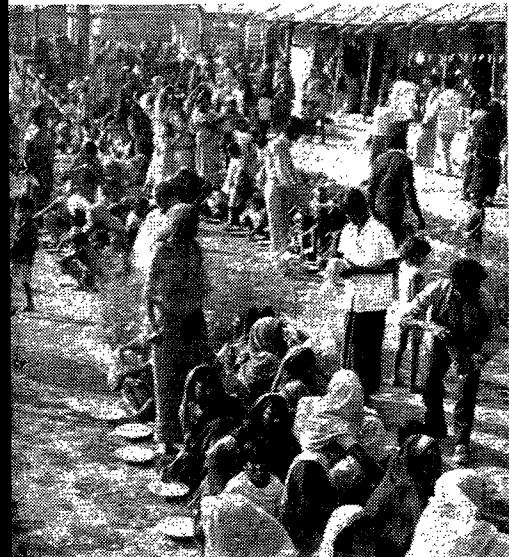


Children receiving grains from SAWS.



A widow with her children from Uthali.

Village development programme at Uthali, displaying handicrafts.



Burma Bible Seminary

Kyaw Balay



The first Ministerial Graduates from the Burma Bible Seminary passed out on March 26, 1977.

Realizing that youth and education are the two vital factors directly dealing with the future of our work, the Executive Committee of the Burma Union began to formulate a plan whereby our young people can be trained and educated to be future leaders. As most other avenues for a Christian education are not available, a Bible Seminary was opened at Myaungmya in June, 1973. The programme here includes three streams of instructions:—

- a. A two-year pre-high-school course. This is to prepare the students to take the Division School Leaving Certificate examination.
- b. A three-year Ministerial Training Course. Having

There were seventeen who completed the two-year Bible Instructors course. These are the first products of the Ministerial course.



complete the high school, a student may join this training.

- c. A two-year Bible Instructor's Course. This course is pro-



Classes are held in a makeshift bamboo thatch roof classroom.

vided chiefly for those who do not have the high school pass certificates, and for those promising youth who come from developing areas.

We are very grateful to the Division and the world field for part of the 13th Sabbath Overflow in early 1973 which amounted to Kyats 180,000/-. All this amount was set aside for the development of this Seminary. At present the school has only temporary buildings erected on the smaller portion of our former Middle School campus. We are however looking for a new location for this our only Seminary. During the three years that the Seminary has been operating on temporary measure, we have expended Kyats 50,000/- on the temporary buildings. It is a pity to see our children crowding into the thatch temporary hostels and classrooms. And members of the staff fare no better with their temporary thatch quarters.

There are eleven teachers on the staff. Five are Spicer College graduates, one has his M.A. from Poona University, and two had been to Spicer College for sometime, the other two have post high school qualifications. There is also a nurse on the staff.

There are now 179 studying at the Seminary. At the end of the 1977 academic year fifteen graduated from the three-year Ministerial Training, and seventeen finished the two-year Bible Instructor's Course. This group of 32 are the first "fruits" of the school. □

Sabbath School Institutes

M. D. Moses

Child Evangelism Institutes conducted by Elder T. M. Ashlock, the Associate Sabbath School Director of General Conference made a tremendous impression upon those who attended.

Burma the land of Pagodas was the first venue of the Sabbath School Institute where more than fifty attended from all parts of the land. The delegates went back from Rangoon with great plans to make the Sabbath School a real soul winning agency.

The next institute was in Dacca, Bangladesh. In spite of some of the difficulties in travelling many came from all parts of the country.

Lahore, Pakistan was the next stop for an institute where a large number of delegates gathered in spite of the examinations and graduation week-end for our college and seminary at Chuharkana. Pr. Ashlock reported a wonderful response from all the delegates.

In India five institutes were conducted in Hapur, Poona, Narsapur, Kottarakara, and Madurai. The last one was conducted in the beautiful island of Sri Lanka. Nearly one hundred delegates gathered in Lakpahana Adventist Seminary from April 8-11. The Ashlocks then left Colombo for Singapore where they will spend another five weeks in the Far Eastern Division.

Pr. M. D. Moses, Division S. S. Advisor accompanied Elder and Mrs. T. M. Ashlock to all the places except Pakistan. The theme of the institutes was "Child Evangelism" based on Elijah's message saying, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the . . . Lord. And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers. . ."

One of the special features of these institutes was that the delegates were given an opportunity to make their plans as to what they intend to do in their respective

areas from where they came. Their plans were presented to the whole group by their respective secretaries.

The closing meetings were conducted by the leaders of the fields with a consecration service. The delegates returned to their respective churches determined to implement their plans and to make their Sabbath Schools Soul Saving, Holding, and Training centres for all age groups. □



Elder Ashlock broke ground for a church building in Imphal.

MANIPUR SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

S. Chand

The Annual Camp-Meetings and Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Manipur Circle in the North-

east India Section were held at the beautiful Eastern Garden, Sanjenthong, Imphal, from March 9-12, 1977.

The Chairman of these meetings T. S. Gangte, welcomed the 600 delegates representing 36 churches and companies on the opening night. The address was presented by Pr. A. S. Tungmaso, the Manipur and Nagaland Circle Director. The March 10 morning devotional was taken by Pr. Saudagar Chand, Northern Union Secretary. He spoke on the "Qualifications for church leadership" and challenged the congregation to reflect the characteristics of Christ in Church leadership.

The Silver Jubilee celebrations began on March 11 with a procession. There were workers from the General Conference, the Division, the Union and the local Section. The main speakers were Elder T. M. Ashlock, Elder Neinghei, the first Seventh-day Adventist, and A. S. Tungmaso. The history of the work in Manipur and Nagaland was narrated by Brother Tungmaso and Elder Neinghei narrated the experience of his conversion. Pr. M. D. Moses, at the vespers that evening spoke on the important part the Spirit of Prophecy plays in the finishing of God's work. The message on Sabbath morning was brought by Elder Ashlock.

The celebrations closed with a banquet arranged by Mr. P. Gangte at his residence. A number of the leading personalities of the town were invited. They were presented with the books *Desire of Ages*, *Great Controversy*, *Health and Happiness* and *Steps to Christ*. It is hoped that these books will make an impact on these people. □

Delegates gathered in Rangoon, Burma for a Sabbath School institute.



Youth Camps

Justin S. Singh

WILD ELEPHANTS VISIT ROORKEE CAMPERS

For many years now Kansroo Forest Bungalow has become a favourite camping spot for Roorkee High School. It is located in the heart of a beautiful wild Life Sanctuary of Dehra Dun Division.

One hundred and twenty campers divided into 12 units with ten counsellors, boarded the morning train from Roorkee railway station and arrived in Kansroo by noon.

An unusual excitement gripped the campers—the possibility of wild elephants tramping through the camp at night. The fallen trees and heaps of fresh dung all around the forest bungalow helped to keep the campers from wandering away from the camp ground.

About two furlongs from the camp is the river where these elephants visited every night. During the hikes, we made several attempts to stumble upon the spot where these animals stayed during the day, but to no avail. One by one the camp days began to slip away but the elephants evaded us.

Friday night the elephants decided to oblige the campers. About 11:30 p.m. the night watchman woke me up. All excited, he said, "Sir, the elephants are toppling trees just behind the boys' tents, come and see." Mr. T. M. Patrick,

the associate director, and I jumped out of bed and hurried toward the boys' tents. Several of the counsellors and boys had already lit fire all around the tents to keep the elephants from becoming too curious and from peeping inside the tents. Sure enough the animals were just a few yards behind the tents in a game of tearing branches. The fire kept them in the thick jungle but did not frighten them enough to shoo them away. They kept trumpeting and causing havoc in the jungle. All night the boys and the counsellors kept a watch on them.

At six in the morning the reville sounded. The campers awoke to a beautiful Sabbath day. The word about the night's visitors quickly got around and bands of campers headed to the river to see if the elephants were really there that night. They saw fresh dung, and flattened lavatories on the way. Excitedly they marched on. Half-way to the river, they heard a loud trumpeting sound. The campers quickly raced back to the camp all excited. The elephant kept trumpeting for a long time warning us of his presence. The campers had to do their morning wash elsewhere.

During the Sabbath School and divine worship we thanked God for His protecting care during the night. Two hundred elephants were reported to be in the area. The government had offered money to the local people for trapping young elephants for export. The operation had been launched earlier, and

that's why so many of them had found refuge in the sanctuary.

The camp activities were built around the theme, TRUSTING JESUS. The campers learned convincingly that trusting Jesus is the secret of a happy and successful Christian life.

SRI LANKA YOUTH CAMP

The Sri Lanka Youth Camp was scheduled to be held from April 3-10. It was the middle of March and yet there was no word of confirmation for my Visa. It was while the Roorkee camp was in progress that the confirmation finally arrived. But my problems had just begun.

I flew into Madras to find that my name was last on the waiting list. It was providence that provided me with a seat and finally brought me after a treacherous journey of 130 miles to the Welimada YMCA Youth Centre, where 134 young people and their counsellors were camped.

Sri Lanka Union has a unique way of bringing together all the interested young people to the camp. The camp is conducted during the summer holidays; an announcement is sent out to the churches inviting the youth to turn in their applications; the director and his committee study the merits of the applications together; the campers travel to the campsite on their own; counsellors are invited to assist in the camp; churches send along their representatives; and a camp fee is charged.

Crafts made by the campers of Sri Lanka are displayed by the teachers.

Five fire wardens carrying a full tree trunk for camp fire.



The YMCA Youth Centre, with its football field, basket ball courts, badminton court, and a recreation hall, provided the campers with ample entertainment for any weather. We even had three campfires in the hall the last three wet evenings. Wood, 100 watt bulb, and orange cellophane paper created the desired campfire atmosphere.

A day long hike to the highest summit in Sri Lanka was a peak event. The campers climbed to the summit, a height of 8,200 feet along a well-laid trail. Nuwara Ailya, is situated at 6000 ft above sea level.

Glass painting, straw craft, shadow cutting, cloth flower making were some of the more popular crafts offered. On Friday a simple craft display fair was held, when all the campers who completed their projects displayed their piece of craft. A panel of judges selected the outstanding entries and simple prizes were given out.

Through the camp council discussions, campfire stories, and devotionals, the campers were challenged to enter into a meaningful relationship with Jesus. Many young people expressed their satisfaction for having attended the camp. Especially those that came from city churches, where there is little fellowship and much of mundane life. The beautiful exhilarating weather and the sweet spiritual atmosphere helped the young people to make important decisions for Christ. Twenty-two young people responded to the call for baptism on Friday night.

We thank God for the beautiful group of Seventh-day Adventist youth of Sri Lanka. God will finish His work through the dedication and loyalty of these youth. □

LITERATURE MINISTRY AND ITS PROGRESS IN CENTRAL INDIA

A. I. John

The great Advent movement was started with literature and it still like streams of light goes around the world. Advent literature is playing a leading role in nishing God's work and it will continue to do so till probation

closes. God is blessing the literature ministry in Central India Union. From 1964-1967 our literature sale was only Rs. 2,51,040.72 and from 1968-1971 it has gone up to Rs. 7,34,936.03 which gives us a gain of Rs. 4,83,893.31 over 1964-1967 or a gain of Rs. 1,20,973.75 for each year during 1968-1971. Sales in 1968-1971 was Rs. 11,93,243.65 and in 1972-1976 Rs. 25,51,399.13. This was a gain of Rs. 13,58,156.48 over the 1968-1971 period. We believe that more sales mean more souls won to the kingdom of God.

In our church the distribution of message-filled magazines forms a very important part of the literature ministry. Mrs. White says, "Let us now by the wise use of periodicals and books preach the word with determined energy that the world may understand the message that Christ gave." The true effectiveness of literature distribution is a continual contact with readers. This is being accomplished through our attractive, message-filled magazines. "Every page is a ray of light from heaven to shine into highways and hedges, shedding light upon the pathway of truth." Attractively edited and printed "Herald of Health" and "Our Times" magazines meet the basic triangular needs of the people—Spiritual, Mental and Physical.

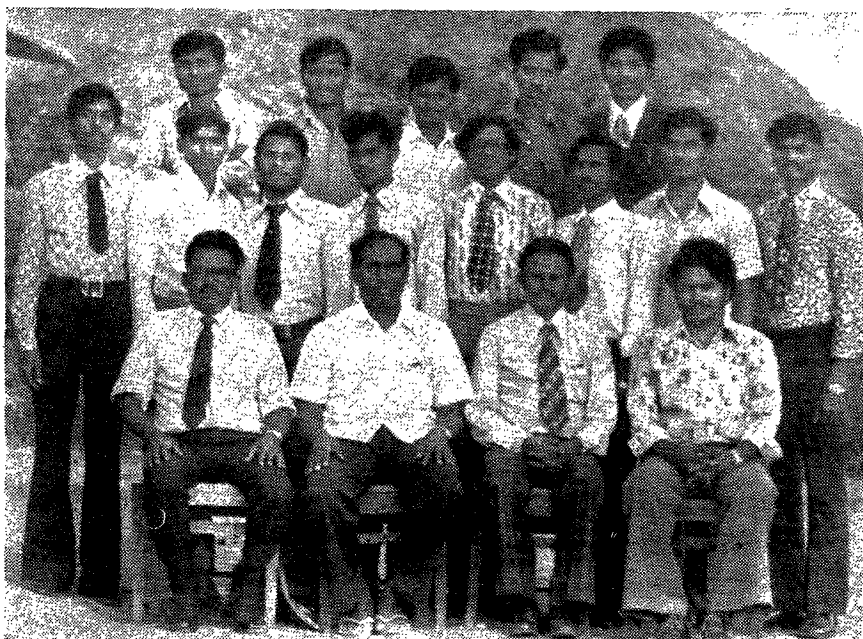
When the Margadarshi magazine came to us, its total circulation was only 6,057. Now its circulation has gone up to almost 12,000 in 5 years.

Arogya Deep, the Marathi Health Magazine had the support and encouragement of leaders. Central India Union, has made its publication possible with funds and thus we now have another vernacular monthly magazine in the Maharashtra field. Baptisms and good results in ingathering are reported with the contacts made through the magazines.

These two magazines are now encouraging not only more laymen to become regular LEs but also students from two more schools; Ibrahimpatnam and Salisbury Park Schools along with Lasalgaon, Narsapur and Spicer College. Total amount in the way of scholarship passed on to three institutions from 1972-1976 was Rs. 1,31,251.02.

"God desires to use these journals as mediums through which flashes of light shall arrest the attention of the people and cause them to heed the warning of the message of the third angel. . . The circulation of the health journals will be a powerful agency in preparing the people to accept these special truths that are to fit them for the soon coming of the Son of Man." □

Pr. A. I. John conducted a Literature Institute for the students of Ibrahimpatnam, Andhra Section.



NEW YOUTH SONGBOOK PUBLISHED

John H. Hancock
World Youth Director

After three years of research, surveys and testing, a new youth songbook, *Advent Youth Sing*, has just been published for the General Conference Youth Department by the Review and Herald Publishing Association and is available from the Adventist Book Centres.

The new songbook is unique from other songbooks published by the church in that it is arranged alphabetically instead of topically and each song is not only arranged in four-part harmony, but also has chord notations indicated. In the back of the book is a complete guitar chord finger positioning chart for easy reference.

Despite the tremendous financial outlay involved in securing copy-right permissions in today's

lucrative sacred music market, together with the added cost of resetting every song and adding chord notations, it will be good news to our churches, schools and youth organization that the retail price of *Advent Youth Sing* with

a total of 214 songs is only \$1.95 for the colourful paperback edition. A full-colour cloth cover edition is \$2.95 and the spiral paperback edition for use by pianists, organists and other instrumentalists is just \$2.50.

Bob Kinney, Manager of the Review and Herald Book Department, presents the first copy of the new youth song book *Advent Youth Sing*, to John H. Hancock, World Youth Director.



VOP ANNIVERSARY

From Page 1

course would be desirable. This was soon introduced at the end of 1948, and was known as the "Advanced Course."

Thus far, the only courses offered were in English, and the need for courses in other languages was felt. Simultaneously in many areas, translation of courses into the various regional languages began, and the basic organisation was laid for the commencement of new schools.

The first VOP correspondence school to be established in Southern Asia outside India was located in Colombo. This school in Sinhala, commenced in 1950, and was amalgamated with a "Twentieth Century" correspondence school which had been operated by a Colombo worker for a few years.

The first Indian language course was in Hindi, and was introduced in 1951. Quite quickly, schools in various languages were opened in Pakistan and Burma, as well as other cities located in India.

Radio broadcasting, as part of the total VOP outreach commenced on Radio Goa in April 1950, and on Radio Ceylon (SLBC) in December of the same year.

However, though the machinery of the VOP schools and radio broadcasts is fundamentally necessary, yet the purpose and object of this outreach programme, is people. Right early in this VOP development, Elder Rawson began to conduct VOP Rallies, and the first of these was launched in Calcutta in March 1949. Subsequently, a whole host of VOP rallies, evangelistic efforts and

graduation services has been conducted in cities large and small, in most of the countries in Southern Asia.

Today, the VOP work in this Division is an enlarged activity, encompassing a tremendous outreach. Every year there is a gross turnover of nearly one million lessons. Fifty-four correspondence courses are offered in 15 languages from 15 schools, and there are some 75,000 active students.

On the radio side, there are 16 radio broadcasts, 15 from SLBC (Radio Ceylon), and one from Radio Bangladesh, Dacca. Latest available statistics indicate that the audience tuned to Adventist programmes from SLBC, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, lies between 10 and 20 million people.

The series of 30th Anniversary projects, which commenced in April in Poona, is intended to increase the effectiveness of the field results of the VOP work. All VOP school directors are to conduct an Anniversary Evangelistic Project, and workers and laymen alike are asked to enrol a certain number of interested people in one of the correspondence courses.

At the end of the 8 month long series of Anniversary activities, all Adventist radio programmes broadcast from SLBC will be focussed on the event in what is called "AWR Week." Special programmes are under preparation, and special offers will be made over the air at this time.

What was begun, with the blessing of God, by one man in a small way, has grown to tremendous proportions, with hundreds of people participating. May God continue to bless the enlarged VOP outreach in Southern Asia. □

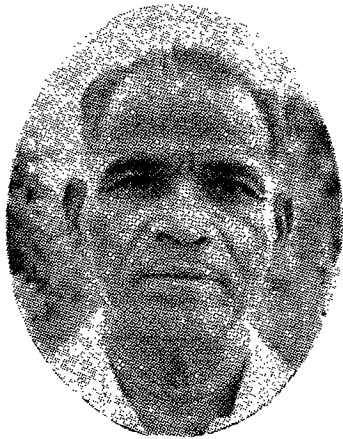
Vellachivellai. Besides these places he also worked as the church pastor in Kanyakumari, Tirunelvely, Ramnad, Tiruchirapalli and in many other towns. He was ordained to the gospel ministry on June 27, 1942.

Pr. David retired from active service after 32 years of labour as a teacher, Bible worker and church pastor. But this did not stop him from labouring for the Lord. He continued to take care of his home church and the churches in the neighbouring towns till 1971 when illness confined him to his bed. He had to undergo surgery five times at Neyyoor, Madras and Poona. But he soon developed kidney trouble and was admitted to the C.S.I Hospital, Neyyoor, where he breathed his last on April 19.

A staunch believer in the Spirit of Prophecy, Pr. David not only preached what he believed but strictly practised it. His example helped to keep all his five sons and three daughters, Pr. D. David, Pr. D. S. David, D. P. David, J. E. David, Solomon David, Mrs. Marybai Fowler, Mrs. Estherbai Ponniah and Mrs. Gnanabai Samuel in the truth.

Pr. David is survived by his wife, his children, 22 grand children and 4 great-grand children.

A large number of friends and relatives attended the funeral service which was conducted on April 20. Ten ordained ministers took part in the service and he was buried in the hope of the glorious resurrection morning.



Pr. P. K. David, a pioneer worker in the Tamil Section, and father of Pr. D. David, died in Neyyoor hospital, Kanyakumari Dist. on April 19, 1977 at the age of 82.

From his youth Pr. David has been in search of the truth. In his search he joined the London Mission church and the Pentecostal Mission. But he was far from happy with these religions. In 1923 Pr. Asirvatham conducted a series of meetings in Neyyoor. This got him interested in the Seventh-day Adventist church and he was baptised by Pr. E. D. Thomas in 1924.

Facilities for education were few in those days and the only means of studying was to work with a pioneer worker. Pr. David began his service for the denomination in 1924 as a teacher-evangelist. He pioneered the work in Colachel Puttatty, Kannanvillai, Sarodu,



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Newsflash

* The Karnataka section conducted a Ministerial Institute in Bangalore from March 31 to April 2. Thirty-seven evangelists from the section met for counsel and instruction imparted to them by the section and union officers and departmental secretaries. Emphasis was placed on the workers training the laymen in their church to join hands with the working force to help finish the work in the section.

* Ground was broken in Madurai for a new school building to replace the present one which has outgrown the enrollment which now number 1300. The ground floor is expected to be completed by the end of this year. It will accommodate a laboratory and a few class rooms. Pr. D.R. Watts, the Union President was the chief guest.

* The new Bangladesh Publishing House was officially opened recently. Taking part in the official ceremonies were Elders R.H. Henning and M.H. Reeder from the General Conference Publishing and Communication Departments; and Pr. A.M. Peterson from the Southern Asia Division. The press has been located for some time in a building on the Section property at Mirpur, and was recently transferred into a new three storey building located on the same property.

* Pr.T.B. Sadler, Principal of Lakpahana Adventist Seminary in Sri Lanka has now transferred to the Pakistan Adventist Seminary at Chuharkana. Pre-

vious President at Chuharkana, Pr. G.P. Babcock is taking a study leave; and Pr. Eagen is now acting principal at Lakpahana.

* After a silence of more than two decades the voice of the Seventh-day Adventist is being heard again in old China! It began February 1. Directing the radio programme produced at the studios on the campus of the South China Union College at Hong Kong, is Dr. Samuel Young, president of the South China Island Union mission. The programme format of the Adventist broadcast will incorporate a goodly amount of music, carefully interspersed with brief messages.

* Prominent figures in church-state relations met in Amsterdam, Holland from March 21-23 for the first World Congress on Religious Liberty. Specialists in the matter of religious liberty attended from all across Europe as well as from the United States, Canada, England, South America, The Far East, North Africa and the Middle East. Sponsors of the congress are the International Religious Liberty Association of Washington D.C., the Association Internationale pour la Defense de la Liberte Religieuse of Bern, Switzerland, and "Liberty," a magazine specializing in church-state affairs, published in Washington D.C.

* A new class room block of the James Memorial High School, Prakasapuram, South Tamil Section was declared open by Pr. D.R. Watts, President of South India Union on April 10, 1977. S.T. Gomer, a lay member from Sri Lanka presided over the function.

"VOP Thirtieth Anniversary" Enrolment Blank

The "Voice of Prophecy" in Southern Asia is this year celebrating its Thirtieth Anniversary. As an Anniversary Project, we are inviting all Seventh-day Adventist workers to enrol 10 people per month, and all Lay people to enrol one person per week, in a suitable Correspondence Course. You may use the blank below for this purpose, and please send to the appropriate Correspondence School.

VOP
Correspondence
Schools
Health & Bible Course
 in
 Bengali
 Burmese
 English
 Gujarati
 Hindi
 Kannada
 Khasi
 Malayalam
 Marathi
 Mizo
 Sinhala
 Tamil
 Telegu
 Urdu

VOP Enrolment Blank

Please enrol the following person in the Correspondence Course as indicated.

Name

Address

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Language Course Health

Please send this form to the appropriate

VOP Correspondence School. Bible