

The Messenger

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST UNION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA



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Southeast Asia Union 14th Biennial Session

THE fourteenth biennial session for the Union of Southeast Asia was held at the College chapel in Singapore January 2-9. More than a hundred delegates and a score of visitors met in the opening session to hear the reports of the union president and the Sabah mission. Each evening of the session reports were heard from the union departments and the various missions and institutions.

The General Conference was represented at these meetings by Pas-

tor K. H. Emmerson of the treasury department; the Far Eastern Division by Pastors A. E. Gibb, E. L. Longway, L. Shipowick, and H. E. McClure, and Dr. R. F. Waddell. Mission presidents, institutional managers, and medical directors from all the missions of the union were present.

To assist in the work of the union mission the following were elected by the delegates in session: Union departmental secretaries; MV & educational, J. L. Lantry; publishing de-

partment, V. L. Bretsch; Home Missionary, D. M. Barnett; Sabbath school, Mrs. D. M. Barnett; public relations, V. L. Bretsch; radio-TV, ministerial, D. R. Guild. Local mission officers: Malaya Mission president, S. J. Lee, secretary-treasurer, S. Tsai; Sarawak Mission president, R. C. Hall, secretary-treasurer, P. R. Sibarani; Sabah Mission president, A. Peters, secretary-treasurer, S. F. Chu; Thailand Mission president, Palmer Wick, secretary-treasurer, Gilbert Gurusamy; Vietnam Mission president, R. E. Neall, secretary-treasurer, Charles Harris. No changes were made in the leadership of the various medical institutions, publishing houses, or educational institutions.



Union President's Report

By H. W. Bedwell

THE Biennial period of 1964 and 1965 has been one of growth and change for the union. The political problems of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, and Singapore have caused difficulties in the mission program. However, this period has been one of growth. By the end of 1965 our churches totaled 82, 68 ordained ministers, 40 licensed ministers. Total number of all classes of workers in the union was 1,121.

1965 will show a 20% gain in church membership compared with 14% in 1964. Our membership at year end will exceed 10,000 for the first time, as compared with 8,400 of two years ago. Our baptisms in 1965 totaled 1,022 and the estimated total for 1965 is 1,079. The previous biennial period total was 1,234 as compared with 2,101. This represents nearly 70% increase in this period of two years. See the attached report of baptisms and membership by missions over the past 15 year period.

During 1965 the union approved the holding of 39 evangelistic efforts representing a total investment of M\$ 55,000. During 1964, 29 efforts were held. The total student enrollment in SDA schools reached 5,000

in 32 schools employing 147 teachers. During 1964 there were 147 student baptisms; during 1965, 199 baptisms. We operate six secondary schools, three training schools, and one junior college. Five Medical Cadet Corp units with large memberships have been operated in Singapore, Kuching, Sabah, Vietnam, and Thailand. A Laymen's Leadership Training School was conducted in December in Thailand and during 1966 one will be conducted in each of the other missions.

By the end of 1965 there are 134 Sabbath schools throughout the union. This is a 10% increase over the previous year. The membership has increased to 16,324 which is 7% more than the previous year. There are 437 Branch Sabbath schools and during the past year 16 Vacation Bible Schools were conducted. Sabbath school membership is about 160% of church membership. Sabbath school offerings have shown only about 2% increase.

There are ten radio broadcasts in Vietnam and one in Thailand in four languages. All the radio time is free. The three Bible Correspondence Schools in Singapore, Saigon, Cambodia, and Bangkok offer 19 courses in seven languages. More than 200,000 test papers are graded every year. Between four

(Continued on page 7.)

The Witch Doctors Could Not Help, But . . .

By Hazel Howard Peters, Sabah Mission

THE following experience was told by Pastor Bibi Koubong during the Soul-Winning program Sabbath afternoon during the Sabah Mission Biennial Session.

Sangkee is a very diligent layman in teaching the people about Jesus. He lives in the little Kampong of Damai, but walks to the neighboring Kampong of Talantang which is not very far from Damai to teach the people there about Jesus. Talantang is a very small place and there are few people there.

One time Sangkee said that but for the work of Christ, he would not be able to walk to this place, as Talantang is in the "lowlands" area and is often flooded when the rains come and the rivers difficult to cross.

The work was progressing rather slowly, and not many souls had been brought to Christ until he met a person who was "mad". This man had been to many witch doctors, and they had tried to help, but to no avail. The man remained with an unsound mind.

The sick man's wife heard about the Seventh-day Adventists and about Sangkee and said, "Maybe my husband should see Sangkee. Maybe he could heal my husband." When this lady met Sangkee, he was just ready to go to spend the night at a Christian's house, but the lady urged him to come to their house instead. So he did.

The lady wanted Sangkee to do what he could to heal her husband who was out of his mind. Sangkee told the people first of all that they must have trust and faith in the True God. Then Sangkee prayed for the sick man. After he prayed, Sangkee went out and gathered certain roots from the jungle to use as medicine.

God blessed the simple remedies, and heard the prayer of faith from this devout lay-member. Sangkee's prayers were answered, and the sick man's mind was restored to normal and healed. Sangkee studied the Bible with him and the man accepted and was baptized. Now there are 20 people gathering in Talantang. Pray for them so that many more will accept the Saviour.



Student colporteurs, Sunny Hill School, Kuching. Chow Tham Swee, publishing secretary far left.

Vietnam Churches Dedicated

By R. E. Neall, President
Vietnam Mission

Left: Phu Hoa Church

Right: Quang Ngai Church



TWO churches buildings were dedicated in Vietnam during December, 1965. The two companies, located at Quang Ngai and Phu Hoa, are distinctive in being able to dedicate churches buildings before they are organized as churches.

The company in Quang Ngai began with an effort in 1961 held by Pastors Reinhold Tilstra, Ben Mar-

tin and Pham Thien. A company was raised up at that time and organized into a Sabbath School under the leadership of Brother Nguyen My But. Several interns and workers have served the group since.

The present pastor, Truong Thong, held a successful evangelistic effort in October, 1965, which promises to add fifteen members to the present company of seven.

Ralph Neall, Charles Harris and Le Huu represented the Mission at the Quang Ngai dedication on December 4, 1965. The building, which was started in January, 1965, is valued at 75,000 piastres.

The Phu Hoa Church, which is located twelve kilometers from Danang, was dedicated on December 11. Hiking through the mud and obtaining rides on military vehicles, Pastors Neall and Le Huu arrived late for the service, but the church was full of church members and visitors patiently waiting.

The Phu Hoa church was built largely through the efforts and generosity of Dr. E. A. Brooks, former Director of the Saigon Adventist Hospital, when he worked for U.S. Aid Mission in Danang. The building weathered the flood waters of November, 1964 with very little damage, and is now valued at more than 100,000 piastres.

The company in Phu Hoa is served by Brother Do Phuong, an aged former worker of another faith who gave up his work when he learned of God's last day message. Some of his former members have followed him and form the nucleus of the Phu Hoa Company.

**Quang Ngai Church pastor (left)
Truong Thong; church elder (right)
Nguyen My But.**



MCC Commissions in Sabah

PRESENTATION of Far Eastern Division certificates recommending the rank of lieutenant in the Medical Cadet Corps was carried out by Pastors R. E. Bartolome, Head of the Medical Cadet Corps Program in Sabah Mission, and Andrew Peters. Receiving the re-

commendations are: (Right to Left): Peter Wong, B. & P.A. and Sabah Training School Accountant; Bunny Cheah, Secretary-Treasurer of the mission; Edmund Leong, Teacher, Sabah Training School.

Pastor Bartolome, assisted by these young leaders, is conducting a Medical Cadet Corps training program in both Tamparuli and Goshen, with approximately one hundred-seventy men training.

Vacation



Mary Ho, VBS teacher, gives certificate to tiny Cherrie Gaban as her mother watches.

SAUC Students Conduct VBS

By Mrs. J. H. Lantry, Union S. S. Department

SOUTHEAST Asia Union College students found real joy in using the holiday time just before and after Christmas conducting a Vacation Bible School. Ninety children, sixty of whom were not Adventists, learned more of the ways of God from these earnest Christian youth. Y. J. Moses was the director. Samuel Wan led out in the Junior Division, Linda Pang in the Primary, and Connie Gaban in the Kindergarten. Every teacher was either a secondary or college student.

This is another Vacation Bible School conducted almost entirely by youth. Enthusiasm, interest, dedication and joy was shown in the faces of both the young leaders and their pupils as they studied, played and worked together.

Follow-up work in the form of Voice of Prophecy enrollments, home visitation, a new Branch Sabbath School, and new recruits for the Pathfinder Club was carried on by the college students. One boy is arranging for Bible Studies with the parents of three kindergarten children. Truly, youth, filled with the Holy Spirit, can accomplish much for God.

Vacation Bible School in Pontian

K. E. Teng

A new venture! A step of faith and courage! And what a rewarding experience!

December 27 of 1965 marked the beginning of the first Vacation Bible School in Pontian. Inexperienced, the young people chosen to be the instructors went to great length to prepare themselves. They studied the materials sent by the Malaya Mission. They travelled gladly many times back and forth to Singapore to observe the Vacation Bible Schools conducted by the Singapore Chinese church and the college English church. Some of them even took part as assistant teachers there.

Not having enough space for classrooms and playground, the school was held at Mr. Lee Kiang Chor, our church elder's house.

Not very much advertizing was done due to the lack of space and money. But as seventy-two curious and smiling children squeezed in on the opening day, we were overjoyed. What encouraged us more was the fact that the attendance grew from day to day. Mrs. Choo Kiok Seng drove twenty miles every day to extend a helping hand and to bring five children to our school.

It was determined that our Vacation Bible School was to be an evangelizing school, so almost all the children came from non-SDA homes. As a result of it, more than ten children are in our Branch Sabbath School now. We expect to have a new branch Sabbath School organized and more children enrolled.

It would be less than honest to say that we were not exhausted at the end of the ten days; but we were more than rewarded when we think of the lovely children full of the seeds of the Gospel truth sown to them by the Lord through our hands. Think what a bountiful harvest we will witness at the final day!

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Vacation Bible Schools Can Be for Adolescents, Too

By J. M. T. Hutaaruk, Pastor
Malaya Mission

RUNNING a Vacation Bible School is not difficult, but it does take planning. First, set the date, order the supplies, find adequate helpers, plan the daily program, and solicit the pupils. Thinking it more effective to work with pupils of older age, we enrolled thirty adolescents from 12 to 18 years of age in the VBS held at Sungai Pantani near Penang.

Beginning with a theme song and prayer at nine o'clock each morning, we gave a short talk followed by an inspiring song service.

le School



Above: Vacation Bible School at Pontian.



Left: Vacation Bible School at Sungai Pan-tani, Penang.

Right: Craft time at Pontian VBS.

for the building and a solidly built footpath bridge. The banner hung in front of the hall and four folding beds were also parts of the craft work. Other crafts were displayed before the graduation when the parents of the students were invited to visit.

We now have five youth in our

follow-up Bible study group. They have also joined our Youth Fellowship and MV Progressive Class. Our Sabbath School attendance has increased since our Vacation Bible School.

As the teachers visited the homes for follow-up contacts one boy pleaded, "Will you come to visit me again?" Another said, "I like this school. Couldn't it extend beyond the ten days?" All of them greatly enjoyed the Bible Study and other activities and promised that they would readily enroll again.

Malaya MV Camping

Mrs. J. H. Lantry, Camp Instructor

SIXTY-FIVE Missionary Volunteers of Malaya with the camp leaders and instructors spent the week of December 12—19 at Camp Lumut in Perak, Malaya. This location at Lumut proved to be a most beautiful spot for such a gathering. The emerald green water was perfect for bathing at any time was bordered by tall, graceful palms and tropical flowers. Balmy breezes, vivid sunsets, good food, and wonderful Christian fellowship added to the never-to-be-forgotten experiences.

Pastor T. K. Chong, of Singapore, led out in the discussions concerning the New Earth as revealed in the **Great Controversy**. The im-

portant facts of our denominational history were taught by Pastor H. Y. Cheah of Kuala Lumpur. It was inspiring to see the Chinese, Indonesian, Filipino, Indian, and American youth join together in worship and Bible study.

Nature study in this beautiful tropical area was taught by Mrs. J. H. Lantry of Singapore. Some of the sea treasures that the campers became better acquainted with were sea cucumbers, many types of crabs, chitons that had to be scraped off the rocks, jelly fish, and various types of shells. All were eager to learn more of God's handiwork.

Young people, camp leaders, and counsellors joined together in lively group discussions in the evening outdoor meetings over such topics as "Love, Courtship, and Marriage," "Do Movies and Religion Mix?,"

We separated into two classes. For the older adolescents I gave a series of lectures from the Old Testament on the prophecies of Jesus. Because of frequent Bible drills they quickly learned how to find the texts on each subject. The Bibles they used were later given to them as follow-up Bible studies continued.

The Juniors followed the regular Vacation Bible School lessons and Activity books. All enjoyed the object lessons, health and nature talks, crafts and games. Following the nature talks the Junior teachers led their class for a short walk to the nearby bush for nature study. Before dismissing at 12:30 we again sang until all the songs were thoroughly learned. The daily programs always ended with prayer.

Outstanding achievements in craft resulted in an attractive sign board





Malaya Mission MV camp at Lumut.

"Spiritism," "Conversion," and "Share Your Faith."

There were two outstanding camp activities that will be long remembered. The first one was a three hour hike over hills, through jungles, over jagged rocks and sandy beaches. The other was an all day boat trip arranged by pastor K. T. Chin, the camp director, and Pastor S. J. Lee, the mission president. For nearly nine hours the boat sailed over the beautiful seas with stops

now and then for exploration and shelling.

During the camp six young people made decisions for Christ. One camper recently baptized, brought a fellow youth he had just won to the truth. One young man who had not attended church for a long time, decided to return and be faithful. During the tour of Pangkor Island, a reporter from the newspaper joined the group. His comment was, "In all their activities the discipline

was excellent. They all showed real joy in their faces, worthy examples for modern youth."

This joy was revealed on the last Sabbath when each camper gave his personal testimony of how certain Bible texts and hymns had been of help to him. The days of camping at Lumut were an inspiration to all the youth but it also increased their longing to leave the island paradise for the Paradise of God yet to come.

Bible Correspondence School Convert

By Jerry Chong, Pastor
Kuching Chinese Church

IN order to lay the ground work for Pastor Milton Lee's great evangelistic effort we started a temporary Bible correspondence school in Kuching in December, 1963. We went to great lengths trying to enroll the people. Besides repeated advertisements in newspapers, students were asked to enroll their relatives and friends. All over Sawarak thousands became students of our Bible correspondence school. Some living in remote corners hundreds of miles away from Kuching responded even though it took a long time for the mail to go back and forth to them. Having completed the course of lessons prepared by Pastor Milton Lee, they continued with the "Faith for Today" course.

During October, 1965, Pastor R. C. Hall, Mr. Chou Tham Swee, and the writer went from place to place

Ingathering and visiting our isolated members as well. On the 8th of October, the mission plane took us to Marudi, a very small town over 300 miles away from Kuching. After a thirty-minute motor boat ride from Marudi, we arrived at Lubok Nibong, a little market place near the river bank. Here we visited Mr. Yong Siew Yung, our Bible school graduate who lived farthest away from Kuching. He became a student soon after our correspondence school started, but it took him one and a half years to complete the two courses. Now he is taking the Daniel and Revelation course from Hong Kong.

Mr. Yong lived in a small grocery store near the river. In our conversation we found that he earnestly desired to become a Christian. As we examined him on the fundamental doctrines of the Bible, we were amazed to find that he clearly understood each point. Living in a home of deep-seated superstition, he had nevertheless kept the Sabbath according to the Bible for a whole year. He had abstained

from all unclean foods for over one year. This was truly amazing. The seed of truth had wonderfully developed, ready for harvest. The words in Acts 8:36 flashed through my mind: "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" As we talked to him about baptism, without one moment's hesitation, he expressed his desire to follow his Lord all the way. It was Friday, so we decided to conduct the service in his home the next day.

This baptismal service was different from all others, one that was unforgettable. Mr. Yong, a polio victim from child, had could not stand up at all. It was impossible to baptize him in the river. Fortunately, there was a 3 by 4 feet water tank in his home. It served our purpose wonderfully well. We had a simple meeting in Mr. Yong's home, following the meeting Pastor Hall had Mr. Yong sit in a chair in the tank and baptized him, chair and all, with his family and neighbors witnessing. Happiness beamed from his bright countenance. We pray that in that great and glorious

day, he will be able to rejoice and leap among the redeemed throng.

In Sarawak great is the possibility for such thrilling experiences to be repeated. During these two years, through our Bible correspondence school the seed of truth has been sown in the hearts of men in various places, waiting only for proper cultivation and watering to spring up.

Our mission completed, again we boarded the Cessna 180. Flying through the vast borderless jungles of Sarawak, we looked down at this

extensive territory, with its scattered population, drifting and struggling in the sea of heathenism and superstition, waiting to hear the gospel of salvation. But who are those that would help them?

In Sarawak, work among the Chinese is rather lagging. Work needs to start in the many unentered areas. "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few." Let us pray earnestly to "the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest."

Union President's Report (Continued from page 2.)

and five thousand students graduate from these courses every year.

In our union there are six hospitals, two dental clinics, about 25 doctors and four dentists. There were, in one year's time, 14,815 inpatients and 178,868 outpatients. Further information concerning our hospitals is as follows: total bed capacity, 417; 765 employees; 1,894 major surgeries; 5,313 minor surgeries; 1,924 live births; 132 baptisms; 62% of the employees are SDA's.

During the past biennial period eight 5 Day Plans have been held—five in Thailand, two in Malaya, one in Singapore. One was held in the Thai language, the rest in English. Our three publishing houses have been busy printing literature for nearly 140 colporteurs who sold a total of 47 million pages of literature in the past two years, worth about M\$1,150,000.

This year of 1965 brings a number of anniversaries. It is the 24th year of operations for the Vietnam Signs Press, the 45th year for Malaysia Signs Press, the 50th year for Southeast Asia Union College, the 60th for the Chinese Signs of the Times, and the 62nd since the work first began in Singapore by the visit of R. A. Caldwell, a colporteur, in 1903. In 1906 G. F. Jones visited and carried on some work in Singapore. About 1912 the work spread to the Kuala Lumpur area. In 1903 R. A. Caldwell also visited Thailand. In 1919 E. L. Longway and F. A. Pratt began work in the Thailand area. During the period of 1920 to 1930 colporteurs R. M. Milne and K. O. Tan did work in Indo-China areas. In 1929 R. H. Wentland went there to begin permanent work. So from these small beginnings the Advent message has grown until by the end of 1965 our church membership will exceed 10,000.

First Editor of Chinese "Signs of the Times" Honored (Continued from page 8.)

Miller's neck and then Pastor Daniel Lee, present editor of the *Signs of the Times* presented a plaque to Dr. Miller. He expressed appreciation from the Chinese people to Dr. Miller for his many years of untiring service.

—V. L. Bretsch, Secretary
Publishing Department
Southeast Asia Union



Mr. Hsiung, mother and daughter recently baptized at Bangkok.

Baptisms in Bangkok

By K. S. Wong, Pastor, BSH
Chaplain's Department

APRIL 3, 1965 was an unforgettable day to the writer because of the unusual baptisms took place on this particular day. One of the four candidates was Mr. Wu Ta, a wine manufacturer, whose wife came into contact with our message during her stay in our Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital and was later baptized. Upon reading the inspired "Ministry of Healing," Mr. Wu was greatly impressed. As a result he decided to give up his wine business. He found work in a bank and became its manager. Now he is serving as the home missionary leader in the church, actively visiting the people and leading out in meetings conducted in different homes.

The next candidate was Mr. Hsiung who came from a home

where many heathen gods were the objects of worship. Several years ago, a friend gave him a copy of "The Ministry of Healing" which he read from cover to cover. Two years ago he came to our hospital as an appendicitis patient. In a dream he saw the nail prints in the hands of Jesus, the cross, and heard sweet music of praise to God. As he woke up he found his old friend Mr. Leong, an Adventist, standing beside him praying.

After he returned home from the hospital, Mr. Leong took him to church. Later the elder of the church and the writer both studied with him and urged him to bring his mother and daughter to our services. As a result three generations of this family were baptized on the same day.

Now Mr. Hsiung is doing colporteur work, witnessing for God. We earnestly solicit your prayers for them all.

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First Editor of Chinese "Signs of the Times" Honored

AT the recent Far Eastern Division Biennial session, held in Hong Kong, the Southeast Asia Union, at the time of their report, paid special tribute to Dr. H. W. Miller, the founder and first editor of the Chinese *Signs of the Times*.

In 1905, Dr. Miller, a young medical-evangelist to the Chinese people, caught a vision of what could be done through our publications. He launched out in faith and started what became the only message-magazine to the Chinese people

of the world.

Without good printing facilities, or a promise of funds from his homeland, in fact with practically nothing at all, materially, he undertook to provide that which he envisioned would be one of the greatest blessings he could give to his cherished "flock".

Mr. Choo Yau Fong, manager of the Malaysian Signs Press, put a beautiful lei of flowers around Dr.

(To page 7.)

Present editor, Daniel Lee, compares *SIGNS* with the first editor, Dr. H. W. Miller.

