

The Messenger

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BANGKOK ADVENTIST CHURCH DEDICATED

JANUARY 25

See story on page 2

FAR EAST HARVEST

Laymen of the Southeast Asia Union have their eyes fixed on Jesus, as they press forward toward their goals. "Remember June 14, 1969." It is union-wide baptism day. Have you reviewed your commitment lately?



Bangkok Chinese Church Dedication

by Robert L. Sheldon

THE new Bangkok Chinese Church was dedicated on Sabbath, January 25, 1969. Pastor D. R. Guild, president of the Southeast Asia Union gave the dedicatory address which was translated into Chinese by Mr. Edward Lim.

Many friends of the community joined the Seventh-day Adventist members from the other two city churches for this Sabbath afternoon service. Special music was provided by a combined choir conducted by Mrs. Russell Tyler and a ladies triple trio.

Participating in the program were leading members of the Chinese Church: C. S. Tan, Philip Peng, M. S. Teo, B. G. Wu, Goh Tak, and K. S. Wong. Several visitors from outside Thailand were also present; Pastor E. L. Longway, who was the first missionary to Thailand over fifty years ago, Pastors V. L. Kon and M. R. Milne. Pastor of the church, K. S. Hui lead in the Act of Dedication. Benediction was offered by Mr. Pleng Vitiamyalsana, who was the first Thai baptised into the Adventist Church in the early 1930's.

The first introduction of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to Thailand, then called the Kingdom of Siam, was by Pastor R. A. Caldwell in 1907. He found Buddhism strongly entrenched, yet foresaw the establishment of the Advent Message in this land.

A few years later a group of student colporteurs from the Malayan Seminary in Singapore were sent north to visit Siam. They had only Chinese literature to sell.

Mr. Phand Yin Hee, now a retired minister in New York, was among this first group of literature evangelists. They were selling mostly subscriptions to the Chinese *Signs of the Times* published in Shanghai. As the colporteurs were strangers, they found it difficult to sell pre-paid subscriptions. Mr. Phang was very discouraged but God was leading him. As he strolled the streets of Bangkok, he noticed a lady sitting in a ship reading a Bible. Much to his surprise, upon introduction, he found a Seventh-day Adventist family who had migrated from Swatow. The husband, Mr. Tan

Thiam Hee, was a building contractor. With his assistance and guarantee many subscriptions were sold.

Mr. Tan's shop-house became the



In late 1918 Pastor and Mrs. E. L. Longway arrived in the Kingdom of Siam as the first missionary family. They are still active missionaries stationed in Hong Kong. During the recent Chinese Church dedication in Bangkok, Pastor Longway met again his friend, the first Thai baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Mr. Pleng Vitiamyalsana. He was baptised in the early 1930's. Mr. Pleng has for many years served as the assistant business manager of the Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital.

first meeting place of the Adventist church in Bangkok.

The first American missionaries to Thailand were Pastor and Mrs. E. L. Longway who arrived in November, 1918. They were soon

followed by Pastor F. A. Pratt and later Pastor A. P. Ritz. They studied the Chinese language and worked mostly among the Chinese people. Mr. Kon Vui Leong, a successful literature evangelist from North Borneo, was sent to strengthen the work. Pastor Heng Seng Teck, from Swatow joined the group to speak in the Teochew dialect and help organize the church in a rented wooden house at Soi Sup, Sipaya Road, Bangkok.

As the members increased, this wooden house was inadequate for services. In 1933 the Thailand Mission signed a land lease contract with the Chulalongkorn University and built a concrete church building at the present site. This building served well for over thirty years.

About five years ago the Bangkok Municipality ordered all buildings in this older section of town demolished. All land leases were cancelled. Through many difficulties and obstacles but with Divine guidance a new lease was obtained from the university on the same site with a few border adjustments.

The members of the church sacrificially contributed to the construction of the new sanctuary. Assistance was given by the Far Eastern Division, the Southeast Asia Union, the Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital as well as many Chinese, Thai and American friends. The new building was constructed at a cost of Baht 1,250,000.00 (US\$62,500.00)

It is fitting that this sanctuary was completed and dedicated during the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Thailand Mission of Seventh-day Adventists.



A side view of the new Bangkok SDA church.



All aboard!



Greater Singapore Youth Camp

by F. H. Hewitt, Secretary
MV and Education Department

WHOLESONE fun and recreation is camping with 64 young people from the five Singapore area churches at Tanah Merah Beach. Pastors, teachers, parents and Union leaders joined together under the direction of associate pastor of the Singapore Chinese Church, Brother Lee Tsai Teik, to provide counseling, and recreational activity. It was

a happy way to spend the last six days of 1969 (December 26-31).

One of the highlights of the camp came when one of the young campers, Miss Dolly Koh requested baptism, and received this rite in the warm waters of the South China Sea at the hand of Pastor S. F. Chu. Another thrilling moment came when sixteen other young people made their first public commitment to Christ and requested studies leading to baptism and church membership. Every camper thus, without a single exception, responded to the spiritual appeal of this well-led camp.

Special tokens of appreciation

were given out in a closing ceremony to members of the staff who made outstanding contributions to the success of the program. Among these specially recognized were:

Pastor Ng Sui Koon, boys' director and camp pastor; Ann Ng, girls' director; James Yong, business manager; Pastor S. F. Chu, camp council speaker; Mrs. Lim Soo Bah, chief cook (and her associates); Jessica Goh, music; Ruth Abehar and Susan Cholly, camp nurses; Alfred Lim, Mrs. Koh Chin Hua, and Linda Koh, craft instructors; Pastor Don Jacobsen, Sabbath speaker and Spiritual Activities Instructor.



Camp staff meeting — 6 a.m.



Some time for serious study



"I pledge allegiance..."



29 Student nurses received their caps on January 16, 1969 at the Bangkok Adventist Hospital.



All over Thailand children were honored on January 18, 1969. A special Sabbath school and church program were planned at the Bangkok Sanitarium Church by Pastor Sunti Sorajjakool. In a mission pageant, children from the Thai Sabbath school were dressed in costumes from around the world. Gifts were distributed at the close of the church service to all the children.

Christian Home Week in Thailand

by Robert L. Sheldon, Secretary
Public Relations Department

THREE churches in the greater Bangkok area placed special emphasis on Christian Home Week — February 2 to 8, 1969. Joint services were held, one at each church, coordinated by Miss Myrtle Fitzgerald.

On Sunday evening, parents and children gathered at the tennis court of the Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital. Five booths were set up serving foods from Thailand, China, Philippines, Indonesia, and America. Following the supper, children from the various Sabbath schools and church school participated in a program of music and recitation. A skit was presented by Mrs. D. K. Smith, showing the proper and improper ways to prepare a child for school in the morning. Pointers were given parents on how to help children learn from infancy through pre-school days.

At the Chinese church on Wed-

nesday evening the topic of discussion was, "Three Dimensions in Education." Miss Myrtle Fitzgerald appropriately illustrated the importance of home, church and school in the matter of worship, education and preparation for our heavenly home by showing a three legged Chinese vase and what would happen should one leg be broken.

On the last Sabbath the service

was held at the Ekamai Adventist School Auditorium. Mr. Sukon Veerakool moderated a ten-member panel consisting of young and old; men and women; single and married. Their subject was, "Love, Courtship, and Marriage."

It is hoped that through these special meetings increased emphasis and understanding will be placed on the need for Christian education.



Filipino and Indonesian food was very popular at the Christian Home Week joint service held in Bangkok, Thailand on February 2-8, 1969.

Mr. C. A. Miller and Dr. G. C. Ekvall from the Far Eastern Division Medical Department have made a survey of all the hospitals in the Southeast Asia Union. At the Phuket Mission Hospital they confer with Mrs. Nursia, director of Nursing Service.



On the evening of January 26, 1969, the Bangkok Adventist Hospital honored its professional staff at a specially prepared banquet. Nearly all of the doctors and departmental heads of the nursing staff were present. From Singapore, both division and union leaders were also in attendance. A special introduction of the staff highlighted the after dinner program.





Our church school teacher and his family eat the left over food after having invited our party of four to a meal in his home. He and his wife were generous hosts and served us the best vegetarian meal the village could offer. Their glutinous rice was some of the best we ever tested, perhaps partly because of our hunger pains. This dining room serves also for their living and bed room.



A Meo believer and his family. Although they have rugged constitutions yet they often succumb to the inroads of disease and suffering. The older sister in this picture smiles through her keenly distressing pains which racks her body. The knot of hair on the younger sister's head is the customary hair-do for married women with children.

ON the frontiers of SDA Mission work in Southeast Asia is a mission station among the Meo tribe in the country of Laos near the town of Chiengkong in north Thailand. My wife, Pastor Abel

living along the edges of the great Mekong River yet their living conditions are primitive. However, they have adequate food and clothes for their basic needs.

In the village we visited our members have built a thatched structure for worship. The floor, made of

During our visits in the homes of the people a number of other families expressed their desire to be members of our faith. With inspiration, training, and materials, it is believed that our believers there



Village chief's wife

An Outpost in Laos

by Doyle Barnett, Secretary
Lay Activities Department

bamboo, sags back and forth as the congregation gathers. Our teacher there has erected a simple house of bamboo and grass for his home. Our members have also put up a small school building. The church membership is not large but a good group came out to our evening meeting. They were enthusiastic in their participation in the service, and expressed their desire to build a larger and better church. However, they have no funds with which to purchase materials from the outside.



Village chief

Pangan and I recently made a trip to this frontier base. Our Thailand Mission, who sponsors our work in Laos, is subsidizing one teacher and one village worker to promote the work in this area. Although

could begin a laymen's movement that would spread throughout the mountains and hills of Laos. Although hardly touched by our work, Laos is an open challenge for Adventist missionary work.

Our teacher and his pupils. A small beginning but who can tell what latent resources may be developed in the minds and lives of these small children?

Pastor Pangan points a group of our believers upward to the source of their help. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth." The people of Laos are longingly waiting for the gospel message.



Wedding Vows Exchanged in Australia

by Llewellyn Jones, retired pastor

A WEDDING of international interest took place in the Hughesdale Church, Melbourne, Australia on Sunday February 2, 1969, when Ruth Chong Siew Lan, formerly of the Penang Adventist Hospital, a 1968 graduate of the Sydney Sanitarium Hospital School of Nursing, was united in marriage to Bruce Lo Wai Ning, formerly of Hong Kong.

Ruth is the elder daughter of Pastor and Mrs. T. K. Chong of Kuala Lumpur, where Pastor Chong is the president of the Malaya Mission. Bruce is the elder son of Pastor and Mrs. H. S. Lo of Hong Kong, where Pastor Lo is the principal of the Sam Yuk High School in Kowloon.

Remember Far East Harvest

Vietnam War Effects Mission Schools

THE war in Vietnam both hinders and helps God's work. At least, this is the way it seemed to F. H. Hewitt, educational secretary of the Southeast Asia Union Mission, and R. E. Neall, Vietnam Mission president, when they visited the church schools of the Dalat area during the first week of February, 1969.

The village of Rochai has been hit by rockets eight times in the

New Appointments

by D. R. Guild, President

AT the time of our biennial session, held at Singapore this past December, several resignations were accepted by boards of various institutions and missions.

Pastor E. E. Jensen, manager of the Penang Adventist hospital; Brother Ogden Aaby, manager of Youngberg Hospital; and Pastor Ralph Neall, for the past four and one-half years president of the Vietnam Mission, have requested leave from their responsibilities.

To fill these vacancies, the union committee on February 20, 1969, made the following appointments: Harold Robison, manager of the Penang Adventist hospital, effective after June 1, 1969; Charles Harris, manager of Youngberg hospital, effective after June 1, 1969; V. L. Bretsch, president of the Vietnam Mission effective April 1, 1969; R. E. Neall, principal ministerial training school of the Vietnam Mission.

We invite the membership of our union to remember these brethren in prayer as they assume these new responsibilities of leadership.

past year. One attack damaged our school, which is now surrounded by Montagnard soldiers in trenches and bunkers. School continues as usual, however, in spite of the soldiers, and an almost constant stream of dust blowing across the hilltop.

On the other hand, a helicopter provided 20-minute transportation from Dalat to Vietnam's newest

Week of Prayer at Bangkok Sanitarium

by Rick Wilkin

"YOU, Your God, and Your Tomorrow" was the theme of the Week of Prayer recently conducted by Elder Don Jacobsen, of the Southeast Asia Union, at the Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital.

Using the Gospel of John as a basis each morning Pastor Jacobsen emphasized the need of a look at the Man of Calvary.

The afternoon meeting changed emphasis slightly in that the subject was the men of the Bible. As Pastor Jacobsen addressed the students, workers and staff, each could watch him chip away at the plaster pedestal upon which we traditionally place the "saints." Realizing that the men of the Bible were "Men Such As We," many understood what it means to be "clay in the Potter's hands."

Perhaps the best estimate of the week of prayer came from some of the nursing students. One Senior student commented "The week made me think deeply about Christianity." Another student stated that the week "drew her near to God." Others commented that there was something there in a spiritual way at each meeting.

Many decisions for Christ were made and a baptism is being planned in April at the close of the city-wide effort in Bangkok to be held also by Pastor Jacobsen.

church in Dam Rong. The overland route takes most of two days on foot — when it is secure. Ha Wol is doing excellent work in raising up a new church in this village.

Our school in Rochai, 42 kilometers from the highland city of Dalat, shows a gaping hole in the roof where a rocket exploded a few weeks ago. No injuries were reported, but extensive damage was done to desks and supplies.

Ha Moi, teacher, lines his 60 students up in the morning sun, at Rochai.



Saigon Adventist Hospital Launches "Far East Harvest" Project

by Don Jacobsen, Secretary
Public Relations Department

Vietnam Workers' Institute

FOR four days a group of dedicated soldiers met in Saigon to plan an assault on the enemy. But there were no political overtones to these plans. These were soldiers of the cross, and the enemy was Satan, the enemy of souls.

Filled with a burning desire to reach their 13,000,000 precious fellow-countrymen with the gospel of Jesus Christ and inspired by the incentive of Far East Harvest, they laid careful step-by-step plans. Advertising, sermon preparation, visitation, follow-up, all received attention. Pastor Don Jacobsen, Ministerial Association Secretary for the Southeast Asia Union Mission led out in the planning sessions.

Before returning to their homes and responsibilities, a date was set to begin a mission-wide evangelistic program. This Sunday, March 23 was Red Letter Day in South Vietnam. On this evening each pastor in the Vietnam Mission launched a series of evangelistic meetings. Also joining in are the ministerial students in the training school, and pastor Ralph Neall, mission president. Even though ravaged by war, 1969 promises to be a banner year for evangelism in Vietnam.

THE influence of the Saigon Adventist Hospital reaches out far from the busy intersection on which it stands. In mid-1968 a request came to our hospital to provide free inoculations for the 500 youngsters at an orphanage 25 miles from Saigon. Dr. Carlyle Welch was asked to lead out in this program, and before it was over the population of war orphans rose to a thousand!

After a few visits by our hospital workers, the staff of the orphanage, mostly Buddhist, asked if we would like to begin giving religious instructions. The invitation was, of course, accepted, and thus began what must be one of the world's largest Branch Sabbath Schools.

Each Sabbath afternoon our medical personnel take their songs, stories, and visual aids to the orphanage where the children, ranging from infants through teens are divided into their respective groups. While this is going on the 150 orphanage staff members gather for Bible study under the direction of Pastor Pham Thien, Director of the Voice of Prophecy.

The right arm of the message has reached out to the Vietnamese countryside and opened a challenging door.



While the eldest overseas worker present, Pastor Duane Johnson, associate secretary of the General Conference, addressed the large gathering . . .

the youngest member of the group, Beth Ann Welch, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Carlisle Welch, makes friends too.



The head Buddhist priest, gathered all the children around Dr. and Mrs. Carlisle Welch, to express appreciation for the wonderful help received.

Shown here in front of the Vietnam Signs Press office are the leaders and workers of the Vietnam Mission. A ministerial institute was conducted by Pastor Don Jacobsen, union ministerial association secretary, from January 16-21.



News Notes

By Maggie Tan

● **ROGER Benjamin Ku** left in late December to continue his studies at Canadian Union College. He had completed one year of college work at Southeast Asia Union College.

● **Jonathan Ng Tiat Kuan** was recently appointed Dean of Boys and Chaplain of Southeast Asia Union College.

● **Ng Sui Koon**, presently pastor of the Balestier Road Church, has received a call to be MV, Sabbath School, and Lay Activities Secretary of the Malaya Mission.

● **Libertie Pandjaitan** of West Indonesia has been called to be

Publishing Secretary for Malaya Mission.

● **Steven Yap & Shirley Cheng**, recent graduates of SAUC, left in mid-January for Pacific Union College where they will continue their education.

● **Alfonso & Carol Mamora** have been blessed with another baby girl. They now have two girls and a boy in their family.

● **Mr. & Mrs. Ee Teck Ee** are the proud and happy parents of a baby boy born on January 14.

● **Thanks** to the generosity of Mr. Tan Gua Chua, father of Tan Tai Lee of Secondary 2C, we now have a lovely road leading up to the new Auditorium. The road will be named after Tai Lee's father.

● **Tan Fung Ying**, recently baptized member of the College Church, left for Canadian Union

College in late January. He had completed one year of college work at Southeast Asia Union College.

● **Dr. Lim Kok Kian** was home for a month's vacation after completing his medical course in Australia. He is currently working on his senior residency at Sydney University.

● **Diana Chin** married **Daniel Ishikawa** in San Jose, San Francisco, on February 9. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chin Kong Seng, flew over to attend the wedding.

● **Valmai Koh** flew home in mid-February for an extended vacation with her folks, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Koh.

● **Albert Khor** married **Seow Poh Choo** on March 2 at the SAUC Auditorium. Albert is a lab technician at Youngberg Memorial Hospital while Poh Choo works in the chaplain's department.

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Seen here are the officers of the Overseas Students Association at Philippine Union College. From left to right: L. Pohan (Malaysia) — president, G. Chong (Malaysia) — PRO, Thi Tuy Hoa Le (Vietnam) — secretary, Panniah Manickham (Ceylon) — parliamentarian, Sumitra Tangvararat (Thailand) — treasurer, Willy Nobuo (Palau, Caroline Islands) — officer at large, Vilas Pansuwannakee (Thailand) — vice president, Elisha Okeyo (Tanzania, Africa) — officer at large.

A group of Overseas students posed with Leong Swee Gin right after the commencement service at Philippine Union College, last semester.

