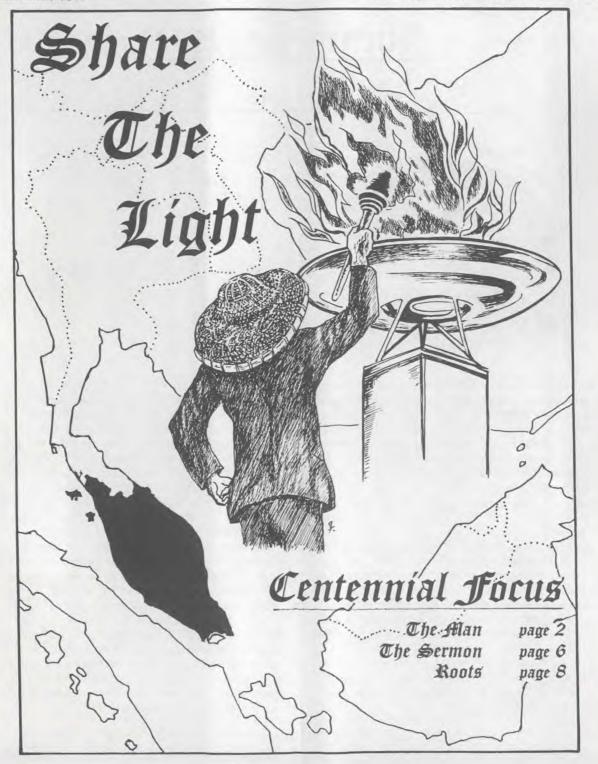
# SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION MICHAEL SENGER

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### NEWSBREAK 1888 - 1988 \_



# Abram La Rue

# Star Gazer



to

### **Torch Bearer**

Farming was hard work for small 11 year old Abram La Rue. The necessary chores always left him weary and sore. His older brothers' tan skins bulged and rippled over strong muscles when they plowed the fields, but not his. He often wondered if he would ever be strong enough to do the work his father required.

Whenever he would ask his father's permission to go to school, the answer was always the same. "No, son. A boy must learn to work. After all, that's where your bread and butter come from. You can't eat just studyin' a book all day."

But Abram was unconvinced. He loved to read. When he could, he would slip away to his favorite quiet spot in the attic and read from the family Bible or other books. Gradually his concepts of the world and life broadened. By his mid teens he knew there was far more to life than just farming. He also was sure he would never make a good farmer. "I'm just not built for it," he reasoned. "I'm sure God never intended that I be a farmer."

One day the thought struck him, "why not follow the stars and go to the sea?" He finally mustered up courage to approach his father. To his amazement his dad agreed. With joy and bounding enthusiasm Abram La Rue set off for a new life.

He loved it. The vast expanse of sea made him feel tall. The power surging underneath brought him strength. Calm days spoke peace to his restless heart, while tempetuous days filled him with vigor and determination.

It was the star-studded heavens that filled him with the deepest joy and security, however. It seemed to him that myriads of stars crept right down to the sea itself. He felt like he was in the very center of a celestial display staged just for his benefit. "What could ever be better," thought Abram. "This is truly the best life."

Abram's hard work advanced him from deck boy to the status of an officer. Now he had the option to choose on which ship he wished to serve. He always chose to sail to the Far East so he could do business with the Chinese merchants and thus increase his savings.

In the mid 1800's Abram decided to switch and try his hand at gold mining. Again success daunted his steps. Soon he was investing in California property and other money-making activities. Sometime later he left his profits in the hand of a trusted friend and returned to sea and the Far East. From time to time his mail indicated he would one day retire a wealthy man.

#### **Disaster Strikes**

Then one day in Hong Kong, two large envelopes from California brought news of disaster. One contained newspaper clippings telling of a terrible San Francisco fire that had burned his assets to the ground. The other envelope reported his other investments were in ruins. After thirty-five years of hard work everything had vanished. Abram, stunned and broken-hearted, decided to end it all by stepping off the edge of the pier.

Just before his last step, however, force of habit caused him to look up once more at the stars. He caught a glimpse of a brilliant star and then it was gone! Only blackness filled the space. What did it mean? Confused and too depressed to sleep, he spent the night wandering along the streets of Hong Kong.

Morning dawned and with it a slight ray of hope. He decided to sail to Honolulu. But to his disappointment. Honolulu was no better. Then one night while walking aimlessly he heard some singing. The words floated out on the night air and he stopped to listen

"Are you weary, are you heavy hearted, tell it to Jesus. tell it to Jesus. Are you grieving over joys departed. tell it to Jesus alone."

He turned toward the sound and saw a tent with a sign, "Come unto Me all ye who are heavy laden. I will give you rest." On an impulse he followed another man into the tent. The invitation to "rest" sounded good. Suddenly his reverie was disturbed with the preacher's piercing question. "Have you seen His star?"











#### Had He Seen His Star?

Had he? He knew a lot about stars. After all, they had guided him across the trackless sea many times. He knew and trusted them. They had never led him astray. But that one bright star that had stopped him from plunging into a watery grave, what about that one? Perhaps God was trying to tell him something. He could hardly sleep that night.

The next morning he hurried to a bookstore and bought his first Bible. Finding a quiet place he read the entire book of Mark and surrendered his life to God. Suddenly he felt impressed to go down to the harbor and offer his services as a seaman. No one needed him except a captain sailing for California. Abram was not anxious to return to the place that now held so many painful memories, but he decided to trust that God knew best.

Along the way he diligently read his Bible. He noticed that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses had spent most of their lives herding sheep. Why did these great men do this? Could it be that they wanted to spend time with God? He decided to do the same.

#### Interlude Among The Sheep

From San Francisco, he made his way to a lonely mountainous area in Northern California known as Anderson Valley. Here he laid claim to some property and moved into a deserted cabin. The quiet serenity he experienced among his sheep was vastly different from the bustle of ship life. God seemed so close. He longed to share his joy with someone.

One day, he met Pastor Studebaker who invited him to join his Dunkard church and come to their campmeeting a few weeks later. Sometime later while visiting at the Studebaker home, Mrs. Studebaker handed Abram a Signs of the Times magazine that her husband had demanded she throw away. Abram accepted the magazine and studied it very carefully.

The day before the Dunkard campmeeting, he gathered up a few of his belongings and started walking down the mountain. He had not gone far when he heard the sound of hooves and creaky wagon wheels behind him. The driver, Mr. Reuel Stickney, invited him to ride and visit. To Abram's surprise, he learned that Mr. Stickney distributed the Signs of the Times for a business. As the men visited. Abram became convinced that what Mr. Stickney was saying was right. He changed his plans and attended the Seventh-day Adventist campmeeting instead.

Carefully he looked up every text presented and later studied each one. On the last Sabbath of campmeeting when an altar call was given La Rue jumped to his feet and exclaimed, "Baptize me right away. I've got a big job to do, and not many years left to do it in."

Baptize me right away, I've got a big job to do, and not many years to do it in.

Marter campmeeting La Rue became caretaker of Mr. Stickney's sheep ranch and sold Signs of the Times for eight years to the people in the area. Several families were eventually baptized including William Grainger who later became the first president of the present Pacific Union College in California.

#### 59 And Just Beginning

At 59 years of age, La Rue went back to school for one year so that he could apply for mission service. To his keen disappointment, however, he was turned down on grounds that he was too old and not well educated. Not knowing what else to do, Abram turned to God. He felt impressed to work for seamen at the great seaports.

In 1884, La Rue went to Hawaii as a self-supporting missionary. There he visited every ship in the Honolulu harbor. Interest grew and upon request Elder and Mrs. William Healey and their little girl, Betty, were sent to carry on the work.

Later La Rue met Captain Martin with whom he had earlier sailed to Hong Kong. As they talked over old times, the captain offered to take Abram to Hong Kong again. Abram accepted and boarded the Velocity on March 21, 1888 loaded with books and tracks to share. One Swedish sailor, Mr. Olson, became so interested in La Rue's message that he decided to join him in sharing the good news in Hong Kong.

# May 4, 1888 - A Torch Light Shines In Hong Kong

On May 4, 1888, the Velocity slipped into Hong Kong's harbor. Abram La Rue was ecstatic. He could scarcely contain himself. Gathering his bundle he bounded down the gang plank two steps and a jump ahead of Mr. Olson.

British battleships, ocean cargo steamers, freighters, Chinese junks, and sampans crowded the harbor. There seemed no end to the opportunities that lay before La Rue. He was thrilled at last to be doing the work he most wanted to do. Interest in his literature grew as his books began to travel to various ports all around the Far East.

Other church groups objected and violently threatened his life. Carefully La Rue weighed what he should do. He felt he should go to Japan. He left Olson to tend the work in Hong Kong and in April 1889, he became the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary to enter Japan.

In 1891, he traveled to Sarawak, Singapore, Java, and Ceylon sharing Christ all along the way. Later he traveled up the Yangtze River 1800 miles with 18 other missionaries. His faithful witness led many of them to become Seventh-day Adventists.

One day, during one of his many trips to the Mainland, he heard some English words being spoken by a Chinese. The man, Mok Man Chung, worked as a translator in a colonial court. Abram befriended him and left him two pamphlets, **The Sinner's Need of Christ** and **The Judgment**. The man began to study and then later translated the tracks into the Chinese language. With these tracks, Abram and Olson felt they could do even more.

#### Plea For More Bearers.

Abram wrote home urging that missionaries be sent to Japan and China. William and Lizzie Grainger went to Japan and Elder and Mrs. J. N. Anderson and Mrs. Anderson's sister, Miss Ida Thompson went to China. Upon arrival in Hong Kong, Elder Anderson baptized Mok and eight other believers on March 1, 1902. They became the first fruits of China.

Abram La Rue was thrilled to witness this joyous occasion in the sunset years of his life. He was glad he had followed The Star which had brought him happiness beyond compare.

He spent his last days passing out tracts and caring for the little health food store he had started in Hong Kong. Just before his death he willed the greater portion of his small income to the China mission, the object of his love for the last 14 years of his life.

April 26, 1903 saw Abram La Rue drop from his hand the torch he had held so high. Now others would have to lift it up and carry it forward. But because Abram had steadfastly gazed at Jesus , The Star, the torch burned with such power that many there were who saw the light. Today 671,533 torch bearers carry forward the Seventh-day Adventist message throughout the Far Eastern Division. And this year, 1988, just 100 years since Abram La Rue first landed in Hong Kong, we pay special tribute to the man who followed the Star to China.



Researched by Lucy Ho Written by Loralyn Horning Based on the books DARK NIGHT, BRILLIANT STAR by Eileen E. Lantry and PASTOR LA RUE, THE PIONEER by Mary C. Hanley and Ruth Wheeler.

# FAR EASTERN DIVISION MAKING COMMEMORATIVE VIDEO

The Far Eastern Division is presently making a video cassette to commemorate the travels and contacts of Abram La Rue in the Far East. In February, Pastor and Mrs. Zachary came to Kuching to re-enact the scenes that probably took place during La Rue's visit to this city. The Sarawak State Museum generously assisted the project by allowing the Zacharys to take the only existing Chinese richshaw from the Museum display out into the Museum grounds. Here Pastor Zachary played the part of Abram La Rue and carried books around to visit the homes of those who spoke English.

Personnel from the Museum made available costumes of the old Iban villages for Pastor Sipuk, June Angkin, and Lovina Banyie to model scenes around the "longhouse" that Abram La Rue may have seen on his visit. Again the longhouse was one of the displays in the Museum.

The Sarawak Mission is planning a special commemorative program on September 9-10, 1989, in the Serian area where it is felt that more of our church members and friends will be able to attend.

 Saul Nyungga, Communication Director, Sarawak Mission.

# DOUBLE BIBLE STUDIES IN

1987

In keeping with the Abram La Rue spirit, literature evangelists throughout the Southeast Asia Union showed marked increase in the number of contacts they made during 1987. Records show that the number of Bible studies given to interested individuals doubled over that reported in 1986. During the year, just over 1,000 studies were given. This is in addition to selling almost (S)\$2,000,000.00 worth of truth-filled literature. They more than doubled the number of prayers offered in homes throughout the union field. May God's name be praised.

Randy Horning, Literature Ministries Director, SAUM



Arrival of Abraham La Rue in Kuching re-enacted February 18, 1988.

#### **ADRA VISITS VIETNAM**

The month of March brought a "first" for the present Union staff in Singapore! Since 1975, Vietnam has not been accessible to visit by Union personnel. Vietnam has a population of over 60 million people and many Seventh-day Adventists worship in approximately 12 churches in the country.

On March 15 a team of six people met in Bangkok, Thailand representing the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. Ralph Watts and Romie Gainer represented ADRA/International with a Vietnamese/American, an ADRA/I consultant. Mait DiPinto represented ADRA/FED and George Johnson ADRA/SAUM. Dr. Neville Matthews was also a member of the team representing the General Conference Religious Liberty and Public Affairs Department. He was the individual responsible for the visit since he had arranged for the official visit of the ADRA team with the Vietnamese Ambassador to the United Nations in New York.

The team left for Hanoi, Vietnam on the 16th of March. Approximately one week was spent in Hanoi and another 5 days in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). The delegation was well received by government officials and the public in Hanoi and in the South. There is great scope for the work of ADRA throughout Vietnam. Medical, educational, technical and humanitarian assistance are all needed by this large country which has been ravaged by war for so many years.

The team was able to meet and worship with Christian brothers on Saturday and Sunday, both in the North and in the South. We thank God for this opportunity to again meet needs in Vietnam. We appeal for your prayers and the guidance of God as the world SDA church initiates ADRA assistance to Vietnam.



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# Righteousness

### The True and The Counterfeit

"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." I John 3:10.

This issue of righteousness is one of eternal life and eternal death. We need not be surprised then that the archdeceiver has diligently introduced a counterfeit of genuine righteousness, seeking to deceive God's people. Yet Scripture is so plain that only those who are ineffective students of the Word or willingly ignorant could be beguiled.

God's Word clearly teaches that we are saved by the grace of God freely bestowed. "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)" Eph. 2:5. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" Eph. 2:8. We are all sinners and the consequence of such sin is eternal death. In His great love for His children our Saviour came to this earth as a man and died the second death for us, that we might inherit that eternal life which, by our sin, we had forfeited. It is by the provision of this grace, and this grace alone, that eternal life has been restored to mankind. This great truth takes little effort to write, but within its orbit is contained the most wonderful divine act in the entire history of eternity. It is so simple that no man need fail to discern its truth, yet this plan of salvation will challenge our understanding throughout eternity and still we will never fully plumb its depth.

#### First Counterfeit - Legalism

But counterfeits are numerous and the great tragedy is that almost all the world prefers one or the other of these counterfeits. They can all be reduced to two fundamental errors. The most common of these is legalism. The vast majority of apostate religions demand that the individual earns sufficient merit to entitle him to salvation. Righteousness by works is evident in all the major Eastern religions. It is accepted in the largest

Christian denominations and has often been seen amongst Seventh-day Adventists. Penance, making merit, pilgrimages, acts of deprivation, self-inflicted injuries and many other means are sought in order to bring an individual to a state of moral holiness. But such acts can never achieve their aim for an entire life of purity cannot atone for a single sin. Christ's grace alone is efficacious.

Perhaps the most subtle concept of righteousness by works is the belief that man is saved by faith or belief. Some set faith and belief aside from works, as if the work of the mind was somehow more holy than the work of the body. However, frequently it requires considerably more effort to achieve belief than it does to perform acts of kindness. My own grandfather strenuously fought against belief for almost 50 years. It took an enormous effort for him to exert belief. We live by faith and righteousness is received by faith, but we are no more saved by faith than we are by any other work.

#### Second Counterfeit - Free Grace

The second counterfeit is the belief that because of Christ's love there are no conditions to the receipt of God's grace. Extreme instances of this are seen in the view that all mankind will eventually be saved. The unscriptural notion that God does not destroy underpins such an error. Those who teach a second probation after death also further this view. A modified concept, widely espoused, is that we need only believe to be saved, and that once we believe we can never fall from God's grace. Thus, unwittingly, a condition, that of belief, is placed

The Paradox of God's Grace - It is a free gift that costs our all.

upon the bestowal of righteousness, as if this was somehow distinct from other works of man and a more worthy "work" than, for example, helping the poor. Such demonstrate great confusion and a superficial understanding of the Bible.

The parable of the pearl of great price demonstrates the paradox of God's grace. It is a free gift that costs our all. This condition is enshrined in the decalogue - "And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments." Exodus 20:6. It is true that the lone condition for salvation is belief. The Bible's most loved text verifies this fact. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. But once more Satan has confused men with a counterfeit belief, the one which he himself exerts. "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." James 2:19.

In contrast to this counterfeit, genuine belief is explicitly defined in John's first epistle. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat, loveth him also that is begotton of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 John 5:1-5. This text explains that genuine belief, the condition of the receipt of Christ's grace, is evidenced by 1. the new birth experience, 2. love to God, 3. love to our fellow men, 4. keeping the commandments, 5. victory, 6. overcoming, 7. possessing faith. Satan's counterfeits bear none of these criteria. It is an empty, powerless, unsanctified acknowledment of the fact of Christ's death. Such does not meet the condition for the bestowal of God's free grace. Yet many Christians espouse this counterfeit belief.

When my twin brother, Colin, and I were teenagers we happened upon a group of street preachers vigorously preaching, "Only believe!" One of the group asked us if we believed that Jesus had died for our sins. When we stated that we did, he replied most enthusiastically, "Praise the Lord, you're saved!" Curious, he enquired concerning our church affiliation. When we provided him with this information, the man's demeanour completely altered. "You believe in keeping the commandments!" he stated accusingly. We agreed that we did. "You can't keep the commandments", he assured us, "We are now under grace and not under law." We asked him if he wished one day to be a saint. "One day! I am a saint right now", he boldly proclaimed. We then pointed out

that God declares that the saints are those who keep the commandments of God. "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12. This scriptural statement enraged the would-be evangelist. Forgetting his former declaration he shouted as he walked away, "Keep the Sabbath and go to hell!". Such a man had been seduced by Satan's counterfeit of belief.

The Bible teaches that we are saved by God's grace alone and that He imparts this grace to every individual who believes, obeys, loves, overcomes, has faith, and has victory. All these characteristics enjoined upon us throughout Scripture are synonyms and are equally a gift of God as is His grace.

Seventh-day Adventists possess a fuller understanding of the great controversy than any other people. Sin destroyed the harmony of the universe, and the eradication of sin and unrepentant sinners alone can restore that harmony. Thus it is mandatory that God's free grace be limited to those who, relying entirely upon His power, have renounced their lives of sin. Only thus can that harmony be restored.

#### Equal and Vital

Manifestly justification by faith, our title to heaven, and santification by faith, our fitness for heaven, which are both entirely gifts of God, are equally vital elements of salvation. Both are evidences of unmerited grace from a God of love to His benighted children.

In 1888, most Seventh-day Adventists were intent on obtaining righteousness by faith, but preached the law until it was as dry as the proverbial hills of Gilboa. Worse still the grace of Christ was devalued. God called Sister White, Dr. E. J. Wagganer and Pr A. T. Jones to call His people back to the truth. By 1988, many of God's people have so valued that title to heaven that they have neglected the fitness, some even fearing that to desire such would be to commit the sin of legalism. Such may misunderstand the entire plan of salvation and confuse the condition with the means. The means is Jesus' death by which He bestows His free grace. The condition is that we love Him so much that we accept His power to obey His commandments. ''If you love me, keep my commandments.'' John 14:15.

Here, in its simplicity, is the Bible teaching of Righteousness by faith. Here is God's love for "While we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

Dr. Russell R. Standish is the current President of Penang Adventist Hospital.

#### ROOTS.

# History of the Seventh-day Ac

PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

- by C. Y. WU -

In 1893, an American colporteur sold medical books in the Malay Peninsula. Sometime later colporteurs from Singapore began to go up to Malaya frequently to canvass. In 1907, F. J. Parkin, the second Australian colporteur who came in 1906 to work in the Singapore Mission, reported travelling twenty miles to reach Balek Pulau, a small town on the island of Penang, where a large Chinese-speaking Catholic community lived. "I gave 13 canvasses, and the Lord gave me 13 orders," he said. Because he was doing so well, W. W. Fletcher went up from Singapore to help him.

On July 1, 1908, Chan Teck Sung (later known as Mrs. Amy Tan) who had been colporteuring in Singapore, went with her parents to Malaya to canvass Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, and Seremban. She and her mother sold Christ Our Saviour, while her father, Chan Thiam Hee, sold Chinese tracts. The mother-daughter team obtained many orders from Indians, but, in general, found it difficult to find men who could read English. One day she wrote,

We found it very difficult to find men who could read English books. If we went early, they were not up yet; if later, they had gone to their offices. So we made up our minds to go to the offices. I felt very shy to see so many men in one place; but my mother said, "What is the use of being shy? It is the Lord's work." ... I am very thankful to God for having opened the way for me.

At this time, Mrs. G. F. Jones from Singapore began a correspondence outreach for Malaya. From colporteurs she received names and addresses to which she sent literature from time to time. Responses began to come in. One wrote from the Federated Malay States and said:

Your letters of the 16th and 20th of March, 1910, with the books Here and Hereafter and Bible Studies were received by me. Many thanks. Regarding the book Daniel and Revelation, yes, you are rightly informed. I have learned much of truth through this book. Through it God was pleased to open my eyes.

Some months ago I visited a Hindu heathen clerk's home at Kuala Lipis, Pahang. There I saw a Daniel and Revelation sitting in the corner. I asked him where he had bought the book. He replied that a certain gentleman had visited Pahang and sold it to him. "But it is not useful to me. I was foolish to buy it," he concluded. I immediately offered to buy it from him.

Thank you for the explanation you gave me in your last letter on creation and re-creation. I am quite satisfied. The same was my idea before receiving your letter. ...I hope you will remember me in your prayers. I am grateful for the assistance given to put my soul in a true light.

In 1911, Roy P. Montgomery and his wife became the first SDA missionaries to move to Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of the Federated Malay States. By the end of the year 10 members attended Sabbath School each week. Several of the folks were Tamil people who had left the Catholic Church. In 1913, A. R. Duckworth, a convert in Singapore, came to carry on the work started by the Montgomerys.

One day an elderly Tamil man travelled some 30 miles from his estate to Kuala Lumpur to request baptism before he returned to Ceylon (Sri Lanka). The few Tamil members decided they should start work in Ceylon, and began mailing SDA literature written in Tamil to the island.

On July 1, 1914, the Federated Malay States Mission was organized under the leadership of G. A. Thompson as director, secretary, and treasurer. There was only one organized church of 12 members in Kuala Lumpur, but by mid-February, 1917, when the Malaysian Union Conference was organized, the membership of the Kuala Lumpur Church, still mostly Tamil, was doubled.

From then on the work began to grow among the Chinese people. Between 1925 and 1926 alone. 102 converts were baptized in the mission, nearly all of whom came from "heathen" Chinese backgrounds. In 1929, F. L. Bunch felt constrained to urge for a stronger work among the Tamil people. "We have worked almost entirely for the Chinese. The Tamil work must be greatly strengthened," he encouraged.

As early as 1917, G. A. Thompson was authorized to use Harvest Ingathering funds to purchase land in Kuala Lumpur. For the next 10 years plans were laid to build a new church and school. In January, 1927, G. C. Leedy reported at the sixth biennial session of the Malaysian Union Mission that at last erection of the new mission office, church and school on Bukit Bintang Road was under way.

For many years, SDA work in Malaya was confined to Kuala Lumpur and the near-by places. In 1920, a request came from a man at Ipoh for an SDA preacher to come and teach the message. A Chinese evangelist was sent to answer the call. During the August school break of that year, Phang Nyuk Thin, head of the Bible Training course at Singapore Training School, and G. A. Thompson, mission director, spent several weeks encouraging the new interests. A baptism of 17 souls was conducted.

### entist Work in South East Asia

Penang with its population of about 120,000 in the early 1920's, was the next town in Malaya where permanent SDA missionaries were sent. Dr. J. Earl Gardner set up a medical clinic on Muntri Street in a rented newly built house in 1924. The work grew so well that by 1929 Penang Adventist Hospital, which was originally known as Penang Sanitarium & Hospital, was built. Today it operates as the oldest SDA medical institution in the Far Eastern Division.

The evangelistic outreach was ever in the forefront of the mind of the medical missionaries of the hospital. About 50 people were baptized between 1926 and 1928. Sabbath services were held in the clinic waiting rooms. Rented buildings served the church family for approximately 20 years. It was only after World War II that a church building was erected and dedicated on September 15, 1951 at No. 160, Burmah Road.

At the time the Malaysian Union Conference was organized in 1917, the State of Johore was assigned to the Singapore Mission. Soon a mission station was established at Batu Pahat, a coastal town of Johore. In 1921 a budget was provided for a worker to station at Muar, another coastal town of Johore.

In 1927, a child at Johore Bahru was restored to health through prayers by William W. R. Lake and C. M. Lee of the Singapore Mission. As a result, work was established at Johore Bahru. Two years later, there were seven SDA families in the state of Johore. About this time, work also began at Kampar in the State of Perak.

In 1929, Malacca, the oldest town in Malaya, was added to the Singapore Mission. A tent effort was held in September and conducted in English and Malay on alternate nights. W. W. R. Lake, director of the Singapore Mission, commented that the people of Malacca were hearing for the first time through a living evangelist the Advent message, "The just shall live by faith," as opposed to the message that had cradled them for centuries, "The just shall live by works." Eighteen months later seven souls were salvaged by God's power and love.

In the early 1930's work extended to the Telegu people in Taiping and Telok Anson, in Perak. Generously the members of the Telegu Church at Sungei Way in Selangor gave of their means to help support further work. Though their earning wage capacity was only \$\$6.00 per capita, their tithes amounted to \$\$35.00 per month. This was more than any other sister church of similar status. With Lawrence Fox as its leader, this Sungei Way Telegu Church made a pledge of \$\$40.00 a month for the year 1933 to support their deacon, Brother Naidu, to open work at Taiping. This liberal offering, first of its kind in the Union, enabled the mission to set up a station at Taiping which had a population of 31,000.

At the next union session in July, 1935, W. W. R. Lake reported that the Telegu work in Malaya grew so fast that the mission committee could not cope with it. He said, "A road of twenty-eight miles dotted with rubber estates from Telok Anson to Bagan Datoh in Lower Perak is now called the Seventh-day Adventist Road. The allusion speaks of itself."

Up to 1950 only one Adventist owned church building existed in the Malay Peninsula. But during the decade that followed, the erection of several SDA church buildings took place. First in Ipoh (1951) and Penang (1951), then Seremban (1953), Johore Bahru (1956), and finally the Bagan Datoh Church on October 24, 1959. Three more churches in Pontian, Malacca, and Telok Anson were dedicated in the 1960's. Work began in Kuantan on the east coast. On August 27, 1966, Wong Jien Cheng, a VOP student, was baptized at the Kuantan sea beach.

In the 1970's more towns were entered. On October 2, 1971, five young people were baptized at Kulai, Johore, as first fruits of an effort conducted by students of Southeast Asia Union College. In 1973, P. Benjamin began work among the Tamil people of Ipoh. After a company was organized, he raised up another company in Tanjong Rambutan. Then he branched out to Chemor. The Chemor Chapel was opened on August 22, 1976.

Muar Church was dedicated on March 31, 1973 following work begun there in 1954 by colporteurs. Penang English Church went to Kulim and baptized one person there on December 21, 1975. In January 1975, a company of believers in Kota Bahru, Kelantan was organized into a church. The work was started by a literature evangelist, Yap Ming, who first went there to canvass about 1965.

Up to 1931, the Malay States Mission and the Singapore Mission had operated side by side. There were five organized churches in Malaya. From 1932 to 1987, the missions merged into one mission, first called the Malay States Mission, then the Malaya Mission and finally

the West Malaysia-Singapore Mission. God continued to bless and the number of organized churches in Peninsular Malaysia grew to 17, with 7 organized companies. By January 1, 1988, when the Peninsular Malaysia Mission began to function again as a separate mission, it had a total membership of 3,310.



(L. to R.) Chan Teck Sung, Sim Gee Nio and Chan Teck Soon.

#### SINGAPORE.

#### SAUC REPORTS

#### General

The program at SAUC is finally receiving the recognition it deserves. For this first quarter of 1988, it has experienced a sizeable increase in student enrollment. Better yet, most of the increase has been among students of Seventh-day Adventist families. For the first time in a number of years, SAUC is facing a critical classroom shortage. This shortage may be the greatest limitation we have on further expansion.

Remodeling and conversion of the typing rooms to a computer room is now completed. Tables have been constructed which will enable the computer program to expand to forty computers over the next few years. The typing room has been moved to the room below the library offices and the remedial English classes have shifted to Room 10. The computers will now be moved from the business office and that space will be converted into a small council cum class room.

#### **New Faculty**

SAUC is proud to announce an addition to its teaching faculty. Dr. Mary Wong returns to SAUC to guide the English program. We are happy she has decided to return 'home' after serving a number of years in a sister institution. The English department of SAUC runs one of the most important and difficult programs of the college. Under Dr. Wong's guidance we anticipate a re-evaluation and reorganization of the total English program. Welcome home, Dr. Mary Wong.

Walla Walla College has been represented this quarter by Dr. Ralph Perrin. Dr. Perrin comes to us from the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. His expertise in these areas have provided opportunities for our students to broaden their knowledge in this important area. Dr. Perrin is teaching Consumer Health, Health Education Programs, Basketball, Swimming/Lifesaving, and Biology. One class helps the student build his physical skills while another provides a basis for the student to evaluate articles and advertisements on health related topics.

Dr. Perrin's wife, Patti, was unable to join him until late in the quarter because she had teaching assignments at Walla Walla Valley Academy. She joined Dr. Perrin during the week of Chinese New Year. Unfortunately, they were unable to bring their small daughter. Thank you, Dr. Perrin, for your assistance.



Dr. Mary Wong.





Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Perrin.

### RENEE OF SAUC

Renee Peterson is a student of SAUC. She is an American, but in some ways you'll notice that she has some distinctly Eastern traits. She's the only one on campus that you'll see wearing a sarong.

Renee has only been a student of SAUC for two quarters, but she has spent two years at a college in the States. Originally from Los Angeles, she arrived in Singapore when she was about nine years old and has lived here for ten years.

Renee's mother was always interested in Eastern cultures and religions. This fascination was adopted by Renee. In some ways she knows more about the Eastern culture than we Easterners.

As a young girl she heard about God but didn't really think very much about Him. As a teenager her need to know God grew stronger. She began attending church occasionally.

During her first year in college she met a guy who was a punk rocker. He introduced Renee to vegetarianism.

During the first part of her next summer's vacation she got a job working for her botony teacher, Betsy.

Betsy lived on a farm with her husband. She had her own garden where she grew alfafa sprouts, made whole meal bread, and taught Renee that good living depends on good food.

While working on the farm, she enjoyed a well-balanced lifestyle. She worked with the animals, she began to think of how they were made. She began to think of God as the Creator of the world, as the one who made the food grow in the garden and the one who gave life to the birds.

She spent the rest of the summer in Spain. She toufed the place with a friend of hers. One day they came across a group of gospel singers. Her friend wanted to listen. Renee was handed a program and started to sing with them. She didn't understand the Biblical aspects of the songs, but she enjoyed singing with them because they were so joyful. "They were always smiling, they seemed so happy and yet peaceful," she later commented. Renee was touched by their music. She really wanted to reach out to these people.

It was at this point that she began to pray to God. Her interest in religion was more of an attempt to improve her life than in actually developing a relationship with Jesus.

From Spain, Renee returned to the States, and began to look for a good church to belong to. She tried different denominations: Catholic, Charismatic. She remembers



there was one church she went to that had overnight Bible study sessions. "I enjoyed the Bible study sessions but I hated watching those people drinking coffee and eating sugar-coated doughnuts," she says.

Renee was looking for two things: vegetarians that weren't punk rockers, and Christians that didn't smoke or drink coffee.

In September of 1986, she began tutoring a girl in English writing. While visiting, the girl discovered they both liked vegetarian food. Renee's student had a car, so they began going to health food stores to eat.

One day she invited Renee to her church, which was Elmira Adventist Church (New York), to see a Walt Disney movie. Renee thought, "what a clean and wholesome way to spend your evenings."

After that they kept inviting Renee back to potlucks. She even took a cooking class at the church. A lady talked to her about regularity of eating. She was eating snacks between meals. The lady told her to have at least two regular meals a day and put at least five hours between them. "Give the food a chance to digest," the woman told her.

Renee enjoyed learning about Ellen White. She found herself readily able to identify with what was written. She felt that Mrs. White had a universal appeal to all ages, both young and old.

Renee felt that she had found a home in the Adventist Church. She was a vegetarian. All the other vegetarians she knew of were either punk rockers or misfits, people that couldn't fit into society. As she grew up she had felt a strong need to belong. The Adventist Church was a place where she could fit in.

Renee made up her mind that she wanted to study in an Adventist College, but the Adventist Colleges in the States were too expensive.

At the end of the College Year 1986-87 she followed an impulse and came home. She became a member of Balestier Road Church and is now studying at SAUC.

#### THAILAND

## **EVERY CHURCH SHOULD** HAVE A DAY KINDERGARTEN

Adventist Child Development Centre, Jurong East in Singapore, donates US\$1,000 monthly to the Jurong Church Building Fund. Last year, it was US\$750. And that was after paying sixteen full-time staff, including the principal, a cook, a security guard, and 13 teachers. The reason? We have 310 children everyday coming to attend Sabbath School-style classes, inclusive of musicmovement and Mandarin classes. The children range from ages 2 (Playgroup) to 5 (four Kindergarten classes). The morning session (8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.) and afternoon sessions (11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) both include vegetarian meals.

The Centre started in January 1987 with an enrollment of 220 children, with Mrs. Teo Lun Fung as the Principal (who was also the pioneer of Balestier Adventist Child Development Centre). She had the vision for the need for pre-school education of children, as an outreach to the community, as well as a source of income for the church. Traditionally, Adventist Schools lose money, and count heavily on Mission appropriation of funds. Now, the tables have turned and the church's kindergarten makes money, and donates to the church building fund. The present Principal, Mrs. Lina Wee, carries on the same vision of work to make the Adventist Child Development Centre the best kindergarten in Singapore, Mrs. Teo Lun Fung has recently left for further studies at Atlantic Union College, as she accompanys her husband, Bob Teo Seng Kee, who is studying for his doctorate at Harvard University.

#### Alfred Low. Communications Director. Singapore Mission of SDAs



Adelyn Tan tells a story to her class (Kindergarten 1A & 1B) which sits up rapt with attention.

# Just recently a course entitled "Hotel Health Service

PHUKET ADVENTIST HOSPITAL

INNOVATES NEW SERVICES

Hostess" was initiated by Phuket Adventist Hospital to serve emergency medical needs that occur now and then at the community hotels.

An eighteen hour course of indepth emergency service and illness recognition is given to supervisory personnel provided by the hotels. These individuals then return to their own hotels and become the person a guest would contact if medical services are needed. The health service hostess checks the individual over and then notifies the hospital as to the type of emergency service needed.

The Phuket Hospital maintains contracts with these hotels to provide an emergency ambulance physician and nurse coverage 24 hours a day. This enables the hospital to provide immediate care to the hotel guests. The hotels have been very responsive to this program.

On a bi-monthly basis, hospital personnel work in cooperation with the Great Eastern Drug Company and the local Rotary Club to hold free clinics in fishing villages on the island. They see from 100 to 300 individuals during the afternoon. Many interesting and sometimes rare medical problems are encountered.

Dental service is provided, resulting in a large collection of teeth now owned by the hospital. Dr. Twijnstra demonstrates the proper technique of brushing teeth with a 12 inch toothbrush and a big set of false teeth. This brings a good response from the children and even from toothless grandmothers. She also dispenses many toothbrushes. Many requests are pending for this service.



Mr. & Mrs. Victor Duerksen.

VOP literature is distributed at these out station projects and many are being given the opportunity to learn about the Saviour.

# Phuket Adventist Hospital

Mr. Victor Duerksen, president for the past two years at Phuket, has just returned with his wife to the states. They both are such cheerful, pleasant and optimistic people that their presence will be greatly missed. The people reluctantly let them go amid many tears and hugs. The outreach programs will continue under the able leadership of Piamboon Tang, the Health Education Director at Phuket Hospital.

LWH

# SABBATH SCHOOL WORKSHOPS IN THAILAND

"This has been a very helpful and practical experience", stated Pastor Kwan-oon Udom of the Ubon district in Thailand. Udom was referring to the recent Church Ministries workshop with emphasis on adult and children's Sabbath Schools held in the Bangkok, Ubon and Korat districts between February 5 and 13. The workshop was conducted by Dr. David Wong and Mrs. Evelyn Griffin of SAUM Church Ministries Department, with Mrs. Srirat Sorajjakool of Thailand Mission Church Ministries Department acting as coordinator and translator.

"The reason it was practical is because our people were not only given instructions but they were to actually do these things," one person commented. Dr. Wong helped the church members to organize and conduct a well planned Sabbath School program. He gave the folks many pointers not only for carrying out the program, but also on how to plan Sabbath School council meetings, execute the Sabbath Schools' financial needs, and outline the duties of each officer.

Mrs. Griffin helped the men and women alike to make attractive feltboard pictures and room decorations from locally-purchased, inexpensive items. Those who attended the workshop participated in the songs, Bible quizzes, and other Sabbath School activities which were suggested.



Mrs. Srirat Sorajjakool, Child Evangelism Director of the Thailand Mission, is demonstrating parts of a Sabbath School program by using some of the children in attendance with their parents.

# BAH SPIRITUAL OUTREACH REAPS A GOOD HARVEST

During spare time, evangelistic efforts were conducted in Sattahip and Cholburi during the months of March to May. These resulted in 20 baptisms. Seven others were baptized throughout the year, bringing the total to 27 souls for 1987.

During the chaplains' work within the hospital a significant increase of Bible studies from 2,150 to 5,500 were given. Several seminars: Revelation Seminars, Good Workmanship Seminars, a Soul-winning Workshop and a Last-Day Events Workshop added to their work load, as well.

The new year brings new challenges. Already a Bible study group has begun in the hydro department. Pharmacy is requesting to have studies start for their workers and Dr. Ethel Nelson is holding studies in the Laboratory department. We praise God for this privilege to share His name with employers and patients alike.

### SINGAPORE ROOTS

#### CONTINUED

By C. Y. Wu

The first year and a half after arriving in Singapore found the missionaries drifting about without a permanent home. On the sixth move, the Joneses were able to settle finally in a two-storeyed house called "Villa Hatsu," situated at No. 12, Dhoby Ghuat (now Handy Road). Here was to be the mission office until about 1914.

As recommended by committee action voted on November 21, 1904, George A. Irwin, president of the Australasian Union Conference, paid a visit to Singapore on his way to the General Conference. On January 9, 1905, he arrived with R. W. Munson from Batavia (now Jakarta). The next evening at the mission home, a "respectable and prominent" bungalow at No. 32, Sophia Road where the Joneses moved in on December 1, 1904, the first council of the Malaysian mission was held to lay plans for the great mission field. (Interestingly, Sophia Road was named after Miss Sophia Cooke, an Anglican missionary and educator who passed away in 1895 in Singapore where she had laboured for 42 years.)

With G. A. Irwin presiding, the Joneses and R. A. Caldwell representing the Singapore Mission, and R. W. Munson, the Sumatra Mission, the council unanimously adopted the following suggestions after considerable discussion:

- That the General Conference be requested to include the Malay Peninsula up to the 7th degree of north latitude, or to the limit of the territory in which the Malay language is spoken, in the Malaysian mission field.
- That, on account of its strategic position, it being
  the great commercial as well as educational centre
  of this part of the world, and on account of its
  unrivalled shipping facilities to every part, not only
  of the East, but of the world as well, Singapore be
  made the headquarters of the Malaysian mission
  field.
- That a book depository be opened here, and that a competent general agent be secured to take charge of it.
- That at least two additional canvassers be assigned to this field.
- That a small printing press be established in Singapore with a special view to issuing vernacular literature.
- That a properly qualified doctor and two good nurses be selected to open up the medical work in this city.
- 7. That a health food agency be established here.
- That the Echo Publishing Company [in Australia] be requested to take steps to produce suitable literature for the Netherlands East Indies.

During his short stay in Singapore, G. A. Irwin visited the neighbouring state of Johore and held some evening meetings at the mission home in Singapore. Concerning these meetings, he said, "While I was there, they appointed their first public meeting in their drawing-room. Twelve nice people came and listened very attentively to a talk on the character of Christ and His mission. Encouraged by this, another meeting was appointed, at which there were seventeen present, five of whom were men. These all listened with rapt attention for over an hour to the presentation on the Saints' Inheritance."

In going out to invite the people to these meetings at the mission home, Jones' first call was at the house of Mr. Fox, who had moved to Singapore in 1904. Providentially, Mr. Fox happened to be the Eurasian gentleman who had kindly invited E. H. Gates and R. W. Munson as his guests and entertained them for three weeks, without receiving any payment when they visited Medan in North Sumatra in early 1902. Mrs. Fox and two of the her children were baptized probably in late 1905. becoming the first fruits of Singapore. The Fox family soon moved to Surabaya, and was the first Sabbath-keeping family in Java. Mr. Fox started a small day school for Chinese boys, who, though not brought up by Christian parents, were given religious instructions. A little nucleus for Sabbath services was quickly formed. Bible studies for their neighbours were also held several times a week at their house. Thus the light of the three angels' messages was carried from Singapore to Java.

Before Brother Fox accepted the SDA faith, G. F. Jones had given him a Dutch tract. He passed it on to a fellow employee, who, in turn, gave it to an old man "because he was religious and would be interested in it." This old man and his wife were native-born Dutch and did not speak English. A Dutch minister with whom G. A. Teasdale of the Java Mission had become acquainted informed him of the old man's address in Surabaya. One Sabbath day in 1907, Teasdale paid a visit to this old couple and found them to be earnest Christians, keeping the Sabbath since November 1906. Who should belittle the effects of a gospel tract!

Three of the Foxes' children attended the SDA college.

in Australia for a few years. Isabel Fox, the eldest daughter, later became a teacher in the SDA church school in Singapore for a time. Lawrence E. A. Fox also became a denominational worker serving in Singapore, Malaya, and eventually as president of the Sarawak Mission after World War II. (To be continued)



Elder G. A. Irwin

#### AWR-Asia.

#### CHINA SOAKS UP ADVENTIST MESSAGE FROM AWR

Although KSDA, Adventist World Radio-Asia on Guam, expects to receive just over 5,000 letters from listeners in 70 countries during its first year of broadcasting, probably the most heart-warming response to the broadcasts comes from China.

Hundreds of letters from people in all walks of life have come in to the Bible Correspondence School in Hong Kong. The most rewarding statistic of all, however, to the Bible School is that a good percentage of the responses are from young students and professionals: the future leaders of the country.

Most of the Chinese listeners share their deep gratitude for the message of hope the AWR programs give. They all ask for Bibles or the spiritual-oriented calendar offered by the speakers, as well as the Bible correspondence courses.

A 21-year-old in Shanghai wrote: "Recently, through the radio waves created by God, I have been able to listen to your high quality programs. They have helped me to know Jesus Christ and now my heart is always filled with joy. I am going to do everything to follow Jesus with you! To help me, a seedling, to grow, please send me a Bible."

"I always listen to your broadcast. Your programs are like rain watering my dry heart, giving me strength to go on."

"I always listen to your broadcast. Your programs are like rain watering my dry heart, giving me strength to go on," wrote a listener who works in a chemical factory in Shandong. "Although I am physically sound, I am empty spiritually and in desperate need of spiritual support. Under such circumstances, your explanation of the Bible brings me to a land of great happiness."

From Guangdong came these words: "I am a faithful listener of your radio station for I enjoy your programs very much. The speakers have become my friends and teachers. You are the lighthouse that pushes me to go on, helping me to face reality and life with determination, helping me to believe firmly in God. I have chosen the brightest path in my life, the way of God."

Another listener wrote "I am a regular listener in mainland China. Not long ago I heard your program accidently. In the past, I did not have any religion, but after listening to your programs I gradually have begun to believe in God." He had to share the good news. "I recommend your programs to my friends and many of them have come to like your programs and will become faithful believers, I'm sure."

University students have revealed their search for meaning in life. A medical student wrote: "I was especially delighted to hear your program last night because it was my birthday! I plan to become a faithful listener. My classmates in the dormitory also enjoy your program and were the ones who told me about it."

From another city a student wrote: "Every night I join my friends in the dormitory as we gather around the radio to listen to your program." Another student who had failed to pass the university entrance examination was ready to give up. He said, "My expectations turned into bubbles, my life became so empty that I lost faith in myself! Yet, while I was sinking into deep sorrow, I came into contact with your broadcast. Your voice was like a flowing stream, melting the ice in my heart and lighting a fire of hope. I continue to listen to your broadcast every day."

#### Mail increases from 25 to 300

Mail at the Hong Kong Bible School has increased from just 25 letters the first month on the air to over 300 a month currently. The letters have poured in not only from all the provinces of China but from other countries around the world as well. Mandarin speaking people in Malaysia, Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, and even the United States have responded thus far.

The Hong Kong East Asia Committee, responsible for overseeing the work for China, sees AWR-Asia as God's tool for spreading the gospel message in China where other means are difficult or impossible. They hope they soon will be able, funds permitting, to broadcast to China not only the current 16 hours a day, but a full 24 hours a day.

——— Andrea Steele, Director, Public Relations & Development, AWRA

#### SARAWAK

#### THE BURTONS AT AYER MANIS SCHOOL

Pastor and Mrs. Robert G. Burton arrived in Southeast Asia in early January from the beautiful yet war torn island of Sri Lanka. Elder Burton has served since 1983, as a teacher at Lakpakana Adventist Seminary. The Burtons are currently serving at Ayer Manis School in Serian, Sarawak.

The Burtons came to Southeast Asia with a rich mission experience. They were first appointed to serve in Bangladesh, and started their work overseas in that country in 1976—Pastor Burton served as a pastor, teacher, and also the principal of the Bangladesh Adventist College from 1976 - 1983. Prior to their service in Bangladesh, they served in British Colombia, Canada.

The Burtons have already been a blessing at Ayer Manis School. Enrollment was down when they arrived. Since then they have actually recruited students and promoted Christian Education in the Sarawak Mission. They have also begun to teach classes at the school. We welcome this experienced and committed family to the fellowship of workers in the Southeast Asia Union Mission.



Pastor and Mrs. Robert G. Burton.

#### SPECIAL INVITATION

Penang Adventist Hospital invites young ladies and men who have successfully completed Form V (SPM), to apply for training as nurse aides. We are looking for dedicated Seventh-day Adventists.

The course commences on May 2, 1988. Please apply to the Personnel Manager, Penang Adventist Hospital, 465 Jalan Burma, 10350 Penang, with details of education, date of baptism, and references.

Application closes on April 30, 1988.

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