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ADRA Active in SAUM

— stories on pages 2, 5 & 14

ADRA and Cambodia Sign Cooperation Agreement

ADRA Indochina and the State of Cambodia recently signed an agreement of understanding and cooperation. This document, which was inked by the Cambodian Vice Minister of Agriculture, Mr. So Khun, and by Mr. Dennis Tidwell, Director of ADRA Indochina, defines the relationship, responsibilities and obligations which will exist between the two parties. This agreement establishes a solid foundation for current and future development projects which ADRA hopes to implement for the Khmer people.



Dennis Tidwell, Director, ADRA Indochina, and Mr. So Khun, Vice-Minister, Department of Agriculture, sign cooperation agreement between ADRA and the State of Cambodia.

The signing of this document occurred at the outset of an irrigation project which ADRA has agreed to implement in Cambodia with funds being provided by the Australian government. This project, with a value in excess of A\$600,000, will restore an ancient irrigation system in Siem Reap Province. Located practically in the shadow of the fabled Angkor Wat, this project is a high priority of the Cambodian government. It will help the Khmer people to move closer to self-sufficiency in food production in a land which has suffered chronic food shortages in recent years. Mr. Warren Scale, Director of ADRA Thailand and an Australian national, will direct this project.

ADRA International is pleased to have established an official presence in Cambodia, and looks forward to developing an active and viable country program.

— Dennis Tidwell, Director, ADRA Indochina

Did You Know...?

- For 14 years, the Adventist population of the Vietnam Mission seemed not to increase. In reality, however, the last reported figure in 1975 recorded only the names on the church books. Today there are 3,998 active members in the country.

- There were over 600 baptisms recorded in the past 12 months.

- Fourteen years ago, the Phu Nhuan Church in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) was only partly filled on Sabbath. Now it is overflowing each Sabbath, with extra folding chairs needed for members and visitors.

- The young people in the Ho Chi Minh City churches are very enthusiastic in witnessing. Very active choirs and musical groups involve the young people and their friends.

- Until recently, members used an old typewriter with ten sheets of thin paper and carbons for copies to reproduce the Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly. In recent months they have begun to use a stencil with piece of glass and with a fluorescent light tube as a roller to produce the Quarterly. The Quarterlies are well-used by all the members.

Steven Goh Joins SAUM Auditing Staff

The Far Eastern Division Auditing Service and the SAUM welcome Steven Goh as he joins the Southeast Asia Union Mission as a staff auditor.

Mr. Goh taught for nine years, then worked as accounts supervisor for General Electric Housewares Pte Ltd. Prior to joining the FED Auditing Service, he was an administrative manager of an estate maintenance firm.

Presently he is the treasurer of the Jurong English Church and the Jurong Adventist Child Development Centre in Singapore.

Mr. Goh's wife Margaret works in the accounting office of the Far Eastern Division. They have two sons, Matthew and Sean.

The SAUM staff wish Mr. Steven Goh God's blessings as he serves in the Auditing Service and in the Southeast Asia Union Mission.

— Alex Lan, SAUM Staff Auditor

■ PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ■

Ipoh Crusade Receives Good Response

Three months of prayer sessions by members of the Ipoh Chinese SDA Church yielded a full house at the church during the opening session of the gospel seminar on September 15.

Pastor Jonathan Ng, Director of Chaplaincy and Public Relations of Youngberg Adventist Hospital in Singapore, served as the guest speaker for the seminar. The title for the crusade was "Enhancing Your Self-esteem: A Christian Perspective." Pastor Ng built on the theme, "God loves you. He sees great potential in you, and He wants you to feel good about yourself and live effectively for Him." As a Certified Assertiveness Trainer, Pastor Ng shared with the participants God's uniqueness in creating man in His image and His great plan of redemption. A person saved by the grace of God can enhance his self-esteem by trusting His goodness and, according to Pastor Ng, this person can learn to live effectively witnessing for the Lord.



Photo shows Ipoh crusade team. (Left to Right) Church elder Loh Kam Kee, Pastor Mah Chee Ping, Evangelist Jonathan Ng & Church elder Liew Chong Kim.

The messages were translated into Cantonese each night by Mr. Liew Chong Kim, a teacher in a government secondary school and an elder of the local church. An encouraging sign of the crusade is that the majority of the participants are professional people in the community. Many of them expressed their appreciation for the relevant topics on personal effectiveness from a biblical perspective. Follow-up sessions are being conducted weekly, and church members are actively participating in the visitation of crusade interests.

— Mah Chee Ping, Pastor, Ipoh Chinese SDA Church

PAH Notes



The month of September has seen a dramatic rise in the number of in-patients at Penang Adventist Hospital. At present, the Hospital continues to be ahead of 1988 both in terms of patients seen and in income.

Although competition for private patients grows stronger in the Penang area private hospitals, PAH continues to work hard toward patient-oriented services. A satisfied customer is the best advertisement that the hospital can have, and PAH is attempting to give not only relief from pain and cure from disease, but also the emotional support, peace of mind and security, rest and recuperation which other hospitals may lack.

Meanwhile, in the operating rooms, the open heart surgery program has been doing well since its inception in November 1987. To date, 53 open heart operations have been done, 25 of them in 1989. Only two deaths have occurred; both were seriously ill and not expected to live more than a few days with or without surgery. PAH is the only hospital in Penang offering open heart surgery; three Kuala Lumpur hospitals are the only other such programs in Peninsular Malaysia. PAH hopes in the near future to be able to expand its coronary bypass surgery facilities to better serve the 16 million people of Malaysia.

— Dr. Bruce Robbie, President, PAH

Penang Indian Church Formed

On Sabbath, September 30, Dr. Russell Standish, former President of Penang Adventist Hospital, felt privileged to speak in the new Penang Indian Church service. To him, it was a dream come true. For years he had hoped for the formation of an Indian Church in Penang so that Tamil-speaking people who were unable to understand English could hear the gospel message.

Penang Adventist Hospital, sensing this need, has recently provided a budget for an Indian pastor for the city. Pastor Benjamin, the Ministerial Director of the Peninsular Malaysia Mission, moved to Penang in July to take up this work.

Two days a week, Pastor Benjamin works at Penang Adventist Hospital as a chaplain for Tamil patients. The

Hospital provides its lecture hall for a Tamil prayer meeting each Monday evening, and on Sabbaths the Indian Church now shares the church used by the English and Chinese congregations. As a result of this new venture, there has been a great increase in the morale of the Indian believers in Penang. Already a number of non-Adventists are attending the Church services, and others are engaged in Bible study. There are now over 30 people attending the Tamil church service each week, and hopefully this number will continue to increase rapidly.

— *Dr. Russell Standish, Director,
Health-Temperance Department, SAUM*

■ SABAH ■

Only a Glimmer! But It's a Beginning

Early this year, Pastor Barnabas Malingkas, from the East Indonesia Union, spent a week of spiritual emphasis at each of the two secondary schools in the Sabah Mission. His dynamic sermon presentations in the local language centered around the theme, "O God, Make Me Wholly Thine."

For some of the new students who had not previously attended Seventh-day Adventist schools, the Week of Prayer proved to be an unforgettable experience. One such newcomer was Malinah Ajun, a Form-six student at Sabah Adventist Secondary School (SASS). From a large Catholic village where most of the population are of the Kadazan tribe, all of Malinah's family members are staunch Catholics.

Malinah came to SASS for only one purpose—to attend Form-six classes. However, she discovered that education is more than just the development of one's mental faculties. As she listened, observed, studied, questioned, read, and meditated, she asked herself over and over, "Should I, or should I not? Dare I do it?"

Certainly it was not an easy decision, not an easy step to take. But finally on Sabbath, July 22, Malinah was baptized at the Tamparuli church by Dr. Charles Gaban, Sabah Mission president.

Soon afterwards, Malinah went home for the school vacation. Learning of her baptism, her parents and family members were furious, and remained so throughout the two weeks of school break. Finally, Malinah went back to school, without any money and with no promise of future support. The road ahead looked bleak!



She continued praying, and God heard her earnest plea. Certain individuals gave some financial aid, and the school arranged for her to work to defray some of her school expenses. About one month later, Malinah's sister visited her, and grudgingly offered some financial support.

Malinah is happy in her new-found faith, and she continues to pray for her family. She works hard, and is studying hard in order to be successful in her Form-six government examinations in 1990.

Malinah is a "glimmer of light" in that unentered corner of Sabah. Her desire is to be a witness for God in her own village.

— *Connie Gaban, Shepherdess Coordinator, Sabah Mission*

ADRA Aids after Kumpung Fires

Over 1,060 houses burnt down to their stilts in the water, and 5,766 people were homeless after an unattended water-heating coil started a fire in Kampung Titingan on September 4. The village, built over the water, was located about 300 miles southeast of Kota Kinabalu, the capital city of Sabah. This is the worst fire disaster ever recorded in the country of Sabah.

The homeless were housed in the nearby Tawau Community Center, an auditorium, an old army building, and the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Association buildings. The Malaysian Army and the Tawau Buddhist Association, with many volunteers, cooked food, packaged it, and sent it to the five shelters three times a day.



On September 11, Mr. James Lai, Director of ADRA Sabah, flew to Tawau along with the Sabah Mission cashier, Mr. Lim See Him. ADRA Sabah presented a check for M\$5,000 for the disaster relief. This money has been used to purchase perishable goods such as vegetables, and also to buy cooking gas and other necessities. ADRA also donated approximately \$M3,600 in kind, primarily in the form of food and clothing.

This is the first time ADRA Sabah has had the opportunity to respond to a disaster. ADRA personnel stayed in Tawau for two days, working with the local Disaster Relief Committee. ADRA workers later learned that they were the only church-based organization to respond to the appeal for assistance.

— James Lai, Director, ADRA Sabah

Voice of Prophecy Rallies

The Voice of Prophecy conducted four rallies during the month of August, three of them in Sabah. About 80% of the VOP Correspondence School students are located in Sabah, thus the decision to hold more rallies there. The programs were in Tawau and Lahad Datu in the Southern part of Sabah and in Sandakan in the Western part of the country.

Pastor Patrick Godwan, VOP Director for the Sabah Mission, and Pastor Shupinar Koubong, VOP Director of the SAUM, conducted the Sabah rallies. The meetings with the VOP students were both inspirational and beneficial. The time spent in getting acquainted and in getting to know and understand the students seemed well worth the effort. Many of the VOP students expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Seventh-day Adventist members who have supported and prayed for the work of the VOP.

Many VOP students told of their experiences of finding contentment and peace through knowing that there is a God who cares and who loves them. Six VOP students were baptized in Sabah during the rallies there.

The fourth rally was in Penang on August 19, coordinated by Miss Iris Ng, the VOP Director of Penang Adventist Hospital. Miss Wong Siew Fong, SAUM Assistant Director of the VOP, and Mr. Daniel Yeo, the Chinese section instructor, also helped in the well-attended program.

The Voice of Prophecy solicits the prayers and support of all the readers of *Messenger*. Many of the institutional leaders throughout the Southeast Asia Union Mission became Seventh-day Adventist Christians as a result of the working of the Holy Spirit through the VOP courses.

— Shupinar Koubong, VOP Director, SAUM

Goshen Crusade



Baptism at Goshen, Sabah, September 2, 1989.

Goshen, in Bible times, was known as the land of plenty. Its soil was rich, harvests were plentiful, and pasture lands yielded abundantly in stock production.

Not unlike its biblical precedent, Goshen, Sabah, Malaysia — where Sekolah Menekah Advent (an SDA Secondary School) is operated—also abounds, both in produce of the land and in harvest of souls. For the past several years, annual evangelistic crusades have yielded excellent results.

The 1989 series, a Church Ministries venture, was conducted by Charles and Evelyn Griffin, Jupitah Lim, Nelver Sikul, and thirteen district pastors. Attendance reached 1,860 in the three simultaneous meetings conducted for adults, juniors, and children. Besides the sermon, evening sessions included a family life presentation, child preachers, and outstanding music from 15 church choirs.

Tragedy struck in the early days of the crusade when Malta, a twelve-year-old church member, was drowned in the river near the campus. Malta's father had been a member of the church 15 years earlier, but had drifted away. After her death, the family found handwritten notes in the young girl's notebooks that expressed a desire for the family to be reunited in the church. In fact, just days before her death, Malta had asked her parents to attend the meetings together.

During the last week of the evangelistic meetings, Brother Maudie, Malta's father, came every night, and he stood and recommitted his life to the Lord. He, along with 287 others, was baptized in the Tauran River on Sabbath, September 2, 1989. The Lord is to be praised for these souls who have committed their lives to Him.



Men's chorus singing for the baptism.

— Evelyn Griffin, Home and Family Services Director, SAUM

■ SARAWAK ■

Simboh Church Dedicated



Sabbath, August 26, was a high day for the members of the Simboh Seventh-day Adventist Church as they dedicated their new church building recently completed.

Work began in Simboh in 1940 under the direction of Elder A. Pauner, the father of Pastor Geoffrey Pauner who served in the Southeast Asia Union Mission until recently. Soon after Elder Pauner began the work in Simboh, World War II interrupted, but he resumed the work in 1946. The Simboh church has grown to be the mother church of the work among the BiēTā group of the Bidayuh tribe in Sarawak. The Simboh church has also fostered at least six other churches, and several workers and workers' wives have come from this village.

Presiding at the dedication service was Pastor Daniel Walter, Sarawak Mission President, Pastor Edmund Liah, Secretary, and Pastor Gilbert Tan, Stewardship Director. Representatives from all of the BiēTā churches, and a large representation from the Kuching Church were present for the occasion. A women's singing group and the men's chorus from the Kuching Church contributed to the service.

Pastor James Maung, retired pastor, is caring for the Simboh Church. He was largely responsible for organizing and constructing the new church building.

— Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

Conference on Christianity and Culture

On August 1-3, the Association of Christian Churches in Sarawak conducted a conference on indigenization of local churches, attended by representatives of five major Christian denominations, including the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Other participants included Roman Catholics, Methodists, Salvation Army delegates, and the Anglicans, who hosted the conference.

Major issues covered at the recent conference included "Understanding and Examining of Local Cultures," "Impact of Christianity on Traditional Cultures," and "The Influences of the Church on Traditional Cultures." The basic premise of the conference was that Christian beliefs and concepts and principles must, as much as possible, find expression within the local cultural context if they are to be adopted and absorbed by the local people. This is not to say that the basic elements of Christianity should be changed, but that the way of expressing these values and beliefs may vary from culture to culture.

Pastor Daniel Walter, President of the Sarawak Mission, has been serving as chairman of the Indigenization Committee of the Sarawak Mission for the past four years, and was asked to prepare a paper for the conference this year. The purpose of the committee is to study ways of making the church teachings and practices more clearly understood and appreciated by the local membership.

— Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

Note

The Sarawak Mission
phone number has
changed to
613132

■ SINGAPORE ■

Mission Youth Camp Gives Inspiration



Thirty youth and adults joined the first Mission Youth Camp, held September 1-4 at the youth hostel on Sentosa Island, just off the coast of Singapore. The camp was organized by the Church Ministries Department of the Singapore Mission.

The main objective of the camp was to emphasize social development and career guidance, besides promoting spiritual interaction and fellowship among the campers.

Campers listened to talks given by Pastor Shupinar Koubong, SAUM Youth Director; Pastor Peter Wong, SAM Secretary-Treasurer; Pastor Alfred Low of the Chuan Hoe Church; Pastor Matthew Yuen of Thomson Road Chinese Church; and Pastor Danson Ng, SAM Church Ministries Director.

In addition to the lecture times, campers divided into small groups for discussions, fellowship, discoveries, and presentation of programs.

The career guidance development was given by Dr. Phoon Chek Yat, head of the SAUC Religion Department. Pastor Ba Khin, FED Youth Director, spoke for Sabbath divine worship.

Campers went home with new inspiration and recommitment to serve Jesus Christ and the church more fervently. New friendships were formed as youth of various Singapore churches came together for this camp.



Bible nature hunt on Sabbath afternoon.

— Danson Ng, SAM Church Ministries Director

Annual L.E. Convention

The annual L.E. Convention for Singapore Mission was held in Air Keroh Country Resort in Malacca, Peninsular Malaysia, September 4-8.

Week after week, the literature evangelists go from door to door leaving Christian, health, and children's literature in the hands of the public. And so all the L.E.s waited in anticipation for the scheduled convention, since this is the break they have all been waiting for. It is also a good change from the hustle and bustle of busy Singapore city life to "come apart" to the countryside to "rest awhile."

Lectures were held in the mornings on Christian Salesmanship, Literature Evangelism, and Health by Pastor Howard Faigao, FED Assistant Publishing Director; Pastor Rayburn Smith, SAUM Publishing Director; and Dr. Pang Chu Yen, Medical Officer from Penang Adventist Hospital. Afternoons were free for recreation, swimming, and exploring the surrounding nature. Evening programs were quite relaxing, with publishing reports by the SAM Acting Publishing Director, Mr. Samuel Siew, as well as testimonies by the literature evangelists, and video showings.

A city tour of historical Malacca was arranged for the L.E.s toward the end of the convention, including visits to historical sights, souvenir shops, and the crocodile farm. A buffet dinner by the swimming pool highlighted the last evening.

The climax of the convention was the Trophy Hour, where awards were given for Big Week and Evangelism Week participants who scored the highest points, the top sales and the most baptisms. For the second consecutive year, the top sales award went to Mdm. Chian Fong Ying, and the baptism award to Mr. Yap Ying Chung, who



Mdm. Chian Fong Ying receiving her award from Mission President, Pastor Sim Chor Kiat.

brought in two baptisms.

A recommitment service was then held by the Singapore Mission President, Pastor Sim Chor Kiat. At that time, all the literature evangelists recommitted their lives to the literature ministry and to serving the Lord Jesus till He comes.

— *Samuel Siew, Acting Director, SAM Publishing Department*



Singapore L.E.s attend the annual convention.

"Jesus is the Joy of Living"



"Jesus is the Joy of Living" was the theme of the Balestier Road Church camp at the Golden Sands Baptist Camp at Port Dickon, Peninsular Malaysia, September 3-7. The committee for the evangelistic camp, which was organized by the church Lay Activities Department, chose the song by the same title as the camp theme song.

The committee mailed letters to 200 active Voice of Prophecy students inviting them to come to the camp and to bring their friends. Out of the 200 students, two responded positively, and they brought along five other friends. Church members brought another six non-Adventists, making a total of 13 interests attending the camp. A total of 49 people attended the camp.

Planning for the camp began in early February this year. With most of the committee members having considerable experience in organizing camps, the program was well-coordinated.

The nine children below the age of 12 attended special programs under the direction of two dedicated primary division Sabbath School leaders. The others met on the beach for all worship services.



During the five days of the camp, various speakers presented messages on the theme. Some of the topics included: "Can a Man Live without Religion?" "What Does Christianity Have to Offer?" "What Does Jesus Offer Besides Eternal Life?" "Do I Really Need Quiet Time?" "How to Witness," "How to Relate to Christians who are Unchristian," "Can a Man Believe without Commitment?" "Who Sustains Me when I Need Help?"

During the camp, two young men who had been taking Bible studies dedicated their lives to God in baptism. On the final evening, twelve of the interests indicated that they wanted to have Bible studies. Seven of these stated that they accepted Christ as their personal Saviour. Follow-up is now being arranged, with several of the Bible studies having already begun.

— Chan Shee Wai, Youth Camp Coordinator,
Balestier Road Church

"The Reason We Sing"

The Reflections, a Seventh-day Adventist singing group composed of 16 young men and women from various SDA churches in Singapore, presented two evangelistic concerts during August and September. Their first concert, open to the general public, was held at the Singapore Labour Foundation Auditorium on August 26. The second program was on September 23 in the Johor Bahru Church in Peninsular Malaysia.

At the Singapore concert, local Christian recording artist Angeline Kong presented two songs as a guest performer. At both concerts, Mr. Ee Teck Ee, a teacher at San Yu High School in Singapore, gave a sermonette urging those attending to give their lives to Christ.

The theme for both concerts was "The Reason We Sing." Kenneth Koh, one of the members of Reflections, said that this theme was chosen because "the Christ we all serve gives us reason to praise Him." Reflections director Andy Quek commented on the contemporary music, "Our music is meant to reach out to young people. It's something they can identify with. The important things are the words and the message that comes across."

The group was formed about two years ago to give young people a chance to glorify Christ through song. This is the second year that the group has given public concerts.

— Tony Pasillas, SAUC Student

Southeast Asia Union College

General Information

Fourth quarter of this year the enrollment has risen to over 170 students. Of this number, about 40 are in the remedial English program preparing to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in order to be able to join the regular college classes.

SAUC has started two new emphases. Two-year programs in computer science and Management Information Services have begun. These are not yet affiliated with Walla Walla College, but it is hoped that they will be in the future. For the time being, students will receive a certificate from SAUC.

Information is needed from you. In order to make SAUC's program fit the needs of the field, it needs some feedback. Is there a need to raise the English program to a four-year level? If there is a definite need, discussion needs to begin with Walla Walla College (WWC) in order that students could obtain a WWC degree. If you are interested, or if you know of anyone interested, please write to the Academic Dean, Southeast Asia Union College, 273 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 1334.

— *Ralph H. Jones, Academic Dean, SAUC*

New Faculty Join College Staff

Two new teachers joined the faculty of SAUC in June of this year. One, Mr. Shee Soon Chiew, comes from Hong Kong Adventist College. In addition to his responsibility as Dean of Men, he is also teaching in the religion and history areas. He obtained his BA degree at Union College, and received a Master's degree from Andrews University. Mr. Shee and his wife Monika arrived on campus in June.

Retirement has various meanings to different individuals. Most people look upon it as a relief from one's usual responsibilities. However, at 74 Mrs. Bernice Gearhart is still going strong and is teaching a full load of English classes at SAUC. She comes to SAUC from Southern Adventist College, where she served as a contract teacher. Mrs. Gearhart's grandson, Raymond, has come along to attend classes at SAUC.

— *Ralph H. Jones, Academic Dean, SAUC*

■ THAILAND ■

Food Factory to Be Established

For the past year, the Southeast Asia Union Mission has been working toward the establishment of a food work in Thailand. When completed, there will be two locations, a distributing and light manufacturing plant and warehouse in Bangkok, and a major manufacturing plant likely to be located near the new Mission College campus approximately 100 miles Northeast of Bangkok.

Plans call for the manufacturing of various cereals, meat analogues and peanut butter, as well as the import and export of dried fruits and other foods.

The packaging and storage of fruits, milk, and other food products will be carried out at the large plant in Bangkok. Construction of this unit has already begun in the Bangkok suburb of Ekamai. The major manufacturing operation, however, will likely be located on a 10-acre site near the Muak Lek campus of Mission College. There it is estimated that the factory could employ 75-100 students to care for the production while they work to

finance their college education.

Mr. Asa Cree has recently left Thailand, after spending a year working on the negotiation of contracts, legal aspects of the project, and selection of sites. In November, Mr. Adam Schlereth is due to arrive to serve as developer and general manager of the food industry. Until recently he has been the Eastern US marketing representative for La Loma Foods (formerly Loma Linda Foods). To assist him, Mr. Rex Usher is expected to come for at least one year to work specifically on design planning for the new food factory and the installation of equipment. Mr. Usher has been serving as chief engineer for the Palmerston North branch of the Sanitarium Foods plant in New Zealand.

— *A. A. Cree, and T. G. Staples, Treasurer, SAUM*

New Language School Opens in Bangkok

The new Bangkok SDA Language School officially opened its doors to students as a new term began on September 3. Two Thai and six student missionary teachers rejoiced as 315 regular students, plus many tutoring students, registered.

To Edgar Edge, student missionary from Newbold College, who was acting director while Pat Gustin was on study leave, "It's a dream come true! Less than ten months ago the new school was only a vague idea—a hope—a dream. Now it's a REALITY."

In July 1987, the school was burdened with a 1,400,000 Bhat debt (US\$56,000) and faced a bleak future. Rising costs and falling enrollment combined, and seemed to spell doom for the whole Thailand Language School program.

But realizing all the good that had been accomplished by the Language School since Dr. Roger VanArsdale established the first one 19 years ago in Haad Yai, the student missionaries and Thai staff were unwilling to just stand by and watch the program die. They set to work to make some changes that hopefully would turn the program around. Better advertising, improved teaching, a stronger spiritual program, and some serious austerity measures, coupled with the Lord's blessing, all helped to reduce the indebtedness within the first 15 months to only 600,000 Bhat (US\$24,000).

The staff and the board both realized that the school needed new quarters. "We were located down a tiny dark road, and many students were afraid to walk in at night," says Pat Gustin. Edgar adds, "And we were too far away from any bus stops or main roads. We were virtually 'invisible.'"

On December 1, 1988, the group stepped out in faith, and acquired the lease on a four-storey shophouse located on one of the main cross streets in Bangkok. Between December 1, 1988 and June 1989, the school received donations amounting to over 300,000 Bhat, and operating income increased enough to cover all other obligations and make up the balance needed for improvements on the new building.

On June 25, the new school opened. Though some technicalities had not yet been worked out, and they "weren't really ready," the staff felt that since the 1988-89 student missionaries had worked so hard, they "just HAD to have the opening before they left."

Arlene Tolentino from Southern College says with pride, "All I can say is thank God for the miracle of turning an aged gray building into an attractive school."

The language school does not exist solely for the purpose of teaching English, however. The school has

five Bible classes attended primarily by those whom the teachers have gotten to know as friends. Thus teachers are urged to "go out for fried rice" with their students and get involved in social activities with them. Taking a river trip with a group of students is a form of evangelism—friendship evangelism. Thirty-five students attended a three-day Bible Camp in February, and several of those now regularly attend church. In the past year, two language school students have been baptized.

— Pat Gustin, Director, Thailand English Language Schools

First Fruit Among the E-Gaw Tribe

Mr. Loalee Saelee of Northern Thailand recently joined the Seventh-day Adventist church by baptism as the first convert from the E-Gaw tribe.

For many years, in his home community in Fang, Chiangmai, Mr. Saelee has been a faithful Christian leader of one of the Sunday groups known as "Livingston Christians." His village contains about ten Christian families. As a leader, Mr. Saelee organized a Christmas celebration for his Sunday church. It happened that a Seventh-day Adventist church member went along and joined the Christmas celebration, and was warmly welcomed by the group. In return, he invited the Livingston Christians to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Church as guests on the following Sabbath.

Mr. Saelee and a few of his fellow church members did go to visit the SDA Church. They were very interested in why the Seventh-day Adventists worship on Saturday. When the Sabbath concept was explained and several texts from Scripture shown to them, the group became very interested. Mr. Saelee then began to study the Bible with Pastor Peng, and was baptized a few months later.

Recently, Brother Chamee Atakit, the Associate Publishing Director of the Thailand Mission, went to Chiangmai to help the literature evangelists in selling books. Stopping to visit Mr. Saelee, He asked if Mr. Saelee would like to become a literature evangelist and work for the Chin Haw, a Chinese ethnic group living in that area. At present there are no Seventh-day Adventists among the Chin Haw. Since Mr. Saelee is fluent in Thai, Chin Haw, E-Gaw, and Lahoo, the Thailand Mission feels very privileged to have him as a strong lay leader.

Mr. Saelee invited Thailand Mission personnel to hold evangelistic meetings in his village for the many Christian people who had not yet discovered the true Sabbath. On August 21-26, Brother Chamee went in with Pastor



Pastor Sapon with E-Gaw and Laboo converts.

Sopon, Pastor Rakdee, Pastor Peng, and other literature evangelists. Brother Chamee talked to the people about the "Teachings for Life." In the evenings the group had preaching sessions, and during the day they went to visit the people, teaching them the Bible. The literature evangelists also sold some books among the villagers.

As a result of this combined effort, five people were baptized on Sabbath, August 26. There is now a small company of Seventh-day Adventist worshippers in this small village in North Thailand.

Two Lahoo people also attended the evangelistic meetings. They then became a bridge to the local Lahoo village where they brought the message of Jesus Christ. During the evangelistic meetings, the team also went to visit this Lahoo village. When they arrived in the village, they found that most of the Lahoo in that village are now professing Christianity, and that two of the Lahoo leaders who had attended the evangelistic meetings were teaching the Bible to those Christians. Now the village people are expressing a great interest in the sacredness of the seventh-day Sabbath.

From the one evangelistic meeting, people were touched from the Lahoo language, the Chin Haw dialect, and the E-Gaw language groups. Hopefully it will be but a short time before work can begin among the Chin Haw, a church is begun in the Lahoo village, and more converts will come in from among the E-Gaw people.

— Chamee Atakit, Associate Publishing Director,
Thailand Mission
— Steve Bassham, President, Thailand Mission

Stewardship — A New Concept

During the month of September, Pastor Shupinar Koubong and Pastor Rungsit, Stewardship Directors for the SAUM and the Thailand Mission respectively, itinerated to Northeastern Thailand, visiting six Karen churches and five Hmong churches. The purpose of the tour was to meet with God's people there and share with them the right concept of stewardship.

Though elephants were available for transportation, the two felt that they could walk faster than the elephants, so they hiked up to four hours into some villages, through small tracks up and down the hills, fighting off the jungle leeches as they went. Although they were "dead tired" when they reached their destinations, the joy of being welcomed by the church members with their broad smiling faces far outweighed the physical exhaustion.



Members of the Ti Ulu church. Extreme left is the elder of the church.

Members seemed attentive and eager to learn, especially the concept of stewardship. This was a new idea to them, and they eagerly accepted the challenge of putting God first in their lives. Many nights, the local people talked and asked questions late into the night. As the villagers received their answers, the two Stewardship directors were also taught and blessed by the simplicity of the village lives.

As each follower of God practices the principle of stewardship, putting God first, he or she can become a channel of His blessings.

— Shupinar Koubong, Stewardship Director, SAUM

Pacific Union College Drills for Water

After seeing the award-winning ADRA video "What It Isn't, What It Is," numerous students at Pacific Union College (USA) responded to a call to go to Thailand as ADRA volunteers to dig wells. Through careful screening, the number was eventually reduced to 11 students. Dr. Warren Ashworth, an experienced missionary, readily accepted the appointment as the faculty sponsor to accompany the group to Thailand.

After spending a few days in orientation in Bangkok, they travelled on the overnight train to Ubon, their new home for six weeks. It didn't take long before lasting friendships were created.



After some basic training lessons, it was time to start drilling. Students were doing something they had never done in their lives, and probably will never do again in their lives. They were ADRA volunteers! They experienced the excitement on villagers' faces when they struck water. They learned a new culture. They were ADRA volunteers! They have a new outlook on life. They have a much greater vision of world mission. Their whole life has been changed. They were ADRA volunteers!!!

— Warren G. Scale, Director, ADRA Thailand

ADRA Comes Alive for U.S. College Students

As the P.U.C. students returned from their summer ADRA experience, each one filled out an evaluation form. They were asked questions about their motives for going to Thailand, whether their goals had been fulfilled, any changes in their perceptions of the work of ADRA, what impressed them most, and a variety of others. Some of their answers were interesting:

"I felt I needed to get out and start doing something for others and try to break out of the selfish rut I had gotten into."

"I am now more aware of peoples' needs and ways to help. I am also now more convinced that I want to help." "This is not an experience that will fade away with time. You will always be in my heart and prayers. And if you ever need some help again, let me know."

"I truly admire the pastors who guided us through our stay. They enjoy life and enjoy what they are doing ... It's so neat to see people who trust fully in the Lord for everything." "The ADRA people we worked with in Ubon were the best. I have never met a bunch of more dedicated men. They were incredible workers and fun-loving friends. I was very sad to leave them."

"I've always been suspicious of ADRA as being more concerned with 'converting' people to Adventism rather than merely helping alleviate some basic needs. I'm very impressed that ADRA's work ... is truly concerned with *helping people* regardless of their demonstrated interest in Adventism." "I now can see so many positive changes this (ADRA) work can do. I like the role of helping people ... To serve, I think, is a great ministry, and may open many doors. But if not, at least you have helped reduce some of the pain sin has caused. *Love them all!*" "ADRA is, I believe, doing what Christ would do: filling needs first, then evangelizing."

Asked about the food quality and living conditions, most students were very satisfied. Would they recommend that their friends come on a similar trip? Answers ranged from the simple "Yes" to "DEFINITELY" to "For sure—there is no way you could ever go away from something like this and not be changed."

Of course that's true. Ellen G. White restated an eternal truth when she wrote, "Good deeds are twice a blessing, benefitting both the giver and the receiver." And, "Those who live for a purpose, seeking to benefit and bless their fellow men and to honour and glorify their Redeemer, are the truly happy ones on the earth ..." (*Our High Calling*, p. 52).

— Marilyn Johnson, Managing Editor, MESSENGER

■ HEALTH ■

An Adventist Life Insurance Plan

After over 20 years of intensive research on the life expectancy of Seventh-day Adventists, "it appears that the best insurance one can take out today is to follow the lifestyle of Seventh-day Adventists," according to Dr. Jan W. Kuzma (*Adventist Review*, June 29, 1989). Over 100 articles in scientific journals bear this out.

God in His love has given His people profound counsels on healthful living. It cannot be denied that these are divinely inspired, for the most significant health advances in the 20th century continue to prove them. Dr. T. Abelin, professor at Harvard University, commented on the fact that 35-year-old Seventh-day Adventist California men can expect to live nine years longer than their non-Adventist contemporaries. "Such an increase in life expectancy," he said, "is greater than all the gain in life expectancy made in the past 60 years in this country as a result of all the advances in medical skills and knowledge, plus innumerable improvements of the environment in which man lives."

I want each reader to consider the importance of Professor Abelin's statement. The Adventist lifestyle has added more to the life expectancy of Americans than all the wonderful medical advances and environmental improvements of the past 60 years!

During the 20th century, medical science has introduced antibiotics, surgical techniques such as organ transplants and open-heart surgery, cardio-pulmonary

resuscitation, insulin and other medicines for diabetes, incredible diagnostic equipment such as CAT scans and ultrasound, and a host of other advances. Think of the trillions of dollars these advances have cost. Every day Americans spend one and a half billion dollars on health care. In Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and in the rest of Asia, many more millions of dollars are spent daily on medical care. Yet, in the Bible and in a few relatively inexpensive books by Ellen G. White, one can find the secret of longevity not equalled by all the discoveries of medical science throughout the entire world.

The laws of health, given to us in love by our God, are the most valuable life insurance in which we can invest. Still, many Seventh-day Adventists choose to disobey God's explicit commands in this respect. Meat-eating is widespread, Even coffee and tea drinking are prevalent in our midst. Many other health principles are ignored.

The health laws are God's laws. He has given us a wonderful promise related to their observance. "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments; for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee" (Proverbs 3:1,2). Truly God's Word is sure.

— Dr. Russell Standish, Director,
Health-Temperance Department, SAUM

■ SIGNS OF THE END ■

Archbishop Calls Pope Churches' Spiritual Head

On October 2, 1989, Dr. Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the Church of England, declared that all Protestants should acknowledge Pope John Paul II as their spiritual head. This aroused the intense interest of every Seventh-day Adventist. Here was prophecy fulfilling before our very eyes. God had declared, looking down to our day, "and all the world wondered after the beast" (Rev. 13:3). Further, the divine prediction stated, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life" (Rev. 13:8).

The formation of the Church of England was one of the notable events of the Protestant Reformation, when many wanted to pull away from Roman Catholicism. Now,

here is the head of the Church of England calling the pope the spiritual leader of Christendom.

In association with these events have been Pope John Paul's triumphant tour of the Far East and the partial collapse of Communism in Europe, opening the way for Catholic dominance once more. It is imperative that every Seventh-day Adventist rightly interpret the signs of our times in the light of divine prophecy. Now is the time to make our calling and election sure, for surely Jesus is coming soon.

Inspiration has informed us, "When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power ... the end is near" (*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 451).

■ DEVOTIONAL ■

Divine Deliverance

We had been married for only six hours when it happened. The wedding had been at nine in the morning. After the reception, we started off in a 1931 Model-A Ford on a 300-mile drive to the church which we were to pastor.

About mid-afternoon there was a railroad crossing directly in front of us. We stopped and watched while a long freight train slowly crossed the highway and rumbled off into the distance. When the last car had crossed, I saw the road ahead was clear and so I shifted to low gear and released the clutch. But before our car started to move, we both shuddered to see a high-speed passenger train roar across the highway just a few feet in front of us. Fast action on our brake and we froze to the spot. At that crossing was a double set of tracks. The slow-moving freight blocked our view of the fast train travelling in the opposite direction on the second track.

Had that locomotive reached the crossing a few seconds later, we could have been right in front of it, and our happy marriage might have ended the same day it began. Taking a deep breath, I sat and watched these fast-moving passenger cars glide across the intersection. I then turned and said to my dear young wife, "That was close."

But I also felt that God was even closer. "He is nearer to us than breathing, and closer than hands and feet" (E. B. Browning).

A fascinating verse of Scripture comes to mind from II Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him." (KJV) "... to those whose hearts are fully committed to Him." (NIV) This echoes the words of Psalms 34:7, "The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them." (KJV II) Sounds wonderful. God will take care of the "good people," but what about those who are not so good? That is where the loving "good news" of Jesus comes in.

Finding the "lost sheep," restoring the "runaway boy," saving a "woman they were going to stone," promising "the thief a place in Paradise" — that was the ministry of Jesus, who came "to seek and to save that which was lost." So we can be grateful for Divine Deliverance as it relates to the "good" and the "bad." That includes all of us, you and me. Especially me. Thank you Lord.

— Gordon Balharrie, Pastor, Balestier Road Church, Singapore

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