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THE FIRST GRADUATES

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Precious Moments with Prayer

Part 8 -- Persistence in Prayer

As a child, did you ever really, desperately want something for your birthday so badly that you kept asking or hinting for it over and over, but still felt afraid you wouldn't get it? Yet, on your birthday, there it was.

Have you ever prayed and prayed for something, and it just didn't seem like it was going to happen the way you needed it to?

A few years ago, our family had a special need, and I had prayed repeatedly but still no answer came. There was a deadline involved, and at the very last minute the Lord answered that prayer in a way I had never even thought of. The problem was solved. But during the months I had been pleading with the Lord, several things happened to my prayer life.

The need was one that definitely had to be dealt with, so as the time got closer, I got much more serious with God. I started searching my heart for any sin that could be keeping God from answering the request. As the deadline drew closer, my faith assured me that God would not fail, though I still had a real nagging fear that maybe He wasn't going to help this time. In *Desire of Ages*, page 200, we read that sometimes God uses our desires to reach our hearts. "...we are often led to seek Jesus by the desire for some earthly good; and upon the granting of our request we rest our confidence in His love. The Saviour longs to give us a greater blessing than we ask; and He delays the answer to our request that He may show us the evil of our own hearts, and our deep need of His grace. He desires us to renounce the selfishness that leads us to seek Him. Confessing our helpless and bitter need, we are to trust ourselves wholly to His love."

One pastor gave several suggestions as to what waiting can do for us:

1. Having to wait tests the genuineness of the desire. "...we must show a firm, undeviating trust in God. Often He delays to answer us in order to try our faith or test the

genuineness of our desire. Having asked according to His word, we should believe His promise and press our petitions with a determination that will not be denied." (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 145)

2. Persistence increases our desire for the answer. "Unwearingly persist in prayer. The persistent asking brings the petitioner into a more earnest attitude, and gives him an increased desire to receive the things for which he asks." (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 145.)

3. Delay brings us into closer union with Christ.

4. Waiting prepares us to receive the answer when it is given.

5. Persistence keeps you from taking God's gifts for granted.

6. Waiting can keep you from taking the glory for what God has done.

7. The delay makes God's interference more marked.

Just because we don't seem to receive the answer we are looking for, let's don't quit asking. God will answer our prayer in His own way and in His own time. He could be holding the answer for our benefit.

"Not one sincere prayer is lost. Amid the anthems of the celestial choir, God hears the cries of the weakest human being. We pour out our heart's desire in our closets, we breathe a prayer as we walk by the way, and our words reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. They may be inaudible to any human ear, but they cannot die away into silence, nor can they be lost through the activities of business that are going on. Nothing can drown the soul's desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the confusion of the multitude, to the heavenly courts. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard." (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 174)

-- Rayburn Smith,
Publishing Department Director, SAUM

There is no danger that the Lord
will neglect the prayers of His people.
The danger is that in temptation and trial
they will become discouraged,
and fail to persevere in prayer.
(*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 175)

■ PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ■

Teenagers Camp at Port Dickson

The Petaling Jaya Pathfinder Club held a camp at the Halcyon Guest House in Port Dickson on June 2-4, with 39 participants including the sponsor Chee Min, the church pastor Elmo See, and two other adult church members.

The youth ranging from 13 to 17 years of age, had planned the camp and all activities themselves. Their main purpose in conducting the camp was to recruit new Pathfinder members and to get to know and fellowship with the new members.

When the group arrived at the camp, all were impatient to jump into the sea water. For those who were interested, Elmo See conducted swimming lessons.

Programs during the camp included a telematch, crafts, talentime, and pathfinding promotion. An outdoor campfire program had to be cancelled because of a downpour, so the group played indoor games instead.

Although some of the facilities and food were not what some might have hoped for, the youth expressed their enjoyment of the camp.

-- Tan Mei Lai, Camp Secretary

42 Children Dedicated in Teluk Intan

God is greatly blessing in the Teluk Intan Church. Under the leadership of Brother T. John, the Sabbath School and church service attendance has greatly increased, many backsliders have returned to the church and are taking an active part in the witnessing program, and six cell groups are meeting in the district.



Parents have dedicated these 40 children and two babies to God's service.

During the month of June, Pastor Benjamin Paramiah, Director of Church Ministries in the Peninsular Malaysia Mission, received an invitation to lead out in a special child dedication service. He commented, "I never conducted such an unusual service in my entire ministry." Forty-two children and their parents came forward, until there was no place for all of them in the front of the sanctuary.

Pastor Paramiah decided to divide the dedication into four groups, with 10 or 11 children and their parents coming forward at one time. He offered a special prayer of dedication for each of the groups. It was a great day for the church, and members celebrated the occasion with a potluck program after the service.

*-- Benjamin Paramiah,
Church Ministries Director, PEM*

SAUC Offers Extension Classes

Early this year, Southeast Asia Union College conducted an extension class entitled "The Pastor as a Teacher" (part 1) at the Peninsular Malaysia Mission headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. Dr. and Mrs. Phoon Chek Yat, both teachers at SAUC, taught the two-credit-hour course to several Mission workers and interested church members.

At the end of the second quarter of 1991, the Phoons returned to Kuala Lumpur to offer two more extension classes. Dr. Sally Phoon taught "The Pastor as a Teacher (part 2)", and Dr. C. Y. Phoon taught "Introduction to Biblical Languages (Greek)." Both were two-credit-hour courses, starting on June 10 and continuing for two weeks.

Those who attended the Greek classes thought on the first day that they "would never make it." The language sounded funny and the symbols of the alphabet looked strange and disordered. But as the class continued, the students seemed to enjoy themselves, and almost all passed the exam with excellent grades.

Another two-hour course, "Biblical Preaching," is scheduled for September 8-15, also at the Peninsular Malaysia Mission headquarters.

*-- Benjamin Paramiah,
Ministerial Association Director,
Peninsular Malaysia Mission*

Indian Churches Gather for Camp Meeting

Camp meeting is one of the biggest occasions for the Indian churches in Peninsular Malaysia Mission (PEM), and this year they held their 10th annual gathering from May 31 to June 3 in Cameron Highlands.

Approximately 190 church members plus pastors and guests attended the camp meeting held at the Lake View Center, a Lutheran church facility, in the coolness and beauty of the highland resort area 200 kilometers north of Kuala Lumpur.

Pastor David Leoh, PEM President, opened the camp meeting with a message about the experience of Christ's disciples on the mountaintop.

During the four-day camp, Pastor Kenneth Wade, Ministerial Secretary for the Southeast Asia Union Mission, spent several hours working with the members



During the Indian camp meeting, Pastor Joseph and Pastor Wade baptized six candidates from the Taiping and Sungei Way Churches.

on small group ministry. Part of his time was spent in presentation of the importance and methods of conducting small group meetings. Then he led out as young and old alike shared their ideas on how to start small group meetings. In the closing session of the camp meeting, many members pledged to get involved in the small group ministry as soon as they returned to their home churches.

Another important emphasis of the camp meeting was pre- and post-marital counseling. Pastor George John presented talks to the youth. Afterwards, the young camp meetings requested more such counseling sessions in future camp meetings.

Older members and married couples attended sessions of post-marriage counseling, led by the married pastors. While there were serious discussions, there were also fun and laughter during the sessions. Participants received several hand-outs with advice on how to have a good marriage. This group also asked that the next camp meeting have more time devoted to this important topic.

Already plans are underway for next year's camp meeting. The group have chosen New Morib Beach, about 80 kilometers south of Kuala Lumpur, as the venue for 1992. The theme for next year will be "The Christian Home," with discussions focusing on husband and wife, parents and children, the Christian family and society, the Adventist home and relationships with God.

Leaders for this year's camp meeting included Pastor V. N. Joseph, camp director; Pastor G. P. Joseph, camp and program coordinator; Pastor V. Thevarajulu, camp pastor; and Pastor Sam Govindasamy, camp treasurer.

*-- Benjamin Paramiah,
Church Ministries Director, PEM*

■ SABAH ■

Union-Wide Pathfinder Camporee Held in Sabah

Approximately 1,100 Pathfinders and their leaders from all over the Southeast Asia Union Mission congregated at the Mission-owned Dantai Beach property in Sabah from May 23 to 28 for the fourth annual Union-wide Pathfinder Camporee.

Most who attended the camporee were from Sabah or neighboring Sarawak, both of which have very active Pathfinder programs. However, from Thailand, 14 young people and their sponsors travelled by train from

Bangkok through Peninsular Malaysia to Singapore, where they spent most of one day sightseeing or shopping before flying on to Sabah.

Approximately 70 Pathfinders and leaders flew in to Sabah from Peninsular Malaysia. From Singapore, where Pathfinder clubs are just recently being revived, about 30 youth joined the camporee.

Each evening the Pathfinders from one or two countries, dressed in their national costumes, presented



Sabah Pathfinders stand at attention during inspection.

a cultural show depicting something of the local culture and customs.

During the day, campers took part in exhibitions, demonstrations, field games, and various seminars. At the exhibits, Pathfinders displayed handmade items such as key chains, hats, and local costumes.

The Peninsular Malaysia group demonstrated how to set up several sizes of tents. There was also a demonstration of semaphore flag communication, and later a competition between the Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah Pathfinder teams to see who could most quickly signal "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog." Other competitions included knot tying and fire building, as well as telematch, wheelbarrow race, and the three-legged run.

Several guests spoke for the seminars. Elder Malcolm Allen, World Director of Pathfinders from the General Conference, presented "Advanced Youth Leadership;" Dr. David Wong, youth leader for the Far Eastern Division, talked about love, courtship and marriage; George Johnson, President of the Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM), spoke on witnessing; Elder Kenneth Wade, Ministerial Association Secretary of the SAUM, presented "Effective Preaching;" and Dr. Edmund Siagian, Education Director of the SAUM, talked on Christian music. Dr. Ralph Jones, then Academic Dean at Southeast Asia Union College, encouraged the older students to attend SAUC.

On Sabbath, members and friends from nearby churches swelled the group of worshippers to 3,500.

Elder Allen gave the Sabbath worship message stressing the theme of the camporee, "Christ our Guide." Immediately after the sermon, campers walked down to the beach to witness the baptism of 23 young people. In the afternoon, all of the Pathfinders again put on their national costumes for a cultural pageant, which was followed by a program of music and testimonies.

The main organizer for the camporee was Pastor Shupinar Koubong, Church Ministries Director for the Southeast Asia Union Mission. Working locally to oversee all the necessary preparations was Pastor Daniel Bagah, Youth Ministry Director of the Sabah Mission.

One Sabah youth leader called the camporee "a real survivalist camp!" Rain sometimes poured down at inopportune times drenching the campers and flooding many tents with water. At other times the sun beat down, leaving campers feeling hot and steamy both day and night. Ten wells on the site proved inadequate, so campers had to battle a chronic fresh water shortage by forming a human chain to relay buckets of water from the sea for sanitary needs.

In spite of a few inconveniences, however, campers seemed to enjoy themselves. As one Pathfinder put it, the camporee was "the best time of my life."

*-- Daniel Bagah,
Youth Ministry Director, Sabah Mission*

Central Sabah Revives Stewardship

During July, Pastor Shupinar Koubong, Church Ministries Director of the Southeast Asia Union Mission, travelled to nine churches with Pastor Ginduk Laung, Sabah Mission Stewardship Director, to conduct stewardship revival meetings.

In his talks to the members, Pastor Koubong emphasized three relationships which God established at creation: the relationship between God and man, the relationship between man and man, and the relationship between man and the things that belong to God. Christ's love is the motivator and the only means of success in maintaining these relationships as one puts God first in his life.

The church members expressed gratitude for such a clear presentation of God's love, His promises, His blessings, and His plans for His people.

*-- Ginduk Laung,
Stewardship Director, Sabah Mission*

L.E.'s Persist Despite Opposition



The Sabah Mission is a real inspiration in the area of literature evangelism. There are about 30 LEs, all between 18 and 25 years of age and dedicated to God and the literature ministry. Some of them have college training. One young lady, Miss Malina Ajun, accepted the Seventh-day Adventist message and was baptized at Sabah Adventist Secondary School in mid-1989. Early in 1991, she decided to enter literature evangelism.

Coming from a family and village devoted to another Christian religion, she met strong opposition to her new work. While Malina was working with a group of LEs in the Keningau area, her sister came and threatened to beat and disown her if she refused to stop colporteuring. The local pastor and a group of LEs encouraged her and suggested that she go home and try to win her parents' hearts by showing obedience and kindness. They went with her for a short time, hoping to get better acquainted with the family.

After spending one month with her family, Malina returned to the work. Her parents had granted permission for her to colporteur if that was her choice. Malina worked hard, and her sales were good. Yet her burden was to witness for Christ in her own village, especially to her own family members.

In May, she went home with permission from the Publishing Department of the Sabah Mission to do canvassing work in her own village. To her surprise, however, her family were all very upset with her return and threatened serious consequences if she did not stop working at once.

Tearfully, Malina left home to return to the work to which she was devoted. She has bravely chosen to follow Jesus, keeping the seventh day Sabbath as a day of worship and fellowship with her Creator. Fellow literature evangelists continue to encourage Malina to choose obedience to her heavenly Father, who will never forsake her.

At present, she is working energetically in the Ranau district. She enjoys distributing free tracts and enrolling people for the Voice of Prophecy courses.

The future is still uncertain for Malina, but may God continue to give her dedication to Him, and may He lead and use her mightily in His work.

Elsewhere in Sabah, Stebane Todok, was attracted to the SDA beliefs through the influence of his brother-in-law,

who was a part-time LE. After his baptism, Stebane became interested in literature evangelism, and started working as an LE in Tawau during January 1990.

Before going to Tawau, however, he had started studying the Bible with several of his relatives, who belonged to the Protestant Churches of Sabah. As they started praying and having Bible studies in their home, villagers and even some of his own family members mocked and opposed him.

When he went to Tawau, he continued to study the Bible and he became actively involved in the church activities. Yet, as he went out canvassing every day and experienced the joy of witnessing for Christ, he longed for his loved ones to know the truth also.

Stebane kept praying for his family. He started writing letters to them, including lots of Bible texts. He sent them free tracts, and enrolled them in the free Bible and Health correspondence courses. As Stebane continued to write, the Holy Spirit continued to work in hearts. His brother, his sister, and two other relatives accepted the Third Angel's message and were baptized.

Thus, Stebane was all the more inspired to work for the conversion of his parents. He asked permission to canvass on his own in the Kudat area near his home town so that he could witness to his parents and start a small church.

Today Stebane's parents are preparing for baptism. The family look up to him and admire him for his zeal and faithful witness for the Lord. Now Stebane has set out to evangelize his entire village. May the Holy Spirit continue to work with him toward this goal.

There are many fine young people working hard in Sabah. On May 8-10, Sabah Mission publishing director Francis Lajanin and SAUM publishing director Rayburn Smith conducted a beginners' training school. Seventeen attended the program.

In the literature ministry, there is always room for one more. Should you consider joining the army of literature evangelists in the Southeast Asia Union Mission? If you would like more information, please contact the Literature Ministry Director in your Mission.

*-- Francis Lajanin,
Publishing Department Director, Sabah Mission,
and Rayburn Smith,
Publishing Department Director, SAUM*

Cycling Tour Attracts Youth

During June, 65 Adventist Youth members from Tamparuli and Kota Belud took part in the first Tamparuli-Goshen-Tamparuli cycling tour.

The 210-kilometer trip meandered through the Tamparuli-Kota Belud "highway," famous for its narrowness and hairpin turns. The event was held for two consecutive days, June 23 and 24, both days hot and dry. The average round-trip time was 16 hours.



At the beginning of the tour, enthusiastic cyclists with Youth Director Daniel Bagah (in red vest) are ready to roll.

A few cyclists took spills on the way, all on hairpin turns going downhill, but thankfully there were no serious injuries. Some did suffer with muscle cramps, however. On the second day, a few cyclists had to abandon the tour because of mechanical problems.

The youth had a variety of other experiences along the way--meeting interesting people in the villages and towns, looking over the panoramic view of rice fields and other plantations, and having chances to talk to people about Pathfinderism and the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Objectives of the cycling tour included meeting the Pathfinder requirement for the cycling honor, promoting physical fitness among the youth, fostering Christian fellowship among the youth, and promoting the Pathfinder Club and the Adventist Youth Society.

The all-male tour included "youth" from 14 to 35 years of age. The heaviest, weighing 110 kilograms, "almost made it!"

The Youth Department of the Sabah Mission organized the event.

*-- Daniel Bagah,
Youth Ministry Director, Sabah Mission*

■ SARAWAK ■

Bintulu Church has Seminar on Spiritual Health

Church members and friends of the Bintulu Seventh-day Adventist Church recently attended a Seminar on Spiritual Health, presented by Pastor Jonathan Ng, Director of Counseling Service and Health Promotion at Youngberg Adventist Hospital, Singapore.

Upon completion of his theological studies at Southeast Asia Union College, the Bintulu Church pastor, Matthew Mambu, invited Pastor Ng to conduct the seminar. The program was a realization of a personal dream of Pastor Mambu for his church and for Pastor Ng who had first visited the town of Bintulu in 1972 when he was Mission Evangelist of the Sarawak Mission.

The rapid growth of the Bintulu Church over the past few years has brought about the decision to separate the language groups for worship services. Beginning during the seminar, the Iban-speaking group meets on Sabbath mornings, while the English-speaking members have



Pastor Matthew Mambu (right) translates into Iban as Pastor Jonathan Ng presents a Seminar on Spiritual Health.

their services on Sabbath afternoons. Pastor Ng spoke to both groups, attempting to meet the needs of all.

*-- Matthew Mambu, Pastor,
Bintulu Seventh-day Adventist Church*

Sarawak Mission Conducts Festival of Praise

Hundreds of church members throughout the Kuching, Kota Samaranan, Serian and Sri Aman Divisions of Sarawak gathered at Ayer Manis School auditorium for a Festival of Praise on August 2-3.

They came to praise God with their trumpets, flutes, violins, guitars, harmonicas, accordions, and even rare local instruments such as the compoton, or "ongkerurai." Church choirs, men's and ladies' choruses, quartets, trios, duets, and solos also offered praise to the Lord with their voices.

The Festival of Praise began on Friday evening, August 2, with songs of praise followed by the keynote address by Pastor George Johnson, SAUM president, who spoke on "The Gift of the Land," an appropriate topic since most who attended the festival were farmers. Other topics presented on Sabbath included "The Gift of Sabbath School," "The Gift of Freedom," "The Gift of Family," "The Gift of the Youth," and "The Gift of Life and Service."

Following each topic, the audience were invited to give testimonies on what God has done for them. Many willingly testified to the goodness of God in answered prayer, in miracles in their lives, on conversion experiences, on soul winning, and on facing Sabbath problems. Others gave testimonies of praise and thanksgiving. One old church elder from the Semaba Church sang the favorite hymn "Anywhere with Jesus I Can Safely Go" after he testified that God was close to him in each problem he faced in his Christian experience.

Why conduct the Festival of Praise? There were several reasons: To help members be aware of the goodness of God. To draw members nearer to the Benefactor. To encourage them to be faithful partners with God. To inspire members to render life-long service to God. And finally, to draw out the talents that God has given the church in praise and adoration.

"I want the Festival of Praise to be a yearly affair," a church leader commented. By God's grace there will be another one in 1992. But most important of all, may each church member remain faithful and be ready to join the redeemed of the Lord in the Festival of Praise in heaven. "And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the voice of harpists playing their harps. And they sang as it were a new song before the throne [of God]." (Rev. 14:2,3 NKJV)

-- Edmund M. Liah, Secretary, Sarawak Mission

Kuching Church Does Health Screening

On Sunday, July 28, six medical doctors from the Health and Temperance Department of the Kuching English Church held a health screening program at Sunny Hill College for the benefit of Kuching Church members.

Between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m., a large number of church members and their relatives came for the health screening. It consisted of urine testing, blood tests for cholesterol and hemoglobin, hepatitis testing, and a physical examination. The charges were minimal: M\$6 for the blood tests and M\$10 for the hepatitis testing.

The doctors involved in the program included Dr. Richard Chai, head of Health and Temperance for the Kuching Church, Dr. Edward Chee, Dr. Valentine Teo, Dr. Geoffrey Chuang, Dr. Kwok, and Dr. Ted Chew. Five of the doctors operate their own private medical practices.



Dr. Edward Chee (right), Dr. Kwok (center), and Dr. Geoffrey Chuang conduct physical examinations during the screening.

Two of the doctors and a friend of theirs did the blood testing, three other doctors conducted the physical examinations, and Dr. Chew recorded results and gave medical advice to those who needed it. Three laboratory technicians from a private clinic checked for hepatitis, while several church members including a nurse helped with the urine tests and blood pressure measurement. Others helped with filling in forms and checking height and weight.

Hopefully the screening program will help church members to analyze their own health and to enjoy good health.

-- Jeffrey Kong, Communication Secretary,
Kuching English Church

Volunteers Help Headhunter Descendants

"Ooooooh ha, these people are like gods. For they not only gave materials and skills, but came and worked with us here to complete one well and two catchment tanks in Rumah Jelani," chanted a local leader in Jelani Village in Roban District at the official dedication of new water facilities following an ADRA project there.

Volunteers had dug one well and constructed one water catchment and one spring catchment. Officiating at the ceremony were Pastor Edmund Liah, Secretary of the Sarawak Mission, Miss Janet Weighall of La Sierra University, and Mr. Petrus Ngadan Kuju, Director of ADRA/Sarawak.

Fourteen volunteers from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska and from La Sierra in southern California spent six weeks working on the Roban Sanitation and Water Project. In addition to the Rumah Jelani project, they also completed one well in Roban and two wells at the Ngiar Primary School.

On completion of the water projects, volunteers received a special treat. Taken up into a longhouse, they had a feast celebration, and had the opportunity to witness a traditional Iban wedding. Afterwards longhouse families "adopted" the volunteers in a special adoption ceremony to symbolize the close relationship that had developed between villagers and volunteers.

Before leaving Sarawak, some of the students spent several nights in two Dayak longhouses. The volunteers



Wearing their garlands for the special occasion, Pastor Edmund Liah (left), Miss Janet Weighall and Mr. Petrus Ngadan Kuju declare a new well officially open.

also visited Bako National Park and other tourist attractions in Sarawak. The last of the group left Kuching on August 1.

Elsewhere in Sarawak, a group of Far Eastern Academy students and staff were to have worked on the Kelait Water Project during May. Due to added security precautions during the Gulf war, however, the students were advised not to travel outside Singapore. Thus a local volunteer group from the Kuching and Kelait churches gave their time and effort for the Kelait Water Project. Led by ADRA Director Petrus Ngadan Kuju and his associate, Anyau Kinchang, the team brought clean water to the homes of 30 families.

-- Petrus Ngadan Kuju, Director, ADRA/Sarawak

■ SINGAPORE ■

Mission President Leaves for Upgrading

The Singapore Adventist Mission President, Pastor Sim Chor Kiat, left on August 11 for further studies at Andrews University (USA). He plans to complete his Doctorate of Ministry degree while there.

Pastor Sim began his denominational service in 1972 as an assistant pastor in the Malaya Mission (which later became the West Malaysia/Singapore Mission). From 1974 to 1976 he pastored in Sarawak before returning to the West Malaysia/Singapore Mission. In 1981 he became a departmental director.

In 1988, Pastor Sim became Secretary-Treasurer of the Singapore Mission, and in July 1989 he was appointed

President of the Mission. He also served as one of the pastors of the Balestier Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Pastor Sim's wife, Winnie, has also worked in the denomination since 1973. For the past 13 years she has served as a secretary at the Southeast Asia Union Mission headquarters.

Pastor and Mrs. Sim have three children, Gillian, 15, and twins Ginny and Genny, 9, who have been students at the SDA School in Singapore.

-- Brenna Lynch, Senior student, SAUC

(At press time, a successor to Pastor Sim had not been chosen.)

Veteran Teacher Passes Away



On July 23, Pastor Chu Sing Fatt, 78, retired teacher and church leader, passed away at Youngberg Adventist Hospital in Singapore following a lengthy illness.

Born in Ipoh, West Malaysia, in 1913, he studied in Malaysia and Singapore. He married Miss Tsen Tet Chin in 1934, a union that lasted 57 years.

In 1933, Pastor Chu began his teaching career at a Seventh-day Adventist school in Sarawak, and three years later was promoted to principal. While continuing to teach, he served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Central Malayan Mission, and later the Malay States Mission, from 1942 to 1949.

Transferred to Singapore in 1950, Pastor Chu taught at the Malayan Seminary (now Southeast Asia Union College) and secondary school for 23 years. During this period he also served as a dean of men and as a headmaster, with a short break to fill in as Treasurer of the Sabah Mission in 1966.

In 1967, Southeast Asia Union College (SAUC) awarded Pastor Chu an honorary B.A. degree in recognition for his service. Six years later, Pastor Chu became senior assistant (Vice Principal) of the Seventh-day Adventist School, and continued in this position until he retired from denominational work in 1974. Even after he retired, Pastor Chu was very active in the Jurong Chinese Church where he attended.

One former student, Mr. Matthew Hutabarat, acting chairman of the Business Department at SAUC, remembers Pastor Chu as being fatherly toward his students outside of class. Pastor Chu frequently teased a noisy class, "If my blood pressure rises and gives me a heart attack, it's your fault!" Mr. Hutabarat reminisced, "In class, he was a kind and considerate teacher.

One of Pastor Chu's Secondary 2 English literature students was Mr. John Ho, now Secretary-Treasurer of the Singapore Adventist Mission. Later Pastor Chu gave Bible studies to Mr. Ho, baptized him, and performed the wedding service for Mr. Ho and his wife, Lucy. Mr. Ho remembers asking Pastor Chu many questions about doctrines and church standards during their Bible studies, especially about areas having no direct Scriptural command. "What if I'm not sure?" he asked Pastor Chu, who replied emphatically, "Then don't do it!"

The large number of former students who attended the memorial services and funeral for Pastor Chu testify to the esteem they had for him. Dr. Mary Wong, another former student and currently chairperson of the SAUC English Department, summed up the feelings of many, "With his passing we lost a great teacher who had exerted a strong influence on his students."

The late Pastor Chu leaves his wife, Mrs. Chu Tet Chin; one son, Lawrence, who is Vice-Principal at Adventist English School in Bangkok; two daughters, Ruth Kong, who taught at SDA School in Singapore until her husband's recent retirement and now lives in Loma Linda, California (USA); Beryl Manamua, wife of the SDA Church pastor in St. Helena, California (USA); and two grandchildren.

-- Brenna Lynch, Senior student,
Southeast Asia Union College

NEWSTART Continues to Grow

NEWSTART, a live-in lifestyle reconditioning wellness program, continues to enjoy popularity among the health-conscious professionals in Singapore. During the June school holidays, 20 people attended a NEWSTART program conducted at a downtown hotel by the Youngberg Adventist Hospital Department of Health Promotion/Wellness.

Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Ing, who are on study leave in the United States, were invited back to Singapore to help in the program. Dr. Dave McFadden and Dr. Fred Lam both helped with physical examinations and medical lectures. Clinical dietitian Miss Diana David assisted Mrs. May Ing with the nutritional aspect of the program.

Health Promotion Director Jonathan Ng presented stress management sessions each night, and also provided counseling services to the participants. The staff and other helpers in the program clearly demonstrated the team approach to good health.

A new experience at this NEWSTART was the attendance of three participants from North America and another couple from Hong Kong. Previously only local residents have taken part in the program. Having overseas participants added blessings and color to this program. Truly NEWSTART has been a great opportunity to witness and share God's blessings.

-- Jonathan Ng, Director of Health Promotion,
Youngberg Adventist Hospital

Preaching to Preachers

The pulpit can be a lonely place. Though a preacher may be standing in front of hundreds of people, from a human standpoint he or she is all alone in the pulpit. After the sermon, people may greet the preacher at the door and say, "That was a nice sermon, Pastor," or "I really enjoyed your sermon." Or, they may simply shake the pastor's hand and smile (or perhaps frown!)

So how is a pastor supposed to learn to be a better preacher? Chances are that almost all the homiletics training he or she ever received came during college years--before the real challenge of having a worthwhile message every week had become a reality.

It is a good thing for a pastor to take a break occasionally and sit back and look at preaching from someone else's perspective. That is the type of opportunity that the entire pastoral staff of Singapore Mission, along with many other preachers, took advantage of on July 11.

Dr. Rex D. Edwards, a well-known preacher and teacher of preachers, stopped in Singapore during an itinerary through the Far Eastern Division. His one-day seminar "From Text to Sermon: A Sevenfold Method" drew 44 participants including Adventist pastors, chaplains, church administrators, and ministerial students. In addition, several non-Adventist pastors and lay people attended in response to invitations sent out by Southeast Asia Union College.

Dr. Edwards is the director of continuing education for the General Conference Ministerial Association, and is well known on the seminar circuit in the United States. His presentation in Singapore showed that he is a true master of the art of teaching and inspiring preachers to preach better. Many participants, including several of the non-Adventists, lingered after the seminar to chat, ask questions, and request photocopies of portions of Dr. Edwards' notes.

-- Ken Wade,

Ministerial Association Secretary, SAUM

■ THAILAND ■

We are not Rice Christians

Less than one year ago, a Lahu tribal group left another Christian church to become Seventh-day Adventists because of the Sabbath. The effort of Global Mission started in Kampong Phet, then extended to this Lahu village 50 kilometers away.

When a former church pastor of their previous denomination returned to visit after a long absence, he was amazed and furious to know that 40 members of his

church had become Seventh-day Adventists. He quickly confronted the SDA assistant pastor, Kummui Siriwong, accusing him of stealing the sheep. Pastor Kummui replied, "I have presented the truth of our Lord, but the decision is upon the members. They are the ones who decided for themselves.

Angrily, the other pastor went back into town and bought plenty of rice and other foodstuffs. Knowing that Lahu people are very poor and exist on a day-to-day basis from hand to mouth, he announced, "I will give this rice to my church members. If you are my members, you will come to take it and sign your name."

Of the 40 converts, one could not resist, but the others stood firm in their faith. They responded, "The rice can be eaten up within two weeks, but the gospel food can be eaten forever. We cannot be bought or sold."

Praise the Lord for their faith! These members still do not have a place of worship, as they have been using the church building where they formerly attended, but they hope to build their own church in the near future.

-- Danny Pung, Communications Director, TAM



Pastor Chamee (left) and assistant pastor Kummui talk to Lahu church members in Klong Lan.

ADRA's Water Project in Mae Tang District

Have you ever stopped to think about how much you appreciate being able to go to the tap and get a drink of water? Or what about taking a bath or shower right in your own home?

Villagers in the Mae Tang district of northern Thailand can now do just that, thanks to 10 students from Canadian Union College.

Beginning on May 7, the students spent six weeks installing running water systems for two villages. People living in those villages previously had to walk more than half a kilometer to the nearest water source.



At the worksite, ADRA volunteers and local residents break the ground where water pipe will be laid.

The project, sponsored by the Canadian government, directed by ADRA Thailand, and carried out by the students, provided running water from the gravity-powered system to each house.

In addition to laying pipe and installing hand pumps, the volunteers found time to make friends with the village folk. Evening recreation and weekend services were also an important part of the project. "I'll never be the same again!" or "These are the most wonderful people I've ever met!" were thoughts often expressed by the students.

ADRA Thailand is still in the process of providing water for other villages in the Mae Tang district as well as elsewhere in Thailand.

*-- Jeffrey Wright,
Assistant Director for Public Relations,
ADRA Thailand*

BAH has Week of Spiritual Emphasis

Bangkok Adventist Hospital held its first Week of Prayer for the year on July 15-20. Realizing the importance of maintaining as well as building up the spiritual vitality of its employees and nursing students, the hospital set aside a week for contemplation on spiritual matters.

Pastor Kenneth Wade, Associate Church Ministries Director of the Southeast Asia Union Mission, was the speaker. With the theme "Just Looking," he delivered Christ-centered talks challenging people to search for Christ.

Mrs. Debby Wade joined her husband at BAH for the week, and provided uplifting messages in song each morning and evening.

During the Week of Prayer, the Holy Spirit prompted many people to seek to know Jesus better. While some are still "just looking," 24 students and workers have expressed their desire to prepare for baptism in the future.

As a follow-up program, the BAH church held a Bible Conference at Pak Chong on July 26-28. During the weekend meetings, Pastor Rangsit Itsaringkarn, Church Ministries Department Director of the Thailand Adventist Mission, spoke to the group on how to know Jesus and have a close relationship with him. The messages were timely because most who attended had a limited knowledge of Christ.

About 40 students and faculty members from the Muak Lek campus of Mission College joined the Bible Conference group on Saturday night for games and fellowship.

-- Somchai Chuenjit, BAH Chaplain



On August 3, five young people were baptized at the Bangkok Adventist Hospital Church, including one Senior nursing student.

Mission College Graduates First Class at Muak Lek



Pastor Art Bell, Vice President of Mission College for Muak Lek campus, congratulates one of the graduates.

Everyone wants to be successful in life, for it brings joy and happiness. There are several ways to achieve one's goal in life, and June 23 marked the day of success and reaching a special goal for nine ministerial students at Mission College, Muak Lek campus. The first graduating class included eight young men and one lady.



This happy group have the privilege of being the first graduating class from their college.

Dr. W. Steve Bassham, President of Thailand Adventist Mission, was the baccalaureate speaker. To the graduating class he said, "When you go out and labor in the area of spiritual work, it is a must that you know man's spiritual life in order to be spiritual leaders. Today there are many who are spiritually ill. God's servants must help them to be healed spiritually by bringing them to God, the Great Physician for healing."

The new graduates have all received internship assignments. Two will be in the chaplaincy departments of SDA hospitals in Thailand, and the others have specific church postings.

-- Public Relations and Marketing Department, BAH

BAH Chaplain Succumbs to Cancer



Miss Somporn Pibulthanawanich, 44, an active worker for the Lord in the Chaplaincy Department of Bangkok Adventist Hospital (BAH), passed away on May 26, after battling with cancer for several years.

Born in Bangkok, she attended a Christian primary school, and later studied at a mission college in Hong Kong. Returning to Bangkok, she served in the hospital chaplaincy at BAH for three years, then BAH sponsored her to study at Southeast Asia Union College in Singapore for a Bachelors degree in Theology. After working another four years as a chaplain, she received a scholarship to earn Master of Divinity and Master of Public Health degrees at Philippine Union College and Theological Seminary.

Miss Somporn was an enthusiastic worker for God, and continued to help hospital patients even when she knew death from cancer was imminent. During the last few months of her life, she continued to have witnessing outreach programs in her apartment, and would teach anyone who wished to know about God.

-- Somchai Chuenjit, BAH Chaplain

■ SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION COLLEGE ■

Bon Voyage to SAUC Staff

SAUC bid farewell to Dr. Ralph Jones, who retired from denominational work on June 30, 1991. He has given a total of 30 years of service to Seventh-day Adventist education, serving as a teacher in Oregon (USA), as Academic Dean and teacher at Spicer Memorial College in Poona, India, for 23 years, and finally as Academic Dean at SAUC for the past 6 years.

Dr. Jones ardently upheld academic policies and maintained a high standard of excellence. A fun-loving person, he was also very actively involved in student activities at SAUC.

His wife, Mrs. Viola Jones, also taught home economics and health classes at SAUC for three years. More recently she has served as the campus hostess for the Southeast Asia Union Mission compound.

The SAUC staff and students will greatly miss the Joneses for their friendliness, warmth and cheerfulness, but wish them God's richest blessings as they retire in Washington state (USA).

Dr. Gary Brendel, who arrived in Singapore in September 1990 to teach at SAUC, is the new Academic Dean of the college.

SAUC also bids farewell to Mr. and Mrs. James Ng, who have been on the college faculty for the past 11 years. Mrs. Patricia Ng, who holds a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Andrews University, has been chairperson of the Business Department during her entire stay at SAUC.

Mr. James Ng has a Master of Science degree in biology from Andrews University, and has taught courses in biology and physical education. Faculty and students alike will remember him for his tremendous memory of biological terms and for his fitness as a long-distance runner.

The Ngs, along with their two daughters, Lilibeth and Sherilyn, left Singapore on August 7 to further their studies in the USA.

Mr. Matthew Mambu came to SAUC as a married student, to complete his BA degree in theology, after having spent several years teaching and working for the church in Sarawak. From June 1990 until he completed his studies in June 1991, Mr. Mambu stepped

in to serve as the Dean of Men at SAUC. He and his wife and son have now returned to Sarawak where he is pastoring in the Bintulu District.

Mrs. Karen McFadden was teaching in the remedial English program until June 1991. She has recently accepted an invitation to work as the cafeteria director at Far Eastern Academy in Singapore.

While some staff have gone, others have joined the SAUC staff. Coming to the Business Department this quarter is Mr. Joseph Manuel, who recently arrived from Spicer Memorial College in India, where he had been teaching since 1975. He holds an MA degree in Economics from the University of Poona, India.

His wife, Mrs. Beulah Manuel, has served as an Assistant Professor in English and Office Administration at Spicer Memorial College. She has an MA degree from the University of Poona, and is in the process of completing a Master of Philosophy degree. She is now teaching in the English Department at SAUC.

The Manuels have two children, daughter Kavitha, 13, and son Kevin, 4.

Also new to SAUC this quarter is Pastor Simon Siew, who has served as the pastor of the English Church in Penang for the past five years. He is the new Dean of Men at SAUC, and also teaches in the Theology Department. He has a Masters degree in Pastoral Studies from the Seminary of the Far East in the Philippines.

Staff and students welcomed Pastor Siew, his wife, Kimberly, and two daughters, Aletheia, M and Sophia, N, to the campus in June. **Material removed at request of related persons**



Cutting the farewell cake are (l to r) Mr. Matthew Mambu, Dr. Ralph Jones, Mrs. Viola Jones, Mrs. Karen McFadden, Mrs. Patricia Ng, and Mr. James Ng.

Mrs. Belinda Low has recently joined the academic administration staff at the college. She comes to SAUC from the ADRA office at the Far Eastern Division headquarters. Mrs. Low will work with Dr. Brendel in the SAUC Office of the Registrar.

*— Linda Koh, Chairperson,
SAUC Education Department*



Oliver grew up in Singapore in a Buddhist family. At school one day when he was 15, a friend handed him a Bible Correspondence Course card. This Bible course led him to the Seventh-day Adventist school in Singapore. As a high school student, he accepted Jesus Christ and joined the church. He went on to college and became a pastor.

Oliver today is a Christian educator. You may know him--Dr. Oliver Koh Kang Song, President of Southeast Asia Union College. Without the quiet witness of the Voice of Prophecy, he would not likely be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian today.

Support the Voice of Prophecy. Pray for the VOP ministry, give regularly, enroll new students, and add your personal witness.

Oliver and hundreds of other Voice of Prophecy students thank you. And, failing a personal thanks now, they will express their gratitude during eternity.



**SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE THROUGH THE
VOICE OF PROPHECY**

■ DEVOTIONAL ■

You Can Refuse to Worry

Perhaps no other generation has enjoyed so much knowledge, utilized more technology, and had more conveniences to make life easy than this present generation. And yet, because of evil inherent in this sinful world, we seemingly have more and more to worry about each day.

One of the reasons we seem to worry so much is our inability to control our circumstances. We seem so small and puny against our adversary. It has been said that some people live on top of the world while others live with the world on top of them. As long as we tell ourselves that our problems are insurmountable, we will always be defeated.

When the spies returned from investigating Canaan, they had a lot of good things to report (Numbers 13:27-33). It was a good and rich land; they even brought some of the fruit as evidence. But they also saw giants, the sons of Anak. The spies said, "We felt as small as grasshoppers, and that is how we must have looked to them." The spies' personal viewpoint was wrong. The problems of life look so big when we see ourselves in the light of our fears.

Too many people take the "grasshopper outlook" in life. This feeling displays not only a lack of faith but also a poor mental attitude. Such people are defeatists for they feast on failure rather than building on their successes. What we think about inevitably determines what we become. Psychologists refer to these as self-fulfilling prophecies. The Bible warns us that "as a man thinks in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7) We all have failures, but it is our attitude toward them that counts.

We need to claim God's promise to Joshua, "I will not fail you or forsake you." (Joshua 1:5) Joshua was appointed to follow Moses, one of the most dynamic leaders in all history. This great leader, Moses, had performed miracles, led people out of bondage, and spoken personally to God.

Now Joshua, a younger and less experienced man, was called to be the leader. He undoubtedly worried about his ability to follow in Moses' footsteps. How could he undertake such a gigantic task? Especially one that included conquering the land promised them by God. Thus God promised Joshua, "I will not fail you or forsake you."

God makes that same promise to you and me. God wants us to be happy and enjoy life. He wants us to be at peace with Him and with ourselves. Claim the promises, and God will give you the victory.

-- Charles Gaban, President, Sabah Mission

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