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*Sarawakian
children
enjoy VBS
too. - story on page 10*

The Peace Dividend

The year 1990 was the year of the "peace dividend." It was the year that politicians in the USA thought that the downfall of communism would make it safe to stop manufacturing so many military weapons. But then on August 2, Saddam Hussein's troops overran the defenses of tiny Kuwait. The peace dividend suddenly evaporated.

In the ensuing years, some conflicts have died out because the superpowers quit supplying weapons to the opposing armies. In Southeast Asia, we are reaping a peace dividend in Cambodia for that very reason. But from Kabul to Sarajevo, the demise of the Soviet Union has brought war, not peace. Old rivalries, hard feelings going back for generations, have exploded in a torrent of bullets and bombs.

The road to peace turned out to be longer than the optimistic politicians had anticipated. Its detours and hiccups are made up of the same material that often disturbs the peace in churches and individual Christian hearts.

Age-old anger, harbored grudges, and "scores to settle" lead to strife between groups within nations, and within churches. When it happens in a nation such as Myanmar (Burma) or Cambodia, refugees flee to the border, seeking a place where they can live in peace. When strife erupts in the church, people flee to the borders as well! And we no longer see them in their usual places in the church.

Strife within and without

Much of the strife that we see in the world--and in the church--grows out of strife inside of individuals. Frustration, anger, and jealousy leave people feeling unfulfilled and disturbed. Some people, when they feel unable to solve their own problems or when they feel frustrated in their attempts to reach their own ideals, turn their frustration outward and begin to focus on other people's problems. This is a natural reaction that helps them to avoid dealing with their own problems, weaknesses, and failures.

There is a saying that the mechanic's car never runs properly, or that the plumber's tap always drips, or the shoemaker's children always go without shoes. Why? Because each one is always so busy working on solving other people's problems that he has no time to deal with his own.

But in the church, when people start focusing on other people's problems instead of their own, it often leads to strife. Jesus clearly identified people who do this. After accusing them of seeing the speck in their brother's eye

while ignoring the beam in their own eye, He spoke in rather strong terms: "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye!" (Matthew 7:5 NKJV).

But how do we get rid of those planks that irritate our eyes so badly?

Jesus came to the world to help us deal with them. The planks in our eyes are our sins and shortcomings that irritate us. He has provided a solution--Revelation 3 calls it an "eyesalve"--for removing planks from eyes.

The eyesalve of Revelation 3 helps us to see the plank--our sinful condition. But God does not leave us to struggle with the problem all alone. He provides forgiveness so that we can stop feeling irritated and angry over our sins. And He also provides the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us to overcome our sins.

Peace within

If you feel strife inside, and full of self-condemnation, don't let it spill over to the outside and irritate others in the church. Take your feelings of sinfulness and helplessness to Jesus, Who alone is able to deal with them. Ellen White counseled, "Stay on your knees until you feel the precious assurance of sins forgiven."

God has done all that He can to make peace with us: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1 NKJV).

What remains is for us to make peace with God by accepting His forgiveness and His Spirit to empower our lives. When we have made peace with God, it will be easier for us to make peace with our fellow human beings. And when we have done that, there will be peace in the church.

Then the promise of Jesus can be fulfilled: "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35 NKJV).

And when that happens, the church will be free to grow, drawing and attracting others to the love that Christ has placed within the hearts of the members.

The peace dividend has not materialized in the world. But it can be a real blessing in our churches as we learn to make peace with God, and with our brothers and sisters.

*-- Kenneth R. Wade,
Ministerial Secretary, SAUM*

At Rest



Daniel Liem Tien Oon was born on October 24, 1903 in Menado, Celebes (Indonesia). He passed away in California (USA) on March 20, 1992 at the age of 88 after a three-week hospitalization for congestive heart failure and kidney failure.

He attended a Chinese primary school in Singapore, then proceeded to Canton Christian College (Leng Nam University) in China for middle school. At the completion of his studies there, he was offered a scholarship to study medicine in England, but he returned to Menado instead to care for his sick father.

Back in Menado, he took Bible studies from an Adventist dentist, and was eventually baptized by Pastor Albert Munson. Pastor Munson also introduced him to the Adventist school in Kuching, Sarawak, and he began teaching Chinese there. Later, he was appointed principal of Sunny Hill School in Kuching.

At a teachers' convention in Singapore, he met Ellen Phuah Guay Eng. They were married on December 28, 1933.

In 1937 he became the chaplain at Penang Adventist Hospital in Peninsular Malaysia. Later he became active in evangelism, and conducted evangelistic meetings in various parts of Malaysia with such workers as Elder Fordyce Detamore and Elder Milton Lee. In the late 1940's, Pastor Liem pastored the church in Ipoh, Malaysia for several years.

Then he transferred to Singapore where he pastored the Chinese Church. There he had the satisfaction of seeing the church grow to the point where they had to

build a larger church. At the same time they also built San Yu High School. In 1947 Daniel Liem was ordained to the gospel ministry.

Later he pastored the Malay church on Dunman Road for some time before being transferred back to the Thomson Road Chinese Church. He continued to serve there until his retirement in 1965.

Even after retirement, Pastor Liem continued to help with evangelistic meetings in Sabah. In 1975 he moved to California (USA) to be near his children.

Pastor Liem is survived by his wife Ellen, two sisters, a brother, seven children, and five grandchildren.

-- Benny Liem, Teacher,
Southeast Asia Union College, Singapore

Literature Evangelists Have Top Month

Literature evangelists and publishing leaders throughout the Southeast Asia Union Mission are excited and giving thanks to God for sales over S\$114,700 during the month of April. This is the first time in many years that the L.E.s have gone over the S\$100,000 mark for a single month.

The goal of the literature ministry is not to see how many books they can sell but how many souls they can win. Yet, at the same time, there is a definite correlation between sales and baptisms. So far this year, the literature evangelists throughout the SAUM have been responsible for 27 precious souls coming to the Lord.

Several of the Missions in the SAUM had record sales during the month of April. Sarawak, with M\$41,304 (S\$26,725), and Peninsular Malaysia, with M\$73,804 (S\$47,755) in sales, both had record months. Within the entire SAUM, 31 L.E.s each had sales over S\$1,500 for the month. The highest sales for the month came from Joseph Phe, of the Sarawak Mission, with M\$13,273 (S\$8,590).

Thousands of spiritual and health books have gone out to the public. It is the prayer of each one in the publishing and literature ministry that the Holy Spirit will use these volumes to draw people closer to the Lord and bring many into the remnant church.

-- Rayburn Smith,
Publishing Department Director, SAUM

■ CAMBODIA ■

ADRA's Challenges in Cambodia

More than two decades of conflict and isolation have turned Cambodia into one of the poorest countries in the world, with large numbers of unemployed, disabled, vulnerable, and disadvantaged people. By contrast, however, for many people, living conditions in Phnom Penh city are among the most expensive in the world.

One of the biggest challenges which the church faces in Cambodia today is establishing a church infrastructure in a situation of extremely high costs of land and construction.

Now, with hope of a new era of democracy and economic recovery, Cambodia faces new challenges. It must resettle some 700,000 refugees, internally displaced persons, and demobilized soldiers. It must deal with continued fighting, bandits, undertrained and underpaid public servants, budgetary imbalances, tens of thousands of unexploded land mines, and a high prevalence of tuberculosis and a potentially-fatal strain of malaria.

The United Nations is finding the challenge of resettling the 360,000 refugees currently in Thai border camps a greater challenge than initially anticipated. The majority of refugees were supposed to return to the north-western provinces of Battambang, Siem Reap and others near the Thai border. However, the task of removing the land mines from the rich agricultural land in those provinces has proven to be a bigger task than originally thought. Also, many of the refugees would prefer to return and stay with relatives rather than settle on independent farm plots.

In addition, the United Nations is also finding it extremely difficult to find adequate land to meet their commitment of two hectares per family. Effort is now going into finding suitable land in any province. This makes it difficult for the church to find property on which to set up church programs. Prices have escalated, not only within the city of Phnom Penh but also in the surrounding provinces and in other provincial centers.

In planning to bring pastors back from overseas to act as leaders of the church program in Cambodia, the church is faced with the task of knowing the best way to meet the needs of an emerging church. Yet the Lord has promised that He has a thousand ways to provide for His people in meeting such challenges.

At the moment, the church has the opportunity of setting up an orphanage. There are people abroad interested in assisting with this type of activity. Currently

a site is being sought for the development of such a program.

Another serious consideration at present is an English language program. Officials in the country have suggested that this would be a very helpful venture. The younger generation in Phnom Penh are keenly interested to learn English, but they are also very interested in learning about Jesus Christ. Already there are dedicated returned refugees conducting Bible studies each afternoon with 10-25 young people.

Who knows how long this opportunity and the relatively peaceful conditions will last in the country. There are many challenges ahead, for the country, for the United Nations, and for the church. No doubt Satan will do his best to disrupt the processes that will enable Christianity to spread quickly through the country. Right now the harvest is truly ripe and plentiful, but the laborers are few. Yet ADRA and church leaders know that God can impress people with the urgent need to contribute financially and by offering their skills and their talents to His work in Cambodia.

-- Murray Millar,
ADRA Director, Cambodia

Literature Ministry to Enter Cambodia

Sometimes God takes events that are really bad and turns them into blessings for His church. The war in Cambodia appears to be one of those situations.

With between 500 and 600 very strong Seventh-day Adventist members returning from the refugee camps in Thailand, there is a tremendous opportunity for the church to begin the publishing work where there has never before been such a program.

In late March, the SAUM Publishing Director went into Cambodia representing the Home Health Education Service, seeking permission to employ sales people and to print health books. Visiting with various government Ministries and several publishing houses, he found medical personnel in Cambodia very supportive and eager to get the Adventist health books. They seem to have nothing to work with at this time, and it appears that the doors are wide open for beginning such a program there.

During April, the SAUM Publishing Director visited

the refugee camps to search for a suitable translator and future literature evangelists. Mr. Van Thorn, a layman who served as leader of the largest Adventist church in the refugee camp, volunteered to become the first returning Adventist refugee to be employed by the church as a translator. He is eager to get started. In fact, he will begin translating the newly-released *Eight Secrets of Health* at once.

Mr. Van Thorn has been able to get the needed documents processed for his return to Cambodia, and has already gone back to Phnom Penh where he is living in his parents' home. Already he has begun conducting 12 to 15 Bible studies per week.

One of the few Adventist refugees contacted who has any typing skills, Mr. Van Thorn is now completing a short computer course to enable him to use the computer

in his translation work. In mid-May, the church program in Cambodia received a computer, a printer, and a Khmer language software program for use in the translation work.

This is compatible with the facilities already in use at Thailand Publishing House (TPH) in Bangkok. Because of the present lack of printing equipment and supplies within Cambodia itself, for the time being, TPH will print the books or other Khmer language materials.

During the April recruiting trip to the refugee camp, 24 Cambodian refugees signed up to become literature evangelists. Currently the SAUM is searching for a good spiritual leader to train and direct in the literature ministry.

-- Rayburn Smith,
Publishing Department Director, SAUM

■ LOAS ■

Lao Church Delegates Attend Thai Youth Camp

Thailand Adventist Mission (TAM) youth were happy to welcome delegates from the SDA Church in Vientiane, Laos, for their recent youth camp.

Seldom are the Laotian members able to leave the country to attend Thailand Mission functions. With advance planning and much prayer, however, the pastor and three members received permission to attend the Mission-wide youth camp held recently in Muak Lek, Vientiane church pastor Houmphanh Saengphengphet led the three young people into Thailand by train to Bangkok and then by bus to the camp site.

For more than two years, the Thailand Adventist



Pastor Houmphanh (front row) and three young ladies from Laos pose with TAM leaders in front of Thailand Mission headquarters in Bangkok.

Mission office team prayed for a church pastor for Laos. Pastor Houmphanh, a former Sunday pastor who became a Seventh-day Adventist in the refugee camps, immigrated to France. There he was actively involved in pastoral ministry among the refugees in Paris and other cities. Recently Pastor Houmphanh voluntarily repatriated his family back to Laos, and accepted the position as pastor of the church. Under his able leadership, TAM leaders are expecting a revival of the spirit of evangelism

which has characterized the Laotian church members.

-- W. S. Bassham, President, TAM

■ PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ■

Johore Bahru Church Has Landscaping Day

Instead of the usual formal attire, Johore Bahru church members came to church wearing their best casual wear on May 1 for the church landscaping day. Armed with hats, scarves, gloves and even sunglasses, they came prepared for all kinds of weather. The blistering heat and then a heavy rain failed to dampen spirits as church members young and old spent a day clearing, digging and planting.

For the past year, Johore Bahru Church has had some renovations done to its interior. As members work toward soul winning, they also realize that God's house must look its best, both inside and out.

Organized by church pastor Elmo See, the landscaping day was just one of many programs planned to promote church growth and unity. Weekly church attendance has been very encouraging, with church pews almost full every week. More people are involved in church activities, and there is a general excitement in doing the Lord's work.



All glory and honor belongs to the Lord as Johore Bahru Church hopes to be evangelical in nature and visionary in outlook. "Unless the Lord builds the house, their labor in vain who build it" (Psalm 127:1).

-- Peter Ramdas, Deacon, Johore Bahru Church

Ipoh Has SAUM's First Adventurer Club

The Ipoh Chinese Church in Peninsular Malaysia has been the first to take the challenge to organize an Adventurer Club for the children. The Adventurer Club is a Seventh-day Adventist, church-sponsored ministry open to all children ages 6-9, in which the church, home and school join together to help children grow joyfully in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.



Ipoh "Adventurers" stand with Pastor Koubong (left) and club leaders Pastor and Mrs. Leong Fai.

The Adventurer Club could also be considered the pre-Pathfinder Club, preparing the younger school-aged children to go into Pathfinders later on. The club has its own uniform and awards, insignia, and class curriculum.

In the Ipoh church, Pastor Leong Fai and his wife have been actively involved in getting the Adventurer Club established. Of the eight members currently attending, only three are Adventists.

Each one of the churches throughout the Southeast Asia Union Mission should be challenged to begin active Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs, that children can learn the real adventure of knowing God's love.

-- Shupinar Koubong,
Church Ministries Director, SAUM

■ SABAH ■

San Yuk Reaches out through Children

Tadika San Yuk, the SDA kindergarten in Kota Kinabalu, held a special Sports Day in early May. Since the majority of the 60 pupils enrolled this year are from non-Adventist families, the Sports Day gave the parents and other visitors a sampling of the Adventist hospitality, physical fitness patterns and lifestyle.

Pupils in their bright blue and white uniforms took part in open-air games meant to recreate and strengthen their young bodies. Contests on speed, physical strength, endurance and talent put excitement into the usually quiet compound of the three-room school center.



Teachers and friends supervise a friendly tug-of-war during Sports Day.

Now in its sixth year of operation, the school is a nearly self-supporting effort of the Chinese SDA community in Kota Kinabalu. According to the kindergarten administrator, Mrs. Elizabeth Gan, "The school is meant primarily to bring back God's lost souls through children from two-and-a-half to six years of age." Seeds of truth are continually being planted, and there are signs that the young, tender minds molded within the walls of Tadika San Yuk are living out Biblical truths in their homes and in their other spheres of influence.

*-- Moises Sumile, Church Editor,
Luyang English-Malay Church, Sabah*

Music Draws Sabah Youth Together

A choral concert entitled "Crossroad" brought ten Adventist choirs into the Luyang SDA Church in Kota Kinabalu in a rare show of musical strength of Adventist youth on May 2.

Sponsored by the Sabah Adventist Mission, the program gave church members a glimpse of the musical talent of local youth. Sabah's Advent Heralds sang such songs as "Just a Little Talk with Jesus" and "Hosanna." The Sabah Adventist Secondary School AY Singers encouraged members to "Give the World a Smile," while another choir singing in the Bahasa Malaysia language exhorted youth to "Lift up the Trumpet." Other groups included church choirs from various areas, the Kota Kinabalu Ladies Chorus, the KK Juniors, and several quartets.

Between musical numbers, Dr. Elvin Chong and Pastor Francis Lajanin provided inspirational messages. Sabah Mission Associate Church Ministries Director Nelson Bingku defined the meaning of "crossroad"--a moment of challenge and decision-making.

The concert buoyed up the spirits of many. Those from small churches, unaccustomed to having church choirs, particularly enjoyed the good music. And hopefully it was a moment of decision-making for some "twilight" Adventists and guests confronted with the challenge to come closer to God through the messages in music.

*-- Moises Sumila, Church Editor,
Luyang English-Malay Church, Sabah*

Youth Enjoy Island Spiritual Feast

Tiny, scenic Sapi Island, a ten-minute speedboat ride from Sabah's capital city, was the setting for solemn meditation and vibrant laughter for 24 young people of the Luyang English-Malay church in Kota Kinabalu during mid-April.

Students, professionals, business people, and government employees recharged their spiritual "batteries" in an AY-sponsored camp with the theme "Excellence: God's purpose for His Youth." Various

speakers presented messages on such topics as the price of excellence, proving one's own work (Galatians 6:4), and spiritual growth and excellence in Christian norms.

The group studied, played, giggled, sang, and prayed together on a shaded beach, with the blue-green seas and lapping waves in front and a steep, forested hill behind. Between morning and evening devotionals and prayer sessions, the youth had bonfire programs, beach races, physical fitness drills, swimming and snorkeling in the shallows, hill climbing, treasure hunting, exploring, and more Bible studies.

During the camp, the young people learned more about trust in God, the need for diligence, accuracy "to show themselves approved," and keeping godly principles intact in their lives.

*-- Moises Sumile, Church Editor,
Luyang English/Malay Church, Sabah*

Witness Bears Fruit in Kinadaan

Christianity is spreading like a sweet fragrance since the village of Kinadaan accepted Jesus Christ. Previously, every family was reluctant to accept Christianity. They dared not venture to become Seventh-day Adventists because of the food and other restrictions, so they continually made excuses.

When one family took the first stand to accept Christianity, however, others followed. Jamal was the first believer to bring the gospel message to his fellow villagers. And his family was the first to take their stand.

At first only four families attended church regularly. Yet, through their influence, many more began to attend. Now an average of 100 adults and children regularly attend church in Kinadaan.



Pastor Morris Bonsoi (center front) meets in a village home in northern Sabah for an evangelistic effort.

Recently, Pastor Morris Bonsoi conducted an evangelistic effort in the village. At the end of the meetings, ten people were baptized, including two adults who had been non-Christians and eight children from members' families. Although the village chief has still not accepted the Lord, he is showing considerable interest in the message and is taking Bible studies.

A four-hour bicycle journey from Kinadaan Village, one lone Seventh-day Adventist woman worships in Tawanan Village. Mrs. Saloma Ondog was baptized in June 1991 because of the influence of Kinadaan Village church members.

Since her baptism, however, Mrs. Saloma has received many threats from her husband and criticism from fellow villagers of another religion. Yet the visits of the Seventh-day Adventist pastor have given her courage to endure the trials she faces, and have answered the many questions she has had regarding the Word of God. The pastor from Kinadaan also held an evangelistic series in Tawanan Village during early 1992 in the earnest hope that the seed sown there will someday bear fruit in souls for the Kingdom.

-- Morris Bonsoi, Intern Pastor

■ SARAWAK ■

What Is Harvest Sabbath?

"What is Harvest Sabbath?" wondered two old women. They had seen such a program conducted every year in their church at Putah, but had never really been convinced about its benefits.

In their home, however, they began to realize something. Their children were healthy, they had enough food to eat, and there seemed to be happiness at home. Surely this must be because God was blessing their home. Impressed by this thought, they decided to join the Harvest Sabbath programs from then onward.

These two women have experienced God's wonderful care and blessings, and have promised to return God's portion--not only on Harvest Sabbath days, but every time they have some income.

Harvest Sabbath is a special day when God's people bring their tithes--in kind or in seeds--to the church to be blessed before planting their fields. It is a day of rejoicing and thanks to God for the bountiful blessings received during the past year.

On Harvest Sabbath, members give inspiring testimonies of how God has blessed them. In some churches, members have a potluck meal together, where the blessed seeds are in the center of the table with all the good food around the outside of the table. As the blessing is asked upon the food, another blessing is also asked upon the seed.



These two village ladies now realize the blessing of Harvest Sabbath.

Although tithes and offerings are given on other Sabbaths as well, Harvest Sabbath is a special day. It is a time for recounting God's many blessings, in many different forms, to His honest, sincere and faithful people.

The 1992 Harvest Sabbath programs in Sarawak were held on May 1-9. During this time, Sarawak Mission staff, pastors, and church officers were busy conducting the programs in many churches.

Harvest Sabbath has become a yearly affair, as God's people have been strengthened through the program. Even though they may not always have such a good harvest, they are inspired to stay on with God. The members believe what the Psalmist said, "I have been young and now am old. Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken nor his descendants begging for bread."

In the town of Behem, one non-Adventist family was impressed by the Harvest Sabbath idea and by the great faith of their Adventist neighbors. This family have been coming to church for quite some time. Now they are taking Bible studies and are looking forward to baptism in the near future.

-- Shupinar Koubong, Stewardship Director, SAUM

U. S. Volunteers Build Church

On April 1 -- No fooling! -- a group of 51 volunteers from the Upper Columbia Conference (USA), arrived in Sarawak to build a new church for the Kepayang Village. They had less than two weeks to construct one of the largest churches in Sarawak.

The group was comprised mostly of secondary school students from the states of Washington and Oregon, plus several professional builders, a doctor, a dentist, and the Conference youth director.

The villagers had worked for several weeks, cutting and sawing timber, getting other building materials together, and putting in the foundations. The village members continued working with the group--finishing pouring the last of the cement floor near midnight on Saturday night before the group left.



Volunteers and villagers finish the floor of the Kepayang Church.

The total cost of the building was about US\$15,000 (S\$24,750), though its actual value is considerably more. It has seating capacity for about 300 worshippers.

Previously the 150 church members were cramped into a wooden building which should have seated only about 100. Previously, because of lack of space to accommodate new members, district Pastor Gibbson Siaw hardly felt like conducting any evangelistic meetings among the more than 500 residents of Kepayang Village or in any of the several other nearby villages. Now, however, enthusiasm is running high, and Mission leaders expect the new church will soon be full.

-- Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

Semukoi Church Experiences New Growth

For nine years, there had been no baptism at the Semukoi Church, a little jungle chapel which sits half-hidden above a high bank along the main highway through Sarawak. The same people have been worshipping every Sabbath for all this time, but no new members were coming in.

Then, the Sarawak Mission Committee assigned ADRA Director Petrus Ngadan to care for the little group. He set as his goal to prepare six people for baptism during the year. When he started his baptismal class, a number of people began to come, and the attendance kept growing.

At the end of the first quarter of this year, 23 people were baptized. And still more are joining the baptismal class.

-- Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

Sarawak Children Get Vacation Bible Schools

Scores of children in Sarawak have been hearing the Gospel through Vacation Bible Schools, and young people have experienced the thrill of becoming involved in Gospel work by helping to conduct these VBS programs. Even young people from the Far Eastern Academy in Singapore, from the Upper Columbia Conference in the USA, and others from Ayer Manis School in Sarawak assisted in these Vacation Bible Schools.



Children enjoy coloring exercises during the Vacation Bible School.

The delight of the children in the VBS programs was readily visible on their faces. More VBS programs are planned throughout the year.

-- Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

■ SINGAPORE ■

Retiring Carpenter Receives Special Gift

Mr. Seen Ming, a skillful carpenter in the Youngberg Adventist Hospital (YAH) maintenance department, retired from active service recently after spending 30 years of his life serving the Lord at YAH.

The countless pieces of furniture Mr. Seen has built for the hospital and for staff housing through the years will

remain as monuments of his good work. Yet perhaps more important is the monumental step that his wife has taken at last.

As a Seventh-day Adventist, Mr. Seen's earnest prayer has always been that his wife would join him in the family of God. Hospital personnel have maintained contact with Mrs. Seen and visited her from time to time. Finally Mrs. Esther Khor, of the hospital chaplaincy department, was able to begin Bible studies with her.

Then, during the first quarter of 1992, Mrs. Seen was baptized at the Thomson Road Chinese Church. Mr. Seen now rejoices that on Sabbaths he can worship God together with his lifelong companion. Although the hospital organized a farewell party in his honor, Mr. Seen's greatest gift is the conversion of his wife.

-- Jonathan Ng, Public Relations Director, YAH

Youth Congress Develops Unity

The first Singapore Youth Congress was held at the Nanyang Technological University hostel from April 16 to 19, sponsored by the Singapore Mission. Forty youth leaders or would-be leaders from the eight Singapore SDA churches participated in the congress.

The three primary objectives of the congress were to instruct youth on how to have meaningful daily devotions, to equip them with various methods of giving Bible studies, and to explore the problems and interests of the youth today.

During the congress, the youth attended lectures and they took part in panel presentations, group discussions, role-plays, question and answer periods, and seminar-type sessions. They also enjoyed a unity in lively singing.

For the programs, the resource personnel were the youth leaders themselves. With hands-on experience in various fields of youth ministry, and being in touch with the local setting, these leaders were down-to-earth in their presentations and leadership.

Camp directors also focused on present, sensitive youth issues, and how to meet the challenge of assimilating God's eternal principles in today's ever-changing world. God's unchanging Word has the answers, and youth need to rely on that Word daily, to be in touch with Jesus and the world around them.



Since the congress, youth have followed up with several more Sabbath afternoon meetings at San Yu High School.

-- Chan Shee Wai, Youth Director, SAM

Couples Attend Parenting Seminar

At the Jurong English Church, 18 couples attended a Parenting Seminar every Sabbath afternoon from March 14 to April 4. Of those who came, 13 couples were parents of children who attend the daily kindergarten program at the Jurong Church. Two other couples were newly-married and have no children yet.

The four-session seminar was conducted by Pastor Elton Lee Ki-Plin, the Singapore Mission Director for Family Life. Topics for the seminar included "Four Parenting Styles," "Loving Control," "Acceptance and Affirmation," and "Dealing with Problem Situations."

Teachers of the SDA Kindergarten at Jurong Church helped during the seminar to conduct a Story Hour for the children while the parents attended the seminar.

-- Alfred Low, Family Life Coordinator
Jurong English Church

■ THAILAND ■

Miracle Wins Family and Friends

When Vang Seng was only a small boy, he was attacked by sickness. He grew thin and couldn't eat much, he cried almost constantly, but no one knew what was wrong with

him. Many assumed that he was demon possessed. Through the years, the family took Vang Seng to see many witch doctors, but not one of them could heal him. Finally the family took him to see a doctor, but even the doctor's many medicines did no good.

At last, someone suggested calling a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. Thus, while on itinerary from Thailand Mission headquarters, Pastor Rangsit Saejang visited Vang Seng's Hmong village of Na Hong Tai, 150 kilometers from the northern Thailand city of Chiang Mai. Pastor Rangsit brought no medicines. Instead he brought only God's book, the Bible. He quoted a few verses and explained them to the family. Then he prayed to God for Vang Seng's healing. After the prayer, Vang Seng became calm, his breathing became normal, and his body was healed.

Through this experience the whole family have become Seventh-day Adventists and have remained faithful. They have learned to pray to God whenever they encounter sickness or problems.

Their faithfulness and the victories Vang Seng and his family have experienced have influenced several other people in the village to accept Christ as their personal Saviour.

Although Na Hong Tai Village still does not have a church, they worship in one of the homes, and hope that they can someday have a proper place to worship God.

-- Shupinar Koubong,
Church Ministries Director, SAUM

Phuket Hospital Begins Expansion

On May 18, excavation began at Phuket Adventist Hospital for the construction of a new three-storey wing. The additions to the hospital will cost an estimated Bhat 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 (approximately S\$1,500,000 to 2,000,000).



The architects picture the new wing at Phuket Adventist Hospital.

Since its humble beginnings more than 50 years ago, Phuket Adventist Hospital has grown into a 50-bed facility providing high-quality medical care to the community and to many tourists visiting the Phuket area. More than just an ordinary hospital, its goal has been to promote the physical, mental, and spiritual health of each patient, regardless of nationality, creed, or social status.

As the staff look to the challenges and demands of the future, they recognize the need for an updated and expanded facility to better serve their patients. This new wing will provide a modern and spacious in-patient wing. In addition, it will allow for considerable expansion of the hospital's other services and departments, including the operating and emergency rooms.

Because of the dedication of doctors and staff who have worked unceasingly with God to achieve this goal, the hospital has already set aside Bhat 13,000,000 from hospital earnings. More recently, the Half-Century Building Fund has been established to allow the many clients and friends of Phuket Adventist Hospital to have a part in the building program.

Construction is expected to be completed by February 1993.

-- Nursia Supunavong, President
Phuket Adventist Hospital
-- John Malkiewicz, Building Consultant
Phuket Adventist Hospital

Hmong Youth Have Camp

A total of 380 Adventist and non-Adventist Hmong youth attended a Youth Camp at Mae Tang Academy in northwestern Thailand from March 31 to April 5.

The well-organized camp, conducted by the Hmong youth who are taking the Theology course at the Muak Lek campus of Mission College, focused on the theme "Go! And Witness to Others."

The theology students led out in small group discussions relevant for the youth today. In the afternoons they had social activities in which all the youth could get to know each other better.

In addition to many Hmong pastors giving their support to the camp, various Mission personnel also attended. They included Pastor Anucha Saeyong, TAM Youth Director, Pastor Rangsit Saejang, TAM Secretary, and Pastor Shupinar Koubong, SAUM Church Ministries Director.



Pastor Rangsit introduces the baptismal candidates at the Hmong youth camp.

On Sabbath, April 14, four adults and 25 young people were baptized as the result of youth activities and pastoral efforts.

As the camp ended on Sunday, the youth left with renewed determination to witness to more people so they can double the attendance at the next youth camp.

*-- Shupinar Koubong, Church Ministries Director
SAUM*

Maw Lum Goes to Singapore

On Sunday, April 12, an ADRA team from Thailand presented an AIDS-education program to approximately 18,000 northeastern Thai laborers on Singapore's Sentosa Island.

The program, which featured the Maw Lum drama of northeastern Thailand as well as popular Thai music, also included a short speech by the Thai ambassador to Singapore and a blessing by a Thai Buddhist priest. The entire program, held on Thailand's National Day, lasted from just before noon until after 6:00 p.m. The Maw Lum drama took the last two hours of the program.

Singapore currently has an estimated 40,000 laborers from the northeastern area of Thailand. Because of their lifestyle, these laborers are considered a high-risk group for AIDS (Auto-immune deficiency syndrome).

Sudden Unexpected Nocturnal Death Syndrome (SUNDS) is also a concern for this group, as several Thai workers have died in their sleep while working in Singapore. The syndrome appears to be the result of prolonged

physical and psychological stress. The laborers often work 14 or more hours per day, sometimes for seven days a week. They live together in crowded quarters, and often do not eat proper meals. Some of the songs and messages during the ADRA program were directed at this particular problem.

The ADRA program has been developed in conjunction with Sisaket Hospital, whose staff have helped with script writing, locating players, and logistics. The drama has gone to many of the villages throughout the Sisaket province, and has recently gone to Bangkok as well.

The Thai Ministry of Public Health and the World Health Organization funded most of the Singapore trip. The Office of the Labour Attache of the Royal Thai Embassy in Singapore cared for most of the arrangements and publicity for the program in Singapore.



A mother laments the departure of her son for work in a distant city.

The Thai population in Singapore received the program well. Most of the 18,000 workers in attendance sat in rapt attention for the entire six-plus hours of entertainment, although some near the front were more enthusiastic and demonstrative in their response. Many expressed appreciation for the program which gave them an opportunity to see their own culture in a relaxing atmosphere.

Short scenes from the ADRA program were televised on Singapore's evening news program. In Bangkok, the **Bangkok Post** newspaper gave wide coverage to the event.

*-- Jeffery D. Wright
Director of Public Relations, ADRA/Thailand*

Opium Addict Becomes Adventist

Lao Shan is from the village of Khun Sa, nearly three hours' drive from the town of Chiang Mai near the Golden Triangle in northwestern Thailand. And Lao Shan loved his opium. He had smoked it for many years.

For years his Seventh-day Adventist children had been praying for him. Through their prayers and their influence, Lao Shan's wife had already been baptized. But he was not interested in joining the church.



At last Lao Shan has exchanged his opium for the love of Jesus.

The family continued praying for him. They kept telling him of the love of Jesus and the beautiful home He is preparing in Heaven. At last, after many long years, Lao Shan felt the Holy Spirit's conviction to give up his opium and give his life to Jesus Christ.

Lao Shan began to take Bible studies. Then, during the Hmong youth camp in early April, Lao Shan was baptized, finally united with his family in trusting the Lord and waiting for His soon coming.

-- Shupinar Koubong, Church Ministries Director
SAUM

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SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION COLLEGE



Shepherdess Programs Benefit Ministerial Student Wives

When, at the beginning of 1992, Mrs. Dorothy Walter became the coordinator of SAUM Shepherdess International, one of her goals was to organize a Shepherdess group for the wives of Theology students studying at Southeast Asia Union College.

Shepherdess International is an organization for the wives of pastors. The main objective of this particular group, however, is to better equip the wives of the Theology students to support their husbands' ministry when they return to serve in their own Missions. While the husbands are upgrading at the college, there must also be some professional growth for the wives.

Since January, Mrs. Debby Wade has given a lively demonstration on fundamentals of music, and another demonstration on cooking healthful, low-cost vegetarian food with locally available ingredients. Dr. Linda Koh of SAUC discussed handling teenage children in the family, and advised that only with God can one be successful in such a venture.

-- Susan Koubong
Shepherdess Coordinator for Singapore

Students Offered Hope for Tomorrow

For the first time, the SAUC Bible Camp was held immediately following the Week of Spiritual Emphasis and had the same speaker. Moreover, it is unprecedented that both events shared the same theme: "Courage for Today, Hope for Tomorrow."

The speaker for this year's programs was Dr. John Brunt, the Vice President for Academic Administration at Walla Walla College (WWC). He has previously served as a pastor, a professor, and as the Dean of the School of Theology at WWC. Dr. Brunt holds a PhD in New Testament Studies, with a secondary emphasis in Christian Ethics. He is also the author of several books and articles.

The Week of Spiritual Emphasis began on Monday, May 4, and ended on Thursday, May 7. During the one-hour sessions, Dr. Brunt stressed that God has a plan for every student. And because of that, each one can have the courage to face the challenges of today and can have hope for the future.

On Thursday night, many of the college students and

faculty members boarded busses bound for the Bible Camp. The camp was held at the Agricultural Park at Shah Alam in Selangor State. With 110 attending, this may have been the largest Bible Camp that the Student Association of SAUC has ever organized. The camp included a rich blend of outdoor activities and spiritual inspiration.

After each concise and brief presentation by Dr. Brunt, students participated in group discussions. During the final worship session of the camp, Dr. Brunt shared his personal testimony, and requested his wife Ione to share hers. Many students were touched as she told of her struggles and trials during her childhood and when she became a Christian. At the close of the meeting, four SAUC students walked forward to accept the call to commit their lives to Christ through baptism in the near future.

One of the highlights of the Bible Camp was the Sabbath morning baptism of two SAUC students, Anjana Sharma and Abel Law, in a nearby lake.

-- Johnny Kan, Theology major, SAUC

Phoon Returns from Sabbatical

Dr. Phoon Chek Yat, chairman of the Theology Department of SAUC, recently returned from a quarter of study and research in the USA. Dr. Phoon spent a month at the School of World Missions of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and slightly more than a month at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

While at Fuller, he studied in the area of church growth and Islamic studies. He also taught a class in Asian Church History, with emphasis on the church in Southeast Asia. At Vanderbilt he engaged in research and seminars on Asian theologies.

This short sabbatical has been both refreshing and enlightening for Dr. Phoon. He commented, "In communicating the Gospel to the Southeast Asians, one needs to be conscious of the great amount of Asian resources that are within reach, such as Asian piety, courtesies, and the rich religious symbolism." He felt that another important lesson which he learned was that "Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, came to preach the Gospel not only with words but with His life. He came to preach the Gospel of relationships. This Gospel is not a new Gospel, but a great reminder for all who are interested to communicate it."

-- Gary Brendel, Academic Dean, SAUC

All His Biddings Are Enablings

Christ on the Mount of Olives had spoken to His disciples of His second advent to the world. He had specified certain signs that were to show when His coming was near, and had bidden His disciples watch and be ready....Then He showed what it means to watch for His coming. The time is to be spent, not in idle waiting, but in diligent working.

We are not our own. We have been "bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:20), not "with corruptible things, as silver and gold,...but with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18,19).

All men have been bought with this infinite price. By pouring the whole treasury of heaven into this world, by giving us in Christ all heaven, God has purchased the will, the affections, the mind, the soul, of every human being. Whether believers or unbelievers, all men are the Lord's property. All are called to do service for Him, and...all will be required to render an account at the great judgment.

In becoming [Christ's] disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men....No one who is not growing daily in capability and usefulness is fulfilling the purpose of life. In making a profession of faith in Christ we pledge ourselves to become all that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master, and we should cultivate every faculty to the highest degree of perfection, that we may do the greatest amount of good of which we are capable.

The Lord has a great work to be done, and He will bequeath the most in the future life to those who do the most faithful, willing service in the present life. The Lord...chooses His agents not because they are perfect but because, through a connection with Him, they may gain perfection.

God will accept only those who are determined to aim high. He places every human agent under obligation to do his best. Moral perfection is required of all.

And those who would be workers together with God must strive for perfection of every organ of the body and quality of the mind.

But Christ has given us no assurance that to attain perfection of character is an easy matter. A noble, all-round character is not inherited. It does not come to us by accident. A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; we form the character. It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies. We shall have to criticize ourselves closely, and allow not one unfavorable trait to remain uncorrected.

Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not, then you can not overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God.

Many whom God has qualified to do excellent work accomplish very little, because they attempt little. Thousands pass through life as if they had no definite object for which to live, no standard to reach.

Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set. Then set your mark high, and step by step, even though it be by painful effort, by self-denial and sacrifice, ascend the whole length of the ladder of progress. Let nothing hinder you. Fate has not woven its meshes about any human being so firmly that he need remain helpless and in uncertainty. Opposing circumstances should create a firm determination to overcome them. The breaking down of one barrier will give greater ability and courage to go forward. Press with determination in the right direction, and circumstances will be your helpers, not your hindrances.

In every phase of your character building you are to please God. This you may do; for Enoch pleased Him though living in a degenerate age. And there are Enochs in this our day.

Stand like Daniel...a man whom no temptation could corrupt. Do not disappoint Him who so loved you that He gave His own life to cancel your sins. He says, "Without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5. Remember this. If you have made mistakes, you certainly gain a victory if you see these mistakes and regard them as beacons of warning. Thus you turn defeat into victory, disappointing the enemy and honoring your Redeemer.

A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. Those who are under the instruction of Christ in this world will take every divine attainment with them to the heavenly mansions. And in heaven we are continually to improve. How important, then, is the development of character in this life.

To everyone engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you.

As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.

Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 325-333