

SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION

Messenger

ISSN 0026-0371

M.I.T.A. (P) No. 138/5/92

July-August 1992



First Adventist Youth Congress

-- see page 6 for report

How to Be Forgiven

My mother was sharing her faith with an older woman. "But I'm not a sinner," the woman protested. "I've never killed anyone or stolen anything."

Yet the Bible says that "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 NKJV); "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (1 John 1:10 NKJV).

One day I fell into conversation with a woman who had a different view of how to deal with the sins and shortcomings in her life. "I'm always looking for a way to help other people," she explained. "I figure, as long as I keep doing that, when the tally comes up in the end, there should be more good things than bad on my record, and St. Peter will have to let me in through the pearly gates."

But the Bible says that even our righteous deeds are like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6)—in other words, even the good things we do are like a tattered and soiled robe that can't cover up our sinfulness and make us clean in the sight of God.

Neither denial nor doing good can really solve the problem of sin in our lives. We all need forgiveness. And that is why God has made forgiveness so freely available to us. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9 NKJV).

Unforgiven Christians

Despite our ready access to forgiveness, however, millions of Christians go to bed every night without having their sins forgiven!

Have your sins been forgiven? Or are you among the millions of Christians who have not had a sin forgiven for many years? Even though you pray for forgiveness every night, or even many times a day, your sins may still be registered in the books of heaven, without having been blotted out by the blood of Jesus.

Heresy, you say? Or a denial of the grace of God? But it is no heresy, no denial of God's grace. My claim is based firmly on the words of Jesus Himself.

"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," He taught us to pray. And if the wording of the Lord's Prayer did not make enough of an impression by itself, immediately at the close of the prayer He repeated the

basis on which we can claim God's forgiveness: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:12,14,15 NKJV).

The reason so many Christians go to bed unforgiven is that they do not forgive their fellow human beings. If you have confessed your sins and asked for forgiveness,

and if you have forgiven those who sinned against you, then you need not worry about unforgiven sins being left on your record. God wants to forgive you. He will forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness.

Why was Jesus so strict in His teaching that we **must** forgive others in order to receive forgiveness? Was He setting up a sort of works-centered grace

whereby we can earn forgiveness by being forgiving?

No, we can not earn forgiveness.

I believe that Jesus' reason for requiring us to be forgiving can most easily be summed up in the concept that as we grow closer to Him, we are to grow to be more like Him. And the whole purpose of His coming to earth was to make forgiveness available. Therefore, if we withhold the very thing that He came to give, we are obstructing the fulfillment of His mission of salvation to the world.

There is something else we also need to consider. Jesus wanted His church to be united, holy, happy in fellowship. He knew that if church members did not learn to forgive one another, the unity of the church would be shattered. He also knew that shattered churches could not effectively reach out to heal broken lives.

Lack of forgiveness and reconciliation in the church does more to hinder the spread of the gospel than almost any other disease that afflicts Christ's body. It drives people away from one another, and keeps others from wanting to join the fellowship of the body.

In the next part of this series, we will look at Jesus' directions on how to deal with anger and how to bring greater harmony into the body of Christ—the church where you attend.

— Kenneth R. Wade, Ministerial Secretary, SAUM

A short time ago, the General Conference president, Elder Robert Folkenberg, wrote an article on independent ministries. The article was printed in the *Adventist Review* and then later in the *Far Eastern Division Outlook*. Elder Folkenberg's article is reprinted below.

Our world church leader has made it clear that many independent Seventh-day Adventist groups around the globe are supporting and enabling the church to move forward in the task of spreading the three angels' messages during these last hours of earth's history. Every talent and every individual in the church should be used now for furthering God's task on earth.

Recently, however, some division has come into the church in Southeast Asia because of misunderstandings between several independent groups and the world church organization. We trust that the statement by the General Conference president in this issue of *Messenger* will serve to call every one of the members and leaders of our churches into fruitful, productive witness and ministry.

-- George C. Johnson, President, SAUM

The General Conference President Speaks about Independent Ministries

Dear fellow believers: I want to share a concern with you that lies close to my heart. Many of you have written or called me asking about independent ministries, and I want you to know where I stand. Is it true that the General Conference is out to destroy independent ministries? The answer is no!

I have been told there are several hundred entities not integrally connected with the church. Almost all of these make a significant, positive contribution to the mission of the church. Many of these are affiliated with Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) and provide a wide variety of services to fellow Adventists and the public, including vegetarian restaurants, educational institutions, health-care, publishing, religious radio and TV broadcasts, and orphanages. These prefer to be known as *supporting ministries* of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

One ministry supports a cadre of evangelists who are made available to church organizations around the world. Another, Maranatha Volunteers International, having overseen the construction of hundreds if not thousands of buildings for the church around the world, recently completed its largest single project ever -- in the Dominican Republic, where more than 1,200 volunteers built 25 churches in 70 days!

By Their Fruits Ye Shall . . .

Organizations demonstrating by their fruit a commitment to the mission of the church merit both the descriptives *supporting* and *ministry* as well as the

appreciation and backing of church members and leaders. For these, "organizational independence" is only a matter of function and legal status, not mission. Their loyalty to the church and zeal for proclaiming present truth are indistinguishable from that of the church itself.

I recently read two compilations of Ellen White's writings dealing with "self-supporting" work and noted two characteristics: 1. "Self-supporting" is normally linked to the concept of "missionary." Independence from the church was born of the financial necessity to send families to unentered areas as missionaries, not by a mission different from that of the church.

2. "Self-support" is presented in the context of unity with the church. "The work of God in the earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers" (*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p.117).

The concept of an active laity and supporting ministry of the church is not only encouraged by Ellen White, but found in the example of the apostle Paul, who, by his own labor, supported himself and others as they spread the good news.

While the vast majority of these ministries truly are supportive and declare their loyalty to the church, a few private organizations, calling themselves "independent ministries," do not meet this standard. These point out what they see as deficiencies in the church, its members, and its leaders. Tragically, while subtly attributing these failings of a few to the church in general, they set

themselves up as the guardians of historic truth and as the only trustworthy expositors of God's Word.

On this foundation of distrust they build an organization that is not accountable to any wide constituency; foments doubt, distrust, and disunity (impediments to the latter rain); diverts millions of dollars that might better have been used for gospel proclamation among the vast populations of the world that have never heard the name of Jesus; and at times even drives members from the church! (See "Poison in the Mail," *Adventist Review*, March 12, 1992.)

Are there problems in the church? If so, do these failures justify the attacks by private organizations against the church?

To the first question the servant of the Lord answers, "There are evils existing in the church, and will be until the end of the world" (*Review and Herald*, Sept. 5, 1893). It's sad but true, for I am reminded every day that the evil one is hard at work within God's remnant church.

Continued Study Needed

To achieve personal spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of God's message to us, we must continually study the Word and the Spirit of Prophecy. But the exaggerated individualism that characterizes today's culture must not fragment the unity needed in God's final movement.

The vast majority of our teachers, pastors, editors, elders, and other leaders are firmly committed to the messages of the three angels of Revelation 14 and the fundamental beliefs that we hold dear.

Sadly, there are a few who, following modern trends, doubt the accuracy and/or authority of Scripture, reject one or more of these fundamental beliefs (the sanctuary and related truths are among the most frequent casualties), yet insist they have the "right" to remain in positions of responsibility. To these I appeal, fall on your knees and, with Scriptures in hand, search and pray until you have peace with God. If you find you are in harmony with the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we will rejoice with you. If not, simple honesty and ethics require that you resign any appointed, elected, or employed position until you can embrace that which our church upholds as truth.

A more common weakness in the church, however, is not rejection of the truth, but rather neglect of prayer and study of the Word. In harmony with the Perth Declaration (see *Adventist Review*, Nov. 7, 1991), I plead with teachers, pastors, editors, and other leaders to preach the Word and feed the flock. Enough of salvation by

psychology! We need a deeper understanding of the sinfulness of the human heart leading to repentance. Let us uplift Jesus and the cross, thus providing the sinner peace of mind, assurance of salvation in Christ, and connection to Him who is able to "keep you from falling and to present you faultless" (Jude 24).

Let me assure you I am not calling for uniformity. There is ample room for diversity in searching the Scriptures for truth, even while demonstrating a firm faith in the fundamentals.

Attacks on the Church

Do the failures of the church justify the attacks by private organizations against the church?

No! While there are problems in the church that must be resolved, these must be settled by those loyal to the church who are entrusted with responsibility at every level of church administration, beginning at the local congregation. Self-appointed critics, whose fiscal survival depends on their ability to shift members' loyalties from the church to themselves, have conflicting interests and therefore are untrustworthy counselors to the church. Their very survival appears to depend on the mix their leaders choose between piety and doctrine on the one hand and criticism of the church on the other.

The approaches of destructive critics vary widely. One group features the sensational, shrill, tabloid approach whose attacks stimulate a sharklike feeding frenzy against the church, albeit among a narrow audience. One of these, for example, recently reported falsely that I visited the pope twice this past year! The author never even called to check the "facts." One cannot help wondering why such an erroneous report was printed. The truth is that, I have never seen, met, or talked with the pope and have no reason or plan to do so. Neither has he asked for an appointment to see me!

A False Litmus Test of Orthodoxy

The mix of piety and criticism among others is more subtle. Their publications include a far higher proportion of that which is spiritual or doctrinal in nature, including reprinting of major segments of the Spirit of Prophecy. By proclaiming their convictions on a narrow list of topics, not accepted by the body as a whole as vital to our message, they, in effect, turn acceptance of their position on these issues into a litmus test of orthodoxy. Thus they draw a pious line in the sand by leading their readers/listeners to choose whom they will trust, the church or their private organization.

Some ministries in the name of piety and preaching

the straight testimony present quotations of Ellen White that encourage independent, self-supporting missionaries. At the same time they ignore the quotations calling for unity and the yielding of individual wisdom to the body of believers (*Historical Sketches*, pp. 122-125). Such behavior misrepresents spiritual counsel and gives the appearance of intellectual dishonesty. Tragically, the gullible are their lawful prey.

About these private organizations the servant of the Lord wrote: "Those who start up to proclaim a message on their own individual responsibility, who, while claiming to be taught and led of God, still make it their special work to tear down that which God has been for years building up, are not doing the will of God. Be it known that these men are on the side of the great deceiver. Believe them not. They are allying themselves with the enemies of God and the truth. They will deride the order of the ministry as a system of priestcraft. From such turn away, have no fellowship with their message, however much they may quote the *Testimonies* and seek to entrench themselves behind them. Receive them not, for God has not given them this work to do. The result of such work will be unbelief in the *Testimonies*, and, as far as possible, they will make of none effect the work that I have for years been doing . . . Those who thus bring the work of God into disrepute will have to answer before God for the work they are doing" (*Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 51, 52).

Attacks From Within

The church is being attacked from within by people on two extremes. One extreme undermines the authority of Scripture, our fundamental beliefs, and our distinctive end-time message. The other extreme, under the subtle guise of piety, attacks the structure, authority, and therefore the mission of the church. The church has, all too often, failed to address both attacks adequately.

Both extremes are destructive to God's expectations of His church. Both bring about disunity, an obstacle to the latter rain, and divert resources from our Lord's mission to His church. "There is a great work to be done in the world, a great work to be done in foreign lands . . . With all the responsibility upon us to go and preach the gospel to every creature, there is a great need of men and means, and Satan is at work in every conceivable way to tie up means . . . The money that should be used in doing the good work of building houses of worship, of establishing schools . . . is diverted from a channel of usefulness and blessing into a channel of evil and cursing" (*Ibid*, p. 43).

Jesus knew that the evil one would try to bring about disunity. Our Lord described the consequences of disunity when He said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand" (Matthew 12:25, NKJV). The apostolic record confirms the early church's struggle for unity.

Jesus' Plan for Unity

Jesus' divine plan to resolve differences, as described in Matthew 18:15-17, is too often ignored or forgotten. As your president, I ask your forgiveness for times when I may have skipped over any of the steps outlined in God's plan. Please pray that God will grant wisdom to those who must deal with those organizations whose activities tend to undermine either truth or mission. All church initiatives must be compassionate yet sustain the integrity of the church body.

I appeal to each pastor, Bible teacher, administrator, church board member, and leader to uphold God's Word and the teachings of God's remnant church and, following these biblical steps, under the guidance of the Spirit, to work together to keep our church unified. Let us, laity and employees alike, cease the derogatory remarks about others and follow Jesus' plan in dealing with wrong.

If the plan described in Matthew 18 doesn't seem to fit the problem you see, consider that it may not be a problem God has given you to resolve. Trust that God, who is in charge of all things, will use those He has delegated to "right the ship." On the other hand, if a problem is within your area of responsibility, pray that God will give you the wisdom and courage to carry out your responsibility.

I wish each could share the burden of opportunities waiting for action. For example, the doors into one of the largest Muslim countries in the world have been flung open. Also, today we can send a large number of workers to China and the countries of the former U.S.S.R., yet sufficient resources are not available to respond to these opportunities.

There are many reasons for this, such as collective selfishness instead of collective sacrifice. Many of us expect the church to meet so many of our felt needs, without the balancing Macedonian call from the unentered areas of the world, that we do good things to an excess! Too often resources needed to reach others with the gospel are consumed by those who already have received the good news. Another reason is diverted resources.

The dollars diverted to the few private organizations whose activities lead to disunity and shifted loyalties are resources Ellen White said would be better used for gospel proclamation.

Pray for Guidance

It is indispensable that each of us, prayerfully guided by the Holy Spirit, evaluate each private organization. Those whose loyalty to the message and mission of the church are above reproach, whose fruit gives evidence of new souls for the kingdom, deserve our prayers and support. On the other hand, those who cause the reader or viewer, whether subtly or directly, to choose between them and the church demonstrate that they are not inspired of God.

I admit to increasing frustration in dealing with this situation. Last summer, just before standing to preach a Sabbath sermon at a Canadian camp meeting, I was handed a sheaf of bulletins from another shrilly critical editor. I shared with the congregation my frustration with these destructive critics of the church. In retrospect, I wish I had shared my convictions with more tears in my voice and the pain in my heart rather than just the frustration. This is just evidence that God is not finished

with me yet.

I love this church. I believe our fundamental beliefs with all my heart. I believe the Lord's gospel commission was not a suggestion but a mandate. I believe Jesus is coming, and soon, sooner than most of us expect.

Are independent ministries of value? An organization's independence does not make it bad or good, holy or unholy. All, members, leaders, and organizations (church operated or independent) that contribute to hastening our Lord's return should be reinforced and supported, while those weakening the church and distracting from heaven's mission must be properly dealt with according to God's plan.

It hurts to see division in our churches and members deceived by attack and innuendo, when what we need is to fall at the cross with broken hearts, more concerned with sharing the good news of salvation than imposing our personal agenda and convictions on the church.

I appeal to all to "press together, press together, press together." I ask you to join hands with me in seeking the Lord and finishing the work.

*-- Robert S. Folkenberg, President,
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists*

■ SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION MISSION ■

Youth Are Challenged to Care, Share, and Dare for Christ

Approximately 90 young people from the Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM) had the opportunity to attend the first Adventist Youth Congress held in the Far Eastern Division for three decades. A total of 900 delegates from all over the Far East gathered at the beautiful campus of Universitas National Advent Indonesia (UNAI) near Bandung, Java, Indonesia, on July 20-25.

From the first ceremony on the grassy campus, where each delegation was dressed in colorful national costumes, to the baptism and final commitment on the last evening, the meetings vibrated with the theme "For I'm Building a People of Power."

Under the direction of Dr. David Wong, Youth Director for the Far Eastern Division, the youth congress was like a

mini-United Nations. Although English and Bahasa Indonesia were the languages primarily spoken, delegates from Korea, Taiwan, Japan and other countries each heard the messages in their own language through small transmitters and receivers.

Although a voice from the local mosque called the faithful to prayer at 4:00 a.m., by 5:30 each morning many voices could be heard praising God in beautiful songs at the UNAI auditorium. Through the day, delegates could participate in a variety of seminars. Two of the most popular seminars were one on love and courtship, and one on ministering to Adventist youth in secular universities. Other seminar topics included Global Mission and the Adventist Youth, Helping Others Lead a Drug-free Life, How to Live the Victorious Life, Methods of Evangelism, Pathfinderism, Sacred Music



Delegates represent SAUM in the Youth Congress.

in a Secular World, The Latter Rain and the Remnant Church, The New Age Movement, and Youth Alive!

The World Pathfinder Director, Elder Malcolm J. Allen, spoke for each morning devotional on the youth congress theme, "Youth Care, Youth Share, Youth Dare." He made the theme of caring, sharing and daring come alive through illustrations from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and contemporary times. Among the stories he cited was that of the three Hebrew youth standing on the Plain of Dura before Nebuchadnezzar's mighty golden image. The three stood up for God, sure to be noticed. Because they were

noticed, God received glory and honor, and others will be in heaven because they dared. Elder Allen challenged youth today to also be daring for God.

Elder Richard Barron, Director of Adventist Youth Services and Campus Ministry at the General Conference, also gave several talks on youth problems today. He particularly emphasized current lifestyle issues.

Youth from the Southeast Asia Union Mission took an active part in special music and cultural show presentations. Sabah, with 45 delegates, had the largest representation of any of the SAUM local missions. Sarawak had 15 delegates; Peninsular Malaysia, 11; Thailand, 6; and Singapore/SAUC 13. Victor Lee, Chaplain of the SDA School in Singapore, presented the Talking Hands, and also gave the Youth in Action report for the Singapore Mission and other missions in the SAUM.

The youth congress ended with a challenge to work for the baptism of 40,000 new converts by the end of 1994. At the close of the service, 68 delegates went forward to be baptized. At the close of the program, a cold-fireworks display emphasized the goal of each one present: "SEE YOU IN HEAVEN."

-- James Segar, SAUC Faculty Delegate

■ CAMBODIA ■

New Staff Arrive in Cambodia

On July 7, Tim Maddocks, along with his wife Wendy and children Caleb and Shannon, arrived in Phnom Penh from Western Australia to join the ADRA/Cambodia staff.

The next day Mr. Maddocks went to Siem Reap to begin his new work as project director for an agricultural project financed by the Australian government organization AIDAB. The aim of this three-year project is to assist farmers in improving their rice production.

During the 1960s, Cambodia exported rice. Today, however, Cambodia has the lowest rice yields in Asia, and the country has to import rice. As an agronomist, a specialist in soil management and crop production, Mr. Maddocks faces the challenge of helping to turn the situation around and bring farmers back to the point where they can live above poverty level.



Tim and Wendy Maddocks, with their children Shannon and Caleb, begin work in Cambodia.

Three new workers have also recently arrived to conduct an intensive English language course for 40 Cambodian physicians who are leading administrators in provincial and national government departments of health.

Jerry McKay, and Leon and Barbara Trupp, all from Canada, have already begun the three-month English course. This English study is preparatory to a Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree course scheduled to begin for the same physicians in March 1993.

ADRA is calling on the expertise of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines in order to meet this challenge. The Canadian government is giving partial sponsorship to this program, and ADRA is now looking for additional sponsors to meet all of the financial demands.

The potential influence of this course--at the national level as well as the local provincial level--is enormous. This is the first upgrading opportunity that Cambodian physicians have had in their country since before Pol Pot times. The practical nature of the course is expected to make a real impact on the primary health care programs of the government.

Hopefully many of these doctors will also become acquainted with the True Physician as a result of their association with the Christian teachers in the course.

-- Murray Millar, Director, ADRA/Cambodia

Global Mission Progresses in Cambodia

The people of Cambodia have suffered much in recent years. Everyone in the capital city, Phnom Penh, or in the refugee camps along the Thai border has lost family members or friends to the war and oppression. The Pol Pot/Khmer Rouge era from 1975 to 1979 led to the massacre of at least a million people. Thousands more died in the civil war that raged from 1979 until October of last year. Many who survived bear physical scars; all have experienced emotional wounds.

But as God looks down on this suffering nation, could it be that what He sees is a field that has been plowed and harrowed, waiting for the gospel seed to be planted?

Recent events inside Cambodia cause the leadership of the Southeast Asia Union Mission to think so. Because of the problems they have experienced, many Cambodians are disillusioned with their traditional religion and culture. They are open to consider Christianity.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has tried repeatedly to penetrate Cambodia with the three angels' messages. In the past, each attempt has ended in disappointment as political changes or war forced the closing of the work. It almost seems as though the people of Cambodia had to come outside of their country in order to hear and accept the gospel.

Pen Chenda, who once served as a policeman in Phnom Penh, fled his native country in the early 1980s, after the Vietnamese drove out the Khmer Rouge. In the Obok refugee camp in Thailand, he came in contact with Seventh-day Adventists whose caring attitude made a deep impression on him. After taking Bible studies, Chenda was baptized in the Site 2 refugee camp, and he began leading others to Christ.

Chenda made good use of his time in the refugee camps. He can now give Bible studies in four languages, and he has reaped a rich harvest of souls. For several years he served as the leader of a 40-member church in the Site 2 camp.

When the four warring factions signed a peace treaty last October, the United Nations began making preparations to repatriate all of the more than 300,000 refugees who were living in border camps. The U.N. immediately began seeking out the best-educated people in the camps to hire for work inside Cambodia.

Chenda was among several hundred who took a qualifying examination; he was one of only 30 who passed the test. That threw his life into a bit of turmoil. He had to decide whether to take a job with the United Nations or to continue his work as a lay Bible teacher.

"I prayed about it," he said. "And God said, 'You must work for me.'" So Chenda turned down the job with the U.N.

Today Chenda, along with his wife and six children, lives in Phnom Penh, working for a salary much smaller than what the U.N. would have paid him. But he is among the pioneers who are raising up a Cambodian church inside Cambodia. His language abilities are a great benefit to the work of the church.

Chenda is just one among the hundreds of Adventist believers who are currently moving into Cambodia, intent on spreading the good news that they learned in the refugee camps.

In Phnom Penh, on an average Sabbath, 70 to 100 people meet for two separate church services. Only a few of these are church members from the camps--most of those in attendance are university students and others who have lived in Phnom Penh for some time. Their interest in the gospel has been stirred up by letters from family members, or by

contact with Adventists who have recently moved to Phnom Penh to help in development work.

One of the church groups that meets is led by a woman whose sister is an Adventist living in France. This church leader herself has not yet been baptized, but she is so enthusiastic that she has even begun collecting building materials in preparation for building a church on her property.

The receptivity to the message in Cambodia today is nothing short of miraculous. The eagerness of those who attend church is thrilling. The challenge of winning this Buddhist nation for Christ is invigorating.

-- Kenneth R. Wade, Ministerial Secretary, SAUM

(Because there is no established church in the country, all support for the beginning of the work must come from special donations, which may be sent to the General Conference, marked for Cambodia Global Evangelism.)

ADRA/Cambodia Dedicates House for God

In Phnom Penh on July 7, ADRA leaders dedicated to God's glory a house purchased by the SAUM. The house is being shared by Mr. Pen Chenda and Ngam Vanthorn, two of the prominent leaders of the Khmer Seventh-day Adventists in Phnom Penh.

Present at the dedication were Mr. and Mrs. Murray Millar, Director of ADRA/Cambodia; Mr. and Mrs. Tim Maddocks, project director for the Siem Reap agricultural project; and Mr. Warren Scale, Director of ADRA/Thailand-Laos.

*-- Warren G. Scale,
Director, ADRA/Thailand-Laos*

■ PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ■

Kuantan Church Begins Major Project

For thirty years, the church group in Kuantan, on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia, have not had a church but have met instead in rented facilities. For some time, they have been holding worship services in a rented house. Early this year, however, the owner decided to sell the house and gave notice that the group would have to move out.

This problem was weighing heavily on the minds of church members in March when the leaders and office staff of the Southeast Asia Union Mission went from Singapore to the Kuantan area for a weekend retreat. Mr. Janssen New, a former literature evangelist who is now caring for the Kuantan church, spoke with Union leaders about the problem. He and his members were encouraged to try to purchase some property and build their own church and community services center.

On Sabbath the Kuantan church and the SAUM group met together for worship. During the morning offering period, Union President George Johnson presented the matter and invited his workers to give their Sabbath offering and additional pledges for the church in Kuantan.

Until then, the Kuantan church had saved approximately

M\$2,000 (S\$1,290) in church building funds. On that one Sabbath, the total contributions to the church fund amounted to M\$2,600 (S\$1,670). That marked the beginning of an enthusiastic fund-raising project by the Kuantan church members and Pathfinder club.

The Pathfinders have made various handicrafts at home and during club meetings. The non-Christian parents of one Pathfinder own a restaurant, and donated one entire day's profits to the church building project.

Another Pathfinder is the son of an artist. Through this contact, that parent and three of his fellow artists, all members of the local Buddhist Association, donated 25 watercolor paintings. Several have already been sold at M\$250-300 (appx. S\$175) each to raise funds for the church land purchase.

When the church planned to hold a large fund-raising sale in town, they needed to rent a hall. Because the Seventh-day Adventists plan to have community service programs--and already do help the police to work with the town's former drug addicts--the director of the community hall gave free use of the hall for the sale.

Church members baked and prepared curry and other vegetarian foods, drinks and fruit to sell. Various

industries donated products for the sale, while others let the church take products on consignment, with all profit going to the building project. Pathfinders recruited dozens of their friends to help with the sale.

With all their efforts, the building fund has swelled to M\$40,000 (S\$25,760). The figure is very encouraging, though still short of the cash-purchase price of the land. The non-Christian land-owner, however, is willing to wait for his payment, and even reduced his price by M\$1,500 (S\$965) as his donation to the project. Members hope to own the land by the end of 1992, and then continue raising funds to begin building.

The Kuantan church has 26 baptized members, of whom half are students and youth. The church also has an active Pathfinder club. Of the 50 Pathfinders, only 10 are Seventh-day Adventists. During the past three years, eight Pathfinders from non-Adventist homes have been baptized. Once or twice a year, the club members go out from house to house in the community to recruit new members.

The Pathfinders have been an active group, and have become known and respected in the Kuantan area. For walkathons or other such events, the Pathfinder first aid team is called in. The Chinese Association or other groups also call on the Pathfinders for help with traffic control during major events.

-- As told by Janssen New, Kuantan Church Pastor

Youth Stand up for Sabbath Convictions

In recent years, many young people have been facing difficulties in obtaining an education because of classes and examinations on Sabbath. Yet God has blessed those who have stood firm in their convictions to honor His holy Sabbath.

For the past three years, Raymond Tah Kheng Soon, a member of the Malacca Church, has been a medical student in Malaysia. Although he was doing well in his studies, he has been unable to continue his medical training in that university because tutorials and examinations fell on the Sabbath. As hard as he tried, he could find no way to surmount the obstacles. Unwilling to compromise his faith, he was forced to drop his medical studies in Malaysia.

This has been a testing time for Raymond, especially because he has no Seventh-day Adventist relatives, and his family could not understand his convictions. At the

same time, however, he has been a real witness to many of the other Adventist youth in Malaysia.

After much prayer and searching for other options, a way finally opened for him to continue his medical course at Kasturba Medical College, which is part of the University of Mangalore in India. He began his studies there on August 10, and received scholastic credit for the first two years of his course.

Young people such as Raymond, who are preparing for the Lord's service, need the prayers and encouragement of each church member--their brothers and sisters in the family of God.

*Russell R. Standish,
Health-Temperance Director, SAUM*

Health and Language Programs Spark Interest in Alor Setar

A poster competition, entitled "The Harmful Effects of Smoking," drew active participation from schools and the public in the northern Malaysian town of Alor Setar, in Kedah State. The competition was a joint effort of the Adventist Community Services, City Point Supermarket, and the Prudential Insurance Company.

On May 1, an awards ceremony was held at City Point Supermarket. Special guests included Mr. Chong Lai Hock, a town councilor who declared the ceremony officially open, and the deputy medical superintendent of the general hospital. Both expressed their appreciation for the health education work done by the Seventh-day Adventists in the community.

Besides health education programs, the Adventist Community Services is also using English education to reach the public. In March, Pastor David Leoh, President of the Peninsular Malaysia Mission, conducted a children's English education seminar for parents. So far two classes, each with an enrollment of 24 children, have been organized. A third class began in August.

Mr. Wong Kok Boon, coordinator of the Adventist Community Services center, also started an English class for adults in June. He has had two classes with an enrollment of approximately 30 adults. Another class is scheduled to begin soon.

English education is certainly a felt need in Alor Setar. However, there is an even greater need for the seeds of truth to be sown in this newly-opened area.

-- Loh Kam Kee, Literature Evangelist, Alor Setar

■ SABAH ■

New Light in the Witch's Life

The small, remote village of Tarangkapas is the home of Mr. Kanjiman and his family. And it was here that the gospel of Christ began as only a spark which grew to full flame.

Mr. Kanjiman was a well-known pagan witch doctor. Always keen to upgrade his magical skills, Mr. Kanjiman learned all he could and performed well. News of his success spread to all the communities of Kota Marudu district, and people flocked to him for the healing of their diseases through his black magic.

Because his magical powers were in direct opposition to Christian beliefs, he hated all Christians--especially the Seventh-day Adventists. Nevertheless, the Church Elder of the village of Kuranji, with the help of church members from the Damai SDA Church, entered Tarangkapas in 1989 to hold an evangelistic series.

Not one person responded to the gospel message. The apparent failure, however, did not dampen the spirit of the church members. They were even more determined to work with patience and tact to reach into the hearts of the villagers.

In April 1992, the Kuranji church members held another ten-night series of meetings in Tarangkapas. Their dedication and faith paid off. At the end of the series, five people requested baptism.

Because of the stand of those first five, many other villagers began to open their hearts and homes for Bible study. One of those was Mr. Kanjiman. That witch doctor's hardened heart full of hatred slowly began to melt as the Holy Spirit drew him to Christ's love. Slowly but steadily Mr. Kanjiman accepted the Seventh-day Adventist doctrines, and one by one he left his old ways of life.

In May 1992 the Kuranji church members built a church in Tarangkapas. Then the members of Kuranji and Damai held another evangelistic series, resulting in 15 baptisms on June 27. Among them were Encik Kanjiman and his wife.

Before his baptism, Mr. Kanjiman gave a personal testimony. He had spent 30 years of his life as a witch doctor, but he surrendered his life completely to his Lord. He turned over to Pastor Saiking Omar all of his witchcraft materials, choosing to bury all of his old life in baptism, and to shine for Jesus Christ.

-- *Suzee Masingkan, member, Kuranji SDA Church*

Light Beams into Misusurud and Kipopogong

Misusurud and Kipopogong are the two areas that the Sabah Mission has pinpointed as unreached areas to be evangelized this year. The inhabitants of both of these villages are ethnically "lingkabaus," still primitive and subsisting mainly on what they can get from cultivation and from the forest.

Before the construction of logging roads to these villages, it took two or three days to walk through thick tropical forest, steep terrain, mountains and valleys to reach the nearest town, Kota Marudu.



Nelson Tompoong (left) and Pius Maginsum (back right) rejoice at the baptism of young people in the village of Misusurud.

In February, Nelson Tompoong, an energetic youth leader, held a youth effort at Kipopogong with the help of other members of the Goshen SDA Church. As a result of this effort, six people were baptized.

During the school break, the Sabah Mission Church Ministries Department organized a Youth Taskforce Program to go into Misusurud. Two teachers and 10 senior students of the Sabah Adventist Secondary School accepted the challenge.

These 12 young people went and returned in the spirit of Joshua and Caleb. They brought back good reports of the opportunities in the distant land. They did not encounter physical giants as the Exodus spies did, for most of the villagers are small in stature due to malnutrition. However, the group did encounter giants such as superstitious beliefs, witchery, and animistic worship which still command and guide the conscience, activities, and lives of the people.

During the visit at one of the pagan villages, the group saw a bottle filled with murky water, hung at the entrance of the village. The local people believed it to be their god and protector. By the end of the Taskforce program, however, the village elder was convinced that there is a living God more powerful than their old god. Now he wants to have a church built on the very location of their god in the bottle. The Taskforce group have already cleared the site for the proposed church.

Young people and the youth leaders in Sabah look forward to seeing a church in Misusurud soon. There are also many more villages around Misusurud which are waiting to hear the good news of salvation.

*-- Nelton Bingku,
Youth and Communication Director, Sabah*

WWC/ADRA Complete Kipopogong Project

Walla Walla College (WWC) volunteers and ADRA staff recently worked together for five weeks in a remote village in northern Sabah.

Sixteen WWC students and two faculty sponsors spent much of their summer holiday laboring six days a week to provide a gravity-flow water system and a meeting hall for the villagers of Kipopogong. Under the direction of James Lai, Director of ADRA/Sabah, the students worked alongside villagers and volunteers from Goshen and the Sabah Foundation.

The workers dammed a creek in a jungle gorge to increase the water supply, and closer to the village they built a brick tank to store and regulate the water supply. Then they buried approximately two kilometers of plastic pipe to a new village site.

While there, the WWC students also conducted a series of health lectures and distributed donated clothing to the villagers. The group spent one Sabbath in Kipopogong, and on the other Sabbaths they attended various churches around the Goshen district.

The WWC group also took time out on Sabbath afternoons to hike through the jungles identifying and photographing an amazing variety of wildlife, including flying squirrels, barking deer, rhinoceros beetles, scorpions, leeches and hornbills. They celebrated the completion of the project by climbing Mt. Kinabalu and enjoying the national park.

-- Constance Strahle, SAUC English Teacher

Tawau Church Has Pathfinder Camp

The Tawau Pathfinder Club had its third annual Pathfinder Camp at Tawau Andrassy Forest Reserve on May 31-June 1. More than 40 church members and visitors participated.

Those who attended were divided into three groups -- Red Tulip, Green Slimer, and White Unicorn--for camp activities such as basic drilling, Nature and Me, kerosene lamp making, fishing, handicrafts, and a treasure hunt.



Young people of Tawau Pathfinder Club enjoy the outdoors.

Besides the physical activities, church pastor Escend Chong spoke to the group on Christian Leadership. A lay member, Dr. Dicky Ng, talked about Knowing Me and Knowing You.

The campers enjoyed the fun of living in tents, cooking with fire wood, swimming in the streams, and most of all, getting to know each other better.

The organizers, Tawau Pathfinder Club director Mr. Henry Russel Lo and his deputy, Ms. Maria Luz Badiango, hope to organize similar activities to promote Pathfinding and to bring young people to know Christ and serve Him better.

-- Dicky Ng, Tawau Church layman

■ SARAWAK ■

Adventist Health Leaders Speak to Electrical Workers' Group

At the invitation of the Employees' Union of the Sarawak Electricity Supply Corporation (SESCO), two former Health-Temperance Directors of the Sarawak Mission recently served as guest speakers during an anti-smoking campaign at the SESCO headquarters in Kuching.

Dr. Ted Chew, the Associate Health-Temperance Director from 1990 to 1991, spoke on the topic of smoking and lung disease. Pastor Jonathan Ng, who served in the Sarawak Mission from 1970 to 1973, talked about motivation, how to quit smoking, and the benefits of kicking the habit.

Mr. William Lai, General Manager of SESCO, also spoke to the 200 SESCO employees in attendance, and emphasized the company's commitment to the welfare of its workers. His topic was "Love Yourself-Say No to Smoking."

An active layman of the Kuching SDA Church, Mr. Stanley Sim, was instrumental in involving the two Seventh-day Adventist speakers in the campaign. He is a long-term committee member of the SESCO Employees' Union.

-- Petrus Ngadan,
Health-Temperance Director, Sarawak Mission

Mission Holds Sabbath School Congress

More than 160 church and Sabbath School leaders from throughout Sarawak attended the Sabbath School Congress at Ayer Manis School campus on May 8-10.

The congress was organized by the Church Ministries Department of the Sarawak Mission, and was directed by Pastor Lawrence Banyie, who is the Director for Sabbath School.

Dr. Edmund Siagian, the Sabbath School Department Director for the Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM) spoke for the opening ceremony on Friday evening. On Sabbath morning, Pastor Kenneth Wade, Ministerial Secretary for the SAUM, talked about Sabbath School Action Units and spoke for the divine worship service.

During Sabbath afternoon and Sunday morning, there were several training sessions. Topics included: "Teaching Adult Sabbath School Classes," by Dr. Edmund Siagian; "Principles of Teaching Children," by Mrs. Judy Walper;



Sabbath School Action Units try out the idea during the congress.

"Teaching Children Sabbath School Songs," by Mrs. Mutiara Simatupang; and "Branch Sabbath Schools," by Pastor Lawrence Banyie.

The main emphasis of the congress was Sabbath School Action Units, to encourage members to become involved in inreach and outreach programs.

Speakers reminded those in attendance that these are the closing hours of this world's history. Bible prophecies are fulfilling in rapid succession in the countries of Europe and in all parts of the world, pointing to the soon coming of Christ. Now is the time to rise into action to proclaim the everlasting gospel "to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." The church must go into action. This is the challenge before each of God's people.

-- Lawrence Banyie,
Communication Director, Sarawak Mission

Stress Management Seminar Goes to Kuching

The first Stress Management Seminar ever held in Kuching received an overwhelming response of 250 participants who crowded into a hall at the Kuching Stampark Recreation Club on June 12 and 13. Many more had to be turned away because of limited seating capacity.

The seminar was jointly sponsored by Youngberg Adventist Hospital (YAH) in Singapore and the Kuching SDA English Church in Sarawak.

The resource team, consisting of five speakers, included two medical doctors from the local church and three staff

members from YAH. Dr. Edward Chee, a physician in private practice and an active layman in the Kuching church, spoke on the physiology of stress. Dr. Richard Chai, also a physician in private practice and Coordinator of Health and Temperance for the Kuching church, presented the topic of stress-related diseases.

YAH President Joshua Goh spoke on coping resources and on the use of time. The YAH Administrative Officer for Personnel and Administration, Mrs. Doreen Ng, shared tips on relaxation and coping with family stress. Jonathan Ng, YAH Director of Counseling Service and Community Relations, spoke on the topics of personality and coping with job stress.

Each night, participants brought up many personal questions. They also expressed appreciation for the seminar, which was especially timely because the pace of life in Kuching is rapidly increasing with recent progress and development.

-- Richard Chai, Seminar Coordinator,
Kuching English Church
-- Jonathan Ng, Public Relations Director, YAH

Child Sets Longhouse Ablaze

"All I saved in the last 30 years was gone in 20 minutes!" bemoaned a fire victim at Krangan Trusan, in the Balai Ringin area of Kuching.

At 10:00 a.m. on June 18, the fire gutted a 13-door longhouse. A three-year-old girl apparently started the fire by setting her mosquito net alight. Fueled by 10 gas cooking cylinders, four petrol containers, and a strong wind, the fire razed the longhouse in less than 20 minutes.



Women collect charcoal -- all that remains of their longhouse at Krangan Trusan.

The Fire Brigade, arriving 30 minutes after the fire began, saw only stumps of longhouse stilts and smoke from the smoldering embers.

Fortunately no lives were lost in the blaze. The 13 families stayed with relatives in the same village.

Response for the tragedy came quickly. The Sarawak government, in addition to giving some food, would buy materials for rebuilding the longhouse. ADRA/Sarawak, the Sarawak Mission, and the Kuching Adventist Youth and Dorcas Societies donated clothes and essential foodstuffs such as rice, noodles, milk, tinned food, and oil.

The 13 families not only lost all they had saved in the last 30 years. They also lost the rice and pepper crops which they had just harvested. Altogether it was an expensive lesson for a three-year-old learning to make fire.

-- Petrus Ngadan Kuju, Director, ADRA/Sarawak

At Rest

Roy Saul Nyungga was born on January 16, 1942, at Kampong Lanchang, in the Serian District of Sarawak, and passed away in Kuching on July 4, 1992.

When Saul was about 10 years old, Adventism came to his village and his parents became Seventh-day Adventists. His parents decided that he should be like the apostle Paul, a strong worker for the Lord. Thus they sent him to study, first at Sunny Hill School and later at Ayer Manis School, where he trained to be a worker for the Lord.

Upon completion of his studies, Saul received a call to begin work on January 1, 1961 as the work supervisor at Ayer Manis School. After that he taught in several Mission primary schools throughout Sarawak. In 1969 he was given an opportunity for upgrading, and completed Seminary training at Ayer Manis School in 1971.

From 1972 to 1977 he served as Director of the Youth, Sabbath School, and Lay Activities Departments in the Sarawak Mission. He was ordained into the gospel ministry on January 5, 1973.

He went to the Philippines for further upgrading in 1977, and graduated with a Bachelor of Theology (BTh) degree in 1979.

Upon his return to Sarawak, Saul served as principal of Ayer Manis School for several years. Later he went to Miri as district pastor. In 1987 he received a call to serve the Sarawak Mission as Associate Church Ministries



Director for Sabbath School and Personal Ministries, as well as Director for the Communication and Education Departments.

In early 1991 doctors discovered that he had cancer, and he passed away at the age of 50, after 29 years of service.

Pastor Saul leaves behind his wife, Marjorie Semang, son Desmond, daughters Diedrie and Debbie, and one granddaughter.

-- Lawrence Banyie,
Communication Director, Sarawak Mission

■ SINGAPORE ■

S.A.M. Conducts Seminar on Coping with Grief and Loss

How many people would spend five hours of Sunday prime time at church? Twelve laymen and workers from Singapore did just that on May 24 to learn how to better cope with and help others cope with grief and loss.

Mrs. Shirley Chapman, SAUM Associate Director of Church Ministries (Family), and Pastor Elton Lee Ki-Plin, Singapore Mission Director of the same department, presented the workshop at the Balestier Road SDA Church.

Participants learned about the process of grief, how to live with loss, the dangers of acting recovered, why people are ill-prepared to deal with loss, and the signs of recovery. They also discovered the characteristics of a care-giver, and what to do or what not to do as a care-giver.

Many of those attending the seminar shared their personal experiences with grief. A felt closeness developed among group members because of the sharing.

One participant later wrote, "The Grief Recovery Seminar has now awakened in me the need to search out, analyze, and by the grace of God resolve unresolved grief in my life."

Another person commented, "The seminar helped me to identify people who are grieving. It also gave me valuable knowledge on how I could help and console others. It has broadened my understanding on how I can handle such situations."

One pastor said that his church was experiencing grief, and expressed a desire for a similar workshop to be held at his church.

-- Elton Lee Ki-Plin,
Associate CM Director, SAM

Man Is "Remarried" after Thirty Years

Mr. Ezra Balaraj, a Voice of Prophecy student and former member of the Balestier SDA Church, was rebaptized in the same church more than 30 years later, on Sabbath, June 27.

After a heart attack took him by surprise during a busy Christmas season, Mr. Balaraj underwent a coronary bypass operation. At that point, he realized that life is short and uncertain, and that he needed a Saviour.

Meanwhile, his memory went back to the old days when he had peace and joy in the Lord. The spiritual things he had valued during his younger days came flashing back like rays of light from heaven.

About the time of his illness, someone had enrolled Mr. Balaraj in the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) course. Since he was retired after being a school principal for many years, he found plenty of free time to study the VOP correspondence lessons. He asked many important questions. He wrestled with guilt, fear, and forgiveness, but as he continued to study the VOP lessons,

satisfying answers came to his soul.

In the mail one day, he received an invitation to attend a series of VOP-sponsored meetings at the Balestier Church. It was a great struggle for him to go back to the church. Against his own feelings, he made his way into the church one Sabbath evening. As soon as the meeting was over, he wanted to vanish, but love and friendship caught him at the door and he wanted to return again and again.

"I am like a divorced man remarried to the same bride," Mr. Balaraj said later. "I thank God for His grace that has found me despite my past."

-- Samuel Money, Director, Voice of Prophecy

Y.A.H. Emphasizes Healthy Lifestyle

The Singapore government's Ministry of Health gave strong emphasis to the importance of healthy lifestyle during a month-long health fair in April 1992, followed by the annual smoking control campaign during May.

The May 4 edition of the *Straits Times*, the local English newspaper with the largest circulation in Singapore, carried a half-page article on the NEWSTART healthy-lifestyle promotion program of Youngberg Adventist Hospital. The article included interviews with Dr. Clarence Ing, YAH Health Promotion Director, and Miss Chan Fong Kin, a NEWSTART graduate who has since become a Seventh-day Adventist. As a result of this publicity, many people telephoned to enquire about



Twenty participants receive certificates at the end of a 5-Day-Plan especially for youth.

the program, fully booking the June and July NEWSTART sessions.

On May 17-21, YAH conducted a 5-Day Plan to Stop Smoking for a group of 20 young people. Attending this program was the 5,000th participant in Youngberg Hospital's smoking-cessation program since YAH began conducting the 5-Day Plan in 1971.

The 5-Day Plan is considered one of the best stop-smoking programs in Singapore, heralded by speakers at the national Anti-Smoking Campaign and Exhibition held on May 26 to mark World No Smoking Day.

-- Jonathan Ng,
Public Relations Director, YAH

Y.A.H. Holds Training Seminars

Mr. Fred Lee, past Senior Vice President for Marketing at Florida Hospital, and his wife, Aura, who is Director of Nursing Education at the same hospital, were in Singapore from May 18 to 29 serving as training consultants at Youngberg Adventist Hospital. Florida Hospital, with a bed-capacity of 1,500, is the largest Seventh-day Adventist hospital in the world.

Mr. Lee conducted the "Share Yourself" Seminar, a customer relations training program, for all hospital staff. He also conducted a management seminar for all department heads and supervisors. Meanwhile, Mrs. Lee held sessions for nurses.

This well-known program has helped Florida Hospital to win the top prize in the USA for excellent hospital services. The program has also helped the Adventist hospital in Hawaii, Castle Memorial Hospital, to receive honorable mention in the same awards.

Hospital employees rated the training program as the best ever conducted at Youngberg. They felt that the concepts shared were simple and practical.

Youngberg Adventist Hospital administration and staff greatly appreciate the Lees' valuable services, offered as a gift to the hospital and to Singapore, where Mr. Lee spent many years working as Dean of Boys and as a teacher at the Far Eastern Academy.

Mr. Lee is the son of veteran missionary and evangelist Pastor Milton Lee, who is now retired and residing in California, USA.

-- Jonathan Ng,
Public Relations Director, YAH

■ THAILAND ■

Students Witness while They Work

The whole of Khao Ko area was once occupied by the Communists. Then the military moved in and reoccupied the land in 1981, with Hmong and other tribal people acting as a "shield" for the soldiers. Villagers in Ban Lao Lur still recall the sad time when they lost their loved ones.

The village of Ban Lao Lur, located about 400 kilometers northeast of Bangkok, is home to approximately 150 Hmong families, most of them farmers. The government has allocated 15 rai (appx. six acres) of this mountainous land to each family for farming.

Public health officers from Petchaboon Province and the local district informed the village chief of a plan to provide financial assistance for villagers in Ban Lao Lur to install toilet facilities. The budget granted for each bathroom, however, was only 2,000 Bhat (S\$130)—barely enough to buy the toilet bowl, cement for the flooring, and an outlet. It would not begin to cover the cost of the bathroom wall; furthermore, the villagers had no knowledge of how to mix cement or install a toilet.

The head of the village sent off an urgent request to Pastor Siroj Sorajjakool, Associate Director of ADRA/Thailand, for help with funding and with constructing the bathrooms. Thus on May 26, he and 19 students from both Mission College and Thailand Adventist Seminary travelled to Ban Lao Lur to help with the project. The students had only nine days before school registration for the new term, yet they determined to complete as many as possible of the toilet facilities.

Upon their arrival, the village chief informed the group that he would like to increase the number of toilets from 45 to 60—a seemingly impossible task! Then on the second day, surprise help came when the public health officers arrived with a crew of workers. Students worked hard; even the heat, sweat and rain did not deter them from their task but made them all the more determined to complete the job.

Many of the students who joined the project had also registered for a college class, Communicating Christianity I & II. Once in Ban Lao Lur, they divided into three groups. One group got busy telling Bible stories and playing with the little children, getting to know them. Another group gave Bible studies to those wishing to be baptized. The third group went around in the village giving nursing care, sharing their faith, and giving testimonies of God's leading in their lives.

On June 3, the morning of the students' departure from Ban Lao Lur, three villagers—given Bible studies by second



Mission College and Thailand Adventist Seminary students work and witness for the Lord.

year ministerial student Chanchai Lee—requested baptism. The baptismal service was a time of great rejoicing for both the villagers and the students who had also been involved with working for these three individuals.

Although the students achieved their objectives, their task is not over yet. Their sense of Christian responsibility compels them to reflect on their own lives and their service to meet the needs of humanity. The needs are plenty; here is just one, experienced by a member of the group:

Helping in the kitchen one day, Pastor Siroj saw a little girl named Ju sobbing. Ju's parents lived in another village, and she had to take care of her younger cousin. Why, Pastor Siroj asked, was Ju crying. The answer was a disturbing one. "My mother wants to sell me off. I do not know where I'm going. I don't want to be sold. I don't want to go home to meet my parents."

That same night, Ju asked one of the students, "Why are you so happy?" She ended the conversation with the statement, "I want to commit suicide." Only 10 years old, Ju has never been to school because her father is addicted to opium, a habit that consumes all her mother's savings. "They quarrel all the time," she moaned.

Pastor Siroj felt a lump in his throat as he sat and listened to her story. He asked himself, "What can I do—not as an associate director of ADRA, or as a seminary teacher, but as a Christian who has learned the love of Christ?"

This is only one of many such stories of human need. Physical need. Emotional need. Spiritual need. What can I do? What can you do? More important, **what are we doing?**

-- Siroj Sorajjakool, Associate Director, ADRA/Thailand

■ VIETNAM ■

Youth Have Long-awaited Camp

After 16 years of waiting and anticipation, at last the young people of Vietnam have been able to take part in a youth camp.

For many years, they have longed for a camp where they could fellowship with other Seventh-day Adventist youth and be encouraged in their faith. The young people of Vietnam have needed to feel that they are a part of the one great family of God. However, because of various government restrictions regarding public gatherings, plans and hopes for earlier camps or youth activities had failed.

*"With such an army of workers as our youth,
rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message
of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour
might be carried to the whole world.
How soon might the end come -- the end of suffering
and sorrow and sin!"*
(Messages to Young People, p. 196)

The youth were excited when they heard of the Mission's plan to hold a camp in June 1992. For various reasons, the date had to be changed repeatedly, but at last their long-awaited camp began on July 29. Together they sang and rejoiced during the bus ride to Vung Tau Province, a beautiful tourist resort near Back Beach.

Tears of joy were on every face during the opening ceremony and the ribbon-cutting by Pastor Shupinar Koubong, Youth Director for Southeast Asia Union Mission. Together the 185 young people sang, prayed, and studied the Word of God. Each young face showed the thrill of being able to study and interact with others of like faith after years of hardship in their war-torn country.

As is often the case in this sin- and sorrow-filled world, the gathering ended with a certain amount of sadness as young people parted with new-found friends, not knowing if they will ever have the opportunity of meeting again or attending another such camp. Yet there is a certainty in the hope of Jesus' coming, and the youth determined to meet again in heaven. Meanwhile many also committed themselves to going back and telling others about the love of God.

Despite the good spirit of the young people, Satan is doing his best to destroy it. There are still many hindrances to spreading the gospel of Christ in that country. The request of each young person was, "Please pray for us here in Vietnam."

-- Shupinar Koubong, Church Ministries Director, SAUM

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LOCAL MISSION DIRECTORY

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The Messenger is published bi-monthly as the official organ of the Southeast Asia Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, 251 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 1334. Tel: 284 7281; Fax: 284 7757

Editor	C. Y. Wu
Managing Editor	Marilyn Johnson
Circulation Manager	C. Y. Wu

Layout and Printing by Southeast Asia Publishing House



SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION COLLEGE



■ On June 1, the SAUC faculty and student body gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the entrance to the college library to formally open the newly-air-conditioned facility.

SAUC President Koh Kang Song acknowledged the leadership of Mussie E. Berhe, Student Association President, and Professor Pham Kow Seng in the library improvement project, and presented each of them with ceremonial scissors. To the applause of students and faculty, the ribbon was cut and the building opened.

The occasion marked the completion of the first phase of renovation for the college library. This phase included the installation of new windows and air-conditioning in the general reading area.

The second phase will include development and installation of a computer system for all library functions. This project is underway, and is expected to be fully operational by fourth quarter, 1992. This will enable students to engage in a computer search of the library holdings, and will assist in research. The computerization will also facilitate the work of the librarians in accessioning new books to the library. Eventually, books will also be checked out by computer scanning of bar codes.

The third phase of the library development plan includes the remodeling of the media center and the addition of a classroom and seminar room in the library.

The estimated cost of the first two phases of development is S\$100,000, which has already been appropriated or raised by the students.

■ During the school holidays in June, the ladies' residence hall of SAUC was completely redecorated. The entire dormitory has new carpeting and new paint. Each room also has new furniture, light fixtures and ceiling fan. During July, the men's residence hall also had all furniture replaced.

The dormitories have served literally generations of SAUCians, and have had regular upgrading. No major renovations had been done lately, however. Recently there has been increasing demand for dormitory housing as local housing costs continue to escalate.

■ Dr. Gordon Johnson, chairman of the Physics Department of Walla Walla College, has been on the SAUC campus during 3rd Quarter 1992. In addition to teaching several classes, including a class in philosophy of science, he has been assisting in the development of the SAUC physics laboratory.

The affiliation between WWC and SAUC provides for visiting faculty to join SAUC at least one quarter per year. Students enrolled in the affiliation degree program take a minimum of 15 hours from WWC faculty.

■ Pastor Ng Kah Seng, an associate professor in the Theology Department at SAUC, recently presented a paper at the Association for Theology and Cultures in Asia at the St. Andrews Theological Seminary in the Philippines. His paper, "*A Mad Chinaman Christian Looks at Ching Ming*," considered the cultural implications of the practice of ancestral worship, and suggested that as the religious practices change, cultural implications are to be expected.

The Association for Theology and Cultures in Asia is dedicated to the study of theology within an Asian cultural context.

■ Dr. Linda Koh, head of the Education Department at SAUC, presented six lectures at the West Indonesia Union Mission Teachers' Convention on June 30 to July 5. The convention, attended by more than 600 teachers, was held on the campus of the SDA secondary school at Siantar, two hours' drive from Medan, North Sumatra.

All of Dr. Koh's lectures, presented in English, had to be translated into Bahasa Indonesia. Her topics dealt with understanding the teenage learner, developing spiritual growth in students, and classroom discipline. Group discussions followed each lecture, and teachers' questions indicated great enthusiasm and interest.

The program allowed for considerable interaction and exchange of ideas between teachers of various schools and the four guest lecturers, providing professional enrichment for all.

-- R. Gary Brendel, Academic Dean, SAUC

Let Our Hearts Beat in Unison

The Spirit can never be poured out while variance and bitterness toward one another are cherished by the members of the church. Envy, jealousy, evil surmisings, and evilspeaking are of Satan, and they effectually bar the way against the Holy Spirit's working. Nothing else in this world is so dear to God as His church. Nothing is guarded by Him with such jealous care. Nothing so offends God as an act that injures the influence of those who are doing His service. He will call to account all who aid Satan in his work of criticizing and discouraging.

... The children of God must put away every thought of suspicion in regard to their brethren. Heart must beat in unison with heart. Christian benevolence and brotherly love must be far more abundantly shown. . . . *Testimonies to the Church, vol. 6, p. 42*

The Lord lives and reigns. Soon He will arise in majesty to shake terribly the earth. A special message is now to be borne, a message that will pierce the spiritual darkness and convict and convert souls. . . . We must now be terribly in earnest. We have not a moment to spend in criticism and accusation. Let those who have done this in the past fall on their knees in prayer. . . . *Testimonies to the Church, vol. 8, p. 36*

Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate, and see as little as possible of their errors and failings. When tempted to complain of what someone has said or done, praise something in that person's life or character. Cultivate thankfulness. Praise God for His wonderful love in giving Christ to die for us. It never pays to think of our grievances. God

*To accuse and
criticize those whom
God is using is to
accuse and criticize
the Lord who
has sent them.*

Testimonies to Ministers, p. 466

calls upon us to think of His mercy and His matchless love, that we may be inspired with praise.

Earnest workers have no time for dwelling upon the faults of others. . . . Evilspeaking is a twofold curse, falling more heavily upon the speaker than upon the hearer. He who scatters the seeds of dissension and strife reaps in his own soul the deadly fruits. The very act of looking for evil in others develops evil in those who look. By dwelling upon the faults of others, we are changed into the same image. But by beholding Jesus, talking of His love and perfection of character, we become changed into His image. . . . *Ministry of Healing, p. 492*

The time spent in criticizing the motives and works of Christ's servants might better be spent in prayer. Often if those who find fault knew the truth in regard to those with whom they find fault, they would have an altogether different opinion of them. How much better it would be if, instead of criticizing and condemning others, everyone would say: "I must work out my own salvation." *Testimonies to the Church, vol. 8, pp. 83, 84*

... Too often we forget that our fellow laborers are in need of strength and cheer. Take care to assure them of your interest and sympathy. Help them by your prayers, and let them know that you do it. *Ministry of Healing, pp. 492, 493*

It is the purpose of God that His children shall blend in unity. Do they not expect to live together in the same heaven? . . . Those who refuse to work in harmony greatly dishonor God. . . . *Testimonies to the Church, vol. 8, p. 240*

The Lord never blesses him who criticizes and accuses his brethren, for this is Satan's work. *Evangelism, p. 102*

When men will show confidence in their fellow-men they will come much nearer to possessing the mind of Christ. *Testimonies to Ministers, p. 189*

Union with Christ and with one another is our only safety in these last days. Let us not make it possible for Satan to point to our church members, saying: "Behold how these people, standing under the banner of Christ, hate one another. We have nothing to fear from them while they spend more strength fighting one another than in warfare with my forces." *Testimonies to the Church, vol. 8, p. 240*

As we approach the last crisis, it is . . . vital . . . that harmony and unity exist among the Lord's [workers]. The world is filled with storm and war and variance. . . . At such a time as this let [the members of Christ's church] not be found at variance with one another or with any of the Lord's workers. Amidst the general discord let there be one place where harmony and unity exist because the Bible is made the guide of life. *Testimonies to the Church, vol. 7, p. 182.*