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Real Empowerment of Women

by Victor Lee

Privileged to accompany my friends, Dr. Tan Pik Yee and her good husband Pastor Johnny Kan (Singapore Mission) on a trip to Scotland following the GC Session in Utrecht, we cruised the lochs, gawked at castles and trekked through Rob Roy* country.

My prize souvenir? A book: *The World's Best Scottish Jokes*. Share some with you? Sure!:

McTavish bought his wife an expensive Chinese fan. He told her it would last for years if she held it still and moved her head from side to side.

Here's one more:

A pilot friend decided to take Jock and Maggie for a trip on his light airplane. However, he hated talk and conversation and told his passengers they would be charged extra if either of them spoke. They had a wonderful trip with loops, dives, and every trick the pilot knew. Not a word was spoken, so when they landed the pilot said to Jock, "That was wonderful, not a word! Tell me, were you tempted to speak at all?" "Only once," said Jock. "When was that?" asked the pilot. "When Maggie fell out!"

ENOUGH! Now, these do not necessarily illustrate the Scots attitude towards women as they do their alleged extreme thrift. After all, the neglect, depreciation, or suppression of women are not confined by geography.

Representing the future of Southeast Asia are East Malaysians Juanita Golotoh (right) and Angela Tan, pictured in their traditional costumes. Both study at Southeast Asia Union College in Singapore—Juanita is a senior TESL major and Angela is a freshman in the General Studies Department.

about
the
cover:

Dramatic changes in our time: it's not only liberation they ask for, it's leadership too. Women claim that they are, unfortunately, not equally represented in organizational leadership around the world. Women still need to be recognized and acknowledged by many organizations for their financial, spiritual and physical contributions.

However, as Laurie Beth Jones recently points out under the penetrating title, *Jesus CEO—Using Ancient Wisdom for Visionary Leadership*, Jesus felt differently about women.

Jesus empowered women. His first appearance after death was to a woman, who was given the task of convincing the more doubtful males. Mary recognized Him almost instantly compared to the male disciples who spent hours on the way to Emmaus talking to their 'stranger.'

As a young woman, (another) Mary heard of the magnificent plan of salvation and literally conceived and helped deliver the message. "So, in the beginning and at the end of the gospel," asserts Jones, "God gave primary leadership roles to women."

Add to this fact that wealthy women economically supported Jesus and his staff while they were on their mission. We know that in the Orient, a provider is a person of power. The powerful protect as well. Pilate ignored the warnings in a woman's dream and signed Jesus' death warrant along with his own unenviable place in history.

Now, we may not necessarily swallow the comedienne's theory that "the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years because Moses wouldn't give Miriam the map!" But

we certainly can sober up to the fact that women have a real place in the real issue of leadership—specifically, the type of leadership that is needed towards the year 2000. Patricia Aburdene and John Naisbitt in *Megatrends for Women* submit a definition of leadership that braces us for the rapid changes today and in the future: "Leadership entails envisioning and articulating a new reality, persuading others of its benefits and inspiring them to embrace and actualize it."

A growing number of management writers are eager to point out that women are more naturally suited to this "transformational" leadership style. Is there relevance for us here as culture transforming Christians?

Meanwhile, men, women—all God's people—certainly need to face the real changes and challenges of 2000 and beyond.

God has not commissioned us to merely seek power. He does not demand that we win popularity votes or seek men's approval. But He commands us to be faithful to His commission. He demands that we remain obedient to Him. He simply asks us to be real. And in unity, we find real empowerment.

As our Scottish friends would say, "That's a graaaand truth for sure!" ☺

*Well-known Scottish rebel hero.

Victor Lee is a lay evangelist who travels frequently around Southeast Asia.



High on the snow-capped Cascade Mountains of the Pacific Northwest of USA are found some peculiar, rough, round rocks. They are not much to look at. Usually the size of an orange, these stones are dull gray, rough and round. The early Indians of Oregon who discovered them named them thunder eggs.

No one really knows who first broke one of the thunder eggs open to discover the beauty inside, but today geologists and collectors cut them in two, file them, and then polish the stones until they are brilliant and beautiful.

Yes, the thunder eggs remind me of women I have known—dull, uninteresting, easily overlooked on the outside, but filled with potential and beauty on the inside.

God sees beauty whereas we might pass it by. We must see with caring, loving eyes as God sees. Today, we see the beauty of women that has been hidden for a long time. Discover those talents, abilities and spiritual gifts so that we can serve the Lord with a brilliant "shine."

Discovering such beauty requires some hammering, filing and polishing, just like the thunder eggs. We must be willing to open ourselves to God's fire and to His polishing, or we may never fully reflect His character. When this hidden beauty unfolds, God has a work for us women. Ellen White says:

"The Lord has a work for women as well as for men. They may take their places in His work at this crisis, and He will work through them. . . they can do in families work that men cannot do, a work

Hidden Beauty

by Linda Koh

The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7.

that reaches the inner life. They can come close to the hearts of those whom men cannot reach. Their labour is needed." (WM, p. 145)

This is a very special year for all Adventist women throughout the world. This is the *Year of the Adventist Woman!* It is a year to celebrate women's contributions to the world church and to focus clearly on unmet needs and under-utilized talents. The year is to have emphasis in three areas—spiritual, social and intellectual. Four main purposes are identified:

- To place special emphasis on the contribution women have made to the SDA Church.
- To enable women to more fully recognize their value in God's sight.
- To assist women in identifying their spiritual gifts.
- To prepare SDA women to be more effective in all spheres of church life.

Critical issues that the church is especially focusing on include literacy, poverty, abuse, health issues and leadership.

Adventist women of 1995, let us arise and shine. Let the Holy Spirit fill you so that God can help you to do the impossible, to receive the power and love to step forth in confidence to witness for Him and to win souls for Christ.✠

Linda Koh is director of Women's Ministries at the Asia-Pacific Division.



In Brief...

56th GC: A RECAP

- Fifty percent of delegates to future General Conference Sessions (capped at 2000) will be laity, pastors and other frontline workers.
- A request from North American to allow divisions the right to decide for themselves whether or not they should ordain women to the gospel ministry was turned down. (Out of 2154 votes, 673 were in favour, 1481 were in opposition.)

"Communication was another hallmark of this session," says Robert Folkenberg, reelected GC President. "Coverage by the public media was so heavy that reporters came from neighbouring countries to investigate. The public perception in the Netherlands of the SDA Church was significantly enhanced as a result of this coverage."✠

SDAS RECEIVE LEGAL STATUS IN POLAND.

After five years of negotiations, the Polish Parliament (Sejm) has approved the text of a law which regulates the relations between the Polish Republic and the SDA Church. According to Zachariasz Lyko, the Church's counsel who represented the Church in the legislative negotiations, "this Act of Parliament is of historical proportions. Our Church not only received a legal status in the country, but that status makes the Church equal before the law just like other denominations, including the Catholic Church." The law guarantees full religious freedom for Adventists, ensuring that their Sabbath rights in the work place and school will be honoured.✠ (Ray Dabrowski, ANN)

Work in Vietnam

God's work in Vietnam continues despite close scrutiny by the government. Events like Youth Camp and Vacation Bible School are not new here. . .



In May this year, three churches (Can Tho, Van Nhon, and Phu Nhuan) combined for a Youth Camp at Vung Tau Beach. Activities included races such as this one.



These eager children enjoyed the benefits of a Vacation Bible School from June 7 to 17 at Can Tho Church.

NOTE: Due to circumstances, no photo credit can be given.

53 BAPTIZED—Despite Insufficient Robes

Fifty-three people were baptized on June 17, 1995 at a church in Vietnam, reports Tran Cong Tan, mission secretary, according to him, the largest number yet. "We are grateful for God's work in Vietnam for the past 20 years," he says. However, he also mentioned that since it was such a large number, they did not have

enough baptismal robes for everyone. "Instead, we had to use the choir robes which are white! Please continue to pray for us. We are also desperately in need of Bibles, hymn books and medicine." ☛

Contact Tran Cong Tan, secretary and acting president of Vietnam Mission, at fax number (848) 440-179.

First SDA School for Laos

ADRA is seeking donations for the first Adventist school to be built in the former communist country of Laos. This will also be the country's first Christian school and will be located in the central town of Luang Prabang. Local Adventist Sing Khum is to be the school's principal, and will be supported by Global Mission, reports *Record*, the official paper of the South Pacific Division.

The school will consist of five classrooms, an office, a storeroom, amenities and staff accommodation. It will use locally available materials—thatching for the roof and plaited bamboo for the walls. The building is intentionally modest so as to become a natural part of the community. ☛ *Record*, 19.8.95

Lay Congress in Thailand A Success

More than 100 delegates attended a Lay Congress held in Chiangmai, Thailand from July 26 to 31, 1995. Samuel Money, SAUM Church Ministries director, declared the Congress a success under the leadership of Pastor Pamaw Phupichitprai. Pastor Money was one of the speakers at the Congress. Topics, which included righteousness by faith, Daniel, Revelation, and health reform were covered by Dr. Jonathan Kuntaraf, Dr. and Mrs. Hutapea, and Gail Brightman. ☛

Visual Aids Workshop

Dorothy Walter, SAUM Children's Ministry director, recently conducted a two-day visual aid workshop, the first of its kind for the Peninsular Malaysia Mission. Held at Ipoh Church, the workshop had 67 participants all of whom had a chance to present Bible stories along with visual aids. The representatives expressed appreciation after the meeting and hoped that the mission would continue organizing similar workshops, says Tam Man Lin, director of Peninsular Malaysia Mission Children's Ministry. She adds, "I thank the Mission and church members who sacrificed their money and time to make this workshop a success." ☺

Banting Church Conducts Quarterly Baptisms

by P. Benjamin

This year, besides my departmental responsibilities in the Mission, I was appointed as pastor of both Banting Church, a little town 70 km from Kuala Lumpur, and Shah Alam New Work. At a planning committee held earlier this year, the churches decided to conduct at least one baptismal service per quarter.

Cooperation and hard work led to the first baptismal service on March 5, 1995 during which five were baptized. A similar service was held on June 17 and another five were baptized. Presently, the baptismal candidates for the third quarter are receiving Bible studies. The next baptism is planned for September. We solicit your kind prayers for the work in Banting and Shah Alam. ☺

Leadership Training Camp Held for Pathfinder Leaders

The Youth Ministry of the Peninsular Malaysia Mission believe that "teenagers today will be leaders of tomorrow." With this in mind, a Basic Leadership Training Camp was held earlier this year at Bukit Jelutong. Officiated by David Leoh, mission president, the Camp attracted 65 pathfinder leaders from churches around Peninsular Malaysia. These consisted of Banting, Shah Alam, Sungai Way, Teluk Intan and Bukit Jelutong. Skills learned included camp crafts, camp cookery and drilling.

Ms. Josephine of Banting SDA Church was named best camper. ☺

New Work in Bercham

Earlier this year, new work in Bercham, Ipoh was officially declared open by David Leoh, mission president. The meeting place for Bercham New Work is a tutoring centre owned by the church elder of the Ipoh Chinese Church, Mr. Liew Chong Kim.

According to the masterplan of the local government, in 10 years 1/3 of the Ipoh population will be in Bercham.

At present, approximately 20 people are meeting at the tutoring centre each Sabbath afternoon. Half the congregation are originally members of the mother church. More programmes and activities are being planned for this new area. ☺

Guitars Attract Youth

Many visitors have the impression that Ipoh Chinese Church has very few young people. The Church realized this problem and over the years have come up with several ideas, most however, with dampening results. Recently, Brother Lee Yin Fook decided to hold a free guitar class in the church. After securing approval from the church board, a guitar class was started, with 20 students attending. Most of the students were already church members and Brother Lee was not satisfied with this response. He decided to go to a secondary school in town and perform. While there, he invited students to the class and told them that it was held at the church. More than 30 students showed up at the next lesson.

The church decided that they wanted to do more than "equipping the young people with guitar-playing skill." In March, a social camp was organized at the church compound for all guitar students and friends. Over 50 turned up. A similar camp was conducted in June. This time the number rose to 60. In both meetings, activities included intensive guitar lessons, health lectures as well as games and singing. The young people appeared impressed with the programmes.

Currently, two young men from these guitar classes are attending Sabbath School regularly. Another church camp for these special people is being planned for the year-end so that they will have more opportunity to be exposed to spiritual messages.

We pray that in a few years, these young people will be a part of the church family. ☺

Written by a member of the Ipoh Chinese Church.

Women Bake Bread and Witness

by Joyce Kinchang

Forty-five ladies from a civil government group gathered at the Government Rest House in Julau Town on July 30 for a demonstration on baking bread. Sarawak Mission's Home and Family Life Director, Joyce Kinchang, led out in the demonstration. Except for the District Officer's wife, all those present were non-Adventists. They come from different parts of Sarawak and speak many different dialects.

While waiting for the dough to rise, the afternoon was spent visiting and sharing. The ladies learned about the Adventist Women's Ministry and requested another cooking demonstration. One is scheduled for September 3. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will enter the hearts of these women. ☺

Joyce Kinchang is Home and Family Life Director of the Sarawak Mission.

Stewardship Seminar

More than 60 representatives from SDA churches throughout Sarawak attended a stewardship seminar at Ayer Manis School. Many resolved to faithfully return their tithes and offerings. The seminar, conducted by Joshua Mok, SAUM secretary and stewardship director, and Bobby Sepang, APD stewardship director, was held May 22-24, 1995. ☺

by Lawrence Randig,
communications director of the
Sarawak Mission.

THE CONVERSION OF A LONGHOUSE

by GanChai Jinta

Rumah Angan, Sungai Buluh, Balingian is the name of a longhouse located halfway between Sibul and Bintulu and is among the hundreds of Iban longhouses along the state road whose inhabitants do not know about the gospel and second coming of Christ. That is, until recently.

Some time in June 1994 I went to visit this longhouse to get better acquainted with the Tuai Rumah and the villagers. To begin our friendship we started a vegetable project with the help of ADRA Sarawak. They provided most of the seedlings, and the Sarawak Agricultural Department provided the rest. Our second project was to tidy the surroundings and compound of the longhouse. We also helped to complete a fence between the longhouse and the state road.

In December of the same year, my wife Anna and Mrs. Jeserine Tam decided to start a Vacation Bible School in the longhouse. More than 30 children attended the session. Because of this good response, from June 6-10 this year, my wife and I again held a Vacation Bible School with the help of our friends Ruth and Sima. Surprisingly, the children remembered the Bible stories and English songs that they were taught last year. They seemed eager to learn more songs and Bible stories.

We hope to make Sungai Buluh, Balingian a centre of the Lord's work in Sarawak with the help of Pastor Megau and retired pastor Jauline, who are both now stationed there to begin the work with the adults. ☺



Children at the Rumah Angan longhouse.

GanChai Jinta is the pastor of Sibul Church in Sarawak.

Week of Prayer Leads to Baptisms

Two students were baptized on August 12, 1995, the result of a successful Week of Prayer held at Sunny Hill College. Some 40 students responded to attend a Bible Camp following the Week of Prayer. Pastor Samuel Money, SAUM Church Ministries director, conducted the meetings. He acknowledges the work of Pastor Sim Nueng, of Kuching Malay Church, who was "instrumental in making the programme a success."

Pastor Money continued his Week of Prayer series over at Ayer Manis School, this time with an emphasis on prayer and close study of the Bible. Coordinated by Joseph Kueh, principal of Ayer Manis, and Pastor Matthew Mambu, Pastor Money reports, "There was a spirit of revival and close fellowship experienced by all during the week."

10 Baptized After Revelation Seminar

Pastors James Sagit and Lawrence Randig recently baptized 10 people after holding a successful Revelation Seminar in the village of Nanga Kelam, Sarawak. Every night for a week villagers would come in their longboats to attend (*see picture below*). "You could feel the thrill in the air as the people sang and praised the Lord," said Lawrence Randig after the meetings.



Youngberg Family Visit Southeast Asia Again

Gustavus and Norma Youngberg are well-known pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist work in Southeast Asia. Recently, three of the Youngberg children made a special trip back to Southeast Asia to visit the home of their childhood.

From 1917 to 1942 the Youngbergs worked in Singapore, in British North Borneo (now Sabah), in Sumatra, and in Sarawak. Sadly, during World War II Gus Youngberg died as



The Youngbergs in front of the Sarawak Mission office.

a prisoner-of-war in Kuching. He left behind his wife and their six children, James, Ruth, Rhoda, Robert, Gustavus Jr., and Ida Madge. Youngberg Adventist Hospital in Singapore was named in memory of Pastor Youngberg. Norma Youngberg went on to be remembered by Adventists worldwide for her many books, some of which were even used by the Malaysian Education Department as textbooks for literature in the 1960's. Robert Youngberg returned after the War and served the Sabah Mission as its president from 1947-1952. Gus Jr. was a missionary doctor in Thailand and Dr. Ida Madge Longway is currently a professor at AIAS.

Ruth, Rhoda, and Robert Youngberg say they enjoyed the trip because of the progress they saw and the warmth and hospitality of the church members. Also travelling with them were Ruth's son Don Knittle, and granddaughter Alicia. *By Edmund Siagian.*

Singaporean Recognized as Notable Adventist Woman"

Flora Hutabarat is one of 147 specially selected women included in the recently released volume, *Notable Adventist Women of Today*. The book, published by the General Conference, acknowledges the contributions made by women of the church, in celebration of 1995 as the church designated Year of the Adventist Woman.

Flora Hutabarat's inclusion in this volume is due to her service of almost 40 years to the church in various capacities, beginning with missionary service in North Borneo (now Sabah) before and during the Second World War, until her position as Dean of Women at Southeast Asia Union College in Singapore, where she retired.

Out of the profiles of the 147 women included in this volume, she is the only Singaporean noted and one of only two Southeast Asian nationals (the other is from Thailand).

Flora Hurabarat, widowed in 1959, singlehandedly raised her seven children, providing them with Christian education throughout secondary school. Her children currently have accomplished careers, among them a physician, an attorney and an educator. The current business manager of Southeast Asia Union College is also one of her children.

Flora Hutabarat is congratulated for more than just her inclusion in this volume, but more importantly for her efforts to educate and bring up her children as positive and contributing influences to society. ☸

by Morris Arnold Hutabarat.

SAM and PEM Organize First Women's Retreat



After a refreshing Sabbath walk, these ladies posed for a picture. From left: May Ing, Sally Phoon, Kathleen Kuntaraf, Sheila Fanwar, Shirley Chapman and Linda Koh.

A total of 56 women gathered for a weekend of spiritual refreshing, social interaction and physical revitalization at the Holiday Inn in Johore Bahru from July 21-23, 1995. This was the first Women's Retreat held by the Singapore and Peninsular Malaysia Missions.

Four seminars were conducted concurrently throughout the weekend and every delegate was given the same opportunity to attend all the seminars on a rotating basis. The seminars were conducted by Dr. Kathleen Kuntaraf, Health and Temperance Director of Asia-Pacific Division, Dr. Sally Phoon, professor at Southeast Asia Union College, Mrs. Shirley Chapman, outgoing director of Family Ministries at SAUM, and Mrs. May Ing, a director of the Newstart programme at Youngberg Hospital. Topics included *Wellness for Women* and *Developing Self-esteem*. Dr. Linda Koh, Women's Ministries director of the Asia-Pacific Division, challenged all participants to be "The Witnessing Woman" on Sabbath. Later, testimonies by Pearlyn Ng and Elizabeth Teo on how God led them to the Adventist Church moved many.

Special recognition was given to Mrs. Chapman at the close of the retreat as she and her husband Raymond are going on permanent return to Australia. Says Linda Koh, "We want to thank her for her service to this Union and to the missions." She continues, "We also want to keep the Women's Ministry going so that more women can be involved in the great gospel commission." ☸

BAPTISM AT YOUNGBERG CHURCH.

Marie Beulah Rosemary became a member of Youngberg Adventist Church on July 22, 1995. Despite many obstacles on Sabbath-keeping, she has stood fast for truth, reports Samuel Money, officiating minister. Marie received Bible studies from Yan Siew Ghiang, pastor of Youngberg Church.



140 Pathfinders Attend Camporee

by Samuel Siew

From May 30 to June 4 this year, approximately 140 Pathfinders from 10 different clubs in Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore met at Templer's Park for a combined Pathfinder Camporee. The Camporee was jointly organized by the Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore Missions. Also present was Lawrence Banyie, Youth Director of the SAUM, David Leoh, PEM president, and Matthew Yuen, SAM president.

Highlights of the camporee included the induction of 20 new members during a special candlelight service on Friday night. On Sabbath, four new Master Guides were invested. Competitions were conducted for tent pitching, knot tying, and first aid. The Campfire on Saturday night was another highlight.

At the closing ceremony, the Balestier Pathfinder Club emerged as the Most Outstanding Pathfinder Club while the Most Outstanding Pathfinder Award went to a pathfinder from the Kuantan Pathfinder Club.



Certainly new friendships were established and old friendships strengthened. All praise to our great God for his protection and care over the campers. ☸

Samuel Siew is the director of youth ministry of the Singapore Mission.




"The Great Singapore Sale?"

A Shopping Trip for the Needy

A very special shopping sale was held by the Adventist Better Living Centre (ABLC) on July 23, 1995 on the Jurong Church compound. Nicknamed the GST (Great Singapore Trip), the project reached out to 65 households under social welfare. Customers included the aged, the handicapped, widows, and single parents. \$100 cash vouchers were given to each household when they were visited by ABLC volunteers. Transport was also arranged for the participants, and all purchases were delivered to their homes by Pathfinders. Items on sale included food and toiletries. Haircuts were free as were unused and second-hand clothing and lunch! Also available were health and dental checks courtesy of Youngberg Adventist Hospital.

Approximately 20 companies in Singapore contributed to the project. Both *The Straits Times* and *The New Paper* covered the project resulting in prominent articles appearing in the major newspapers the following day, and creating good publicity for the Church.

Says Samuel Siew, director of the Adventist Better Living Centre, "This project has made our members realize that, despite the fact that Singapore is an economically sound country, there are still those who are needy whom we can reach out to." ☸

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UPDATE: Adventist Healthcare in Southeast Asia

BANGKOK ADVENTIST HOSPITAL. Dr. Siriporn Tantipoonvina, president of Mission College—BAH Campus, reports that the nursing programme recently received an award for Outstanding Nursing Programme of the Year. Mrs. Salinee Navamaratna was also voted Outstanding Nursing Educator. ☸

PENANG ADVENTIST HOSPITAL. The goal of the preventive medicine department of Penang Adventist Hospital is to supplement the acute care services of the hospital, thereby fulfilling the hospital's motto of *Making Man Whole*.

As prevention of disease and staying healthy are the two cornerstones of the health message of the Church, the department, recently formed in 1993, incorporated these cornerstones into the programmes and services offered. As the world around us is now awakening to the reality of these two corner stones of the health message, receptivity towards the health evangelistic message of the Church is at an all-time high compared to other times in history.

The programmes and services of the preventive medicine department is carried out by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of the following professionals: preventive medicine specialist, dietitian, health educator, occupational health and safety medical officer, and fitness consultant.

Programmes and services offered by the department include:

- Health Risk Appraisal for individuals to identify lifestyle habits that put one at risk for chronic degenerative diseases e.g. cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes;
- Programmes aimed at reducing risk factors e.g. weight management, stress reduction, cholesterol control, cancer prevention.
- Live in life style modification programmes for those already at risk for chronic degenerative disease: Newstart.
- Patient education and lifestyle intervention programmes e.g. diabetic education programme conducted in patient and in the Diabetic Education Centre (scheduled to open on October 19, 1995.)

These programmes aim to project the image that a person's health is a result of one's daily choices of food and lifestyle consistent with the law of sowing and reaping. The created awareness and need for a change in lifestyle is the first step towards realization of the need of a soul for a Saviour, not only from physical ailments but from eternal damnation. To this end, the preventive care team of Penang Adventist Hospital continues to dedicate their efforts. ☸ *Contributed by Dr. Pang Chu Yien.*

PHUKET ADVENTIST HOSPITAL. Under the leadership of Dr. Rapeepan Wangchumtong, Phuket Adventist Hospital is moving towards the concept of a "new mission hospital," reports the marketing department of PKAH. Two leadership



Employees at PKAH.

seminars were recently conducted for department heads patterned after the leadership seminar held in Singapore in March by Elder Philip Follett, vice-president of the General Conference. Also, every Friday in July, hospital workers met and learned "Ways to Successful Services," a workshop conducted by the Public Relations Department of the hospital. Employees attending 75% of the time received certificates. "We need to turn around strategically to fit ourselves with the rapid environmental changes in order to exist to fulfill our mission—preaching the gospel through healing," say Somkiat Choomkong and Wichit Wanasor, heads of the marketing department. ☸

YOUNGBERG ADVENTIST HOSPITAL'S outpatient services continue to function effectively to the people of Singapore. Recently, the hospital revised their fee structure to that of government hospitals in the country. It is hoped that this change will bring about an even more effective turnaround for the hospital. ☸

Focus on Sabbath School

by Edmund Siagian

Believing the message of the Lord through Ellen White that the Sabbath School, if rightly conducted, "should be

Sabah, from Tamparuli to Goshen; **Pastor Francis Amer** organized similar meetings in seven areas in Sarawak,

the coordinating efforts of **Pastor Wann Fanwar** of the Singapore Mission, innovative Sabbath School



A typical Sabbath School seminar at Ubon, Thailand.



A sit-on-the-floor Sabbath School seminar at a modern longhouse along the Tatau River. (The ladies are sitting on the opposite wall.)



An innovative Sabbath School programme by the Youth Ministry group at the Southeast Asia Union College Church.

one of the greatest instrumentalities and the most effectual, in bring souls to Christ," by retaining, reviving, reclaiming and winning, a number of Sabbath School seminars and workshops were conducted in Sabah, Sarawak, Peninsular Malaysia, and Thailand in July.

With the help of the Sabbath School Department of the Union, each mission's Church Ministries director and associate director for Sabbath School led out in meetings in the churches and districts, with an aim to increase Sabbath School memberships and the number of members studying their Bibles daily, and to rejuvenate the church into a warmer and caring place.

Pastor Nelver Sikul of Sabah Mission led out seminars in 11 districts along the West Coast of

from Krokong to Miri; **Pastor Dennis Ng** and laypersons **Irene Chee** and **Teo Eh Jang** held seminars in Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya and Kota Bahru, respectively; while **Pastor Anucha Saeyong** and **Pastor Boonrat Moolkeo** with the help of **Pastor Pairote Phookchit** conducted various workshops in the Northeast and Southern regions of Thailand. Through

programmes with timely and relevant messages are being carried out.*

Let us hope and pray that the Lord will continue to help us recognize His leading through the Sabbath School—from the Cradle Roll to the Adult Section—as one of His most effectual and far-reaching agencies for soul-saving.✠



Sabbath School leads souls to Jesus.

**At this point, little is known regarding the state of the Sabbath School in Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos. However in Brunei, Sabbath School programmes are on-going in two house-based congregations.*

Edmund Siagian is the associate church ministries director in charge of Sabbath School.

LAOS. On Friday, August 11, 1995, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and the Ministry of Public Health signed an Agreement of Cooperation and Understanding for a project which will support cholera prevention education activities by providing US\$57,200 for the development, production, and distribution of a variety of cholera prevention materials and for training and supporting health workers to educate communities about cholera prevention. The document was signed at the Ministry of Public Health by ADRA Laos Director Todd Bruce and Dr. Khamliene Pholsena, Chair of the National Committee for Cholera Control. In 1994, there were 10,409 cases with 707 deaths reported. Up until the end of June there had been 558 cases and 130 deaths. ADRA began this urgent response in June but only now has officially signed this document. This project is funded by the South Pacific Division.

Over the past 10 years, 7000 men, women and children lost their limbs to land mines planted during the civil war. When the war ended in 1975, the Lao government established the Ban Nammart Prosthesis Centre in Vientiane, which manufactures artificial limbs for amputees. On August 8, ADRA Laos provided the Centre with equipment—badly needed hand tools and machinery—funded by ADRA Sweden. This will assist in increasing the prosthetics productions from around 400 to 600 per year. Selected personnel will be trained in the installation and use of this equipment.

One hundred drilled wells have been completed in the Champassak Province since January this year providing clean water to approximately 15,000 people in a project funded by ADRA South Pacific.

Donations are being sought by ADRA to build the first Adventist school in the Laos. This will also be the country's first Christian school. (See page 4.)

Reported by Todd Bruce, director, ADRA Laos.

THAILAND. Assistance and funds have been granted for a project aimed at rehabilitating opium addicts among the Hmong people of central Thailand. "This is a pilot project and we have much to learn in this area," reveals Nick Brightman.

Another recently approved project is the Small Enterprise Development scheme in the Roi Et province of northeast Thailand. This project provides loans for poor villagers and farmers in the area. Funds come from AusAID.

ADRA^{south east asia}news

"Thousands have been injured by mines that still remain, and that kill or maim hundreds each year."

ADRA GOES ACADEMIC. On July 21, 1995, representatives from ADRA International and Andrews University met to announce their future collaboration on academic training in international development. With this venture ADRA plans to upgrade the qualifications of workers both at

home and in the field, while Andrews seeks to be involved more with the church's global mission. Andrews plans to tailor two degrees to fit ADRA's needs. The proposed programmes will lead to an M.A. in International Development and a Ph.D. in Leadership with an emphasis on International Development or PVO management (private voluntary organization). The joint project further includes future internships in ADRA management. By September 1,

1995, four candidates will be selected for a one-year stint during which they will learn from agency professionals at home and abroad. Says Gary Brendel, Senior Advisor for ADRA's Human Resources Development, "We want to give people the kind of knowledge they need to do the best job they can."

Reported by Robert Darken, ADRA International.

Briefly:

Nicholas Brightman, director of ADRA Thailand, has accepted a call to be the ADRA director for the East Africa Division in Harare, Zimbabwe. Though Brightman says that he "has grown fond of Thailand," he also adds that he and his wife Gail will now have more opportunity to visit their children who attend school in Kenya.

The **Asia-Pacific Division ADRA Advisory Quinquennium** will be held from October 2-12 at Mount Kinabalu in Sabah.

SAUC Welcomes New Faculty

Drs. Lily and Yew-Chong Wong both joined SAUC in June 1995. Wong Yew Chong is the new vice-president and oversees academic affairs, fund-raising and public relations. His top priority right now is to develop a team of people who will support the president in the articulation of his vision and mission. Dr. Wong believes in encouraging growth in his teachers and sees himself as a facilitator, one who helps individuals to discover and maximise their potential. Prior to joining SAUC, he was head of the Business Department at Walla Walla College. This should prove beneficial as he is now the main liaison between the two colleges.



Dr. Lily Wong currently heads the Education/ Psychology Department, a post she once held in the '70s. She holds an Ed.D. in Educational

Psychology and is planning to strengthen the curriculum of the Department so that graduates will be better equipped to compete in the private and public sectors and also better serve as teachers in SDA educational institutions.

Shirley Doo, assistant professor, recently returned from San Jose State University after pursuing a Master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Doo has been teaching at SAUC since 1985.

Joseph Huang, visiting professor at SAUC for 3rd and 4th Quarter, is teaching biology classes and Conversational Chinese. Dr. Huang worked for the US government up to his retirement in 1985. At the height of his career he published more than 20 papers on parasitology. His book *Perinatal Pharmacology* is available through Raven Press. Dr. Huang is accompanied by his wife, Cirila.

Ritha Maidom-Lampadan joined the English Department in June 1995 after completing a Master's degree in English at Andrews University, where she also completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Teaching English as a Second Language in 1993.



Naltan and Ritha Lampadan.

Drs. JoAnn and Kenneth Wiggins, exchange professors from Walla Walla College for 3rd Quarter 1995, were warmly welcomed by students and faculty alike. While here JoAnn Wiggins, professor of business education and computer information systems, taught Business Communications and Human Resources Management. Ken Wiggins, professor of mathematics, team-taught a college algebra class. ☺

Annual Tradition Upheld

From August 4 to 6, 1995, Southeast Asia Union College continued its annual cultural feast for its alumni. Those honoured were students who graduated/ attended in the 1980's. Approximately 30 alumni from near and far made special arrangements to join this annual gathering.

Three special events marked the occasion. The international population of SAUC was reflected in the Cultural Extravaganza held on Saturday night. Alumni and visitors were treated to songs and dances from China, Myanmar, India, Thailand, the United States, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, and both East and West Malaysia. Friday evening saw a close-knit group reminiscing in the new Lecture Hall. Speakers included Koh Kang Song, currently Associate Director of the Department of Education at the Asia-Pacific Division (also former student, and former president), Sally Phoon, '71, now chair of SAUC's Office Administration Department, Tony Pasillas, '89, presently English instructor in a school in Japan, and Andy Wee, '87, now manager of a major financial corporation in Malaysia.

The International Food Fair, declared open by Mr. Andy Gan, Advisor to the Potong Pasir Constituency Grassroots Organization, also proved another weekend success. This year both the awards Most Profitable Stall and Best Decorated Stall went to the Malaysians. ☺

College Calendar

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| August 25-Sept 7 | Promotional trip by SAUC Singers to Sabah and Sarawak |
| November 19, Sunday | Graduation Commencement Service |

Based on interviews by Mark Wong and Sally Phoon for *Contact*.

The Cynical Young Person and the Starfish

The Cynical Young Person wandered down the beach, lost in *Baywatch* thoughts. Ahead lay a strange sight—millions of starfish washed up on the sand. They stretched as far as the eye could see.

The Young Person couldn't help but be impressed.

A little further on was a figure bent over the beach. The figure was an old man. As the Young Person got closer, it became clear the man was picking up starfish and tossing them into the waves.

"What are you doing?" the Young Person asked.

The old man looked up. "Saving the starfish." He threw the starfish he was holding into the sea. "If they stay on the sand, they'll suffocate and die."

The Cynical Young Person looked up and down the beach at the millions of starfish, then laughed a world-weary laugh.

"But look at them all. There are millions. What's the point? What difference can you make?"

The old man bent down and picked up another starfish and held it up to the Young Person. "I can make a difference to this one."



Potpourri

This column does not necessarily represent the views of the editors or the SDA Church.

"Sometimes, it's like a hair across your cheek. You can't see it, you can't find it with your fingers, but you keep brushing at it because the feel of it is irritating."

Marian Anderson, on racial prejudice

Number of suicides per 100,000 people:

Ages 15-19: 11.1

Ages 75-84: 24.9

Newsweek, 1/8.5.94

"Two kinds of gratitude: The sudden kind we feel for what we take, the larger kind we feel for what we give."

Edwin Arlington Robinson

"Home is not where you live, it's where they understand you."

Christian Morgenstern

"...Children shouldn't 'obey' parents but heed them; wives are no longer 'subject' to their husbands but committed to them; 'darkness' is no longer equated with evil because of racist overtones and the Lord's Prayer now begins with 'Our Father-Mother in heaven...'"

From an updated version of the New Testament (Oxford University Press) released 11.9.95 (Source: USA TODAY, 1.9.95)

"What does one say to a capable young girl growing up about being anything she wants to be—doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief—anything, that is, except an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister!"

*Jean Geraty Gard
(in a letter to the Review 24.8.95)*

"I never dared to be radical when young, for fear it would make me conservative when old."

Robert Frost

"I will come again."

Jesus Christ

LETTERS to the editor

All correspondence is welcome. However, letters will be edited to meet space and literary requirements.

It is quite some time since I have worked in Asia and I must say that I greatly appreciate receiving the **Messenger** to see how the work is continued in these areas. I must mention that the **Messenger** that I receive does not stop with me. It is passed on to other members from Asia who are at present studying or lecturing at the Wollongong University.

Dr. J. E. Turner
New South Wales, Australia

The **Messenger** came again today—we enjoy reading it! We do miss the lovely Singapore weather and fruits, to say nothing of all our friends there. God bless you all and may His coming be soon.

Bob and Ethel Steele
British Columbia, Canada

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING...

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Number of People in Southeast Asia*: | 167,300,000 |
| Number of SDAs in Southeast Asia in 1987: | 44,275 |
| In 1994: | 56,860 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Mission in Southeast Asia with most members: | Sabah (19,236 as of 6.95) |
| Fastest Growing: | Cambodia (1214 as of 6.95; 34 in 1990) |

*Includes Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, & Vietnam. Figures do NOT include Brunei, Indonesia, or the Philippines. Source: *The Academic American Encyclopedia*, online, Grolier Electronic Publishing, 1994.

Other figures—Source: SAUIM Secretary's Annual & Quarterly Statistical Report.

STANDING... (Continued from page 16)

Then hearing the sobs of my mother, he made his way to her, and sat beside her. "Sister-in-law, don't weep," he spoke in a loud clear voice. "What happened has happened. There's nothing we can do to reverse it. God allowed it to happen. He knows what is best. We don't."

I stood amazed. Astonished at those words. Words of simple faith spoken not out of passive resignation but of deep trust in the ways of God. Words that pushed

aside personal sorrow and leaned on God's comfort.

I stood ashamed.

And I stood ashamed. There I was, theologically trained, doubting God's wisdom. Here was someone who obviously patterned his life after God's plan, speaking the truth from experience. No amount of seminary training could achieve that. Just the simple trusting faith of experience.

I stood there, touched. ☺

E. T. Kong is a pastor serving in the Southeast Asia Union.

Standing

A pastor's struggle with his faith

by E. T. Kong

I stood by my aunt's hospital bedside, barely able to control my tears. Just a few hours before, a five-tonne truck had hit her, split her skull, crushed several bones, and left a gaping side wound exposing her entrails. Her face had ballooned to twice its size, and yet appeared remarkably serene, as if she felt nothing.

I stood there helpless. I wanted to reach out and touch her hand but I was afraid to cause further damage. A spaghetti network of tubes carrying all kinds of life-saving fluids crisscrossed into her body. Machines monitoring her every pulse efficiently went about their paces. Nurses darted in and out of the intensive care unit every other minute monitoring the machines.

I stood there terrified. *What if she dies?*

It's not fair, Lord! I reacted immediately. *Surely you could have at least let her enjoy her remaining years after all her toil and labour? Certainly you would not let her go in this manner, Lord?*

I stood there angry. Being a pastor did not help me answer the age-old question of why bad things happen to good people. Oh yes, I had preached many sermons and counselled on the all good plan of a loving God working in a sinful world. But it all felt so empty now. No answers, just questions, hurt, pain and more questions.

"Excuse me, are you a relative?" a nurse interrupted my mind's battle.

"Yes, I'm her nephew, why?" I answered, irritated at the intrusion of my great personal theological struggle.

"We had to saw off her ring. Would you please pass it to her children?" The nurse gently handed me a golden ring.

I stood there numb. It was my aunt's wedding ring. A symbol of undying love between husband and wife. A symbol of the undying love between my aunt and uncle. *How is my uncle going to react to this? I thought with despair. Did he not suffer enough already, having lost his eyesight in the prime of his life? Oh Lord, why this now?* My struggle intensified.

I walked out of the ICU room and into the waiting room with its sea of blank sorrowful faces. My relatives were trying to console my mother, my aunt's only sister.

I handed the ring to a cousin. "Where's Uncle?" I asked.

"He should be coming any minute now. Second Cousin has gone to fetch him."

A few minutes later, the lift door opened and my uncle stepped out, clutching his walking stick. The relatives immediately stood up, acknowledging his presence.

(Continued on page 15)

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