



Messenger

MITA (P) No. 108-05-95

SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION

July - September 1996



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A Renewed Stewardship Vision

by Joshua W Mok

Recent years have seen a renewed interest in stewardship. Though much of this renewed interest may come from financial pressures, we do have an opportunity to address the wider concepts of stewardship as a lifestyle.

What is stewardship? Stewardship is the human side of the lordship relationship with God. It is the lifestyle of the one who accepts Christ's lordship and walks in partnership with God, acting as His agent in managing His affairs on earth.

Biblical stewardship is neither a one time event, nor a finished product. It is a process of growth in union with God. It signifies a growing application of the walk with God into everyday life.

This growth process begins with the recognition that Christ initiates stewardship. Through creation and redemption, God has initiated the lordship relationship with humanity. Our response in this relationship is stewardship.

In order to begin this relationship, we accept God's gift of salvation which brings the assurance of eternal life (1 John 1:13). This assurance provides the starting point for our stewardship. It also changes our perspective on life as we realize that God has lifted us to His very throne to be seated with Him in Christ. (Eph 2:6).

Because of our experience with God's love we willingly accept Christ's lordship and receive His Spirit by faith.

The Holy Spirit becomes the active agent of Christ's lordship as He brings the very presence of Jesus into our lives. He is the One who convicts us of truth, righteousness, and sin. Our response is to assent to His convicting.

Once we accept the lordship of Christ, we then acknowledge His ownership and our status in Him. A critical part of the stewardship process is accepting who we are in Him. Emphasizing our performance or work as a condition to our salvation is insidious denial of God's grace. The believer's obedience is the result of his or her acceptance of and walk with God. A performance orientation easily and quickly denies our identity in God.

Once we accept who Christ is and who we are in Him, we can accept His partnership. We do not work for God. A partner is not an employee. Instead we have the wonder and privilege of working *in* and *with* God.

Finally, the stewardship process becomes ongoing as we integrate this relationship with God into every area of life. It is in this context that the stewardship of money, as well as tithes and offerings, becomes a crucial part of the Christian's life. However, it cannot be the primary focus of stewardship ministry. Instead, it is the result of the integration of Christ's lordship into every area of life as guided by His Spirit.

This approach helps our leadership become more spiritual and effective by:

1. Nurturing trust in God as stewardship begins with knowing and trusting God.
2. Nurturing the personal walk with God as we lead others to integrate the gospel and lordship relationship with Christ into every area of life.

Stewardship is the human side of the lordship relationship with God

About
The
Cover

Amidst a tropical backdrop, Pastor Gilbert Tan baptises a candidate in a Sarawakian river. See report on page 7.



3. Building a faith dependent upon God through a renewed vision of God and our relationship with Him.
4. Leading to a transformed church which gives God more room to work in everyday life.

Thus we quickly discover that stewardship ministry will be effective in the life of an individual or the church only when Christ and our relationship with Him is the focus and foundation of a discipline process. Life is lived in the reality of who God is, and who we are in Him.

Joshua W Mok is secretary/ASI/stewardship/trust services director of SAUM



Corrections to April-June, 1996, Issue

The April-June, 1996, Southeast Asia Union *Messenger* published an error in the SAUM Statistical Report for the First Quarter. Church Memberships at End of Quarter for Thailand should read 10,481. SAUM Annual Council is now scheduled for December 4-5, 1996.

Adventist Life. During a recent Sabbath School program put on by children, a 6-year-old girl completely forgot how her memory verse began. Her mother, seated in the front row, mouthed the words of Jesus: "I am the light of the world." The little girl relaxed and radiated with confidence. Then, in a voice like a cheerleader's, she called out, "My mother is the light of the world!"

Adventist Review, 19.9.96

Bible Information On-line on Internet: The Upper Columbia Conference has made the resources of "The Bible Information Line" available on Internet at <http://www.bibleinfo.com>. Visitors find six choices: 1) Topics, where visitors can read about 316 Bible topics; 2) Questions, where Bible questions are answered; 3) Prayer, where visitors share prayer requests with staff; 4) Information, where information about the Seventh-day Adventist Church is provided; 5) Gift, where a visitor may request "Your Bible and You" and/or the "Discover" Bible course, and 6) Resources, where other Adventist web sites are listed.

Well over 500 of the 3,000 visitors from 25 countries who have logged on to the Web site have requested a free book, Bible lessons, or asked questions about the Bible. Telephone responses continue at the rate of 1,000 per month. Over 23,000 people have called; 4,750 gift books have been mailed; 375 requested the "Discover" Bible correspondence course and 10 baptisms have been reported as a direct result of the "Bible Information Line."

From the GC President, 8.7.96

Hong Kong's Post-1997 Church. Religious freedom will be guaranteed in Hong Kong after the Crown colony is returned to China, the People's Republic of China says. The promise was made in the July 31 edition of the Chinese-language magazine *Bauhinia*. The government-funded magazine quoted an official from the Chinese State Council's Religious Affairs Bureau, who said that "all kinds of religious activities will continue . . . without intervention from the central government" in Beijing.

The Adventist Church's Hong Kong-Macao Conference has some 18 churches and 4,100 adult members. It operates four schools and a college, one 118-bed and another 94-bed hospital. The church work began in Hong Kong in 1888 with the arrival of Abram La Rue, who opened a seamen's mission there. The first baptism occurred in 1902.

Record, 17.8.96

News In Brief...



God's Plan of Financing His Church

The Lord's Tithe

Tithe	10%	To support the gospel ministry of my local mission & the world church	Distribution: 70% local Mission, 20% Union, 10% Division
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Freewill Offerings

Giving Guide: (For systematic giving, a second 10% of income in addition to tithe is suggested as the goal for individual giving, in order to provide for local church needs, local mission needs, and the worldwide needs of the Church.

Category	Suggested %	Purpose	Distribution	Weekly Church Offering Allocation
Local Church (Combined Budget)	5%	To support the ministry of my local church	Church & outreach expenses	1st & 4th Sabbath
Local Mission (Mission Development Fund)	2%	To support the non-tithe needs of my local mission	-evangelism -church building -Christian Education	3rd Sabbath
World Church (World Mission Fund)	2%	To support worldwide missions program of the Church	Annual world missions budget distribution/appropriations by GC	All Sabbath School Offerings*
World Church (Special Projects Offerings)	1%	To support the designated GC/Division/Union projects as indicated by the GC Calendar of Offerings.	100% to the designated projects as listed	2nd Sabbath
VOP	%	To support VOP operation	100% to VOP School	5th Sabbath

*25% of the 13th Sabbath School offering collected worldwide goes to the designated Division for its specific projects.

Church (SAUM) Policy Governing the Distribution of Tithe

"A tithe of everything...belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord". (Lev. 27:30)

Support of Worldwide Work

In harmony with the divine principles set forth in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy that all should share in the responsibility the supporting the worldwide work, we recognize the equity of missions sharing their tithe.

Sharing the Tithe (Distribution)

1. Local church & individual -100% (tithe) to Mission
2. Mission 100% (tithe) -10% (tithe of tithe) to Union [Union - 10% (tithe of tithe) to General Conference]
-10% (tithe percentage*) to Union [Union - 2.5% back to Mission]
-10% (tithe percentage*) to Division
-11% to Division (Retirement Contribution)
3. Mission Operation - 61.5%

***Tithe Percentage** - In harmony with the principle of tithe sharing policy and because of the pressing need both for building up the work along special lines in the present fields of the Division and the Union, and for forging ahead into the vast unentered territories of the field, mission shall pay to the Division (10%) and the Union 10% of its tithe receipts. These funds are to be used for extending the Lord's work in the various aspects of soul-winning in accordance with accepted use of tithe funds. Appropriate use for these tithe funds shall be:

- (1) Strategic & Penetrative Activities (2) Funding of Departmental Field Activities (3) Direct Evangelism (4) Tithe Appropriations to the Field (5) Operating Funds.

Bangkok LE Reaches Out



Ms. Pannee (centre of picture) and her little friends.

Literature Evangelist Ms Pannee sold books to people in Bangkok. When she noticed the children she suggested a story hour for them and their little friends once a week. Soon a branch Sabbath School was started with twelve children attending. These children enjoyed the stories about Jesus so much that they invited their friends in the neighbourhood to attend. Now, after only a few months, there are more than fifty precious children enjoying the beautiful stories.

The parents also became interested and Pannee now has a group of 8-12 adults meeting every week for Bible study. In the picture you can see Pannee (centre of picture) with those she is reaching out to.

This is what the work of literature evangelists is all about—preparing a people to meet God. Why don't you join Pannee and enjoy the excitement of soul winning?

*A. J. Oberholster, Publishing Director
SAUM*

Lay Training Programs With Charts



Seventy laymen from the Sabah Mission attended the Lay Training Program conducted by Pastors John Duroe and Samuel Money.

About two years ago the ministerial association and the personal ministries department jointly planned to train laymen in evangelistic sermon presentation using special charts prepared by the General Conference. In spite of shortage of funds to produce the charts, the program went ahead.

So far 220 laymen and ministerial interns from Sabah, Thailand, and Peninsular Malaysia have received certificates of achievement and benefitted from the program. Dr John Duroe, SAUM ministerial secretary, is coordinator of the program with Pastor Samuel Money assisting him. The program usually follows a series of evangelistic meetings conducted by the two men for the first four nights and then the laymen will complete the series for the next ten evenings.

*Samuel Money, Director
Personal Ministries/Sabbath School, SAUM*

Great Growth Among Filipino Workers in Singapore

A recent survey shows that there are about 600 Filipino maids enrolled in the VOP here in Singapore. The courses are "advertised" by word of mouth. In 1991, on the first Sunday of each month, VOP graduates would meet in the VOP office for a fellowship meeting. It was felt that these meetings were not sufficient to meet the needs of these ladies so more frequent and regular meetings were organized under the leadership of Jaime Bolipata, SAUM assistant publishing director.

Brother Bolipata, with the help of the Filipino missionary wives from Asia-Pacific Division (APD) organized regular Sabbath School classes at the Balestier Road Church. Presently, there are about 70 ladies attending.

As a result of this outreach, three persons were baptised with two others having Bible studies. It all started with a VOP lesson!



A VOP student from the Filipino Fellowship group who was recently baptised by Pastor Matthew Yuen, SAM president.

Broadcast Ends Suicide Pact

Thousands of Christians in Vietnam have been deprived of all church worship experiences for 20 years and in all of that time never listened to a sermon or joined others in singing hymns. The exciting news is that despite it all, the church there today is growing fast!

In September, 1994, Adventist World Radio began a daily thirty-minute broadcast to Vietnam from the island of Guam; just thirty minutes a day--at convenient times--early in the morning and late at night! But people from all parts of the country listened and wrote to the station:

"We listen to your program at night. Please send us anything you have about God."

"Because of your radio program, our lives have been changed and now we know what life is all about."

"We are a group of young people. After listening to your program for a while, we have found faith in God. We want to study deeper into the Bible, but in this secluded part of Vietnam it is hard to find materials about God."

One man wrote to say that life had been so hard for so long that he and his family had made a suicide pact. There was no work and no food left for the children. Life held no more attractions. There was no future and no hope. They cooked their last meal -- a little rice and a few vegetables -- and then sat cross-legged together on the floor and ate in silence. Somebody switched on the short-wave radio for the last time. AWR/Asia came on! The speaker was talking about discouragement and how faith in a loving God is the remedy. By the time the meal and the broadcast had come to an end, they wanted to live again! A few days later they spent the equivalent of a day's wages to send a letter to the station in Guam. It did not matter

because they now knew there was God who would provide their next meal.

The speaker that night was Isaiah Duong, a young pastor living in southern California. As a boy he fled Vietnam in 1975 with his family and grew up in the United States. He was a good student and won a place in medical school. Halfway through his first year of studies, God spoke to him about ministry. He did not hesitate and switched to theology. He now pastors two congregations, has a regular TV program for the Vietnamese community in the Los Angeles area, and in his spare time prepares the daily thirty-minute programmes to be aired in Vietnam over

AWR. He also writes music, conducts the choir, edits the sound tapes, and writes books and pamphlets to send to his listeners! He says he gives everything he has for this mission. And in Vietnam many lives have been changed. People have found Christ, and the Christian community has been strengthened because of it.



Pastor Isaiah Duong's radiobroadcasts could reach scores of Vietnamese if only they had radios.

Plans are underway to increase programme time from thirty minutes to two hours daily! AWR could broadcast a Sabbath service every week for those in Vietnam who have been deprived of a worship experience for so long. They would be able to hear the sound of congregational singing again and listen to sermons after 20 years of Sabbath silence!

The few pastor that are in Vietnam have not been able to attend seminars or workshops for many years. They have had no opportunities to grow professionally. Many of them do not even have formal training. The aim is now to create a "College of the Air" to train more pastors in Vietnam.

Evidence abounds already that God's Spirit is changing lives all over Vietnam. God's work is growing. Please remember the work in Vietnam.

Adapted from "The Quiet Hour Echoes"

Behem Church Receives 30 Members

Members of the Mendeg and Entubuh congregations gathered at Behem Church every night for three weeks in July for an evangelism outreach cum lay pastors' training program. Each night saw about 180 to 250 people attending. Pastor Francis Amer and Pastor Andrew Ganya, assisted by church elders, brought messages of faith and hope to prepare people for the Second Coming.



The baptismal candidates waiting their turn.

The climax of the meetings was the baptism conducted by Pastor Gilbert Tan. Thirty persons, mostly youth, were baptised in a river nearby. There was much rejoicing as church members celebrated this occasion with a potluck dinner and social night.

Andrew Ganya, district pastor, Serian



Youth from 290 clubs throughout the Kuching, Bau/Lundu, Penrissen and Serian districts of Sarawak attended the Pathfinder Camporee at Matang Wildlife Centre from August 19-22.



For two weeks in May, the Sunshine Singers from Southern Philippines brought "sunshine" to various areas in Sarawak. Through their music ministry they were able to inspire church members on the importance of good Christian music. They challenged the members, especially the young people, to form singing groups as a means of evangelism.

Festival of Praise

Ayer Manis School auditorium was alive with the sound of music during the Festival of Praise held on August 9-10. Many groups from the various churches in Sarawak participated in the "Rejoice in the Lord" festival.

In the closing ceremony, YB Encik Frederick Bayoi Manggie, a representative from the government, challenged the people to be more



Ayer Manis School auditorium was alive with the sound of music during the Festival of Praise held on August 9-10. Many groups from the various churches in Sarawak participated in the "Rejoice in the Lord" festival

united like a big family. He assured the church of his continued support in future. A gong was then struck to mark the closing of the ceremony. A night of fun and fellowship followed after the groups presented a cultural show.

Francis Amer is communication and youth director of the Sarawak Mission.

FACULTY SEARCH

SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION COLLEGE

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Management/Marketing Professor

Nominations and applications are invited for the position of professor in Management and Marketing in the Department of Business. Initial appointment is for three years with renewal expected. Doctorate preferred but MBAs with experience are encourage to submit resumes. Compensation package and academic ranking negotiable. School year starts January 1997. Please write to the President.

Faculty Databank

In its efforts to build a quality international faculty Southeast Asia Union College is establishing a database on prospective faculty in all academic disciplines. Membership in the Adventist Church is mandatory and teaching faculty must have at least one graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education. Administrative officers should have relevant experience. All resumes welcome. Write or call the President or academic dean.

Southeast Asia Union College is the official educational professional development center for the Southeast Asia Union Mission. Recently government moves have prompted the Board of Directors to initiate moving the College out of Singapore in 1999. The change in location provides the unusual opportunity to establish a new and innovative curriculum for a fast-developing region destined to achieve prominence in the first quarter of the Pacific Century.

An understanding of the Asian mind is a distinct advantage. Willingness to try new ideas or the Asian way of getting things done is essential. Compensation may not always be tangible, but satisfaction is guaranteed in personalized terms. Loyalty to one's discipline is expected while compromise to accommodate local needs is appreciated. Imagination is valued highly.

Guest Professors

Ng Cheng Fatt has been a regular visitor to our campus for the past few years. Being an alumnus, he is ever ready to assist SAUC, and we have tapped on his expertise in computers time and time again. This summer, Cheng Fatt taught at SAUC and helped us improve computer network.



Samuel Chuah, professor from the Business Department of Walla Walla College enjoyed "coming home" to Asia while on a teaching appointment for the summer at SAUC. Judging from the fact that he is making plans to return in the summer of 1997, he must have enjoyed his classes as much as the students enjoyed learning from him.



JoAnn Wiggins, visiting professor from the Business Department of Walla Walla College, enjoyed SAUC so much the last time she was here that she made it a point to come back this September quarter to teach the much needed business courses. Though only here for a month, she has touched the lives of not only her students but the faculty as well.



Thank you Cheng Fatt, Samuel, and JoAnn for your contributions to Southeast Asia Union College.

SAUC Contact

SAM ORDAINED THREE PASTORS

by Danson Ng

Three SAM pastors were ordained to the gospel ministry on Sabbath afternoon, September 7, 1996 at 2:30 pm at the Balestier SDA Church.

Pastor Chan Shee Wai of Balestier SDA Church, Pastor John Tan of Jurong English SDA Church and Pastor Toh See Wei, principal of San Yu High School and secretary of the Singapore Mission, were the candidates for the sacred and happy occasion.

Pastor Chan comes from a Taoist background. He embraced SDA teachings in 1978 and was baptised in August 1979. He enrolled for ministerial training and received his Bachelor of Theology degree at SAUC in 1990. He has about six years of ministerial experience before his ordination. He met his wife, Debbie Saul, in May 1991 during a Pathfinder Camporee in Dantai, Sabah. They were married on September 13, 1992. Debbie is working as a confidential secretary in a management accounting firm.



From left: Pastor & Mrs. Toh See Wei, Pastor & Mrs. Danson Ng, Pastor & Mrs. John Tan and Pastor & Mrs. Chan Shee Wai

Coming from a Buddhist background, Pastor John Tan was introduced to the Gospel in 1985 through his then girlfriend, Adelyn Poh. He worked for the Adventist Better Living Centre for a few years but went to SAUC for theological training after he felt God's call to enter the ministry. He received his Bachelor of Theology in 1991 and has worked for about five years up to his ordination. Presently, Pastor John Tan is the pastor of Jurong English SDA church as well as the Youth Director of SAM and coordinator of the Gema Harapan radio station. He has been married to Adelyn Poh for the last ten years. Adelyn is presently a senior theological student at SAUC.

Pastor Toh See Wei, a Malaysian presently holds permanent residence status of Singapore. Coming from a Methodist background he was introduced to SDA teachings by a fellow student. He was baptised into the church on January 6, 1979. Pastor Toh received his first degree in Electronic Engineering

from Queen's University, Canada. In 1987, he felt God's call for him to go into full time ministry. Through God's providence, he came to Singapore to take ministerial training while working part-time as chaplain at San Yu High School. Later, he proceeded to AIIAS to continue his ministerial training and received his Master's degree in Pastoral Ministry in 1992. Upon his return, he served as a pastor in both Singapore and Malaysia. In 1993, he went to Andrews University to take up training in School Administration under the scholarship of San Yu High School. He graduated in 1995. Pastor Toh married Yen Ang on July 27, 1986.

She was a Presbyterian but was converted to SDA faith during her study at Yoke University, Canada. She holds a B.A. degree (Hon) in Linguistic from Yoke University and also a B.S. in Exercise Physiology from Andrews University. Yen is now a director of a company that provides fitness programming consultancy to local and multinational companies in Singapore and Malaysia.

The main speaker for the ordination service was Dr John Duroe, SAUM Ministerial Secretary. Pastor Joshua Mok, SAUM Secretary, offered the ordination prayer. The ordination charge was given by Pastor Matthew Yuen, SAM President. Drs Chek Yat and Sally Phoon of SAUC welcomed the ordinands. Dedication prayers were offered by Pastor Wann Fanwar, SAM Ministries Coordinator and Pastor Michael Ho of Dunman SDA Church.

It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to bless the ordinands with the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to lift Christ before their members and the perishing world.

*Danson Ng is ministerial secretary/ASI
Coordinator of the Singapore Mission*

Medical Outreach Conducted

In late July, a medical outreach program was conducted at the school of Huay Lhoung in Fang, on the border between Thailand and Laos, some 800 kms from Bangkok. Commonly known as MedMission, the three day activity involved physical, eye and teeth examinations and the distribution of cash, food, clothing and medicines.



The children are captivated with the stories and action songs while the adults are being treated.

The forty members of the team came from Bangkok International, Thai and Chinese SDA Churches which included Dr Wongpitchetchai Supachai, Ophthalmologist, and Dr Janette Hamman, Dentist, from Bangkok Adventist Hospital. The program was sponsored by local businessmen, Mr Srikuraja Udom and Dr Supachi and the Mission Health Foods.

About 400 adults and 100 children from the tribes of Lahu and Lisu attended the services which featured story-telling, singing, games and video shows. Though the program lasted only for a short time, it is hoped that beyond alleviating the physical suffering, a spiritual message has reached the hearts of the participants.

"Prove Me Now"

Tep Amnoy Haadyai School is a church school. In the past this school faced financial problems. Expenses were higher than the income. Sometimes the school could not pay teachers their salaries. Would this problem prove a blessing? It would. The school recognized the Lord's warning and His promises about tithe in Malachi 3:3-11. So they decided to return tithe to God even though their budget was not balanced.

At the end of the year the situation turned around. Their income was higher than budgeted. As a result the figures for tithe returns increased as shown:

1992-93	6,111 baht
1993-94	30,000 baht
1994-95	40,000 baht
1995-96	63,000 baht

There is also an increase of 300 students this year. The all-Christian teaching staff offer prayers and conduct worships before they start their classes. Although there are some pressing needs such as more rooms for a library, music, computer, and for meetings, it is evident that the Lord is blessing this school. The Tep-Amnoy Haadyai School solicits your prayers.



Faithful teachers of Tep-Amnoy Haadyai School

KPH Press Manager Visits TPH

Kinsung Publishing House Manager, Saw Cyrus Brown, visited Thailand Publishing House on a two-week assignment to observe and study work procedures. While there, Brown had hands-on experience in typesetting, binding, folding, dark room and plate making and the actual printing process. He observed how an HHES operated and the various accounting procedures.



Mr. Cyrus Brown by the side of our COMPANICA-640 Camera

In the exit interview, Brown expressed his appreciation to TPH Manager Johnny Rueh for the invaluable experience and hopes to share the knowledge with his workers in Yangon, Myanmar.

Johnny Rueh, TPH Manager

FM 105.5

It's the station with a
difference.

Gema Narayan. The Echo of Hope.

The Last Message of Salvation

By Pen Narith in his own words



*Pen Narith with Hang Dara, Cambodia
Mission field secretary*

"When I was a young boy, my family lived in Phnom Penh where my parents had a shop at the market. I had 12 brothers and sisters. We were happy because my parents were very rich and always had enough food to eat. When the Khmer Rouge time came, we had no more happiness and no money. I suddenly had so much suffering. I worked as a slave in the youth work camp. After the Vietnamese came to the country and overthrew the Khmer Rouge, I ran from the work camp and went to look for my family. They were all gone. I cried and felt lonely without my parents, brothers and sisters or any relatives. Then I fled to the border refugee camp in Thailand.

In July 1984, I arrived in the refugee camp with other young people who had no family. In the refugee camp, I lived with a friend who was a Christian. He took me to church. At first I felt that I did not like to hear about the good news of God because I did not want to change my Buddhist religion. Then Pastor Thy San Sam (from the refugee camp) invited me to come to learn the English language and the word of God (the Bible was the textbook). When I studied the Bible lessons with Pastor Thy, I felt peace in my mind. I believed and accepted Jesus as my Saviour. God took away my fear. He gave me new life and changed my life. I became gentle, patient, happy and had hope in my life. But I did not think about working for God.

I worked as a medic and nurse in the refugee camp hospital for about five years. Then one night I dreamed a wonderful dream of the coming of Jesus Christ. He said to me, "Please go and tell your dream to your people. I will come soon." After that it seemed like I had the Spirit in my heart which gave me a purpose to work for Him. At first I taught Bible in the church. At that time God gave me another dream of His coming. The angel said to me, "When peace comes, I call you to preach my word in Cambodia." That was about two years before peace came.

Peace came, and I returned to my country to follow God's plan. Today I am a pastor of the Battambang City Church and three other village churches. I am very busy because many people ask me to teach them about God.

I had prayed and asked God to help me to plant one church group, but now He gives me many. This is God's power. Though I am tired but I keep trying to fish the men for Him because I know that God is coming soon. I thank God that He has blessed me to spread His word to many people and to give my people my same happiness. Please pray for me."

CHANGING HANDS IN

VIETNAM. On August 25, after 23 years of continuous service in Southeast Asia, Dennis and Lila Tidwell left Vietnam, for their new assignment in New Delhi, India. Dennis and Lila first came to Thailand in January, 1974. After studying Thai and Sgaw Karen languages, they spent most of their 18 years in Thailand working for the hilltribe people in the north.

The Tidwells believe their most important work in Thailand was to strengthen the work among the Karen people scattered along the Thai-Burma border where Dennis was the director of the Karen region for several years. Together with the locals, Dennis helped to establish schools and churches in many locations.

Lila helped train Karen youth for mid-level health workers through her Moei River Health Project. More than 30 youth completed the one-year course and many of them today are serving as medical missionaries in remote Karen villages in Thailand and Burma. One of her students is currently studying medicine in Loma Linda University and plans to return to serve the Karens.

After both the Tidwells completed their MPH degrees at Mahidol University in Bangkok in 1989, they joined ADRA. Lila worked as associate director of ADRA Thailand and Dennis was the director of ADRA Indochina, which included Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. The work grew in those three countries and Dennis became director of ADRA Vietnam.

ADRA^{southeast asia}news

The Tidwells moved to Hanoi, Vietnam in June, 1993 to establish the ADRA Vietnam office where Dennis and Lila worked together as director and associate director, respectively. Since its inception, the program in Vietnam has

grown to more than US\$1 million per year in development projects.

The Tidwells moved to New Delhi to help establish the ADRA India office. India is almost like home to the couple for they grew and fell in love while studying at Vincent Hill School. They now have two sons who are attending school in the United States. Nathan is in his second year at Southern College in Tennessee, and Jeremy is a senior at Auburn Adventist Academy in Washington.

Taking the Tidwell's place at ADRA Vietnam is Roger and Pamela Kopitzke, who arrived from Modesto, California on August 9. Roger and Pamela are no strangers to Southeast Asia. They previously worked in Thailand for nine years where Roger was a dietitian at Bangkok Adventist Hospital and later administrator of Chiang Mai Adventist Educational Centre.

In California, Roger owned and operated his own telecommunications company, and Pam taught at Modesto Adventist Academy. The couple has two daughters, Karen and Sharon, who reside in California.

ADRA Vietnam Office

SCHOOL DONATES MONEY FOR KAREN AMPUTEES. Ekamai International School Year-Nine students recently donated US\$130 from a fund raising activity to aid in ADRA related projects. After deliberating over several projects, the students chose to assist Mawkeh, a Karen amputee buy equipment which he uses to carve artificial limbs for his own people. There are about three hundred Karen amputees living in refugee camps along the Thai/Burma border. Mawkeh works under a house in a deserted army village where he is trying to set up a small furniture-making and artificial limb manufacturing industry. The terrain along the border region is so rugged that a plastic artificial leg supplied by the hospital lasts only six months. The limbs that Mawkeh crudely manufactures from hardwood timber and old worn out car tyres usually last two years.



The Tidwells – Dennis, Jeremy, Lila and Mathan

Skin, Noses and Church

By Cheryl-Kim Quillin

As I sat on the mat under the open air shelter that we called our church meeting place, frustration burned inside me. Chum No, our pastor, was enthusiastically trying to share simple stories about Jesus and show the members God's beauty. As I listened, I longed to have them understand the precious truths being shared, knowing that these people have no clue about God.

My distress kept mounting as all around me the ladies were talking. There wasn't even the slightest sense of reverence as they thoroughly discussed the whiteness of my skin and the contour of my nose and how straight it was. They didn't even seem to understand the concept of a whisper. As Chum No shared, they would sit still and listen for a bit then turn and ask their husband for clarification of something said or make comments to the others near them.

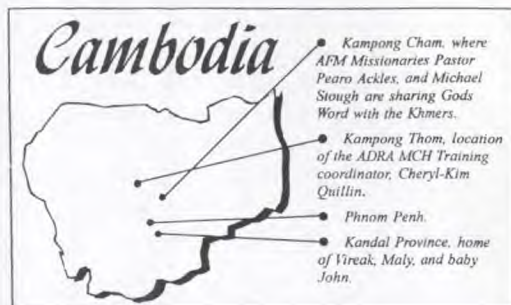
A naked baby urinated on the mat next to me causing the ladies to laugh merrily in amusement. A black-toothed grandmother kept stroking and pinching my arms as she smiled at me with red beetle-nut juice dripping from her mouth. "Ughh! Is this a church?" My mind cried out. "Can't these women just be quiet and listen? If they have questions, can't they ask one of the men afterwards to explain? Even if they wanted to, how can anyone get a blessing with all these distractions!"

Suddenly, I stopped. Grabbing my Bible I turned to a text which had always bothered me. A text that had too often been used as a club against

women's ordination.

".....women should remain silently in the churches... They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission... If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is a disgrace for a woman to speak in the church."

The picture became vividly clear. Paul wasn't cutting women down. He wasn't speaking about if they could be up front or not. Rather, he was describing the very situation before me. These women, like the Bible women, are mostly illiterate, and unused to a formal learning environment. They daily gather together to enjoy each others company, be it on the roadside or in rice fields, and they are ever distracted by their children. They need to learn reverence. The Gospel message was too important, too vital for the blessing to be missed because the women were talking and couldn't concentrate. Paul was firmly, but gently telling them to be quiet so all could learn these precious truths.



I looked back at the beetle-nut stained teeth of the little grandmother next to me as she continued her commentary on my skin. I prayed God would help me to tactfully do as Paul did and tell the ladies that if they desired to come and learn, we are glad, but they must be quiet so they, and others, could gain a blessing.

Cheryl-Kim Quillin AVS, ADRA MCH Training Coordinator, Kampong Thom



Cheryl with a grandmother who enjoys beetle-nut.

IMPORTANT

The SAUM Communication Department is looking for NEWS from YOU--the missions, educational

W a n t e d

institutions, medical institutions, churches and freelance writers--from all over the Union field. News and

articles that are inspiring, encouraging and uplifting are especially solicited, as well as news regarding the Lord's work in your area or church. Wouldn't you like to read about what's happening in your own locality every time the Messenger comes out?

Besides the Messenger, the news that you share with us may also get into the monthly Union newsletter, or From the APD President newsletter, or the Division Outlook. News that is of global interest may even find its way to the Adventist Review!

Below are the people to contact--the local Mission communication directors:

Cambodia
Peninsular Malaysia
Sabah
Sarawak
Singapore
Thailand
SAUM

Daniel Walter
David Leoh
James Lai
Francis Amer
Wann Fanwar
Anucha Saeyong
Edmund Siagian

Note: As a freelance writer you may send news and articles to any level of church organization. However, please send a duplicate copy to the mission and union communication directors so that they will know what news have already been reported.

Real Love

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centred,
LOVE THEM ANYWAY

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives,
DO GOOD ANYWAY.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies,
SUCCEED ANYWAY

The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow,
DO GOOD ANYWAY.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable,
BE FRANK ANYWAY

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight,
BUILD ANYWAY

People really need help, and may attack you if you help them,
HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth,
GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU'VE GOT
ANYWAY

(From a sign on the wall of Shishu Bhavan, the children's home in Calcutta, India, run by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity)

Potpourri

"There is a great deal more to Sister White than some people thought."

Ellen White, on an undersized knitted vest (known in 1914 as a "hug-me-tight") that she received on her 87th birthday from a friend in Japan.

"The temptation is to dilute Christianity to match the secular world . . . I submit that God, salvation, and the eternal truths of Scripture are relevant." *Robert S. Folkenberg, in an interview on interactive "State of the Church" address on the Adventists On-Line forum*

"We need to question our motivation when we change our behaviour because of the heat rather than because of the light."

Donald Mansell, Nampa, Idaho

Revelation's A Cinch!

Mark Twain was once asked if he had trouble with the parts of the Bible that were hard to understand. "No," he replied. "It's the parts I understand that give me trouble."

Bill Tassie, Burlington, MI

% Statistically Speaking .

How many of our close friends are non-Adventists:

None	10%
One to Five	42%
Six to ten	18%
Eleven or more	30%

NAD Office of Information & Research

Test Your Mission Quotient

Someone has paraphrased the church's Global Mission goal this way: "By the year 2000 you will not be able to walk past a million people anywhere in the world without finding a Seventh-day Adventist church there to witness to them."

1. **How many local conferences around the world have fewer churches than they have millions of people?**
(a) 16 (b) 26 (c) 46
2. **True or false: The People's Republic of China still has the largest number of unreached groups of one million people.**
3. **Which area has the largest difference between the number of churches and millions of population?**
(a) Upper Ganges (c) East India (c) East Bangladesh
(b) Vietnam (d) North Pakistan

Answers

1. (c) 46 **They include:**
Africa-Indian Ocean Division - West Zaire, Republic of Congo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Senegal
Asia-Pacific Division - Vietnam, Cambodia, West Java, Thailand, West and East Japan, West and East Bangladesh, and North Korea.
Eastern Africa Division - Eritrea and Somalia
Euro-Africa Division - Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Libya
Euro-Asia Division - Ural, Central Asia, and Trans-Caucasus
Southern Asia Division - North India, Upper Ganges, Madhya, Bharat, Himalayan, East India, Gurajat, Maharashtra, Orissa, and Assam
Trans-European Division - Egypt, Gulf, Greece, Iraq, Sudan, Albania, Yemen, and Northern and Southern Pakistan
2. True. China still has 616 areas of one million people each identified in 1990 as having no Adventist church. But China has been among the fastest growing areas of the world in terms of new congregations developed or discovered during the past five years.
3. (a) Upper Ganges (25 churches, 158 million people, short by 133); Vietnam has 6 churches, short by 66; East India has 64. Short by 100; North Pakistan is short by 44, and East Bangladesh by 35.

-compiled by Charles R Taylor and F Donald Yost, GC Global Mission Office

An Adventist Dream

"I have a dream..." the late Martin Luther King, Jr intoned from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC on August 28, 1963. He dreamed that races locked in generations of bigotry and hate would break free and live in peace and harmony. It became a reality. The Americans have their own American dream. People all the world over have tried to have a share of that American dream, or have their own version of the great American dream but sometimes at the expense of depriving themselves of the ties of home, roots, job, or culture. Although many Asians are now looking East there are still many who are making the "pilgrimage" to some other foreign lands of the western world in order to have their dreams realized. Individuals, groups, and nations have dreams. Singaporeans, Malaysians, Thais, Cambodians, Vietnamese, Laotians, Bruneians, and others have dreams for themselves as individuals or corporately for their country. The sports world talks about dream teams. Many dreams were fulfilled, while others crumbled. Some dreams are meant to be attained, others only serve as motivating forces for the dreamers to keep them going and alive.

I guess you and I have dreams: dreams for ourselves, our children, our Church, and our respective country. But more importantly for us as Adventists, a tiny group of committed Christians living in the 19th century had a dream, too. In 1872, they gave birth to their dream by establishing the first Seventh-day Adventist school to educate the youth of the Church. They dreamed that "this gospel of the kingdom" would be preached to all the world through the mission and message of "youth rightly trained." Their dream produced the educational system of our Church, which today spans the world field.

Is this Adventist dream still alive? The dream that Adventist education would equip our young people to proclaim the three angels' messages to a world in the death-grip of sin? The dream that education by committed, dedicated administrators and teachers would transmit the reality of a living and soon-coming Saviour to the children of the Church? There are indications that it is still alive, and we, as church members, pastors, teachers, and leaders need to ask ourselves, if, individually, our dream for the progress of the Church through the help of our education system is still alive. Perhaps, if "dream" can be interpreted as "vision," it may be appropriate for the moment to paraphrase Proverbs 29:18 as follows: "Where there is no Adventist education dream, the Church organization perish." For, from where else would it get most of its workers?

Adapted from "Adventist Perspective"

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Views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the Seventh-day Adventist Church. **Messenger** is produced quarterly by the Southeast Asia Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. Letters, inquiries and manuscripts are welcome and should be directed to The Editors, **Messenger**, 251 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 347688.

Printed by Thailand Publishing House

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