

Southeast Asia Union Mission Messenger

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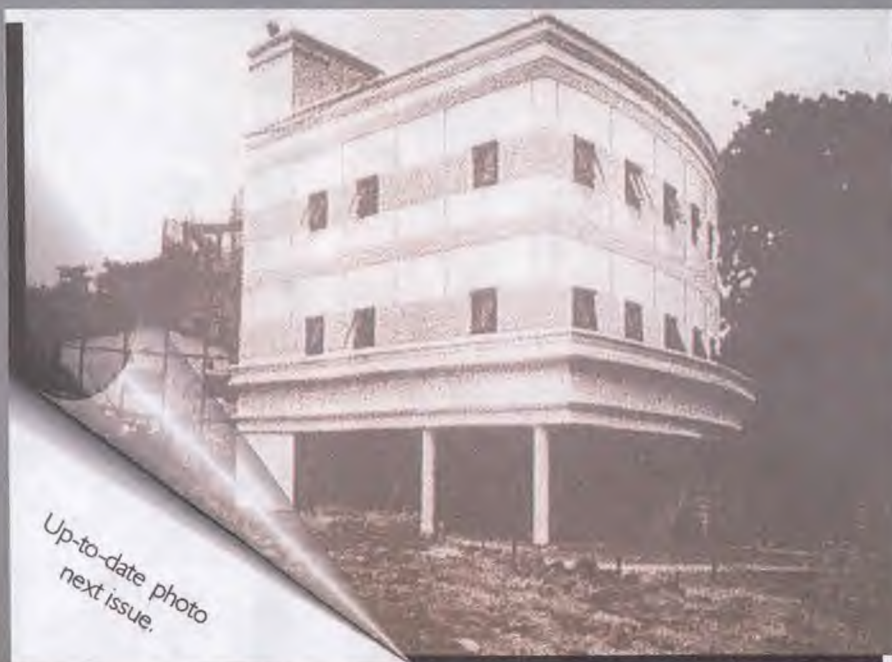
Special Report



*Jan Paulsen,
new GC
president*

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The new SAUM office structure at
798 Thomson Road in its later stage
of construction.

*Up-to-date photo
next issue.*

EXPERIENCE THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS FAMILY

This year the World Church is focusing on the theme "Experience The Fellowship Of His Family" which was launched during the 1998 Annual Council held in Brazil. The former G.C. President, Elder Bob Fokenberg, appealed to the church leaders to reaffirm their commitment to the Family of God. He declared, "We are God's children now. You and I are sons and daughters in God's family. We are part of a spiritual family that includes the Godhead, angels, and the unfallen beings of worlds throughout the universe, as well as God's people on earth in every age."

What a privilege to belong to the family of God! It is possible because of the great love of God. John exclaimed, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!— Dear Friends, now we are children of God, and — we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him" (1 John 3:1-2)

Paul urged Timothy to teach his members how "to conduct themselves in God's family, which is the church of the living God" (1 Tim. 3:15). There are some basic family rules for us to keep as members of God's family.

1. Love one another

Jesus told His disciples, "you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34,35).

John said, "Let us love one another, for love comes from God.—Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:7,11).

2. Be united to one another.

In His last prayer on earth, Jesus prayed that his disciples might be brought to complete unity to let the

world know that the Father had sent Him to the world. (John 17:20-23) Paul admonished the Philippian Christians to be like-minded, having the same love, being one in Spirit and purpose. (Phil. 2:1-5).

3. Be accountable and supportive of one another.

Paul counseled us that we should look not only to our own interests but also to the interests of others. (Phil. 2:4). We are indeed our brother's keeper in the sense that we are to be willing to take responsibility for each other. God wants us to "accept one another" (Rom. 15:7), "serve one another in love" (Gal. 5:13) and "encourage one another and build each other up." (1 Thess 5:11).

4. Be committed to the family business (the business of salvation)

When we were adopted into God's family, the Father immediately assigned His children the "ministry of reconciliation", to be His ambassadors, reconciling the world to Him. (2 Cor. 5:17-20). Jesus commissioned us, "go into all the world and preach the good news to all peoples" (Mark 16:15). We are witnesses to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8).

The characteristics of God's family are love, unity, accountability and commitment. By the grace of God, we aim to have a united church family believing in "one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all" (Eph. 4:4-6). Church leaders and members will preach, teach, and encourage all family members to "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Eph. 4:32)

CATTLE CARS AND COOPERATION

On the roof, in the offices, all over the floor of the church, the Pathfinders were sleeping everywhere until the Cambodia Adventist Mission building seemed to be just bursting at the seams. Nearly 200 young people from six provinces "crashed" at the Mission in Phnom Penh on the night of November 2, 1998. They were all very excited about going to Siem Reap the next day for the Second Annual Cambodian Pathfinder Camporee.

After an early morning worship, the group piled into three "cattle trucks" which were on the road to Siem Reap by 6:00 a.m., a 360-kilometer trip with 200 of those kilometers over rough dirt "roads." As the trucks rolled in and out of each crater and chasm, the youth grabbed anything that would keep them upright in the back of the truck. The few who tried to remain seated on the truck bed under the feet of their friends were nearly trampled.

Thirteen bumpy hours later, the three trucks pulled into the campsite in Siem Reap where the weary passengers were met by youth from other provinces. By 9:00 p.m., the exhausted youth had erected their tents, taken a dip in the nearby lake (clean or dirty, that was it for showers), and cooked dinner over campfires. No one complained about turning in early that night.

At 5:00 a.m. on the following days, each pathfinder club had worship together. Ross McKenzie, a volunteer from Australia, led morning exercises with a healthy dose of push-ups, sit ups, and breathing exercises. After breakfast on the first day, the clubs all assembled for the flag raising ceremony with the Union Youth Director, Lawrence Banyie, and the district governor officiating.

After a group worship session, several of the Mission staff presented topics such as courtship and marriage, youth ministry, outreach, music (reading notes), and Sabbath School (telling stories). The afternoon hours found the pathfinders learning various camp activities such as cooking rice and frying eggs on paper while standing in the middle of the lake, baking bread on sticks over a campfire, and other practical skills!

Then came the evening flag lowering and worship, followed by social activities like marching or some very lively group games. The pathfinders also enjoyed playing volleyball and other sports after dark.

One morning, the camp leaders woke everyone up at 4:00 a.m. and took the energetic young people on a "follow the leader" walk outside the camp with flashlights. To make it a bit more challenging, the participants formed a human chain by holding hands and then had to run without breaking the chain over the rocky trail. Then for more fun, the camp staff had to shine their flashlights on members of the group. Anyone who was caught in the light had to crawl on the ground, even the girls!

On another day, all of the pathfinders visited the famous Angkor Wat and other temples in the Siem Reap vicinity. The achievement of their ancestors in building these grand temples amazed the young people and they were reluctant to return to the camp. So after dividing into more manageable groups of ten or so people, the pathfinders held their evening worship there at sundown.

Sabbath's highlight was the baptism of 41 young people from various provinces. The pathfinders were so happy to see their brothers and sisters who had repented and come to Christ for salvation.

On Saturday night, the last night of the camp, Pastor Pen Chenda, the Mission Youth Director, and others addressed the group around the campfire. Then the camp staff mingled with the youth, shaking hands with all of them. In return the young people threw the camp staff into the lake!

No one wanted to sleep that night after all the excitement of the week, but knowing that 3:30 a.m. would come soon enough, most of them finally drifted off.

By 5:00 a.m. the pathfinders had dismantled all of the tents and cooked food for breakfast along the way and they (reluctantly) returned to the "cattle trucks" for another 13-hour ride. When they left the campsite some of the girls cried and hugged each other. But the tears were mingled with laughter because the campers were full of good memories. Even though the pathfinders are now separated by distance, they still share the same heart and spirit for, by the grace of God, they have become brothers and sisters in Christ. May these youth be powerful workers for Christ and be instrumental in bringing many people to God,

By Khiev Khemara, Pathfinder and Camp Translator

INDIAN GIVERS WHO TRULY GAVE

"The students at Spicer College would like to help with a project in Cambodia," one of the young people informed Bruce Bauer, Director of the Cambodia Adventist Mission and visiting professor to India. "How can we help the Cambodian people?" he asked.

"You could raise money for bicycles for Lay Bible Workers," Dr Bauer suggested. So the students set a goal of collecting \$80 (which is almost equivalent to a month's salary for a pastor in India.). This would be enough money to purchase two bicycles.

One group of students asked the business manager if they could skip meals at the cafeteria and contribute that money for the Bikes for Cambodia project. Since the students are on a flat rate plan, the business manager proposed instead that the students patch the roads around the sprawling campus. The money they earned from their labor would be donated to the project. So they spent two days hauling gravel to fill in the potholes, with four men at a time dragging a huge roller over the holes to pack it down.

One of the college staff had been saving for several months to buy a bicycle for his child. Instead, the family gave the \$40 to the project. The president of the college and his wife donated a bike. A teacher's family also contributed a bike. On Sabbath morning, the college church collected a special offering the Bikes for Cambodia project. Two of the small church groups near the Spicer campus also heard about the project and gave generously. Several student clubs on campus contributed.

During the last day of class, the representatives from the various groups and churches joined the students and handed Dr Bauer the envelopes of money they had raised. The total, \$833, was enough to buy 22 bicycles!

Thank you, India, for your gift of love to the Cambodian people.

By Bruce L Bauer, President

AT DEATH'S DOOR

The little girl lay unconscious on the floor of the "clinic." After four days of medical treatment her condition continued to deteriorate. The village doctors had done their best to reduce her fever, control her convulsions, and decrease her vomiting. The child, however, was unresponsive to any of their remedies.

Discouraged, the doctors finally advised the girl's anguished parents, "Take the girl home. We can do nothing for her. She will probably die tomorrow."

The parents, however, were determined to do their best for their daughter. They resolutely searched the village for a Krou Khmer (a person who treats people with herbs or traditional Khmer medicine) but they searched in vain. At last the desperate parents begged Pastor Chhey Yen to help them.

"Even the doctors have said your little girl is at death's door," the pastor reminded them. "Do you really think I can help her? However," he continued confidently, "with God, all things are possible. He can help you because He is much more powerful than I am. The Almighty can heal all diseases and He can even raise people from the dead."

The girl's father answered, "If my daughter survives, I will believe in this God."

Immediately Pastor Chhey Yen knelt with Pastor Pen Narith (who was visiting from another province) and pleaded with God to help the family. After praying, the two men used hot and cold water treatments on the sick girl and gave her some medicine. In two days, she had fully recovered!

The entire family now praises the God of heaven for restoring their little girl's health. They know that the God of heaven is the only true God.

By Pen Narith District Pastor

BAPTISMS IN CAMBODIA

It was just six years ago that the Cambodia Adventist Mission came into existence. In 1992, there were no members, no churches, no pastors, no Adventist schools and no Mission. Global Mission listed Cambodia as an unentered country with no Seventh-day Adventist presence. For the past six years Adventists around the world have given financial and spiritual support to help plant a strong Adventist Church in Cambodia. God has blessed those efforts.

On December 31, 1996 the Cambodia Adventist Mission had a membership of 1,774. During 1997 there were 230 baptisms and the membership increased to 2,011 by year end, giving the Mission a 13.4 percent growth rate for the year.

During 1998 God continued to work through the pastors and lay Bible workers in a mighty way. By December 31, 1998 there had been 583 baptisms during the year giving the Cambodia Adventist Mission a year-end membership of 2,547 and an overall growth rate for 1998 of 26.7 percent.

We are also thankful that the growth in membership is taking place throughout the entire country of Cambodia. In 1997 eleven of the seventeen districts reported baptism but in 1998 fourteen of the seventeen had baptisms. The districts in Cambodia cover large territories, consisting of a whole province except in the case of Phnom Penh. Each district only has one full time pastor supported by the work of lay Bible workers. So, in spite of a small work force and the challenge of presenting Christ in a Buddhist society, God has blessed in many ways.

As we begin 1999, we need your continued prayers and support for the young church in this land. We have additional towns and villages that need to be entered. We need more pastors and lay Bible workers. We need church buildings and schools. We need to continue to train and upgrade the level of our workers and staff. When I think of the tremendous task of just nurturing and disciplining the 583 new baby Christians that joined the Cambodian Adventist Church during 1998, I am challenged and stretched to know how to do it. But we are confident that He who began a good work in this land will be with us until the end of the age.

By Bruce Bauer, President, Cambodia Attached Mission

TWICE SAVED

"We must pray to god to send rain for our corn crop," 52-year old Seum Sim urged her husband and daughter who were not believers. "Quickly," the woman added, "before the sun scorches the entire half hectare!"

The family had sown their seeds a month before but all the young plants were withering in the daily heat.

Together they asked God for rain. A few days later the clouds opened up with monsoon fury, the parched ground was able to soak up the water, and the corn plants revived.

Seum Sim, her family and all the villagers were very overjoyed as it appeared that they would enjoy an abundant harvest that year. But then a second disaster followed the drought. Thousands of rats appeared and started devouring every mature ear of corn in every field in the village.

"The crop will surely be destroyed this time," her husband said somberly.

But again the woman, who herself had been a Christian for less than a year, asked her husband and daughter to join her in prayer. "We must pray to God," she pleaded. "Only He can save our corn crop."

Once more, the family prayed together and two days later, the rats stopped eating their corn crop although they

continued munching the neighbors' corn. When Seum Sim harvested and sold her crop, she earned her largest profit ever - \$200. Since then the price of corn has dropped and if she were to sell the same crop now, she would not have enough money to sustain her family throughout the year.

Because of the twice-saved corn crop, Seum Sim's husband decided to follow Jesus and was baptised. Now the happy family - Seum Sim, her husband, their daughter and their grandchild - worship and praise God together every Sabbath day.

By Van Sarann, District Pastor

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If you are a TRAINED SECRETARY with experience and would like to serve in the secretarial pool at Mission College, you may want to consider reading the details given below:

Last date to receive applications: May 15, 1999.

We are in need of:

One Thai Secretary and One English Secretary

Qualifications:

1. Is an Adventist lady, in the age range of 20 - 35.
2. Has a Secretarial Science Degree with experience of at least one year.
3. Can work independently, is well organized, cooperative and a good team player.
4. Can handle all office machines like Fax, Xerox, OHP, etc.
5. Can use the computer and has the expertise in: Windows 95 to 98 and can work with Programs like Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Page Maker/Publisher, etc.
6. Has typing skills of at least 45 words a minute for Thai Secretary and 60 words a minute for English Secretary with 98% accuracy.
7. Must have basic filing skills or be prepared to learn the same.
8. The English Secretary should have a good command of both spoken and written English.

Job Description:

1. Will accept jobs from the four Vice Presidents and Deans of the various faculties.
2. Will handle confidential documents with care and provide efficient secretarial and administrative support.
3. Will be prepared to learn the methods of defending internal and external examinations.
4. Will accept office assignments gracefully.
5. Should be able to communicate over the telephone with pleasant mannerisms.

Please Note:

- * Interested secretaries may submit their applications to The Vice President for General Administration with full details of academic qualifications, past experience, expected salary, two references and resume with contact telephone number and a recent passport size photograph to Mission College at the address given above.
- * The Secretaries appointed to the post should be excellent examples to all other secretaries on the campus of Mission College.
- * All applications received will be stored in a separate file and individuals who may not be appointed this time may be called for an interview at a later date. Applications will be treated with strict confidence.

THE WALDENSEES ON MT. KINABALU

It was mid-1998 when Bethney, a colporteur on the north-eastern side of Sabah asked her director if young people couldn't do evangelistic work. She suggested creating some kind of program where young people could receive some basic training, then be sent out for one year of volunteer, self-supporting soul-winning work.

When Braam Oberholster, the Union Publishing Director returned to the office, he consulted with the other departmental leaders, and in November, 1998, the Youth and Ministerial directors joined him in Sabah, at the foot of Mt. Kinabalu and gave one week of intensive training to 16 young volunteers.

These volunteers learned the basics of soul-winning work and also the basics of salesmanship. Then they were paired off into teams and sent out under the direction of the Sabah Mission leadership.

Two of these young people, Sem and Kiniti, were sent to a very remote place, Kuala Penyu where there had once been a small church located south of Kota Kinabalu. Upon arrival, they found the abandoned church buried beneath jungle vines and secondary-growth forest! It took them two or three days to uncover the church which was to be their "home" for the following year.

Once settled, the two young men set out to visit the people in the village. They were met with rejection and hostility, and were refused entrance into any house! Back in their "house" the two



decided upon another strategy. It was the beginning of harvest time, so they ventured out to the rice fields. Finding one man with a large field and no helpers, they offered him "free labor". The man questioned how these fellows were offering "free labor" when there was such a demand for help that most farmers were willing to hire any available, but he welcomed their willingness.

Finishing that field, they offered their services to others—never mentioning anything about their plan to revive the little church. They simply made friends with all the villagers. By the end of the harvest they had friends in every house. In fact, the people gave them plenty of rice for their own use in payment for their "free labor"!

Now with friends everywhere, they began selling their books, praying in the homes of the people, and enrolling many of them in Voice of Prophecy lessons. Let's see what the results will be by the end of this year!

By M Daniel Walter, Ministerial Secretary, SAUM

PIONEERS SET FOOT ON A BANGGI ISLAND

In early 1998, the Sabah Mission sent young Pius Monginsum to pioneer on the challenging Island of Banggi, which lies just off the northern tip of Sabah.

Upon landing on the island Pius discovered that it is about 20 miles long, but transportation is on the basis of hitch-hiking with local business men. He found a ride to the main village near the far end of the island, and started to make friends with the people. However, as soon as they discovered that his ultimate plan was to introduce Christian religion the people began devising a plan to kill him!

Fortunately, the village chief, being a compassionate man, warned him, and he escaped into the jungle. A young man who had befriended him, guided him to a remote community. The village chief there allowed him to remain, and one of the local farmers offered him a piece of land where he could build his house and plant a garden.

The friendly farmer even helped Pius cut down the trees and clear the land. The Mission loaned them a chain-saw so they could cut boards from the logs, and they built a simple house in the middle of the clearing. The house completed, Pius took a short leave and went back to his home district to marry his sweetheart.

With a new bride in the village, more of the villagers began to make friends with them, especially when they found out the new bride had much to offer them! She helped the villagers when they got sick, and began teaching them ways to prevent sickness. She could also play her guitar nicely, and all were attracted to the beautiful music. Children

came to learn new songs, and to just feel the love of this young couple.

Planting a garden was no problem, but keeping the monkeys out of it was! The neighbours began showing the new couple how to minimize the monkey business. Mutual trust and confidence was building—so was interest in the way the young couple worshipped their God! It is a small, humble, but effective beginning. Thanks to Global Mission Pioneers, the work has begun on Banggi Island. Please continue to pray for it.

By M Daniel Walter, Ministerial Secretary, SAUM



HEART SURGERY TEAM FROM LLU

The LLU Overseas Heart Surgery Team, comprised of highly specialized heart surgeons who are world renowned in the field of open heart surgery and organ transplantation, were invited by Penang Adventist Hospital to conduct open heart operation for children in Malaysia, as a gift to the community in conjunction with its 75th anniversary.

The team paid for its own expenses, while PAH absorbed half of the cost of surgery as part of its community project. The other half was raised through public donations.

From January 3-16, 1999, the Team successfully performed open heart surgery on 20 young children and 2 adults. Among the 20 children who benefited were 2 small babies with severe complications. A two week old baby girl with a complex heart condition had her multiple heart defects successfully corrected by three operations over a period of a week. The other was a five month old boy with abnormal heart valves, and multiple holes in the heart, whom doctors were convinced could not survive without corrective surgery.

All who underwent surgery did well, and continued to make progress. This was achieved because every member of the team played his respective role perfectly, with the able assistance of PAH staff, and with the availability of modern, up-to-date equipment at the hospital.

The LLU team also conducted diagnostic screening for about 60 children with heart ailments. During their two weeks in Penang, the surgeons shared their expertise in new discoveries and advancement in medical technologies in open heart surgery with the medical fraternity, and at a medical symposium in the Berjaya Hotel for all the doctors on the island.

The hospital plans to conduct more such programmes for children on a regular basis. Within the next two years it hopes to set up its own heart center for children, as well as the State's first heart institute for adults. This new Penang Heart Institute will also have a chest pain center, special consultation sessions, and a post-surgery rehabilitation programme for heart patients.

PAH Correspondent



LE CONVENTION—PENANG



Literature Evangelists from three missions, Singapore, Peninsular Malaysia and Thailand came together in Penang for training on February 24-28. The workshop was organized by the local publishing leaders, Timon Tan, Ms Mok Siew Chan, Jaime Bolipata and D O

Corpuz. The three missions were represented by an administrative officer from each mission. Training was given mainly by Pastor Howard Faigao SSD Publishing Director, assisted by Braam Oberholster from SAUM.

One man who attended was formerly a pastor of the Baptist Church. He was baptized on January 2, 1999, and decided to enter the Literature Ministry.

Literature evangelists spend two hours on Sabbath afternoon telling of their experiences in the field.

By A J Oberholster, Union Publishing Director

EDUCATIONAL RALLY HELD AT GAUR

"Providing Christian Education to their children is a very important responsibility of every Seventh-day Adventist parent. The Adventist school system, besides preparing the students to face life here on earth, is providing spiritual education in

which they learn about God and build a character fit for the Kingdom of Heaven." This was the core message delivered by Dr. Edmund Siagian, the Education Director for Southeast Asia Union Mission at an Adventist Education Rally held at the Gaur Seventh-day Adventist church on October 24, 1998.

About one hundred students and teachers from six Adventist Primary schools took part in the rally which was attended by parents and church members. The participating schools were: STPS Tamparuli, SRA Tenghilan, SRA Kelawat Kota Belud, SRA Ranggalau, SRA Gaur and SRA Podos.

Presently, the Seventh-day Adventist Mission in Sabah operates 7 kindergartens, 13 elementary schools, and 2 secondary schools. The two secondary schools are: Goshen Adventist Secondary Schools located in Goshen, Kota Marudu, and Sabah Adventist Secondary School located in Tamparuli. Both of these secondary schools offer classes up to Form Six. Sabah Adventist Secondary School operates a Business Study Section that offers First Diploma in Secretarial and Administration, Information Processing, as well as Business Studies. The diploma students are being prepared to sit for an external examination from Pitman, London.

Mr. Nelson Bingku, the Education Director of the Sabah Mission cited that the Adventist Schools in Sabah had contributed to society in that it has produced leaders both in the public sector as well as for the Mission itself. About 80 percent of the present work force in the Mission received their education all the way from primary to secondary at one or more of the Adventist Schools in Sabah.

By James Lai, Communication, 98, SAB

SABAH-WIDE WOMEN'S RETREAT

"Women, Empowered to Serve" was the theme of the Sabah-wide Women's Retreat held at the Adventist Retreat Center in Kundasang on October 16 to 19, 1998. More than two hundred women from all over Sabah came for the retreat. "We have surpassed the capacity of the retreat center and many of them have to share their beds or sleep on the floor," says Jupitah Lim, the Women's Ministry Director for Sabah Mission.

Dr. Linda Koh, Women's Ministry Director for Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) spoke at the Divine worship on Saturday morning and gave seminars on topics such as "Christian Charms" and "How to Plan and Organize a Program". Mrs. Dorothy Walter, Women's Ministry Director for Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM) also gave devotional talks as well as presented seminars on "Family Enrichments". Other interesting activities included: Demonstrations on Dressing and Colour-matching, Hair-cutting and Hair-Dressing.

The women had a special glow on their faces as they felt that they had really gained an inspiration to contribute something to the work of the church when they go back to their different places. The activities organized by the women's ministry have given them a sense that they are being recognized as playing an important part in the work of the church in Sabah besides playing their important role as a mother in the family. The women are grouped by zones (districts) in Sabah. Presently there are 22 zones with a total of more than 1500 active members.

By James Lai, Communication, 98, SAB

ASI SABAH RETREAT CUM AGM'98

It was at the BCCM Camp, Kundasang, Sabah, that the ASI Sabah members converged from October 17 to 19, 1998 to have its first retreat. More than 40 campers with guest speakers spent fruitful times together. Pastor Joshua Mok, SAUM ASI Coordinator, conducted a series of devotional talks encouraging and challenging us to spend meaningful time with God in personal devotion.

Diana David from the Adventist Wellness Center, Perak demonstrated hydrotherapy and charcoal therapy which could be used to control and cure certain sicknesses. Pastor Dennis Ng from Kuala Lumpur English Church shared his skill on massaging.

New Executive Committee members were elected for the term 1999-2000. President, Mr. Patrick Choo (reelected); Vice President, Mr. Haijon Gunggut; 2nd Vice President, Mr. Stephen Loo; Treasurer, Mr. Tan Kok; Assist. Treasurer, Mr. Panchido Gangkai; Committee Members, Dr. Stanley Chong, Mr. William Lim, Mrs. Lorraine Kung, Benedict Muh, and Mr. Peter Marajin.

By Lim See Him, ASI Sabah Coordinator

SASS-39TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

Fifty-nine years after its establishment in 1939, Sabah Adventist Secondary School joyously held its 39th Graduation Ceremony during the week-end of October 30 to November 1, 1998. The ceremony started with a Consecration Service on Friday, October 30, a Baccalaureate Service on the Sabbath of October 31 and the Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, November 1. At the same time, the Adventist Computer and Typewriting Learning Centre (ACTLC) celebrated her 1st Graduation Ceremony.

One hundred and fifteen Form Five and fifty-nine Form Six students received their certificate of scholastic completion at Sabah Adventist Secondary School. At the same time thirty-two received their certificate of completion from the Adventist Computer and Typewriting Learning Center (ACTLC) which is also known as SASS Business School, as it is presently operating as a subsidiary to Sabah Adventist Secondary School. The ACTLC prepares students to sit for the external examination conducted by Pitman, London. Of the thirty-two graduates from the ACTLC, 10 has successfully passed and obtained their full First Diplomas from Pitman, London.

The SASS Auditorium was filled to capacity by students, parents and friends who have come to attend the graduation ceremony. A life-touching moment was when each graduate pinned flowers on their parents to show their love and gratitude. They hugged and kissed their parents with tears of joy and love for what their parents have done to them. Perhaps, for some, this is the first time that they have given hugs and kisses to their parents as adults!

By James Lai, Communication '98, SAB

Singapore

WEEK OF SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Pastor Frank T Fournier, Executive Vice-President of Outpost Centers Inc. USA, an outreach organization currently overseeing around 100 projects worldwide, conducted a week of spiritual enrichment nightly, from 14-18 September at Balestier Church. His theme "Love's Relentless Pursuit" was based on the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15; 11-32). This week of spiritual enrichment was organized and sponsored by ASI



(Singapore) for the benefit of the believers in Singapore.

By Danson Ng, Secretary, ASI (Singapore)

MIRACLE BOOK: "THE MARKED BIBLE"

One Friday three years ago, I visited the Penang Adventist Hospital. I noticed that people queue to buy foodstuffs from the commissary. A thought came to my mind, "Why don't I make appointment with the commissary manager and convince him to buy our truth-filled books to display them in the store as a missionary outreach?"

So, the next day I got the appointment. The Holy Spirit touched the manager's heart and he purchased a number of books, including "The Marked Bible".

The books were finally delivered and were displayed right where people queue to buy their food-stuffs.

One day a lady by the name of Liza Oo bought a copy of The Marked Bible and gave it to her niece, Lim Lee Lee. The niece must have been impressed with the 7th-day Sabbath truth and she passed it to her friend, Teoh Soo Hoey. Both completed reading it.

In February 1998, when an LE training was held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, these two ladies were there wanting to join the literature ministry. They related how they learned about the truth through "The Marked Bible", which Liza bought from the commissary. I could hardly hold my tears as I listened to their testimonies for I was an instrument in bringing these books to the store.

These two ladies accepted the Lord through baptism thus becoming our church members and candidates for heaven.

Brothers and sisters, I challenge you to help us circulate this little book now retitled: "The Book That Could Not Be Destroyed" and help save souls for the kingdom of heaven.

Jimmy C Bolipata, Assistant Publishing Director, SAM

AMAZING FACTS SEMINAR PRESENTED BY 105.5FM

The Seaview Hotel meeting rooms and the Dunman Road SDA Church were filled with Amazing Facts students, Radio 105.5FM listeners, and Adventist church members as Victor Lee presented a series of topics on Bible prophecies. The 3-day sessions were presented, across two Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, between the 26th November and the 5th of December 1998. These consisted of six informative, thought-provoking, and inspiring presentations with exciting audio-visuals of historical and current affairs entitled: WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE END OF OUR RESTLESS CENTURY.

The topics attracted an average of 20 to 30 non-SDA visitors each day who were mindful of the restless century. A good 60 to 80% of non-Adventists attending came out of the radio ministry contacts. Many of them are professionals who initially thought that end-time topics were boring. However, they expressed appreciation for the intellectual stimulation provided by up-to-date issues in the presentations given.

An active feature of the Amazing Facts seminars was also the Children's program, which enabled those with kids to attend the seminar, while their children had activities in the adjacent room. There were songs, character-building stories that were shared with lots of fun and enthusiasm.

This is a significant beginning to 105.5FM's overall plans to use electronic media to open doors to countless opportunities, interact with our wider Christian community and public at large. Teaching, educating, sharing values, and long forgotten truths from the Bible, 105.5FM intends to reach the otherwise unreached through the radio programming, hence the variety and scope of music and materials used by the station. Follow up is being carried out and souls are being prepared for baptism as a result of these efforts.

By Victor Lee, Studio Elpizo

Thailand

KAREN REFUGEES RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IN THAILAND

The Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) continues to organize relief efforts for 1,500 families who have temporarily made their home across the border into Thailand following attacks on their home in Karen State, Myanmar, on September 14.

ADRA is cooperating with several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to assist 350 refugee families forced by Thai military onto the vacant Eden Valley Academy campus. While ADRA is primarily supplying the refugee families with pots, plates and spoons for cooking and eating, other NGOs are assisting in the supply of food, water, shelter, clothing and medicines.

The Seventh-day Adventist school campus located north of Tha Song Yang town, ceased its educational activities two years ago due to the politically unsafe conditions. Since then, Helen Hall, the school's principal, has been running a makeshift school for her 430 students at the Baglore refugee camp 20 miles south of the Eden Valley campus. The students have been studying under difficult circumstances.

Persistent Burmese army attacks on Karen villages continue to force families to flee across the Moei River into Thailand. The attacks are blamed on the ongoing conflict between the Karen National Union and the Burmese army assisted by the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army.

"These refugees come with nothing but the clothes they have on as they are forced from their burning homes to flee for their lives," says Roy Richardson, Thailand ADRA director.

ADRA Thailand is involved in 17 development projects this year, including providing clean water supplies, well drilling hand pumps and gravity supply systems to rural villages; AIDS awareness and drug education; economic security through micro-enterprise programs; and agricultural and educational support programs. All programs are currently being funded by ADRA offices in Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden and Thailand.

By Beth Schaefer, ADRA News & Information Officer

EVIDENCE OF THE MIRACULOUS POWER OF GOD

Mr. Boon Sanrerng was possessed by the devil. The 71-year-old man often used his left hand to hurt himself. There were wounds on his right wrist and forehead. No one in the village could cast out the wicked evil spirit. Ken Laoken spoke with the family and told them of a God who has a much greater power than the devil and if they were willing he would pray for God's power to release the man from the hand of Satan.

Everybody nodded their heads. Laoken bowed his head

and prayed asking the Lord to cast out the evil spirit in the name of Jesus. The old man became calm and normal. This led to Bible studies and the old man was taught how to pray. Finally he accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour. His wounds disappeared. Boon says, "I have freedom in Christ now, and have more happiness than all the past 71 years in my life!".

Praise God for answered prayers!

By Ken Laoken, Thailand Mission

WINNING SOULS FOR JESUS

It has always been very difficult to reach people with the gospel message in this Buddhist predominated country. That is, until the young people decided to do something about it in the district near their school and they were all amazed to see the results.

In late November students from Chiangmai Adventist Academy conducted an evangelistic programme in Bpa Mai Dang Village each evening for four weeks, after school and on weekends. The result – 69 adults signed up for Bible

studies and started attending Sabbath School and church. More than 60 children were studying the Bible on a regular basis. This number came as a surprise because these people are loyal Buddhists. Fear and tradition played a major part in their decision not to enter into Christianity. By the grace of God these people have taken a very courageous step.

Many of the non-Adventist students who participated in the witnessing activities were also influenced to follow Jesus. This group is only the third Akha group (a hilltribe in Northern Thailand) to join the church. In February CAA students witnessed the first fruits of their labour when nine persons in the Akha tribe were baptised. Ten more persons from the Bpa Mai Dang group also followed.

When classes started, nine children who regularly attended Branch Sabbath School came to study at the Academy. These children are the first from the Akha tribe to attend Chiangmai Adventist Academy. Hopefully they will be trained to work for the church and return to spread the gospel among their own people.

CAA Correspondent

NEW LABORATORY AND ICU AT BAH

A lively and excited group of employees and visitors were present for the opening exercises for the new Laboratory and the just-completed renovation of the ICU area at BAH.

The Laboratory, located on the second floor, is more spacious, more easily kept clean, and somewhat updated. Mr. Uthai Sukjarat is head of the department, with thirteen experts in all areas of the work.

On the same day, the renovated 3rd floor ICU area was also opened. Ten beds, including one Pediatric unit properly equipped, was declared ready for use. Both areas sparkled impressively! The Domestic Division, headed by Carolyn Diaz, provided drinks and several tidbits which were enjoyed by all who came.

Mr. Billones introduced Elder Robin Riches, the president of SAUM, who offered the dedicatory prayer as well as cut the ribbons.

Ruenrudee, a longtime patient and benefactor of BAH, unveiled the plaques.

BAH Staff Correspondent



HAROLD GALANG HELPED RAISE FUNDS FOR POOR CHILDREN

The second annual Christmas Charity Concert was held on the evening of Dec. 5 and 7, 1998 at the Ekamai International School (EIS) Auditorium.

Performing as the guest was Mr. Harold R. Galang, a professor of music and an award winning pianist from Philippines Women's University.

Much appreciation goes to the committee members and friends who helped sold the tickets, all participants who helped, and artists who rendered their parts which included the Mission College Tone Chimes, Essence of Harmony, Thai Church Choir, and the Flute ensemble.

The school is thankful to Mr. Galang for the splendid performance and to Mr. Gregg Gagatam of the Philippines Sinai Travel & Conventions for his generous financial support.

All proceeds went to a scholarship endowment fund for the benefit of poor Thai children in the Chiangmai area and Northeast regions.

By Katsuki Matsuura, TAM fundraiser



STEWARDSHIP AND CHURCH CLERK SEMINAR

Stewardship and Church Clerk Seminar was held at Pataya, Cholbruri province on October 2, 1998. Twenty-seven people from the churches in Bangkok and Muak Lek attended the seminar. Pastor Anucha Saeyong and Pastor Boonrat Moolkeo organized the seminar. The resource speaker was Pastor Joshua Mok, SAUM secretary. His contributions to the seminar were greatly appreciated. Many remarked that they learned many new things from the seminar. It is greatly hoped they will put what they have learned into practice.

*By Pastor Boonrat Moolkeo, TAM
secretary*



ADVENTIST WORLD CHURCH PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Robert S Folkenberg, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, announced his decision to resign at a specially-called meeting on February 8 at the Church's World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. Elder Folkenberg chose to personally inform staff of his decision to tender his resignation to the Church's Executive Committee.

Citing the controversy over allegations arising from an on-going lawsuit Folkenberg said that this was "detracting from God's work" and so in order "to avoid pain and conflict to my family and the Church I love I am removing myself from the controversy." Concerns over business relationships with James Moore, the plaintiff in the lawsuit filed in Sacramento, California, had led the Church to set up, with Folkenberg's support, a special committee to address the church-related issues.

This committee reported to the Church's Administrative Committee on January 27, 1999, which referred the issue to the Church's full Executive Committee, the body authorized to deal with such matters.

The son of missionaries, Folkenberg was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in the USA and Cuba. He began working for the Adventist Church as a pastoral intern in 1963 and has worked as evangelist, missionary pilot, and in a wide range of leadership roles. He was elected president of the Adventist World Church in 1990, at its executive session in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Folkenberg's years as leader of the Adventist Church have seen major advances in global mission and the effective blending of cutting-edge technology and evangelism. He personally led in developing strategies to use satellite broadcasts and the Internet in gospel outreach. As the Church's "communication president" Folkenberg has devoted a significant portion of his time to visit and support the Church's mission around the world. He emphasized the active role of laity in ministry and witness as well as greater personal professional accountability at all levels of the Church.

In his formal statement addressed to G Ralph Thompson, secretary of the Executive Committee, Folkenberg said, "I will continue to give my all to advancing the mission of the Church." According to the Church's working policy, Thompson served as acting president until a new president was elected by the fall Church Executive Committee in its meetings on March 1. (See Jan Paulsen, GC New President).

JAN PAULSEN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ADVENTIST CHURCH

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA ... [ANN] Jan Paulsen was elected president of the General Conference of Seventh-

day Adventists today (March 1). The election occurred as part of a special meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee, which continues through Friday.

Pastor Paulsen has been vice-president of the General Conference since 1995. Prior to that he was president of the Trans-European Division from 1983 to 1995.

Pastor Paulsen



has been a pastor, a departmental leader, a teacher, and a college president.

A native of Norway, Paulsen becomes the first European to be president of the world Church. He has academic degrees from Andrews University in Michigan and Tubingen University in Germany.

The committee of 244 registered members from more than 90 countries met for the full day, with the entire committee serving as the nominating committee. They spent almost two hours discussing the qualifications they expected in a president, and turned to prayer on four occasions.

In the process of selecting a president, the committee considered more than 10 names and spent almost four hours in discussion. During the morning, the committee heard a devotional message by George Brown, former president of the Inter-American Division of the Church, and a statement presented by Robert S. Folkenberg, former president of the world Church.

Folkenberg spoke approximately 30 minutes, thanking the committee for giving him the opportunity to lead the Church for more than eight years. He noted that church membership had grown from 6 million in 1990 to more than 10 million today, and that contributions to the Church now total more than \$1.5 billion a year.

After discussion, the committee voted to formally accept Folkenberg's February 7 resignation.

REMARKS BY DR JAN PAULSEN

(Remarks by Dr Jan Paulsen to the Members of the General Conference executive Committee and Staff at the Adventist Church World Headquarters Tuesday, March 2, 1999).

Following an introduction by Gerry Karst (Special assistant to the president), Dr Paulsen, with his wife Kari at his side, made the following remarks:

How do you prepare for something like this? Politicians who run for office, they have the opportunity to carefully formulate their platform, their stated positions. They can meet the press immediately when it is over, and they know the answers to the questions.

Twenty-four hours ago, I lived in a world of pure innocence. I have to tell you that over the past two weeks, I have been traveling overseas on an assignment, and knowing that there would be changes at this time, events had moved up to that point. And so, people talk to you, questions are being asked, and you probe your own mind and your own heart and your own soul, and you talk to the Lord and you seek clarity. I need to tell you, I met no prophet on my way. There was no Samuel to tell me, "This is it." So maybe in that sense, the Lord wasn't very helpful. But then again, maybe He was by saying, I have another way of doing it, I have a system, My spirit is with you. Let the brethren counsel together, and My spirit will lead.

There have been many people, in the family and friends, who have assured me of their prayers and the support that I have of my good wife, Kari. That helps me. That helped us as we talked about this, to say, "Right, that's what we will do."

It's 40 years since I entered into the ministry. I know there are many, many views as to what sort of private opinion you should have about the various calls that you've had. I have, during my years, whatever the committees have said, the calls that have been brought to me, I have accepted. One or two times I've been dismayed by it. I can remember when I was called from West Africa to England to Newbold College. Forgive me, my good English friends, I said to the Lord, "You cannot be serious." It was so far out of my mind to do that. Yet, as I lived in England with my family for 25 years, it proved to be not only a wonderful place to live, and wonderful people, some very good friends, but the years at Newbold College and the years, 15 years at the Division, three of them as secretary and then president, were extremely creative and warm years.

So, the Lord has led and I have found it safe to let the brethren decide. That's the way we've done it, and in the knowledge and with the assurance that the Holy Spirit is leading His Church, that He is moving us all steadfastly forward and that the Lord will achieve His objectives. Accepting this position, we will try to be servants of the Lord

in achieving His mission and His objectives.

It's very difficult to make any statement beyond that, and my good friend, George [Brown], is going to have most of the time intact to bring the Biblical message to us.

But I do want to say this to the people here in this House [World Church Headquarters]: We are a very diverse family in this House. Our talents differ, we think differently, we have different temperaments, and we don't always agree, we don't always see eye to eye. I want you to know, I think that's just fine. We don't have to agree on everything. And I want you to know, my colleagues, that you can talk to me and feel safe, and it's okay to disagree with me. But, we are going to work our way around whatever differences that may be, because it's important that at the end of the day, we pull together and that what the Lord has in mind, what the Lord wants to accomplish, that we can set about doing it. I look forward to working with you.

God bless you as we continue our deliberations over these next few days, and as we walk into His future for us. Thank you.

NEW CHURCH PRESIDENT SAYS ADVENTISTS ARE A "UNIQUE WORLD- WIDE FAMILY OF GOD— PARTICIPANTS, NOT SPECTATORS"

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA ... [ANN] Pastor Jan Paulsen, newly elected president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, answered questions during a press conference and at a specially broadcast edition of the Church's Adventist Communication Network (ACN) satellite television program "First Wednesday."

Asked what he saw as the greatest challenge for the Church, Paulsen referred to the rapid growth in membership and the need to preserve its sense as a unique world-wide family.

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a rapidly growing church," said Paulsen. "The world membership is past the 10 million mark baptized adult members. If you add in children, we are a spiritual community of some 15 million around the world. Ninety percent of that membership is outside North America and it is established in every part, every culture virtually of the world and growing strongly. And for that we praise the Lord and are happy to be part of the Lord's outreach to mankind.

"It's the constant challenge that the Church faces everywhere—how to communicate the gospel attractively and how to demonstrate, both by what is being said and by what is being offered in services, how Christ's presence in one's life brings richness and fullness.

"As I look at the Church internationally, the cultural and ethnic diversity of the Church is both a huge blessing and a gift to the Church, but it's also an enormous challenge. How

do you hold such a large international community together as one? I would see the task of maintaining the family as one, and supporting the family of believers in all cultures and ethnic communities to grow and to be strong. That, I think, is probably the biggest challenge that I would see ahead of us."

During the March 2 press conference, Paulsen was questioned about women's ordination and its place in the Church's agenda. Responding, Paulsen pointed to the contribution by women and youth in the dynamic growth of the Church.

"Solutions in matters such as those are arrived at on the basis of consultation," said Paulsen. "The church is a representative system of leadership whereby the Church from the local level through its national leadership select individuals who will be part of that larger international consultation and decision-making process.

"As for the specific issue you have raised about women's ordination, the church has considered that over a long period and the fact of the matter is that women make up over half of the total membership of the Church. But so do also youth. Fifty percent of the membership of our Church is under 30 years of age. Clearly, whether you are a young person or a woman, you are not a spectator in the Church. The Church belongs to you. You are the Church. And around the world, I see a strong, creative, participatory presence by both women and youth in the creative initiatives of the Church. It has to move forward that way.

"The Church also needs to ask and go on asking itself about issues that have to do with the practical identity of the Church around the world. Questions arise as to practice—can we do it the same way everywhere at the same time? Are we ready for it? And that's an important question that you have to ponder and we continue to do that."

Speaking about the relationship between the academic community and the world Church in TOP general, Paulsen drew from his personal experience.

"I spent a number of years in the academic community as professor of theology and as college president," said Paulsen. "They were wonderful years. I think that I understand how the academic community functions and some of their concerns that they have. I will want to be open to the ongoing, continuous dialogue, not just between this headquarters and the academic community, but between this headquarters and any and all institutions that we have as a Church. Our institutions of higher learning, of which we have many, and our hospitals, of which we have many, I see them all as participants in the mission of the Church, and they need to be clear about their own identity and role in discharging that sacred function. So, I am both very open to the needs of the educational institutions and will welcome opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with our academic community." In response to a question about the conflict of interest issues

leading to the former president's resignation, Paulsen emphasized the openness and integrity of the Church and its leadership.

"The Church leadership tries to maintain a good, cordial, open communication system," said Paulsen. "The Church needs to look into the future, as indeed we do. And we, the Church, also learn by things that may not have been done as effectively as one would have wished. But as we go into the future, the challenges of such a large, dynamic community, as the one of which we are a part, is really an all-consuming focus. And I will do my very best to make sure that as we move forward, both the openness and the integrity of the Church and its leadership remains strong."

As for his own future, Paulsen was non-committal past 2000. "I think that to begin to either guess or prognosticate as to what 2000 will bring, that really is far too premature. Who knows, they may not want me a year and a half from now." As for his current status, Paulsen expressed his appreciation at being asked to serve as president. "I am very happy, I am honored that the Church has asked me now to be president. As you know, that is not a coronation of any royalty here. We are talking about a servant who is chosen to give spiritual leadership and I am delighted to be able to do that. I serve at the pleasure of the Church. When the Church wishes to look elsewhere for leading initiative, I shall be only too pleased to help the Church in that process." Interviewed by Dan Matthews for ACN's "First Wednesday" program on March 3, Paulsen identified his assignment as "indescribably big."

"To put your mind around this assignment, especially coming into it as suddenly as we did, is a huge task," said Paulsen. But he was positive and enthusiastic saying "I enjoy TOP what I'm doing. I have worked for forty years in ministry, and they have been wonderful years."

As the first president elected who holds a doctoral degree, Paulsen affirmed that he placed much importance on education. "My years in education have helped me to understand what a wonderful privilege it is to create the mind of a preacher." But he was cautious in advising others to gain a doctoral degree in a non-church institution, saying that such a decision depended on the person's background and experience. His top priority for the life and ministry of the Church was to hold together as a world family.

"We are unique, a special people," said Paulsen. "We share the same faith and define our identity the same way around the world." His plea for the Church was one of personal involvement. "It is important that each of us is clear about who we are and that we are part of one big movement, and that we make our contribution to that in every possible way—resources, talents and time—that we do not see ourselves at any moment as spectators or observers." Church administrators commenting on Paulsen's election have applauded his commitment to the Church and his administrative

skills, which place value on discussion and consensus.

"Jan Paulsen is undoubtedly one of the Church leaders for whom I have the greatest respect," said Reinder Bruinsma, currently secretary for the Church's Trans-European Division who worked with Paulsen in that administration. "I regard him as a person with great integrity, having an analytical mind, but at the same time very compassionate. He is a man who has a great interest in people, and who takes his team seriously. I am very comfortable with Dr. Paulsen at the helm."

"Jan Paulsen is the right man for the job," said Calvin Rock, general vice-president for the Adventist World Church. "I regard him as not only a warm and caring person, but as a very perceptive and courageous individual. He will do us good."†

LATEST UPDATE:

ADVENTIST SKILLS CENTRE, SABAH

At the December 1998 constituency meeting of the Sabah Mission, the delegates and representatives to the session voted to separate officially the administration of the typing and computer section of SASS from its mother institution, and became known as the Adventist Computer and Typing Skills Centre. They appointed Mr James Lai (of ADRA Sabah fame) as its principal, and Mr Daniel Bagah (the former principal of SASS) as the treasurer. (The new principal of SASS is Mr Nasol Gabu, formerly one of the vice-principals of the school).

Much has happened since that decision was taken. There are now 60 students enrolled in the Centre, with five full-time teachers. The classrooms have been renovated and new programmes have been introduced in addition to typing and computers. A new, shorter, yet more appropriate name has been suggested—"Adventist Skills Centre." More importantly, the Centre has been officially registered with the government Education department and approved.

In future a software applications course will be designed for pastors and ministers, to equip them with IT knowledge, and to make them more effective in their ministry. It is also the aim of the Centre to help young people meet prerequisites for acceptance to Mission College.†

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