

The Messenger

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST UNION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA



VOLUME FOURTEEN

March - April

Number TWO

13th Biennial Session S.D.A. Union of Southeast Asia

In January the 13th Biennial Session for the Seventh-day Adventist Union of Southeast Asia was held in the chapel of Southeast Asia Union College. Nearly a hundred delegates from Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam gathered for these meetings. Representing the General Conference was W. R. Beach, secretary of the General Conference, and K. F. Ambs, assistant treasurer of the General Conference. From the Division office we had C. P. Sorensen, A. E. Gibb, H. D. Johnson, C. D. Martin, Boyd

Olson, H. E. McClure, R. F. Waddell, E. A. Brodeur.

As a result of the session the following were elected for the next biennial period. Sabah — A. N. Peters, president, Bunny Cheah, secretary-treasurer; Sarawak — R. C. Hall, president, P. R. Sibarani, secretary-treasurer; Malaya — S. J. Lee, president, W. Y. Chen, secretary-treasurer; Thailand — Palmer Wick, president, B. A. Martin, secretary-treasurer; Vietnam — R. Tilstra, president, C. Harris, secretary-treasurer; Cambodia — R. C. Neall,

director. For the union departments: Home Missionary — D. M. Barnett; Missionary Volunteer, Temperance and Educational, Jay Lantry; Sabbath School — Mrs. D. M. Barnett; Publishing — J. S. Bernet; Medical — G. H. Coffin; Ministerial — Radio-TV, Bible Correspondence — D. R. Guild.

Each morning during the session a devotional service followed by prayer bands was held. Each evening was devoted to the giving of reports from the various union departments, local missions, the medical institutions, publishing house, and the college. These reports all indicated progress and growth. Despite various difficulties and problems in various areas this past biennial period has been the best in baptisms, tithe and offering, and membership growth.



Seated, front row, left to right: J. Kong, Assistant Auditor; D. Barnett, Home Missionary secretary; J. Lantry, MV, Education secretary; K. T. Kong, Assistant Secretary Treasurer; S. J. Lee, President Malaya Mission; G. O. Bruce, Secretary Treasurer; H. W. Bedwell, President, C. P. Sorensen, President Far Eastern Division; K. F. Ambs, Assistant Treasurer General Conference; R. F. Waddell, Medical Secretary Far Eastern Division; R. Roderick, Assistant Treasurer Far Eastern Division; R. C. Hall, President Sarawak Mission; P. G. Wick, President Thailand Mission; R. Tilstra, President Vietnam Mission; A. Peters, President North Sabah Mission.

Southeast Asia Union

The President's Report

The past biennial period (1962-1963) has been one of change not only in the work of the mission but in the political and economical situation of the areas of this Union. Generally speaking this period has been one of slow but steady growth in the various branches of the mission program. One feature of the work has been an outstanding growth in the sale of colporteur literature. The sale of literature for this period far surpasses any reports of the past. John Bernet, Union publishing secretary, has given strong leadership to this phase of the work. During this biennial period more than 39 million pages of literature have been sold.

The recent political changes in Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia have brought new problems and difficulties to the mission program. It is difficult to travel from one area to another. However, these problems do not prevent the work from going forward. During this period changes have also taken place in various mission organizations. G. O. Bruce became the Union secretary-treasurer. J. H. Lantry arrived from the United States to be the M.V. and educational department secretary. Pastor and Mrs. D. M. Barnett arrived to give direction to the home missionary and Sabbath school departments. Garth Thompson arrived to be the Bible teacher in the college. Miss Naomi Zalabak came to begin a teacher training program. Andrew Peters was appointed president of the Borneo Mission. Clifford Ortner arrived to be the principal of the Ayer Manis Training school and Duane Lacey to be business manager of the Bangkok Sanitarium & Hospital. Others have arrived in the various missions, schools, and hospitals to do their part in the onward progress of the work.

A new publishing house will soon begin printing pages of literature in Thailand. This new publishing house and mission office building was recently completed in Bangkok. Palmer Wick is the president of the Thailand Mission and Ernest Pen-

der has arrived to direct the work of the new publishing house. In Ayer Manis two new dormitory buildings have been completed. At Sunnyhill in Kuching a new classroom building is nearly completed. Soon a new two storey auditorium and classroom building will be completed at the Ekamai School in Bangkok. A new dental clinic building in Chiangmai, Thailand, is now open under the direction of the dentist, Clark Lamberton. New housing for hospital workers has been recently completed at Youngberg Memorial Hospital and work is going forward on a new floor on the main hospital building. Southeast Asia Union College has also recently completed new housing for its teachers and has done some remodeling of the rooms for additional classroom space. Construction work is now beginning on a new hospital building in Bhuket, Thailand.

There has been a strong emphasis on public evangelism during this period and more public efforts have been held than in any previous similar period. The first large public effort in the national language by a national worker was recently held in Bangkok. Several efforts have been held for the Chinese speaking people by Milton Lee and Daniel Lee of the Division in our Union. The Bible Correspondence Schools in our Union have been very busy and successful. The majority of the persons baptized in our Union have been students of the Bible correspondence courses. During 1962, our Bible schools were first in Far Eastern Division for the number of test papers graded and second in 1963.

The Ingathering program has shown strong growth during this period. For the first time an organized Ingathering program has been carried on in nearly every mission. In the last two years Southeast Asia Union College has raised M\$ 60,000.00 in its Ingathering program. During 1963 as compared with 1962 our Union per capita tithe has increased M\$9.72. Our



H. W. Bedwell
President of the
Southeast Asia Union
Mission

total Sabbath School offering have increased M\$3,000.00 by the end of the third quarter of 1963.

As of the third quarter of 1963, our Union membership exceeded eight thousand for a total of 8,118. Our churches number 75; Sabbath schools, 108 with 12,903 members. Our tithe income for the first three quarters of 1963 showed an increase of 24.9%.

There are many opportunities and open doors in the various areas of our Union field. We have a great need for additional workers who have been educated and trained to do the work. There is a great longing in the hearts of the people that can only be satisfied by a knowledge of the gospel of Christ. The events in the political world about us indicates that we have but little time in which to work. Whatever we are going to do, we must plan to do now. Let us pledge ourselves to "Win more in 1964."

"The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones. (Test. Vol. 9, p. 11).

Cambodia District

By R. E. Neall, Director

The work in Cambodia is like a young baby,—it has limitless possibilities, but it is hard to find much to report about its achievements. Wong Yew Seng and Manuel Tortal did faithful work in nursing the baby while we were on furlough; now we feel it is time for the baby to grow. For five years in a row we have set a baptismal goal for 25, but we have yet to baptize more than four in one year. In 1963 it was three. One of these years we shall baptize our 25; we hope it is this year.

Our second term promises to be even more interesting than our first. Events are speeding up. Many Americans were sped out of the country last month. Gasoline has doubled in price. Powdered milk, foreign sugar, and all beauty aids including razor blades and shaving cream, are no longer imported. The import-export businesses have been taken over by the government. It is an ill wind that blows no one any good, however. These troubles seem to have brought in a new spirit among our church members; they are seeking the Lord and giving their efforts to His work more than ever before.

As for ourselves, the present changes have not affected mission-

aries. We feel confident in the Lord that we shall be allowed to remain and carry on our work. The Lord helped us in a re-entry problem last July; I do not think He will allow us to be sent out the country in January.

During the last few years we have spent much time in preparing literature for the Cambodians. We

have an elementary Bible Correspondence course from Hong Kong translated and published. Mrs. Neall's book, "The Prince and the Rebel", was printed just before we went on furlough last year.

Before we arrived in 1957 the Union Committee voted to have **The Guardian of Health** translated

(Continued page 7)

Ordination Service

On the Sabbath afternoon of January 11 during the recent biennial session, an inspiring and reverent ordination service was held. The service was held in the Balestier Road Church which was filled to capacity with members, delegates, and friends of this service.

The delegates in session had voted to approve the ordination to the gospel ministry two union workers, G. O. Bruce and J. S. Bernet. Brother Bruce has had nearly fifteen years of service in various places in treasury work in the United States, Taiwan, Japan, the division office in Singapore, and recently in the union office. Brother Bernet has had nearly eight years of service in the literature evangelism work. For the last three years he has been publishing secretary for the union.

The Sabbath afternoon ordination service was begun by a song

by a male quartet. This was followed by remarks by W. R. Beach, secretary of the General Conference, on the importance and high calling of the gospel ministry. Mrs. G. O. Bruce then sang a solo. The ordination prayer was given by A. E. Gibb, secretary of the Far Eastern Division. The charge was given by C. P. Sorensen, president of the Far Eastern Division. The welcome to the gospel ministry was given by H. W. Bedwell, president of Southeast Asia Union. The service was closed by a solo by J. S. Bernet, one of the two young men who had been ordained.

This service was attended by forty ordained ministers from the division office and from Southeast Asia Union. This is one of the largest gatherings of ordained ministers at one time to meet in our union. The quiet dignity and reverence of this important service made a deep impression on all who attended.



Left to right: D. M. Barnett, H. W. Bedwell, A. E. Gibb, C. P. Sorensen, W. R. Beach, Mr. and Mrs. John Bernet and Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Bruce.

Malayan Mission

By T. C. Chin, President

Greetings from the 2,200 church members in the Malaya Mission. From reports that have been received, the total number of baptism for the year 1963 was 209 which was the largest for any single year in the history of the mission. The number baptized during the previous year was 162. The highest number to be baptized at one baptism was thirty-four as a result of Milton Lee and Daniel Lee's effort held in Singapore recently.

In 1962 many of our workers held two evangelistic efforts, and these were conducted in churches and in rented halls. During the year 1963 our workers were able to reap the interest from their efforts held the previous year, and the total baptism was greater than any preceding year.

The faithfulness of our believers led to a very substantial increase of tithe, and this was also partly due to a very large special tithe. The total received for the year 1963 amounted to \$257,725.18 as compared with \$197,752.56 for the year 1962.

Construction work on the new church building at Teluk Anson began early in 1963, and the building was completed in August, followed by the dedication of the church on October 26th. This new church building marked the third house of worship to be erected in the tin-rich State of Perak.

Work among the Muslims in this country is not easy. Speaking of Muslims, we are referring specially to the Malays, and not the other races who embrace Islam. In recent months our effort among these people has been made more difficult because of the tension that has now divided Indonesia and Malaysia.

Many of you have heard that we have requested the Union to establish medical work in Kuala Lumpur. The proposed Adventist hospital in Kuala Lumpur received very good support from the start, and this was evidenced by the offering turned in by church members and workers. Much effort has been put forth to find a suitable building for this project. But so far we have not been successful. Seemingly we have not made any headway with the project. However, we look forward with confidence that our plan be realized in 1964.

With the colporteur force increased, literature sales for 1963 totalled \$186,971.09 for December. The sales showed an increase of \$23,797.63 over the sales for 1962. The number of souls won by literature evangelists was twenty-three. The success in the literature ministry is a tribute to the leadership of Pastor L. Pandjaitan and his two associates, Khor Thy Peng and S. Simhachalam.

It is our hope that we can organize the Home Missionary work in a strong way. Great things can happen in this mission when pastors exercise strong leadership in organizing laymen's Home Mission-

ary activities. Many will be willing to work if they were only taught how to begin. In these days we hear this statement: "The work of God can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."

(Continued page 6)

Literature Evangelist's Institute of Malaya Mission

By L. Pandjaitan, Publishing
Secretary Malaya Mission

With the help of God, we were able to open the Colporteur's Institute last October at Golden Sands Baptist Assemy, Port Dickson. There were 38 people present including a number of new colporteurs. The writer extended a hearty welcome to all. After introductions Pastor J. Bernet, Union Publishing Secretary, gave a thrilling message regarding the Literature Evangelist's response in this time of need.

Pastor T. K. Chong from the English Balestier Church, Singapore gave us an encouraging devotional message to strengthen the colporteurs. He instructed us as Literature Evangelists always to be happy. Dr. R. J. Steels gave health instruction on how to prevent many diseases, especially tropical diseases. Pastor J. Bernet, Union Publishing Secretary, and the writer gave instructions on the technique of Christian Salesmanship. These instructions were translated in Chinese by Mr. Wu Chook Ying and Pastor Samuel Tsai.

Beside the interesting talks given by our leaders, we enjoyed the testimonies of all the colporteurs that were present. On Sabbath afternoon 13 among the colporteurs told their thrilling experiences. We are thankful to God to learn that 10 souls have been won to Christ through the efforts of our colporteurs.

At the close of the institute 6 of our colporteurs were awarded prizes for obtaining the highest points during the Institute. Territories have been divided among the colporteurs. A new goal is set for 1964; total sales, M\$199,900.00 and 51 souls.

May God help us to double our goal. Let it be our hope and prayer.



Colporteur Institute, Malaya

Thailand Mission

By P. G. Wick, President

The past biennial period has been a period of great change for the Thailand Mission. It has been a period of many firsts, first publishing house, first graduates from our own training school; first time on the air with a Thai Voice of Prophecy broadcast, first time to be cut off the air with that broadcast.

Besides all these firsts, there have been several other changes. There is a new president and a new secretary-treasurer, so most of our report is the report of the fine work done by our predecessors.

God has blessed us with the most baptisms this year that we have ever had, 122; and the most for any biennial period, 190, making a total membership of 843. This comes partly as a result of having a training school program. In March of 1962 we hired ten graduates from this training school. One is now a teacher, one works in the Voice of Prophecy school and one works in the chaplain's department of Bangkok Sanitarium, but the other seven are out in the field in active soul winning. Each of these seven has several baptisms to his credit for 1963, which helped make it the best year for soul winning in our history. Last year we held only three efforts in Thailand but this year we are planning to hold 13. Our workers have set personal goals for baptisms for the coming year that would put our baptisms over 200 if these goals should be reached.

The biggest change in the Thailand Mission came as the result of the 13th Sabbath offering for the fourth quarter of 1961. One fourth of this offering, US\$22,000.00 was designated for our new Voice of Prophecy and press building. The Mission sold its old office building to the hospital and with this money a very lovely two-story building was built near the Ekamai school, about 11 kilometers from the hospital. The ground floor houses the Thailand Publishing House, with office space, book display and a sales room. On the second floor are the mission offices and the Voice of Prophecy school. The Mission office was moved to this new location in June of 1963.

The next change in the Thailand Mission is a new, almost fully-equipped publishing house, the 43rd



for the world wide Seventh-day Adventist Church. We in Thailand wish to express our appreciation to the General Conference, who through the Rehabilitation Fund did so much in a financial way to help get the necessary equipment. We also wish to express our thanks to the Far Eastern Division and the Union for matching this grant made from the Rehabilitation Fund. The book, "Guardian of Health" will be the first book printed. Colporteur sales in 1963 have increased by about 33 1/3 % over 1962 for a total sales of over 600,000 baht (Malay \$85,000). We are planning for another one-third increase for 1964, God willing.

At the Biennial Session held here two years ago, Thailand Mission presented the new Thai-language Voice of Prophecy quartet and the speaker. It was thrilling to hear that this program was being broadcast on the largest radio station in Thailand every Sunday afternoon. The program was also broadcast in the second city of Thailand, Chiangmai. In August of 1962 the Army General in charge of all radio stations gave the order for all religious programs to be cut off the air. We were cut off immediately in Bangkok but were left on the air until July of 1963 in Chiangmai. There have been many changes in Thailand during the past few weeks and there is now a new general in charge of the radio sta-

(Continued page 7)

Baptisms in Northern Thailand

By Abel V. Pangan

During the recent visit of Pastor P. G. Wick, Thailand Mission president, to northern Thailand, five souls were baptized along the Mekong River at Chiengkong, Chiangmai. It is interesting to note that four of those who followed the Lord in the watery grave were tribes people from Laos. Five days after the occasion, Pastor Wick baptized another six at Amphur Prao, Chiangmai. Through the tireless efforts of Brothers Yothi and Jun, with the unfailing help of God, these baptisms were made possible in the two respective places.

Plans are being laid to build a church on the Mission property at Chiengkong in order to provide a meeting place for the company of believers there. Most of the baptized members are people who fled from Laos during the recent trouble there. Similar plans are being made for the brethren at Amphur Prao. As soon as a suitable piece of land is purchased, the construction of the church building will start.

There are more baptisms to follow in the coming months. At Chiengkong Brother Yothi is preparing some for baptism. Brother Jun has also some to be baptized who are now in his baptismal class. Soon six or seven souls will be baptized in the city of Chiangmai.

Sabah Mission

By Andrew Peters, President

"Change is the order of the day." With the emergency of the new country of Malaysia in September, 1963, North Borneo as a State of Malaysia officially changed its name to "Sabah"—an ancient native name for the former North Borneo. Consequently the mission name was changed to Seventh-day Adventist Mission of Sabah.

During this past Biennial period Pastor C. G. Oliver, former mission president, was called to West Irian. Pastor Andrew Peters accepted the appointment to be the new mission president in March, 1963. The Peters family moved to Tamparuli, Sabah, in June of 1963.

Now, with nine months of acquaintance with the Sabah Mission I make this brief President's report. With a grateful heart we look back at the ground work laid by workers who pioneered in evangelism in the past. In areas inaccessible by modern transportation villages have churches established in them. These villagers are continuing their missionary endeavors by opening up many Branch Sabbath schools. Today there are thirty-eight Branch Sabbath Schools with a combined attendance of over 400 prospective candidates for baptism in the future. Added to this are the over one thousand Sabbath School members of our established churches who will be preparing for baptism later.

The number of baptized members at the beginning of the Biennial period was 2,609 with the addition of 207 persons baptized in the last two years. Our membership total stands at 2,908. Two companies were organized into churches during 1962, and four in 1963, making a total of 30 organized churches for the Sabah mission.

Tithe receipts for this Biennial period showed a good gain. For 1962 the tithe receipts totalled M\$ 55,149.40. A \$17,443.92 gain in tithe was made in 1963 when a total tithe income of \$72,443.92 was reached.

The financial situation of the Sabah Mission has not improved due to the large commitments made to kampong schools. At the beginning of 1962 four new primary schools were opened with an agreement that the schools pay 50% of the teachers' salary. As the year progressed it was evident that the new schools were not abiding by their

agreement. An action was taken in November of 1963 to close four schools because of financial loss.

The Ingathering receipts for two years amounted to \$53,042.17. There was a loss of \$4,000.00 in 1963 over 1962. For several years the Brunei Government has refused permission to let Ingathering work be done in their country. This has resulted in a loss of many thousands to our work. The Sabah government had refused income tax exemption for Ingathering donations over the past few years and its effect was seen in the donors' attitudes and contributions for 1963. Late in 1963 an agreement was reached with the Internal Revenue Department which will grant income tax exemption to all future donations for our school program.

Late in 1963 construction began on the Sandakan church. This structure will be completed by the summer of 1964 at a cost of \$45,000.00. There is a great need for trained ministers in the mission and at this juncture we have none in training. This must be remedied. Plans are being laid to upgrade workers to strengthen all phases of the gospel ministry.

The Lord has blessed the work and the people in Sabah and we look forward to many greater blessings in the next few years as we move forward by prayer, counsel, and faith.

Vietnam Report (Continued from page 8)

efforts, —one in Dalat and one with our mountain tribesmen. Thirty-two people were baptized. Five new churches have been build, two among our Mountain people, one at Da Me, and one at Darohoa. In the delta area a new church stands in Can Tho and away up north in Pastor Thien's district stand two more, Phu Hoa, and Tan Ky.

Malaya Report (Continued from page 4)

With a new Home Missionary secretary, Pastor K. T. Chin, to lead out in this work in our mission, our hope and object will be fulfilled in the immediate future.

We need the power of the Holy Spirit in order to accomplish the task that the Lord has entrusted to us.

Sarawak Mission

By R. C. Hall, President

The dawn of 1963 found Sarawak building up for the worst flood of its history as the rains poured down day after day. The weather, however, was not the only thing that was to make history. The Sarawak Mission was making some of its own.

A \$65,000 building program was under way and nearing completion at Ayer Manis School. These two buildings are now being used to house all of the Students, and the ground floor of the girls' dormitory is the kitchen and dining room. It was a great day when the boys and girls moved into their new homes from their old buildings.

In February all workers and teachers came to Ayer Manis School for a workers' and teachers' institute. The meetings and special instruction were conducted by Elders Eldridge, Guild, and Bernet. The Workers and teachers left with renewed zeal.

As a result of their hard work I have been busy going over the field conducting baptisms. In one history-making district three miles from the Indonesian border, we had a baptism of 33 in July and then in October, another of 16. The last baptism was held on Sunday and all of the members were called from their distant fields. One was not notified because of the distance and counting him there are now 50 church members and 100 Sabbath School members in this new district!

In another new district there was 13 baptized and six more are waiting. As soon as the rain raises the river enough for our boat, we will go there. Thus far for 1963, 106 have been baptized and we expect that year end reports will reveal about 130 for the mission.

Another historical event was the first campmeeting for Tatau district. Elder J. Lantry joined our staff and the campmeeting was a success. As a result more students joined the school, branch Sabbath Schools were started and the work there has moved forward. The people are looking forward to another campmeeting next year!

Mission flying has had its advancement here also, but not so great as in other places. During

(Continued page 7)



Pictured above are the recently elected mission presidents left to right: P. G. Wick, Thailand; R. Tilstra, Vietnam; A. Peters, Sabah; R. C. Hall, Sarawak; S. J. Lee, Malaya.

Sarawak Report (From page 6)

our campmeeting at our Bhukit Nyala School, Tatau, I flew in for the first landing on the strip. The people, heathen and Christian alike had done a lot of work preparing it. This cuts days of traveling down to less than two hours to reach this school. On October 30 my brother Lee and I flew into another new strip just made ready. When we landed we could see small booths on each side of the strip and as the plane turned at the end of the strip, the village people from miles around, dressed in their best, swarmed down the strip. The rest of the day was spent in celebrating with foot races and games, climaxed by some USIS movies powered by the small generator we brought in the place. The next morning we had a beautiful baptism of nine which was the real climax to the opening of the air strip. These landing strips will greatly facilitate our work in these remote areas.

Cambodia Report (From page 3)

and published in Cambodian. We hired the first translator in 1958. He did 50 pages and quit—he did

not know English well enough to do the job. This proved to be true of most of the translators. Now, six years and many translators later, we have the manuscript at last being inspected by the government censor and ready for the press when he gives his approval. We envy the fields which are able to make a firm contract for a translation, wait six months and pay 30,000 piasters or so, and have a complete manuscript. We have found it necessary to correct everything ourselves to make sure the manuscript says the same thing the English does.

Brother Wong Yew Seng is now laboring in a new city, Kompong Thom, in an effort to raise up the first group of believers outside the capital. The future will bring us the results of his pioneering efforts.

Our new Cambodian Bible Course is now locating interests for us. Four have finished the course and we have about 20 active students. Nearly all of them attended our Christmas program, and I feel sure that many of them will attend evangelistic meetings this year. When Elder Lantry visited us this past year, we discovered that Mrs. Edith Tortal is a trained teacher, and we have decided to use her talents to open a church school. Since she is the only full-time teacher we have, she will have to teach our Chinese Children to speak English before they can learn anything else. To help pay expenses, we plan to open an English-teaching eve-

ning school in addition for the public.

We have also decided to organize Dorcas welfare work for the first time. Mrs. Neall is the new society leader, and she organized a popia supper last Sunday evening to launch the society—attendance was 100% of the church, of course. We hope that this work may break down some of the prejudice which exists.

Thailand Report (From page 5)

tions. We have gotten back on the air with a live broadcast at Chiangmai and we have hopes of getting on the air again in Bangkok soon. God works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.

A new auditorium was built at the Ekamai School. This is a two-story building with an auditorium upstairs which will seat 700. There will be a library, science room, music room and home economics department downstairs. This building will cost about one million baht. All of the money for this school came from school entrance fees that have been saved for a number of years and from solicitation by Elder R. M. Milne.

Pastor John Harris led out in the building of a new church on the island of Bhuket, which was dedicated October 19, 1963. There is a separate building to be used for the Sabbath School divisions. Land has been purchased in the little town of Prow in Northern Thailand where another church will be built soon. Nai Jun, the pastor in this area, lacked just one person of having enough baptisms to double the church membership in the year 1963.

The Lord has blessed our field greatly during the past two years and we give Him thanks. We have a great challenge in Thailand, to spread the gospel to 30 million people of whom only 65,000 are Christian. In the sight of man it seems that it is impossible, but with God all things are possible. Please remember our country in your prayers, that by the grace of God this message may go to all the thousands of villages in Thailand and Laos, that the work may be finished and Jesus return for His own.

THE MESSENGER

Published bi-monthly as the official organ of the S. D. A. Union of Southeast Asia. 399 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore, 13.

Yearly Subscription Price 50 cents (U.S.)

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Pictured above are Bunny Cheah (left) and J. Kong (right) newly appointed secretary-treasurer of Sabah and assistant union auditor.

Vietnam Mission

By W. A. Burton, acting President

Action! No longer does the tropical sun shine on a languid countryside. For Vietnam has become a land of action,—action of all kinds! Everybody is on the move—Viet Cong, government forces, General Minh, Diem, Satan, and God's faithful stewards. Action is our keyword. During this biennium, membership jumped about 25% from 971 to 1,202, an increase of 231 members. Combined action helped to make this figure possible. Last summer three Vacation Bible Schools were conducted by our training school students.

Our 88 colporteurs have sold 12 million pages of literature valued at four million piasters. Twenty thousand people were enrolled in the Voice of Prophecy through their efforts. To help match the demand for more books, the General Conference donated a \$11,000 Giant Heidelberg Press. Predictably, this forward action has aroused the ire of the evil one. Four colporteurs were captured by the Viet Cong last year. Despite all efforts, none have been returned. Two widows and seven children wait for the return of their husbands and fathers. Two of the men captured were single men. A grieving father daily searched for them and requests our prayers that he may find his son safe and also for God's protection that he himself won't be captured while searching. Christ alone can effect their release. (Two single men were released recently. Editor)

In December 1962 just as the choir was going on stage to present its annual Christmas program, word arrived that one of our young ministerial interns had been captured by the Viet Cong. Immediate prayer was held. One month later he was finally released.

Education has demanded and received concerted action. A third floor chapel was added to our dormitory. The grades offered has risen from the 7th and now includes eight, ninth, and training school. Enrollment climbed from 90 pupils to 242. In September of 1963 an MCC Training course was started. Sixty students manage quite admirable to keep their instructors, Barker, Thoresen, and LeHuu, as well as company commander Burton, on the move.

Before the coup de etat, the Diem government had officially notified our school that we would be forced to buy government text books, Bible classes were to be discontinued, and two government supervisors must be hired to assure that every teacher taught exactly what the government had prescribed. Under the new regimen we have asked for and received government recognition for the elementary section of our school. Reason? For the past three years our elementary school has had 100% results in passing the government-given tests.

Vietnam law requires that all official papers, letters, certificates, passes, etc., of the mission be signed by the President and notarized by the government. About six weeks before the coup de etat, the officials refused to legalize our signature which meant that no department of the government would recognize or honor our worker and colporteur passes or any other business matters. Your prayers mingled with ours in faith on September 21 brought about many changes which facilitate the spread of God's work. Before the coup Pastor Thien scheduled an evangelistic effort. But a few days before opening night, Buddhist priests began burning themselves. Government security enforced curfews and no effort was possible.

Since the coup four efforts have been held. In Sa Dec 400 people were present on opening night. Minutes before I walked onto the platform, a plastic bomb was thrown into the theater up the street. We managed to keep our audience, but I dare say it was probably the most excited audience I have ever addressed. God blessed this effort of Brother Trung Thong; attendance continued good, and five families are in our baptismal class now.

In Quang Nghia, permission to hold a series of meetings was refused to Brother Le Hoang. "But I tell you what we will do." security police told him. "We will let you speak in the town square just one night and we will use our public address system to call the people together for you." By government estimate, 7,000 attended the preaching of God's Word. Our total cost of this effort? Nothing but action!

Pastor Thanh just completed two

(Continued on page 6)