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Sabbath School Congress

The Sabah and Sarawak Missions jointly conducted a Sabbath School Congress at Tamparuli, Sabah, April 6-10, to culminate the celebration of the Decade of the Child which began in 1979. More than 500 delegates from all over East Malaysia participated enthusiastically in the action-packed programs throughout the Congress.

On the opening night, the colorfully-costumed delegates assembled for a parade, led by a "gong orchestra". Though the various costumes displayed racial and cultural differences, the people manifested a spirit of love and unity as they marched toward the newly completed church building where the major events were held during the five-day Congress. Leading the parade were the Yang Berhormat Encik Maidom Pansai, a member of parliament and an active Adventist layman; Dr. Charles Gaban, the president of the Sabah Adventist Mission; Dr. and Mrs. Charles Griffin, Dr. Nancy Bassham, and Elder Gordon Bullock from the Far Eastern Division; and Mrs. Pleny Camagay and Pastor Bob Sepang from the South Philippine and East Indonesia Union Missions, respectively.

In his message for the official opening of the Congress, Encik Maidom stressed the importance of the Sabbath and the necessity for all Seventh-day Adventists to adhere to its careful observance, through the educational process of Sabbath School ministry. Faithfulness to the Word of God is a distinguishing mark that will set apart the true believers as a "royal priesthood" and a "peculiar people". He further emphasized that it was imperative to begin this educational process during the tender age of the children — the age when characters are formed. Therefore, Children Ministry should take on an ever increasing role in the life and work of the church.

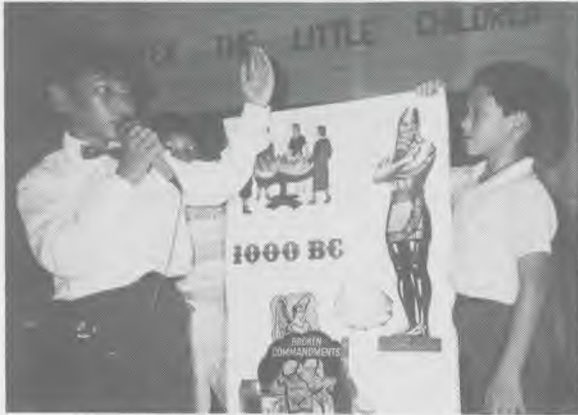
Mrs. Pleny Camagay, the specially invited resource person, presented a series of talks on child training and character building. In her animated presentation, she captivated the audience with some practical but biblical-based principles and guidelines that parents can follow in the training of their children.

Featured in the Congress were many workshops and

seminars on Children, Youth, and Adult Sabbath School Leadership, Sabbath School Teaching, Action Teams, Visual Aid, Music for Young Children, and Sabbath School Offerings and Finance. Besides the excellent instructions, a great deal of well-prepared resource materials were provided for the participants. Having been benefited from the seminars and workshops, many Sabbath School leaders strongly proposed that this kind of activities be conducted on a regular basis in the local churches for the benefit of all the believers.



Martono Felix as he is preaching during the Sabbath School Congress.



Child preacher Martono Felix (left) presenting a sermon on Daniel Two.



Children presenting a skit based on John 21:1-3.



Good News singers praising God.

One of the highlights of the Congress was a special children's program on Friday evening, featuring the children's leadership skills in their presentation of musical items and the preaching of God's Word. Martono Felix and Cherry Samy were the child preachers whose sermons touched the hearts of the congregation and challenged them to a greater involvement in the promulgation of the everlasting Gospel in the most effective manner.

As the Congress drew to a close, the parents and leaders in the Children Ministry were once again reminded of the divine injunction in Deuteronomy 6:4-7, that they ought to know God, love God, and obey God as they lead the little ones to the Lord Jesus Christ.

— David Wong, Director,
Department of Church Ministries, SAUM

"The Best Part of the Congress ..."

"The best part of the whole congress was the children's program on Friday night" was the comment made many times during the recent congress for the Sabah and Sarawak Missions held in Tamparuli, April 6-10, 1989. There were children's dramas, children's singing groups and two sermons by children, Martono Felix and Cherry Samy.

The congress opened with many delegates dressed in colorful tribal costumes from various areas. A procession, accompanied by the sounding of native gongs, made its way into the new Tamparuli Church building on the opening night. The honourable Mr. Maidom Pansai led the procession and later gave a stirring speech. The Sabbath afternoon program featured several individuals who shared their testimony of the way the Lord led them to accepting Him.

Enthusiasm was high as the 600 delegates and visitors learned new methods from the seminars, and made or received materials to take back to their churches to be put to use by the local people. Delegates from both Sabah and Sarawak look forward to having another joint congress in the future.

— Evelyn Griffin, Associate CM Director,
Southeast Asia Union Mission

"The Year of the Adventist Teacher" Convention

Sabah and Sarawak Adventist Missions celebrated the "Year of the Adventist Teacher" designated for 1989 by jointly conducting a Teachers' Convention at Tamparuli, Sabah, on April 11-14, 1989. More than 60 teachers from East Malaysia participated enthusiastically in the program-packed four-day event.

Dr. Charles Gaban, addressing the delegates in his keynote message, emphasized the important and unique role of teachers in leading their students to Christ through their teaching ministry as well as in the growth and development of the Adventist Church. It is important for teachers, as partners in the gospel ministry, to take a Christ-centered approach in their various academic disciplines.

In harmony with the spirit of this special Year of the Adventist Teachers, which encourages teachers to seek spiritual development and professional growth for the enhancement of teaching excellence and soul-winning effectiveness, several mini seminars were conducted during the convention. Dr. Jonathan Kuntaraf, an associate education director of the Far Eastern Division, provided for the teachers tremendous insights in the all important topic, Integration of Faith and Learning. He helped the teachers see clearly the relationship between faith and learning and suggested ways and means by which the teachers could give the subject matter in various academic disciplines a Christian perspective.

Dr. David Wong led the participants in a historical survey of the rise of the Adventist Church and the unique role that Adventist teachers played in the growth and development of the church. He emphasized the ever-increasing role of teachers in assisting the church to meet the challenges of the Great Commission.

Other seminars on the Motivation of Teaching and the Teacher's Role in Soul-winning were conducted by Dr. Edmund Siagian and Elder Robert Burton, respectively. All the teachers were each presented with a copy of compiled materials on "Teachers: Partners in Ministry" that provides further reading for the teachers on the topics that were discussed during the seminars.

The highlight of the convention was an evening of fellowship and awards and special recognition given to teachers on the last day of the meeting. At the end of the banquet, 43 teachers were awarded service pins, their service representing a total of 345 years of dedication to the teaching ministry. Mr. Gordon Chong, the principal of Sunny Hill School in Sarawak, received special



Teachers' Convention delegates posing in front of the Sabah Mission headquarters.



A group of teachers from Sabah presents special music.



Mr. Gordon Chong receiving special recognition from Dr. Jonathan Kuntaraf for 25 years of service.

recognition for his 25 years of service in the Adventist educational system.

All participants have benefited from the convention and look forward to more dedicated and effective service in the teaching ministry.

— David Wong, Education Director,
Southeast Asia Union Mission

SAUC Students with Japanese Youth in Sabah

Four students from Southeast Asia Union College joined over twenty Japanese Pathfinder volunteers and their supervisors in assisting local ADRA personnel in a joint Japan/Sabah ADRA project from March 17 to 31, 1989. These volunteers dug wells, built latrines, constructed a small bridge, and did clean-up work in an isolated Bajau village of Dantai, located on the west coast of Sabah to the north of Kota Kinabalu. ADRA/Sabah also employed local help to construct the first road leading into the village.

This Muslim fishing village never had latrines until the arrival of ADRA help to the village. Getting water from old wells had become a problem because the hydraulic pumps had been out of order for several years. Cholera and malaria killed children and adults alike, both in recent times as well as in times past. The villagers, who also assisted in the ADRA project, expressed their appreciation for the work done. Village chief Dawan bin Daud said, "This is a good project. There has been no project since

the previous government built some wells." Imam Jaafar bin Haji Sindam, happy with the new facilities, commented, "Now that we have these and a new road, what we need in addition is electricity and telephones." James Lai, project director and head of ADRA/Sabah, remarked the project in Dantai was not the "be all and end-all" thing. "We hope to show a basic example so that the villagers will make some headway for themselves," he said.

Yaoch Ngirkelau, Dean Langinbelik, Lannon Jokray, and Tony Pasillas made up SAUC's contribution to the Dantai project. On working alongside with the Japanese, Lannon commented, "I enjoyed meeting with the group from Japan. I enjoyed sharing with them." Concerning his impressions of the Bajau, Yaoch remarked, "At first I thought the people weren't going to be friendly. But after being at Dantai, my view of the villagers changed. I made a lot of friends with them. Taking two weeks off from school was time well spent." Dean shared his views, "I learned more how to share with others. For me, this project was a kind of Christian witness."

The Dantai project was featured in the March 26 issue of the *Sabah Times*. Three pages were devoted to the happenings at the village.

When asked about people from a "rich" country like Japan coming to help a needy village like Dantai, Mr. Kiyoshi Fujita, head of ADRA/Japan and leader of the Japanese group, commented, "Please don't see this as a case of the rich coming to give something to the poor. We are never rich, until we learn to be friendly and treat others as equals."

— Tony Pasillas, student of SAUC



The Japanese youth, SAUC students and Dantai villagers posing next to a completed well.

Koh Kang Song — Elected Chairman of ATESEA

At the Quadrennial General Assembly of the Association for Theological Education in the South East Asia (ATESEA) held in Manila, Philippines, on April 9-16, Dr. Koh Kang Song, president of Southeast Asia Union College/Southeast Asia Adventist Seminary, was elected chairman of ATESEA. The term of office is four years.

ATESEA is an association of 60 interdenominational theology colleges and seminaries in the South East Asia, New Zealand and Australia. At present, five Seventh-day Adventist institutions have become member schools of ATESEA: Asia Adventist Theological Seminary, Silang,

Philippines; Philippine Union College; Hong Kong Adventist College; Pakistan Adventist Seminary; and Southeast Asia Union College. Several more institutions are applying for membership.

ATESEA was established in 1957 with sixteen interdenominational schools as founding members. The Association has the following aims for its operations:

1. To promote creative relationships among institutions and agencies engaged in theological education and the churches in the region.
2. To facilitate regional efforts in theological education in the service of the churches in South East Asia.
3. To set guidelines and standards of theological education and to provide accreditation services to member-institutions and to others requesting it.
4. To work for the improvement and renewal of theological education in the region in such ways as it may deem appropriate.

Since 1966, ATESEA has been operating a Graduate School of Theology with a unique system of utilizing a cluster of schools and teachers in the different regions in South East Asia for 16 graduate studies and research. The Asia Adventist Theological Seminary in Silang is participating in this system in the Philippine region for its Doctor of Pastoral Studies (DPS) program. Three programs at SAUC are accredited by ATESEA: Bachelor of Ministry (B.Min.), Bachelor of Arts in Theology (B.A.Th.), and Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.).

— R. H. Jones, Academic Dean, SAUC

SAUC Granted Full Accreditation

On April 24-26 — the Board of Regents of the General Conference Department of Education conducted the scheduled evaluation of SAUC. Dr. A. C. Segovia, an associate director of the General Conference Department of Education, was the chairman of the team. The team members consisted of: Dr. S. Tabuchi, director of education, Far Eastern Division of Seventh-day Adventists; Dr. Jonathan Kuntaraf and Dr. M. L. Ryan, associate directors of the Department of Education of the Far Eastern Division; Dr. Lee Jai Ryong, associate dean of Asia Adventist Theological Seminary; Dr. R. A. Hutagaol, president, Universitas Advent Indonesia; Dr. Helen Sprengel, educational consultant of the Thailand Mission College; Mr. R. F. Childers, teacher of Far Eastern

Academy; and Mr. Joshua Goh, president of Youngberg Adventist Hospital.

All aspects of the SAUC program were studied, from classroom teaching to the total school plant. We are happy to announce that SAUC has been granted full accreditation for a five-year period. This is the longest period of accreditation given to any college outside of the U.S.A. The team recognized that with the limitations of space and finance, SAUC is doing just about all it can. Of the eight major recommendations given, five require finances which at the present time are not available to SAUC.

One way to make it possible to fulfill these recommendations is for you, the church members, to support SAUC by sending your young people to the school for their education. SAUC has a strong program and the affiliation program with Walla Walla College permits our student to obtain a degree from Walla Walla. This is a U.S.A. degree and is recognized throughout the world.

— R. H. Jones, Academic Dean, SAUC

Wedding Bells

Wim Turambi and the former Rebecca Tay joined their lives and hearts together in a Singapore wedding service on May 7, 1989 at SAUC Auditorium. Many friends from Thailand who know Rebecca have been asking, "Is it true that she is married? What is he like?" Well, Wim is a Sarawakian who worked for many years at Ayer Manis School. He served as boys' dean, assistant principal and later principal of the school. From there he went to Sunny Hill School to head the Malay Language Department. Wim is presently the house editor for Southeast Asia Publishing House in Singapore.

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■ PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ■

Adventist Message Preached in a Pentecostal Church

Last year, Pastor G. P. Joseph of the Bukit Mertajam SDA Church, and Pastor Samuel Money conducted a series of evangelistic meetings on the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. Three souls were baptized at the close of the series. A number of visitors from a neighbourhood Pentecostal Church attended the meetings. They requested Pastor Money to conduct a similar series in their church. With their pastor's consent, Pastor Money was able to begin the series on Daniel and Revelation in their church hall at Parit Buntar, six miles from Nibong Tebal, in the second week of April this year.

During the meetings, Pastor Money explained the great controversy between Christ and Satan, and also the sanctuary message. Many understood why Seventh-day Adventists believe in the Ten Commandments and why Adventists keep the Sabbath. A former Catholic, Mr. Anthony'samy, who attended the Pentecostal Church as a visitor for some time, had Bible studies with Pastor Joseph and was convinced on the Sabbath truth. After reading the *Great Controversy* by Ellen G. White, he was further convinced that he should observe the Sabbath. He quit his work as a clerk in a rubber estate in Kulim because he could not get Sabbath off. God worked a miracle for him. In the same week he quit his job, he found another job as a hospital assistant in a district hospital. He was allowed to work only five days a week with Saturdays and Sundays off. It was a thrill for Pastor Money and Pastor Joseph when he requested baptism. On April 15, after the church service at the Bukit Mertajam

Church, they travelled 15 miles to a waterfall near Kulim for the baptismal service. Mr. Anthony'samy is now the key man to witness to his wife and children. He is also the key man to witness to his associates at the Pentecostal Church. He told Pastor Money that he was paid much less in his present job but he was happier and felt more peaceful because he could obey God and serve Him.

Another lay pastor of another Pentecostal Church, Mr. Thomas, also attended the Daniel and Revelation lectures. He said that he was thrilled to know so many wonderful things from the two books of the Bible, and requested Bible studies with Pastor Joseph. Mr. Thomas is an expert who helps drug addicts break the habit through prayer and specialized ministry. He is another key man who should know the Adventist message well and spread it on to others.

Pastor Joseph and Pastor Money are thankful to God for this penetration they could make in the Pentecostal Church. The day has come to boldly proclaim the Three Angels' Messages with power in all places. God uses many channels to do His task. They hope to do some follow-up work with the Pentecostal Church at Parit Buntar with another series on Revelation in November 1989.

— Samuel Money, CM Director,
Peninsular Malaysia Mission



Part of the Pentecostal audience during the Daniel and Revelation Seminar.



Pastor Money baptises Anthony'samy.

■ SARAWAK ■

Second Group of Village Lay Pastors Finish Training

The second group of village lay pastors, consisting of 15 men from Lubok Antu, Roban and Julau areas, completed their three years of training on Sabbath evening, April 1, 1989. Of the original 15, there were 13 present for the final session.

An interesting sequence is that one of them, Pengabang, was baptized as a new member during the initial training classes. At this final training class, his wife, brother and sister-in-law were baptized — a result of his work having been trained as a village lay pastor.

During these last three years, village lay pastor Aborn has succeeded in bringing about the conversion of all except four persons in his village of over 40 families. Another, Kali, who was also a new convert has opened a new church in his village with 35 to 40 new members in regular attendance. We praise the Lord for the way He has been able to use these men to advance His work in their areas and pray that God will continue to be able to use them as they develop their talents and skills in soul winning.

— Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

Marriage Enrichment Seminar — Sarawak

Friday evening, April 14 found most of the mission pastors and some laymen, together with their wives, gathered in a large semi-circle with Pastor and Mrs. Griffin from the Far Eastern Division and the Southeast Asia Union Mission leading out in a Marriage Enrichment Seminar. It was not a class but an experience to sit together and begin to understand things that draw couples closer to each other and to their God. There came a deeper understanding of the basic needs of men and of women and ways of meeting these needs in couple situations.

At the conclusion of the seminar on Sabbath evening, the couples participated in a communion service in which husbands and wives served each other. For most pastors it was the first time they participated with their wives.

The pastors planned to share their experiences and newly gained insights with their congregations in their

districts. Hopefully similar seminars will be conducted in most districts in the next few years. The Sarawak Mission wishes to express their sincere appreciation to the Griffins for having shared this experience with the leaders of the mission.

— Daniel Walker, President, Sarawak Mission

Wedding — Paula and Jo

Sunday, April 23, Kuching English Church was the scene of a wedding between Joseph Phe Kuo Chiang and Paula Unyang Anyie, both workers in the Sarawak Mission. Jo discovered Jesus while still in a drug rehabilitation centre in Kuching several years ago, and his life has been completely transformed since that time. Upon being discharged from the rehabilitation centre, he entered into the colporteur ministry in which he is still actively engaged. Jo is the first from his family to become a Seventh-day Adventist.

Paula is one of the first converts from the Kayan tribe in the northern part of Sarawak. She has been working as cashier in the mission for the past five years. She has become quite well known throughout the mission because of her adventurous spirit and enjoyment of visiting in the villages on weekends.

The wedding, officiated by Pastors Daniel Walter and Lawrence Banyie, was quite unique in that the bride's parents used tribal attire for the occasion. Although her father dressed with a western-type suit and tie, he wore the Kayan cap and sandals on his feet. The bride's mother used sarong and blouse and had weights in her elongated ear lobes.

At the reception the bride's aunt escorted the bridal party into the reception room with a tribal dance in native costume. The bridesmaid, Paula's niece, dressed in tribal costume, performed another dance to escort the couple from the reception. The couple spent their first two days together relaxing in Damai Beach Resort and returned to work for a few days. Later they took a deferred honeymoon accompanying the pastors and Bible teachers to the Bible Conference in Phuket, Thailand. We wish the couple God's richest blessings as they establish their new home and endeavour to bring a knowledge of Jesus to their families.

— Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

Memory Lane

The First SDA Church in Singapore

The goal of all goals is the winning of souls to the kingdom of God. The truth-filled literature, the medical missionary work, and the educational programs are meant ultimately to lead people to worship the true God. Up to 1909, when the first SDA church was erected in Singapore, or, as a matter of fact, in the whole Southeast Asia Union Mission, the pioneer missionaries had been holding Sabbath meetings in the mission house. The Sabbath school, of course, was receiving its due share of attention with other lines of work. In forwarding her Sabbath school report to the Australasian Union Conference in late 1905, Mrs. G. F. Jones, who accompanied her husband to pioneer the work in Singapore, gave the following interesting account of the very first Sabbath school held in Singapore:

Enclosed you will find the quarterly report of our Singapore Sabbath-school. You will notice that it is steadily growing in numbers and also in donations. Our classes are very large — too large — but next quarter we will divide them up, so that we shall have five classes instead of three.

For the Malay classes this quarter we are taking up some lessons on the Life of Jesus, which are just what they need, as most of them are almost heathen. Timothy [an early national worker] helps me to turn them into proper Malay, and I make the questions just as simple as possible for them, ...

We have just started a Young People's Society, and singing practice, as they do not know the hymns and are afraid to join in the singing. I believe much good can be done for the young by this means.

Griffiths F. Jones, who pioneered the work in Singapore, made six moves during the first year and a half since arriving in Singapore on October 28, 1904. This was a great hindrance to the work. The pioneers keenly felt the need for a permanent building for worship. In early 1906 Edward H. Gates, who pioneered the work on Pitcairn Island in the early 1890s and who helped to open the work in Singapore, informed the readers of the Australasian *Union Conference Record*, "We are now

planning to build a church of our own, as soon as the land can be secured." Two weeks later G. F. Jones pleaded, "Our little flock here would like to have a quiet little fold where they could invite their friends. It is not likely that we can expect much growth to our work until we have such. We are therefore praying for means to purchase a piece of ground where we can put up a church building and a mission home in this all important city of the Indies. The time has fully come for this. Who is willing to give a helping hand?"

In 1906 at the session of the Australasian Union Conference, which was in charge of the work in the East Indian archipelago, the delegates voted to use the Sabbath school contributions for the first quarter in 1907 to secure a church in Singapore. Hence, when E. H. Gates arrived in Singapore in March, 1907, to organize the Malaysian field, it was voted to secure, as soon as possible, a suitable plot of land for erecting a church, with school and such other buildings as may be necessary attached.

Soon after the arrival of William W. Fletcher in Singapore in November, 1906, he wrote several letters to William L. H. Baker, vice-president of the Australasian Union Conference. A portion of one of his letters was quoted here: "I am sure you would be pleased if you could be present in our meeting room on Sabbath. Our Sabbath-school has now a membership of fifty, composed mostly of Chinese and Eurasians. Our Sabbath-school and after service are very interesting. One great difficulty under which we are labouring at present, and which we hope will soon be removed, is the smallness of our meeting room. We are using one of the rooms of the mission home, and I am afraid that if our Sabbath-school should increase much in membership, it would overflow. I feel sure that the time has come for us to lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes in Singapore by building a suitable meeting house. It is cheerful to know that the Sabbath-school donations for this quarter [1st quarter of 1907] are to help this need. I am sure the brethren and sisters here will lift all they can, and will render quite substantial help."

In the same issue of the Australasian *Union Conference Record* in which the above letter appeared, a promotion was given by the Sabbath School Department to appeal for funds for "Our Singapore Church Building."

On Sunday, April 7, 1907, E. H. Gates gave the following interesting account of the Sabbath service: "Yesterday we had an excellent meeting, the house being crowded. The ordinances were celebrated, and seemed to make an excellent impression on the outsiders. Our young Chinese brother [Lee Chin Seng] was active to get his friends to the service. Brother Jones had fourteen young Chinese in his Sabbath-school class, one or two of them being preachers [of other denominations]. Only

By WU CHOOK YING

one of these could understand English, and he was a scholar in our school. The other spoke two different dialects. So Brother Jones spoke in English, which was interpreted by the young brother into one Chinese dialect, and then a third person interpreted the words of the first interpreter into the other dialect. In this way all heard the message."

In early 1908 G. F. Jones gave another appeal for the need of a church. He said, "Our English Sabbath-afternoon meetings continue to be well attended, and those who come are deeply interested. We are not able to invite any more for lack of room. The church-land question has not come to anything yet. We shall be much relieved when it is settled and when we can build a place to which we can invite the people."

At the 1908 session of the Australasian Union Conference, Jones repeated the same appeal. "Our dining-room, which we use for meetings, is well filled each Sabbath. We are prevented from inviting any more to attend, so we are truly in a strait place. We have made efforts to obtain a hall for public meetings, but in vain."

In the *Union Conference Record* of December 21, 1908, the Sabbath School Department reminded the church members that the Sabbath school contributions for the first quarter of 1909 were to be used to erect a church in Singapore. Two weeks later, another indirect appeal was made by the Sabbath School Department in the January 4, 1909, issue of the *Union Conference Record*. E. H. Gates stressed the ideal location of Singapore "as far as our work is concerned."

Though hampered by the lack of a proper meeting place, the missionaries did their best to invite interests to their meetings. In April 12, 1909, issue of the *Union Conference Record*, G. F. Jones reported: "With the thought in mind of reading out of Sister White's books any powerful and eloquent statements bearing on my subject, I sent out a limited number of invitations to our Sabbath afternoon meeting, when I intended to present 'The Troubled Earth,' and afterward take up a collection for the survivors of the recent earthquake in Sicily. This limited number of invitations is all we have been able to send out for the last two years, and we have not dared to extend the number for lack of room. Those who have attended have generally filled most of the chairs in the mission room, and this was all we expected to see on this occasion; but to our surprise not only were the chairs occupied, but the stairs and the passage also, while several were obliged to go away not finding room.

"The power of God was present as the congregation listened to those stirring words of Sister White's, bearing on the troubled earth at this very time. I cannot help thinking that the Lord sent the large number to hear such powerful testimony from the pen of His servant.

"The churches of Singapore do not always have large

congregations, although every comfort in the way of easy and roomy cane seats, electric fans overhead, and so forth, is provided for them in the spacious and airy church buildings; yet our small stuffy room, with windows at one end only, and uncomfortable chairs packed close together giving no elbow room whatever, even to fan oneself, does not deter the people from coming to hear our prophetic and gospel talks from week to week — and that on a Saturday afternoon too. It is a touching scene to watch these poor souls sitting patiently with rapt attention, yet uncomfortable and perspiring profusely. They often ask when our church will be built. What joy it gives us to know that this long-felt need will soon be supplied."

Meanwhile, on January 26, 1908, the Malaysian Union Mission Committee authorized G. F. Jones to start negotiations for the purchase of the piece of land next to the rented mission house on the far side on Dhoby Ghaut at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00, and he should make the purchase as soon as the most favourable terms could be obtained. However, Jones said, "We made strenuous efforts ..., but every time we were defeated."

The mission then began in March, 1908, to negotiate with the Colonial Secretary for a plot of government land between Penang Road and Fort Canning Road. The response was favourable. The piece of land, consisting of 9,600 square feet, was close by other leading churches. It was offered to the SDA mission at seventy-five cents (1s 9d) per square foot with the condition that it "be used for the purpose of erecting a place of worship and if used for any other purpose without the written permission of the Government it shall be lawful for the Government to reenter thereon on repayment of the premium paid for the land but without giving any compensation for improvement or buildings erected."

As approval by the Australasian Union Conference was required, the purchase was not made till January, 1909. Since it had been decided not to build a parsonage near

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The first SDA church in Singapore was dedicated on August 21, 1909.

■ THAILAND ■

First Stress Management Seminar in Phuket

On April 8 and 9, 1989, the first Stress Management Seminar sponsored by the Health Education Department of Phuket Adventist Hospital was held at the downtown Pearl Hotel conference room with a total of 40 participants.

Miss Piamboon Tang and Miss Pannee Prajoubpunsri, PKAH Health Educator and Public Relations Director respectively, worked very hard in the preparations for this seminar which resulted in a great deal of publicity in the media.

Dr. Neil R. Thrasher, Dr. Nantje Twijnstra and Miss Piamboon Tang presented topics on the physiology of stress, exercise, nutrition, physiotherapy, progressive relaxation, and massage techniques. Pastor Jonathan Ng, Director of Chaplaincy and Public Relations of Youngberg Adventist Hospital, was in Phuket on his annual vacation and served as guest instructor in the seminar. With his years of experience in conducting stress management seminars, Pastor Ng's presentations on the mental effects of stress, personality analysis, and work stress management were very much appreciated by the participants. While in Phuket, he also helped the hospital in presenting a similar seminar for a group of 35 hotel supervisors at the Phuket Yacht Club Hotel. As a Certified Assertiveness Trainer, Pastor Ng was invited to present a series of worship talks on self-assertion from a Christian perspective for the benefit of hospital employees. The hospital administration is very pleased with the response from this first Stress Management Seminar.

— Ronald Koh, President, Phuket Adventist Hospital



Participants doing relaxation exercise at the Stress Management Seminar in Phuket.



The mobile clinic is now the way to Gamapado.

Mobile (Elephant) Clinic

Gamapado village, some 650 kilometres Northwest of Bangkok, lies nestled in the hills not far from the Thai/Burmese border. The inhabitants are Karen and are extremely poor. Most are animists. However, there is a small number of Christians. They are able to grow most of their own food using slash and burn techniques.

In January 1989, a medical team consisting of ADRA and Bangkok Adventist Hospital staff, started out on a joint medical mission to the remote village of Gamapado which has no access to medical care. Normally ADRA's mobile clinic accompanies us but this time the mobile clinic is left home as the road ends some 12 kilometres before the village. Instead, six elephants were hired to provide the transportation up in to the mountains. The trip into the village took four hours. The same river was crossed 20 times. The path in was steep, but very picturesque as we climbed up into Gamapado. During the climb, ADRA assistant director, Mr. Boonyang Thipeng was separated from the group. It was several hours before he was united with us since the villagers spoke only their own tribal dialects and not Thai, the national language.

Amongst our first patients at Gamapado was a 20 year-old girl, Mrs. Pa-ja. Mrs. Pa-ja has been coughing up blood for some time. Dr. Somsak was the first doctor she had ever seen. Although the villagers had heard of doctors, they have never had the privilege of meeting one before. However, they do have a resident "witch doctor" who treats them with herbal medicines. We hope that Mrs. Pa-ja will respond to the antibiotics, if not it probably means that she has tuberculosis. Mrs. Pa-ja is only one of the hundreds of villagers that received medical attention during the visit.

On the return trip when the party reached the main road, a passing vehicle frightened an elephant and caused him to bolt, with Dr. Somsak on "board." Fearing for his life, Dr. Somsak jumped from the top of the elephant, badly twisting his ankle.

ADRA would like to go back into this village soon to check on Mrs. Pa-ja and see whether she has responded to the antibiotics or whether she needs treatment for tuberculosis, but we are waiting for funds.

Warren Scale, ADRA Director, Thailand

Well Drilling Witness

ADRA/Thailand is implementing a project to experimentally hand drill 25 wells in the North East of Thailand. A local church pastor, Udom Srisook, was "borrowed" for the job.

Pastor Udom reports that this has given him great opportunities for witnessing. Previously he has found it very hard to enter into new unentered territory to share the Good News.

Now that he is bringing people the "Water of Life", he has been able to share his love for the Lord with a new-found confidence. He is now loved by the community and is held in high esteem amongst the Buddhist village leaders. Pastor Udom quoted the villagers as saying "Our own religion has done nothing toward developing the village, but you have."

Prejudice has been broken down and a real interest has been raised. One husband had refused to allow his wife and daughter to be baptised for a long time. But when he saw Christianity in action, he broke down and allowed his wife and daughter to be baptised.

In another village of 70 families, all the residents have a desire to know the source of the "Water of Life."



Pastor Ralph Watts, president of ADRA International, with Pastor Udom and the well drilling rig.

Since the project has started, 14 people have been baptised as result of this "Water Project".

— Warren Scale, ADRA Director, Thailand

In Memoriam



On April 20, 1989, near the city of Chonburi, Brother Poh Sing Peng, member of the Mission College Board, Curriculum and Finance Committees and former treasurer of the Thailand Adventist Mission, was killed in a tragic car accident. He was on his way to a religious retreat with the Foods for the Hungry Organization.

Brother Poh took an active part in the development and planning of Mission College for the youth of Thailand. He helped in the development of the Business Administration and Accounting curricula for the college and had planned to serve as part-time faculty.

Brother Poh was the Thailand Mission treasurer for two years. Since he had only recently joined the Foods for the Hungry, he was still helping in the treasury office of our Adventist Mission at night and on weekends. Though he was only 30 years of age at the time of his death, he gave sound advice about business matters and was a great help in the financial affairs of the mission.

Never was there a time when Brother Poh did not have a smile for everyone. He was optimistic and a joy to work with. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He is now resting from his labor, awaiting the call of the Life Giver. Let us each rededicate our lives to the unfinished work of God in the world, that we might soon be together in that better land where there will be no more death.

Besides his wife Chrisana, he leaves his parents, 3 brothers and 1 sister.

— Wendell L. Wilcox, President, Thailand Adventist Mission

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When Wim and Rebecca were spotted exercising together on a regular basis we knew that they had a healthy relationship which eventually led them together down the aisle. Rebecca is a teacher, associate librarian, and dean of women at SAUC.

We wish them both God's richest blessings.

*— Steve Bassham, Communication Director,
Southeast Asia Union Mission*

Singapore Welcomes New Leaders

The churches of Singapore are extending a heartfelt welcome to their new leaders, Pastor Sim Chor Kiat and Pastor Peter Wong Koon Lun.

Pastor Sim Chor Kiat is replacing Pastor Geoffrey Pauner as the new president of the Singapore Mission. Pastor Sim is no new comer to mission administration, having joined the team in January, 1988 when Singapore Mission was established. He then served as the secretary-treasurer until this recent change.

Pastor Sim, a Singaporean, has a wealth of experience in pastoral work, having served in the denomination since 1972. He holds a BA in Theology, MA in Religion, and a Master of Divinity from Asia Adventist Theological Seminary in the Philippines.

As a senior pastor, he was chosen to serve as ministerial secretary at the time when the Singapore Mission was still a part of the West Malaysia-Singapore Mission. Pastor Sim is known by the workers and church members of Singapore as a person with many forward ideas and most importantly as a sincere man of God. We welcome him to this leadership position with confidence that he will be led by God's Spirit.

Pastor Peter Wong will actually begin his work as the secretary-treasurer of the Singapore Mission on the 1st of July. He began his work in denomination service in 1964 as treasurer of the Sabah Training School in Sabah. In 1968, Pastor Wong moved to Sarawak to take the responsibility as business manager for Ayer Manis School. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Commerce from Philippine Union College.

This is not the first time that Pastor Wong served as secretary-treasurer of a mission. He held the same post in 1972 in the Sarawak Mission, and again was treasurer of the Sabah Mission from 1975 to 1980. Recently Pastor Wong serves as auditor for the Southeast Asia Union



Pastor Sim Chor Kiat (pictured with his family) succeeds Pastor G. A. Pauner as president of the Singapore Mission.



Pastor Peter Wong (pictured with his family) succeeds Pastor Sim Chor Kiat as secretary-treasurer of the Singapore Mission.

Mission. He has shown himself capable not only of discovering areas which need attention, but also of suggesting ways to solve problems and make the administration of various institutions around our union run smoothly. It is with this wealth of background that we welcome him as secretary-treasurer of the Singapore Mission.

We would like Pastors Sim and Wong to know that the Southeast Asia Union family are praying for a double portion of God's spirit upon them as they lead out in the very important work of mission administration in Singapore.

— C. Y. Wu, Secretary, SAUM

The SDA School (Singapore) has Moved

When school re-opened on 26 June, 1989, all students of the SDA School began holding classes at 196 Jalan Kayu, formerly known as the Jalan Kayu Primary School.

This arrangement was made to facilitate the rebuilding programme, which is to replace the aging two-storey block with a four-storey block. We praise the Lord for making it possible for us to re-locate.

The students, and especially the teachers, have worked hard, even in pouring rain, to get the Jalan Kayu premises ready for the start of the 3rd term.

Correspondence may still be received at the old address. Our new contact address and telephone number are:

The Seventh-day Adventist School
196 Jalan Kayu
Singapore 2879
Telephone: 481 8193

Michael Lim, Principal, SDA School

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the church, only a little more than half of the allotment was purchased. To be exact, it was 5,385 square feet. The total cost was S\$4,038.75. Since the Seventh-day Adventist Mission Board was not incorporated in the Colony of Singapore, the Colonial Secretary suggested that the land be held in the names of two or more trustees. The three trustees appointed by the Church were J. E. Fulton, G. F. Jones, and W. W. Fletcher. On February 11, 1926, the land grant was transferred to the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

On January 7, 1909, *The Straits Times* ran an article on the plans for the erection of the first Seventh-day church in Singapore as follows:

CHAPEL ROW IN SINGAPORE THIRD CHURCH TO BE ERECTED NEAR FORT CANNING

Many people expressed the opinion when His Excellency the Governor gave the Methodists the imposing site for their chapel on Fort Canning Road, that it was too near the Presbyterian Church, and now a representative of *The Straits Times* has unearthed the fact that still a third chapel is to be erected in the same general neighbourhood, only a little farther on the other side of the Presbyterian Church than the new edifice of the Methodists is on the south-east. The neighbourhood may now be fairly entitled to the name of Chapel Row.

The new building is to be a very neat structure, but smaller than the other two, and will be built on a site purchased from the Government on Penang Road, where the ground slopes up to Fort Canning Road, which will pass behind the chapel at a level approximately near the eaves. As this new structure is to be the church home of the Seventh-day Adventists, the services held there will not disturb the worshippers in the other two churches, as they will be held on Saturdays, this sect considering that day to be the true Sabbath.

STRIKING FEATURE

The sect is not as yet a large one in Singapore, but its devotees make up in vigour and industry what they lack in numbers, and it is safe to say that they are very modest in erecting a church home to seat only 180 people.

Messrs. Williams, Draper and Steadman, who have had a large share of the prominent buildings of the town lately, are the architects, and they have drawn a structure which makes a very attractive appearance on paper and will

doubtless do so in bricks and mortar in the course of a few months, as bids have already been called for and are under consideration by the building committee. The most striking feature of the exterior of the building is a broad tower-like spire, or spire-like tower, under which an admirably sheltered driveway gives access to the front entrance. The interior is very conveniently arranged, with two vestries and classrooms, the latter having folding doors which will enable them to be utilized as part of the main body of the church on special occasions.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The services to be held in the building will, at first, be only in the two languages in which the mission of this body is doing the most of its work here, English and Chinese, but later on services in Malay will probably be held there. Like most of the other Christian bodies, the Adventists have had to begin in a small way, but without ostentation and by earnest hard labour a congregation has been collected and a number of adherents gained. The same body is doing a considerable work in Sumatra and Borneo among the natives of those islands, some of the most intelligent of whom have been sent to Singapore, and are being educated in the Adventist training school at Mount Pleasant, Thomson Road. For the present at least, they do not plan to take up the work of general education, as most of the other nonconformist bodies have done here, nor do they at present plan to acquire other property than their house of worship, the work on which is to commence very shortly.

Of the money required for the purchase of the site and the erection of the building, £1,000 has been furnished from the United States, where the body is strongest; the remainder will be sent by friends in Australia, whence most of the local workers come. The denomination is very strong on the island continent, and has numerous sanitariums and large printing and sanitary food-preparing establishments there.

As soon as the architects called for tenders, eight contractors replied. Business was slack in Singapore at that time, so the mission was able to have the building erected relatively cheap. On February 13, 1909, the day the ground was broken, G. F. Jones dispatched a newsy letter to Australia. "There were from fifteen to twenty men at work, and the contractor agrees to have it ready by the end of June. The best material and the best workmanship only are to be provided ..."

"The building will be 56 feet long by 32 feet wide. The walls will be made of bricks, and all large beams and posts and roof trusses, of the best hard wood obtainable here, called red resak. The windows and doors and folding-screens are to be made of a wood called chenghia, the best used for such purposes; and the joists purlins, and tile battens, of kapor. The building will be divided into a classroom, 16 x 26 feet, the main hall, 22 x 32 feet, and two small vestries on either side of the rostrum divided from the hall by curtains, so that when we need more room the whole building can be thrown open into one hall. The classroom is divided by folding screens. There will be a baptistry under the rostrum, 12 x 5 feet."

On August 21, 1909, the first church erected in the Southeast Asia Union Mission was dedicated to the Lord. The readers of the *Review and Herald* and especially the readers of the *Union Conference Record* were happy to read the following report written by G. F. Jones.

"The dedication day of our new chapel in Singapore brought joy to our hearts. For about three years our work has been hindered, there being no suitable place for our meetings. We could invite the public only to a small room in the mission house, which was not at all suitable in so hot and steamy a climate. From the day of beginning permanent work in this city, over four years ago, the interest has been good. The truth has been gradually finding its way into the hearts of the people of various nationalities, and they have been watching and waiting to see if Seventh-day Adventists really meant to establish their work among them. A mission without a church, and with but few members, has but little weight in convincing an Asiatic of a permanent work.

"On Sabbath, August 21, we dedicated the chapel to the Lord. It rejoiced our hearts to see it well filled, and to see several leading people of Singapore present. In the face of the opposition from other missions here, it is a surprise to many to learn that our work has been taking root."

Ever since the opening day, a series of public meetings was held every Sabbath afternoon and Sunday night. On Sunday nights the discourses were on the prophecies, while on Sabbath afternoons such subjects as the new birth, righteousness by faith, etc, were given. A synopsis of the Sunday night sermon, with the announcement of the next week meeting, was printed and distributed throughout the city every week. Each mission worker was assigned a district. By the end of the year, eleven dear souls of five nationalities were baptised into the church.

In 1910 Singapore and the Malay Peninsula were turned over to the General Conference to administer, and

became a part of the Asiatic Division. Irwin H. Evans, the division president who visited Singapore on December 15, 1912, gave an interesting account in the *Review and Herald* of July 17, 1913, of a typical Sabbath day in the Singapore church.

"We found a very cozy church building in which our people hold meetings. It is a neat structure, but it has been a source of great perplexity to some who had little desire to see our work established in that place. On Sabbath the believers have a full day, with almost continuous meetings. At 8 a.m. the Sabbath school convenes; this is followed by a preaching service in English. At 2 p.m. the Malay brethren and sisters hold a service, which is followed by a meeting in the Chinese language. At five o'clock there is another preaching service; this time in English. Five services are therefore held in the church each Sabbath, besides the weekly prayer meeting and other services."

Soon there came a request for the Chinese service at 10 a.m. for the Hakka Chinese, as they could not understand the Teochew Chinese spoken in the afternoon. This service started in late 1913.

John E. Fulton, who made his first visit to Singapore in 1908 while serving the Australasian Union Conference, paid a second visit to Singapore in 1917 in the capacity as president of the Asiatic Division. Informing the readers of the *Review and Herald* of November 29, 1917, he gave a similar account as did I. H. Evans four years earlier.

"Sabbath is a busy day in the Singapore church, and the workers who look after the services find themselves very much occupied in caring for the interests of the different nationalities. It was our privilege to be present at a number of these services, and we are glad to report the interest taken by many of the members. The first meeting of the day is held



In 1958 the church was used as a health and welfare centre.

at eight o'clock in the morning. This is a missionary meeting, attended by old and young. At nine o'clock the signal is given for the commencement of the Sabbath school. This is a very interesting gathering. The Sabbath school in Singapore has a membership of one hundred and twenty-six, and is divided into sixteen classes. The minutes of the Sabbath school were rendered in English, Chinese, and Malay. When the Sabbath school was divided into classes, we found that the lesson was conducted in English, Malay, Tamil, and two dialects of Chinese. After the Sabbath school, the Malay brethren and sisters gathered for a meeting in their language, and then later a sermon was preached in Chinese. In the afternoon other services were conducted in different languages. In the evening at five o'clock all who understood gathered for the English sermon. So it is evident that the Sabbath is a very busy day for our workers in this interesting city.'

This little church on Penang Road was to be used by three congregations till after World War II. However, by 1928, it was becoming too small to hold the worshippers at certain times. The partition was removed, leaving no place for children's Sabbath school rooms. Hence a gallery was added in the church at a cost of \$1,500.00.



Elder Ron Spear (left) with Sonny Khoo, a lay member who works as a bank officer in Kuala Lumpur.

After the war, one by one the congregations moved away to new church homes. On May 25, 1958, the church was used as a health and welfare centre. However, the building, being no more used as a place of worship, was surrendered to the government about early 1969 according to the terms originally set forth in 1908. Since then the building has been demolished to make room for urban development.

News Notes

● During the first week of April, Elder Ron Spear, retired minister and former editor of the Review and Herald, spent five days in Kuala Lumpur conducting revival meetings. Many of the church youth were specially touched by his messages. Some indicated their desire to study at Hartland Institute to serve God better as lay workers. During his revival, some of his books were sold at very cheap prices. All his books and magazines were sold quickly within two days.

● Johnny Rueh, who has served as manager of Thailand Publishing House since July 1983, has accepted a call to serve as business manager of the Pakistan Adventist Seminary. The school is situated at Farooqabad Mandi, and has a total enrolment of 500 students. Johnny, who is expected to be in Pakistan by July 15, has also served as treasurer of the publishing house since February 1980. We wish to extend our appreciation to Johnny Rueh for his faithful and dedicated service for the publishing house. The morale of the workers is high and the publishing house is financially healthy.

● Dr. Bruce C. Robbie, who has been in private practice in Murwillumbah, New South Wales, Australia, arrived in Penang on June 9, 1989. He is the new president of the Penang Adventist Hospital, replacing Dr. Russell R. Standish, who has been appointed Health and Temperance/Health Care director for the Southeast Asia Union Mission. Dr. Robbie is no stranger to SAUM. In 1969, he served as a relief physician at Youngberg Adventist Hospital for five and a half months. After completing his residency program, he served YAH as chief surgeon from May 1971 to August 1974.

● At a recent meeting of the Administrative Council, SAUC laid plans to offer two-year programs in the areas of Management Information Services and Computer Science. Much interest has been expressed in these two areas. Future plans also call for providing the first two years of the Walla Walla College engineering program. The remaining part would be done on the WWC campus.

● Dr. Gilbert Henry Alexander McLarsen died on January 20, 1989, two weeks before his 76th birthday, at the Royal Newcastle Hospital after a lifetime of service. Twice he served in the Southeast Asia Union Mission. From 1953 to 1958 he served at Youngberg memorial Hospital. Then in 1969 Dr. McLarsen was called to serve a term at the Saigon Adventist Hospital during the difficult days of the Vietnam War. From Saigon, in 1973, he was called to join the staff of the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital.

● Pastor Ng Kah Seng, who left for the Philippines in October 1986 for upgrading at Asia Adventist Theological Seminary, graduated in February 1989 with a Master of Theology degree with honours. Earlier he received Master of Pastoral Studies degree. Pastor Ng is currently teaching Bible and religion subjects at Southeast Asia Union College and serving as pastor of the SAUC Church.

● Pastor Joseph David, who left for the Philippines in May 1988 for upgrading at Asia Adventist Theological Seminary, returned in January 1989 to Singapore with a Master of Pastoral Studies. A former chaplain of the SDA School, Pastor David is now assigned to Tamil work. Beginning on June 1, he is also the associate pastor of the SAUC Church.

● John W. Neumann, a teacher of Far Eastern Academy, has accepted a call, effective o/a mid August, 1989, from the Singapore Mission to serve as associate church ministries director for music for the mission on an institutional budget.

● Pastor Pham Kow Seng, a teacher of Southeast Asia Union College and a Division bursary recipient, is back to Singapore in February after completing M. Sc. in Computer Science from Washington State University. Pastor Pham, who holds also the degrees of MA in Systematic Theology and Health and Master of Divinity, teaches computer science and mathematics at SAUC.

● Dr. M. T. Bascom and Pastor Ba Khin, associate church ministries directors of the General Conference and the Far Eastern Division, respectively, spent a week during the month of February in Sabah holding seminars on Community and Welfare Services. Their itinerary covered all the districts on the West Coast. Dr. Bascom will always be remembered for the humorous way he introduced himself: M. T. Bascom — "Empty Bus has come."

● On January 24, 1989, the Sabah Mission finalized the purchase of a one-acre piece of property at Likas, about 3 miles out of Kota Kinabalu. This will be the site of the new Kota Kinabalu Malay-English Church. A few days earlier a small piece of property adjoining the mission headquarters was also acquired for the purpose of future expansion.

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