

# Sarawak-Sabah Mission Biennial Session '67-'68

IN TIMES LIKE THESE



## The Messenger

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# Biennial Progress Report of Sarawak and Sabah Mission

by H. W. Bedwell, Secretary of Far Eastern Division

**A**FTER an absence of three years, it was my privilege to attend the recent biennial sessions of the Sarawak and Sabah Missions. Perhaps the word "progress" best describes what has been taking place during these years. New buildings, new roads, and many improvements have appeared.

But the progress that I was most interested in was the work of the missions. Each year there has been increases in the tithes and offerings which is always a good indication of spiritual growth. Reports reveal new school buildings, houses for worship, and "lamb shelters" for the children of the church. One encouraging factor is the increase in the number of young people from our churches attending the academy level of our schools.

Another word that describes these missions is the word "involvement". The church members and the pastors are working together and becoming deeply involved in soul-winning. The result of such activities is evident in increased baptisms year by year. The youth in Sunnyhill, Ayer Manis, Sabah Adventist Secondary School, and Goshen are taking an active part in evangelism. The plans for "Far East Harvest" are being implemented in the missions.

The Sarawak Mission biennial session convened in the church at the Sunnyhill school in Kuching and was ably conducted by the mission

president, R. C. Hall, and the secretary-treasurer, P. R. Sibarani, with a full attendance of mission workers. The union officers and union departmental secretaries were also present. The various reports indicated growth and progress in most departments and districts of the mission.

The Sunnyhill School and the Ayer Manis School under the leadership of Choo Wee Fong and Clifford Ortnor respectively, showed improvements in buildings, facilities, upgrading of faculty, and development of the farm. In both schools strong emphasis is placed upon the spiritual activities. The result of having a full-time Bible teacher and pastor was especially evident in Sunnyhill. In the last five years a total of 269 students have been baptized in both schools. The students are very active in branch Sabbath schools in the surrounding areas.

Space does not permit the telling of the many stories and experiences in soul-winning related in the meetings by the mission workers and church members present. During the Sabbath meeting of the biennial session a baptism of 10 persons was conducted by D. M. Barnett. One of these was a blind young man. These were mostly followup results of meetings held sometime previously by D. M. Barnett. The baptisms of the entire mission for the last two year period were 501

as compared to the previous period of 1965-66 with 517 baptisms.

One interesting part of the work that needs to be more fully told sometime is how the radio station finally invited our mission to begin broadcasting. This work has grown until today 14 programs are being presented over Radio Sarawak each month free. Programs are being conducted in English, Chinese, Iban, and land Dyak. Now the radio station is requesting a new program just for the youth.

The Sabah biennial session followed the meetings in Kuching and was held at the mission headquarters at Tamparuli. A large canvass was erected to provide a tent shelter under which the meetings were conducted. Recently a number of family tents were received from the Oregon conference and these were used for the first time at the session.

On Sabbath the group was so large that it needed to be divided into two groups—one met under the canvass tent and the other in the school chapel. The business sessions were ably conducted by G. W. Munson, the mission president, and A. Waworoendeng, the secretary-treasurer. The various departmental and district reports were inspiring to hear. It is very evident that the pastors and the church members are deeply involved and committed to soul-winning activities. The reports reveal growth in every area. The development of the publishing program resulted in a sale of more than thirty thousand dollars in about five months time. The goal for 1969 is M\$ 96,000!

One of the first things that was seen upon arrival at the session was the tall figure of the new mission physician, Dr. R. D. Rice. Every day he was busy at his make-shift clinic or giving health talks in

Delegates to the Sarawak session are seen in front of the Kuching church building. The five-day session was highlighted by reports from each district. Delegates returned with new and higher goals than those ever set before.



Sabahans gathered at Tamparuli headquarters for their Biennial session. On the Sabbath more than a thousand gathered for services.





Dignitaries from the Sabah Mission office as well as the chairman of the Sandakan town board, assisted Dr. Reginald Rice in opening officially the new clinic at Sandakan.



These are the ten young people who were baptized during the Sarawak Biennial Session in late February.



The receptionist's office and waiting room presents a warm and inviting atmosphere to townspeople in need of medical help.

the meetings. The opening of the new Adventist clinic in a suitable location in Sandakan is looked forward to with a great deal of interest.

Another impressive sight at the school compound is the greatly changed appearance of the school campus. The land has been leveled by a bull-dozer and a new boy's dormitory erected. Work is to begin soon on a girl's dormitory. Plans are already underway to raise funds for the soon building of a new classroom building. The enrollment for the last three years is: 1967-236; 1968-305; 1969-305. The percentage of Adventists for 1969 is 66% as compared to 30% for 1967. During the last two years there have been 25 students baptized.

A similar report could be given of the school in Goshen. It has

shown remarkable development. The laymen of the mission are very active. During the last two years the mission workers have conducted 22 efforts resulting in a total baptism of 819 persons. This is compared with the previous period of 1965-66 in which a total of 477 baptisms.

Space does not permit further reporting of the excellent growth of the Sabbath school work and the MV activities and other departments nor of the wonderful work of our various district pastors. To visit Sarawak and Sabah Missions is to witness growth and involvement in soul-winning. Reaping is evident as well as the sowing of the gospel seed. Continue to pray for the Lord's blessing upon this portion of the harvest field that the laborers may be found for truly "Harvest Time is NOW".



Another view of the entrance to reception room.

This is one of the examining rooms.



Dr. and Mrs. Reginald Rice, formerly of Guam, in front of the new Sandakan SDA clinic.





Tran Tuan Khuong and Chang Duc, on the left, with Hang Tuan Dien and Ly Quoc Hang, on the right, helped to prepare these three girls for baptism on April 6 in Cholon.



Pastor Thanh baptizes To Van Sieu, who hopes to enter the new class of the Ministerial Training School. The baptism was held on a sand bar in the middle of the Can-Tho River.

AS Christ's disciples went out preaching the kingdom of heaven in the cities of Galilee, so the students of the Vietnam Adventist Training School went preaching in the cities of Vietnam during March and April. Beginning on March 23, which was Evangelism Day in Vietnam, they held Voice of Youth efforts in Cholon and the school, and assisted with efforts in Can-Tho, Phu Nhuan, and Dalat.

When these modern disciples returned, they joyfully described families who were glad to have them pray in their homes. In Can-Tho where Pastor Pham Truong Thanh was the evangelist, the tent borrowed from the army was far too small for the crowds. Young people came to the house where they stayed, asking them to explain the Bible. Eleven were baptized in the Can-Tho River, and material was col-

lected from generous officers nearby to start a church building.

Ly Quoc Hang, Hang Tuan Dien, Tran Tuan Khuong, and Chang Duc held a successful effort in the Cholon Church, although Pastor Wong Yew Seng (now studying in Andrews University) was not present to direct them. Thanks to careful planning and diligent practice beforehand in front of the church officers, these students maintained a good attendance throughout their meetings. Three persons were baptized, and six more have registered their decision for baptism, with nearly 20 in a Bible-marking class.

An impressive graduation of Bible course students was held in the Dalat Church on Sabbath, April 19, at the end of Pastor Duong Sau's meetings. Several Dalat University students have become interested, and the church was well filled with

# Evange Viet

by R. E. N  
Vietnam Adventi

From left to right, Tran Tuan Khuong, Chang Duc, and Ly Quoc Hang, planned the advertising, organized the church, and invited the people during their Voice of Youth meetings. Pastor Thanh invites the passersby at the fr

Pastors Pham Truong Thanh and Le Hoang, dark suits in the second row, prepared these young people for baptism in Cantho.





Ly Quoc Hang, director of the Voice of Youth effort in Cholon, opens the first meeting.



Pastor Do Binh, left, with Nguyen Huynh and Pastor Nguyen Van Xuan, extreme right, pose with the former communists who were baptized on March 29 at the Tan Hiep Center.

# ism In nam

ll, Principal,  
Training School

Duc, Ly Quoc Hang, and Hang Tuan Dien, wrote and preached the sermons and visited in Cholon, March 23 to April 6. This banner at gate of the church property.



many new faces. The ministerial students came to love the people they visited, and were sad when they had to say good-bye, not knowing when they might meet them again.

The Voice of Youth Effort at the Saigon Adventist School featured a special program for the children, led by Mrs. Ly Ba Hoi, the regular kindergarten teacher. The student nurses of the Saigon Adventist Hospital, most of whom are non-Adventists, attended regularly. Also a non-Adventist teacher at the school gave his heart to the Lord. Nguyen Van Le directed the students in this effort.

Nguyen Xuan Son directed the effort at the large Phu Nhuan Church by the hospital in Saigon. He was assisted by some of the leading pastors, as well as several students. A good interest was devel-

oped there, which is being followed up by a Bible-marking class.

Before the efforts began, four persons were baptized by Pastor Nguyen Van Xuan in the Chi Hoa Prison, Saigon, on Sabbath, March 8. Fourteen former Communists were baptized by Pastor Do Binh in the Tan Hiep Re-Education Center on Sabbath, March 29. This is the same center where 48 were baptized two years ago, most of whom have since been released.

**Remember!**  
**1969**  
**Far East Harvest**

Pastor Nguyen Van Xuan, right, baptizes the first of four candidates in the Chi Hoa Prison, on Sabbath, March 8. From the left are Brother Wong, Nguyen Huynh, and Pham Van Hoang, who have preached in the prison for many months.





Kai Chek Chon Hall, site of the Word of Life Crusade, is located on one of Bangkok's busiest streets.



Thailand Mission workers and others who assisted in the four-week Crusade.



Pastor John Harris baptizing some of the candidates.

## Evangelism in Thailand

FOR years it was said, partly in jest, that there were more graves of Christian missionaries in Thailand than there were Christians. While this is no longer true, and probably never was, the progress of the Christian church in this Buddhist kingdom has been agonizingly slow.

On April 5 all of the ministerial workers of the Thailand Mission met in Bangkok for an all-out assault on that great city of 3,000,000.

Directing the public evangelistic campaign was Pastor Don Jacobsen, evangelist for the Southeast Asia Union. Associating with him were Pastor Abel Pangan, as Crusade chairman, Pastor John Harris in charge of music, and Pastor Sunti Sorrajakool, translator.

The beautiful Kai Chek Chon Hall, near the center of town, on one of Bangkok's best-known streets was the scene of the public meetings. Mrs. Russell Tyler directed the 100-voice Crusade Choir, and Moody Waworoendeng from Sabah played the beautiful Yamaha Organ each night.

Average attendance was nearly 400 for the three-week Crusade and as appeals were given more than 55 came forward accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour, and His present truth message for this hour. Already 17 of these have been readied and baptized, and with the intensive followup program being conducted by our pastors many more will be in the weeks ahead.



Pastor Sunti Sorrajakool and Pastor Don Jacobsen, translator and speaker for the series.



Part of the congregation attending a Crusade meeting. Attendance averaged about 400 each night.



Mrs. Helen Tyler directing the Crusade Choir.

Pastor John Harris giving instruction in the proper method of baptizing to the Mission workers. A rented swimming pool was used.



The Mission workers aboard their motorcycles, ready for a day of visiting in the homes of the interested people.



## Johore Bahru Church Has A New Look

by Lee Tsai Teik, Pastor

**M**ARCH 30th was an unforgettable day for the Johore Bahru church members. More than ten members turned up for a day of hard labour. The children's department was given a new look with the help of Miss Linda Lim and her sister, Miss Lynette Lim. The metallic chairs were given new coats of paint after they had been thoroughly polished by a crew of hardworking members led by the pastor.

Those participating were Pastor S. F. Chu, Laurence Chu, Lim San Hoe, Henry Auber, Earl Anchant, Chin Chow Khoon, Mrs. Lim Teck Siang and two children — Kelvin and Meng Ai. The exterior floors and walls of the church were also given a good scrubbing and cleaning. The church had a completely new look at the end of the day.

Following the big cleaning-up campaign the church had her first baptism on April 5, 1969, by Pastor S. F. Chu. This was the first fruit after the whole church had pledged to go into partnership with God in a soul winning project — that for each soul won into the church after February, 1969, the members would contribute a fixed sum of money towards the Gospel Van Fund.

The candidate, Wong Kum Meng, was prepared by Earl Anchant, the Lay Activities leader. The Gift Bible was his weapon. When Mr. Wong a school boy, was convicted of his sins and decided to join the church he asked his mother for permission but was advised against taking the baptismal rite.

However, he persisted in pleading with his mother until she finally gave in. But on the day he was to receive his baptismal rite he was faced with an examination. When the pastor learned about the boy's problem from Mr. Anchant, knowing that Mr. Wong was determined to make God first in his life, he went to see the principal with much

prayer preceding the interview. Both Mr. Anchant and Mr. Wong were overjoyed to learn later that the principal, Mr. Gwei, had exempted Mr. Wong from the exam.

What a joy it was to see a happy Wong Kum Meng baptized at the very time an examination was going on in his school. Witnessing the event, and sitting among the congregation was another man, Liang Ah Oon, sought for by God. He

The Adventists in Singapore failed to contact him and hope of ever getting in touch with him was dim. But about a month or so ago Mr. Liang made his appearance at the Johore Bahru church services. Just as hope began to dawn on the hearts of the believers, that morning Mr. Liang revealed to the writer his intention of making a thirty-mile journey to stay with one of his friends in a remote estate in Johore, as his sister with whom he is staying is contemplating marriage soon.

If the church had let him go it would have been a grave mistake. We believe that God in His providence had arranged for Mr. Liang to call on the pastor and reveal his intention to him. The pastor then arranged for him to lodge and board with him.

Touched by such Christian love and the baptism of Mr. Wong Kum



The two baptized with those who worked for them. From left to right:— Liang Ah Oon, Lee Tsai Teik, Wong Kum Meng, S. F. Chu (Officiating Minister), Earl Anchant.

was a former student of San Yu high school in Singapore. The seed of truth had been sown in his heart while a student there.

He was about ready for baptism when the Singapore Government imposed a S\$5,000.00 deposit on all foreign students studying in Singapore. Being an orphan and supported only by a sister he had no choice but to return to West Malaysia, where he stayed with his sister at Tampoi, Johore.

Meng, Mr. Liang told the pastor that he would like to give his heart to the Lord. So it was arranged for him to be buried in the watery grave on the following Sabbath.

What a joy it gave the Johore Bahru church members to witness the two baptisms one following the other. More baptisms will be witnessed very soon as the church members hope to witness at least fifty souls baptized into the church before the close of the year.

## College Enrollment Soars to All Time High

by Maggie Tan

**S**OUTHEAST Asia Union College enrollment soared beyond the 100th mark at the close of the two registration days. Altogether, 117 students have signed up for the various courses offered by the college. The turning down of many non-SDA applicants has made it possible to maintain the quota of not more than 20% non-SDA's in the college.

More than sixty freshmen sat for the entrance test on the first day of registration. With so many freshmen enrolled, it was necessary to divide the Bible, English, and Typing classes into two groups.

The college has a good representation from Singapore's neighbouring countries. Students have come from Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Sarawak, Sabah, and Malaya with a good majority from Singapore itself.

27 students have signed up for the Ministerial course, 14 for the course in Education, 10 for Secretarial Science, 17 for Commerce, 11 for Science, 2 for Mathematics, 20 for Liberal Arts, and 16 have signed up as special students (those not lined up for a full course of study).

Several new teachers will be joining the college staff by the beginning of the second semester. Edmund Ho, graduating with a B.S.C. from Philippine Union College, will head the Commerce Department and is expected back before the end of March. Beryl Chu will be receiving her Master's degree in Music from Andrews University and will head the Music Department upon her return in August. Myrtle Fitzgerald has recently answered an urgent call to connect with SAUC. She is currently taking more Education courses at Andrews University while furloughing in the homeland and will be arriving in August to further strengthen the college offerings. James Wong is presently completing his M. A. requirements at Loma Linda University and will be back in time for the second semester.

We are happy for these new additions to the college faculty, and it is the sincere hope of the school administration that the college will continue to grow under the blessings of God.

## News Notes

● **SOUTHEAST Asia Union College** is happy to report the best overall passes in the 1968 Senior Cambridge examination. Only five out of eighty-one candidates failed to make the grade. This plus the 12 low GCE passes gave us an 80% pass as compared with the Singapore average of 55% passes. There were 9 Division Ones, 28 Division Twos, and 18 Division Threes. 9 candidates received a high GCE pass.

● **Adeline Wagner** (nee Cheng) and her two boys plan to leave Singapore soon for their home in California where her husband, Dr. Vernon Wagner, will be returning to resume his work after one year's assignment in Thailand. Adeline and the boys stayed in Singapore with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. P. D. Cheng, while Vernon was serving in Thailand. He made occasional trips to visit the family in Singapore during his term of service in Thailand.

● **Dr. Lily Chandrasekar** (nee Lucas) is home on vacation with her two little girls. She and her doctor husband serve in our Surat Mission Hospital in India. Lily was last back in 1961. The Lucas family is happy to have her and her girls with them for a short two months.

● **Eunice Mills** (nee Tremehere) returned with her three children to the Far East for a short visit in Singapore and a three-month vacation with her aunt in Borneo. Eunice, an alumna of SAUC, left Singapore more than ten years ago. She now lives with her husband and family in Washington, D. C.

Some Sunnyhill teachers, including acting principal Choo Wee Fong seen on the extreme right side, were on hand at Kuching airport when a group of students left for Southeast Asia Union College.

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Editor ..... V. L. Bretsch  
Associate Editor ..... D. R. Guild

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