

The Messenger

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Footprint of Buddha

V. L. Bretsch, Secretary Publishing
Department, Southeast Asia Union

On a windswept hillside overlooking the beautiful beach and landscape of southern Thailand, there is a small building that is dedicated to the worship of Buddha. In the center of the small room is what is claimed to be the imprint of Buddha's foot.

Encased in cement, with an altar, incense burner and image of Buddha, it stands as a monument to that god. A well-worn road leads to the summit of the hill and signs aid the visitors as well as area residents to its location.

As I stood looking at it, the word **footprint** struck me with force. We had just passed through some very bad road, where we drove through water up to the headlights on the automobile. We had gotten stuck in the mud several times and had to push. Yes, we left some of our footprints in the sands of southern Thailand.

But something much more important than that was running through my mind. Footprints, yes real footprints could be seen in many parts of Thailand. Space will not permit me to tell you all of what I mean or would like to say but let me tell you one story which will convey some of my meaning.

Mrs. K. S. Wong is a native of Sarawak. About 27 years ago she decided to be a Literature Evangelist. She began her work near Kuching and her footprints could be seen in many places throughout Sarawak. Conversions from her witness and from the books she sold reveal the footprints of this pioneer even today.

Later she and her family moved to Sabah. She commenced her canvassing work in Jesselton and later in Sandakan. We have a fine Chinese church now in Jesselton, and in Sandakan, the newest church within the Southeast Asia Union was recently dedicated. Mrs. Wong remembers many wonderful experiences of those early days of our work in that city. As a result of her canvassing experience she not only won souls, but she has supported her children through our church schools and college. You can see by her picture that she still has a beautiful colporteur smile. She is one of our strong Thailand colporteurs now.

Yes footprints, I thought of it many times and still do as I remember our Thailand Literature Evangelist Institute held October 14-19. The accompanying picture shows the entire group of happy dedicated workers. Though small in number, their footprints can be seen all over that large country.

Pastor P. G. Wick, Thailand Mission President; David Chung and Abel Pangan, Publishing Secretaries; Ernest Pender, of the Thailand Publishing House, organized the institute program. Pastor W. A. Higgins, General Conference Publishing Secretary, Pastor J. T. Mason and the writer were on hand to bring counsel and instruction.

There are good days ahead for our work in that vast field. We realize that with 30 million people to reach we must have more workers but we believe that God knows this too, and He has power to raise

(Continued on page 7).



My First Five Day Plan

By Jan Hutauruk, Pastor,
Alor Star, Malaya

My first Five-Day Plan was held in Alor Star from October 17-21. Government officials, kampong people, businessmen, teachers, doctors, engineers, the Prime Minister's brother, and a Datin comprised our audience. In spite of wet and rainy weather during the entire week the audience averaged thirty-four.

The Seventh-day Adventist church was known to these who came as the sponsor of the five-day group therapy sessions. Some of those I talked to knew about our tithe doctrine, others knew about our abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, and pork, and a few mentioned about our hospitals.

The State Health Secretary printed the handbill in the Rotary Club Bulletin and included the Five Day Plan among the items on the agenda for their meeting. After attending the first group therapy session, he said, "I am glad that you are helping me in my public health work."

So from the Five Day Plan we gained a good public image for our work in Alor Star which will surely bear fruit in our future gospel work.

A dignified hall was made available to us free through special permission obtained from the State Secretary. Other costs amounted to



Pastor Jan Hutauruk conducting the 5 Day Plan.

approximately \$100.00 which is comparatively small, considering the gain.

Of those who participated and reported the closing night, 50 per cent had stopped smoking, another 20 per cent had tapered off and are determined to stop smoking sooner or later, and another 20 per cent were non-smokers who were once heavy smokers but had quit smoking before the Five Day Plan began. Much of the credit for these good results should go to my non-Adventist colleague, Dr. B. P. Sing.

Through this program I was able to reach people of various religious, including Muslims. Although I stressed in the handbill that the meetings were not religious, and I stuck to this, I placed a supply of "Signs of the Times" in English

and Chinese within reach of the guests on a table near the exit door. Some took a magazine every night. And I am now visiting them in order to follow up their interest which I hope might be broadened from victory over smoking to victory in Christ.

One of the participants is a Scottish engineer working for the P.W.D. When he came to the clinic he was smoking fifty sticks a day. By the final night he had successfully crushed the smoking habit. When I visited him later, he told me of helping our hospital in Burma a number of years ago. I loaned him one of our books and intend to visit him regularly.

Quite a number of the people requested that we hold more group therapy sessions in their city.

Obituary for Gumjorn Siratprapas

Pastor Gumjorn Sriratprapas was born in Bangkok, Thailand on the 7th of April, 1932 to the Teng Eng Family. Pastor Gumjorn finished his secondary school in the Adventist Mission School at the Chinese church which burned down many years ago. He went to Southeast Asia Union College for a short time and he was sent by the Thailand Mission to the Andrews University Extension School in the Philippines in 1962. He had just passed a college entrance examination and planned to attend Andrews University in America to further his education.

He was baptized by Pastor Wayne A. Martin on the 30th of December, 1950 in the Sanitarium Church.

On May 28, 1956 he was married to Miss Ura Roongroj. Miss Ura was one of the first graduate nurses from our Bangkok Sanitarium School of Nursing. To this family was born two children, a girl, Jarna, now age 7, and a boy, Atikom, age 6.

He began his work for the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in the Bangkok Sanitarium & Hospital. His first jobs were elevator boy, telephone operator, and call boy. In 1954 he was appointed as the assistant to the chaplain, Pastor C. R. Jepson, and he worked in this department for more than 5 years. He then moved to the Thailand Mission office in 1959 and became the Mission MV Secretary.

During the time he worked in this department he translated the MV Handbook and many of the honor requirements to the Thai language,

(Continued on page 6.)



Pastor Gumjorn Sriratprapas

Pastor Guild Visits Sabah

By Mrs. Andrew Peters

Friday evening, October 15th, the first of a series of Voice of Prophecy Rallies to be held throughout Sabbath Mission was conducted by Pastor Daniel R. Guild, Voice of Prophecy Director for Southeast Asia Union, assisted by Pastor Andrew Peters, of Sabah Mission, in the white frame picturesque old church sitting on top of a hill at Menggatal—a light not to be missed on the main highway eleven miles out from Jesselton. After this first service, a group of men with their young sons, carrying small knapsacks, asked permission to sleep on the benches in the church that night. We learned they had walked over six miles from the hills to attend this rally, and now it was very late. In the morning, these members' wives—with babies tied on their backs—walked the six miles to church early, to be in time for Sabbath School.

As a result of Pastor Samuel Tsai's good reporting to the newspapers many attended the Voice of Prophecy Rally conducted in the Jesselton Church, including a Peace Corps worker who showed appreciation for the program also.

For the first time, Pastor Guild had the opportunity to visit other places in Sabah, seeing some of the "back-country" as he conducted the Voice of Prophecy rallies in more remote and isolated areas of the mission. Travel was made chiefly by Land Rover, but travel also included plane, river boat, and hiking. Each trip out to a church became an adventure in itself.

Going up-river from Papar to Limpotong for a V.O.P. Rally on a late Sunday afternoon, the boat pulled up to the muddy river's edge at Limpotong, and we climbed out. Pastor Guild had been informed by letter before coming, to be sure to bring along a pair of tennis shoes. Before setting out to the various churches, he would enquire, "Do I wear tennis shoes this time?" The answer was usually affirmative. He was trying to climb the very steep embankment above the river, but learned from first hand experience how very slippery it was—and after picking himself up—how very muddy it also was! The Voice of Prophecy materials carried

in the box scattered all over in the mud, but never mind . . . just wipe them off the best way possible, and continue on to the church and the big rally! Half the congregation seemed to have met the boat, and followed us on to the church, with others joining in. After the sermon and the promotion, it was dark enough to show the V.O.P. motion picture. The generator was started outdoors at the base of a coconut palm, and as the rain was starting, an umbrella was set over the generator. More people now came from the village, and nearly everyone signed up for a Bible Course!

It was late and dark after the service, and we were glad for our flashlights—so as to avoid the kerbau wallows pock-marking the field. Looking down the very steep embankment to the boat below, in the edge of the river, it would be most understandable if one did not remain in the upright position all the way. The boatman placed a board from boat to the muddy shore, to serve as convenient gangplank. As the current caught the free boat and pulled it away from shore, the gangplank collapsed to the ground. . . . the men rushed to help Pastor Guild get up out of the mud where he had fallen to-

(Continued on page 6).



Week of Prayer at Bangkok Sanitarium & Hospital

By Dr. James Crawford

During the week of September 25 to October 2, 1965, the employees and students of the Bangkok Sanitarium & Hospital went on a search for happiness. This being the fall Week of Prayer, it was the writer's privilege, morning and evening, to guide the thinking of the group back to the hills beside the Sea of Galilee where Jesus Himself gave the secrets of a happy life here and in the earth made new. As we daily considered these sacred, practical principles, it was gratifying to see the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit working on the hearts of Christians and non-Christians alike. The results of this week cannot be fully understood right now, though several accepted Christ and determined to follow His teachings. Baptismal classes have been organized, Bible study groups are active.

Realizing the fact that we as workers in God's cause are "living epistles known and read of all men" we ask that your prayers be with us here at Bangkok Sanitarium & Hospital that we might let our "light so shine before men that they might . . . glorify your Father which is in heaven."

God's Protection from Fire

By Ralph Neall

The Vietnam Mission office and Saigon Adventist Hospital providentially escaped destruction on the night of October 5 when a gasoline truck burned in the street between the two buildings.

A wedding reception in honor of two mission workers was being held in the yard of the mission office when spilled gasoline caught fire under the truck on the opposite side of the compound wall from the wedding guests. The driver attempted to drive the truck away from the blaze, but succeeded only in spreading it. Gasoline running down the street sent flames blazing as high as the three-story hospital building.

(Continued on page 6.)

In Silent Memory

By V. L. Bretsch, Secretary
Publishing Department
Southeast Asia Union

At the opening meeting of the Vietnam Literature Evangelist Institute nearly 80 colporteurs were in attendance. But there were 10 more who were missing. Their names appeared on a beautifully prepared memorial plaque near the pulpit in the Cholon Chinese church in Saigon.

As every head bowed in silent memory, Pastor Do Binh, Publishing Secretary entreated the Lord for these workers, living or dead—we do not know, and for their families who are still waiting for their return. The three names at the bottom of the list are the ones who were captured last and the feeling is that they may still be alive. But the others have not been heard from for a long time and so they are presumed dead.

During the institute, which was held October 10-14, we learned to admire the courage and steadfastness of these colporteurs. To the north from the Da Nang area come 10 colporteurs. From the Mekong Delta in the south, approximately 25 attended the institute. Our largest force is from Saigon itself and their group total about 50.

From Da Nang, came Nguyen Xan. Born in a farm home, the son of a prosperous farmer this

brother learned to enjoy the things of nature. He loved to watch the crops grow and planned himself to be a farmer. But suddenly the war came to his area. The Vietcong came in large numbers demanding rice and other crops. Little by little their resistance to this pressure weakened and one day he joined the Vietcong and later was made one of their commanders. About five years ago he injured his hand and while in a hospital receiving treatment he met a Christian.

In 1962 while visiting in the home of relatives, a colporteur came one day. He observed this colporteur very closely and became very interested in his work. Soon after a series of studies were given and he was baptized. Now, for over 3 years, he has been a faithful Literature Evangelist and has met 5 souls that have been won to Christ through his contacts.

Also at the institute were four handsome young men who wore big smiles on their faces. They had reason to be happy for only a few months ago they were released from communist prisons. The two young men on the left were captured near Saigon. They were unmarried at the time and the Vietcong knew it. And so beautiful



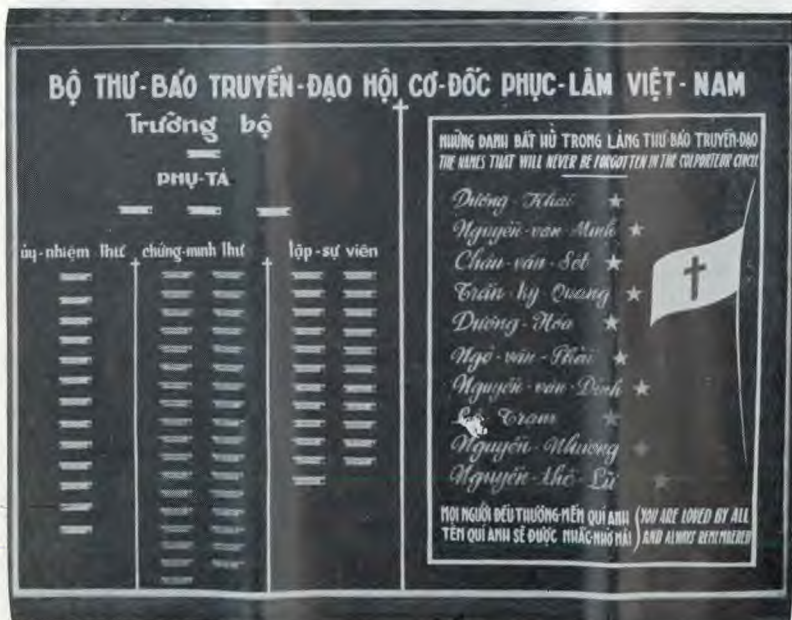
Colporteur Nguyen Xan

Vietcong girls were offered to them for marriage if they would give up their faith as Christians. After 53 days of refusing they were finally released. The young man second from the left was married the week before our institute began and he brought his wife to the institute and now she is a Literature Evangelist too.

For the two men on the right it was a little harder. They are from the north near Da Nang and were captured for 84 days. Their feet were locked in stocks and their only food was a little rice and salt. Without proper recreation and adequate food, their skin became puffy and they knew unless God would intervene they would die.

They were tempted by the guards who promised better food and an easy life if they in turn would join the VC. But these brethren knew it was only an idle promise. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life" were the uppermost thoughts of their hearts. Now release has come and they are happy once more to be able to carry on their work of Literature Evangelism.

In a country where war has commenced for so many years, and where now the young men and women are being drafted for service, we thank God for making it possible to have so many young people within the colporteur ranks. Seated on the front row of the



Alor Star Voice of Youth Meetings

By Lee Cheng Giok,
Penang Malay Church

The vacation time between school terms was a busy time for the youth of the Penang Malay Church. During this time the youth were busy conducting Voice of Youth meetings in Alor Star, Kedah. We were few in number and inexperienced in speaking in public. Since there are many Voice of Prophecy

students in Alor Star we decided to hold our meetings there for these students.

Five speakers were chosen to talk—a recent baptized Moslem, an Indian girl, two of my brothers, and myself. Each of us had to prepare three lectures and if the lecture was in Malay, it had to be also summarized in English; or if in English, then summarized in Malay. Filmslides were shown following the lecture. Some people walked nearly two miles to attend. Others attended even though there were some heavy rains.

The lectures were continued for three weeks. The closing night lecture was given by Pastor Hutauruk. How happy we were to see some decide to join the baptismal class and some who requested special prayer. Our aim in conducting these Voice of Youth meetings is not to show our capabilities but to train ourselves to be good witnesses of Christ and to prepare for His soon return. It was really a delight to us to have the privilege of sharing our faith and helping to spread the gospel. We thank the Lord for making these lectures a success.



Four colporteurs held captive during 1965.



Colporteur institute recently held in Saigon.

accompanying picture are the leaders of the Vietnam Publishing Department, and also Pastors E. A. Brodeur, FED Publishing Secretary. Pastor W. A. Higgins, General Conference Publishing Department, the writer, and Pastor J. T. Mason, FED Associate Publishing Secretary.

Because of the increasing demands for more literature, Brother Le Cong Giao, Vietnam Signs Press manager, is laying plans for plant expansion and replacement of old equipment. The future of our publishing work in Vietnam looks very bright.

Pathfinder Camp in Sarawak

By Linda Sibadogil, Teacher
Kuching

On August 4-10 the first mission-wide Pathfinder Camp was held at Bako National Park, near Kuching, where there is a lovely beach. For 80 excited youngsters of Sunny Hill and Ayer Manis schools it was a dream come true. We were very happy and grateful that Pastor James Wong, MV secretary of the mission and principal of Sunny Hill School could be present to assist in the running of the camp. The camp was under the direction of Geoffrey Pauner assisted by 8 officers and 10 counselors.

Activities included swimming, hiking, signalling, first aid, cliff climbing, and rescuing experiences. Then there were Morning Worships, prayer circles, and camp councils. The talks and walks in the beauty and quiet of nature make one feel very close to the Creator. Sabbath was a very special day among the beauty of nature. The MV meeting in the afternoon gave opportunity for people to testify of God's leadings in their lives. Sunset brought the story-hour time.

Camp was over too soon. The memories of a week filled with fun and enjoyment will linger in the minds of the happy campers. Let us have another camp soon. To Mrs. Wong and her kitchen helpers we are most grateful for every good meal served. And to all the others who helped in all activities of the camp we express our appreciation for the wonderful success of the camp.



5 VOP students recently baptized by Pastor Hutaaruk. One was from the Voice of Youth meetings in Alor Star.

Teen-ager pioneers VBS Work in Vietnam (From page 8)

years ago she found a book at the mission telling how to conduct A Vacation Bible School.

She was filled with an overwhelming desire to help the children in her mountain area learn of Jesus, so when vacation time came she used her saving for bus fare and went north to conduct two schools, one for the Dalat church where she gathered 45 children, and another for a mountain village called Darohoa with 40 children. On her return to Saigon she brought Ha Dar, one of the Koho boys, with her to school.

In 1964 when vacation time came she went right back to her mountain villages. This time, one of the missionaries gave her a little financial assistance for bus fare and simple supplies. She took Ha Dar with her to translate into the mountain dialect. Her first VBS was in Dame with 35 children and then back to Darohoa where 47 came. The two schools cost 900 piasters (about \$9.00 US) She used old Christmas cards and gave pencils for graduation.

This year Le Thi felt that she should do something for the neglected children of the Mekong Delta. We have a school in VietCong territory at Vam Nhon. No missionary has been able to enter that dangerous territory for several years. However, in spite of the danger she boarded a bus and went south, knowing that often the Viet Cong stop the busses and the passengers are never heard of again.

Upon arrival she obtained the assistance of two of the teachers from the school, teaching them what to do to help her. They gathered together 120 children, 100 who were not Adventists and held a successful two week Vacation Bible School. The constant sounds of war all around only added to a greater desire to know the Prince Of Peace. With no income but only 900 piasters to cover the expenses, Miss Bach was able to give over 100 children a book and a pencil as there are no such things as graduation certificates.

Already Miss Bach is making plans to hold another vacation Bible School in the April vacation of 1966. But this next year it is the determination of the Vietnamese SDA Mission to provide her, and others like her with a simple Vacation Bible School Kit to aid her and to help the children know Jesus better. May God help us to find the ways and the means to make this possible.

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God's Protection from Fire (From page 3)

The doctors, nurses, and other wedding guests evacuated all patients from the hospital to the church and one of the hospital cars. Chaplains Robert Mole and Earl Lee, with four American servicemen who live nearby, also helped remove patients and hospital equipment.

The protection of God is recognized in the fact that a large bus stalled in the street between the fire and the hospital's supply of butane bottles, which otherwise might have exploded. There was no injury or loss of life, nor even any damage to mission property. Pastor Pham Thien's home was only two shops away from a shop which burned.

The fire department soon extinguished the flames, the patients were returned to the hospital, and a somewhat subdued wedding party returned to their refreshments.

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Obituary for Gumjorn Sriratprapas (From page 2)

plus the cards and many requirements for the progressive classwork. It took him over a year to translate all this material for the MV Depart-

ment. He worked in the MV Department for 5 years also.

In 1963 Gumjorn was made the editor of the Thailand Publishing House and he arranged a new Thai-medical book entitled, **New Life** which is now being sold by our colporteurs in Thailand.

In 1964 he conducted the first evangelistic series of meetings held in a portable tabernacle in Thailand on the island of Bhuket. There were 46 people baptized that year in Bhuket, most of whom took their stand during these meetings. After this series of meetings he was the district pastor for Haadyai. Two months previous to his death he was appointed pastor of the Eka-mai church here in Bangkok. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in January of this year.

Pastor Gumjorn was carrying on two major projects that were not completed. He was translating **The Desire of Ages** into Thai, and he had completed 60 of the 88 chapters. He was chairman of a song-book committee that is preparing a new Thai hymnal.

Pastor Gumjorn is survived by his wife, Ura, two children, his mother, Mrs. Teng Eng, 4 brothers and 3 sisters. He died of a heart attack on Sunday, October 24, 1965 at the Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital at the age of 33 years.

Pastor Gumjorn was one of our best interpreters, he was an outstanding organizer, an accomplished vocalist, a good counselor to the young people in the church, and a worker who will be greatly missed in our Mission.

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Pastor Guild Visits Sabah (From page 3)

gether with the gangplank. All he exclaimed was, "My Bible Case!" He was happy to retrieve it at the water's edge.

Thus the sixteen Voice of Prophecy Rallies were conducted throughout the mission. The largest single V.O.P. Rally was held at Goshen, with an attendance of 435. One group of members, from one of the more outlying churches in the Goshen area, walked a distance of twenty-miles round-trip to attend the closest V.O.P. Rally to them—being held in the Damai Church. These rallies proved a stimulus for the people to study their Bible more, not only among our mem-

bers, but among many non-Adventists who attended, and resulted in about 1,000 of new Bible Course enrollments to the Voice of Prophecy.



"I sincerely thank you for the letter which I received a few days ago. I am thankful that my doubts are cleared, and I have made a decision to be baptized in November."

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"I don't know really and exactly what denomination the Voice of Prophecy belongs to, but I feel that Saturday should be the correct Sabbath. I belong to a denomination that observes Sunday. I don't know what to do. Shall I withdraw, or shall I stay on and criticize. I really don't have any feeling to criticize because they might think that I am a false follower of Christ, although I know what is right in my heart. So I sincerely ask for your opinion to guide me in this don't-know-what-to-do-situation.

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"Thank you for sending the Bible lessons and the Gospel of John. I hope, that if there are more books in the national language about the Saviour Jesus Christ, you will send them to me. I am a Malay, but

I long to know more about the Saviour and I want to follow Him and be with Him. I would like to know what the signs of the coming of Jesus are, that we may prepare ourselves for His coming."

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"Even though I have now learned the truth of the Sabbath day i. e. Saturday, I have not yet been able to practice it, especially when I still go to work on that day, and my husband is a catholic. All these problems confront me and I earnestly pray that God will help me. I thank God for revealing to me the truth day by day which I was ignorant of previously. The only question left is for me to practice what I have learned. Please do pray for my weakness and that God will grant me grace to obey Him always."

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"I have received your letter and my certificate for which I thank you very much. I am proud of the diploma but I am more proud to receive the Holy book and the two other books that you sent to me earlier.

Is not the content of the Holy Bible, which gives us spiritual food more significant than a diploma which only pleases the eyes. This does not mean that I do not value the certificate, because a certificate has its use also doesn't it?

Regarding your visit, please listen to my story:

I am a Malay, belonging to a Malay community, embracing the state religion of Malaya and naturally it will be difficult for me to be visited by your representative or your group. I am not afraid for the step by my community may take against me, because I know the One we ought to fear is God. But maybe I cannot stand to hear them cursing me and to isolate me from my own community. It is not that I do not want to be visited, but I am embarrassed because of my poverty. But to God all are the same. Is not obedience to God more important? Because you want to visit me and I too want to meet you, then I suggest the following: We will meet at the church at 2 p.m. I'll wait at the bus station in the morning between 9-12. I am from a poor family, and so I am saving money for my travel to town."

**Footprint of Buddha
(Continued from page 1.)**

up new workers. And so plans are now underway to visit all of our churches in Thailand and emphasize anew to God's people the importance of this work. We need your prayers that God will call more laborers into the harvest. Footprints, yes. Thank God for the footprints of these faithful ones. In contrast to tradition's footprint of Buddha are the words of Isaiah. . . . "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace."



Thailand colporteur institute



Mrs. K. S. Wong, a very successful colporteur of Thailand.

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Tec-ager pioneers VBS Work in Vietnam

By Mrs. J. H. Lantry

Five years ago Pastor Thanh, leader of the SDA Dalat church in Vietnam, was impressed to give out tracts in the town of Go Cong. A teen-age girl, Le Thi Bach, accepted one of his papers and decided to send for the Bible course that was advertised on the back. Pastor Thanh, who has always had a big interest in the mountain tribes, got further acquainted with her and invited her to join his French classes, which he used as a means to study the Bible. Li Thi Bach soon joined the baptismal class.

When the time came for the baptism she decided not to tell her Grandfather until later. Her family noticed that she was not eating pork, and urged her to do so. Not yet knowing all the reasons why she should not eat it, she ate, but tried to make herself vomit later telling her family she was sick. In spite of opposition, she adopted a vegetarian diet in order to escape the heathen holy days.

When her grandfather heard of her baptism he drove her away from home. She went to school in Go Cong for one year, and then entered our Saigon Training School.



A year ago she graduated and now is a teacher in the mission school. She reads some English and two

(Continued on page 6).



Le Thi Bach active in VBS in mountains of Dalat