

Outlook

4TH QUARTER 2014 | SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION



THE ADVENTIST WORK IN MALAYSIA

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Outlook

FOURTH QUARTER 2014

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Artist **Roy Espina's** interpretation of Sri Lankan stilt fisherman teaching his son the art of local fishing. The tradition is believed to be over 70 years old. Clever local fishermen perch upon cross bars to catch fish that come to shallow waters



Sharing the Sweetness

I still remember their sweet smiles and laughter. With lilting voices, the Honeybees surrounded us and asked friendly questions about our names, where we were from and why we came to this Pathfinder camporee in Sabah, Malaysia. True to their unit name, there seemed to be a buzz of activity about them combined with an unabashed cheerfulness that dispelled any shyness on their or our part. And just who were these joyful girls with that unique group name? Almost right away, we learned several things: They were a Pathfinder unit from a Sabah club; they were very excited to be at the camporee; they wanted to make new friends; and their name came from a desire to be busy, helpful and sweet. Personally, I was very glad that they had noticed our somewhat lost looks as we tried to find our way around that first afternoon.

Due to finances, only two Pathfinders from our small church-based club in the Philippines had earned enough money to attend the camporee. My husband and I

were juggling dual-responsibilities of being their chaperones and class presenters at the camporee. We had explained to our Pathfinders from the beginning that we wouldn't be able to go with them to every activity and that they might have to just wait until our presentations were over.

However, during that initial conversation, the Honeybees and their chaperone invited us to join with their group for classes and activities. They said it would be more fun this way and that they wanted to get to know us better. What an invitation and answer to our problem!

As the week went on, they interpreted language and culture for us and made our time there a delight by checking on our Pathfinders daily and including them in everything, it seemed. Best of all, they continued to share about Malaysia and themselves, giving us a wonderful introduction to the beautiful Malaysian culture and people. The warm welcome and inclusive feeling they exuded were forever imprinted in my mind and continue to define Malaysia to me.

In this issue, you'll develop your own definition of Malaysia. You'll learn more about the fascinating history of the Adventist church in parts of Malaysia. You'll discover more about the Land of Hornbills as you follow a journey into Sarawak in one of our feature stories. Perhaps you'll remember your own childhood adventures and faith development as you read about a lost little girl and a lizard in Malaysia as shared in our TreasureChest story.

Whatever glimpse of Malaysia you glean from this issue, I pray that it will plant a desire to learn more about the people, places and ways of this intriguing land. Most of all, may you be motivated to share that warm and inclusive feeling with others as you invite them to join you in the family of God through your actions and words. Like the Honeybees, you too can share the sweetness of Christ with those who are wandering lost.

"Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones." Proverbs 16:24, NKJV

One of our greatest treasures in the Adventist church lies in the legacy left by dedicated and faithful members. As we explore the church's growth in Malaysia, we share this reprinted story from page 4 of the March 1967 Far Eastern Division OUTLOOK. We hope that it delights and inspires you as much as it did us.

A Bamboo Pole and Picture Roll

By Mandatang Gaban, Lay Activities Secretary, Sabah Mission

"MAJUNGGAL, your church is too far from here, we welcome you to come to our church. After all, we are all serving the same God. Come and join us."

These were the words our faithful layman, Bro. Majunggal, from the Marabau church in Sabah often heard from his neighbors and friends who belonged to another mission.

It was true that Bro. Majunggal was the only Seventh-day Adventist in his village. His friends and neighbors were either non-believers or members of this other mission. Often these Christians visited him and pointed out that their church was just a few yards from his house and urged him to come. But Bro. Majunggal faithfully continued to walk several miles every Sabbath to attend our Sabbath School and church.

More and more there grew a longing in his heart to tell the people in his village about the message which meant so much to him. If only he could think of some good way to talk with his many friends about the love of Jesus. He was so anxious about this matter that he began to pray that God would help him know how to talk with his friends.

Now Bro. Majunggal is a good friend and neighbor to all the folks in his village. He knows how to cut hair very well. Although he is not a barber by profession and does not earn anything from this work, he does cut hair for many of his friends just as a good neighborly kindness. Quite a few people come to him because he is the only real good barber in the village. This free service to his friends occupies much of his spare time.

One day while he was cutting

hair a thought suddenly came to his mind. The more he pondered it, the more enthusiastic he became. In fact, he accepted the thought as a message from God in answer to his prayer.

The next day a man came to him for a hair cut. Majunggal invited him to sit on a better bamboo bench than he had offered before. When the friend was comfortably seated on the bench in the yard, Majunggal, instead of beginning the hair cut, first went over, picked up a bamboo pole, took it around and

poked it into the ground right in front of his friend. While the friend sat there wondering, Majunggal picked up a roll of paper, opened it, and by the attached string hung the picture roll on the pole directly in front of his friend. Without a word, he then picked up his scissors and began to cut the man's hair slowly and silently.

The man sat there staring straight ahead—not wishing to hinder the barber by turning his head. After some time Majunggal noticed the man began to become a little restless. Then he spoke.

"Majunggal, what are those pictures, anyway?"

This was the moment Majunggal was waiting for. He knew that now God had done His work, this man's mind was properly aroused and his interest awakened, so Majunggal began to tell the story of the picture.

It worked! No one ever ran away in the middle of the story because the haircut never ended until the story did! And now everytime someone comes for a hair cut, Majunggal seats him comfortably on his best bamboo bench, pushes a bamboo pole into the ground directly in front of him, hangs a picture roll on the pole, then begins the hair cut.

Majunggal now has nine friends who come for haircuts attending the Parapat Sabbath School. What we need is more barbers and more picture rolls. We have plenty of bamboo poles!

Teachers Instruct Laymen In Indonesia

LEADERS. The four men in front of the congregation were the instructors for a Lay Institute held in the East Indonesia Union. They are, left to right, Pastor J. D. Manusa, Lay Activities Secretary of the East Indonesia Union; Pastor E. Kamuh, Evangelist for the East Indonesia Union; Pastor L. A. Shipwick, Lay Activities Secretary of the Far Eastern Division; and Pastor B. A. Raranta, Lay Activities Secretary of the North Celebes Mission.

BEKERDJALAH SELAGI SIANG



THIRTEENTH SABBATH OVERFLOW OFFERING PROJECTS

- New Hospital for Seoul, Korea
- Evangelistic Center in Hong Kong
- Mountain View College in the Philippines

The Adventist Work in Malaysia

1893 – Adventist colporteur sold books in the Malay Peninsula

1906 – Chinese family in Singapore who accepted the truth moved to Kuala Lumpur

1911 – missionaries were sent to Malaya

February 6, 1909 – CM Lee left Singapore for British North Borneo Mission (Sabah) and worked as a literature evangelist among the Chinese selling “Christ our Savior”

December 1912 – Roy P. Montgomery who was missionary in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore was appointed the first Director of the British North Borneo Mission (BNBM) His was served as secretary-treasurer

1012 – establishment of East Indies and Federated Malay States** from November 1969 issue of FED outlook

1913 – The Montgomerys left Singapore for Sandakan to set up the British North Borneo Mission (overseen by the Asiatic Division) office there ** from November 1969 issue of FED outlook

January 1, 1914 – first baptism of 7 individuals in BNBM

1914 – Adventist Message reached Sarawak through Adventist colporteur Joseph Phang Soon Siew.



July 4, 1915 – F.A. Detamore left Singapore for Sandakan

November 1915 – Leroy B Mershon, secretary of Malayan Union Mission and director of Singapore mission, with his wife, went to BNBM to relieve the Montgomerys who were due for a furlough.

1916 – a two-story house was purchased as property for the mission in Sandakan

June 1917 – the Montgomerys decided not to return to BNBM for health problems and a call was placed

July 1, 1917 – Mrs. Myrtle Mershon, passed away in Surabaya, Java from a lingering illness. Leroy Mershon remarried and continued to serve BNBM until he was called to Malay States Mission in 1928

1918 – while world war II raged, the GC appointed Gustavus B Youngberg to fill the call in BNBM

July 1920 – the Youngbergs left for Borneo and left again for Singapore when the Mershons returned.

1923 – Missionaries from Sumatra came to Sabah to work among the Kadazans. 40 persons were baptized between 1925-1926

December 12, 1924 – Dr. Earl Gardner opens the first Adventist clinic in 108 Muntri Street, Penang, Malaysia and had a sign up that said “Seventh-day Adventist clinic Poor Treated Free.”



1925 – Sunny Hill School first started with a rented attap-thatched roof shop house in the old bazaar at Third Mile with Chou Ted Shin as the first principal.



1926 – Sunny Hill school moved to the present location and was officially registered with one teacher and eleven students.



1928 – the first Kadazan Adventist church was organized at Kitabu, Inanam.

1929 – construction of a new hospital building and was completed in 1930

Early 1930's – Ayer Manis School was built.



November 22, 1930 – another Kadazan church organized with 21 members.

1931 – the first baptism among the Muruts as a result of a Batak missionary

May 16, 1931 – Gus Youngberg established a mission station in Tatao River Bintulu District of Sarawak.

1932 – the Adventist Hospital in Penang saw its first patients.

1932 – the clinic at Muntri street was relocated to 511 Chulia street while the hospital was under construction. A final move was made in 1939 to 422 to Chulia Street

1932 – the British Government pulled the restriction for missionaries to work among the people therefore BNBM reached unentered territory.

March 1933 – at the third Union Biennial session, J W Rowland appealed for the opening of a training school

October 1935 – GB Youngberg returned to North Borneo to start building what is today, Sabah Adventist Secondary School.

February 1, 1936 – the first Iban Adventist church in Sarawak was dedicated

February 16, 1936 the Union committee voted to recommend to the coming biennial session that Sarawak and Brunei be organized into a regular mission known as Sarawak Mission of Seventh-day Adventists with headquarters at Kuching, effective upon the arrival of expatriate worker called to take charge of the work in Sarawak.

1937 that G B Youngberg was appointed the new director (president) of the Sabah Mission, when he had real responsibility to develop his pet brain-child.

1940 – Sabah Adventist Secondary School was completed, Youngbergs left for furlough

May 17 1940 – LI Bowers, manager of the Malayan Signs Press was appointed director for BNBM for a year during the Youngberg's furlough

In 1941, the Japanese invaded Penang and six months later, they took over the hospital and renamed it “The Love Hospital”. Two years later, the left wing, also known as ‘The Japanese Wing’ was built.

July 1941 – G B Youngberg left the US without his family to return to North Borneo to see the training school. War broke in December 1941

1942 – Khoo Hyuk Min witnesses to the Rungus people until a church built of attap (palm tree) was established.

1942 – GB Youngberg went to Marudu Bay to inform Lazarus S Sibarani of his (Sibarani) appointment as the BNBM acting president. When the Japanese arrived, Youngberg and other 'white people' were shipped to an internment camp in Kuching where WR Lake, Director of the Sarawak Mission was also interned.

1942-1945 – Sunny Hill School was closed due to the World War II

1946 – Sunny Hill School was reopened and restored by Pastor L.E.A. Fox who arrived from Singapore. Within three years, the enrollment reached 178 and had seven teachers in the teaching team.

1950 – RR Youngberg and J T Phan visited one of the villages among the Rungus

1951 – Mrs. Lee Kiang Chor begins branch Sabbath School in her Johor, Malaysia home. It continues for more than 30 years.

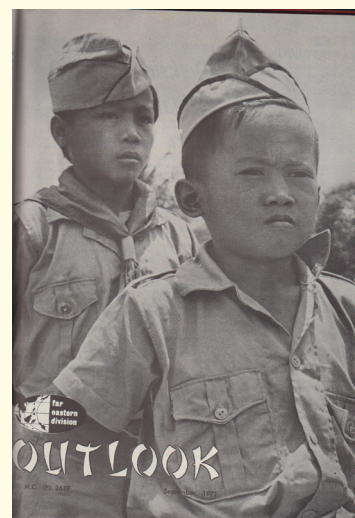
June 1951 – Arthur Mountain and wife visited Sikuati and met eight Rungus natives attending Chinese church services

May 1952 – Goshen Adventist Secondary School was applied under the name of Saminggau Lundoh. The first teacher was Mandatang Gaban.



April 14, 1956 – Gaban, a Kadazan, was granted a ministerial credential.

Late 1960's – Rumah Sakit perangan dan Rumah Sakit Pulau Pinang (Penang Sanitarium and Hospital) was changed to Rumah Sakit Advent (Penang Adventist Hospital).



1961 – 1st mission-wide Pathfinder fair (North Borneo)

1962 – Aviation program begins in Sarawak with pilot Richard Hall

1964 – 1st VBS in Johor, Malay

1964 – Voice of Youth program initiated

1965 – Radio broadcasting ministry begins in Sarawak

1966 – Medical Cadet Corps recognized (1 of 5 active MCCs in FED)

1966 – Laymen training in Sabah

1967 – 1st of many Lamb's Shelters (children's Sabbath School buildings) built in Malaysia (Borneo, Sabah)

March 1970 – 1st medical facility for Sabah Mission opens in Sandakan

Nov 1970 – More than 1700 attend campmeeting at Sabah Mission

Mar 1971 – Boats launched for medical-publishing work in Sarawak & Sabah

Dec 1971 – 1st ever mission-wide youth congresses held in

Sabah and Sarawak. In Sabah, the first 2 Mission Volunteer Gold Medals were earned and in Sarawak, 6 young men answered the call to be "Special Force" volunteers for 3-6 months in hard-to-reach villages

1975 – 1st Five-Day Plan (smoking cessation) in Kuala Lumpur held

Dec 1975 – 1st Adventist baptized in Brunei as reported by Sarawak Mission

March 1976 – Pioneer work begins along the Rajang River (longest river in Sarawak)

1977 – Malay Sabbath School quarterly printing begins in Sabah

1978 – Sabah Mission obtains 19.5 acre campsite (camping grounds) in Dentai

1980 – Aviation program ends (Sarawak Mission)

1981 – Sandakan, Sabah Pathfinders raise more than \$11,000 for the club's community projects

1983 – 1st campmeeting held in Miri (Sarawak)

1986 – 1st baptisms from ADRA project in Central Sarawak

1987 – 1st field school of evangelism held in Johor Baru church (West Malaysia)

Dec 1987 – New Sabah Mission headquarters opened in Tamparuli, Sabah

April 1988 – Sarawak hosts the 3rd union-wide Pathfinder Camporee

April 1989 – Over 500 delegates attend a 5-day Church Ministries Congress jointly conducted by Sabah and Sarawak missions

April 1989 – Sabah Mission holds teachers' convention during Year of the Adventist Teachers

Late 1990's – Penang Adventist Hospital expanded from a 120 bed hospital to a 211 bed tertiary care facility.



1998 – Sunny Hill School operates as 3 entities (in compliance with Education Act 1996 and the State Education Department for Private School section), namely: Sri Gemilang childcare Centre & Sunny Hill Kindergarten, Sunny Hill Primary School and Sunny Hill Secondary School.



2000 – Sunny Hill School celebrated its 75th Anniversary.

May 21, 2015 – Penang Adventist Hospital Rebranding Ceremony - The Adventist Medical Centre (AMC) is currently operated by Penang Adventist Hospital. We are now "one hospital with two campuses". A Rebranding Ceremony was held to celebrate the integration. The AMC now boasts a line of new and upgraded equipment and facilities which include three Operating Theatres, Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Labour Room and Recovery Bays cum Day Care Unit.





LIFE OF A MISSIONARY

The Ibans in the Land of the Hornbills (Sarawak)

Ever since when I was a kid, I dreamed of visiting Sarawak - The Land of the Hornbills, as it is called. Mission stories about Sarawak fascinated me with the many rare plants, unique animals and interesting people.

Seventy percent Sarawak is covered by rainforest. Rafflesia, the world's largest flower, is found only here. Sarawak is also home to many rare birds and fishes.

Animals as the flying lizard, flying lemur, flying fox, several kind flying squirrels, Malaysian tigers, leopards, rhinoceros, Asean elephants, orangutan and others roam the rainforest. Some animals are very rare like the small



Malaysian sun bear, the only bear recorded in Southeast Asia. And some, like the Borneo Rainbow Toad, have just been rediscovered after a period of 90 years of assumed extinction. Many discoveries like this are still waiting to be made.

Sarawak Chamber, the largest natural cave chamber by area, can be explored here. According to the Malaysian Ministry Of Culture, Arts And Tourism, at 700 meters long and at least 70 meters high in places, it can house 40 Boeing 747s side by side.

In terms of fascinating people, 26 ethnic groups, each with their own unique culture, customs and language populate this land. The Ibans, Bidayuhs, Kenyahs, and Kayans are the majority. One tribe that interests me is the Bisaya who live in the northwest and the coast line of Borneo, Malaysia. Today, the Bisaya living in Sabah are mostly Muslims while the Bisaya living in Sarawak are Christians.

It is very amazing that the language of Bisaya tribe has many words similar to Visayan language

of Central and Southern Philippines. I like to imagine this is because the early Malaysians who migrated to the Central and South Philippines brought the Bisaya language to the Philippines and it formed part of what became the Visayan language.

The Ibans comprise the largest percentage of Sarawak's population. Formerly reputed to be the most fearsome headhunters on the island of Borneo, the Ibans of today are a generous, hospitable and placid people. The Ibans dwell in longhouses, stilted structures with a large number of rooms housing a whole community of families. An Iban longhouse may still display head trophies or antu pala as they are called. These suspended heads marked tribal victories and were a source of honor. The Iban ceased practicing headhunting in the 1930s. The large majority of Ibans practice Christianity and many of them are Seventh-day Adventists.

You may wonder how this happened. It began in 1914 when the Adventist Message reached Sarawak through Adventist colporteur Joseph Phang Soon Siew. By January 13, 1915, the first missionary to Kuching, Sarawak arrived

but Roy P. Montgomery was refused entry by police officers at the Kuching wharf and was ordered to leave via the same steamer he originally boarded.

In May 16, 1931, Gus Youngberg established a mission station in Tatao River Bintulu District of Sarawak. With the arrival of the motor boat Sri Iban (Light of the Iban), the Adventist message to the Iban tribe move forward. In February 1, 1936, the first Iban Adventist church was dedicated.

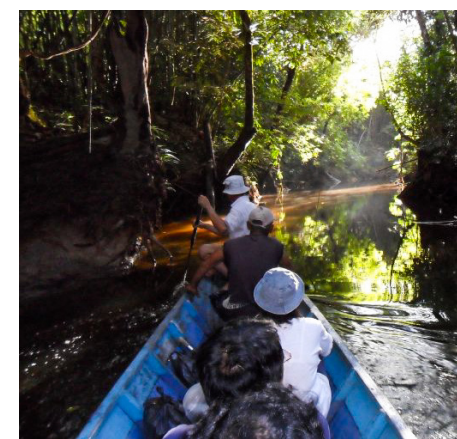
PRESENT DAY

I had the privilege of visiting the Iban SDA church members deep inside the jungles of Sarawak. It was a six hour trip through high forest mountains, a river and a creek infested with Sarawak crocodiles, big snakes and other wild animals. From Kuching, Sarawak, we had to travel on the same road going to the country of Brunei to the district of Simunjan and into the small town of Pantu. From Pantu, we had to ride another pick truck to a river crossing where we took a boat to cross to the other side of the river. While we are in the river, our guide told me to watch out for crocodiles.

From the river, we boarded a 4x4 pick-up truck for the 3-hour ride bumpy ride to the Iban tribe village in Toba, Simunjan. The small road to the Iban village is an abandoned logging road which is seldom used by any vehicle. Looking at the road, I could not believe that it was passable but because we used a 4x4 pick up, we were able to overcome any obstacle.

As we stopped on top of the mountain, I was delighted to breathe the fresh air and see the beauty of God's creation. It's was a childhood dream come true. We had been driving for about 3 hours but I could not see anything except trees. I saw different kinds of pitcher plants in their natural habitat along the road. It was interesting to note the cup of the pitcher plants is used by the Iban Tribe to cook rice.

After driving for 3 hours in a 4x4 truck, we reached the end of the road. We have to go down for the last time to ride a small boat on a small river inhabited by crocodiles. The riverbank is covered with trees and the water is muddy which is very scary to me because the trees, brush and muddy water hide the crocodiles that I'm sure are all around me. We navigated the river for what seemed like an eternity but was really about 30 minutes. At last,



Iban church members going to church. It was a unique experience to worship with them in a house without chairs. You sit down starting from the Sabbath School until the divine service during which the speaker will also sit as he preaches. The members' faith and love of Jesus amazed me. Even though they are deep inside the Borneo forest, their love for God is unwavering and Sabbath is a delight to them. It was a day of joy as they ceased from their normal work of fishing and taking care of their farms to worship the Lord in the Sabbath.

In the afternoon, we visited a sick church member and had a simple service in his house. There was such joy in sharing songs and encouraging thoughts.

we arrived at our destination: The Iban Village where most of the villagers are Seventh-day Adventists members.

Most of the villagers are self-sufficient in that they plant their own food including rice, taro, sweet potatoes and vegetables. What is interesting to me is their source of fish. Upon our arrival, some of our church members went to the nearby river to catch some fish. When they came back, they brought several big fish which we call knife fish in the Philippines because it resembles a knife and is quite expensive because it is an ornamental fish. I was quite happy to see this kind of fish in their natural habitat. I was amazed to learn how the Iban people cook the fish. They put the fish inside a piece of bamboo with all the ingredients and place the bamboo directly into the fire to cook it.

On Sabbath, it was nice to see our

As we left Toba on that Sunday, I could not help but treasure the memories of sleeping on a wooden floor in an Iban Long house together with several other SDA church members. I had so many interesting firsts: learning the fascinating Iban culture, tasting Iban-style knife fish, and pondering how the possible connections between my Cebuano language and the Bisayan language of Malaysia. On our way back, I saw and heard the sound of the famous bird in Sarawak - the Sarawak Hornbill. It was the perfect finale to a special time in the Land of the Hornbills.

► Romulo Halasan

More than ten Adventist professionals pass the first psychometrician and psychologist board exam in the Philippines.

The practice of psychology in the Philippines is now on the rise. More and more students are making the field their career choice in the academic and corporate realm. Following the passing of "Psychology Act of 2009", or the Psychology Law, the country's Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) administered the first ever board examination for psychologists on October 26-27 and for psychometricians on October 28-29, 2014. Several Adventist students were among those taking the tests.

Robert John Almocera, one of those who passed, graduated with a BS Psychology in 2010 from Adventist University of the Philippines. Currently, he works as a research assistant in Asia-Pacific Research Center of AIAS. One of his interests is in research and statistics linking to human behavior. According to him, "Researchers can study variables and develop theories and models that could help people become better and healthier ... [and] through studies that in essence support our

Christian beliefs and practices."

Lorjean Carpena, who is also a BS Psychology graduate of AUP and a successful taker, believes that Christian psychologists can help people. In her opinion, Adventist psychologists can be a great benefit to an organization, particularly in the field of human resources.

In addition to human resources, other areas such as education, research, and business need psychological specialists. For example, many companies and organizations rely on psychological testing and assessment to determine the best applicants for top and critical positions which require sound mental health.

While expertise in psychological testing and methods is valuable in the secular world, Christian psychologists can offer an additional level of assistance. Dr. Neda Salazar, a professor in a university in University AE (UAE), believes that as a Christian psychologist she plays a very special role at the place where her profession

brought her. She asserts that, "A Christian psychologist with a very deep understanding of human dynamics coupled with a deep and broad knowledge and understanding of the Bible plus the Spirit of Prophecy (particularly for Adventists) will be able to bring people to Christ, the wellspring of life and the only true source of sound mental health and happiness." She adds, "A good Christian psychologist is someone who walks the talk."

With this new licensure opportunity, Adventist students in the Philippines now have a unique avenue for facilitating hope and mental health to greater numbers of people and communities.

► Janette Lonoza/Gay Deles



First AUP Student Literature Evangelists' Congress

The words "spirit-filled" seemed to characterize every aspect of the first student literature evangelists' congress at the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) campus on November 28-30, 2014. Approximately 200 students attended the opening program during which keynote speaker Dr. Frank D. Gayoba, AUP president, emphasized the need for spirit-filled student literature evangelists.

This special ministry program is known as the Student Association of Literature Evangelists (SALE) and is closely supervised by North Philippines Union Conference (NPUC) Publishing Department. The SALE event at AUP



▲all SALE club members in yellow tshirts

gave student literature evangelists the training and motivation for their summer 2015 vacation canvassing.

Pastor Ven R. Bermudez, Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) Publishing director, as well as NPUC and Central Luzon Conference (CLC) publishing leaders gave inspiring messages and lectures anchored on the philosophy that,

"when school closes, there will be opportunity for many to go out into the field as evangelistic canvassers."

—Colporteur Ministry, p. 31.

Inspired by what he learned, Mr. Daniel Capilitan a theology student and SALE club president, plans to recruit more students for the literature ministry. By God's grace, his goal is to double the 2014 number of six groups with more



groups to be assigned in each of NPUC's local conferences/missions. The slogan is, "Do it Now! God sells; We Help!"

► VR Bermudez

▲the SALE club officers performing an instrumental number during the Sabbath program.)

The Challenge of Rituals in Laos

Ministering is challenging for many reasons in the Lao Attached Field (LAF). Laos has 18 provinces stretching from north to south almost 1,700 km length. The roads are mountainous, steep, and winding. Some villages have no road access and visitors must walk an entire day to get there. In terms of our workers, while we have very dedicated laymen, we have only six new theology graduates. Our one very experienced pastor serves as our president and thus has many demands on his time.

As a result, ministering to our members in rural Laos is a major challenge, especially when death occurs. Situations such as where to bury the dead, what rituals to use, and who will perform the rituals have long-lasting impact.

In one recent case, our member passed away and his family tried to

contact our church leaders in Vientiane. Somehow, they could not contact any of our pastors. The body was left at home for a few days. Finally, they had no option but had to allow a priest from another faith perform the funeral service for them.

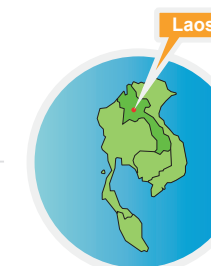
While the salvation of the dead does not depend of their funeral rituals, situations such as this can affect the family. This incident caused our members to leave the Adventist Church. Obligated and indebted to the priest who performed the funeral for their late father, they have now joined that priest's religion. Something like this may seem unimportant to our members in the developed world where funeral parlors take care of everything. But, here in Laos, it is a very important event with very high significance.

As a way to address this, LAF leaders offered a two-day seminar on rituals

and cultural practices. This first-ever type of meeting focused on the two highly important rituals of Lao life, wedding and funeral ceremonies, on December 9-10, 2014 at the Vientiane Church.

The 41 participants included lay leaders, LAF workers and pastors representing the four major tribes of Laos: Lowland Lao, Highland Hmong mostly from the north and central, Khmu mostly from the north and central midlands, and the Ta-Oy in the south.

After a leader presented the biblical perspective on the topic, participants were separated into tribal groups so they could discuss traditional versus biblical practices. Then, the entire group would regather and a representative from each group would present their traditional practices. He would also give



their decisions as to which traditions they will and will not keep and why. For controversial issues, the entire group shared their opinions and leaders guided them through the biblical principles and let them decide again whether to keep or omit the practice from the ceremony.

For the wedding ceremony discussion on the first day, we dealt with the three phases of the ceremony: **(1) the proposal, (2) the vows, and (3) the reception.** We studied the local/tribal traditions involved and created substitute rituals for them that are in accordance with biblical principles. With God's help, it was not too difficult.

However, when it came to dealing with rituals concerning funeral practices on the second day, it was not an easy task. We had to deal with four different tribal traditions. The Lao have the most elaborate funeral arrangements. The Hmong have the most sophisticated funeral arrangements. And the Ta-Oy have the most problematic funeral arrangements.

For the Ta-Oy, if the dead died outside the village, his corpse will not be allowed into the village. Instead, it has to be taken to the graveyard and kept there. But, if he died in the village or in his house, his corpse will be placed outside in front of his house. The corpse cannot be kept inside the house or inside the church building. This makes it very difficult because according to this custom, we cannot hold a service for our dead in the church!

This very real problem faced by our members and leaders exemplifies the great need for this type of seminar. Without clear guidelines for local cultural practices, the easy thing to do if you are unsure about something is to just get rid of it. But, if we do that, over time the people could lose most or even all of their tradition or cultural practices and have to adopt new, so-called "Christian" cultural practices which are really more Western in essence. This is not bad, per say, but it makes Lao Christians look totally different and alienated from their own people in their

practices. Worse still, it makes our special eastern Christianity to appear more as a Western practice which causes a loss of respect for it in the eyes of people.

There was lively participation from attendees throughout the seminar. After much discussion, study and prayer, we were able to create guidelines for Adventist wedding and funeral rituals. By establishing an Adventist position on different cultural practices and formulating substitute rituals and practices for Adventists in Laos, we can later use the information gathered during the seminar to write a ministers' manual for the use of our pastors in the field.

We need wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit as we continue our work towards formulating more rituals and ceremonies for our young mission field.

► Laos Attached Field

AUP Doctor of Medicine program approved by Philippine government; classes to begin August 2015

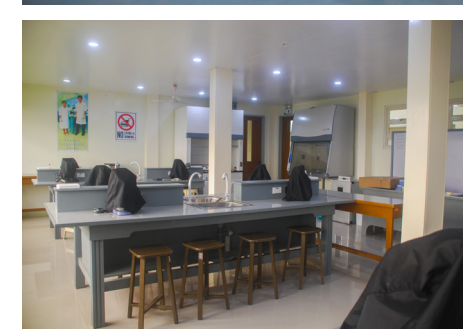
On December 19, 2014 the Commission on Higher Education of the Philippines (CHED) granted permit approval for the first Adventist college of medicine in Asia. The Adventist University of the Philippines College of Medicine (AUPCOM) will become the sixth Adventist college of medicine worldwide with classes slated to begin in August 2015.

Administrators believe there is a vital role to play in the region. "AUPCOM envisions to train and graduate physicians who are service-oriented, effectively witnessing for God and promoting the worldwide mission of the SDA church as medical missionary-minded doctors wherever they may be," notes Dr. Doris Mendoza, the founding dean of the medical school.

According to Dr. Francisco D. Gayoba, president of AUP, "opening the doctor of medicine program was a journey of faith." Starting a building, looking for a qualified dean as well as faculty and staff, and determining the base hospital were just some of the great challenges the university has faced.

In terms of governmental approval, AUP was careful to follow all the government requirements. In spite of this, the application was denied twice which almost led the administration to give up. However, encouragement and advice from leaders on all church levels gave AUP administrators the motivation to continue. "God in His own time and miraculous ways worked to make the dream come true," shares Gayoba.

Loma Linda University is partnering with AUP and will advise regarding



curriculum, admissions and faculty. Under its tutelage, AUPCOM will strive to meet its goal of providing excellent faith-based medical education while mentoring future doctors, researchers, and medical instructors who advocate for health and healing.

► Max Cadalig/Teresa Costello

Peninsular Malaysia Mission (PEM) Celebrates 100 years of Adventism



Over 600 church members, families and friends attended a Centennial Celebration recognizing 100 years of Adventism on Sunday, October 5, 2014 at the International Youth Center in Bandar Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The celebration's theme was **Arise & Shine: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow**. The highlights of the event included:

- Presentations from the Chinese, Indian, Bahasa Malaysia and English churches honoring the history of the Adventist work in their respective groups.
- Congregational prayer sessions during intermissions with emphasis on outpouring of the Holy Spirit, church leadership, Adventist work in PEM, spiritual revival and reformation of church members.
- Musical extravaganza skit depicting the Adventist historical work in this constituency accompanied by a 63-member mass choir, various singing groups and musicians.
- Exhibit booths from various departments, services and ministries.

The centennial's special guest speakers were Pastor Simon Siew, Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM) Youth director, and Mrs Kimberlee Siew, SAUM Shepherdess International director. This couple, who are no strangers in this region, delivered an enlightening message entitled "Lest We Forget" on what it means to work in the Lord's field and put faith and trust in His work.

Later, long-serving church workers and dedicated members were recognized during an appreciation program. Mr Lim Gim Chew, a literature evangelist, was honored as the longest-serving church worker in PEM while Mr Yeong Sze Tai, who was born in 1915, was deemed as having the greatest number of years as a church member. Pastor Joshua Mok, SAUM president, and PEM officers conferred the awards to these and other pioneers as witnessed by their family and church members.

Towards the closing of the event, PEM President, Pastor Leong Fai, gave a timely challenge to all members to



"reflect on yesterday, serve faithfully today, while maintaining hope for tomorrow."

PEM currently oversees 50 congregations comprising English, Chinese, Tamil and Bahasa Malaysia language churches with a documented membership of 5,596.

Special thanks and gratitude goes to the Klang Valley pastoral staff and churches for their time, dedication and hard work to plan and organize this unforgettable event.

► Joshua Chee



captions

Adventist church schools in Singapore reach more than students



Like all mothers, Wang Lihong, Lia Hai Ying and Wei Yan Li want their children to have the best future possible and for them the means to do that is through education. With their children, they left China over two years ago for an opportunity of an education in Singapore but they found much more than a textbook could supply.

Since they entered the country on a 'companion pass', they cannot be employed in Singapore and depend on what their worker husbands send them from home. They never heard about Jesus until they enrolled their children at the San Yu Adventist School (SYAS).

The women were invited to a Bible study group where they fellowshiped with the members of the Thomson Chinese Church-Chinese Adult Ministry. Peter Foo, the senior pastor and adviser for the spiritual department of the school, facilitated a few Bible study sessions alternating with his assistant, Elder Fam, and other group leaders. The group uses modules entitled Search for Certainty.

"Through this class, I know the love of God and the people in church are always happy, praying and singing. That's what I want (that) I cannot find in my life," said Lia Yai Ying who attends a Chinese fellowship class on Saturday afternoons.

"I (carried) burdens and challenges when I came to Singapore. I didn't have money and no school accepted my daughter but San Yu Adventist School and Thomson Chinese Church were kind to accept my daughter into the school. The church members pray(ed) for me... Therefore, I found the hope and peace in Christ," said Wei Yan Li.

On occasions like a holiday trip back home or through communication over the internet, these ladies would share the gospel with their friends in China as well as their friends in Singapore. Because of the lively participation of these women, the church grew (to 50) with interested visitors and new members.

"They learn fast and are smart as they can memorize church history and have finished reading the Bible in a year. Since they have never given any emphasis to religion in the past, they readily accepted the gospel of Christ," said Foo.

Members in Thomson Chinese Church are mostly transient like these ladies who have to return to China after their children are done with school in Singapore.

Foo added, "We cannot always strategically plan

for them to later serve the church in Singapore as leaders since most of our members cannot stay permanently. The ministry of our church is like a training center for these new members with the hope that they can continue to serve and sow the seed of gospel wherever they go."

On October 4, Pastor Foo performed their baptism as these three women gave their hearts to Christ as a result of this partnering between school and church in Singapore. So now wherever they may go, they will carry with them a relationship with Christ, a solid Bible understanding and lessons in faith that will last beyond a lifetime.

SYAS is a fully self-supporting school owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Conference in Singapore. It is a product of a merger between San Yu High School and the Seventh-Day Adventist School-Singapore with a history that spans for a century since its beginning in 1907 when it was then called Eastern Training School. Today SYAS has an enrollment of over 400 students from 21 countries as the school imparts its philosophy (Thy

Word is Truth) in sharing truth through education from God's Word - the Bible.

► Gay Deles

On October 4, Pastor Peter Foo, baptized these three women who found Jesus Christ through San Yu Adventist School in Singapore where their children study. (Photo courtesy of Peter Foo's Facebook account)



Adventist Longhouse in Sarawak Burns Down



A longhouse, home to 54 families, burned down in Pasir Nangka, Tatau, Sarawak, Malaysia around midnight on October 10. The majority of the occupants are Seventh-day Adventists so this is having a significant impact in the close-knit community.

This is actually the second time this particular longhouse caught fire. Sadly, these types of fires are common due to indoor cooking and the building's natural materials. Unique to Sarawak, a longhouse consists of individual rooms connected by one common roof. One family will occupy a room and share the communal cooking and living areas in the long house with other families.

The Adventist church in Pasir Nangka is located nearby the longhouse but was not affected by the fire. Leaders

are grateful that there was no loss of life. Members responded by giving monetary contributions and donating food and clothing to those affected.

God is truly faithful to His promise in Isaiah 43:2, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

Let us continue to unite in prayer remembering our brethren who were affected by the sudden calamitous event. May their faith in God be strengthened as they rebuild their shelter.

► Pastor Abel Bana/ Romulo Halasan



▲ The picture of two Longhouses in Toba
▼ The burned Iban Longhouse
(Photos by Romulo Halasan)



HIDE AND SEEK, LOST AND FOUND: Lessons from a Lizard

I grew up in a small town in Sabah, Malaysia. My great grandfather came to Sabah from China in the early 1900s. When they came, they were able to get a piece of land. Here they could make a living and later their children and grandchildren lived on that land.

My father grew up doing many interesting things. He harvested rubber when he was young – yes, the rubber that can be used to make automobile tires! It was very hard work to collect the rubber sap from the trees. That was not so fun. Later my grandfather planted cocoa. That sounds more fun to me. Here is why. Do you know what cocoa is? It is the yummy chocolate that you love to eat. So, I think maybe my father would have liked to harvest cocoa instead of rubber because chocolate definitely tastes better!

I also grew up on that piece of land together with my cousins. Oooh, I had so many, many cousins - about fifteen of them. Life was different for kids back then. We had only one black and white TV with two channels. So what did we do during our free times? We played outside...hide and seek, climbing mango and rambutan trees, and playing all the fun games that we could think of. Imagine having several hundred acres of land with several hillside. It was an incredible place to play.

One day, my oldest cousin decided to play hide and seek without boundaries... meaning we could go as far as we wanted. I was only 8 or 9 years old and my sense of direction wasn't very good. But I was good at hiding so I joined in. I was very confident that I knew the direction. So, I went by myself to the end of my grandfather's land. Sure enough, I was there for a long time and no one came to find me. I was so proud that I had hid so well. That meant I WON!!!!

I was so happy with myself I didn't realize it was getting dark. I started my journey back. I walked and walked and walked, but – oh, no! I couldn't find my house. And the trees and grass were getting thicker. I didn't recognize any of these places. I knew I was in trouble. I was LOST.

I began to cry because I was so scared and wished someone would find me. But nobody came. Then I remembered my mom's advice. She said Jesus would guide us when we were lost and would bring us home if we trusted Him. So I started to pray. As soon as I finished praying, I opened my eyes. I saw a large lizard and a little voice told me to follow the lizard. I did.

He went this way and that through the grass and trees - sometimes fast, sometimes slow but it seemed as if I could always stay right with him. I was so busy trying to watch the lizard that I didn't know how much time had passed.



Before too long, I was home. I was so, so happy to be welcomed home and to tell my adventure of how Jesus helped bring me home.

Years have passed and now I'm grown with children of my own. I'm glad I have Jesus in my life. You know, boys and girls, sometimes in

life, we may not have a good sense of direction. That means maybe we don't always think of the best choices for our lives. Then we feel lost because we feel all alone in a scary situation.

But we are not ever really alone. Jesus is there wanting to help us and remind us how much He cares for us.

Remember that you just need to talk to Him, to ask for His guidance in your life. He will send someone such as a friend or your family or something to help you back on the right path. How do I know? A lizard taught me that important lesson.

Lee-Han Wecker works as an accountant at the office headquarters of Southern Asia-Pacific Division in Silang, Cavite. She and her husband, Russell, have two boys, Nathaniel and Sebastian.

Healthy Recipes



Mushroom Chicken Stir-Fry ▲ (Sarawak)

Ingredients:

- 25 gms garlic (10 cloves crushed)
- 1 tbsp oil
- 150 gms or 3 small onion
- 200 gms or 2 regular-size carrots
- 150 gms (1 package or can) vegetarian chicken (more can be added if desired)
- 50 gms celery or
- 200 gms or 10 whole white button mushrooms or 10-12 mushrooms
- 150 gms red capsicums
- 50 gms tomatoes or 1 tomato (diced or chopped)
- Dash of salt and seasoning
- Romaine lettuce and parsley (optional) for garnishing

Procedure:

Fry garlic in oil until fragrant. Add onion and fry a bit. Add carrots and fry for approximately 3 minutes. Add chicken and fry a bit. Add celery, mushroom and capsicum. Last, add tomato, salt and seasoning.

Rinawal Bintorong (Sabah) ▼

Ingredients:

- 800 gms – 1 kg eggplant
 - 3 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1 cup coriander, finely chopped*
 - ½ tsp salt
 - ½ tsp mushroom seasoning
 - 1 Tbsp dark soya sauce
 - 1 Tbsp sesame oil
 - 1 Tbsp coconut oil (optional)
 - 1 lemon, juice
 - 150 gms tomato or capsicum
- * Parsley or Thai basil leaves may be substituted

Procedure:

Boil some water in a saucepan. Add some salt to water. Wash eggplant and cut into 1 ½ - 2 inches long. Put cut eggplant to boiling water and cook until tender (Alternatively eggplant may be steamed). Drain out water and place eggplant in a mixing bowl. Set aside.

No-Cooking Sauce

In a bowl, mix thoroughly minced garlic, coriander, salt, seasoning, soya sauce, sesame oil, coconut oil (if used), lemon juice and tomato or capsicum.

Pour over cooked eggplant. Give it a good mix. Serve hot or cold. May refrigerate and serve as a cold dish the next day. Enjoy!



Coconut Shoots with Bean Curd ▲

Courtesy of Madam Maria Bakri, wife of Sarawak Mission President Lawrence Banyu

Ingredients:

- ¼ - ½ kilogram bean curd (firm tofu)
- 2 pieces shallot, sliced
- 3 pips (cloves) garlic, sliced
- 600 gm coconut shoots, sliced
- 1 carrot, sliced
- 100 gm or ¾ cup water
- 1 tablespoon oil
- Salt to taste
- Mushroom seasoning
- Chinese celery for garnishing
- Black pepper powder to your taste
- Cornstarch to thicken
- Chinese celery or cilantro

Procedure:

Deep fry the bean curd and set aside. Fry the shallot and garlic with the oil until golden color. Add in the sliced coconut shoots and carrot. Add in the water and cook until the vegetables are soft. Add in the bean curd, salt, mushroom seasoning, and pepper. Thicken with the cornstarch. Place in a serving dish and garnish with Chinese celery.

Chapati Recipe ▼

Chapati is an Indian flatbread made from atta flour (South Asian whole grain durum wheat flour). Chapatti is usually served with dhal, another favorite curry accompaniment.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups whole wheat flour (or "Atta")
- 1 cup water (approximately)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Little extra flour in a plate to help with coating and dusting while rolling chapatis

Procedure:

Sieve the flour, add salt and mix well. Place the flour in a large bowl and add ¾ cup of water. Stir lightly with fingers till flour gathers. Add a tablespoon of flour if dough is too sticky or more a bit of water if too dry.

Put a little oil in your hand and knead the flour until you have soft and pliable dough that does not stick to your fingers. Cover with plastic wrap or place in a bowl and let the dough rest for at least 1 hour at room temperature. If keeping for longer period store the dough in refrigerator and bring dough back to room temperature before using it.

Once ready to make chapatis, heat the griddle over medium-high heat. Divide the dough into ten equal-sized balls. Place the dough in dry flour and flatten it a bit with help of finger tips. Transfer the flattened ball to any clean flat surface and with help of rolling pin, roll it into approx. 6-7 inch circle of uniform thickness. If the dough sticks, surface lightly with little flour.

Place the rolled chapati on the hot griddle and cook for 30 seconds or until tiny golden dots appear on the bottom, flip over to the other side. Once the other side is also covered with larger



brown dots, turn it over again. Soon the chapati will start to puff up.

With the help of a folded kitchen towel press gently on the puffed part, gently pushing the air to the flatten part of chapati until the whole chapati puffs up into a round ball (It may take a little practice). You can also puff up the chapati on direct flame.

Transfer the cooked chapatis to the plate, rub some butter on the surface and serve hot.

A Taste of Malaysia
All of the following recipes are courtesy of participants from the Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM) Vegecapable seminar



Vegetarian Pesto Lasagne ▼ (PEM – Peninsular Malaysia)

Ingredients:

- 500 gms eggplant
- 200 gms carrots
- 330 gms tomatoes
- 50 gms onion or 1 small onion
- 30 gms fresh button mushrooms
- 200 gms Korean mushroom
- 100 gms celery

- Tomato paste
- Basil leaves

Pesto Sauce:

- ½ cup pumpkin seeds
 - ½ cup basil
 - 1 lemon
 - 1 garlic
 - 1/8 cups water
 - 1 tsp salt
- Blend all ingredients until smooth

Procedure:

- Wash and cut vegetables
- Shred carrots
- Soak eggplant in salt
- Steam mushrooms and onions
- Steam eggplant
- Put a little sauce on the bottom of the baking pan, put a layer of cooked lasagne noodles. Next put a layer of the vegetables (carrots, eggplant, mushrooms and onions). Repeat these layers until the top layer is about 1 inch or less from the top edge of the pan (or until ingredients are all used). Pour sauce over the layers.

How God has Changed my Life



I am Deshay Rach Elvis and I'm 21 years old, a Sarawakian. I was born in a modest, Christian family. I have six siblings and I'm the youngest one.

I was a rebellious, stubborn and hot-tempered boy. Even though I am a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, sometimes I didn't have the attitude of a Christian. Sometimes I was good and sometimes I could be so bad. My brother and I were always being punished when we did something wrong but we kept being so stubborn. As I grew to be a teenager, my rebellion got even worse and I always disagreed with my parents. I thought they did not understand me. Furthermore, I couldn't accept their persistence in forbidding me to go to school on the Sabbath day and hanging out with friends. I didn't even know the purpose of my life. I felt empty.

Years passed and I experienced a lot in life. I started to experience God's love and how He works in our lives. I became keen to keep the Sabbath. The Holy Spirit changed me. As I walked more and more with the Lord, I changed from a rebellious, stubborn and hot-tempered boy into a humble, patient and obedient child. I listened a lot rather than answering back. I became more understanding, loving and caring, especially to my family and friends. I started to like history as I learned the Bible. I also found my purpose in life and that is to serve Him and be a blessing to others.

By the age of 19 in the year 2012, I finally understood that everything my

parents had done was to keep me close to God. By the end of that year, I was being called to serve God. I was not sure whether I should answer God's call. I couldn't sleep at night for thinking about it. I'm thankful my parents were always supportive of me during this time.

Finally, I decided to answer His call because I wanted to keep the Sabbath and work for the Lord. I joined One Year in Mission in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. I learned a lot of things. I saw and felt how God was leading me and the team all the way.

I faced a lot of challenges such as when things went wrong at the last minute - that was when I felt I could do nothing without God. He always had a way to make things go smoothly in the end and my faith grew even more. As I experienced the compassion activities in the community, I became more courageous to speak to strangers. I noticed the importance of mingling with many types of people.

I felt the joy in serving God when I saw the smiles and happy faces of the people or when I heard the chorus of the youth voices echoing in the public places. These were some of the best moments of my life. This encouraged me to work more for God and share Jesus with those who don't yet know about Him.

There have been ups and down but God was and is always with me. I still remember a pastor asking me about my favourite Bible text. It's Matthew 6:33 which says,

“But seek ye first His kingdom, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

I've learned that this text is more than true. Now I'm continuing my journey as I lead out with the OYIM program in Bintulu and encourage other young people to seek God first and see how their lives will change like mine did.

► As told to Pastor Abel Bana, Sarawak Adventist Mission Treasurer

FIRST OPTION THE LORD HAS **NEED OF IT**

“A Colt?” Have you ever wondered why the “owner” of the colt written in Mark 11:1-11 was willing to give away his colt to be used by Jesus? This is an amazing story written for us to learn some important stewardship principles.

The Setting

Jesus and his twelve disciples together with a crowd of people were coming from Jericho heading to Jerusalem, and now they were in Bethpage and Bethany. Just a few days before his crucifixion, Jesus would be honored as The King of Israel riding on a colt as he came into Jerusalem (Zechariah 9:9). {DA 569.2}

The Story

Here at Bethpage and Bethany which were about seven kilometers from Jerusalem, Jesus requested a colt to ride on: “And as they approached Jerusalem, at Bethpage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, 2 and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here. 3 “And if anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ you say, ‘The Lord has need of it’; and immediately he will send it back here.” (Mark 11:1-3, New American Standard)

The request was granted: 4 “And they went away and found a colt tied at the door outside in the street; and they untied it. 5 And some of the bystanders were saying to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ 6 And they spoke to them just as Jesus had told them, and they gave them permission.” (Mark 11:4-6, NAS)

Stewardship Principles and Its Implication

I would like to suggest that the central point of the story is none other

than Jesus Himself. His Lordship, His unselfish spirit, and His mission are well described in the story.

Principle 1.

Jesus Christ as the Lord of Everything

The text: “And if anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ you say, ‘The Lord has need of it.’”

The expression, “The Lord has need of it,” is the seal/stamp of the command. It is an authoritative sign given by the real Owner. The “Lord” simply means “Master” or “Owner.” Who is the real owner of the colt? 10 “For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills. 11 “I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine. (Psa 50:10-11 NAS)

Jesus Himself is the owner of the colt.

Not only that, God also is the owner of our silver and gold includes money, “8 ‘The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ declares the LORD of hosts.” (Hag 2:8 NAS). The land and property belongs to Him, 5 The sea is His, for it was He who made it; And His hands formed the dry land. (Psa 95:5 NAS). The Psalmist concludes, “The earth is the LORD’s, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.” (Psa 24:1 NAS). Nothing belongs to us, including ourselves, are His.

Implications: When the real Owner (Master) of everything request/ asks something from us, we as His stewards obey and give. As His steward we have no right to withhold something

when there is a need in expanding God’s work. (1T.169)

Principle 2.

Jesus Expects The First and The Best

The Text: “you will find a colt tied there, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here.”

The kind of colt that Jesus requested this time is described as, “...no one yet has ever sat.” To me that is something. Jesus needed a young donkey which is strong, fresh, new and the best one. Also, He should be the first man to ride on it. It meant that God expects the First and The Best when it comes to offering. The quality of the offerings that we give to the Lord is described as “without blemish” 20 ‘Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it will not be accepted for you. (Lev 22:20 NAS)

Implications: 1. As we return the tithe there is no obligation to check whether or not the animals have a defect. As long as it is the tenth that pass under the rod it is already the Lord’s. But when it comes to offer something for the Lord, we have to find the best for Him, it has cost to the giver. 2. God also expects us to make Him the First in our giving, life and everything.

Principle 3. Jesus Christ as the Unselfish God

The Text: “... and immediately he will send it back here.” (Mar 11:3 NAS)

Even though Jesus is the real owner of that colt, He is not a selfish Lord. He would only use that colt for a specific purpose, then he would send it back there. God does not request anything from his stewards out of nothing. Started in the beginning the blessings of God precedes human stewardship (Gen.1:28).

Moreover, our unselfish God, continue to bless his stewards as they partner with Him in managing his affairs on earth. The promises are so clear, 10 “... I will... open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. (Mal 3:10 NAS); 9 Honor the LORD from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. (Pro 3:9-10 NAS)

Implication: Our Lord Jesus Christ is not a selfish God. Why should we worry to partner with Him? God has blessed us anyway, is blessing us, and continue to bless us.

Principle 4. Jesus Christ partners with for a mission

The Text: “7 And they brought the colt to Jesus and put their garments on it; and He sat upon it. (Mar 11:7 NAS)

Jesus Christ the real Owner of that colt, was going to ride on it for a specific purpose. Ellen G. White described the situation as follows: “Christ was following the Jewish custom for a royal entry. The animal on which He rode was that ridden by the kings of Israel, and prophecy had foretold that thus the Messiah should come to His kingdom. No sooner was He seated upon the colt than a loud shout of triumph rent the air. The multitude hailed Him as Messiah, their King.” {DA 570.1}

“The events connected with this triumphal ride would be the talk of every tongue, and would bring Jesus before every mind. After His crucifixion, many would recall these events in their connection with His trial and

death. They would be led to search the prophecies, and would be convinced that Jesus was the Messiah; and in all lands converts to the faith would be multiplied.” {DA 571.3}

Implication: Jesus Christ is calling us to partner with Him to accomplish His mission. He invites us to use all resources entrusted to us to be used to proclaim Him as the Lord and Savior.

Concluding Thoughts

It is such a privilege to be God’s stewards. We partner with Jesus who is the Lord, the owner of everything including ourselves. We partner with Jesus who is helping us to develop a spirit of generosity as the character of God. We partner with Jesus as our Savior in order to accomplish the Heaven’s mission to save the lost.

Finally, “and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” (Mar 12:30 NAS) When The Lord has need of something, let us give, and don’t withhold it. Let us give all to Him because He has given all for us.

Pastor Happy Sibilang serves as the Stewardship and Trust Services director for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists.



I Love Borneo

This poem was written by the wife of Pastor C.G. Oliver, then president of the North Borneo Mission, as they prepared to leave Malaysia for a study furlough. The Oliver family served in Malaysia during the late 1950's and early 1960's prior to their study furlough as well as in Indonesia afterward.



I love the hills of Borneo,
So restful to our sight.
I love the trees and cooling breeze
That often comes at night.
I love Mt. Kinabalu
Stretched upward to the sky.
Its brow seems raised in daily praise
And prayer to God on high.

I love the trails of Borneo,
Tho slippery and steep.
The way may be weary but never dreary
For brothers and sisters we meet.
I love the streams and rivers,
For often on their banks
Our courage has risen, with precious baptisms,
To God be praise and thanks!

I love our friends in Borneo,
With heart that is sincere.
Through every day, they've smoothed the way,
And filled our lives with cheer.
Each teacher and each worker
Is earnest, good and kind.
In work or play – where e're we stay.
They loyal are, we find.

I love our home in Borneo,
So dear it has become
A place of peace and sweet release,
From care when trips are done.
I love the open windows
That give a view so wide.
The songs of birds, so near are heard –
They seem to be inside.

I now that God loves Borneo
For He is very near.
His loving hand is in this land –
He dries the falling tear.
From heathen minds He casts out fear,
Forgives their every wrong.
He is their light, and hope grows bright
When they to Him belong.

We must say Goodbye to Borneo,
To mountain, home and friend.
Our tears will start, as we must part –
But we hope to come again.
We will pray for Borneo,
And ever like to tell
Of things we've seen, of souls released,
In this land we've loved so well.

-Verneita Oliver

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