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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

# OUTLOOK

VOLUME 93 | NUMBER 01



**Youth Sign up for  
Free-from-Drug  
Lifestyle**

## God's Dynamic Grace

**T**he year 2007 is a new beginning in my gospel ministry. It's my 31st year since I joined the workforce of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a fresh graduate of Mountain View College (MVC), a Seventh-day Adventist college in Southern Philippines. I did have a few years' work experience at other institutions prior to this one—as assistant officer of a congressional office, news editor and columnist of a provincial daily, radio broadcaster, and college instructor—but nothing equals the joy of working with Him.

My entry into the ministry was quite unique. At first I thought I would stay in politics for life. As a youth leader in school, my personality was sought after by politicians in the 60s and early 70s. Many of my colleagues who stood pat on it had become government officials—powerful, influential and wealthy. The turn of events in Philippine politics at that time, however, drew me away from its lure. The declaration of martial law in 1972 sealed my decision to leave politics. It could have been harder without it. But I saw God's grace working within me through these events.

My early graduation at age 18 from a politically laced degree ushered me to early marriage at 20. No, this never was a negative chapter in my life. Instead, personal responsibility got more intense—to my self, to my new family, to my world of work, and to my religion. I began longing for a simpler, intrigue-free life—a life that purports nothing but social services imbedded into the fabric of Christian witness. Nothing of calculated goodness—a tag labeled at every politician that is still evident today.

But how did I metamorphose onto a new stage of life? In retrospect, my Christian parents had the strongest force into my being; in fact, into eight siblings in the family who were taught to live individually responsible for their future life—in the nurture of a godly example. Of the eight, four were in church leadership as pastors, educators, institution presidents; the others, entrepreneurs in their own right. If our dad were alive today, he would have enjoyed with mom relishing a joyful thought of a big family staying formidably against worldly influences. Yes, someday, he will have that godly pride told to the redeemed how he 'set his home in order' during 68 years of earthly sojourn.

A job opening for my expertise at Matutum View Academy was available. However, my qualification to teach at this Adventist high school was short of denominational requirements. I did not have religion courses taken from accredited Adventist colleges.

But to go back to college and attend MVC was next to impossible. Leaving home—my young wife caring for my then two little kids—whose subsistence depended on the aid of parents was far-fetched. My dad, however, saw my potential for church leadership. His encouragement and financial support finally paved the way for my coming to MVC.

The going was rough—to me and to my young family. The pull to go home, abandoning the lingering desire to be a church worker, was very strong. But the Lord's hand, coupled by the encouragement of loved ones, enabled me to persist through two years of rigorous work and study.

This year, I am beginning my first year after 30 years of God's leading. His dynamic grace has sustained me through thick and thin—and I'm praying that henceforth my lifetime will never get derailed from it even for a moment.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"



DR. JONATHAN C. CATOLICO

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# Myanmar College and Central Myanmar Field Change Guards

KENNETH SUANZANANG

YANGON, MYANMAR - Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary, the only Adventist College in Myanmar, replaced all its administrative personnel, January 31, only over a year after the College Board voted in place leaders to this college.

The Seminary Board made this action after evaluating certain incidents that necessitated drastic action without compromising principles.

Dr Kem Thang, college president, was replaced by Alvin Po Hla, who finished his master's from Spicer Memorial College in India. He was the principal of Central Myanmar Adventist Seminary, a K-12 boarding school.

Dr Thang, who finished his doctor's degree from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in 2005, was voted to serve as Executive Secretary of the Central Myanmar Mission of the church.

Others elected with Alvin Po Hla were: Paul Tanbaunaw—VP for Academic Affairs; Hla Aung Oliver—VP for Student Affairs; Thang Lamh Mung—VP for Finance; Kalumu Paul—Dean of Men; Lu Lun Tun—Dean of Girls; Dr. Conally Hla—Church Pastor; and Khin Mg Kyi—Head, Business Department.

At the same session, the executive committee of the church in Myanmar also made the following actions:

Bo Than, former executive secretary, was elected president of the Central Myanmar Mission, replacing Do Za Thang, who is under medical treatment; Kem Thang, former MUAS president, executive secretary; and Kalusay Paul, treasurer.

Also elected to serve as principal of Central Myanmar Adventist Seminar was Van Ceu Mang, former dean of student affairs at MUAS.



Pastor Simon Siew, Communication and Youth director of Southeast Asia Union Mission in Singapore showing and sharing his presentation skills to Myanmar Union Mission staff.

## Computer Skills Training Held for Adventist Staff

TWENTY OFFICE STAFF including officers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters in Yangon, Myanmar, attended a workshop on PowerPoint presentation. This was conducted by Simon Siew, communication and youth director for the Adventist Church in Southeast Asia, with its headquarters in Singapore.

Upon invitation of Shine Tha, director of the youth department for Myanmar, Pastor Siew helped equip church employees with computer skills, including PowerPoint presentations. On Sabbath, February 3, Pastor Siew went with Pastor Memory Tun, executive secretary for the church, to a baptismal program conducted at Chaungtha Beach in the western coast of Myanmar.

Siew also raised funds to help his youth department's counterparts obtain laptop computers from Bangladesh as well as those in Myanmar—a gesture appreciated very much by the pastors and the leadership of both fields. He also handed CDs to enhance the ministries' day to day activities.

“What a help we received from Pastor Siew's presentations,” participants said. After the seminar Pastor Siew visited historical places in Myanmar.



# Seven Adventists Among Lost in Air Mishap

Silang, Cavite, Philippines – Even as a Boeing 737-400 plane has yet to be found since January 1 when it lost contact with the airport towers, seven Seventh-day Adventist Church members were confirmed passengers on that plane. The Adam Air KI 574 was on its way from Jakarta to Surabaya and on to Manado in east Indonesia with 102 passengers on

board including six crew members.

The Adventist passengers included a newly married couple with the wife's family members, who were going to Manado to hold another wedding celebration after the couple's December 28 wedding in Surabaya.

The couple and the family were Rendy Handoko and wife Elny Watania; Watania's father and mother—Yoppy Watania and Merry Kourow; Annie Raranta, office secretary of East Indonesia Union Mission, and her husband Nico; and a member of Sangil Talaud Adventist Church, Mr. Pasaribu, a mariner. Elny's two sisters--Melba and Cindy, who were not church members, were among the fatalities.

Search and rescue operations were done on the mountains between Surabaya and Manado but later report suggested that the plane crashed on an open sea,

making the search very difficult. This was confirmed by a BBC report indicating that a "piece of the Adam Air Boeing 737's tailfin was discovered in the Makassar Strait."

"This piece of evidence was reportedly discovered by a fisherman just off the west coast of Sulawesi island," search officials said.

The report further quoted Roslala Dewi, mother of a stewardess on the flight as saying, "I cried when I heard, but now I'm relieved," [and] "At the very least we now have a sign [of where the plane landed]," she told the Associated Press.

"Let's pray for the families of the deceased that the Lord will comfort them during this period of anguish and pain," said Moldy Mambu, associate treasurer of the Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region, who hails from East Indonesia. [AND]

## Church Conducts Revelation Seminar and Medical Outreach

ARMAND D. ARDANAS/AND

Butuan City, Philippines - The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northeastern Mindanao (NEMM) ended the year 2006 and ushered in the new year with a Revelation Seminar held in the municipality of Bayugan I, Agusan del Sur, December 29, 2006-January 13. Pastor Carl L. Joy, an evangelist from Searsmont Adventist Church in Maine, USA, together with Mark Witham and Gerry Maldovan, presented the gospel to about thousand people attending the nightly meetings at the Bayugan I Gymnasium.

A medical outreach was also conducted for two consecutive Sundays by the program organizers as part of the said event. Composed of medical doctors, dentists and nurses, the team was led by Dr. Gay B. Ardanas and Pastor Nimrod Saramosing. At least 600 people from Bayugan and its neighboring towns received free medicines provided by the Searsmont Church members.

Pastor Joy and his team, visiting Bayugan Church, said they were greatly impressed by the spirit of church members who raised local funds to construct a new church building to accommodate more church goers. This impression led to the three gentlemen's pledge to help them complete their project.

"It is indeed a very successful event. We thank God for the 112 seminar participants who decided to give their hearts to Jesus through baptism," said Pastor Solomon Mongaya, president of NEMM. "We are also grateful to Pastor



Joy, Mark Witham, and Gerry Maldovan who took time from their work in the United States to come here in our mission field, and we look forward to others who will follow their steps," concluded Mongaya.

## Early Discovery Foils Bomb Explosion near Church

EARLY ON SATURDAY morning, January 13, as church members were arriving for Sabbath services, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Poso, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, one member saw a suspicious-looking plastic bag lying under some bushes close to the church's main entrance. It was discovered to contain a bomb. Members who were already in the church at the time alerted the authorities, who sent bomb specialists who quickly deactivated the said plastic bag.

Police said the bomb was an active type that could be detonated by a cellular phone.

The Poso Church has a membership of 100, a number that shrunk from the original 200 because of the feud between Moslems and Christians six years earlier. There were leads pointing to some protagonists in this war. Prior to the discovery of this bomb, the old Poso Adventist church, among four other churches in the area, was burned down allegedly by Moslem terrorists.

"Members of that church are again on red alert. It is not safe and easy now worshipping God in any place," said Pastor Erents Sahensolar, president of the Adventist church in Central Sulawesi. "The brethren are traumatized every time they step at the church yard or in any nearby places for a gathering," Sahensolar added.

"This bomb incident renews fears that haunt our church members," said Moldy Mambu, who was treasurer of the church in East Indonesia before becoming an associate treasurer for the church headquarters in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD).

He told *Adventist News Dispatch* that a bomb had already exploded very near the Poso church some five years ago. The bomb exploded at twelve midnight, right at the very height of the New Year's celebration to target Adventist members. Little did the alleged terrorists know that Adventist believers observe sunset to mark the beginning of a New Year. Not one Adventist was hurt in this bombing.

Church roll in East Indonesia lists close to 7,000 Adventist church members worshipping in 41



## Church Ordains Two Pastors

MILTON DAS

Dhaka, Bangladesh - Two pastors were ordained into the ministry March 3 at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The two were Dulal Mitra and Noesh Marandi. Dulal pastors the biggest organized church in Bangladesh, while Noesh pastors several churches.

Church leaders, pastors, church members and their families attended this solemn event. Pastor Isaac P Bairagee, Adventist Mission and Education director for the Bangladesh Church, challenged and inspired the newly ordained ministers. He also asked the church members to give their support and show love to their pastors, because he said these "amount to great success" in their ministry. Pastor Edward P Chambugong, executive secretary and interim president of the Adventist church in Bangladesh, proclaimed the charge and inspired the newly ordained pastors. His message focused on Ezekiel 3:17: "I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me."

For the wives of the two ordained ministers, Pastor Sopin Bonowaree, president of the East Bangladesh Field, took cognizance of the inspiration wives can do for their husbands' ministry as God's chosen servants.

Several church members, some witnessing for the first time, attended this ceremony. The ordination was also a time believed to have renewed many hearts for Christ as it made impact on the church's role in its edification.



## Adventist Leaders Meet Moslem Leaders from Al-Idrisiyyah

PASTOR L SITUMORANG, Adventist Mission director of the Adventist church in Jakarta, and Pastor S. Simorangkir, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director, met with Moslem leaders from Al-Idrisiyyah (a group of Moslems believed to have originated in Africa), on January 10, at an office located inside a mosque. This meeting was initiated by Joko Sinuardjo and other church members of Thamrin Adventist church after they sent gifts and invitation from the Adventist headquarters in Jakarta and Thamrin churches.

Syekh Al-Akbar Muhammad Daud Dahlan, Ustad Nanung Faturahman and Ustad Luqmana composed a group recognized by the government of Indonesia for its effort in humanitarian aid.

The Adventist leaders introduced their beliefs and took time to listen to these Moslem leaders—their brothers—as they shared their beliefs as well. Both parties made a commitment to work together in the future on social welfare and other activities. [AND]

## Women—husbands’ partners in the ministry, Say Leaders

Kupang, East Nusatenggara, Indonesia—Wives of Adventist pastors and church workers should tell the love of God to people around them, exhorted Johnny Lubis, president of the Adventist church in West Indonesia (WIUM). Lubis keynoted the meeting of the Shepherdess International and Women’s Ministries held at the Sasando Hotel, Kupang, East Nusatenggara, Dec 24, 2006.

At the seminar, Lubis showed the ministers’ wives how to prepare and deliver sermons especially for evangelistic meetings. Pastor E Panjaitan, WIUM ministerial secretary, emphasized the potential of women in helping their spouses in the ministry, while Mrs. N Sihotang, former WIUM Women’s Ministries director, talked on the role of women in homes and in churches.

Poppy Lubis, Women’s Ministries director, presented the topic on “Women’s Role in Tell[ing] the World” God’s love.

A banquet for pastors and their wives culminated the seminar at the Pantai Timor Hotel. It was here that pastors and their spouses pledged allegiance to each other in the ministry by sealing it with flowers and kisses.

Pastor and Mrs. Johnny Lubis’ duet on “Madekded Ma Gambiri” (a Batak romantic love song) brought the night and the seminar which were generously supported by donors to a close. [AND]

## ‘Thirty Years’ Walk with God

STEPHANIE LORIEZO

Taculing, Bacolod, Philippines— The Taculing Ilonggo Seventh-day Adventist church in Bacolod City celebrated its pearl anniversary, December 8-9, 2006, with a number of activities for its guests and church members alike. A children’s choir concert opened the night of this 30th year celebration. Pastor Hector V. Gayares, retired president of Central Philippine Union Conference, challenged the church members during the Hour of Worship to hold on to their theme, “Constant Journey with God’s Presence.”

The afternoon program consisted of musical presentations from different singing groups and guest singers. On December 10, a Thanksgiving breakfast warmed the participants despite the strong downpour. Cold and shivering, church members went ahead with the celebration believing that the rain signified God’s blessings. “The church building renovation and expansion will soon be realized for the growing number of members. This will be done through the support of people with generous hearts who want to see the Lord’s ministry fulfilled on earth,” said church leaders.

## Adventist College Takes Literature Evangelism Seriously

DR. ALFREDO T AMADA, president of Central Philippine Adventist College (CPAC), told students during the annual gathering of Student Association of Literature Adventists (SALE) that “Student literature evangelism has never been as strong as today.” Amada was referring to the rapid growth of membership of the student organization on literature ministry at CPAC, which is located in Murcia, Negros Occidental.

This association now boasts eight groups from its original number of three, three years ago when they delivered nearly one-million-peso worth of truth-filled literature to homes during summer vacations.

The eight groups comprising more than 100 students, will participate this year in the summer program in several cities of central Philippines.

Interestingly, CPAC has been true to the ideals of the publishing ministry by integrating subjects on its curriculum like Philosophy of Literature Ministry and Christian Salesmanship. These are requirements for graduation for a degree in theology. “It is perhaps better to require these courses for those seeking business and education degrees,” commented Amada. He believes that this program is not only a departmental concern but a work of the church to train students for effective service.

During the past years, Amada and his faculty members, who are club sponsors, visited all groups in the field to encourage them in their work. “This was the first time for the school going a second mile,” said observers.

“Certainly this is a fulfillment of the inspired writings,” said Pastor Vivencio R Bermudez, publishing ministry director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region. “When school closes, there will be opportunity for many to go out into the field as evangelistic



Dr. Alfredo T Amada (*right*), college president, stresses a point as two student literature evangelist leaders look on.

canvassers. The faithful student literature evangelist finds his way into many homes, where he leaves precious reading matter containing the truth for this time (Colporteur Ministry, p. 31),” quoted Bermudez. “Surely, our energetic students are receiving much more than scholarship bonus for their faithful labors—they are receiving inspiration for their success, as well, as they help in pushing the great work of “Tell(ing) the World (about Jesus Second Coming) Through Literature.”

### MVC Alumnus Receives Yandang Friendship Award

MELJOIE PEPITO, a theology '97 graduate of Mountain View College, was a recipient of one of China's most respected awards—the Yandang Friendship Award. This award is given to foreigners legally working in China, who have contributed to a project for the development of China's education; science and technology; and economy, among others.

To qualify, awardees must be recommended by their employers, local city education officials, and with the approval of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The nominee must have good moral standing and legally works in China for at least six-months.

Meljoie or Joie, as called by friends, was cited for his projects in teaching English to bus conductors. This free English conversation program he initiated helps bus conductors to learn the language so as to attract more tourists to come to Lanzhou City. He also trained non-English speaking teachers so, in turn, these teachers can provide free English conversation trainings and classes to fellow non-English-speaking teachers; and, setting up English Corners in Bookstores, where everybody has to speak and teach English to each other informally. [Rhoen Catolico]



# SUPER GOD

**A**N ADVERTISING COMPANY in Makati City, Philippines, declared one Monday as day-off to prod its employees to watch *Superman Returns* on its premier showing in selected theaters. They had to see the graphic ‘miracles’ fast-advancing digital technology has introduced to film-making, and let their creativity break visual barriers. Similarly, the ordinary Filipino TV viewer gets glued for hours to the boob tube due to a spate in recent years of Marvel-type telenovelas that featured old-time Filipino superheroes like *Captain Barbell*, *Ang Panday*, and *Super Inngo*.

Whatever impact this trend has brought to advertising and mass entertainment certainly made a dent on the prayer mindset of some believers. Who, understandably, would not wish that God were more visibly available in times of distress, flew faster than a speeding bullet to respond to an emergency, flexed His muscles more powerfully like the Incredible Hulk, and lived an Enteng-like daily involvement with humans? Not part of the wish is that God remained wiser than any man, who allows pain and trouble to go on to shape the sufferer’s character into something like Christ’s. (Superheroes don’t bother about character development of distressed victims, do they?)

Do we really know God? How well do we know His immense ability to meet our needs and answer our prayers? Does God come to us as a Father whose love is unfailing and His compassion unlimited?

In his letter to the Christians in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul ended the first section (chs. 1-3) with four petitions to God on their behalf. The requests are contained in verses 16-19. But enclosing them are references to God. In verses 14-16a, He is the “Father from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.” In verses 20 and 21, God is the one “who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (NIV). Combine the two references and we have a picture of a truly loving Father who will never disappoint us because He has the boundless power to help us anytime, anywhere, in any difficulty.

The above-mentioned last reference forcefully describes God’s superability. First, He is able to do. Second, He is able to do what we ask. Third, He is able to do what we ask or imagine. Fourth, He is able to do all we ask or imagine. Fifth, He is able to do more than all we ask or imagine. Last, He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

The adverb Paul coined to express this immeasurable capacity is *hyperekperrisou*. It is a “super-superlative,” according to New Testament scholar F.F. Bruce. Other Bible versions translated it “far more abundantly” (RSV) and “infinitely more” (JBP). It simply states that God is a superloving God with superabundant resources and superpowers. God is a superGod!

In a simple way God confirmed this truth to me while conducting a memorial service one evening in Valenzuela City. I needed extra wisdom and extra-personal touch to comfort the bereaved family, because I did not know the deceased and he was not known to be a professed believer. To create a warm atmosphere of love and familiarity, I asked the spouse, children, grandchildren, and friends to say something about their loved one. The wonderful testimonies and reminiscences broke the ice, giving me greater confidence to deliver the Lord’s message of hope.

I stood up and started off with a story:

**SuperGod**, to page 14

# Women Complete Level 1 Leadership Certification

SOHILA SHINE/MAN

Yangon, Myanmar— Sixty women completed the first level of the women’s leadership training skills’ certification done at the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Myanmar March 3. This certification training was first of the three curricular offerings conducted by the Women’s Ministries (WM) and the Shepherdess International (SI) Offices of the Church in the Southern Asia-Pacific region.

Helen Gulfan, WM and SI director for the regional headquarters emphasized the “great need for the women of our church to develop skills that will enable them to organize and mobilize church women who comprise 70 per cent of the total membership of the world church.”

Mrs. Gulfan, assisted by Sohila Shine, director for Myanmar; Gavins John, director of Adventist Mission and Phil-

anthropic Services; Aung Zin and Khin Khin Htwe, women directors of Ayeyarwady and Upper Myanmar fields, respectively; Em Htoo of ADRA Myanmar; and Esther Po, former AWR worker, took turns giving lectures and, as one member said, “kept the interest of the delegates at high level.”

Paraphrasing Ellen White’s statement in *Evangelism*, page 465, Mrs. Gulfan said, “There is a higher purpose for a woman, a grander destiny. She should develop and cultivate her powers, for God can employ her in the great work of saving souls from eternal ruin.”

Culminating the three-day training was a commitment service led out by Kenneth Suanzanang, director for Communication of the Myanmar Adventist Church, who exhorted the women to be cognizant of their role in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Mrs. Gulfan offered the commitment prayer.

In the evening church members were feted to a choir competition participated in by the delegates. The choir representing the Central Myanmar region got first prize.







**S**EVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST YOUTH in Bangladesh came alive when they were led into a five-day training seminar at the Youth Alive Conference held at the Adventist Hill Tracts School and Seminary (AHTSS), January 30-February 3.

Discussions and workshops centered on materials prepared by Mrs Ellen Mayr, formerly associate director of health for the Adventist Church in Bangladesh.

The choice of AHTSS as venue for the conference was influenced by its location, which made it ideal for such a training program on camping style. AHTSS, as a boarding school of East Bangladesh Field (EBF), has 110 students and 10 teachers, all of whom participated in the training.

Referring to the program and initiators, Bappy Samaddar, language teacher at AHTSS, said, "Where have you been hiding before with such a great positive program? This generation will be a blessing for others." "I found that life is beautiful here in Youth Alive!" Commented one participant. "I wish this Youth Alive Program would never end," rejoined a student.

Milton Das, youth and communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bangladesh (BAUM); and Robert Nelson Sircar, technician at BAUM and a committed musician, were the main presenters. Organized by Bibek Halder, youth department director of EBF and AHTSS Church, the conference was considered a success for the youth.

Lectures and presentations included alcoholism, understanding opposite sex, positive thinking, and goal setting. The afternoon workshop sessions dealt on peer

pressure reversal techniques, addictive personality, how to be a victorious person, and achieving goals.

Active participation of everybody was evident at friendship groups and cooperative games. On Friday night, after vespers, each friendship group spent some time for Bible reading, singing, praying, and giving testimonies of how the Lord sustained them during trying moments.

On Saturday afternoon, the students were challenged to share their joys at Sham Datta Para, a nearby village, where they presented five anti-drug skits. This was a practical experience for them to start rendering service to others. The following night, they performed skits for the whole school family at the worship hall.

At the closing ceremony on Saturday night, certificates were given to the successful trainees as they were challenged to act and say 'No to drugs' and 'my choice – drug-free.'

Believing its goals to have been achieved, the Conference saw participants signing pledges of commitment to fight drug abuse, thus creating great impact in their lives.

PASTOR MILTON DAS

*is the youth ministries and communication director of Bangladesh Union Mission*



# Becoming a Servant

When young Saul appeared in the Christian landscape, everyone held his breath in awe. Here was a young man destined to become a leader for God. Intelligent (above average in today's IQ rating) and armed with an education obtained from the best school at his time, with the famous Gamaliel as his teacher, Saul was an incredible religionist.

However, he fervently believed that anything opposed or different to what he believed was the enemy. To Saul, 'different' meant apostasy or heresy; and those people who were 'different' needed to be eradicated from the face of the earth. "But Saul ravaged the church, entering into every house. And dragging men and women, he delivered them up to prison" (Acts 8:3,KJV).

This was Saul's mission—to annihilate. And while he was trying to fulfill that mission, the great and fearless Saul

had an encounter with God. He was suddenly paralyzed, blinded and weakened. Saul's excessive ego might have been subdued but his talents and abilities were redirected by God. He obtained possession of a new spirit—the spirit of accountability for his newly found community of faith. This accountability manifested itself in a 'Spirit of Stewardship.' What happened afterward was a total change. And when he acquired the spirit of accountability, Saul became Paul. The new Paul assumed the longing to build, to save, to forgive, to protect, to shelter and to love his community of faith.

Paul's happiness was reflected in 1 Corinthians 9:19: "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more." Paul made himself servant unto all; by choice, not by force. He assumed servanthood devoid of praises. He became a model of spiritual leadership.

And anyone willing and happy to being a servant, became a model of spiritual leadership!

It is not easy to be entrusted with responsibility as a leader. As Paul said, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). Based on his own experience, Paul realized the importance between stewardship and faithfulness; between service and credibility; between steward-

**Becoming a Servant**, to page 13

PASTOR MOLDY R MAMBU  
*is an associate treasurer of Southern Asia-Pacific Division*



## Becoming a Servant, from page 12

ship and loyalty; and between service and character.

Hence, a leader assumes being a faithful steward, loyal, responsible and trustworthy. Without these qualities, no matter how energetic, smart, able to read events or analyze situations correctly, he is just servicing himself, no more, no less.

A person can practice to appear sad, smiling, or friendly. However, he cannot practice 'stewardship.' It is a quality that flows naturally; borne out of sincere willingness. It is an attribute of one who does things happily. For a leader, stewardship is a way of life.

A leader is willing to subordinate his life to other people. Let us take the example of Joshua—a hero, a freedom fighter. He inherited leadership when he took over Moses' place. Rarely did we realize that being a commendable general, Joshua was recorded in the Bible as Moses' servant (Joshua 1:1 NIV).

Learning to become a leader is possible only when we learn to serve. Learning to serve, on the other hand, is possible only through serving. It has to pass through a long process of character building, interning through servicing and successfully serving as servant.

## New series to premier on Hope Channel

“WE ARE VERY happy to share with you news on a very exciting series premiering exclusively this April on Hope Channel,” writes Kandus Thorp, VP for production of Hope Channel, as she spent her week at the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southern Asia-Pacific region.

An excerpt of her letter says: The Seventh Day – Revelations from Lost Pages of History is a five part documentary series on the history of the seventh-day Sabbath. The Seventh Day has very high production values. It is undoubtedly the very best TV presentation available to us of a key fundamental doctrine. Filmed on location from sites around the world, The Seventh Day takes viewers to locations where the Sabbath was kept down through the ages. In the words of Jim Wood, writer of the TV series, “While Adventist viewers appreciate the historical presentation that confirms their beliefs about the true Sabbath; the producers have always had the general television audience in mind. The Seventh Day is designed to awaken interest in the Sabbath, to raise questions in the minds of people who have always taken for granted that Sunday is the biblical Sabbath. The Seventh Day: Revelations from the Lost Pages of History anticipates the day when the Sabbath will become a matter of public debate and people will seek the testimony of both scripture and history as they search for truth.”

The series premieres on April 6 and will be carried on HC, HCI, HCE, E-TV, and most likely also on Spanish Hope Channel in South America. It was also planned to broadcast in English, Spanish and Arabic versions. Future language editions including French, German, Portuguese, Romanian are in the process of production. Pending funding, the producers plan for translations into Chinese, Korean and Indian languages. “This will certainly be featured over and over again because of its relevancy and beautiful historical evidence for the seventh-day Sabbath,” Kandus concluded.

## SuperGod, from page 9

A pastor went out with a friend to dine in a restaurant. After dinner, he saw an open piano standing on a corner with its seat empty. With the headwaiter's permission, he began playing the song, "If You Don't Know Me by Now." A lady sitting alone behind a table started singing to the tune with gusto. Her bell-like voice and perfect rendition brought all din to a hush until everyone fell silent enrapt with the music. When finished, she was greeted by the delighted audience with a standing ovation. "One more song, please!" they shouted. Obliging she walked close to the pianist (she did not know that he was a pastor) and suggested, "How about a religious song?" "No problem. Which song?" the pastor asked. A few moments of silence ensued, so the pastor volunteered, "Let's try 'His Eye Is on the Sparrow.'" The woman's facial expression changed slightly. Wryly, she replied, "Er, y-yes, that's a great song."

The second song was even more powerful. Everyone felt the dining place suddenly being transformed into a sanctuary. The applause that followed was deafening. As the noise died down, the pastor softly inquired of the lady, "Did I say anything wrong? I'm sorry if I did. I noticed your face become sullen when I mentioned the title of the song." "No, no," she explained uneasily, "the song just happened to be the favorite gospel song of my thirteen-year-old daughter who had died of brain cancer only a week ago."

"Was it merely a coincidence, or an event designed by God to soothe the broken heart of a mother?" I asked my mourning audience. The consoling effect of the reality of God's presence and love was marked on their faces. Then I asked them all to stand for a responsive scripture reading. I lent them new Tagalog Bibles which I brought along. Holding one of the new Bibles, I invited them to open their copies to the Shepherd's Psalm. I flipped mine open. Amazingly, with one effortless stroke, the still untouched 1,800 fresh pages yet sticking to each other, opened exactly where Psalm 23 was printed! The Lord, really, is my Shepherd!

It was one of the most memorable necrological services I ever officiated. God deeply touched my heart and those of the bereaved family. His presence was there, no doubt, and His love amazing—all because our God is not just a God. He is SuperGod.

# Church Holds First Global Mission Training

GAVIN JOHN

A LANDMARK IN the history of the Global Mission work in Myanmar was realized January 17 at Pyin Oo Lwin, the capital city of Upper Myanmar.

Thirty-five trainees representing four mission fields and attached district of the Adventist Church in Myanmar braved the extremely cold weather and separation from families for almost a month to attend this first global mission training program.

Upper Myanmar Mission officers attended the opening ceremony, and during the opening remarks, the mission president hinted that this event was historical for the church in Myanmar.

Lecturers consisted of Pastor Richard McEdward from the headquarters of the Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region; department directors of the Myanmar Adventist Church; Upper Myanmar president and departmental directors; and a professor from the Seminary in Myaung Mya field. Lectures delved on methods of giving Bible study, sermon preparation, Christian lifestyle, the Church's 28 fundamental beliefs, church history, Adventist healthy lifestyle, and several others.

The trainees expressed their appreciation for the lectures provided and requested similar trainings in the future for a longer period with more detailed coverage. It was observed that topics discussed during the training were new to many and therefore a great experience for them. Several participants expressed their interest to learn about prophecies on the end-time events like those of Daniel and Revelation.

At the closing ceremonies, the field president emphasized commitment and awareness of the situation of everyone in his designated territory. The trainees committed their life to the service of the Lord and expressed their commitment evidenced by their readiness to saturate their assigned places with the gospel.





## Happy Family Evangelistic Series Go to Malaysia

TERRANCE SIM

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Evangelism to the cities just couldn't be put to a halt, as three evangelistic meetings were held successively in three cities of Malaysia—Kuala Lumpur, Sarawak, and Sabah, March 11 through 31.

Pastor Alberto Gulfan, Jr., president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region, spoke in all three meetings.

In Kuala Lumpur, March 11-17, the nightly meetings were held in the ballroom of Armada Hotel, located at the center of Klang Valley, which can be accessed easily from the Federal Highway.

The series of topics presented were derived from the Happy Family Series with topics such as: Four Secrets of a Happy Family; Ten Things Every Women Should Know; Managing Stress and Enjoy Inner Peace; Inseparable Sweet Hearts; Honey, Where is the Money?; and Ten Things Every Man Should Know. The theme for the series was “Happy Family Forever—Myth or Reality?”

Integrating his personal experiences with the topics at hand, Gulfan presented the topics, which observers believed benefited about 200 people nightly. He also incorporated health messages with spiritual emphasis.

The first three nights of the meetings were preceded by health screening. Dr. Veronica Lughah from Petaling Jaya English Church led her team doing blood tests and health counseling for the public. Advertised in a local newspaper the three nights that emphasized the health program, 120 people came for the said program and stayed on for the evangelistic presentations.

More than 400 church members and visitors filled the hall on Saturday, to attend the last day of the meetings in Kuala Lumpur. Three young people testified during the Sabbath School service, March 17, about how Christ changed their lives.

Pastor Gulfan preached about “How to Stay in Love Forever” as his last presentation. All the attendees were invited for lunch at the hotel that was followed by a baptismal service at Petaling Jaya Chinese Church, where seven joined the church through baptism.

“We specially thank Pastor Gulfan for taking his precious time off for conducting evangelistic efforts in our country. We also recognize the pastors and lay leaders in Klang Valley who participated in this great effort of winning people for Christ,” said church leaders in the Peninsular Malaysia field.

## 'We're here for a purpose,' say Women at Certification Meetings

ADVENTIST NEWS DISPATCH

Jakarta, West Indonesia— Oftentimes, women feel weak and unworthy--thinking they are mere housewives. These thoughts are compounded by some men considering them as just mere 'women.' “We want to destroy this notion,” said Johnny Lubis, president of the Adventist Church in West Indonesia.

“They are very special in God's plan. God has created them as helpmate for their husbands--taken out of Adam's ribs so as to be loved and be part of man's success in bringing back the lost image of God in man to Christ,” Pastor Lubis told the 250 delegates attending the Level III Women's Ministries Leadership Certification, February 15-18.

During the training, Heather Dawn Small, world director of Women's Ministries (WM), helped Adventist women in West Indonesia equip themselves with the skills to teach other women about God's love and offer of salvation. Helen Gulfan, WM director for the Southern Asia-Pacific region, also made known to the participants her hopes that they would achieve a higher level of satisfaction in their daily life and ministry. Rejoining their expectations was Poppy Lubis as she saw the women's role as propagator of God's love not only in their own homes but in the world around them.

At the training seminar, the women were introduced to topics dear to them-- Women's Role in Evangelism, Preparing and Delivering Good Sermons, Secret of Women's Health, and How to Get Along with Others.

“We believe all of us are leaving these meetings fully inspired to become partners with men in the ministry of saving souls for God's kingdom,” concluded the delegates.



## SSD on the Road to Producing Hope Channel Broadcasts

A PREPLANNING SESSION, January 28-29, was held at the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD) for the projected production of Hope Channel (HC) programs in this 18-country territory of the region.

Kandus Thorp, VP for production of the Hope Channel which is based at the world office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maryland, U.S.A., together with Andrew Hunt, producer for the Adventist Media Center in Australia, met with Jonathan C Catolico, coordinator for HC Southern Asia-Pacific, and several others during this meeting. Earlier, the guests met with Myron Iseminger, associate treasurer for SSD; and Gary Rustad, associate secretary, representing the officers of SSD, who briefed them of this planned production project.

On Friday morning, January 26, the duo met with Pastor Abner Roque, president of the church for Northern Philippines (NPUM); Lhalaine Alfano, communication director of NPUM; and a few others to drum up support for the said project.

After the two-day meeting here at the region's headquarters, Thorp and Hunt flew to the television station at the headquarters of the church in the southern Philippines, to meet with church leaders there.

Highlights of the meeting at the SSD headquarters included determining of this year's taping location, categories of programs to be produced, budgeting, and production personnel, and several others.

"We are very excited at the prospect of starting Hope Channel programs here at SSD," said Jonathan C Catolico, also communication director for the region. "It will not be very easy but we are determined to start our journey to get there."

## NSM and BAMC Join Sibulan Medical Mission

JIMMY S. GUMA/AND

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT of Oriental Negros and the local government of Sibulan find ready assistance from the Adventist Medical Society (AMS) for their medical missions. And during the 97th founding anniversary of Sibulan town, the local government unit through Mayor Antonio Renacia, tapped AMS for its medical outreach.

Bacolod Adventist Medical Center (BAMC) augmented the resources of AMS by dispatching eight doctors and two nurses, who cooperated with the medical personnel provided by the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital, Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) and the Philippine Army from Bacolod.

"This medical mission was possible because of the cooperation between government and church entities," said Berdandino Maniego, health director for the local field in Oriental Negros and Siquijor, who coordinated the said activity.

Done on January 31 at the Sibulan Auditorium, the medical outreach was reinforced by other activities to include display by Negros-Siquijor Mission (NSM) of CELEBRATIONS panels, and health age appraisal, participated in by a number of residents in the community.

A local journalist was heard commending the project but challenging the church to give more prominence to what it teaches on "spiritual matters." She added that "happiness springs from giving as" giving results to peace and inner joy."

Governor George P. Arnaiz of Negros Oriental commended the mayor for spearheading the medical outreach. He also gave credit to the Seventh-day Adventist Church through its head office and BAMC for their willingness to support the mission of the government.

Asked why the Adventists were given prominence to this project, Mayor Antonio Renacia said, "The Adventist church had been in support of community services and had never turned down requests by my office."

Pastor Joel T Requillo, NSM president, expressed happiness with the church's health program which is "evangelism in itself." He challenged the AMS to "stay alive and encourage each other to be a part of this mission."

Dr. Antonio de Villa, head of the BAMC team remarked, "You are privileged here [at NSM] because the government taps you for medical missions."





## College Hosts Pathfinder Leadership Training

BEN R BORJA/AND

MOUNTAIN VIEW COLLEGE (MVC) in Southern Philippines hosted the Pathfinder Leadership Award Training Convention, February 8-10, at the M. T. Oliverio Foundation Conference Hall.

Trainees in this program consisted of Master Guides (MC), MC candidates, students attending MVC's Schools of Education and Theology, academy Pathfinder leaders, and youth leaders from the different churches.

Facilitated by Pastor Ben R. Borja, professor at the School of Theology and MC director of Mountain View College, the leadership training featured delved on topics such as Conflict Resolution, Pathfinder and Community Service, Discipline, Camp Planning and

Programming, Team Building, Personal Growth and Empowerment, and Development of Faith in Pathfinding.

Lectures were presented by Pastor Jobbie S. Yabut, youth director for the Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region; Dr. Francisco D. Gayoba, Pastor Jezreel Locop, Pastor Jerry C Patalinghug, youth directors for northern, central, and southern Philippines, respectively; and Youth Directors Pastor Eugene de la Pena, northern Mindanao; Pastor Segundino Asoy, western Mindanao; and Dr Josue Benito, southwestern Mindanao.

"There is really a need to update us with leadership skills in order to come up with demands of modern approaches in dealing with youth problems, discipline, programming, and several other aspects," participants said.

## Benefactors Join Church Dedication

JIMMY S. GUMA

**FOUR HUNDRED GUESTS attended the dedication of a new church considered by many as the most attractive of the churches built in the Negros Oriental and Siquijor field (NSM) in Central Philippines.**

The dedication of Dauin Seventh-day Adventist Church, which took place on January 21, was participated in by church leaders in the field.

In his dedicatory message, Pastor Joel T Requillo, NSM president, likened the celebration of this edifice to God's grace that strengthens the "spiritual foundation of every church member that sustains him until the coming of the Lord."

At the ceremony, the church leadership recognized the liberality of church members at home and abroad. Special mention went to Mrs Penny Washington, a Filipina nurse living with her husband in the US and was present at the dedication program. Other benefactors included Mrs. Grace Gozo, a former worker at Mindanao Sanitarium and Hospital in

southern Philippines, who, after retirement went back to her native town; Mrs Fely Lu, a member of the Dumaguete Central Church; the Elmo-Gloria Montecerin family who decided to become members of this new church; and members of the Dauin Adventist Church themselves.

"The countless blessings that I received from the Lord kept me motivated to help finance this church," remarked Penny Washington. "I can't figure out how the Lord blessed me despite my humble beginnings. And one of these blessings is a supportive husband who finds my 'giving ministry' his' too."

When asked if she had other plans to build another church, she smiled and said, "At the moment I don't have. But as God continually blesses me with good health and long life, I can't help but look at possibilities where I can be a missionary for Him through church-building programs."

# EG White Heritage Research Center and Language Research Center Open at Mission College

PUBLIC RELATIONS, MISSION COLLEGE

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH in Southeast Asia (SAUM) and Mission College (MC) marked a historic date when two new church centers were inaugurated February 6. The two new centers—Ellen G White Heritage Center and the Translation and Language Research Center—were officially opened by Ms Julie Cook, a teacher at Mission College and a great grand-daughter of Ellen White; and Pastor Ronald Walter Townend, president of the Adventist Church in Southeast Asia, at the third floor of the library at Mission College.

Dr Mack Tennyson III, vice president for financial administration at MC, said that both Centers were initiated in response to a crucial need of Christian reading material in the native languages of Southeast Asia. The Centers also provide opportunities for students to work. “There is a real shortage of workers in the Missions who can do the translation work,” he quipped. “This program will provide long-term training to build up the translation capacity in the church’s territory.”

The Ellen G White Heritage Center (EGWC) will promote Ellen G White writings, ranging from traditional theology to health and education principles. “The vision for this Center is to be a source for increasing awareness and sound understanding of the role of Ellen G White,” said Dr Kai Arasola, EGWC director. “[This Center hopes] to provide Adventist graduates with deep commitment for the church, for its values, what the church stands for, and [graduates] who are prepared to finish the task of the Gospel commission in Southeast Asia.”

“The Translation and Language Research Center (TLRC),” Brian Wilson, TLRC director, said that [it] will translate Ellen G White books and other gospel materials. “[It] is committed to publishing dynamic translations of Ellen G White materials, evangelistic tools, and mission-related documents.” In addition, students will be trained to translate “the thought of the original document.”

“The goal of translating gospel materials is that the reader will not realize that it is a translation,” Pastor Brian remarked, and “at the end, we want them [readers] to say, ‘I understand and I believe.’”

The two centers operate as part of the Mission College’s Institute for Inter-disciplinary Adventist and Asian Studies (IIAAS). The Inter-disciplinary Study Center aims to foster research and publish materials through its Institute Press to help serve the needs of the church and the community in Southeast Asia. At present, the press has published the first issue of “Catalyst,” Mission College’s online refereed journal. It has also produced two books: *The Struggle for the Prophetic Heritage* by Dr Gilbert Valentine, vice president for academic administration at College and *The Gourmet Pulpit* by Dr Wann Fanwar, senior lecturer, Faculty of Religious Studies, Mission College.

At the opening ceremony, Pastor Townend offered the dedicatory speech. “When we dedicate these centers, like Solomon dedicating the temple to God, we will surely receive God’s blessings,” he commented.

## The Bible Unites Us: Assembly Delegates

MAN/DR. HTWE LAY

Yangon, Myanmar – Four Adventist leaders joined the 34th General Assembly of the Bible Society of Myanmar, held at the headquarters of the Church of Assembly of God at Mayangone Township in Yangon.

The four leaders were Pastor Caleb Paw, secretary of the Ministerial Association; Pastor Khin Maung Latt, director of the Sabbath School and Personal Ministry; Dr. Htwe Lay, Health Ministries director, representing the women sector; and Million Tint Maw, church pastor of Ahlone Adventist Church, representing the youth.

Reverend Samuel San Si Htay, the archbishop of the Anglican Church of Myanmar, chaired this year’s General Assembly. Reverend Myo Chit, president of the churches of the Assembly of God gave the devotional message. His message delved on the Bible Society’s 2007 theme, “Life- Transforming Word of God.”

While more than 60 delegates representing various denominations were present at the meeting, unity and understanding prevailed. “It is an undeniable fact that God’s Word—the Bible, helps us to understand each other,” observed most of the convention delegates.

# Rejoice!

Joy is a precious commodity coveted by all people regardless of their social status, gender, and level of spirituality. People are ready to go any place and willing to pay any amount just to experience a moment of joy. This is why people visit exotic places and entertainment havens where they idolize entertainers.

This longing for joy is a legitimate quest. Do you not know that you are destined to live a fulfilled life? Jesus said, "...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10 NIV). Experience, however, tells us that joy is elusive and, if experienced, will only last for a moment. Thus, people keep on returning to places where they found temporal joy but never experienced satisfaction. So, where to find lasting joy?

Paul's imperative answer is: "Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again--rejoice!" (Phil 4:4, NLT).

1. Rejoice Always. What? Rejoice always? Is it attainable? It sounds unlikely. Yes, it seems contrary to the fact that sorrows and troubles follow us like our own shadow. It is also noteworthy to think that Paul was inside the dungeon and the believers in Philippi were facing danger, yet he exhorted them to rejoice always as he himself did. This means that we can experience genuine happiness in spite of the troubles around us. That's because deep joy is an outflow of our union with Christ. So the right question is, Are we united with Christ? Rather than, Can we rejoice always?

2. In Christ. Paul states clearly when he said that lasting joy is found only in Christ. Union with Christ influences our thoughts and consequently affects our choices. In Christ, we are transformed day by day, become mature and outlive our childish behaviors. We can put behind our guilt, past frustrations, discouragements and simultaneously strive with hope for the future. Yes in Christ, our sense of contentment is broadened. Then, like Paul, we can learn to be content in whatever situation. In abundance, scarcity, peace, troubles, sickness and health, we can say with gratitude and rejoice that the grace of God is sufficient for us. In Christ, our character develops and slowly reflects His love. So we can love our neighbors as we love ourselves, ready to forgive and forget. We can live peaceably with everybody. Then, eventually, we can love the unlovable and our enemies. This exhortation, however, is the hardest one to follow but not impossible in Christ, for Paul said, "I can do all things in Christ." Accordingly, it cannot be refuted that a person with all these virtues in Christ always rejoices.

Joy is within our reach, and we can rejoice always because we can obtain this disposition in Christ, the base and source of lasting joy. We need only to invite Him to dwell in our hearts, because in Him we have sufficiency of everything. Let us invite Him now and rejoice!



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