

A stylized map of Southeast Asia in a golden-brown color is positioned in the upper left corner of the page, partially overlapping the blue header.

# ASAP

*ADVENTIST SOUTHEAST ASIA PROJECTS*

September/October, 2005



**Sophie**  
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Adventist Southeast Asia Project’s purpose is to support the preaching of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ through church planting and evangelism endeavors for Southeast Asian people throughout the world. As a privately funded nonprofit organization, we work as a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As an unaffiliated independent ministry, we are dependent upon God to move people to support this work. For information write to **Adventist Southeast Asia Projects, PO Box 84, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.** (Tax-deductible contributions may be sent with the enclosed envelope.) Our telephone #: 269-471-3026. Our fax #: 269-471-3034. Our e-mail: [asap84@cs.com](mailto:asap84@cs.com). Web address: <http://www.ASAPministries.org>. We would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

# Editor's Update ... by Judy Aitken



**“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me’” (Matt 25:40 NKJV).**

**W**hat comes to mind when you think of the “least of these”? I see images of children—dirty, eager, hungry, expectant, so willing to grasp whatever is given. While ASAP has always focused on ministering to the “least of these”—the poor, sick, elderly and children—the Bible workers and pastors are now increasing their efforts to reach out to children. In particular, they are targeting those who have traditionally been forsaken and neglected—**the slum children.**

During my recent visit to Cambodia I picked my way around garbage and other debris along narrow paths winding through Phnom Penh’s slums and heard the most beautiful sound drift between the shanties. As I got closer, I recognized the sweet voices of children belting out the tune *Jesus Loves Me*. The pastor I was with told me with a smile, “These are the lucky ones— they didn’t have to work today.” Indeed, the faces that greeted me, packed inside the over-crowded room, looked alive with excitement, as though they did, indeed, consider it an honor to be there.

This group of children is representative of thousands like them who live in destitution and poverty. A typical day involves long hours of labor in clothing, tobacco and food factories, salt mines, rock quarries, garbage dumps and rice fields. If the family is able to

come up with the money for schooling it is often the boys who attend, leaving vast numbers of girls illiterate and obligated to help the family eke out a living. The average pay for women and children in Cambodia is less than a dollar a day. Furthermore, those wanting to buy or trick them into prostitution prey on girls under the age of sixteen.

Though these facts are dark and depressing there is exciting news. Jesus offers a beacon of hope, a light that penetrates even the worst conditions. And the Bible workers and pastors supported by ASAP are taking Jesus into the slums. They are boldly entering the world of Cambodia’s poorest children and youth and taking with them the comforting, healing balm of Jesus. Often this has meant that the workers go to the homes of the children to convince the parents to let their kids attend the free literacy classes and Sabbath Schools they offer. The workers have made friends and established connections with the children and their families—and in this manner, help to build God’s Kingdom.


Allow me to introduce eight-year-old Sophie. She caught my eye that morning, one of the children singing *Jesus Loves Me* with all her heart. While most of the children sat together in the middle of the room, Sophie stood on the edge with an eight-month-old

baby brother on her hip. She swayed as she sang—it seemed to soothe the baby. Though she smiled, I saw sadness in her eyes. Following the program, Sophie lingered. “That little girl seems small to care for a baby,” I commented to the Bible workers. In response, I learned Sophie’s story.

Sophie’s mother had enthusiastically accepted Christ as her Savior. She had been baptized and had recently introduced her husband to church. Sophie’s mother was a regular at the church programs, but suddenly grew ill and passed away. Sophie’s father works ten-hour days, seven days a week for two dollars a day. With no one to care for the kids, he was left with no choice but to leave Sophie in charge of her baby brother while he worked during the day. Before leaving each morning, he would make up a small pot of rice to feed them.

Without the Seventh-day Adventist Church members, there would be nothing further to add to the story. Worrying that Sophie’s little brother would not survive, Sophie’s father appealed to neighbors who were just as destitute to help. It was at this point, however, that the Seventh-day Adventist Church and warm-hearted, caring

Bible workers and a pastor opened their hearts to the family. Church members banded together to pool their meager resources to purchase formula for the baby. And the Bible worker and his wife have lovingly taken Sophie and the baby into their home to care for them during the day. With no social services system in place, the world in which Asian children live is very much one of “survival of the fittest.” People who meet with disaster are left to fend for themselves.

Slavery, abuse, sickness, AIDS, broken homes and broken hearts and dreams are the daily reality of children in Southeast Asian countries. The Adventist Church in Cambodia is a light—stepping in during times of desperation, providing warmth reflective of Christ that embraces all people, regardless of age, status and lot in life. In the pages of this newsletter, you’ll be inspired and moved by the dedication and profound impact the pastors and Bible workers are making in the lives of the “least of these.” We thank you for joining us in this mission. Adding your light to that which shines in the slums of Asia’s inner cities only intensifies the effect and has that much more impact for Christ. 



Sophie holds her baby brother in Ban Tay Sleuk slum district of Phnom Penh.



# In Loving Memory

We extend our sincere condolences to our family and friends who lost their loved ones. Please know that we want to support you and will be praying for you during this time. We send our deep sympathy and appreciation to...

Driggs & Edna Samarza, Alane Samarza, Douglas Hegstad, and Judy Aitken for their gift given in memory of **Judith McTaggart** of Loma Linda, California. Judith McTaggart is a well-loved aunt of Judy Aitken.

Larry & Kathleen Taylor and Peggy Dudley for their gifts given in memory of **Boyd & Elizabeth Olson**, Judy Aitken's father and mother.

Jim and Dottie Davidson for their gift given in memory of **Dr. Junius Johnson** of California, formerly from Berrien Springs Michigan.

Dr. Clifford Vixie for his gift in memory of **Joe Coelho**.

Duane and Ruthann Adams for their gift in memory of Ruthann's mother, **Myrtle Kehr**.

Rita Vital for the gift given in memory of **Dr. Robert Dunn**.

We are comforted by the hope of a reunion with our loved ones. "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ, will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (I Thess 4:16,17 NKJV).

## HUNGARIAN WORKER'S RESPONSE

ASAP gives special thanks to the pastors and their wives in Hungary for their donation to Vietnamese pastors. Presentations were made by Bruce and Linda Bauer during the Hungarian workers' meetings in August and hearts were touched to give in support of Vietnamese pastor's monthly stipends. We praise the Lord for each person who feels called by God to help support His work!

# Garbage for God

Reported by Julia O'Carey


**W**hat drove a group of American young people to spend their free time collecting trash? Could it be earning money to buy new computer games or designer clothing? Absolutely not! This dedicated group of teens (pictured below) shares a passion for missions. If you attended the Michigan Camp Meeting this summer, you would have met the ten busy young people, cheerfully pulling a wagon of trash.

“Would you like us to take your trash to the dumpster? We do not charge for our services, but we welcome donations for missions,” they said to potential customers at each campsite. Erin Powers, a fifteen-year-old who wants to be a student missionary some day reports, “We worked very hard for a week between our meetings to service the campers and to collect donations for missions. We split up into little groups so we could get more done. It turned out to be very satisfying to give ASAP and the other missions the money we collected.”

(Back row left to right) **Jade Bennison, Abby Titus, Olivia Titus, Erin Powers;** (2nd row) **Alyna Blackmer, Will Titus, Alyssa Blackmer, Abby Bennison;** (kneeling), **Michael Mallory and Brian Powers** hauling trash for missions.



When this group visited the Adventist Southeast Asia Project's booth in the exhibit tent the first Sabbath of camp meeting, they felt impressed with ASAP's mission. Through God's blessing, they raised \$500 this year, \$250 for ASAP. We designated \$125 to help newly baptized members in Phnom Penh have rice to eat and Bibles to read. We thought it fitting for the other half to help Ung Ham's church group in the slums of Phnom Penh. As you read on page 7, many of Ung Ham's church members collect trash to recycle for a living. We know God matched up these hard working groups from the opposite sides of the world to be a blessing to each other.

Please pray for both these groups who share more in common than trash. They share a love for Jesus that burns deep in their hearts and gives them courage to live for Him. Is God calling you and your friends, young or old, to sacrifice for Him? 

## Dumpster Diver . . . A Survivor

*(Life story of 12-year-old Ung Tim retold by Judy Aitken)*

I shut my eyes tight, rolling to the corner of my mat in my family's one room hut. I hoped that my angry father would not notice me as he swaggered to the door. In my sleepy fog, I realized it was the middle of the night. I listened as my father burst in, shouting curses directed towards my mother. Tonight, as I did every night, I lay next to my siblings as still as a rejected coconut shell, hoping to disappear into the darkness. We knew if we stuck up for Mother, his angry words and fists would turn on us.

I missed the life we had in the country village of Prey Veng Province. Yes, many nights I lay awake there, too. My growling, hungry stomach would not let me sleep. But living in the slums of Phnom Penh was the worst life ever, I thought. My eyes filled with tears that silently spilled onto the rough straw mat under me. I could not decide what was worse, the frightening sleepless nights, or the hot, long days picking through stinky garbage in the

dumpsters. I understood how important it was for my brother, sister and me to find those few items in the garbage dump to resell every day. We used this money to buy rice. Yet I still thought my life was miserable, garbage inside, garbage outside, garbage everywhere.

One evening, after my brother, sister and I all returned from the dumpsters, I heard a knock on the door. Little did I know that knock would change our lives forever. A man dressed in a white, clean shirt asked, "Is your mother or father here?" My heart pounded as I thought of how to answer. I did not want to tell him "yes" if he was a loan officer, coming to take my father to jail. He smiled kindly and said, "I am Pok Satha. I come to just talk to your parents and invite your family to some meetings. "May I come in?" he asked cheerfully. I cautiously opened the door and ran behind the house to where my mother was cooking on the small outside stove. "He came at just the right time," I thought. If he came a little later in the evening my father would be out drinking and gambling with his buddies.

I cannot tell you what Pok Satha said that day, but I do remember how



**Ung Tim (middle) works in the city dump with his brother and sister. Many children earn money for rice by collecting scraps to recycle.**

quiet my father became when he sat listening to him. I remember a different feeling in my house after he left, a feeling of hope. “Would my father and mother want to go to meetings? Were we good enough or smart enough to do something like that, not having ever gone to school before? What are meetings, anyway?” I thought.

Would you believe it, my whole family did go to those evangelistic meetings to hear the stories of Jesus on DVD. We didn’t miss a single one! Because the meetings were at night, my father missed out on his nightly “meetings” with his friends. He didn’t come home drunk and angry any more, but peaceful and happy. He even played with my brother, sister and me! My mother and father stopped fighting about money because he was not gambling and drinking it away. They had enough to buy school supplies and shoes for my brother, sister and me so we could go to school. When I listened during the Bible studies, and also in Sabbath School, I fell in love with that Jesus I heard about. Jesus came into our family with His special garbage picks and removed all the filth that caused our lives to smell terribly.

I am proud of my father now, of how he let God change him from a mean, selfish man who didn’t take care of us, to a loving, sharing man who takes care of us and his church members. I enjoy being around him. I follow him to the house churches he leads out in and listen as he teaches the sixty-one people he led to Christ. I want to be like him someday. In many ways I already am like him because I tell my friends in my neighborhood who pick up trash with me about the Jesus who changed our family. Many of them and their parents come to our church. They like coming because my family understands and loves them just the way they are. We do not look down

on them for making a living picking up trash because that is what we did, too. I know if it were not for Jesus, I would still be huddled in a dark corner, scared of my father and scared to live. Because of Jesus I will never feel like garbage again!

#### **Editor’s Note:**

Ung Tim’s father, Ung Ham is now a dedicated church planter supported by ASAP donors. The churches he helped start and continues to nurture comprise the poorest of the poor in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Ung Ham’s greatest joy is serving God. He writes, “I am no longer living my sinful life, but instead I live a life where I feel at peace with what we have. At present, my wife is selling fruit to help bring some income into the family and all of my children are able to go to school now. I thank God so much that He loves me, changed my life and gives me the special privilege to teach and spread salvation to many people, even my neighbors who used to hate my family.” We ask you to pray for Ung Ham and his family, that their faith in Jesus will continue to grow and that they will have the church supplies and evangelistic materials they need.



#### **Ung Ham (center) a church planter in Phnom Penh teaches Bible to interested neighbors.**



## Literacy Schools Report

From Tim Scott, Educational Director of Cambodian Adventist Mission  
and Khut Choeun, Pastor of Prey Veng Province

**T**hirteen-year-old Chok Srey Nea from the small village of Chumka Kaek starts down her dirt road every morning, headed to a simple building, her Bible, songbook, and Bible-based literacy textbook in hand. She happily sings *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* as she skips along, excited to see her kind teacher, Kuch Sothear, and her friends. If it wasn't for the Seventh-day Adventist Literacy School, Chok Srey knows she would not be able to read or write. She knows she would not be singing about her best friend, Jesus. Year after year, she tended to the cattle, col-

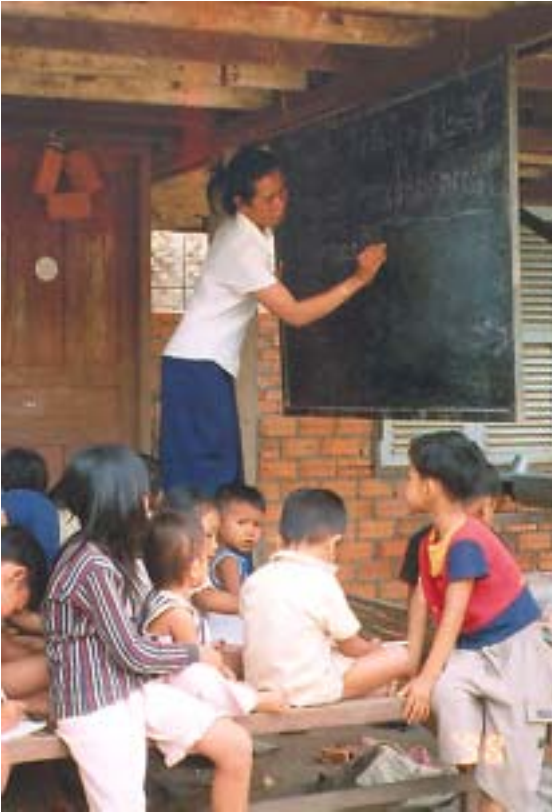
lected firewood and worked in the rice fields. Her parents could not afford the cost of a uniform and school supplies for her to attend public school. Now she views that as a blessing. She still helps her family with the chores, but works with a song in her heart and a hope for her future.

Chok Srey Nea is a typical Cambodian literacy student, poor and female. Literacy schools give girls like her and illiterate women an opportunity that changes their lives forever. It takes two hours a day, five days a week for six to twelve months to teach them how to read, write and perform basic math skills. After two sessions at the literacy schools, most children are able to enter public school and be close to or caught up to their grade level. But more importantly, they can read the words from the most precious book, the Bible. Over 60 percent of the literacy students fall in love with the Lord and become Seventh-day Adventists. The Holy Spirit touches their hearts as they learn how to read the Bible, one word at a time.

Chok Srey Nea's teacher, Kuch Sothear, is one of the many caring Seventh-day Adventist literacy teachers in Cambodia. She focuses on how to help her twenty-two students know Jesus Christ as a personal friend.



**Chok Srey Nea (left), a student in the literacy school stands with teacher Kuch Sothear.**




**Kuch Sothear teaches literacy and Bible to students in Chumka Kaek Village, Cambodia.**

Kuch Sothear remembers well the first time she went to a children's Bible class in the refugee camp in Thailand when she was only six years old. It was there that she learned to know and love Jesus. It was there that a seed of desire to share Jesus with other children started to grow in her heart. Her faith in God grew strong during the eight years she lived in the camp as she attended the SDA Church along with her mother and four brothers


and sisters. She now sees how God kept her family safe when they fled to the refugee camps. She shares daily with her students how Christ saved her and gives her the strength to live each day for Him.

At the beginning of every class she spends time talking to the Lord and teaching her students how to pray. They pour over the words in Christian songbooks and sing praises to God. The Bible curriculum she uses covers the creation story, Proverbs for teaching morality, and the story of Jesus in Matthew. Students sing, memorize scripture, tell stories and engage in exciting learning activities focused on the Bible.

Please pray for the ninety-four literacy schools in Cambodia and for the possibilities of more schools opening. This year some of the classes had to be cancelled due to limited finances. Through God's leading, many of the literacy teachers continue to faithfully teach, even without the promise of their monthly stipend. Many of the Cambodian pastors say they have qualified teachers ready to start schools in their districts when there is funding. We believe through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, literacy schools in Cambodia have the potential to triple within the year. Thank you for responding to this urgent call for support. 

Kuch Sothear makes weekly visits to the homes of her students, educating the parents on health and family issues, such as how to set up a schedule so their children can make it to school every day. Recently, she prayed with her student Chok Srey Nea and her family before she went in for surgery. They praise the Lord for her improving health. Chok Srey Nea says, "My healing is because of God's power. I trust in God and He helps me."

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# PERSONAL TESTIMONY

by *Hong Sopheap, Family Ministries Director*

I will never forget the exciting day Pastor Nhean Thonsovan came to my home town with an American missionary family. It seemed like everyone in Kampong Cham province was talking about the new English classes that they planned to offer. I was the first to sign up. Since it was the start of my summer vacation, I knew I had to find a job fast. How else was an orphan girl going to pay for English classes?

A friend of mine told me, “Hey, that new family from the United States (Arnold and Stacy Hooker) need some help.” I immediately went and talked to them and got hired on the spot as their cook. It didn’t take long for me to realize this family was different. I

expected them to be different in many cultural ways since they were from another country. I did not expect they would act so differently to each other. Whenever I stepped into their home I could sense a peace about it. It touched me seeing how they showed love and happiness towards each other with hugs and smiles. They patiently taught me what to cook and did not get upset when I made mistakes. I started asking them a lot of questions about their Christian lifestyle. They shared with me about why they do certain things. More importantly they shared their friend Jesus with me. One day while we were talking they asked, “Would you like to come to church with us?” I quickly agreed to check it out because by this time I had become very curious.

The sermon Pastor Thonsovan preached that day on Jesus being the only way, the truth, and the life touched my heart. From that Sabbath I spent time studying the Bible the Hookers gave me as well as studying English. I soon discovered that God had a special purpose for my life. One step at a time Jesus changed my life. He put a passion in my heart for children and gave me opportunities, even before I was baptized, to teach His special little ones about Him.




**Hong Sopheap (right) is Cambodia Adventist Mission Director of Family Ministries. She stands with her husband, Horng Sophal, Pastor of Phnom Penh South District and their two children.**

Before Pastor Thonsovan and the missionary family came that day, I had no purpose to live. If you would have told me back then that I would be training others and preaching sermons, I would have laughed. I see how powerful God is since He is able to use me. Jesus took me from an insecure orphan girl and powerfully transformed me into a leader for Him. Today I serve the Lord as the director of Family Ministries for the Cambodian Adventist Mission.

This month I am holding Vacation Bible Schools in five church districts throughout the city of Phnom Penh. It is exciting to see many children accept Jesus as their Savior. Since children comprise 20 percent of our church membership in Cambodia I have be-

gun training and teaching children's Sabbath School leaders in the churches of Phnom Penh. This year I am planning to train children leaders in the churches in the provinces.

My husband and I also have a vision of starting a children's center in the capital, Phnom Penh. This center would be a safe haven for many destitute children to come and receive a hot meal, take a bath, put on a fresh clean pair of clothes and learn about Jesus. When I minister to them I pray that God will help me be like Jesus. He said, "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 19:14). We know how special each boy and girl is to Jesus and we do not want to turn any one of them away. 

## CAMBODIA

# The Impact of Learning to Read

*by Tim Scott, Director of Education for Cambodia Adventist Mission and Seng Makara, Church Planter and Literacy Teacher for Laotian Villages, Cambodia*

I send a special thank you to ASAP donors who sponsored the Takong Literacy School and church planting project for the past four years. You may recall Seng Makara and his wife Kanha's story of how they forged out in faith to an unreached territory, risking all for Christ. Since that time, Em Vichan and his wife Nov Rotha joined them to teach and minister to the ninety-seven students and their families.

These village people had been pressed into service by the Khmer Rouge during their insurgency and thus there are numerous widows and war handicapped adults. Because of this history, extreme poverty is

the norm in this village. This literacy school, comprised of students ages eight to sixteen, is the only opportunity the children have to learn how to read and write because there is no other school in the village.

The Holy Spirit enables both these teacher teams to share the gospel with students and parents in a mighty way. Four evenings each week they teach Bible classes to students and their parents in their homes and they also spread the great news of Jesus to two new neighboring villages by sharing evangelistic DVDs with them. We thank God that many people in Tabunn Village and Salaub Chrum Village believe in God as a result.

**Seng Makara teaches about God's second coming to his literacy students in Takong Lao Village.**



Seng Makara writes . . .

I always make my students and their parents a matter of special prayer every day. There were two students that I felt a heavy burden for because they, nor their family, were Christians. I prayed and asked God to lead this family to accept all the truth that I presented to them in God's Word, the Bible. After four months Ath Som Ang, the seventy-four-year-old head of the family, as well as my two students and four other members of the family, began to attend church every Sabbath. This miracle from God was the first time I saw a whole family start following God at the same time. I thank Him for answering my prayers, not only for the Ath Som Ang fam-

ily but also for many children and their parents that I am involved with in my teaching in the literacy school. I thank God for more than eighty children and adults who worship Him in the Adventist Church on Sabbath. If God wasn't with me, I could not do anything. Please join me in prayer for my students and their parents. Pray for me and our team as we share God's Word with many children and their parents in Takong Village and other villages in this area. Pray also for the need we have to help poor students and people in our community have rice to eat. If we had a plowing machine we could help the rice farmers. We also need a permanent building for our literacy school. **ASAP**

# An Amazing Display of His Power

by Isah Young

*Director of the SDA Radio Ministry to Vietnam*

**T**he recent thrust of my on-air messages to the people of Vietnam has been to use everything you have, everything you receive, everything that comes into your hands, every breath that the Lord gives you, every moment that God gives you on this world to reach others for the Lord. I remind our listeners that God directs us to do this. Some day we will have no life, no possessions—everything will be gone. The only thing that we will take to heaven is our souls, along with millions of others of the Lord’s people.

Everyone has a network of relatives and friends. These treasured loved ones are precisely who should be targeted with the gospel. God sets up opportunities for us to seize, when we can talk about Jesus, His Word and what He is doing in our lives. We need only to pray for eyes to see these opportunities. I encourage our listeners to share whatever they know about Jesus and His truth with those they come in contact with daily.

Many of the leaders and Bible workers helping to push this work forward are young adults. Their energy and excitement enhance the movement we see in Vietnam today. Furthermore, they have little concern for the major risks involved in spreading the gospel in Vietnam, as it is illegal. Everywhere we

turn, we see God’s hand in directing them to do His work. Recently, an eighteen-year-old girl contacted me with the following information: she has been a member of a house-church for over a year. Her boyfriend, who is a twenty-year-old policeman, did not seem interested in her Saturday activities. One day she shared her personal testimony with him and gave him a DVD and other materials from our Peace and Happiness SDA radio broadcast. The results? This young man began attending every meeting of the house-church service and, in addition, began sharing his new-found faith with other policemen in his unit. These men now have a Bible study group! What an amazing display of the Lord’s power!

In another house-church located near a university, a college student began attending services in the house church. She asked for literature and DVDs that she could share with the students in the theological training school of the Sunday church in Vietnam (unlike the SDA church, this church is under government control and has their stamp of approval). The excited students quickly copied and distributed the DVD among themselves and others (much to our joy, we have no idea how many copies are circulating out there). The faculty soon learned of the “underground” DVDs and

tried to put a stop to it. They composed a statement which was delivered by the head of the school, forbidding all students to read publications or watch anything from the SDA Church, our radio ministry, in particular. But there is more to the story. Several faculty members traced the origin of the DVD to the young woman attending our house-church, and secretly shared their stories with her. They faithfully listened to the SDA radio broadcast and agreed with everything Seventh-day Adventists teach and preach. They had all read the book, *The End Time Prophecy of Daniel*, and sent a message to me to encour-

age me to finish the second volume of *The End Time Prophecy of Revelation*. Also, they have discreetly incorporated much of the information into their curriculum. Once again, an amazing display of the Lord's power!

Another exciting advancement being made for the Lord is the production of Bible studies for children translated by Pastor Cuong Ngo, and edited by Peace and Happiness staff. The set is now ready for printing. (We are simply waiting for funding.) These materials are perfect for the needs of our many youth waiting for materials specific for their age and level of understanding. Furthermore, the chil-

dren eagerly wait to receive these to share with their friends. Please keep this need and the thousands of Vietnamese house-church members in your prayers. And at the same time, please offer up praises for the Lord's amazing display of His power. *ASAP*



**Pastor Isah Young, and his wife, Mai, work together as a team serving the Lord by ministering to three churches in California, spreading the gospel through the *Peace & Happiness Radio Ministry*, and leading the house-church movement in Vietnam.**

# Witness

(In Nguyen Thi Thao's own words - in an interview with Judy Aitken)

**Tell me about yourself:** My name is Nguyen Thi Thao. I am a twenty-two-year-old volunteer Bible worker for Peace and Happiness Radio Broadcast in a city in Vietnam.

## How did you become a Seventh-day Adventist member?

I became a Christian when I was a young girl in 1990 and worshipped with a Protestant church. In 2000 my family was looking for a Christian radio program when we found the Peace and Happiness broadcast. We received a blessing from God by listening to the sermons from Pastor Isah Young. We compared our beliefs to the Scripture given in his sermons. After one year of listening we believed the truth of the Adventist message. I then wrote to Pastor Isah Young's office to ask for religious materials. He asked a representative of Peace and Happiness to visit us and give us the book, *The Truth about the Sabbath* and Bible lessons. After the pastor's visit my family felt encouraged and opened a house church on Sabbath for fifteen believers. Some of these people were my family members and others were Christian friends. Some of our friends joined us to worship on the Sabbath. Others tried to persuade us to return to our old beliefs. We did not let them

change our mind to follow the truth of worshipping God on the true day He has given us. We felt that it was a blessing to know the truth from the Lord.

## What have you done to share the truth?

My family continued to listen to the Peace and Happiness radio broadcast every morning at 5:00 a.m. before we began our daily work. We invited our relatives, friends and neighbors to listen to the broadcast. Many of our neighbors who join us to listen to the messages are farmers. We also shared the truths in God's Word with many of our friends. Today, my family leads seven meeting places. I am the leader of one of these meeting places where many university students worship God with me. I am also a university student.

## Do you have freedom to worship God in the area where you live?

We have a lot of problems with the local authorities. The greatest problem comes from family members who do not believe in God. One time a relative reported me to the police. They arrested me. They took me to the police station. The police officer said, "You


are just a young kid,” and then released me. Some of my family have been jailed for a few days. The police ask them to stop worshipping God and threaten and fine them. Some times the police come to our house church during our meeting. They charge us for illegal gathering and for illegally manipulating the minds of people.

### How do you witness?

I witness by sharing words about the true God to many students at the university where I attend. I also witness in the beauty salon where I work by talking to my clients about Jesus. I also pass out CDs of sermon tapes, and books such as *Truth about the Sabbath* and *Fundamental Christian Beliefs*. Some of my clients are worshipping with my family in

house-churches and others are listening to the radio broadcast and sermons CDs. So many people in my area would like to have books and sermons that I do not have enough to give to everyone who asks. I need more books and materials to pass out to many interested people.

### What would you like to say to ASAP friends?

I am very thankful to God and the people who have helped us to have Bibles, Bible lessons and books to share with many people who ask to know God’s truth. We pray that God will bless the sponsors. We also need the prayers of the sponsors for my family and me. 



**Nguyen Thi Thao (right) teaches a Bible class.**

## THAILAND



# Friendships for Eternity

*by Khamsay Phetchareun, Professor of Religion at  
Mission College, Muaklek, Thailand*

**P**astor Khamsay Phetchareun, professor of religion at Mission College in Muaklek, Thailand, and his wife, Daranee Phetchareun, administrative secretary for the Vice President, college nurse and teacher enjoy making friendships that will last forever. This group of newly baptized, second-year nursing students (pictured above), recently visited their familiar campus coming from the SDA Nursing School campus at Bangkok Adventist Hospital where they now attend. They missed the family-like spiritual environment of Mission College and yearned to worship and fellowship with their professors and friends. Pr. Khamsay and Daranee are now organizing and sponsoring additional

trips for former nursing students they grew to know and love.

Pr Khamsay wrote...

My wife Daranee and I believe that maintaining relationships is the key in leading students to salvation in Jesus. We intentionally practice friendship ministry at Mission College with amazing success. Most Mission College Thai nursing students are from Buddhist backgrounds, having little or no knowledge of Christianity. They choose to come to this Christian institution because nurses from Mission College are well known for their quality and competency with excellent English speaking skills.


Nursing Ministry is one of the many cam-

pus ministries I supervise. It was created in 2004 in response to the need to introduce first year nursing students to Jesus. Students now spend one year at our main campus at Muaklek before they transfer to the Bangkok Adventist Hospital campus. Seizing this opportunity, I designed a special program where freshman students take my “Christian Fundamental Beliefs” class and become active in other spiritual experiences, such as Bible study groups, Bible Camp, and spending time fellowshiping in our home. When students come to our home, they get exposed to our Adventist lifestyle. They see God’s love in action when we take time to prepare food for them and get to know them personally. By us welcoming them in to our family, they have a sense of belonging and get a taste of what our heavenly family will be like for eternity.

Although religion classes are typically regarded as nonsense and a waste of time to non-Christian students here, my approach is changing that perception. My students say they enjoy my class immensely. In the survey I conducted at the end of the 2004 semester, I found that all students in my religion class stated they believed in God. This was a sharp contrast from the beginning of the semester where 7.5 percent said they did not believe in God and thirty one percent said they believed in God a little bit. However, after completing my “Christian Fundamental Belief” class, zero percent said they did not believe in God and only ten percent said they believed in God a little. When asked whether they would like to accept Jesus as their personal Savior, twenty-two percent said they were a little interested, thirty-three percent indicated they were seriously interested, and twenty-two percent said they were very much interested. I rejoiced with the Lord when I read the results indicating most students would like to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. Please pray for some of my students who wanted to ask Jesus into

their lives but hesitated because family opposition was the obstacle hindering them in making that decision.

Previously, you could count on one hand the number of nursing students who were Seventh-day Adventist. Since its establishment in 2004, Nursing Ministry has brought over thirty nursing students to Jesus. The last semester of 2004, six out of eighty-two nursing students were baptized and seven students are currently taking Bible studies. One student who received the top grade in my religion class indicated that she would like to be baptized once I returned from the General Conference Session or in the new school year. She said she loves reading the Bible and her top grades reflect that interest.

ASAP is the main sponsor of the Mission College Nursing Ministry. With funds given by ASAP donors, we are able to run this program, purchase Bibles for newly baptized Nursing students, supply Bible study materials and supplies needed for our evangelistic activities. With your support, many souls of nursing students have been saved for the kingdom of God. After two years of this program, we find the spiritual condition of the nursing campus at Bangkok Adventist Hospital has grown to be very positive and continues to improve. We would like to thank ASAP donors who play a big part in making this possible. We value and appreciate your dedicated support and prayers. Please continue to help us make friends for eternity. 



**Pastor  
Khamsay  
and  
Daranee  
Phetchareun**

One of the ninety-four literacy schools in Cambodia, pictured here, brings hope and a future to the destitute women and children who previously never had a chance to learn to read or write. (See page 9 for a literacy school report.)



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