

# Asia

# Pacific

# Division

*Spiritual  
and  
Academic  
Vitality*

Picture  
Removed

Milton E. Thorman

**T**his past quinquennium (1990-1995) has been a time of continued growth for the Asia-Pacific Division education system. During this time, the division has passed the 100,000-student mark to the present enrollment of 101,919. The number of schools, teachers, and students continues to increase, offering ever greater potential for sharing the "good news" of Jesus' soon coming with our SDA students (58 percent) and with our non-SDA students (42 percent). During these five years, nearly 25,000 students from our schools have been baptized.

The greatest student growth has taken place at the college level, where three new colleges and a graduate school have been established, increasing the college student population by

44 percent, with the majority of the additional students coming from SDA homes. The division's new graduate school, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, is beginning to produce well-trained graduates who return to their schools, pulpits, and leadership roles with a deeper understanding of the Adventist message and an even greater commitment to dedicate their lives in finishing the work in the Asia-Pacific Division.

The 192 junior and senior high schools also show a positive enrollment increase of 18 percent. The demand for quality Adventist education continues to grow throughout the division as the Asia-Pacific region develops into a major economic world producer.

Evidence of the spiritual and academic vitality of our schools can be seen in the brief informational nuggets that follow:

#### **Students Are Active in Outreach**

Students and teachers throughout the division have actively supported Global Mission activities. During the summer vacation, 67 teachers and 573 students in the Korean Union Conference assisted in children's and teens' Bible schools and adult evangelism. At the close of a week of prayer at Lakpahana Adventist College and Seminary in Sri Lanka, 36 individuals were baptized. These individuals represented not only candidates from the student body, but also from the surrounding community.

Students attending Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary in Burma recently donated funds and time to construct a new home for a widowed mother and

Pictures  
Removed

*Two members of a student volunteer club at Mountain View College (Philippines) who work with the Manobo tribe.*

her five children who live near the seminary.

Students from Philippine Union College Academy operate eight branch Sabbath schools in Manila. These schools have enrolled 250 students, many of whom are now committed to attending the academy. Students at Philippine Union College, through their off-campus missionary outreach programs, have baptized approximately 800 individuals, including 21 former Seventh-day Adventists.

Youth from both elementary and secondary schools in the south Philippine area give continued support to evangelistic campaigns, which has resulted in more than 200 baptisms during the past four years.

### **New Horizons for Colleges and Universities**

At the 1994 graduation for the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, graduate degrees were conferred upon 64 candidates, with 38 graduating in March 1995. The institute, which has students from more than 30 countries, is a division-operated graduate facility located in Manila and Silang, Philippines. With initial funding from ADRA Canada, the institute has provided the Master of Public Health program to more than 50 percent of the medical doctors of Cambodia. The institute also offers programs for full-time students and for students at a number of distance learning centers.

The South Philippine Union Mission opened a second senior college in 1994 by upgrading a secondary school to become the South Philippine Adventist College.

On July 10, 1994, the first graduation for Mission College (Thailand), was conducted for 15 graduates from the Muak Lek Campus and for 45 candidates from Bangkok. Princess Somsuwalee presented the diplomas to all 60 graduates. The college is erecting two new buildings (cafeteria and auditorium) and has completed a new library for their 163 students.

Alumni support continues to make a major contribution to Mountain View

College in Bukidnon, Philippines. A new 5,000-seat church was recently completed with assistance from alumni. The new edifice is also used for local church programming and camp meetings.

The Korean Union committed U.S. \$8,250,000 to improving the educational environment during the past five years, with many new buildings and related projects.

The staff and students at Lakpahana Adventist College and Seminary, Sri Lanka, in cooperation with the Sri Lanka Department of Forestry, have planted 8,000 coconut seedlings as part of a five-year program to rejuvenate their coconut plantation.

Universitas Klabat in Indonesia has received the designation of having the best library among private colleges in Indonesia. It was also recognized as the best private college in the area. The work/study program has been so successful that student earnings are nearing what is spent for staff salaries.

Elsewhere in the Philippines, Northern Luzon Adventist College

received two government awards: the cleanest and most beautiful private schools and the most "Excellent School" in Region 1 of Luzon. Performance percentages of graduates from Philippine Union College on government licensure examinations were ranked in the top 21 for nursing and medical technology and third for teacher training.

### **Looking to the Future**

During these last five years before the year 2000, the Asia-Pacific Division education system will continue to be committed to increasing the quality of Adventist education without sacrificing the distinctive role in presenting Christ in the classroom. Even greater stress is being placed on the importance of the "integration of faith and learning" within the classrooms at all levels. Adventist education is making its mark as a leading evangelistic means to finishing the work within this area of the world.—*Milton Thorman, Director of Education, Asia-Pacific Division.*

# **Philippine Meditation and Prayer Garden Offers Inspiration**

**T**he Phillip Boughman Meditation and Prayer Garden at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (Philippines) is a very special spot for the faculty and students of that institution, as well as a guest attraction.

Built on the slope of a hill, it consists of two levels with five steps between the two areas. Golf greens-type grass carpets the approximately 10-by-20-meter plot. Natural stone and various shrubs and plants create a

garden-like setting.

Thirteen concrete benches are scattered throughout the area. The benches are shaded by flowering bougainvillea vines. Two of these benches are lighted by motion sensor-activated lights for night reading. Each bench has a marble kneeling pad.

A small natural-setting waterfall with a concrete channel leads to a little goldfish pool. The channel is spanned by a footbridge. Tropical flowers, palms, and decorative plantings illustrate the beauty of God's love

for those who wish to sit and meditate.

Soft sacred music lends an aura of peace as well as joy. Hookups are available for a public-address system. The garden is used by many individuals seeking a soothing atmosphere, as well as for small-group worships and special services.

The idea of the prayer garden was conceived by Larry and Carol Boughman and designed as a gift to all those who should pass through the gates of that campus. The Boughmans served this institution from 1983 to 1994. On their journey across the United States just prior to returning from their 1991 furlough, an accident took the life of their 17-year-old son, Phillip. The garden is an ever-expanding memorial to Phillip Boughman that also offers peace and joy to the students and staff at the Adventist International Institute of Adventist Studies.—*Ruth Sipkens, Secretary to Director of Education, Asia-Pacific Division (retired).*

Picture  
Removed

*AllIAS students using the Phillip Boughman Memorial Prayer Garden.*

## Asia-Pacific Division

# Taxi Driver's Son Becomes an Evangelist

**N**estled amongst the hills in central Taiwan and surrounded by orange groves, mushroom farms, and the forest greenery is the campus of Taiwan Adventist College. This beautiful and peaceful environment is conducive to college study and to the Seventh-day Adventist life-style. But we don't always think of our college campuses as mission fields.

Ten years ago, Frank Chen's father drove a taxi in Keelung, Taiwan's northernmost post city. Neither Mr. Chen nor any of his family were Christians. If they worshiped at all, it would have been to the gods of their ancestors. In September, a family asked Mr. Chen to drive them and their daughter, with her luggage, to Taiwan Adventist College, where the daughter planned to enroll.

Mr. Chen didn't know anything about Taiwan Adventist College and didn't like to take his taxi on long trips. Long trips meant many hours away from his regular customers, as well as rough roads and possible breakdowns.

However, when Mr. Chen learned that Taiwan Adventist College was a Christian school and located near Sun Moon Lake, a popular scenic attraction that he really wanted to visit, he decided to go see the lake and to investigate the Christian school. He had heard many stories by anti-Christians and wondered if he should be afraid. He decided to make the trip anyway.

When Mr. Chen returned to Keelung, he spoke many times of the

serenity and beauty of the school and its surroundings. He began encouraging his daughter, a recent high school graduate, to study at this campus in the hills. However, she chose not to go to college at that time.

Mr. Chen's older son, Frank, had no religious background and a very poor command of English, so he hadn't even thought of going to college. Strangely enough, he found himself drawn to the school, and enrolled as a business administration major at the Christian college that his father could not stop talking about.

During that year, he began to understand the ways of the God of

Picture  
Removed

*Frank and Emily Chen, graduates of Taiwan Adventist College.*

heaven. At the close of the spring week of prayer, with tears running down his cheeks, Frank was baptized in the name of Jesus.

However, at the end of the school year, Frank left the school and married one of his schoolmates who had just graduated from the academy. He and his new bride, Emily, began married life in his home city. He became a taxi driver like his father. But Frank dedicated his taxi as a Christian taxi. He kept it clean and supplied with religious tracts. Many of his passengers read the tracts while riding and would then ask questions. Because Frank's Bible knowledge was very limited, he was unable to answer many of these questions. The more questions he couldn't answer, the more hungry he became to return to school. At the same time, the conviction grew that God had something special for him to do. Finally, both Frank and Emily returned to Taiwan Adventist College, and Frank changed his major from business to theology.

**S**tudying theology was not easy for Frank, but always he felt God's hand supporting, directing, and helping him. In 1991, Frank and Emily graduated together from Taiwan Adventist College. The very next day they began work at the Seventh-day Adventist church in Koa-hsiung in southern Taiwan.

Since then, they have transferred to San Chun, where Frank serves as the church pastor. He is also busy with a Global Mission project opening new work in nearby Ban Chiao. Frank says that their lives are extremely busy, but rewarding. Emily recently gave birth to a beautiful baby girl after 10 years of marriage.

Frank's mission field outreach all began at a Christian college.—*Milton Thorman, Director of Education, Asia-Pacific Division.*

# Former Students Reach the Far Corners of Bangladesh for Christ

**R**uben Kisku, one of the Santali people from Western Bangladesh, came to Bangladesh Adventist Seminary and College (BASC) to study religion. Some of these dark-skinned people of the plains are Muslims, as are 85 percent of the people of Bangladesh, but many Santalis are animists, worshipping the spirits of their ancestors and knowing nothing about the God of heaven.

There are few educated church leaders from this area. So Ruben was eager to learn as much as possible and return to his home area to tell his people about the real God who loves everyone.

Dilip Hagidok is a member of the Garo people. The Garos live in the far north of Bangladesh near the Himalayan areas of India, Nepal, and Bhutan. They resemble the northern Asians in the Tibetan regions. Like Ruben, Dilip had a zeal to learn as much as possible so he could help his tribe.

While these two young men were students at BASC, they saw the school grow from an academy to a junior col-

lege, and finally a senior college. Even though the school facilities were extremely poor, students and faculty wanted to have a proper place of worship.

Through the help of friends in the United States, funds were raised for a brick church building. Both Ruben and Dilip worked with other students and staff to build a beautiful place to worship God. Even though the students were busy with their lessons, they willingly gave of their time to work on the church structure.

While Ruben and Dilip attended classes at BASC, they saw other improvements on the campus: a new girls' hostel, a new dining hall/gymnasium, new walks, and a new road. Industries were added to help the students earn their expenses for a Christian education.

Ruben will be working for his people of the west. Dilip has completed his degree and is now working for the Global Mission program in a previously unentered area in the north. Students from Bangladesh Adventist Seminary and College are sharing the story of Jesus throughout Bangladesh.—*Milton Thorman, Director of Education, Asia-Pacific Division.*

Picture  
Removed

# A Call From the Golden Triangle

**M**any a school child has grown up on the Eric B. Hare stories of old Burma: a land of river deltas, plains, high mountains, jungle villages, thousands of beautiful pagodas, and in today's world, the infamous Golden Triangle where drug kings and prostitution rings are a law unto themselves in northern areas of Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos.

Khin Win was a mischievous Burmese boy who became disrespectful of school rules and authority as he grew older. After he was expelled from school, Khin Win began to do some serious thinking. He repented and returned to complete his high school classwork. Due to financial problems, he was not able to continue into higher education.

Khin Win volunteered to work in an unentered area. He was sent to the village of Pulu, located in the heart of the Golden Triangle. Seeing that there was no school for the little children, he built a small bamboo shelter and soon had 17 children enrolled. With no lesson books, maps, or visual aids, Khin Win taught reading, writing, and numbers to the village children.

When the adults saw all that the children were learning, they wanted to go to school, too. So now Khin Win not only teaches the village children, but also offers night classes for the adults. In the evening, after the day's work, the adults come to the Pulu village school, bringing their writing slates and five or six good-sized candles. They are so eager to learn that they won't allow Khin Win to stop teaching until all the candles have burned down—normally at 11 or

12 o'clock at night!

As Khin Win has learned more of the customs and culture of the Egaw tribe, he has become as eager to teach them as they are to learn. He has learned that their main occupation is growing opium, and that they worship the spirits, as many mountain jungle people do.

However, he has also learned that their spirit culture makes many strange demands of them. For example, if twins are born, this is considered the curse of the spirits. The mother must be an ogre (a cruel, man-eating monster), and not human, to be able to produce more than one infant. In their minds, only animals give multiple birth. Because of this strong superstition, they drive the mother away from the village and kill the twin babies by stuffing ashes into their noses and mouths. They believe that all women are direct descendants of these monster ogres who have been only partially tamed by man. The women are allowed to live as humans

as long as they give birth to only one child at a time.

The children of Burma/Myanmar are beautiful, brown-eyed, happy little ones who deserve to know about the true God who created them and to live joyous lives in Christ, away from the fear of spirits, ogres, and monsters. Khin Win is working toward that goal in the Golden Triangle—one of the most difficult educational fields in the world.—*Sidney Gyi, President and Educational Director of the Central Myanmar Mission.*

Pictures  
Removed

*Burmese students collect gravel for a building site.*

Pictures  
Removed

*Students from Myanmar Adventist Seminary build a house for a widow with five children.*