MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from Thailand Adventist Mission. The Lord is very good, He blesses TAM in many ways and provides guidance day by day through a very challenging ministry to carry His message to the Thai people, and prepare them for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

It is true that many times we have waited for people to come to us. However, Mrs. White said that “The gospel commission is the great missionary charter of Christ’s kingdom. The disciples were to work earnestly for souls, giving to all the invitation of mercy. They were not to wait for the people to come to them; they were to go to the people with their message. {AA 28.1}”.

It is now time for us to humble ourselves before our Lord and unite in prayer for the latter rain. We should go to the un-entered areas with His authoritative message. We cannot maintain God’s work and at the same time enjoy earthly materialism. Our main responsibility for His calling is to spread God’s word throughout Thailand - teaching and nurturing – just as Jesus commanded us.

In the first two quarters of 2010 Thailand Adventist Mission has searched and prayed for His guidance in the following fields of endeavor:

NEW CHURCH BUILDINGS

During the second quarter Thailand Adventist Mission completed three new church buildings: (1) Huy-nam-charn Church in Chiangmai, (2) Maesot City Church in Tak Province and (3) Maerim Church in Prae. We would like to highly honor and express our thanks to all the donors for contributing to the completion of these three places of worship for the Lord.

Thailand Adventist Mission Executive Committee is planning to build five more churches during the third and fourth quarters of 2010 in the following areas: (1) Charnthaburi Province City Church at a cost of about US$40,000, (2) Ban Parwai in Popra, Tak Province at a cost of US$7,500, (3) Khunwang Church, Northern Thailand at a cost of US$7,500 (4) Nonghainoi Church, Amnatcharen Province, Northeastern Thailand at a cost of US$7,500 and (5) Ramkhamhaeng Church in Bangkok to accommodate 1,000 people at a cost of US$645,161.

THEOLOGY TRAINING COURSE FOR PASTORS IN THE FIELD

We are continuing to build up the future leadership of Thailand Adventist Mission. At present we have 25 pastors serving in the field who do not have a degree in theology or related field. Thailand Adventist Mission and Asia Pacific International University have agreed to upgrade these pastors in the next five years to finish a theology degree to ensure effectiveness of service. It will cost TAM about US$ 32,258 or one million baht to complete the training courses.

Currently there are eight students who have completed their high school studies at Chiangmai Adventist Academy and who are completing theology courses at Asia Pacific International University. These students need scholarships of US$500 or Bht 15,000 per student per semester. It is a matching scholarship fund for working students. It may cost US$20,000 or Bht 620,000 to complete five years’ study and graduate with a Bachelor’s degree.

LAY TRAINING

As previously reported, Thailand Adventist Mission opened a lay training program some two years ago. Twenty-five lay pastors completed the course last March 2010 and went out enthusiastically to spread the gospel. A number were sent out as church pastors. We are now starting a second intake with 17 young laymen joining. Our aim is to encourage our church members to participate in lay training to lead out in our established churches and assign our full time pastors to open new work in un-entered areas.

OPENING NEW WORK

We plan to enter Nakhornsawan and Lopburi Provinces located in the central part of Thailand pioneered by Gospel Outreach workers. At the same time we encourage our church members to be part of spreading the gospel by inviting their friends to attend church, join Bible Camps and other spiritual activities. We also ask our churches to each have at least two branch Sabbath Schools.
Our plan is for every local church to organize evangelistic meetings and have a consistent visitation program, forming a visitation team of local church members, ready to give Bible studies to interests.

Please kindly remember us in your daily prayers. Thank you very much for all your support and interest in God’s work in Thailand. Zechariah 4: 6 says, ‘Then he said, “This is God’s message to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty--you will succeed because of my Spirit, though you are few and weak.’

--Chanchai Kiatyanyong

PHUKET THEPAMNUAY SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

You may remember that in the last issue of Shining Light we announced the start of the Phuket Thepamnuay School new building fund. The total budget is 21 million bht and so far we are still about 9 million bht short for completion of this project.

We would like to thank Phuket Adventist Hospital, Ekamai International School, and Mr. & Mrs. Kitti Taychachaiwongse, for their major donations to this project. We will continue to pray for the completion of these new classrooms. If the funds are available it should be completed by the end of this year and ready to use during the second semester for this year or the first semester of next year.

VOICE OF PROPHECY (VOP) CAMP MEETING

Mrs. Saipin Insom, VOP Director, organized a VOP camp meeting in the Sansai Church, Sansai District, Chiangmai Province. The husband and wife team of Doctor Surachet Insom and Mrs. Saipin Insom were the speakers. Here they taught English together with the Voice of Prophecy Lessons. There were 46 attendees, both SDA and non-SDA’s, who joined the meeting. During this camp they learned how to work in groups as they studied, worked and played together.

PASTORS TRAINING

Right after the church elders’ training all the pastors from the north and west were invited to come to Chiangmai church for their own training. Fifty pastors came together and joined the program. The topics included The Keys to Success in the Ministry, Visitation, Nurturing, Church Revival, Preparing for Evangelic Meetings and Pastoral Ethics. The speakers were Pastor Saw Samuel, SAUM Ministerial Secretary and Pastor Rungsit Satayavaksakool, Thailand Adventist Mission Ministerial Secretary.

During this training the pastors were given the chance to practise different techniques for giving Bible studies and techniques for preaching and visitation. After the training certificates were awarded, Pastor Saw Samuel presented the challenge to conclude the training.

TAM ORGANIZES SURIN SDA CHURCH

Pastor Herbert Perera was sent to Surin City, in the Northern part of Thailand, near the Cambodian border in 1999. He started with a small group at that time. Later on, Pastor Wanlop Intachai moved into the city and expanded the work there until 2005. Four years ago the Sprengel’s (Reuben and Helen) from the United States donated funds for the Surin church building. Now there are 56 baptized members in this church. With the radio station in Surin the work of the church is expanding into many villages.

On June 5, 2010, Pastor Chanchai Kiatyanyong, Thailand Mission President, and Pastor Rungsit Satayavaksakool, Ministerial Secretary, had the privilege of organizing the Surin Company into the Surin Church.
MAERIM CHURCH DEDICATION

Maerim is a village in Song District, Prae Province, Northern Thailand. The SDA message reached this village about five years ago. This small group has now grown to 27 baptized members. The Sorajjakool family members led by Mrs. Srirat Sorajjakool, the wife of Sunti Sorajjakool, the first Thai national Mission president, along with her two sons, two daughters, son-in-law and daughter-in-law have donated funds for building this church.

A group from the Thai Church in California along with Sorajjakool family members came to join the church dedication on July 10, 2010. The main speaker for the program was Doctor Siroj Sorajjakool and he was joined at the ribbon cutting by his mother, Mrs. Srirat Sorajjakool, Pastor Chanchai Kiatyanyong, Thailand Mission President, and the chief of the village.

The climax of the dedication program was the baptism of five people who were brought to know Christ through the recent evangelistic meetings conducted by Pastor Rungsit Satayavaksakool. Seventy people attended the nightly meetings and one Sunday church member was baptized. Eleven more are studying the Bible and will be baptized in the near future.

We would like to thank the Sorajjakool family for their contribution to making this church a reality.

MAESOT CHURCH DEDICATION AND ORGANIZATION

Pastor Dennis Tidwell and family from the United States were sent by Thailand Mission to open new work in Maesot some 20 years ago. Pastor Robin Wint was then sent to replace Pastor Tidwell. Later on, Pastor Wensleigh Chu took over the responsibility and is currently the pastor. This small group has grown into a church company.

Earlier this year we received funds from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division to purchase land on which to build a church. Thailand Mission and the Maesot church members then joined hands to construct the church building. The church dedication was held on May 22, 2010, with the company being organized into a church at the same time. Thailand Mission President, Chanchai Kiatyanyong, Pastor Nipitpon Ponteekatasana, Thailand Mission Secretary, and Pastor Rungsit Satayavaksakool, Mission Ministerial Secretary, officiated at the church dedication and organization.

One highlight of the day was the distribution of blankets and mosquito nets to the local villagers. The Maesot District Leader was the one to cut the ribbon and unveil the church sign assisted by the Thailand Mission officers.

We praise the Lord for the growth of this church and we thank all of you for your prayers and financial support.
CHIANGMAI ADVENTIST ACADEMY GYMNASIUM GRAND OPENING

On behalf of Thailand Adventist Mission and Chiangmai Adventist Academy staff, we would like to thank you so much for your support of Chiangmai Adventist Academy over the past many years. When Canadian Mr. David Bell became the administrator, he started many projects including boys’ and girls’ dormitories, a new church building, new high school and primary buildings, and a gymnasium.

This gymnasium was recently completed and on May 21, 2010 the grand opening was held. Pastor Chanchai Kiatyanyong, Mission President, Pastor Nipitpon Pongteekatasana, Executive Secretary, Mr. Danai Agartsupa, Education Director, Mr. Brendon Irvine, ADRA Thailand Country Director and Pastor Rungsit Satayavaksakool, SDA Foundation Chairman joined the ceremony. The chief of the village and the principal of government high school in this district also honored the occasion with their presence.

SAPCHARERN YOUTH CAMP MEETING

On April 7 to 9, 2010 Sapcharern church organized a youth camp meeting in their area. Over 150 attended with the young people coming along to study the Bible and learn how being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian can positively impact their lives. During this meeting we also assigned group leaders for each small group formed. There were 60 non-SDA youth who came along and learned about God. The Sapcharem church is a Hmong church located in Popra District, Tak Province near the Burma border, in the northern part of Thailand. Please pray for these 60 young people.

CHURCH ELDERS TRAINING

From April 26 to 27, 2010, training was held at the Chiangmai Church for the elders from churches in the north and west. This was the same program that was held in the northeast last quarter. There were 110 church elders who were able to take advantage of this training to better serve their respective churches. Pastor Saw Samuel, South East Asia Union Mission (SAUM) Ministerial Secretary, Pastor Nipitpon Pongteekatasana, Thailand Mission Executive Secretary and Pastor Rungsit Satayavaksakool, Thailand Mission Ministerial Secretary, were the speakers for this training.

The topics included elders’ qualifications, duties and responsibilities, visitation, Bible studies and preaching techniques. In this training there were also practical sessions on such things as how to perform a communion service, funeral service, child dedication and blessing a new home.

Certificates were awarded to all the elders who attended. Pastor Saw Samuel challenged the elders to be faithful to their God appointed responsibilities.