

CHANGE, GROWTH, AND OUTREACH 1995-2000 REPORT

The past five years have been a time of change and growth for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD). The division education office moved twice—in 1997 from Singapore to the campus of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines, and then two years later to a newly constructed division office a few miles away. We are now blessed with good facilities and welcome the stability of a permanent home.

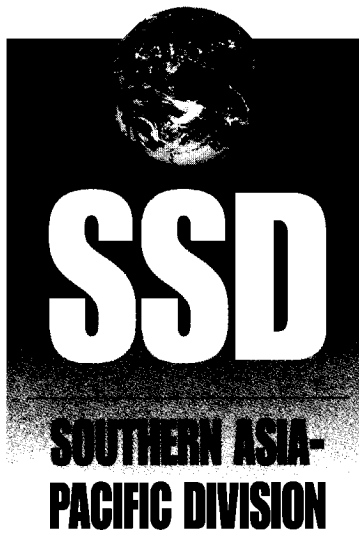
The Adventist Church is growing rapidly in several SSD unions. This has created challenges in meeting the needs of our youth seeking to prepare for service. A number of new colleges and schools have been established. South Philippine Adventist College (SPAC) was first accredited in 1995 and serves the growing church in that area. Naga View College, in the North Philippine Union Mission, was accredited in 1999. West Indonesia established a new college in the city of Siantar, North Sumatra. Southeast Asia Union College (Singapore) joined with Thailand's Mission College to build a completely new campus, with an international curriculum taught in English. Two Filipino hospitals established paramedical technology courses and have applied for accreditation. The former Philippine Union College was granted university status in 1996 by the government and renamed Adventist University of the Philippines.

The SSD has a total of 822 schools, 87,653 students, and 4,826 teachers. This represents a slight increase in schools, a slight decrease in enrollment, and an almost even number of teachers compared to the previous quinquennium. In addition to these schools, we have quite a number of Adventist lay-operated schools that follow the church curriculum and policies but are not part of the system because the local missions and conferences cannot provide them with the subsidies specified by policy. Over the past five years, our schools have baptized 18,138 precious students.

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Student spiritual growth has received spe-

Stephen Guptill is the Director of Education for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division in Silang, Cavite, Philippines.



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South Philippine Adventist College, Digos, Davao del Sur, Philippines, has full accreditation of its bachelor-level course offerings in computer science, office management, theology, elementary and secondary education, and business administration.

tized every year because of the work of student missionaries participating in this program.

SSD Edition of the JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION

During this quinquennium, we inaugurated an Asian edition of the JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION. Building upon our vision of having every English-speaking Adventist teacher receive the magazine, we obtained permission to reprint the JOURNAL in the Philippines for a reasonable editorial fee. Shipping in bulk to each country and union, where it is distributed to the schools and teachers, has reduced the printing and mailing costs. Currently, the JOURNAL reaches almost 3,000 SSD teachers. Educators and administrators are enthusiastic about its impact on teacher development and the way it has unified their vision and commitment to fulfill God's plan for Adventist education.

Bible Textbooks

Developing a new Bible curriculum was a major emphasis this quinquennium.

New textbooks were urgently needed because the old ones were badly tattered, outdated, or non-existent. Financial limitations and cultural differences prevented most schools from obtaining new books from other divisions. Preparations for the new curriculum began in 1997. Relying heavily on materials and curricula previously published by other divisions, the SSD decided to follow a curriculum prepared by Don Roy of the South Pacific Division Education Department. Under the direction of Stephen Guptill, curriculum project coordinators Carol Ryan and later Martha Johnson worked to integrate Dr. Roy's faith development curriculum plan with local values education. They chose or assigned Bible illustrations, supporting stories, and art, all with an eye for the cultural perspective of Asia. Through the generous contributions of materials from the North American and South Pacific divisions and materials we purchased from the Southern Asia Division, the books took shape. To make the textbooks affordable, we had them published in each union. To ensure that the Bible essentials were fully covered while

cial attention this quinquennium. Each school has done spiritual master planning, prayerfully considering how best to help each student gain a personal knowledge of and relationship with Jesus Christ. Spiritual assessment has begun in some institutions, with faith development research contributing to this process.

Many of the schools and colleges have active outreach and witnessing programs. Mountain View College, for example, continues to provide a model program of student outreach to the people in the surrounding countryside. They have raised up 125 churches and 12 mission training centers for local people. Their literacy program has had such a positive impact on the indigenous people of the region that former Philippine President Fidel Ramos presented an award to program Director Daryl F. Famisaran for the best literacy program in the nation. Hundreds of people are being bap-

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Primary students work on their lessons.

keeping the costs to a minimum, the division produced extensive teacher's editions. So far, student and teacher's editions for grades 1-8 have been completed.

Library Development

Adding more trained library personnel and building our book collections has received special emphasis throughout the division these past five years. AIIAS started an M.A. in education with an emphasis in library management, offering free tuition for teachers from each union. Container shipments of donated books and reference materials were sent to Indonesia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Guam/Micronesia. Incentive grants were provided to help build the book collections. As a result, the libraries have seen a marked improvement. However, library needs throughout the division still remain urgent.

Bursary and Education Aid

The budget for teacher scholarships coming from the division budget each year is more than US\$300,000, indicating that the division continues to place a high emphasis on teacher development.

The SSD Education Department also supports our youth attending non-Adventist universities through AMICUS chapters and *Dialogue* magazine. Oliver K. S. Koh, SSD associate director of education, coordinates the division's

Stephen Guptill, Director of Education, Southern Asia-Pacific Division, and Franny C. Agdon, artist, review Bible pictures for the new textbooks.

AMICUS work, thereby fostering closer church ties to these youth and encouraging their outreach and witness in the secular learning environment.

School administrative functions have been strengthened during the past five years. The revised SSD Education Code was published and distributed. New primary/elementary evaluation forms, a principal's handbook, and a school board manual were prepared, as well as a World Wide Web page with educational resources and a di-

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Southern Asia-Pacific Division teachers focus on the faith development of their students.

rectory featuring Web pages for each of our 822 schools.

Looking to the Future

As the SSD Education Department looks to the future, we see an urgent need for long-term financial planning to provide our schools with a stable financial base. Giving programs for wills, trusts, and estates need to be established on every church level and in our institutions. While our overall enrollment is steady, the percentage of Adventist students is slowly declining. The division has done strategic planning to target Adventist children who are not attending our schools.

Our members' commitment to Adventist education must be strengthened in order to increase enrollment and financial support. A quality Christian education for every Adventist child is God's ideal. We must promote this ideal to every church member. Adventist education is essential to the mission of the church. We pray that God will bless the work of education in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division as we seek to fulfill His will for His children. ✍

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Elementary schools work toward academic excellence. Teachers from a rural community listen to evaluators' recommendations.

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Enthusiastic South Philippine Union Conference students all want to answer questions raised by the teacher.

Students learn in well-equipped science laboratories.

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The integration of faith and learning has not only produced Spirit-filled students, but also brought converts to the church from non-Adventist families.

The secret of spiritual strength in the school community lies in daily devotional periods attended by the teachers.