



Indian Diary

**LONG TOUR OF INDIA AND SRI LANKA**

This summer Richard Frankel, director of the Indian Work, and I took a month-long tour of India and Sri Lanka, also known as Ceylon. Despite a disruptive national train strike in India which promised severe disruption of our tour, we were able to cover a total of 14,000 miles and complete 95 of the 135 visit requests.

The first weekend in India was spent in Bombay, a city of six million people, many living in incredible squalor and poverty. We first met with S. Kulasingham, a deacon in Bombay. Then Sabbath services were held in a hotel where 14 people assembled to receive the latest news of the Work. We heard many cases of members holding up under the severest of trials and being tremendously blessed for it. To hear of a Sabbath problem involving loss of a job was not uncommon. To hear of a quadrupling of income also was not uncommon! And in every case God had worked tremendous blessings to make not only better jobs and better wages possible but also incredible favor in the eyes of employers.

After a week in Bombay, we packed our bags and left for Panjim Goa, 300 miles south. For over 450 years Goa had been ruled by Portugal. But in 1961 India ended foreign control there and in two other Portuguese enclaves, Damao and Din, by military action.

That Sabbath we held a meeting for members and prospective members at 10 a.m., and were still answering questions at 10 p.m. We counseled with six people and baptized two, bringing the number of members there to three — all of them young bachelors. Such was the zeal and interest of those young men that they accompanied us to the airport the next day, reading us their questions from extensive lists they had with them.

We next flew southeast to Hyderabad, where in two days we met with nine people, baptizing one into God's Church and adding

three more prospective members. Our next stop, for three days, was Madras, India's third largest city. On the Sabbath we held services with seven present — two members, three prospectives and ourselves. That day was quite different for one man who was formerly a Hindu and a vegetarian. He had never eaten

meat in his life. Yet at lunch he was quick to make the change and gingerly launched into oxtail soup with a somewhat curious expression on his face.

Another person had never eaten anything with a knife and fork before. "How do you use these?" he asked, brandishing his instruments, and he showed us how to use Eastern instruments — namely the hands.

Then we went on to Bangalore where we met six people. Then we flew on to Coimbatore to meet ten more. Some of them had made a great sacrifice in terms of time and travel to meet us, and our group counseling lasted far into the evening.

In Sri Lanka (Ceylon) we were also busy. In three days, 32 people were counseled. On the Sabbath 49 were present for services at 10 a.m. and we counseled in our hotel room until 11 p.m.

The following day, counseling started at 9 a.m. and went straight through until 11 that night without even a break for food.

Overall, it was inspiring to see the growth God is granting in the area. Despite the fact the *Plain Truth* magazine was only sent bi-monthly in 1973 and only sent three times in the first half of 1974, growth continues. In the first six months of this year, student enrollment on the Correspondence Course increased by 30 percent. That means many more people will be requesting baptism in the months ahead.

— John Meakin

## Singapore Report

# NEW OFFICES AND CHURCHES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The *Plain Truth* regional office was established in Singapore early this year on the fortieth anniversary of the *Plain Truth* magazine. Regular Sabbath services began here on the first weekend of January 1974 with an attendance of 28 adults and three children.

Our mailing list for the *Plain Truth* in Southeast Asia currently stands at 40,000. Most of the subscribers live in Malaysia and Singapore.

Our first office employee, Mr. Kurup, was baptized by Mr.

Wayne Cole on the first tour to Southeast Asia 12 years ago. He and his wife live across the causeway in Malaysia. At present he is working four days a week and keeps the mail going out as fast as it is received.

At the moment we have no broadcast and no advertising here. The *Plain Truth* mailing list continues to grow daily through "word of mouth" from interested subscribers. It costs us *nothing* in media to add new subscribers. Most of our subscribers are young businessmen, teachers, and students of university and high school level.

We have two churches — one in Singapore and one in Kuala Lumpur, the federal capital of Malaysia. The "K.L." church meets every third Sabbath and the Singapore group meets every Sabbath when I am in town.

The Singapore church meets in my home for sermons and Bible studies and "family" singing around the piano, followed by biscuits and tea.

At the beginning of July of this year, I toured all the major cities in East Malaysia and Brunei. This was the first tour to East Malaysia in three years. After spending the Sabbath in Kuala Lumpur, I flew to Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah (formerly Jesselton, North Borneo). Sabah is called "the land below the wind." Sabah is just below this typhoon zone and enjoys lovely "Hawaiian" weather.

From Sabah I flew to Brunei, the small British protectorate, which claims to have the largest water village in the world. If you ever get a chance to see Brunei, be sure to take a guided boat tour of the water village. There are around 7,000 homes built on stilts over the Brunei River. This village has a population of some 20,000 people and about as many cats. Every home has a boat under the house and there are even some "two-boat families."

My next stop was Miri in the northern part of Sarawak where I met a young man who will no doubt be baptized on the next tour. In Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, I met with eight young people interested in the Church. Even though none were baptized on this trip, we should have some members there by my next visit. Two young men came in to the city from 17 miles away. They had to get home before the curfew and roadblock — there are still some areas that are not safe for travel.

For the past three years the Feast of Tabernacles has been held in Kuala Lumpur in the Federal Hotel. This year we transferred our feast site to Penang, a small island in the Straits of Malacca.

Soon I hope to make the long-awaited tour to Burma where we have 40 requests for baptism in the Chin Hills northwest of Mandalay and another area southwest of Rangoon. I plan to make stops in Rangoon and Mandalay since it is difficult to get permission to travel all the way up into the Chin Hills. The people of the hilly areas are not blessed with regular plane landings due to frequent engine trouble and bad weather.

Earlier this year when I was planning a trip to the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, all universities, colleges and schools in Burma were ordered closed in the aftermath of food rioting and demonstrations which erupted in bloody violence near Rangoon University.

Organizing a tour to some of these areas takes careful planning. And, of course, we always need God's protection and a lot of wisdom and discretion.

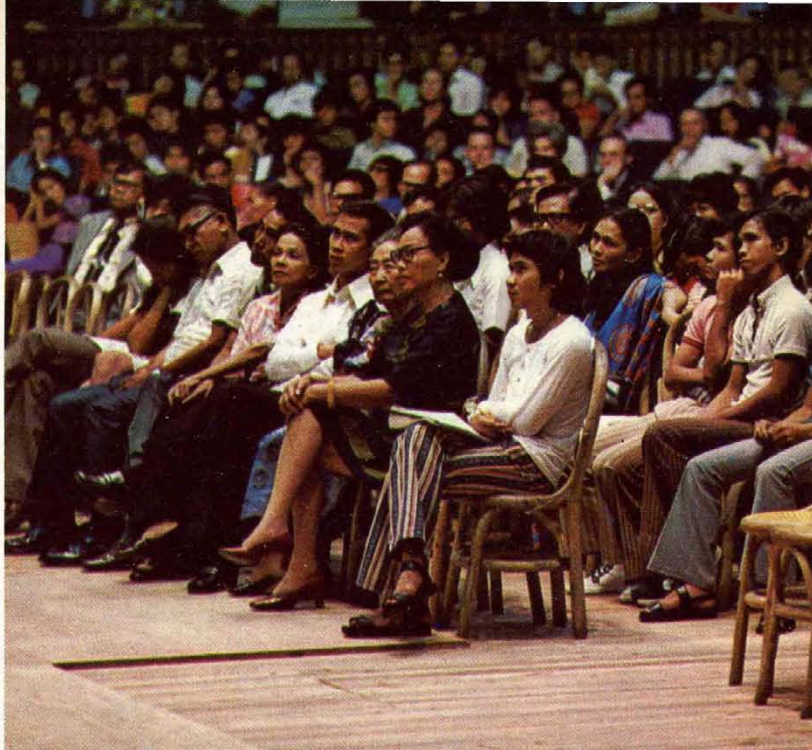
And just as soon as I can fit it into my schedule, I need to make a tour of all the capital cities of West Malaysia where I have 42 more visit and baptism requests.

— Guy L. Ames



## MANILA-

## Six Months Later



Mike Hendrickson — GN

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's first overseas personal appearance campaign (held in Manila in May) is now history. However, the interest generated is still high. For the first four follow-up Bible lectures the attendance was very good.

It is interesting to note that on three out of four lecture days, it rained heavily just about the time people would be traveling to the study. But attendance figures were encouraging.

The first week we had 201 in attendance (of which 157 were new prospectives). The second week saw a total of 315 — 127 brethren and 188 prospectives. The third lecture was the largest so far, with 507 (of which 308 were prospective members). The fourth lecture saw 394 in attendance (204 prospectives).

The interest of those attending was very high. The audience was very attentive and many questions were asked. At the start of the fourth lecture I still held 160 unanswered questions!

We have also been conducting the university lectures on dating and marriage. I also had the unusual opportunity to speak before a seminar of supervisors and principal teachers of Rizal prov-

ince on the subject of the teaching of moral values in schools. Each of the more than 300 people who attended is in turn responsible for 100 or more teachers in their areas. It was an unusual opportunity to reach a new group with the gospel.

The Philippine Work is continuing steady growth. *Plain Truth* subscribers as of June numbered almost 80,000, an increase of 8.43% over 1973. Correspondence Course students totaled 7,217, an increase over last year of 67%. This is most encouraging, as future members will no doubt come from these students.

As of June we had a membership of 1,156 baptized people, an increase of 10.8% over last year. The fruits of the Manila campaign should substantially boost this figure in the coming months. There are now seven churches throughout the Philippines, although three are able to meet only bimonthly.

Our greatest need is ministerial manpower. Hopefully, by early next year we can have someone stationed in the central islands to take care of our people there.

Right now we are reorganizing our radio coverage to reach the country with more stations than

our present number (seven). Although programs will be less frequent, we feel that twice per week instead of daily will do a better job of witnessing to the nation. We plan to put the program on about 18 stations to blanket the entire country.

Meanwhile, bimonthly booklet advertising continues in the *Manila Daily Express*, bringing us a fine return of approximately 20 U. S. cents per response.

At present there are 20 staff members in the office plus two elders and myself. With the arrival of Mr. George Hood, this will make a total of 24 workers in the office. In Central Luzon, Mr. Pedro Ortiguero pastors the Urdaneta and Baguio churches, while in Mindanao Mr. Encardio Benitez, local elder, takes care of the Don Carlos/Kiara churches and makes baptizing tours of the rest of the island. There are also five leaders affiliated with us looking after small groups of brethren.

This brings us up to date with God's Work in the Philippines. We would all appreciate your continual prayers for the brethren here and for the future success of the gospel in this area.

— Colin Adair