

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



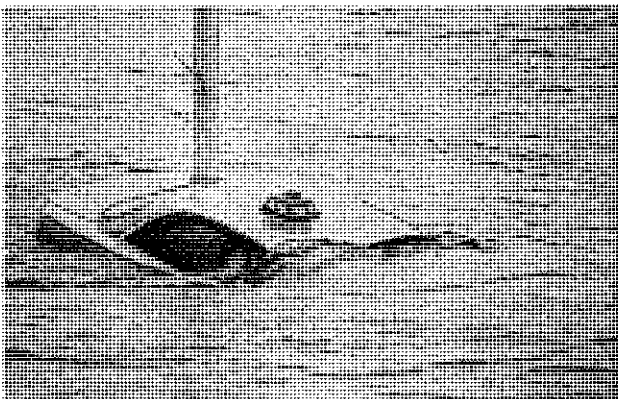
NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 2, Number 17

Recent Flood Damage in Korea and Response to Help

It should have been a sunny summer season during August in Korea. On the contrary it has rained almost every day in the month. Since August 3 especially, we have had heavy rains, that severely hit the northern part of the country.

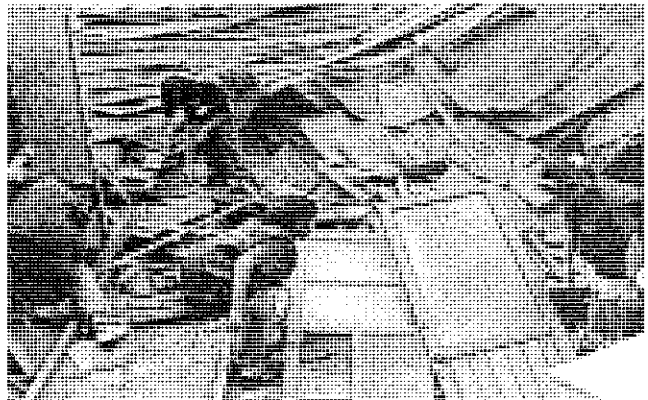
As much as 332.2mm of rain fell in Seoul until 10 p.m. on August 8, making the highest precipitation for a single day since August 1920, when 354.7mm of rain fell in the capital city. According to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA), 775mm of rain was measured in Uijongbu, 731mm in Pochon, 679mm in Hanam, 646mm in Yangju, and 580mm in Seoul from August 5 till 3 p.m., August 9. As the result of the "guerrilla rainstorms," there were tremendous flood damages in several places.



A Taxi on a road was swallowed by the overwhelming water of the Chungrang stream on August 6.

For example, in Tangjin and Taean counties in South Chungchong Province, 346.5mm and 342mm of rain fell from August 8 to 9 early next morning, respectively. The rain deluged most of the area and left 8 people dead. Some 30 hectares (ha) of farmland and 1,500 houses and stores in Tangjin were also inundated.

In Seoul and Kyonggi Province, the hardest hit by the worst flooding in 78 years, 90,000 had telephone lines that went dead, and 283,000 households lost electricity. Additionally 381 roads and bridges were destroyed. The rain also forced 121,616 people out of their homes and flooded 47,136 houses and 47,830ha farm fields in the same areas. About 24,000 households or 77,000 people in 10 cities and counties suffered from the lack of clean water.



Pathfinders gave voluntary service for victims at a broken bouse by heavy rains on August 7.

The National Disaster Prevention Countermeasures Headquarters announced that the official death toll from the week-long downpours in the central region was 192, including 13 South Korean and 2 U.S. soldiers, with 53 others remaining unaccounted for. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry reported that a total of 46,445ha of farms were flooded nationwide, with 1,100ha of farm land swept away.

Property damage resulting from flooding is estimated to reach about two trillion won (about \$1.4 billion).

Over 35,000 homes were submerged, with restoration costs approaching 100 billion won (about \$76 million). About 600 small and medium-size businesses, including 220 factories, suffered 33 billion won (about \$25.3 million) in flood damages.

Local newspaper notes that the mired Korean economy will suffer a further blow by the recent torrential rains in and around Seoul.

In the meantime, 36 Adventist churches in the West Central Korean Conference were damaged by the flood too. In addition, 140 church members lost their possessions. One deaconess of the Ilsan Church found her house covered by miry water, and everything became useless, including a newly purchased 3 million won computer set.

After visiting the flood victims, Elder Sang Woo Han, President of the Korean Union Conference, appealed to church members to help the victims of the flood. He said, "They don't have anything to eat or clothe themselves. They don't have any bowls to use. It was the worst disaster. Please give them your generous assistance. We need to help them quickly."



Korean soldiers worked to wipe away mud and clean road after the flood in Dongduchun city on August 7.

The KUC and the West Central Korean Conference launched into helping the victims of the flood through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Korea. ADRA has given to the suffering rice and bread free of charge and repaired their broken houses. Mayor of Dongduchun City visited the volunteers of ADRA who were serving people and said to them, "Thank you very much to all of you. I strongly expect your help not only at this time, but also in the future."



Voluntary staffs of ADRA Korea with its truck were very active in Dongduchun city to help the suffering on August 11.

Pastor Nak Jin Bang, Director of National Service Organization of the KUC and Mr. Jong Hyun Song, President of Korean Sahmyook Food, presented Sahmyook soy milk (35,000 packs or about 15 million won = \$11,278 value) to soldiers who were working for the flood victims.

KUC is encouraging each church member to donate at least 10,000 won (\$7.5) for the flood victims. In harmony with the decision of the KUC, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) voted that each worker of the office would contribute more than 10,000 won for the project. Further the NSD is donating 50 million won (about \$37,594) and requests the General Conference for 100 million won (about \$75,188). Currently there are over 640 organized churches and 142,000 church members in Korea.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, Comm/PARL Director

Ninth Tri-Union Educational Coordinating Council in Korea

The 'Ninth Tri-Union Educational Coordinating Council' coordinated by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division was held at the Cheju Youth Hostel in Cheju, Korea from July 27th to 30th, 1998. The Host Union, this time, was the

Korean Union Conference. The fifty delegates, college and university presidents and institutional administrators from Japan Union Conference, Korean Union Conference, and South China Island Union Mission, were actively involved in the program, which was entitled "Survival, Revival, and Bold Advancement of SDA Education/Schools."

We were all blessed by the professional presentations of the distinguished guest speakers. Among them were Dr. Donald Sahly, Associate Director of Education Department of General Conference, P.D. Chun, President of Northern Asia-Pacific Division, S.W. Han, President of Korean Union Conference, Elder Leonard Tolhurst, former Chairperson of Hong Kong Adventist College Religion Department, and Tatsuzo Yamada, President of the Auto Business, Inc. from Japan. The devotional and talks presented by the academy, college and university representatives were timely and impressive.

In the setting of the flow in the educational world which is elite to mass and mass to universal, we have to cope with the various problems that have arisen in our institutions. The academic emphasis versus spiritual emphasis among the educators as well as parents, the quality of teachers, the decrease of the absolute numbers of prospective high school students, and the successful operation of institutions...etc. were the main issues of this educational council.

During the council, we had a special ceremony for two teachers who will retire soon. We celebrated two teachers' long-term services for SDA Education before their retirement; Mineo Oka from JUC - 38 years service for JUC Education and Handel Luke from SCIUM - 50 years service for SCIUM Education.



A Guest Speaker : Dr. Donald Sahly, Associate Education Director of the General Conference

Although this was the last traditional "Northern Tri-Union Educational Coordinating Council" planned by the former FED and APD Education Departments, the consensus of the delegates was to hold this kind of educational council as the "NSD Educational Coordinating Council" or with such a title the delegates think appropriate.

SDA Education is the source of the very power of Evangelism in our Division. SDA Education fosters good and able citizens, for a wider service and for joy of service to the world and to the world to come. We exist for this noble cause. We toil for our education, its high and great in character, which is a reason of our action. Let us prepare our youth for the joy of wider services to the world and the world to come.



All delegates of the Ninth Tri-Union Educational Coordinating Council at Cheju Youth Hostel in Cheju-island, Korea

Seventh-day Adventist education rests upon a foundation of divine will, and , by divine decree, addresses itself to a task unexcelled for importance and difficulty; for the task of Adventist education is to help restore the image of God in man. It must be recognized that a work of so great importance requires that all persons relating to it (church members, administrators, pastors, school personnel, parents, and children/students) understand well the urgent necessity of unity of purpose, unity of interest, and unity of labor in the Survival, Revival, and Bold Advancement. We look forward to the next NSD Educational Coordinating Council which will be held at one of places in Japan, in the year 2000.

Masaji Uyeda, Education/Language School Director

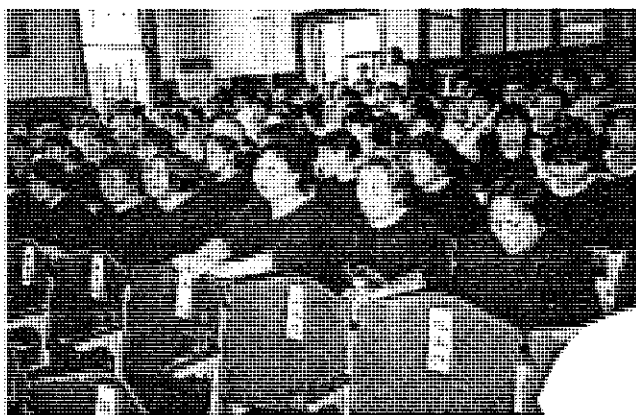
***"Experience
the Power of God's Word"***

The Lord is finishing His Own Work!

Ulaan Baatar, the coldest capital city of the world had the warmest Sabbath on July 25, 1998. Not only was the weather warm that day with blue sky, bright sunshine, and fresh air but the hearts of everyone who attended the Sabbath service were warm. About 100 people crowded into the borrowed church baptismal hall. At 10:00 am the baptismal ceremony started. Six individuals were baptized.

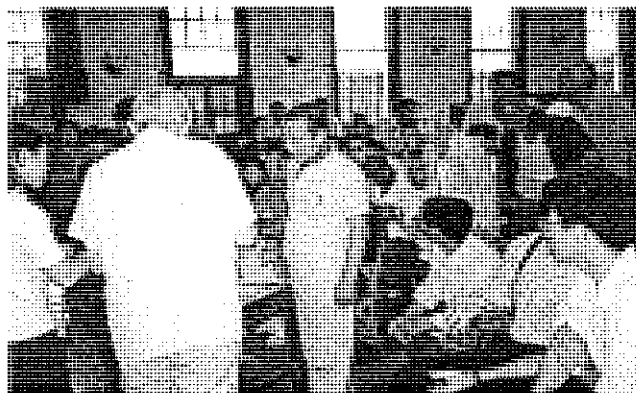
It may not sound like a big baptism, but to a fresh, small Mongolian church, it is a 20% growth. The young Mongolian pastor, Pastor Bold, presided over the service. I learned that the average age of the church members is less than 20. While I attended the church service that afternoon, Debbie introduced her aunt to me. She is about 40 some years of age. Debbie told me that her aunt was embarrassed to attend our church service because she felt too old to attend a young church as this one.

After the regular Sabbath afternoon worship service, Pastor Bold took the entire congregation to a nearby hill where we could see the whole city of Ulaan Baatar. The most beautiful scenery though was not the city but the green pastures, flocks of lambs, cattle, horses, running stream and "giers" (Mongolian tents). On top of the hill, Pastor Bold led the congregation in playing games and singing songs. This attracted a lot of tourists. That was truly the liveliest church I have ever observed.



At the Beijing church 184 people were baptized on August 1, 1998. Names of baptismal candidates were pasted on their seats.

Since I learned that the Beijing Church would have a large baptismal service on August 1, 1998, I was able to visit only three churches in two provinces between the two Sabbaths. The work in China prospered everywhere one has to see it to believe it. On Sabbath morning, the Beijing church started its baptismal service at 9 o'clock. The church and the chapel were packed and bursting at the seams. Though two rows of folding seats were added on every aisle, still there were people standing at the back courtyard and everywhere.



A Bible was given to each baptized person with his/her name on it.

In the center section of the church sat the baptismal candidates with black robes. Pasted on the back of their seats were their name tags. One elder and two Bible workers took turns leading the congregation in singing hymns, while the pastor and another elder took turns baptizing the candidates. Deacons directed each row of candidates to the rooms to be prepared. On both sides of the baptistry there were deacons and deaconesses helping. In front of the baptistry were two young ladies with a small cardboard with glued-on name tags of each candidate. Before a candidate went into the water, he or she was identified with the name tag pasted on the cardboard. When the candidate stood in front of the pastor into the cardboard with his/her name on it, the photographer snapped a shot. It was all well planned. From the moment the candidate stepped into the baptistry and came out it took only one minute. Within three and a half hours everything was done, including the Bible gifts presentation to the 184 newly baptized members.

There was a family of three - mother, father and their only child - baptized together. A communist party member withdrew her membership and was baptized.

A lovely 94-year-old lady who was a Sunday church member for 60 years decided to accept the newly found truth and was also baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist faith. On the same Sabbath, 110 people were baptized in Tienjin, a city about 160 miles away from Beijing.



The oldest lady baptized on the Sabbath was 94 years old (center), who had been a member of the Sunday church for 60 years.

My heart was really touched. In China's history, there never was a time in Adventist history when more than 100 people were baptized in one day in neither of the two cities, especially under such conditions as that of China today. None of the pastors has theological degrees. Their salary is about 1% of the current NAD pastors in average. Not only they didn't have budget for evangelism but public evangelism is even restricted. No right arm nor left arm of evangelism (medical and education) is available. They trust wholly in the Lord. And who can doubt that the Holy Spirit is doing the work through human vessels?

I observed yet another point: the nature of Chinese are changed somewhat. They are now more specific than ever before. They do not want to be wrong. If there is any truth different from what they originally accepted, they want to study until they have found out the fact and corrected it. I really cannot say who should be given the credit for this. The one who has wisdom can figure this out.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! The Lord is near, even at the door. God is using His Own way to finish up His Work.

Richard Liu, Secretary & Acting Publishing Director

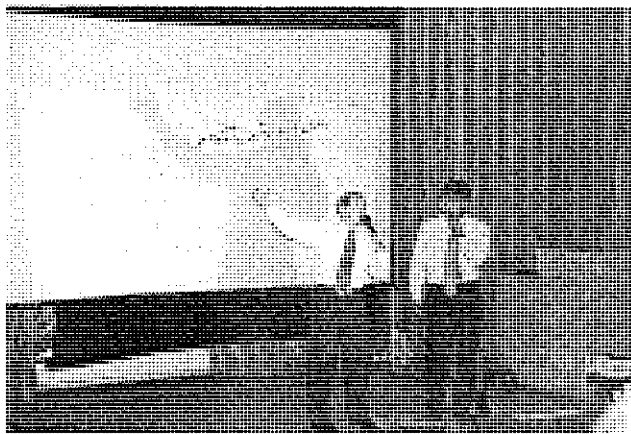
Mongolia Lay Evangelism Seminar and Crusade with Free-Medical Ministry

July 24 to August 4, 1998, was indeed an unforgettable days not only for the young Mongolian church members in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia, but also for those who volunteered and gave their time and effort. A history making evangelistic seminar was conducted by Myung Kwan Hong, NSD Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department Director, with twenty Korean volunteers and medical ministry team members.

The program Pastor Hong conducted consisted of free medical ministry, lay leadership seminar and evangelistic seminar.

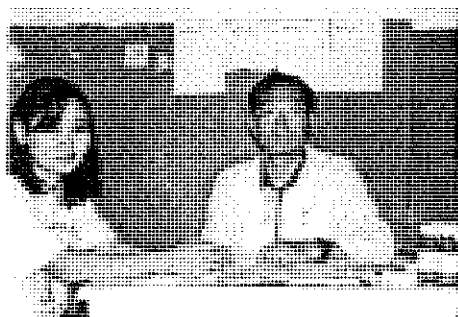
In 1992, a lay pioneer Brad Jolly went into Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia to plant the seed of the gospel. Joanne Park, a single twenty-year-old lady at that time, took over from him in 1994 and served the Mongolian people until she returned to the United States on August 11, 1998. For nearly four years she worked to lead people, mostly young people, to Jesus Christ. When she left her second home in Mongolia with her new husband Jongsung Kim to California, 35 baptized church members saw them off with tears and sad hearts.

Now for the first time in history, Korean lay members, with a medical team including medical doctors, dentists, physical therapists and nurses cooperated with Pr.

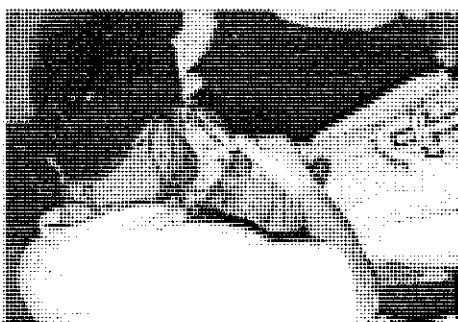


Pastor Myung Kwan Hong (left) conducted an evangelistic series with his translator Mr. Amura.

Myung Kwan Hong in serving the young Mongolian church for 12 days to expedite the church growth on the funds raised by some Korean lay church members and NSD. Seoul Adventist Hospital and Guam Adventist Hospital contributed medical supplies for this crusade. Prior to their departure from Korea, they sent a container fully packed with first or second-hand clothes and instant noodles etc. to Mongolia in preparation for the event.



Dr. Chang Joon Oh, general surgeon, (right) and a translator for Mongolian patients.



Dr. Hyun Joon Sheen gave a free dental treatment.

members to worship God, the creator of Sabbath on the last Saturday meeting. It was such a wonderful experience to worship God with all 132 people present.

In addition, approximately 700 patients were examined, counselled, and given free medicines for free by the medical team during 12 days. Free Taekwondo lessons were also given to about 60 people every day.

Every participant and volunteer experienced the presence of God and His power throughout the twelve days. The very young Mongolian church is now a path toward the heaven leading many souls to Christ.

Pr. Myung Kwan Hong, Pr. Dong Seung Park, the team leader, and 19 Korean lay volunteers would like to ask all News & Views readers to remember the young Mongolian church in their prayers.

Myung Kwan Hong, SS/PM Director

During the seminar, there was a Lay Evangelism Training program for the church members in the morning. More than 30 attendees were powerfully inspired and encouraged by the Holy Spirit to go out to proclaim the present truth and to win the precious souls through this program.

Before the meetings there was a great deal of concern as to how the evangelistic meeting could attract people in Mongolia, a Buddhist country. God blessed their efforts, and 28 visitors attended the first meeting. Sixty-three newly committed members joined and shared the joy with the team and original

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