

News & Views

January / February 2006

The Journey of Hope

The General Conference has chosen the theme for the year 2006: "Journey of Hope." There are many people in the world who are living with no bright hope both at present and for the future. They are fearful of the unpredictable future. But Seventh-day Adventist Christians are living from day to day with great hope in Christ Jesus. We are God's people. We believe that God is leading our lives. We know Jesus is coming soon to take us to heaven. We are living with great hope for the future. So we sing a song together, "We have this hope that burns within our heart."

Hope is very important to men and women, but it seems we cannot find very much hope here on earth. The world we live in is on the brink of destruction. In recent years, innumerable accidents and natural disasters have been taking place around the world. They are threatening human lives. People are frightened by all kinds of unexpected moral, social and environmental phenomena. This world is in darkness, and the darkness is becoming deeper and deeper. It seems there is not much hope in this world. In this sin darkened world, we are on the journey of life.

When Jesus was on earth, He was The Great Hope to the people. He opened the eyes of the blind, the ears of the deaf, and the mouth of the dumb. He cleansed lepers, healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead, and preached the message of hope to the broken hearted. He was the hope of the people who had lived hopelessly in darkness. To the people who had miserable lives in darkness, Jesus declared, "I am the light of the world."



About 2,000 years ago Jesus went to heaven leaving a promise to his followers, "I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:3) The second coming of Christ has been the most blessed hope to all Christians. In early days of the church, many were imprisoned, persecuted, crucified, eaten by beasts, and burned at the stake, gladly, rather than compromising their belief with the world because they had the hope of Christ's second coming. During the dark ages, millions of Christians suffered martyrdom. They were not afraid of death, for the name of Christ, because they firmly held hope in the resurrection of

Christ: "Today we die for the name of our Lord. But we will live again in Christ, and we will live forever." They kept on their life journey with unwavering hope in Jesus.

The Lord has chosen us to give this message of hope of Christ's second coming to the people who are living in our world of darkness with no future hope. We must tell the world, "Jesus is coming. Jesus is coming. Be ready for His coming" When we are in Christ, we have hope because He is our hope.

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The year of 2005 has passed, and now we are in another challenging new year, 2006. "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history." (9T, 10) As long as we trust in God and are faithful to His Word, we can surely have another successful year in the "Journey of Hope." Let us move forward together step by step trusting in God. He will take our hand and lead us to our eternal home. Let us continue with courage the journey of hope all through this New Year.

Jairyong Lee, NSD President

A different baptism day in Mongolia!

It was a beautiful and sunny day in Ulaan Baatar, capital of Mongolia, when the small old Fokher 50 took off. Our plans were to visit two Global Mission projects and hold a baptism in one of them. These two places are very well known in Mongolia as the coldest places. Even with the heater on inside the airplane, it was a bit cold, but after two hours and twenty minutes we arrived at Ulyastai airport, one of the strongholds of Buddhism in Mongolia. What a nice moment when we hugged the missionary families there, Zavia and his wife Ganchilum who delivered her second baby just a few months ago.

Together, we made plans for the Sabbath. The church leader was very sad saying that he couldn't find a place to baptize people, so we prayed and went together to a prayer meeting at the small, but very warm local church. By the way, it was - 38 C! During the prayer meeting the church leader gave us the sad news that we wouldn't have a baptism of those who were anxiously awaiting this special day. With a broken heart I saw some tears rolling down their cheeks. The disappointment was enormous. They had waited so long and now when finally the special day arrived, it wouldn't be possible. "No way" said one very energetic young man, "God will help us to find a location, but where?" So, we prayed together and some of them started searching for a warm place where we could celebrate the baptism the next day.



When we trust all our burdens to God He will never fail. On Sabbath morning while the Sabbath school classes were in session they were still searching. Finally our prayers were answered. A location was found. During the sermon time the only baptized young ladies speech was a powerful sermon about how Daniel kept his faith even facing death. She encourage all to follow Daniel's example even though it may be in a very hard and difficult place to follow Jesus like Ulyastai. After the Sabbath morning service at the church leaders house we reminded them that the baptismal decision is a life decision, it is a holy commitment that we make with God. After worship we went to an old closed hospital. The community were renewing the big building and except for the hospital guard, no one was there. Finally their dreams were coming true, twenty people went to the second floor where the shower rooms were located and in a very small place we found a bathtub, we filled it with warm water. While singing praises to God, nine special son's and daughter's of God were baptized including a sixty five years old couple.



We praise the name of our Lord Jesus because still in our day He keeps His promises to answer the prayers of those who claim His name. Now we have ten church members in Ulyastai. They committed their lives to shine for Jesus and spread the good news among the mostly Buddhist population in Mongolia.

Elbert Kuhn, Ministerial Director for MMF

Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Sam Hee Plaza (5th Floor) 66 Chuyop-dong, Ilsan-gu
Koyang City, Kyonggi-do, Republic of Korea 411-370

Email: newsandview@nsdadventist.org
Tel: (82) (31) 910-1500 - Fax: (82) (31) 919-4412
www.nsdadventist.org

News & Views

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Editor
Assistant Editor
Contributing Editor
Contributing Editor
Contributing Editor
Contributing Editor

Glenn Mitchell
Song, Sung Sub
James Wu
Tadaomi Shinmyo
Park, Sung Ha
Dale Tunnell



First Adventist Brazil Church in Japan

The first Adventist Brazilian Church in Japan was born on November 26, 2005. It was a beautiful, blue sky day when the Brazilian congregation celebrated the service organizing the Seventh-day Adventist Kakegawa Brazilian Church in Kakegawa City, Shizuoka Prefecture in Japan.

The meeting place is located at a good place in terms of visibility though the two story-building is very humble like a square storehouse. But there is great energy of cheerfulness in the congregation to overcome any inconvenience.

In the Sabbath School Study, there were six different classes including two Portuguese adult classes, two Portuguese children classes, one Japanese adult class, and one English adult class for many visitors on this special day.



There were about 90 participants to celebrate the Brazilian Church birth, including Church leaders in Japan: Pastor Tsutomu Sensaki, East Japan Conference President, Pastor Koji Wada, Kanagawa/Shizuoka District Leader, Pastor Moises Antonio Da Silva of two Brazilian congregations in Shizuoka, and Dr. Tadaomi Shinmyo.

Through the special day's programs all participants were able to recommit themselves to God with thanks and a sense of responsibility. Mr. Katsutoshi Kawasaki, who was ordained as church elder on this day, reported in the brief history of the congregation.

"The first Adventist Brazilians, Diana and Katsutoshi Kawasaki came here in 1984. They began to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Fujieda Church. In the past 16 years, the number of Brazilians has increased and in 2000 it reached around 25. As the number of those attending reached to around 40 for three years and the meeting place became inadequate, the congregations moved to the current building. In the meantime, Pastor Moises was sent to Japan from Brazil. There have been difficult times, but God has always protected and guided this Brazilian congregation," reported Mr. Kawasaki.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, PMM /Communication Director of Japan Union Conference

Everlasting Gospel Streams in Taiwan by Korean Women

"One man speaker is not enough for evangelism. If we use women power for any kind of evangelism, proclaiming the Gospel will be more effective and successful for His glory. So I suggested for all Unions to organize the Women Evangelistic Group for their countries as well as foreign mission."

There were two evangelistic meetings in Taiwan, at Dali Church on October 11-15 and Taipei Church on October 16-22, 2005, under the former Northern Asia-Pacific Division women's Ministries leadership with the Korean women's evangelistic groups. It was a health and gospel evangelism led by Dr. Sook Ja Song, retired professor of Sahmyook University, and Elder Chin Chung Hwang, Personal Ministry director of the Taiwan Conference at the Dali church.



Ten Korean women including myself volunteered to conduct the meetings at our own expense. We brought many gifts from Korea for this evangelism. Although it was very hot working there, the evangelism team's hearts for soul winning were much hotter than the weather. At Dali Church around 30 people came and listened to the health and gospel messages during the evangelistic meetings. One man and three women were baptized on the Sabbath of October 15 at the Dali church.

During the Taipei Church meetings, Dr. Song gave health messages and Elder Cyrus Shen delivered messages of the Gospel to the people. Mr. Eun Chan Shen, pastor Shen's first son, served as a Chinese translator. But sixty people attended during the meetings and two people were baptized, and seven people made a decision for Bible studies.

Young Ja L. Nam, former NSD Women's Ministries Director

God is Working through PMM in Taiwan

During this year 2005, thirty-eight new souls were baptized through the Pioneer Mission Movement in Taiwan. Currently five PMM pastors are planting churches in Taiwan, and another five pastors and their wives are in their one-year language training course, before being sent to the future church planting sites.

In the Miaoli Church where PMM Pastor Chai, Kwang Byong started planting a church, 12 people were baptized. The church had been closed twenty years ago. It is said that winning even one soul is a kind of 'miracle' in such a place where there are a lot of Buddhist temples, charms, and images and it is very hard to evangelize people.

Pastor Chai set his goal to have 12 baptisms for this year after he had completed his Chinese study course. Adding to the previous report of three souls baptised during the evangelistic series, November 28-December 3, 2005, the total baptismal number is now 12, and Pastor Chai gives the glory to the Lord.



Even during the Chinese language training course, the PMM missionaries have worked very diligently for guiding the thirsty people for the truth to win 5 souls. There are many other pastors who are not mentioned above, but have been bringing a lot of people to Jesus while they are working in Japan, Mongolia, Taiwan, and etc. The Lord is really working for His Mission through the Pioneer Missionaries!

Landmark Centennial Celebration: Signs of the Times

“Our publishing houses are God’s appointed centers, and through them is to be accomplished a work the magnitude of which is yet unrealized.” said Ellen G. White.

On October 23, 2005, the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM) celebrated the centennial of the Signs of the Times Magazine at the Taiwan Adventist Hospital Medical Center Auditorium.

120 invited guests from the Adventist Church and public societies participated giving congratulations, including Taiwan Bible Society Chairperson Xiugong Ong, Calvin Deng, former STPA (Signs of the Times Publishing Association) Editor (1970-82) and Taiwan Conference President (1983), the CHUM President James Wu. The keynote addresses given by Pastor Ong and Wu impressed the participants with stimulating and encouraging messages.



The landmark Adventist monthly magazine initially was published with the name, 'the Gospel Herald,' in 1905 by the Adventist Church (Editor Dr. Herry Miller) in Shang-tsay, Honan, China. In 1908, its name was changed to 'Signs of the Times,' and the publishing house was moved to Shanghai. It had been recognized as the largest Christian Publishing House in 1909.

Because of many difficult situations for the publication, the publishing house had been moved from place to place such as Hong Kong in 1939, Chungking in 1942, Shanghai in 1946, Hong Kong in 1947, Taiwan in 1956, and finally the current location, Taipei in 1976. Currently 6,000 copies of the magazines are published in Chinese monthly to carry the Gospel to people.



“The attendants were like a big family gathering showing their warm hearted joy. ‘Journey Back to the Signs of the Times’ Exhibition was very impressive, tracing events all the way back to year 1905 with old front pages and copies of early issues. The Special issue of Signs of the Times magazine was published with all valuable documents and data,” said Hanson Cho, Manager and Editor of the Signs of the Times Publishing Association.

During the celebration program four senior staff members were given awards for their service to STPA for more than 20 years: Tsai, Shu Ying (31), Song, Daw Ming (24), Hanson Cho (23), and Selina Chang (20).

700-Bed Adventist Hospital to Build in Wenzhou, People's Republic of China

November 28, 2005, Wenzhou City Mayor Liu, Qi, Vice Mayor Meng, Jian Xin, and representatives from Adventist joint-venture investment companies signed a 700-bed General Hospital Building Project Agreement. The local TV and news papers released the related news to the public.

In the proposed project USD 55 millions will be invested by joint-venture investment companies including 'Health Pro (Medical Service Management Limited Company)' in Hong Kong, 'Zhejiang Galilee Correspondence Science and Technology Limited Company' in Zhejiang, and 'An Hui (Holdings) Limited Company' in Hong Kong.

The Chinese name of the future hospital is "Wenzhou Gang An International Hospital (温州港安國際醫院)." The name is adopted from Hong Kong Adventist Hospital's Chinese one, 'Gang An Hospital (港安醫院).'

The government decided to select the proposal of Adventists whose hospitals are well recognized as a high quality, international, and Adventist-style hospital. There were several hospital-based candidates from Taiwan and Europe areas.

"We praise the Lord for the blessings and the new opportunities to serve the people of China with holistic and quality healthcare service which the Adventist healthcare system has proved successful in the neighboring city of Hangzhou, in the same Zhejiang Province" said James Wu, president of the Chinese Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists who attended the agreement signing ceremony along with Dr. Carlyle Welch from the Loma Linda University Medical Center.



The future first-class general hospital will be 20,000 square meters, and total floor space 80,000 square meters. It will be equipped with administrative offices, internal medicine department, departments of surgery and pediatrics, and also ad-hoc tumor center, heart center, gynecology and obstetrics department, and etc. It provides outpatient service and emergency medical treatment service. The hospital will be ready to be operated by 2008.

This hospital will entrust the 'Health Pro' in Hong Kong to carry on the management, and prepares for each departmental backbone doctors from both China and other countries, and medical experts who the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital or Loma Linda Medical Center introduces. Outstanding nurses will work in the hospital who graduate from each place including the Wenzhou Medical College, and sometimes they may be trained in foreign countries.

The Wenzhou Gang An International Hospital will provide high quality medical services for citizens in not only Zhejiang but also other cities and even international travelers. The Wenzhou City is located in the south-eastern coast of Zhejiang province in China. About 560,000 people live in Wenzhou which belongs to Zhejiang with a total of 46-million population. Wenzhou is one of major economic, political, cultural, and communications centers in Zhejiang which is well known as the central section of China's golden coastline.

The Second Golden Angels Concert

November 6, the Golden Angels who are music missionaries sponsored by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division hosted the second concert at the Sahmyook University Auditorium in Seoul, Korea. The first, second, and third groups of the Golden Angels gathered to performed the beautiful music with a theme "The Throne of God." "Chamsori" Children Music Missionaries from the East Central Korean Conference featured a special rhythmical music. All the harmonious programs made 1,500 participants feel like 'a family reunion' coming to the Throne of God. The eight members of the second group of the Golden Angels were given appreciation plaques. Each group of the Golden Angels dedicate one year of their lives to serve the Lord with music within the Northern Asia-Pacific Division territory.



Ministerial Councils in Korea Focused on Evangelism and Church Growth

Church pastors and gospel workers of four Conferences and SDA language institutes met at Madalpy Training Center for a special training on Evangelism and church growth. Pastor Mark Finley and Mrs. Ernestine Finley were main speakers who inspired and uplifted spirituality more than 860 church pastors in two sessions of lectures. The first session was December 6-8, 2005 for South West Korean Conference, South East Korean Conference, and Middle West Korean Conference. The second round of sessions was on December 12-14, 2005 and gathered together West Central Conference and the SDA Language Institutes. Meanwhile East Central Korean Conference council was conducted on December 12-14 in Yangyang City along the east coast.

Pastor Finley's messages were focused on the biblical foundations for evangelism and church growth. He exposed clearly from the Scriptures and from Adventist church history the real way for doing church growth, through dynamic prayer, teaching and preaching. He emphasized a new model church growth for pastors in Korea in which pastors and laity work together for evangelism and nurture. He explained a need for a mobilization of laity in Korea for the fulfillment of church missions. According to the book of Acts, gifts, ministries and activities should be implemented for church evangelism. It was a clear message from the Scripture that pastors must continue looking for the lost and then nurture those in their congregations.



His wide experience throughout many countries contributed for the assurance that indeed a great work for evangelism is needed in Korea for the following years. He stressed the power of intercessory prayer and God's providence for winning souls for Christ. He also emphasized the urgent need to work for those who are not coming to church for Sabbath worship and made an appeal to church pastors to rescue those who are the lost sheep in the Adventist church.

Finally, pastors were challenged to go and change the paradigm of one church-one pastor church model to a more aggressive demonstration of church growth by selecting pastors of churches in which exist two or three pastors to send one to cities with 10,000 populations. He challenged local conferences by suggesting sending pastors to new territories in Korea similar to Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) in other countries. He clearly studied the situation in the Korean Adventist church and recommended an evangelist strategy to all levels of church organization. He stressed the character of church ministry in which every pastor becomes a pastor-evangelist.

On the other hand, Mrs. Finley taught a seminar through a Dynamic Soul-Winning Manual to lead the church into a powerful Bible study ministry. Her presentations were very much appreciated for her enthusiasm and the practical application of the seminar so that the work of evangelism can be accomplished by a lay person, children, young people, woman and all in the local church. She stressed three ways to experience spiritual revival through Bible study, intercessory prayer, and witnessing. She explained the five keys to successful evangelism based on revival, equipping, community outreach, reaping, nurture and follow up. She asserted that churches grow when new converts are nurtured and taught to witness.

Both sessions of the lectures closed with a dedication and consecration calls to work for the lost, the lost sheep of the church and the nurture of the believers. Pastors responded enthusiastically and appreciated very much Pastor Finley and Mrs. Finley for their presentations. Korean Translations were served by Pastor Kwon JhongHaeng, director of Adventist Mission and PMM, and Toegyewon Church Pastor Yang, Jong Ho. Those who had attended the meetings returned renewed for the continuation of church mission and evangelism in the Korean Conferences.

Dr. Miguel Luna, NSD Ministerial Association Secretary

The Late Spiritual Leader Pastor Zhang Zi Qian

The Chinese Church leader, Zhang Zi Qian, passed away at the age of 92 on November 8, 2005. He had worked for the Lord for more than 70 years, even until the day before he died, performing the ordinations for two young ministers from other provinces. He left his last will, saying "I wish whole families and church members to live for the glory of God!"



Pastor Zhang was born at Qing Zhou, Shan Dong, China in February, 1913. He began his church ministries in 1934 as director of the Adventist Shi Bei Publishing House, Shan Xi, China. Pastor Zhang had served as church administrator for many years: President of Seventh-day Adventist Shan Xi Conference, Gan Qing Conference, and the last president of the North West Union Conference under the China Division. (1944-1957)

Since the cultural revolution in China started in 1966, most of the church buildings were destroyed, worship was forced to stop, and the ministers were put into prisons or labor camps. Pastor Zhang was persecuted for more than twenty years being in the labor camps for about ten years. Beginning in 1980 the Chinese government allowed churches to open and Pastor Zhang at age of 67 started to plant churches leading a small group of 20 people in Lanzhou. Up to the year 2000, more than 1,500 members had joined the Lanzhou Church. Pastor Zhang had influenced thousands of members and non-believers as a spiritual leader in spite of his difficult life. Currently there are more than 8,000 people, more than 50 churches and house churches in the former North West Union Conference territory in China.

The Fourth Group of PMM Dedication Service

November 6, 2005, the dedication service for the fourth group of Pioneer Mission Movement missionaries was held at Sahmyook University Auditorium, Korea in conjunction with the Golden Angels' concert. Hands were laid on the seven PMM pastors by the church leaders with 1,500 audience members watching. General Conference leaders and the delegates for the Quinquennial Council of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division from Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and Taiwan participated.

PMM missionary appointment plaques were given to the seven pastors: five from Korea, one from Japan, and one from Taiwan. Dr. Jairyong Lee, president of the NSD encouraged the missionary families to serve the Lord with the spirit of Jesus Christ in the given mission fields. General Conference Vice President Lowell C. Cooper said, "Jesus will be with those missionaries who have accepted the invitation, "Go," and He will be responsible for the success of His Work."

The seven PMM missionaries will serve as church planters 2006-2011 in their assigned countries including Korea, Japan, Taiwan, etc. (seven PMM Pastors' Names: Yu, Chuan Fu (尤川夫); Harutsugu Ogawa(小川春嗣); Kim, Bom Ki (金汎起); Lee, Yong Ho (李龍虎); Kim Ki Hwang (金己晃); Cheong Eun Kyu (鄭恩圭))



First Korean-American, Adventist Elected Mayor in the U.S.

On November 8, 2005, Jun Choi, a 34-year-old Adventist, Korean-American won a mayoral election for Edison Town, New Jersey in the United States. On June 7, Jun Choi won the Democratic primary for Edison, NJ, defeating the three-term incumbent mayor, George Spadaro. The Edison City where he begins to serve as Mayor in January of 2006 is one of New Jersey's major towns with a population of more than 100,000.

Choi told the media, "My parents have taught me about important values of 'serving others and making better communities.'" He was raised in an Adventist family who emigrated to the States in 1974. Choi was a missionary teaching English at a branch of the SDA Language Institute, Seoul in 1993, and currently attending the New Jersey Central Korean Church.



COEX English Expo 2005 Features SDA Language Institute

The International English Expo & Conference 2005 was held at the Conference & Exhibition Center (COEX) Indian Hall in Seoul, December 1-4, 2005. The largest English festival in Korea featured the SDA Language Institute which is one of the most famous and leading English language education businesses in Korea.

At the opening ceremony, the tape-cutting was made by VIPs including Education Vice Minister Kim Young-shik, Arirang TV official, Kim, Si Young, President of the SDA Language Institute, Jeffrey Johns, former American Chamber of Commerce in Korea and Gyeonggi English Village Honorary President, and Susan Chyn, former Director of Business Development Asia Pacific Rim of the Educational Testing Service (ETS).



During the Expo, the Adventist language school along with some 200 experts in English language education from home and abroad gathered together to share and advertise all about English education-public and private institutes, multimedia software, e-learning contents, books, etc.

At the conference, local lecturers gave talks on how to speak better English. Lee, Dong Wook, director of SDA Development Research gave a presentation on the Interactive English language software for on-line education, and Christie Park spoke about "You Too Can Speak English." Some public media said "especially the SDA on-line interactive English learning system attracted participants' eyes very much."

It is said that the English education market in Korea is burgeoning as the language becomes a must for people who want to get ahead in their studies or career. This trend in Korea gives more opportunities to the SDA Language schools not only about contribution to Korean society through this education but also spreading the gospel. The SDA Language Schools in Korea began in 1969. They now have 37 branches serving about 50,000 students. They mainly teach English conversation classes, but also offer Japanese and Chinese classes. During 2004 more than 1,200 students were baptized as a result of this witness.

NESTART Health Seminar

October 5-9, 2005, a NEWSTART health seminar was held at Okinawa Adventist Medical Center. Donald Miller, Uchee Pines Institute Natural Remedy doctor, gave his presentations to a daily average of 125 participants including hospital staff during the seminar. Dr. Miller shared the latest natural remedy resources and his considerable experiences to introduce health principles and an ideal model of health ministries in Japan for the attendees. Dr. Miller is also working as global mission director of the Uchee Pines Institute. The institute is located in Alabama, U.S.



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