

NEWS & VIEWS

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION



May / June 2007

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Telling the World

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"Tell the World"
the Good News through the activities taking place throughout our Division territory.

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I Found Hope!

Under the marvelous guidance of God, at the end of 2006, our Bayview Church baptized four people who decided to follow Jesus, and join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. These four precious souls were from two different families. Two of them are a father and son, the other two are husband and wife. We would like to share with you the testimonies from the couple: Mr. and Mrs. Cheung.

Testimony from Brother Raymond Cheung:

My name is Raymond Cheung. I am very happy to be baptized into the Bayview Church, Hong Kong. I decided to follow Jesus. In July of last year, I was hospitalized because of flu, and coincidentally staying across from me was brother Lau Kwok Chuen. Brother Lau was under hospice care, and in the terminal stage of a recurrence of nasopharyngeal cancer. Everyday I saw many visitors come and visit him and pray with him. I could feel that they were loving, caring people; especially Mrs. Lau, the wife of Lau Kwok Chuen. She bravely accepted the fact that her husband will leave her

very soon, and accepted God's providence. She even came to my bed and prayed for me. I was very touched, and I became interested in the gospel. I requested baptism, and trust that all the bad things from the past would be wiped away, and God has given me a new life. I am a new being, and I hope to bring more people to believe in Jesus Christ.



Lau Kwok Chuen and wife



Editor's Note: When brother Raymond Cheung was young, he completed many of our church's correspondence Bible courses, and also received several diplomas. Ever since Brother Cheung was affiliated with our church members, he started coming to our church,



entered the baptismal classes, and finally joined the church. Not only he himself was willing to accept the gospel message, but he also encouraged his wife, who was bed-ridden due to sickness, to believe in Jesus Christ, asking for His healing power. Every Sabbath brother Cheung accompanies his wife to church to worship God with other brothers and sisters in Christ.

Testimony from Sister Lam Yuk Yin:

My name is Lam Yuk Yin. I'm very happy to be baptized into the Bayview Church. Last September I was diagnosed with tongue cancer. The doctor told me they have to perform a big operation to surgically remove my tongue. I felt so helpless. I was very depressed and

wanted to give up. Later on, my husband (Raymond Cheung) brought Pastor Lee King Kei to visit me. Pastor Lee prayed for me and shared the love of God with me. Before my big surgery, the pastor and an elder from the church performed an anointing service which helped me to face this thirteen-hour surgery with faith and hope. The surgery was a success, and now, through God's grace I am slowly recovering.



Mr. and Mrs. Cheung at their baptism

Editor's Note: Because of the tongue cancer, Sister Lam's tongue needed to be surgically removed. The doctor informed her that there is a possibility that the vocal cords also needed to be removed. Through the grace of God, Sister Lam got to keep her vocal cords, and she could also take in small amounts of fluid. After her baptism, Sister Lam insists on going to church every Sabbath, and to be a witness to other people.

Editor's Note: Brother Lau Kwok Chuen passed away on July 30, 2006 due to recurrence of nasopharyngeal cancer. He was 43 years of age. Brother Lau was married, with a 6 year-old and a 3 year-old son.

Integrating Faith And Learning Seminar

The Institute for Christian Teaching led by Dr. Humberto Rasi held the 35th International Seminar on Integrating Faith and Learning (IFL) at the Hong Kong Adventist College, from March 11 to 22, 2007. This brought together administrators, deans and educational leaders from 18 countries to this Northern Asia-Pacific (NSD) run campus.

The educational institutions and organizations represented were from: Australia, Croatia, Hungary, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Uganda, Germany, England, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Taiwan, Ukraine, the United States and Zimbabwe. This was the second time the Northern Asia-Pacific territories hosted an International Seminar on IFL. Sahmyook University hosted the 30th International Seminar on Integrating Faith and Learning in 2003.

Dr. Jairyong Lee, NSD president welcomed participants and gave a presentation entitled "Adventist Education, Witnessing and Mission." Dr. Phoon ChekYat, NSD Education director attended the Seminar. Twenty-one seminar papers were produced and presented on the last 3 days of the seminar. These papers will be reproduced in the 35th volume of the *Christ in Classrooms* series.



All participants enjoyed a strong feeling of comradeship and pledged to continue the work of Integrating of Faith and Learning in their own institutions and share this concept with their colleagues.

Family Life Certification

A group of 25 leaders and members gathered together for the first module of the Family Life Certification Workshop at the Hong Kong-Macao Conference on March 3, 2007. Convinced that the family approach may be an effective entering wedge in outreach efforts, leaders explored the Biblical foundations for marriage and family. In addition to short lectures, group discussions and presentations engaged everyone in a comfortable learning environment. A question-and-answer session rounded up the three-hour presentation. The rest of the nine modules will be delivered over a period of two years.



Dr. Sally Lam-Phoon, Family Ministries director at the Northern Asia-Pacific Division is convinced that, "with this preparation, it is anticipated that those who are certified will be able to assist in ministering to families in the churches and cell groups."

Contributed by Sally Lam-Phoon



ADRA Spring Board

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Asia Regional Office held their Spring Board Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal this year. The meetings ran from March 13-15, 2007. Leaders from ADRA International, ADRA Asia along with leaders from various Divisions and Unions within Asia attended the meetings. Dr. Jairyong Lee, current chairman of the board, Don Upson, Hong MyungKwan and Oh SooHo represented the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

In addition to the usual agenda business of reviewing the work of ADRA in the Asia Region, the board had the privilege of visiting several projects after the meeting.

Six young Japanese volunteers led by Mitsuo Chris Ishii, Country Director of ADRA Japan, are helping ADRA Nepal with the construction of a sub-health post in Kavre with the funding support of the Government of Japan. The board members also visited the Scheer Memorial Hospital and met with a women's group at the ADRA Office in Banepa. ADRA Nepal is currently working with 7,800 women to help them alleviate poverty and improve their quality of life in their communities by providing them with education and livelihood activities.



Tri-Division Literature Evangelism Congress

Colporteurs from the General Conference and three Divisions in the Asia-Pacific Region attended the first Literature Evangelism Congress at the Ambassador Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand from April 18 to 21, 2007. The South Pacific Division, the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, the Southern Asia Division and the Northern Asia-Pacific Division all sent representatives.

Around 900 representatives from 22 countries attended this convention for 4 days in order to have new vision and hope for the colporteur ministry. Pastor Faigao, GC Publishing director, inspired the audience with his sermon on the last day of the meetings.



Dr. Jairyong Lee, president and Pastor DaeSung Kim Publishing director of NSD attended the conference. In addition to the various testimonies and presentations, there was a badge presentation ceremony for long-term employees (over 15 years) and a ceremony awarding prizes for outstanding workers. Three representatives from Japan who have worked for 50 years were awarded badges and made a deep impression on the audience.

Evangelism Summit 2007

Sunday evening, May 6, 2007. A long, heart wrenching blast from Summit coordinator Pastor Kwon JohngHaeng's shofar sends the audience into stunned silence. It serves as a reminder of the soon coming of Jesus. Dr. Jairyong Lee, Northern Asia-Pacific Division President (NSD), opens the NSD 2007 Evangelism Summit with his keynote address reminding those in attendance of the great challenge of reaching the 1.5 billion people within our territory.

Fifty representatives coming from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, gathered in the Grand Waldo Hotel in Macau for this opening session. These church leaders represent the administration and workers within this territory.

Often church leaders ask people to go and share their faith. In order to show that this applies to every member, for the past four years NSD has set aside one day to reach out to the community located around their office. There are 119 institutions within our territory. Dr. Lee asked, "What would happen if all 119 institutions followed the example of NSD with a Mission Day each year?"



Dr. Lee told of the Ilsan English church that was started one year ago. This past Sabbath of the 65 individuals in attendance more than 50% were not members of the church. The afternoon program involved an outdoor concert by the Golden Angels singing group while church members and visitors handed out cards inviting people to attend the Ilsan English church. The visitors were most ambitious in giving out the invitation cards.

Armando Miranda, General Conference Vice President, pictured at left, challenged the attendees as to how those who have worshipped with us previously can be encouraged to again find fellowship within the church. Park Inbea, Pastor of the Kyomoonri Church in Ko-



rea shared his experiences in church planting and church growing. Pastor Kwon Manbok, retired Korean pastor and author of 205 books and periodicals, spoke of the challenges and opportunities that face the Adventist pastor. A layman and church elder, Johnny Wong, of the Gateway Adventist Centre, Melbourne, Australia, excited the church leaders with his testimony of empowering the young people to plant new churches.

Pastor Miranda shared the experience of his sister, who visited a church and no one greeted her or acknowledged that she was a visitor. She was simply seeking an understanding ear during a very difficult time in her life. His plea was for the church to become a warm caring place of refuge.

Coming from a successful business background, Johnny Wong, told the leaders that every church must have “Key Performance Indicators” to measure their progress towards their goals. Areas to measure are: Attendance/Seeker Attendance, Care group attendance ratio of member to active member, Baptisms per member(active), Bible studies per week and tithe per active member.



The Golden Angels, NSD Singing Evangelists pictured above, presented an hour long concert on Tuesday evening to the acclaim of the attendees.

“In order to be ambassadors of God we must have the ‘Popeye Moment’”, said Terry Tsui, Chinese Union Mission Secretary. “This will give us the workers a passion and burden for souls.”



Pastor Kwon introducing the program

After One Hundred Years

On March 17, 2007 Japanese PMM Pastor Harutsugu Ogawa gave his first sermon in Korean on the day of the opening of the first Japanese Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kangnam. Thirty people attended the service.

He is the first pastor to come to South Korea from Japan since Elder Hide Kuniya held an evangelistic series on the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14 about one hundred years ago. Pastor Ogawa will remain in Korea with his family for six years to spread the everlasting gospel.



In the afternoon, two hundred church members attended the opening ceremony of SDA Kangnam Japanese Church. Pastor Akeri Suzuki, Executive Secretary of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, pictured at left, welcomed the guests along with Pastor Sung Sun Hong, Ministerial Secretary of the Korean Union Conference and Pastor Si Young Kim, Director of the SDA Language Institute.

Pastor Ogawa's parents, who are not yet Christians came from Japan and participated in the Opening Ceremony. His father told the guests, "I had opposed my son to become a pastor but I could see today that my son is serving as a pastor for many people." His father seemed very happy and proud of his son.

Mongolian Spring Harvest

The Central Church of Ulaanbaatar hosted a combined church baptism. Four churches from around Ulaanbaatar brought a total of 21 baptismal candidates. Because the weather is still fairly cold, maximums of about -3 Celsius (-20 Fahrenheit), the only place the smaller churches can baptize is the Ulaanbaatar Central Church.



"It was great to see both young and older people making the decision for Christ", shares Pastor Paul Kotanko, director of the Mongolia Mission Field. Some of the candidates were from an evangelistic series held the previous summer. Most were because of friends inviting friends to church or small group meetings.

One young man had his first contact with the church when he printed some evangelistic handbills. He became interested and came along to the meetings and then to church. Finally, he made his decision to be baptized a few months ago and ever since, he has been pestering the pastor to baptize him. His big day came and he was finally happy! The church in Mongolia is growing steadily mainly due to the tireless work of pastors, leaders, and members cooperating with the Holy Spirit to bring precious souls to Jesus.

Contributed by Pastor Paul Kotanko



Communication Challenge

// "You need to get rid of your cloister mentality" Ray Dabrowski, General Conference Communication director admonished advisory participants. He then reminded them that in days gone by, the Adventist church was among the forerunners in addressing social and global issues. "We were among the abolitionists speaking out against slavery, the temperance leaders and supporters of religious freedom. The question remains, are we where the poor are today? And we are not only speaking about physical poverty."



From April 24 to 26, 2007, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division welcomed Communication directors from Japan, Korea and Mongolia to an advisory where discussions revolved around the importance of Communication departments within the Adventist Church. "Is it reaching the pews?" Dabrowski challenged thus addressing one of the primary issues in Communication, namely relaying of the message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to its individual members and the effective use of media to do so.

Important issues were raised about professional and ethical conduct with regards to Communication. Any Communication department is the "face" of the Church and as such has the responsibility to be in touch with local media and to build bridges within the religious community. In a territory that holds some reserve towards the Seventh-day Adventist church the unions, conferences and fields will have their fair share of challenges to face.

ESL Directors in Sydney

The South Pacific Division hosted the International Council of ESL Directors in Sydney from February 22-27, 2007. Directors and operators of language schools from Bangkok, England, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and the Czech Republic were present.

Dr Vernon Parmenter, the associate secretary of the General Conference, chaired the meeting with Elder Gary Rustad, associate secretary of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division and secretary of the Council. Dr. Chek Yat Phoon, Education director for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division attended the meetings.



Issues on the innovation; recruiting, training and screening of volunteers; and developing and maintaining the spiritual mission of the language schools were the main topics of discussion. Reports on the progress of some of the schools were given. Plans for the future were discussed.

Departmental

South African IRLA Congress

Some 500 participants including government officials, ambassadors, church leaders, lay leaders and religious freedom experts gathered at the Sixth World Congress of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) February 27 through March 1, 2007 to examine the theme "Combating Religious Hatred through Freedom to Believe." Pastor Glenn Mitchell, Communications Director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division attended the meetings held at the Cape Town International Conference Centre in South Africa.

In his welcome to attendees, Paul Ratsara, president of the IRLA in the Southern Africa region, referenced the fathers and leaders of South Africa, among them Nelson Mandela, who served long sentences at the nearby Robben Island prison. "We are here to affirm and assert our belief that religious liberty is a God-given right. We are here to affirm with love yet with strong conviction our belief in the natural and inalienable right of freedom of conscience--to have or not have a religion," he said.



IRLA secretary-general John Graz, who also heads the Seventh-day Adventist world church's Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department, made it clear that such congresses were essential. "As long as the right to choose one's religion is not re-

spected, as long as innocent people are discriminated against, persecuted and deprived of their basic rights just because of their beliefs, we need to have congresses on religious freedom, congresses like this one."

The congress' first panel featured representatives from various inter-religious sectors of South Africa and included: Nokuzola Mndende, who represented African Traditional Religion; Aslam Fataaz, the past president of the Muslim Youth Movement of South Africa; Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi and honorary president of the World Conference on Religion and Peace; Dr. Monzegi Guma of the Cultural, Religious, and Linguistic Rights Commission; and Anglican Father John Oliver, founding chairperson of the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative. These presenters shared their experience of combating apartheid and forming interfaith coalitions to foster religious harmony and human rights in the new South Africa.



Contributed by IRLA / ANN Staff



Scholarships As An Investment

Within the NSD territory, the fastest rate of church growth comes from Mongolia. The church in Mongolia comprises mainly young people below 30, many of whom are professionals. This is the first generation of Adventists in Mongolia since Adventist missionaries were forced to leave during World War I. After World War II, very little was heard from Mongolia until a brave new wave of missionaries from Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) ignited the flame once more in the late nineties.

As the result of an informal chat between the NSD Women's Ministry director, Dr. Sally Lam-Phoon and her counterpart in Mongolia, Mrs Cleidi Kuhn, the idea was born regarding how to expedite the process of translation of resources so much needed to nurture these young Christians most of whom are women. (Currently, this job is done mainly by professional translators who may not even understand Christianity.)

A proposal was written to support a dozen church members to study English in one of the best language schools in Ulaanbaatar for one and a half years. Mongolians have a knack of lapping up the English language and attain proficiency in a very short time. This proposal was approved by the Executive Committee of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division on August 17, 2006 and by September, 12 men and women selected from among the Mongolia Mission Field office workers, assistants and church leaders began their English classes. "By March 2008, we will have 12 translators to assist with producing materials," Dr. Lam-Phoon explained.



In addition, the Korean Adventist Women's Association (KAWA) of the Middle West Korean Conference has, since 2005, raised their own funds to sponsor two Mongolians per year to build up national leadership. This was the direct result of a group of women from the Middle West Korean Conference who visited Mongolia to assist in evangelism there in 2004. Two young people, a woman, Ulziimaa Galsanjamts and a man, Od Altankhuyag, are both studying theology at Sahmyook University in Korea. The former is now a senior while the latter is now a sophomore. While studying, Ulziimaa has, on her own initiative translated the first volume of "Our Bible Friends." She will continue this project and aims to see the 10 volumes in print and put in the hands of many parents and children in Mongolia.

HKMC Windows

One thousand members gathered at Tai Po Sam Yuk Secondary School auditorium on February 24, 2007, the first Sabbath of the Chinese Lunar New Year Festivals. The Hong Kong-Macao Conference (HKMC) held a combined worship under the theme *Words of Hope*. Members of Chinese churches and English churches listened to the words of hope that Pastor Cheng Wing-kin, president of the Hong Kong-Macao Conference delivered. He encouraged the members of the church to search the scriptures daily, have faith in the words of God, to apply the truth in their daily life and to share words of hope with the people of Hong Kong.



Following the worship service, the Conference held a *HKMC Window* program to introduce the upcoming activities of the various departments of the Conference.

The directors of the different ministries of the Conference conducted a dedication service for the officers of local churches. The Youth Ministry, Health Ministry, Family Ministry, Children Ministry and Women Ministry each took part in the dedication ceremony.

Dr. Sally Lam-Phoon, director of Women Ministry of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), Serene Chong, director of Women Ministry of the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM) and Sanny Wan, administrative secretary of the Conference presented various women with "outstanding women" awards as a token of their appreciation. Through the *HKMC Window*, members of the church gained insight into the work being done in the various departments. The initiative also helped leaders of local churches to get acquainted with one another.



Retiree Retreats

Pastor Philip Bohyun Yoon a retired pastor was called to be a local church pastor by the South West Korean Conference on March 1, 2007. As soon as he moved to his new territory, he met the editor of the local newspaper, the Jinan Sinmoon. The editor became interested in the NEWSTART Health message. As a result the paper has provide 24 column inches for NEWSTART promotion.

The Jinan Church was established in 1958. Currently there are 40 members. This newspaper outreach is just one of several approaches being used to reach their local community.





Reaching Urban Chinese For Jesus

The Chinese Union Mission and Taiwan Conference have committed themselves to creating an integrated television and Internet ministry that will target the 500 million urban Chinese around the world. According to John Ash, President of the Taiwan Mission, "the first step involves a cooperative agreement with the General Conference initiated Hope Channel. Before the end of the year, Adventist Hope Channel Chinese (AHCC) will be broadcasting 24/7 through strategically placed satellites. Using the talents of Internet Evangelists and the resources of the internet these broadcasts will cover the world in the next few months."

The challenge is preparing broadcast quality Chinese programming. The present plan is to avoid a major centrally located TV station, and to set up satellite production studios all around the globe where Chinese Adventist professionals and laymen can be trained to create TV quality programs utilizing local talent and resources. Pastor Ash has invited all people interested in getting involved in any way to write to Robert Christensen- rc@tapa.tp.edu.tw or John Ash - jwash@tw-cadventist.org.tw .

AWR President's Award

Adventist World Radio is pleased to present the AWR President's Award to Akinori Kaibe, in recognition of his long years of service to the ministry. Kaibe served as director of the Asia/Pacific Region for 8 years, in addition to his years as a producer in Japan and as communication director of the Asia-Pacific Division. He has now moved to Japan to take up duties as chief editor of the Japan Publishing House.

The Asia/Pacific Region is AWR's largest territory, in terms of both population and geographic area. During his years as region director, Kaibe significantly increased the number of studios and languages, such as Cambodian, Mongolian, Assamese, Mizo, Nepali, and Uyghur. He also initiated the current project for the production of Thai, Lao, and Hmong. Another significant accomplishment was to upgrade all of the studios to digital production and the use of the Internet for transferring files from studios to broadcast locations. He established AWR's Singapore region office and added two staff members who are also a great help to the region.

"Akinori has a broad understanding of the many cultures in Asia," says AWR president Ben Schoun. "I learned a lot from him, and he has become a very good friend."

AWR currently broadcasts programs in 32 languages in the region, and several more are under development this year.



North Korean Talks

Representatives of the North Korean Government met with Northern Asia-Pacific president Dr. Jairyong Lee and Pastor Daesung Kim, director of the Personal Ministries department of NSD on March 28, 2007. Talks took place at Gaesung, North Korea and centered around the K-project.

The K-project is a Northern Asia-Pacific Division initiative to extend humanitarian assistance with medical and health services in North Korea. After the initial talks in June last year, there was no progress for the K-project. The sensitive political climate regarding North Korea made international relations difficult.

NSD Youth Advisory Meetings

Northern Asia-Pacific Division Youth Department under the direction of Pastor Joshua Shin held their Advisory Meeting from March 3 to March 8, 2007, at the 1000 Missionary Movement headquarters in Silang Cavite, Philippines. Youth directors from Korea, Japan, Hongkong, Taiwan and Mongolia participated in the meetings.

World Youth Director Dr. Baraka Muganda and Associate Director Dr. Hiskia Missah were the speakers discussing the future youth department plans. After the Advisory meetings the participants visited the mission field where the 1000 MM Missionaries are serving. They had the opportunity to see their work and also encourage them in their mission endeavors.



NSD President Visits Africa

NSD President Dr. Jairyong Lee and his wife departed for Africa on February 12, 2007. Dr. Lee was scheduled to visit the countries of Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda, the East Central African Division in Kenya and attend the ADRA International Board Retreat in Rwanda.

On his first Sabbath in the capital city Kigali, Dr. Lee spoke to 1,500 people at a local church. In Kampala, Uganda, Dr. Lee was invited to speak to students at Bugema University. He also preached to 3,200 people at Nairobi Central Church on Sabbath. In Kenya, he visited the East African Union office and the East-Central Africa Division headquarters.

