

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 1, Number 3

Northern Asia-Pacific Division in Korea

At last the Northern Asia-Pacific Division has landed on the Land of Morning Calm. The last group of the NSD staff has arrived in Korea from Singapore on June 16, 1997. Surely this is an opening of a new chapter of NSD history.

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division has been established in order to achieve three basic objectives. The first one is to enhance the efficiency of the services provided by the division to the unions and local fields. The former Asia-Pacific Division was too diverse in culture, language, economics, religion and political systems; and was too big in terms of membership, number of organizations and institutions, and territory. The Northern Asia-Pacific division, though it is the largest division in terms of population to work for, is one of the least diverse divisions among the twelve world divisions. There are basically only three cultural units, namely Chinese, Japanese and Korean. These three units can even be categorized as Chinese character culture or nicknamed the Chopsticks Culture. The homogeneous nature or at least similarity of culture enables the Division to provide more practical and suitable services to the field.

The second objective is to enhance the Global Mission initiatives in the territory of the East Asia Association (EAA). EAA had been directly under General Conference supervision since it began its activities. As the work in the EAA territory made significant growth and many new opportunities were apprehended, the church leadership felt the time has come to incorporate EAA into one of the world divisions. Now the EAA is an integral part of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. We are to capitalize on every opportunity in the territory of the EAA.

Though there are mountains of challenges I have a very positive outlook, "For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth" (Rom. 9:28)

Even though God takes the initiative in finishing His work on earth our participation and involvement are essential. God could have finished His work without human participation, if He had so chosen, but in His wisdom He decided to do His work through human instruments our own benefit. New challenges demand renewed dedication, and new opportunities call for more involvement. Let us not perceive the birth of the new Northern Asia-Pacific Division as merely an administrative territorial realignment. Rather, it is a pro-active effort to hasten the finishing of God's work in this region which calls for your dedication and involvement. I urge everyone to sincerely ask the Lord, "What do you want me to do to take part in the fulfillment of the objectives of the new division?", and obey what He impresses upon your mind.



The third objective is to utilize the once blocked funds for their designated purpose which is evangelism. Now there is no such thing as blocked currency. Every single Won, Yen, HK dollar or NT dollar can be used for evangelism and soul winning. We really rejoice over this development.

Please remember that the success of the NSD upon your involvement and participation in God's Work.

P. D. Chun, President

PARL Advisory held in Singapore

May 12-14, 1997 Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific Division held its combined quinquennial Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) advisory in Singapore. The theme of the advisory was "Facing the New Millennium: Liberty in Pluralistic Society." Eight delegates from NSD and SSD unions and conferences attended the advisory as the necessity of the work for religious liberty is increasing around the world every year and lots of problems are taking place in relation to religious beliefs. In this connection, the NSD and SSD PARL department directors Dr. Tadaomi Shinmyo and Hiskia Missah launched this PARL advisory.

Dr John Graz, General Conference PARL director and formerly youth and communication director of the Euro-Africa division was the guest lecturer. He emphasized the following topics: Religious Freedom Threatened?; What is PARL?; A Statement on Religious Freedom; Religion and Politics; Relations with other Churches; and Evangelize or Proselytize? Other guest speakers were Dr Alex Rantung, SSD Secretary and Dr Eugene Hsu, president and PARL director of East Asia Association, respectively, gave enlightening messages during the morning devotionals. The lectures and inspiring reports touched the hearts of the delegates. Once again they were convince to commit themselves to carry forward the work of God.



One of the encouraging reports was that of Bien V Tejano, PARL and Health director of North Philippine Union Mission. He was chosen to chair the Board of Trustees of Health Mission Foundation Corporation because of his accomplishment and the good relationship he has with the Philippine government personnel. He became a close friend of the president of

the Philippines, Fidel V Ramos, to the extent of travelling with him several times to other countries.

The PARL delegates from NSD and SSD have enthusiastically participated in the Letter Campaign to the president of Brazil, with more letters sent than any other division. An award was given to Korean Union Conference for having sent the largest number of letters among the different unions/conferences throughout the division territories. All PARL directors of the different unions worked hard to organize the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) national and regional chapters in their respective territories. So far there are 6 national and 97 regional chapters with 2,696 membership.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, PARL Director

Announcement of Address Change

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World Minister's Councils

Two World Minister's Councils were held during the month of May in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

The Council for the pastors and their spouses in the South China Island Union Mission convened May 13-18 on the campus of Taiwan Adventist College. About 100 pastors and fifty pastor's wives were in attendance.

The keynote address for the Council was given by Elder Richard Liu. Other guest lectures who addressed the Council included James and Sharon Cress and Rex Edwards from the General Conference Ministerial Association; Mario Veloso, GC Associate Secretary; Thomas Neslund from the GC Health & Temperance Department; Virginia Smith, Director of the GC Children's Ministry Department, Pastor Lyell Heise from the Avondale College Church in Australia; Pastor Ron Preast from Seattle, Washington; P D Chun, President of the NSD and David Parks, NSD Ministerial Association Secretary.

The presentations were designed to be of practical value to the pastors and their spouses and to aid and inspire them in their ministry in the local churches. During the final two days of the Council, special attention was given to ways and means of reaching the Chinese populations which are scattered in many countries across Asia and around the world.

The following week, May 23-27, the Ministers Council was held at the Amagi Retreat Center, about 150 kilometers south of Tokyo, for the pastors and their spouses in the Japan Union Conference. Nearly 200 people were in attendance. Elder P D Chun gave the keynote address and the daily schedule of presentations was the same as those given in Taiwan.

The evening meetings at the Council in Japan focussed on the issue of church organization and structure in the Japan Union Conference. Several proposals were discussed for streamlining the church organization to make it more efficient and to increase the percentage of workers who are assigned in the field. The pastors and their spouses express sincere appreciation for these Councils and returned to their fields of labor with renewed courage and vision to further God's work.

David Parks, Ministerial Association Secretary

Net '98: Satellite Evangelism

In 1995, the North American Division was the first of the world divisions to utilize satellite evangelism. This series was called Net '95. Approximately 700 churches participated in the project. The speaker was Mark Finley, director and speaker of the IT IS WRITTEN TV broadcast. This first satellite evangelism series provided a significant impetus to the evangelistic outreach of the church in North America.

Net '96 involved nearly 2,000 churches and again Mark Finley was the speaker. Other world divisions participated with the North American Division and received a great blessing. NAD experienced approximately 17,000 baptisms as the result of Net '96 which contributed the largest number of baptisms of the year 1996 in the history of that division. During the same year, NAD experienced the largest amount of tithe income in its history. The influence of Net '96 is still being felt in 1997 by increased baptisms and tithe.

Dwight K. Nelson, senior pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University is scheduled to serve as the speaker for Net '98.



Since Net '98 is inviting the participation of all of the world divisions, the Net '98 Coordinators' Seminar was conducted at the Pioneer Memorial Church May 20 and 21, 1997. Tadaomi Shinmyo, NSD's Communication Director attended the seminar. NSD's interest in becoming involved in Net '98 is evident by the division committee action to form a Net '98/'99 Satellite Evangelism Committee which will give study and make recommendations for implementation of the program division-wide.

Editor

NSD Workers Depart on June 16 to Korea

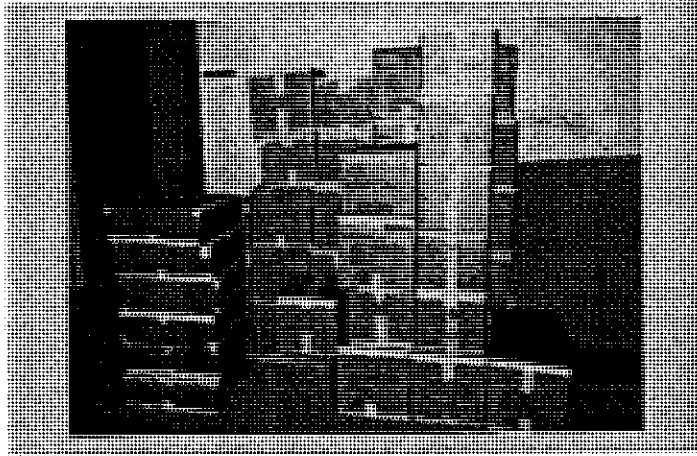
The Northern Asia-Pacific Division President, P. D. Chun, and others of the NSD family worked faithfully and tirelessly, keeping up with the flow of work while preparing for the move to Korea.

While their personal effects were enroute to Korea, they were obliged to experience a "camp-style" life for two weeks in modern apartments, although there were air conditioners, but no refrigerators.

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Packing for the Move of NSD to Korea from Singapore

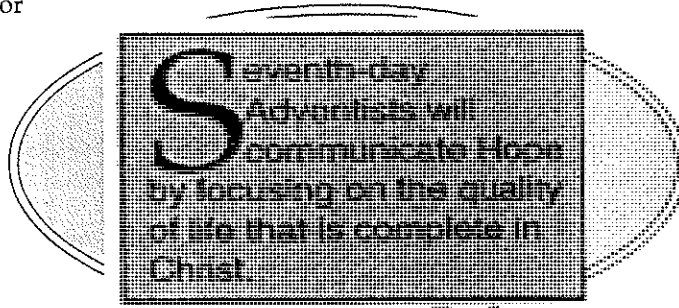


From May 27 to June 3, 1997, workers of the newly organized Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) began packing their personal effects in preparation for the transfer of the NSD Headquarters. Four of these families lived at the Shan Mansions, one family and a single worker lived at the Westlake housing and another single worker lived in a rented house.

In order to save moving expenses, the families agreed to ship their personal effects together in 40-foot containers with additional items of office furniture being included to completely fill each container.

The Northern Asia Pacific Division was allocated eight desktop computers, 28 cabinets and other items from the distribution of the former Asia Pacific Division. Carpets from the Suntec City Tower offices in Singapore were also sent for the new headquarters office in Korea. It took about two weeks, with the help of many temporary laborers to prepare the items for shipment. With the transfer of the NSD offices to Korea, it was possible for the office space of Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) to be reduced, thereby saving rental expense. The SSD is planning to move their offices to the Philippines sometime in November 1997.

Editor



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