



God's Working in Mongolia



Lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and many other vegetables are growing in the Adventist Development and Relief Agency's (ADRA) pilot garden project in the suburbs of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, probably the first time in Mongolian history. Being animal herders living in the desert on prairie land, Mongolians have been living on animal, meat and dairy products. Owing to the modern traders, they enjoy eating imported vegetables and fruits but they do not grow any of them. They believed that it was impossible until Mr. Scott Christiansen introduced them to the "Kitchen Garden Project". They were skeptical; but now thousands of Mongolians are excited to see that they can grow vegetables in their own garden under the direction of ADRA.

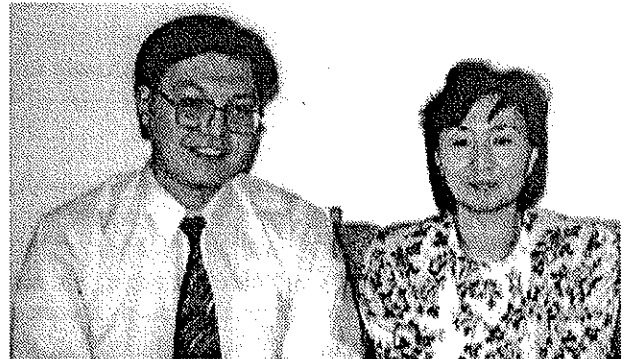
The ADRA Kitchen Garden project was featured in Newspapers and on TV. It is the beginning of a new era in the life of the Mongolian people. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization promised to sponsor hundreds more ADRA vegetable projects throughout the country. Through various kinds of projects, ADRA makes a valuable contribution to the improvement of the quality of life of the Mongolian people. Both the Mongolian people and their government appreciate ADRA's activities very much.

There is another "garden" project under way in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia - some thirty energetic young people are worshipping every Sabbath. They are all in their late teens or early twenties.

Brad and Kathy Jolly and his wife arrived in that land locked country approximately six years ago under the sponsorship of Adventist Frontier Missions. Their purpose was to plant an Adventist presence in that very closed communist country. Until their arrival,

Mongolia was one of the few unentered countries. Two years later another AFM missionary, Joan Park, a young Korean American lady, joined the Jollys. When Elder Robert Folkenberg, the GC president, made his first trip to Mongolia in October of 1993, he participated in the harvest of the "first fruits" by baptizing eight young people. The Mongolian Adventist Church has been growing steadily despite many hurdles and an adverse environment to Christianity. Recently, Elder and Mrs. Gerald Christo, a retired pastor and the former Southern Asia Division president, joined the team to strengthen the work there. Out of a total of fourteen baptized members, four are taking theology-ministerial training at Adventist seminaries in Korea, the Philippines and the United States.

One of the challenges which the Mongolian Adventist Church has had to overcome was securing government recognition of our church. In a formerly closed communist and traditional Tibetan Buddhist country, securing official recognition was a formidable challenge.



< Munkjargal (husband) & Narantuya (wife) >

Praise the Lord, by the tenacious efforts of Mr. Munkjargal, who is the fourteenth Mongolian Adventist and a student of the Adventist Theological Seminary in Andrews University, the Ulaanbaatar Adventist Church received official recognition from the Ulaanbaatar City Council on July 24, 1997. Now the church can conduct evangelistic activities openly and officially, invite overseas missionaries and rent

or own property. This is a great breakthrough for the Mongolian Adventist work.

The General Conference and the Northern Asia-Pacific Division looked for a regular missionary family for Mongolia for several months. On the very same day on which the Mongolian Church received official recognition, the GC voted to send Pastor Dale Tunnel and family to serve as long term missionaries in Mongolia. Previously, Elder Tunnel served as the Bible teacher for the Georgia-Cumberland Academy in the USA. Surely God is working in Mongolia! The future perspective is bright and promising!

P D Chun, President

We Are Making History



The Northern Asia-Pacific Division staff arrived in Korea on June 16. While waiting for our furniture, we all "camped" in Green Lake Park Motel, washing our clothes by hand in bathtubs. Drying the clothes was a challenge. The presidential suite was shared by both the division secretary and the treasurer, and also it served as a conference room. When a meeting was scheduled, the two occupants had to do a thorough cleaning job.

An unoccupied staff apartment served as a temporary office for the staff. The computers were on the floor. Secretaries and staff members had to kneel down by their computers to type, sending e-mails and faxes.

Seoul's summer is hot. Without air conditioning, or fan, the hard working staff perspired profusely while making denominational history in this part of the world.

On June 30 of 1997, we moved into our Northern Asia-Pacific Division's office space. Actually, it was one complete floor of a multistory building with uncompleted partitions, furniture not in place and boxes piled everywhere. Nevertheless, everyone did his best in completing the arrangements to make our new division headquarters look like a well-ordered, modern office. Elder Kim Jong Moon and Mr. Kim Young Chin worked almost day and night to make the office presentable and functional when most of the furniture and equipment was delivered. The staff met for morning worship in the new chapel area for the first time on July 3. We praise and thank the Lord for what He has done for us.

In 1888, Brother Abraham La Rue arrived in Hong Kong, which is part of NSD territory. He began the work in the Asia Pacific region with nothing but

himself and a determined faith in God. His faith plus God's blessings grew to hundreds and thousands of members today who are dedicated to fulfilling the Gospel commission.

Compared to Brother La Rue, the NSD has so many bountiful blessings, yet is still facing the overwhelming challenge of preaching the everlasting Gospel to one quarter of the world's population. Still, without God's blessing, we are no better off than was Abraham La Rue. We thank God for His promise, : "... not by might nor by power but by my spirit saith the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6.

Over one hundred years ago, Abraham La Rue made history by beginning the work in the Asia Pacific region. It may just be that the Lord is going to use us, who are living so near to the close of time, to bring the Kingdom of God to the waiting millions. We are called to make history here and now. What a privilege! What a challenge! We have the opportunity to see a finished work and hear the sweet voice of our Lord saying, "...Well done, thou good and faithful servant thou hast been faithful over a few things. I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matthew 25:21.

Richard Liu, Secretary

World News

- The Lutheran World Federation that represents 57 million believers invited John Graz, GC PARL Director of our church, to its global communion at Hong Kong in July of 1997. He gave greetings to the assembly on July 15. (ANN Bulletin, July 18, 1997)
- Church growth in Papua New Guinea is tremendous. The Papua New Guinea Mission President says, "We have an increasing membership, but the number of pastors is decreasing." "We need 20 or 30 more pastors right now. We have the budget to employ 20, but we don't have the trained men." Despite the shortage of ministers, he has a dream for more growth, namely from 170,000 to 200,000 by the year 2,000 in Papua New Guinea. (ANN Bulletin, July 22, 1997)
- United States Government recognizes Adventist service. On July 25, 1997 the Adventist Youth Service Network was honored at the White House for its participation in the sponsorship of the National Service Scholarships Program. Numerous leaders from various organizations were present as dignitary guests of President Clinton. (ANN Bulletin, July 29, 1997)

The "Good Old Days" and Now

After the usual introductions, sooner or later the question is usually asked, "Do you see any difference between when you served in the Far East before and the environment in which you work today?" My reply, "Yes and no".

Accounting. There has been a huge change in the area of Accounting. Back then it was hand-posted vouchers and hand-operated adding machines, later NCR bookkeeping machines. Now there are computers and printers at every work station, and most net worked together. The software is of the latest version.

In Communication. Back then the fastest was by cable then telex then one fax machine for the entire organization, then one for each department. Now its e-mail with each officer and director having his own Compuserve number and a laptop computer that enables him to communicate immediately wherever there is a telephone connection. Several have cellular telephones.

Transportation. Then it was a fortunate employee who owned a bicycle. Later the Mission President might have a car. Now most every employee, head of a family has a car or van. Then we often traveled around town in a "becha" (pedicab) now by air conditioned subway.

Housing. Then it was Mission owned single story houses, later Mission owned apartments, now the employees are usually housed in multi-story high-rise apartment blocks. (We live on the 13th floor of a 25 story apartment building)

Church Buildings. Then it was usually small wooden buildings constructed by volunteer labor on individual lots. Then as the Message was taken into the large cities, there were larger churches built of brick and steel. Now it is often one single story in a large multi-story building. (Our church is on the 6th floor) Then it was only the "rich" churches which had a piano and electric organ and an electronic "keyboard".

We are saddened to see the inverse relationship between the standard of living and the spiritual commitment of our members. It seems that the higher the standard of living less fervent is the commitment to "a finished work".



But then there are things which never change. Our God is the same yesterday, today and forever. The Gospel is still the "good news". The church is still His fortress in a revolted world. We are still all God's children, regardless of the language we speak or the color of our skin or the type of passport that we carry. The goal is still the same - The Gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. We all live with the hope of seeing our Lord's soon return.

Gordon E. Bullock, Interim Treasurer
(The Bullocks served in Indonesia and the Philippines 1959-1975 and in Singapore 1985-1991 and are on temporary AVS service in the NSD)

World Congress on Religious Liberty

The Fourth World Congress on Religious Liberty was held at the Rio Palace Hotel in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from June 22-26, 1997. The theme of the Congress was "Facing the New Millennium: Religious Liberty in a Pluralistic Society."

The purpose of the Congress was accuracy expressed by in the written message from the President of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso as follows: "Religious freedom is inseparable from the very freedom of thought and speech, an inherent aspect of each individual's human dignity, and indispensable element to the strengthening of peace."

The Congress was sponsored by the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), the Association International Pour la Defense de la Liberte Religieuse (AIDLR), the International Academy for Freedom of Religion and Belief, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

IRLA is one of the oldest human rights organizations which has worked for the cause of religious liberty

throughout the world for almost a century. AIDLR, a U.N. accredited non-governmental organization has also worked for religious liberty for approximately half a century.

The approximately 400 participants in the Congress, coming from some 40 countries, included leaders from various religious organizations, government representatives, such as Brazil's Minister of Justice, the Governor of Sao Paulo, and a Federal Senator and other distinguished authorities on religious liberty. A friendly and congenial atmosphere pervaded the congress.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, Public Relations and Religious Liberty Director for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division represented the Division and its concerns for religious liberty.



In comparing the 1989 Religious liberty Congress, which was held in London, with the Congress in Brazil, it was evident that the later attracted a larger representation and the areas of discussion were much broader. Media personnel from newspapers, radio and TV stations provided excellent coverage of the Congress for their subscribers.

A spiritual highlight of the event occurred on Sabbath afternoon, June 28. The program was entitled the Festival of Religious Freedom. The program included music by various artists, including Wintley Phipps, who has performed for various Presidents of the United States.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, PARL Director

People of Hope

Seventh-day Adventists will communicate Hope by focusing on the quality of life that is complete in Christ.

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