

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

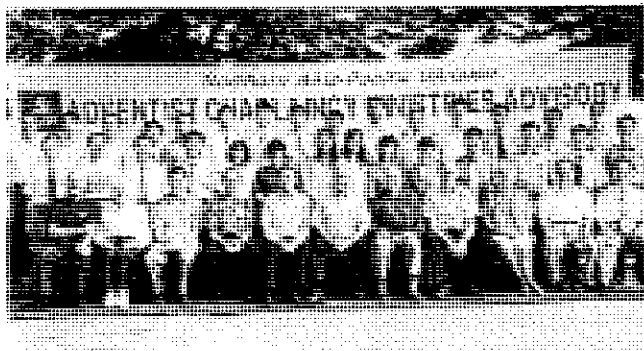
Volume 2, Number 18

The First Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Advisory

The first Northern Asia-Pacific Division Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) Advisory was conducted from August 16 to 20, 1998, at the Tong Yang Human Resource Development Center in Ilsan, a new city just outside of Seoul.

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries is a new department. During the 1995 General Conference Session in Utrecht of The Netherlands, it became a formal department of the Church organization officially. Pastor David Parks was appointed the first ACM Director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. He was succeeded by Pastor David Wong during the Division Annual Council in 1997.

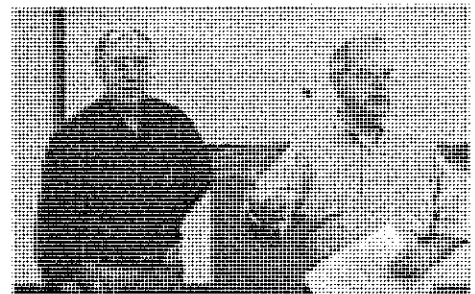
Forty-five delegates from Japan, Korea and Hong Kong participated enthusiastically in the event. These delegates were mostly chaplains from Adventist health-care and educational institutions, as well as English



Participants of the NSD Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Advisory.

language schools. There were two military chaplains from Yokohama and Okinawa. Due to the differences in the nature of the work among these chaplains, the seminars and workshops were designed in such a way as to cater to their particular needs in their ministries.

Pastor Richard O. Stenbakken, the ACM Director of the General Conference, and his associate Pastor Martin W. Feldbush, served as resource persons throughout



Pastors Richard Stenbakken (left) and Martin Feldbush, General Conference ACM Director and Associate Director, respectively.

the Advisory. In his keynote address during the opening ceremony, Pastor Stenbakken emphasized the leadership qualities of chaplains. Gleaning from the leadership experience of Nehemiah, he outlined eight important factors in making things happen: 1) Get the facts; 2) Set a goal; 3) Check your resources; 4) Turn old business into new; 5) Give the people something to remember you by; 6) Break rank - Be bold; 7) Get visible; 8) Saturate everything with prayer. These eight factors became the framework for his many practical seminar and workshop sessions.

On the first full day of the Advisory on Monday, August 17, Pastor P D Chun, President of the Division, gave a very timely message on the unique, significant, and challenging aspects of the chaplain's work. Pastor David Wong, NSD ACM Director, made two presentations on the Biblical Principles and Philosophy of Ministries, setting the stage for the study and discussion of chaplaincy ministry-related issues. Other presenters like Pastors John Ash, Dan Neisner, and Joe Ingram conducted practical seminars for the delegates. Together with the workshops held in the afternoons by Pastor Stenbakken and Feldbush, these learning experiences paved the way

for the "Discussion and Planning" times which proved to be the valuable and productive for the delegates.

For the "Discussion and Planning" periods, the chaplains in attendance were divided into the following four groups: medical institutions, colleges and university, language schools, and military. From these discussion sessions many outstanding recommendations on such issues and matters as chaplaincy training and resources, ecclesiastical endorsement, networking and communication, chaplain's association, and the International Board of Adventist Chaplaincy were formulated, voted by the delegates, and will be presented to the appropriate organizations for consideration and proper action.

One of the highlights of the Advisory was the reports given by all the unions represented. Using videos, slides, and various visual aids like a miniature ancestral shrine, the delegates gave accounts of their experiences in leading souls to Christ, projects and programs in the various institutions that met the felt needs of the people, and their visions and boldness in attempting greater things to the glory of the Lord.

Inspiring music played an integral part throughout the Advisory, especially during the morning devotionals and "praise and worship" in the evening. Besides the musical numbers provided by each union represented, some students from the Music Department of Korean Sahmyook University rendered melodious vocal and musical numbers that enhanced the worshipful atmosphere.

At the closing moments of the Advisory, the delegates were challenged to envision the kind of Chaplaincy Ministry for the year 2000 and beyond. They believed with all their hearts that ACM leadership at all levels

will function as servant leaders, facilitating the ministry of professional chaplains to focus on -

- Spiritually committed and mission-focused ministry,
- Integrated and participating ministry,
- Professional and competent ministry,
- Supported and resourced ministry, and
- Networking and systems-oriented ministry.

Accepting the challenge, the delegates returned to their posts of duties with praise and thanksgiving, as well as renewed commitment and dedication.

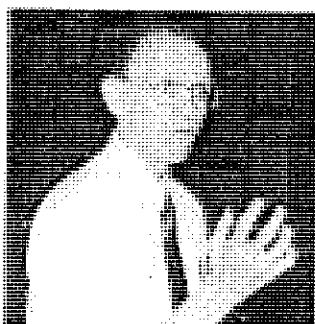
David S F Wong, *ACM Director*

Mission Possible

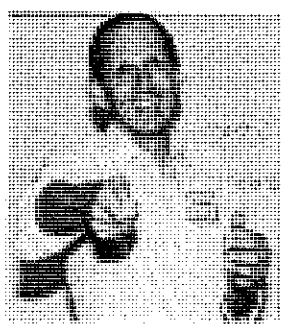
Since the organization of Taiwan Mission in 1948, half a century has passed. Recent trouble in the church makes people wonder what has gone wrong. One experienced administrator once made a comment that Taiwan has no talents. The said comment raised quite a protest. They have all the rights to do so, especially after what I have seen while attending the thanksgiving celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Taiwan work.

It was like a mini G.C. session. With devotional talks, musical programs, reports, promotions, and exhibitions within three days and two nights of celebration, it attracted more than one thousand people from all parts of the island on Sabbath morning. Of course, the first visit of the G.C. president, Elder Bob Folkenberg, was the major factor which drew a crowd of at least 1/3 of the island's regular attendance. The reports, the performances, the sermons preached all have touched the people's heart. The exhibition and display of the historical pictures made us remember our fore father's hard work and God's guiding hand that enabled us to face the unknown future without any fear.

The three officers of Taiwan Mission should really be commended. Organizing for a gathering of more than 1000 people is not an easy task. The finances, the various programs, the accommodations, the transportation, and the food arrangements did not only consume a tremendous amount of time, efforts, and prayers but also needed dedication in the planning, the preparation, the operation, and the follow ups. Any administration who applies this kind of dedication into their daily practice can also expect similar success.



Seminar Presenter :
Pastor John Ash, ACM
Co-ordinator, East Asia
Association.



Seminar Presenter :
Pastor Dan Neisner,
ACM Co-ordinator,
South China Island
Mission.

The opening ceremony started Friday evening at a resort hotel 10 miles from Taichung City. Presidents of four levels gave remarks and a slide show of Taiwan Mission's 50 years of history was shown. After the opening ceremony, friends not seen for a long time, met and shared their experiences with each other. Among the 1000 attendees, some had not seen each other since they left school 30 or even 40 years ago. They graduated as twenty-year-old young men and women, but now they have become grandparents and have retired from active work. They shed tears of joy on seeing each other. Many of God's servants have preached the soon coming of the Lord they love for 30 or 40 years. They never thought that they would ever reach retirement age before they can meet their Savior in the clouds.

On Sabbath morning, the president of the Division, Elder P D Chun, led in the morning devotional. The General Conference president, Elder Folkenberg, also gave us a timely message on true righteousness by faith. Sabbath afternoon' highlight was the baptism of eighty people into the Remnant Church. We also acknowledged the presence of the six former presidents of Taiwan Mission.

Finally on Sunday morning, the Qingsham Church Pathfinder's presentation impressed me the most, not only with their performance on First Aid and Knot Tying but also their spirit of dedication. The pastor and his wife took the young people to church and encouraged them to join the activities of the Pathfinder Club even before they became SDA's. Among the 15 pathfinders who attended the meeting, about 10-12 got baptized while joining the Qingsham Church's Pathfinder Program.

Women's Ministry put out a one-act-drama. The entire act was performed by a sister. The content was well organized, and her performance impressive. Her "sermon" didn't only keep everybody awake but also touched people's hearts. If every pastor in Taiwan can "preach" like this sister, I would not have any doubt that Taiwan Mission's work will grow in no time.

Do we dare to use women as pastors to lead the work? Do we dare to organize our Youth for Public Evangelism? Most of all, do we dare to listen to our Lord and stop our own way but wait for Him? With God's way and His power the mission is possible!

Richard Liu, *Secretary & Acting Publishing Director*

The 7th Pan-Japan Pathfinder Camporee

The 7th Pan-Japan Pathfinder Camporee attracted a record-breaking number of nearly 500 Pathfinders and their leaders in spite of the recent economic downturn in Japan. The delegations, representing 34 Pathfinder Clubs from the East and West Japan Conference and Okinawa Mission, participated in the event which was held at the beautiful resort of Hiroshima Kenmin No Mori (Hiroshima Prefecture's Public Forest), from August 6 to 10, 1998.

During the opening ceremony on the evening of August 6, the Pathfinders were reminded of the dropping of the first atomic bomb in Hiroshima on August 6, fifty-three years ago. In commemoration of this tragic event which resulted in the death of more than 140,000 residents of Hiroshima, the Pathfinders had chosen as the theme for the Camporee, *Peace by the Lord*. It was a moving and inspiring experience to hear the Pathfinders sing the theme song *My Peace*, based on *John 14:27*, which says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." It was reassuring to the young people to be reminded that true peace can come only through the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

One of the outstanding features of the opening ceremony was the lantern lighting event. As the lights dimmed and darkness engulfed the whole auditorium, four young people carrying torches approached the platform from four corners of the meeting place and set alight a big lantern. This symbolized how the many small lights of the believers can become a big and significant light in this world when they unite with one another in the Lord.

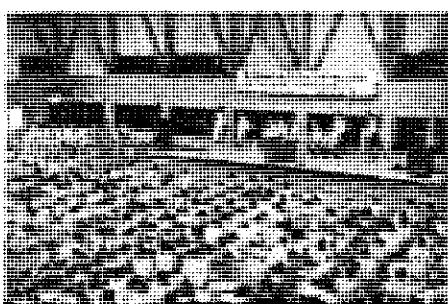


The happy campers taking time off for a group photo.

It was heart-warming to note that many church leaders supported and participated in the Camporee. Together with Pastors Masumi Shimada and Tsutomu Sensaki,

presidents of East and West Japan Conferences, respectively, Dr. David Wong, the youth director of Northern Asia-Pacific Division, and Pastor Akinori Kaibe, Japan Union Conference youth director and executive secretary, were also present at the event. They joined the young people in many of the programs.

Throughout the Camporee, many activities were planned for the Pathfinders. Inspiring devotional periods twice a day were among the regular special features of the Camporee. Even though this activity was interrupted by heavy rain on Saturday evening, making it impossible for the Pathfinders to worship in the three designated villages, the leaders and counselors helped to carry on the program by having worship with the Pathfinders in their individual tents. The time they spent together in the tents for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer turned out to be one of the highlights of the Camporee. It was a blessing in disguise.



The Pathfinders gathered in the auditorium for the closing ceremony.

Many games and outdoor activities were well-participated by the Pathfinders. They enjoyed studying nature and weather, learning sign-language and ham radio, making plastic bottle rockets, going hiking, and playing such popular games as basket ball and frisbee golf.

According to the Camporee director, Pastor Akinori Kaibe, the Camporee was planned and staffed mainly by volunteers. The Pathfinder Committee, chaired by Mrs. Shoko Hashimoto, who also served as the associate Camporee director, was the driving force of this event. Two-thirds of the membership of the committee are lay persons. They played an important role in promoting and coordinating Pathfinder activities throughout Japan. In order to run this Camporee efficiently, they also recruited 26 young volunteers from Hiroshima Academy and Saniku Gakuin College (Japan Missionary College) to serve as counselors, group leaders, as well as friends to the Pathfinders.

Many Pathfinders leaders who had served in leadership positions for four, eight, twelve, sixteen, twenty, and twenty-four years and above were honored at the closing ceremony. They were given recognition for their contribution in helping the Pathfinders to be trained and equipped for the service of their Lord.

As the light in the auditorium dimmed once again, little lights in the hands of the Pathfinders came alive and lent a beautiful glow to the place, signifying the youth's determination and commitment to bring peace and the gospel light to the whole world in their generation.

David S F Wong, Youth Director

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