

# Northern Asia-Pacific Division



## NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 2, Number 19

### NSD Annual Council Held in Ilsan, Korea

*Spiritually blessed meeting!*

The 1998 Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Annual Council was conducted on October 27 to November 2 at the NSD headquarters office in Ilsan, Korea. There were all together 41 attendees from the different organizations such as the General Conference (GC), East Asia Association (EAA), Japan Union Conference (JUC), Korean Union Conference (KUC), South China Island Union Mission (SCIUM), Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Adventist World Radio, It Is Written, Religious Study Center (Buddhism) and Tian Hai Foundation.

It was really a great blessing to have speakers from the GC. Elder Leo S. Ranzolin, Vice President, spoke of Jesus' Second Coming during the Sabbath church service and morning devotion. He preached with power and enthusiasm. Elder Vernon B. Parmenter, Associate Secretary, conducted a series of sermons for the Mid-day



*NSD officers: R. Martin Moores, Treasurer; P. D. Chun, President; Richard Liu, Secretary (from the left).*



*Elder Leo S. Ranzolin (left) during the church service at Ilsan Church on October 31, 1998. Translator is Pastor Jung Haeng Kwon.*

Devotional. He appealed to us to examine our spiritual condition and to renew our commitment to the Lord. Elder Dennis C. Keith Sr., Associate Treasurer, spoke about "Miracle Territory." Since he was treasurer of the Korean Union Mission from 1975 to 1979, he and his wife were glad to see the advance made in the Adventist work in Korea. Faithful participation, with wise comments and suggestions to the council, by the guests was very much appreciated.

Royce C. Williams, It Is Written International Service Coordinator, was speaker for another morning devotion. He was once Ministerial Secretary of the Far Eastern Division. His dynamic preaching urged us to dedicate ourselves once more in preparation for the soon coming of Jesus Christ. He also talked about the plan of satellite evangelism, ACTS 2000, by It Is Written in 1999 and 2000. Besides these speakers from outside of NSD, our faith was strengthened by the talks given by Elder P. D. Chun, NSD President, Dr. Paul Cho, SCIUM Treasurer, and Elder Akinori Kaibe, JUC Secretary.

One Union officer said that he has been blessed and uplifted by the morning and mid-day devotion, including the Sabbath meetings, given by such dedicated, experienced and spiritual leaders. He was right, and

what he said was true. Under the theme of "Experience the Fellowship of God's Family" (1999 World Theme of the Seventh-day Adventist Church), we were encouraged to have love, unity, and accountability among church members in the world. We give heartfelt thanks to the Lord who has chosen such excellent leaders for us, and at the same time we need to pray for them since they have heavy responsibilities for God's cause.

The schedule of the council was quite tight because the original schedule was shortened. However, all prepared agenda were dealt with carefully, and almost all of them had actions taken on them under the leadership of a tactful chairman. Among over 80 agenda items, many delegates showed their keen interest in two agenda. One of them was the proposal for combining EAA and SCIUM creating the Chinese Union Mission for the Chinese evangelism, as reported by Pan Chinese Ad-Hoc Committee. There are some options for restructuring, and one of them will be chosen later on. Another agenda was a proposal for reorganization of JUC. Although we have discussed it in the past year, there were still some questions and suggestions to improve it. In other words the NSD delegates have shown strong interest in the plan for the JUC reorganization. JUC will call an emergency general session on December 6-8, 1998, in order to take an action on it.



*Dr. Yoshinori Namihira (optical fiber scientist), the only layperson among the delegates, offered a special number by flute.*

to testimonies of conversions in China as a result of the radio ministry. It was announced that Elder Kaibe, present JUC Secretary, has been appointed AWR/Asia Region Director to replace Mr. Greg Scott, who has been appointed AWR/PanAmerica Region Director.

Most of the delegates stayed at the apartments of the NSD officers and Department Directors because of lack of accommodation near by the office. Each family accepted two or three guests. On the other hand, some guests stayed at a hotel in the same building of the NSD

office. Breakfast and lunch were cooked or prepared by housewives of the NSD workers. All enjoyed delicious food and thanked their hard sacrificial service.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

## **Outreach by Japan :** *Church Donation & Evangelistic Meeting in Thailand*

**R**esponding to the request from the Thailand Mission, three of us flew from Osaka to Thailand on August 21, 1998. After our arrival at Bangkok, it took another 10 hours' drive to reach our destination. In the evening we opened the first evangelistic meeting in the new church building donated by Japanese Adventists.

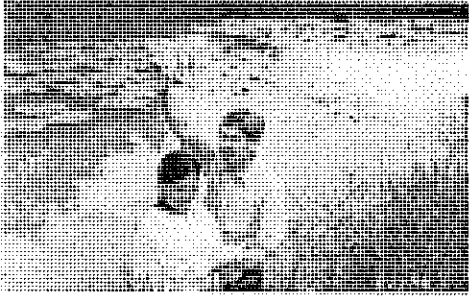
We also held a free medical clinic for two days. The medical team was composed of 3 doctors (physician, eye doctor and dentist), nurses, pharmacist, nursing students and school teachers. Those volunteers were almost all young. The church building was used as a clinic. Around 400 people came to see the doctors. When the dentist was asked how many teeth she had taken out, she could not count them. The eye doctor operated on more than 10 patients through the night. I was glad the medicine which I had brought from Japan were useful.

We made arrangements to hold a tent meeting for those who came to the free clinic. More than 300 people enthusiastically listened to the gospel. I was compelled to speak without referring to my notes, and use gestures, instead. On the Sabbath the chapel was crowded. We had



*The church donated to the Thailand Mission by Japanese Adventists.*

the church building dedication ceremony and presented a 500,000 - yen (US\$4,167) donation to the church.



*Baptism in a pond by Pastor Nobuaki Imai.*

were leeches! We had witnessed how our Lord worked among the poor at that time.

Nobuaki Imai, *Pastor of Hiroshima Church in Japan, and Katsuki Matsuura, Fund Raiser of the Thailand Mission.*

## 100th Anniversary of San-iku Gakuin College in Japan

San-iku Gakuin College (Japan Missionary College) celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its establishment at the present campus in Otaki, Chiba, with many distinctive guests and alumni present on October 23, 1998. Dr. Yoshifumi Takahashi, college president, welcomed all attendees and gave a brief history of the school. Elder Takashi Shiraishi, president of Japan Union Conference and chairman of the college board, delivered a message and affirmed the purpose of the institution once more. Then, Mr. Yoshinaka Harata, chairman of Chiba Private Junior College Association, and Mr. Isao Kuramatsu, president of Tohoku Gakuin University, gave congratulatory addresses as representatives from other colleges and universities. Mr. Takai Tajima, mayor of the town where the college is located, also addressed the congregation.

There were altogether 5 former college presidents who participated in the ceremony. They included Raymond S. Moore, Toshio Yamagata, Rudolf E. Klimes, Shigenobu Arakaki, Senzo Nagakubo, and Shozo Tabuchi. One of them, Dr. Yamagata, recalled how the college received special attention from educational specialists at that time in spite of the fact that it was a small school located in a remote area.

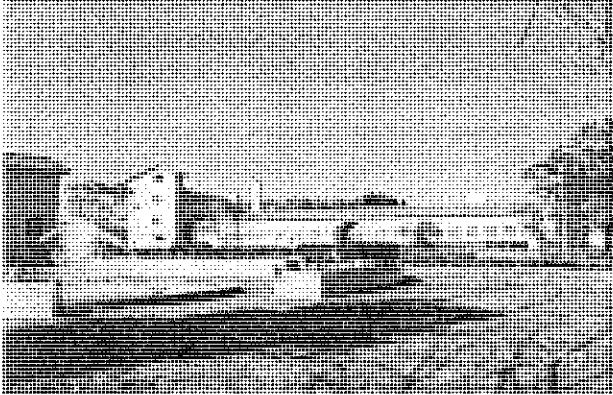
The Seventh-day Adventist work in Japan began on November 19, 1896, by William C. Grainger, the first missionary from the United States, and Teruhiko H. Okohira, a Japanese young man who was converted in the U.S.A. Before coming to Japan, Elder Grainger was principal of the Healsburg College (the present Pacific Union College) where Brother Okohira met him. Although they arrived at Yokohama, they chose to stay in Tokyo to start their evangelistic works. Later Mrs. Grainger and her daughter joined them.

On January 1, 1898, they opened Shiba Bible School and hung out the signboard for Tokyo Shiba Japanese-English Bible School. To begin with there were about thirty students, but the number soon greatly increased. At one time, they had about one hundred regular Bible students, with an average daily attendance of from thirty-five to sixty. Elder and Mrs. Grainger, their daughter, and T.H. Okohira were the teachers of the school.

The present school is composed of a junior college accredited by the government and a senior college. While the junior college has an English Department with 73 students and a Nursing Department with 198, the senior college has an Education Department with 3 students and a Theological Department with 11. As the result, the total enrollment of the school is not high - 289, including 4 special students. The declining trend of enrollment has been evident in the past several years; consequently, the school is facing financial difficulty. In his congratulatory message read by Dr. Tadaomi Shinmyo, associate secretary of the division, Elder P. D. Chun, president of Northern Asia-Pacific Division, stated: "We understand the difficult situation of the school today. In this country there is a trend of decreasing number of children now and also severe competition from other colleges and universities recruiting students. It is a great challenge for leaders of Japan to maintain and develop the school



*100th Anniversary of San-iku Gakuin College in Japan.*



A  
beautiful  
view of the  
present  
college  
campus

according to the will of God. I, however, firmly believe that our brothers and sisters in Japan will be able to respond to God's expectation for this school and advance in training young people for the salvation and welfare of the people in this country."

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

## The Sabbath of December 12 - Let's make it Special

### *The Day of Religious Liberty*

This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations. The Seventh-day Adventist churches around the world have set aside the Sabbath of December 12, 1998, as the Day of Religious Liberty.

The PARL Department of General Conference (GC) has prepared outstanding materials for this special Sabbath and sent them to us. These useful materials, including the Sabbath sermon, have been distributed to each union president during the recent NSD Annual Council. He will work with his coworkers in making copies available to all church pastors.

Among the materials you will find a letter from Elder Robert S. Folkenberg, the GC President, a Press Kit, Worship Program, 50th Anniversary Statement, Quotations of Ellen G. White, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Children's Story, Sermon, and Questions and Answers. These documents are very valuable. Let's use them effectively as much as possible.

Since there are many places in the world where human rights based on religious liberty are threatened, to have a special Sabbath for religious liberty is meaningful and important.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

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