

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 3, Number 23

Plans in 1999 from NSD Departmental Directors



Hong, Myung Kwan
Sabbath School & Personal Ministries, Stewardship, ASI

Under the theme "Experience the Fellowship of God's Family," Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department will promote more effective methods of Sabbath School management and Personal/Public Ministries through the following programs: Successful Sabbath School Seminar, Church Growth Seminar, Lay Leaders Evangelism Seminar, NSD and SSD Bi-Division ASI Convention.

1. The Successful Sabbath School Seminar will provide a training session for Sabbath School leaders to manage the Sabbath School in a more attractive way. The Sabbath School sets a high goal of Spiritual Nurture, Fellowship, Community Outreach and World Missions. This will be implemented through practicing a special program, "Sabbath School Actions" in 1999.

2. The Lay Leaders Evangelism Seminar will ensure lay leaders that the last commission is each one's heavenly duty. It will empower them for a life of service in God's remnant church.

3. The Bi-Division ASI Convention will emphasize the meaningful fellowship of belonging to one body in God's family. The ASI members of both NSD and SSD will acknowledge their mission to spread the gospel to their industries.

Experience the Fellowship of God's Family

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



Tadaomi Shinmyo
Communication, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty

The NSD Communication Department will join in the Video Production Studio Training seminar sponsored by the General Conference, July 11-21, in Chiangmai, Thailand. This 10-day program will provide an excellent training for workers in video studios. We can improve our video productions through participating in this seminar. One of the ways to "Experience the Fellowship of God's Family" is to use high quality videos of welfare activities, conversion testimonies, evangelistic meetings, church services, medical work, educational programs, etc. This seminar will assist us in producing more professional videos. If you need further information about the seminar, please contact me.

Another big event is the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) Asia Congress, November 16-18, at New Delhi, India. Without religious liberty worship or evangelism will be impaired. Unless we have religious freedom, we cannot "Experience the Fellowship of God's Family." The trend of religious intolerance is escalating in some parts of the world. We need to work towards keeping freedom of religion in every possible way. One of the best ways is to conduct a religious liberty congress and invite religious and political leaders. IRLA has become more known around the world among the people who take religious freedom seriously. This Asia Congress is cosponsored by the General Conference, Northern Asia-Pacific Division, Southern Asia-Pacific Division, South Pacific Division and Southern Asia Division. If you are interested in this conference, please contact me.

New "Chinese Union Mission" in Process

hopefully beginning from July 1, 1999

Reorganization is in process for the South China Island Union Mission (SCIUM) and East Asia Association (EAA). The following information is quoted from the minutes of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) committees. During the NSD Midyear Committee on May 4-5, 1998, it was voted to establish a Pan Chinese Ad Hoc Committee within the Division to study the organizational structure and function, and make recommendations to the Division.

There were four options in terms of reorganization. (1) Uniting SCIUM and EAA. But, Taiwan and Mongolia become attached organizations to the NSD. (2) Uniting SCIUM and EAA. But, Mongolia becomes an attached organization to the NSD. (3) Uniting SCIUM and EAA. But, Taiwan Mission, Hong-Macao Conference and Mongolia become attached organizations to the NSD. (4) SCIUM and EAA maintain their present structures. Later the option (2) was recommended.



The headquarters of the East Asia Association in Hong Kong

On October 1, 1998, the Executive Committee voted to request the GC to set up the EAA and SCIUM Survey Commission. November 2, 1998, during the NSD Annual Council, the report and recommendations of the Pan Chinese AD Hoc Committee was recorded. January 21, 1999, the Executive Committee voted to accept the EAA and SCIUM Survey Commission's Report. Further, the GC Administrative Committee has approved the EAA and the SCIUM Survey Commission's recommendation that the merger of the EAA and the SCIUM into a new Chinese Union Mission.

It was voted that the NSD Administrative Committee act as the new Chinese Union Organization Management Committee until all details have been decided.



The Taiwan branch office of the South China Island Union Mission headquarters in Taipei

On the Same day, the Administrative Committee recommended that the NSD should conduct orientation sessions in both Taiwan and Hong Kong. These sessions are planned to assist with a smooth integration into the new Chinese Union Mission regarding how Hong Kong, Taiwan and the EAA will integrate into a new union structure, it was voted to approve the preparation meetings for the organization of the new Chinese Union Mission. On February 3, 1999, the officers of EAA and SCIUM met in Hong Kong. On February 24 in Taichung for the southern Taiwan church leaders, February 25 in Taipei for the northern Taiwan church leaders, and February 26 in Hong Kong.

As the result of the meeting on February 3, it was agreed to recommend the name, "Chinese Union Mission," for the new entity. It will start to function on July 1, 1999 in Hong Kong. Officers of the new union will be chosen during the NSD Mid-year Committee on May 4-6, 1999 in Ilsan, Korea.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

Bible Correspondence School World Council

First in its long history of the Voice of Prophecy

Under the theme, "United We Share," the Bible Correspondence Schools Coordinating Council was conducted at Simi Valley, California, USA on January 25-28, 1999. This council was cosponsored by the General Conference Sabbath School & Personal Ministries Department, the Voice of Prophecy (VOP), Global Mission, Adventist Global Communication Network, and Adventist World Radio. All these entities are dealing with the Bible correspondence lessons.

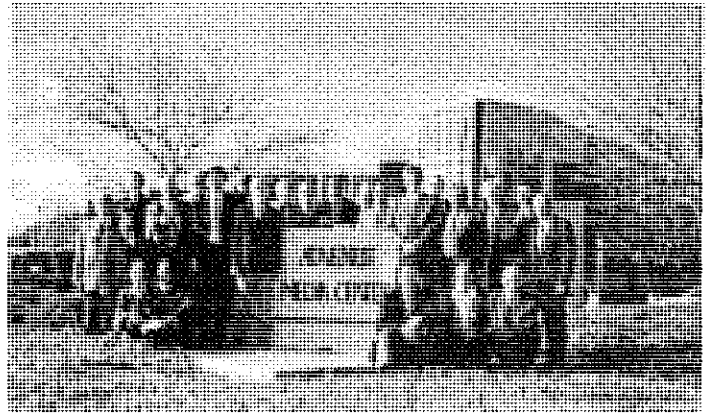
For the last ten years Bible Correspondence Schools have been functioning around the world without any direct coordination from the church world headquarters. About two years ago there was a request from a number of administrative entities around the world that there be some coordination from the General Conference headquarters, and Bible Correspondence School coordination was assigned to the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department.

Thus, Drs. James Zackrison and Jonathan Kuntaraf, director and associate director of the department respectively, became the key persons to hold this conference. Further, the VOP in the USA contributed to the council greatly. Elder Kurt Johnson, associate director of the VOP, played an important role in coordinating the meeting.

This was the first Bible Correspondence School World Coordination Council which had representatives from the world divisions. There were around 30 participants including workers of the VOP in the USA. It is well understood that the Bible Correspondence School has been one of the most effective agencies for bringing people to the church. The purpose is to rebuild and strengthen the system. In conjunction with the various media programs in the global communication network that is now functioning throughout the world, to make it a highly productive soul winning entity.

Highlights of the council included daily devotionals, reports from world Bible Correspondence Schools, discussions, recommendations, Adventist Media Center tour, and fellowship with coworkers. It was exciting to see well known Adventist preachers like H.M.S. Richards Jr., Lonnie Melashenko, Mark Finley and others. Lonnie and Mark preached with power and enthusiasm about spreading the gospel. Beloved singer, Del Delker sang during one of the devotional hours.

The outcome of the council was a proposal to organize the International Association of Bible Correspondence Schools. One of five purposes is to foster and promote the work of the world wide Seventh-day Adventist Bible Correspondence School system. Another is to foster the development and application of training systems for the utilization of Bible



Delegates of the first Bible Correspondence School World Coordination Council visited Adventist Media Center in the USA.

Correspondence School resources. Currently there are 126 Bible Correspondence Schools around the world. Among them 34 are in Inter-American Division. Northern Asia-Pacific Division has one in Japan, Korea and Taiwan, and 2 in Hong Kong.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

"Little Japan" in Korea

Mission Week in Language Institutes

SDA Language Institutes have become a very strong undertaking in the Korean Union Conference. Moreover, it has been prosperous and has contributed to the church in many ways. For example, it gives financial help to the Union, provides jobs to church members, trains young people as future church leaders and wins many souls to Christ every year. During 1998, 277 precious people were baptized as a result of the schools.

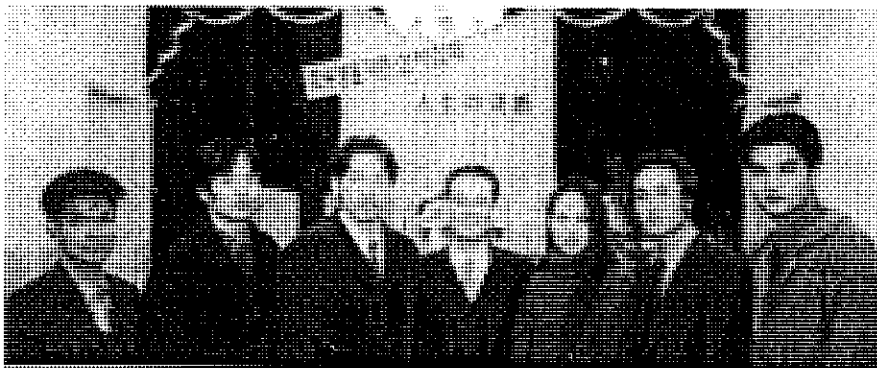
This year (January-February term), the language institutes have the largest enrollment since they began. The total enrollment is 18,936 in 22 branch schools with 152 teachers. Koreans are eager to learn English. The language institutes in Korea are also teaching the Japanese language by Japanese teachers. Among the students, 1,420 attend Japanese classes. There are 18 Japanese teachers who are teaching at 5 branches.

The writer was invited to preach the Word of God in Japanese at two schools during their Mission Day or Week. On January 14-15, 1999 at the Suwon Language Institute, I met two young Japanese ladies teaching the Japanese language to around 70 Korean people. One of them I baptized 10 years ago when she was a junior-high school student in Japan. It was so nice to meet her again.



Attendees of the Mission Week for the Japanese language class students on January 22, 1999 at the SDA Language Institute in Seoul, Korea

The director of the institute translated into Korean the same sermon 7 times to the different classes. I appealed to the students to believe and accept the Bible as God's word. Almost all students responded. Next, on January 20-23, I visited the Seoul Language Institute. There are now around 560 students learning the Japanese language. Previously the enrolment in Japanese language classes never surpassed 500. There are 5 young male Japanese teachers and 2 young female Korean teachers. The topics I presented to the 40-100 attendees of the Mission Week included the Bible, Jesus Christ, His Second Coming, Baptism, and the Power of Faith. Although only a few students responded to my appeal at the first meeting, later, many of the participants responded to God's message.



Japanese language teachers in Seoul, Korea

It was encouraging to see approximately 100 people at the Friday night vespers in the Seventh-day Adventist Seoul Japanese Language Church. The small chapel was almost full. A song service by Japanese teachers and also special music by students were enjoyed by all. Sabbath morning more than 80 people attended church. All participants were Korean except 5 teachers and me. However they used the Japanese and Korean languages. This spot can be called "a little Japan" in the midst of Seoul, Korea. There, they can hear, speak and write Japanese and meet Japanese people. They are really experiencing the fellowship of God's family.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

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