

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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The Largest Union Organized!

at the NSD Midyear Committee

The two-day Midyear Committee of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) held on May 3 and 4, 1999 at Ilsan, Korea was a historical one and will be long remembered. Of the items on the agenda of the Division Midyear Committee, 15 were directly related to the newly organized Chinese Union Mission.

The setting up of a nominating committee is always the most important part of a session of any level, but the merger of two current unions and the organization of the new Chinese Union made the nomination committee's work even more significant. In addition to the members of the Division Executive Committee (EXCOM), the presidents of the Hong Kong-Macao Conference and Taiwan Mission were added to the nominating committee since the action taken would directly affect their territories.

In setting up the operating policies of the Chinese Union Mission, its structure, the different ways of distributing the quota of delegates between organized and unorganized territories and many other details, our division president, Elder P. D. Chun showed his leadership gifts to the uttermost. In fact, perhaps by now Elder Chun is the most experienced leader among the 12 world division presidents. He has been through the reorganization of the Asia-Pacific Division two years ago, last year the Japan Union Conference underwent a reorganization, and the new Chinese Union Mission was organized.

The need of organizing some kind of an entity to develop the work among Chinese is urgent. There is one Chinese person for every five people in the world. Their unique culture, language, value system, even the way of thinking are quite different from the rest of the world. In order to reach 1/5 of the world population some kind of a Chinese organization was long overdue.

As far back as twenty years ago, at almost every Chinese camp meeting in the USA, the idea of organizing the Chinese work was brought up. At one time a non-profit organization for this purpose was even registered with the State of California and a handsome amount of money was donated to the East Asia Committee in Hong Kong for the production of video programs. In 1995, during the 56th General Conference (GC) Session in Utrecht, the Chinese were among the most powerful delegations. And so an association was organized and officers were elected. Two years later a worldwide Chinese pastors meeting was called in conjunction with the GC ministerial seminar in Taiwan. Another association was organized with young, visionary union leaders as the officers of the new Chinese organization. How difficult such a merger is, but never has there been one as solid as the merger of South China Island Union Mission and East Asia Association (EAA) and the organization of the Chinese Union Mission.

During the first part of 1998, coming out of the recommendation of the EAA evaluation, a Pan Chinese Ad Hoc Committee was organized with Elder P. D. Chun as the chairman of the committee and Elder David Wong as the secretary. Two full days of meeting in Hong Kong were scheduled in September and a recommendation with four options was submitted to GC administration during the Annual Council at Iguassu, Brazil.



New officers of the new Chinese Union Mission: Stanley Ng, Secretary; Eugene Hsu, President; and Paul Cho, Treasure (from left).

After a full NSD EXCOM a meeting was called by intercom for the delegates at Annual Council. Later a GC Administrative Committee (ADCOM) was called and a Survey Commission was elected. In all my years of denominational service, I have never experienced such a swift process for the dissolution of two unions and organization of a new one, which is GC's jurisdiction only.

The largest union officers' election was smoothly conducted. All three officers were elected on the first ballot and everyone of the three were the first choices of the four-man caucus. Not one of the nominees was questioned by the nominating committee members. Praise the Lord for the outcome! May God's guiding hand continually be with the Chinese Union Mission officers and the local leaders as they prepare for the inaugural session and accept their great challenge with vision and courage.

Richard Liu, *Secretary*

Crisis Communication Seminar *preparing for disasters*

Crisis Communication Seminars were conducted at the Taiwan Adventist Hospital on Taiwan May 2-3 and at the office of Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) May 5-6, 1999. These seminars were planned by the NSD communication department with assistance from the General Conference (GC) communication department.

The phrase, "crisis communication," may be new terminology in the Adventist community. However, today, knowing how to communicate during a crisis is one of the crucial skills for administrators and public relations personnel. We frequently experience disasters in these times. If our relief organizations are involved in them, what should we do or how should we react?

The "Crisis Communication Manual," published just recently by the GC, has a subtitle, "how to expect the unexpected." In the preface of the manual, Ray Dabrowski, communication director of the GC says, "A part of crisis management, crisis communication is not a mechanistic set of rules, procedures and activities. It consists of a range of thoughtful processes and steps to anticipate the complex nature of each crisis, both real and perceived. Communication is an important and intentional aspect of how to turn the story around."



Participants of the Crisis Communication Seminar on May 5-6, 1999 in Korea.

The seminar in Taiwan, planned for delegates from the South China Island Union Mission (SCIUM) and East Asia Association, was coordinated by James Wu, communication director of the SCIUM.

The seminar in Korea was intentionally scheduled right after the NSD Midyear Committee (May 3-4) so that attendants from overseas might participate in the programs. There were 35 attendees including NSD officers and departmental directors, union presidents, communication directors, and institutional directors, etc. Ray Dabrowski discussed topics addressed in the manual; the crisis team, crisis plans, key audiences, developing relationships, pros and cons of external help, structuring the media center, media training and designating spokespeople, message points, interview requests, proactive media relations, interview guidelines, interview techniques, developing scenarios, etc. He also presented 3 case studies; Waco, Los Angeles Times and Allegations to the GC and its President. Stanley Ng, president of SCIUM, used the Taiwan Adventist Hospital as a case study.

Further, Walter E. Carson, associate counsel of Office of General Counsel in the GC, spoke on legal issues; definition, procedure and cost of lawsuits, past lawsuits involving the GC, Matthew 18:15-17, solving problems outside of court (use of alternative resolution), conflict of interest, etc. Some keen questions were raised up by the participants concerning conflict of interest.

P. D. Chun, the president of NSD, commented the seminar as follows: "If I had known of crisis communication before, I would have been much better prepared. This is a new area for me. The lessons from the seminar will benefit my leadership from now on." All division, union and conference/mission organizations are expected to create crisis teams in order to prepare them for crises in the future.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/ PARL Director*

Video Production Seminar in Korea

including 6 men from abroad

This is the age of technology. Consequently, our church is also very actively using technology to spread the gospel around the world. One of the modern evangelistic tools is video. Many video tapes are produced by our church and are used for sharing the Good News. As I have visited studios in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) territories, I have recognized a need to conduct a video production training seminar for our workers.

The Video Production Seminar was held at the auditorium of the Korean Union Conference (KUC) on May 11-13, 1999. This had been originally planned as a division-wide seminar, but the General Conference (GC) made a plan to offer a video production studio training seminar for the four Divisions including the NSD at Chiangmai, Thailand July 11-21, 1999. Therefore the NSD decided to participate in the GC sponsored seminar rather than holding the NSD sponsored one. Since the KUC has been in strict financial straits because of the IMF and could not send delegates to the oversea seminar, the NSD approved providing a subsidy for the seminar sponsored by the KUC for Korean workers in order to invite a speaker/trainer from abroad.

However, the GC suddenly cancelled the seminar in Thailand and announced another one to be held in Florida, USA July 12-21, 1999. For workers in the NSD Florida is very far and most of us who were planning to go to Chiangmai gave up the idea of going abroad. So I invited the oversea studio workers to come to Korea and join the seminar here. In the meantime, I negotiated with the GC to bring in an experienced speaker/trainer related to video production. Finally, we invited Colin K. Mead, senior producer of Adventist Media Center in the North American Division.



Video Production Seminar Attendees

The largest number of participants came from the KUC. There were 6 applicants from overseas; 2 from Japan Union Conference, 1 from Taiwan Mission, 2 from Hong Kong-Macao Conference and 1 from East Asia Association. The total number of attendees was 20 not including the workers of the Adventist Media Center in Korea.

On the first day of the seminar participants received general instruction in camera work, lighting, writing, directing, sound recording, editing and production. The second day they viewed video tapes produced by themselves and gave each other suggestions. In the afternoon, participants were divided into four groups and worked to produce 2-5 minute video programs for the Korean Publishing House, Adventist Media Center, Seoul Adventist Dental Hospital and SDA Language Institutes respectively. Teams visited those institutions and took pictures using their own camera for the videos. The third day, they edited their videos and added music or narration. Finally, they viewed their videos and evaluated them. Of course, the main commentator was the guest speaker/trainer. He was kind-hearted and always thoughtful in instructing and critiquing the group's videos.

Since this was the first time a video production seminar had been conducted in even Division history, all participants were pleased and learned many things. Masaru Kawagoe, communication director and radio speaker of Japan Union Conference, said, "Please hold such a seminar once every two years." I would like to express our great thanks to the staff of the KUC media center, who allowed us to use their equipment and helped us in spite of their busy schedules.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

Leadership Seminar *for administrators*

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) conducted a Leadership Seminar in the auditorium of the Korean Union Conference (KUC) on May 17, 1999. There were around 30 participants from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and Korea. Participants included presidents and secretaries of unions and conferences, as well as directors of union institutions.

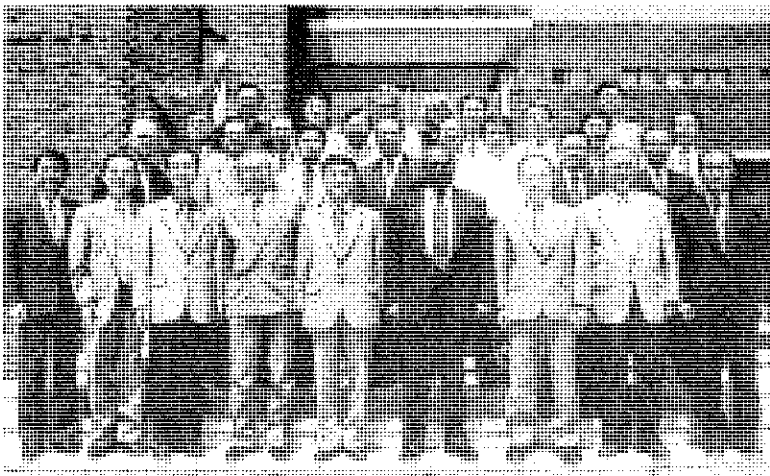
The seminar started at 9:00 a.m. with the morning devotion given by Mark Duarte, director of English Language Schools in Japan. Sang Woo Han, president of the KUC, welcomed all attendees, especially the oversea delegates. Richard Liu, secretary of the NSD, presided over the meeting in the morning and Tadaomi Shinmyo, associate secretary of the NSD, did so in the afternoon.

The guest speaker was G. Ralph Thompson, secretary of the General Conference (GC). He has held the position for 19 years and 2 months and his service term as the GC secretary is the longest on record, shared with W. A. Spicer at this moment. He talked about "The Challenge of Christian Leadership Today," "Relationships Among the Officer Group" and "Can We Get Along With People?" Finally, he asked all participants to share "The Joys and Sorrows of Leadership."

In the beginning, he emphasized that this seminar would be practical rather than theoretical. This was very true. Each lecture was well illustrated and relevant for today. Under the topic of Christian leadership, he began by talking about the Adventist organization. Then he listed several qualifications of leadership for today. Adventist leaders should be men of vision, men of God's word, humble, patient, kind, responsible and possessing integrity and sincerity.

Touching on the relationship among the three officers, he described the different roles of each officer and then emphasized the need to respect one another. He said, "Let's address fellow officers cordially and in a friendly manner."

As he spoke of getting along with people, he appealed to us saying, "By becoming Adventists, we surpass nationality. We believe in the universality of the gospel. Each one is standing before God and we are all equal at the foot of the cross. All humanity is equal, there is no East and no West, no North nor South. The bottom line is 'Do Japanese get along with Koreans? Do Koreans get along with Chinese? Taiwanese with people of Hong Kong and mainland China?'"



Participants of the Leadership Seminar in Korea

It was very interesting to note that there is a common discouraging experience among administrators. Some union and conference presidents testified that one of the sorrows in their ministry takes place when replacing pastors. Some pastors are not happy to move and become angry with presidents who replaced them. On the other hand, of course, leadership also brings joy. The seminar ended at 5:50 p.m. with closing prayers. Although it was short, all who participated were blessed. Elder and Mrs. Thompson left Korea for China next day.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

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