

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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Ten Baptisms at Tokyo Korean Church



after an evangelistic effort

All the members of the Tokyo Korean Adventist Church rejoiced over the baptism of ten precious souls on June 26, 1999, after a week long evangelistic effort. Even though they were baptized right after the evangelistic meetings, they were not strangers to the church. All of them had been interested for quite some time and had been contacted by a pastor and/or church members. These people did not make their decision for baptism at the evangelistic meetings, but through personal contacts by lay evangelistic team members from the West Central Korean Conference.

Just like ordinary Japanese people, these ethnic Koreans did not attend the evangelistic meetings. Lay evangelists had visited them at their homes or work place, and gave them Bible studies lasting from the early morning till late in the evening. Through the untiring and passionate efforts of these lay evangelists, many people made a decision to accept Jesus Christ and the Seventh-day Adventist doctrines.

The West Central Korean Conference Lay Evangelistic Team was made up of a retired high school principal, a company president, two retired church institution employees, two building contractors, two company employees, and several farmers. They are all current church elders, ranging 51 to 66 years of age. They paid their own airfare and supplied most of their own food. Fourteen people slept in two regular-size Japanese Tatami (straw mat) rooms. Though conditions were very crowded and uncomfortable, it was accepted with great joy and satisfaction.

The dedication, prayers, commitment and passion for soul winning of this team, moved the hearts of the people and made all the difference. As the evangelist, I made very little impact on the people. The lay evangelists deserve

all the credit. They had been earnestly praying for each individual, mentioning their names for four months prior to the meetings. Pastor Sung, Sun Je of the Tokyo Korean Church had provided 35 names of prospective interests many months before.



Ten baptized persons with Pastor Sung, Sun Je at the Tokyo Korean Church on June 26, 1999.

There are more than twenty active lay evangelistic teams serving in Korea. They participate in evangelistic campaigns for at least two weeks a year, setting aside their jobs. They are the real goal-getters of soul winning in Korea.

P.D. Chun, *President*

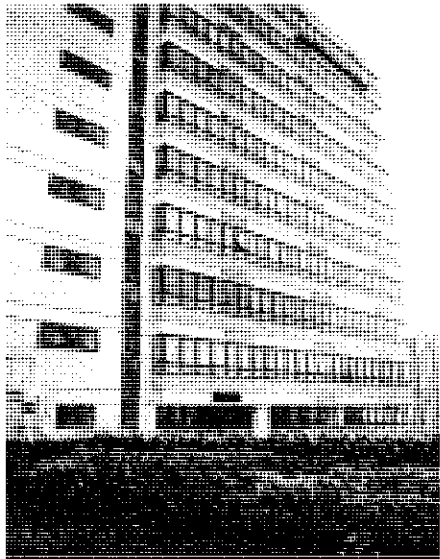
NSD Secretary visits Hong Kong & Taiwan

Right after my furlough, I attended the newly organized Chinese Union Mission (CUM) Inaugural Session held in Hong Kong. The purpose of the session was to elect departmental personnel, six Union Institution's administrators, board members, and officers of Taiwan Mission.

The main objective of having organized the Chinese Union Mission is to help reach the Chinese community. No one wants to see the Union leadership plunge into its daily routine without even having time to lift their heads to look

for new horizons. Remember, "Without vision, the people perish." (Prov. 29:18).

The Union delegation visited the new office of the Chinese Union Mission in Shaitan, HK, after the session. Even before the completion of the renovation, we are impressed with its good location and the wide office space available for all the need of this new Union. Above all is the price of the property, less than half of the original, I was told. Praise God that He has prepared the building for us!



The building, including the 12th floor of the Chinese Union Mission office in HK.

Two hospitals and one college in Hong Kong are enthusiastic on reaching out to the largest mission territory with health evangelism. The utilizing of the two Unions' resources to reach the millions of Chinese who have not heard of the soon returning Jesus is very much welcomed. Other than the Hong Kong Adventist College feeling sorry to lose their Religion Department director, Dr. Phoon, who was elected to be the Vice President of the Chinese Union Mission, the administration of all three Union Institutions were re-appointed.

Taiwan Adventist Hospital board smoothly reappointed the Hospital President and Vice Presidents. Though the Hospital has gone through difficulties in the past, the government officially issued the Regional Teaching Hospital status to our hospital just a few days prior to the board meeting. One could not have expected better timing! Among the establishments in Taiwan, Taiwan Adventist Hospital is the strongest institution, in spite of all the problems it has experienced lately. Under God's guidance, I wish that the new administration leads the hospital staff work in one accord, with one mission in mind, to revive the work in Taiwan and reach out to Chinese for Christ.

Under the new structure, Taiwan Mission, with only two directors, is facing a hard time in the near future. It takes everyone's cooperation and prayer to make it happen and to revive the work in Taiwan.

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division is watching over the developments of the newly formed Chinese Union

Mission and the former Taiwan Mission. We are ready to help at anytime. May God bless His servants in Taiwan as they strive to adjust to the changes.

Richard Liu, *Secretary*

New Millennium Celebration

in the NSD

The year AD 2000 will mark the end of the Second Millennium and the beginning of the third. For Christians, the new millennium draws its significance from the three fundamental landmarks in Christian faith: time is purposeful--it moves from creation, through redemption, to the renewal of all things at the end of time.

The New Millennium presents today's Christians in general, and the Seventh-day Adventists in particular, with the greatest opportunity that they will ever have to testify of this conviction. It provides a fitting climax to the decades of evangelism and missionary endeavors and the celebration of their achievements. Hopefully this will open the door to greater opportunities and possibilities in attempting great things to the glory of God.

AD 2000 gives us a great opportunity to praise God for what He has accomplished through His people for His kingdom. It also challenges us as Christians to commit ourselves to the successful completion of the Great Commission in our generation. As a result, the New Millennium Committee was formed for the following three purposes. First, to lay the plans for the celebration of the accomplishments of God through His people. Second, to plan strategically the total ministry of the church for the completion of the Great Commission and the preparation of a people for the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Third, to devise well-coordinated plans and activities that help God's people to focus on Jesus and to commit themselves fully to the Gospel ministry.

The NSD New Millennium Committee met on January 11, 1999, to study three objectives: Pre-Celebration, Celebration, and Post-Celebration.

The following is a summary of each report:

For the Pre-Celebration, six ideas were proposed to prepare for this event.

1. Operation Prayer. Starting June, 1999, the leaders and members of the churches will begin praying for spiritual wisdom, renewed relationship with God and one another, and deeper dedication and commitment to the life and work of the church.

2. Special Sabbaths for the promotion of the new millennium celebration. The unions and conferences/missions will designate four special Sabbaths during the last quarter of 1999 for the purpose of promoting the new millennium celebration (Second Advent, Great Commission, etc...).

3. New Millennium Messengers. Sometime in mid-1999 and throughout 2000, each Union will organize a musical/revival/evangelistic team for the purpose of conducting special meetings for young people in the local churches and students in Adventist educational institutions.

4. Banners and Signboards. In the fourth quarter of 1999, each Adventist church will hang up a banner (with our denomination's logo), displaying phrases of our message and a signboard featuring the Three Angels' Messages.

5. Theme Song Writing Contests and Promotion. Union/Mission-wide writing contests will be held to select a theme song for the new millennium celebration. Awards will be given to the winners--tickets to the 57th GC Session or the Heritage Tour in the U.S. The award-winning theme song will be translated into the local languages and used at church worship services and other general meetings.

6. Website. A website for the purpose of providing information about the new millennium celebration, its significance in the Adventist context, as well as issuing messages and doctrines of the church related to the millennial concepts.

The focus of the Celebration will be on the development of God's church in the last two millennia. The message to the Seven Churches will be adapted with the Division providing the sermons and materials to be used.

1. One week of celebration from December 24 to 31, 1999. This is with the purpose of reflecting on our church's history. It will consist of programs featuring the birth of Christ to the early church until the birth of the Advent Movement to the progress of the SDA work within the NSD territory.

2. Celebration in the year 2000. The focus will be on the soon return of Christ with the theme, "Experience the Certainty of His Coming."

Finally, the Post-Celebration consisted of three proposals on how to best use this event.

1. Mission and Evangelism. Year-round evangelistic plans have been established for the church members' involvement and participation. The following are suggested dates for the proposed events.

Daniel/Revelation Seminar	January 2000
Pastor/Lay/Members Training	February 2000
Personal Evangelism	March 2000
Small Groups	April 2000
Church Crusade	May 2000
Personal Evangelism for ACTS 2000	June - Sept 2000
ACTS 2000/PREACH project	September 2000

2. New Millennial Messengers. The musical/revival/evangelistic teams continue their work in the local churches and schools.

3. Mass Baptism. This will be held at the conclusion of ACTS 2000--September 16, 2000.

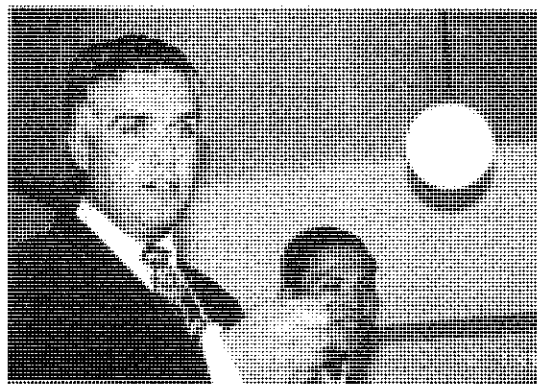
May God's richest blessings be with His church around the world as we prepare to celebrate His soon return!

NSD New Millennium Committee

Growing Church in Mongolia

I was able to visit Mongolia with three other crew members of the Adventist Media Center in Korea on July 9 - 13, 1999. The purpose of our trip was to take pictures for the video report of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) to the General Conference Session next year. When we arrived at the Ulaanbaatar Airport, Pastor Dale Tunnell and one of his staff met us. It was really an exciting experience for us to witness the advancement of our church there. I want to share with you what I have learned of the country and church.

A building, which had originally been constructed for a hotel, bar, and disco, was purchased by the NSD last year and remodeled for church use. The four-floor building has several classrooms in the basement, the pastor's house is on the first floor, the chapel and church office rooms on the second floor, and several rooms for ADRA on the third floor.



Pastors Tunnell (left) and Bold at worship.

The Sabbath School, on July 10, started at 10:00 a.m. and continued till 11:30 a.m. It started with a very lively song service. The attendees composed of mainly young people sang with joy and happiness as they were accompanied by guitar and keyboard. While they sang, they sometimes used their hands to demonstrate the contents of the songs. When the time for the Sabbath School Lesson Study came, all attendees were divided into several classes including children, beginners, baptismal candidates, regular members, and English-speaking people. The church service began at 11:30 a.m. Pastor Tunnell preached in English and Pastor Bold, the first Mongolian Adventist pastor, translated into Mongolian. The chapel was packed. There must have been 80 to 90 people that day. Although all of the baptized Mongolian members were young, there were several middle and old age people among the congregation. This is a new trend in the church. Furthermore, I found these old people to be the extended families of one employee of the church. In fact, she brought nine individuals with her that Sabbath.



The congregation during the church service on July 10, 1999 in Mongolia.

I would like to let you know that there are seven Mongolian young people employed by the church. They are a pastor, a health educator, a Bible worker, a church secretary, a typist, a translator, and a maintenance worker. It seems to me that they are well-trained and assigned to their specific jobs by the senior pastor, Dale Tunnell. Of course, they all were very active in the church programs on Sabbath. As I saw their activities, I could see a bright future for the church.

Currently there are 37 Mongolian members in addition to the missionary families, eight of those were baptized last year. A baptismal service is planned to be held in August of this year and there are around ten candidates for it. These people are now preparing for baptism by studying the 22 Bible lessons which need four months to complete. May the Lord continue to guide and bless the task in Mongolia.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

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