

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 3, Number 32

NSD Annual Council *Three Characteristics*

The 1999 Northern Asia-Pacific Division Annual Council was conducted at Kyongju Chosun Hotel, Kyongju City, Korea. The meetings took place from October 26 to November 1, 1999, including the officers' and departmental directors' meetings. There was a total of forty delegates from the General Conference (GC), Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), Chinese Union Mission (CUM), Japan Union Conference (JUC), Korean Union Conference (KUC), and Mongolia Attached Mission Field, and seven invitees from the Philippines, USA, and Korea.



NSD Officers presiding the Session

They were five delegates from the GC. They were Matthew A. Bediako, Vice President; Athal H. Tolhurst, Undersecretary; Larry R. Colburn, Associate Secretary; Gary B. DeBoer, Associate Treasurer; and Nikolaus Satelmajer, Associate Secretary of the Ministerial Association. Each one of them was assigned to deliver a message during the morning, mid-day devotional, or Sabbath Church Service. Delegates were really inspired and blessed by their well-prepared messages.

This session of the Annual Council had at least three unique characteristics, since the moving of the office to Korea in June, 1997. First, the Annual Council was held outside of the NSD office, situated in Ilsan.

The meeting place was a first class hotel in a resort area in Kyongju City, which is located in the southeast part of the country. It was a beautiful spot and the hotel was beside the popular Pomunho Lake. The delegates enjoyed the beautiful autumn season in Korea every day during the council.



The delegates at the Kyongju Chosun Hotel

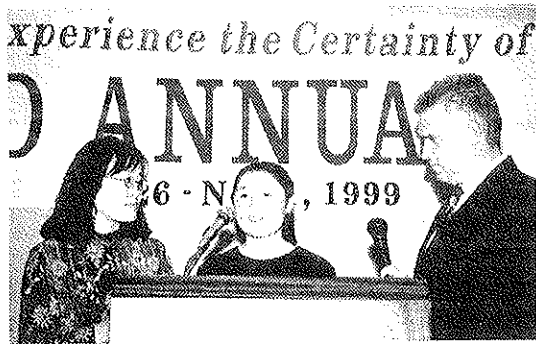
The second characteristic was to have found three female lay delegates. Each union was required to choose on female delegates and they did. They were actively involved in the council, including the offering of public prayer. Until then, the NSD Women's / Family / Children/ Ministries Director was the only lady delegate for the NSD executive committee.



Yu Lin Ho, One of Three Female Lay Delegates

The third characteristic was the presence of an official delegate from Mongolia. After the reorganization of the South China Island Union Mission (SCIUM) and East Asia Association (EAA), Mongolia was separated from EAA

and became an attached mission field of the NSD. Although there is only one organized church in Mongolia, it was treated as one entity. Therefore, it was the first time for Dale Tunnell, field director, to participate in the officers' interview with departmental directors and in the general session.



Participants from Mongolia (Byra, Saruulmaa and Tunnell from left).

During the session, the chairperson dealt with the agenda tactfully and voted sixty-two actions with God's help and the cooperation of the attendees. On Sabbath afternoon, as part of the Global Mission program, the Asia Vocalist Ensemble performed excellent music. On the last evening, the delegates were invited to the Adventist World Radio reception and listened to exciting soul winning stories of the radio ministries in our division and the world. After the regular business session, a three hour Risk Management Seminar was conducted by Robert L. Swezey and Melvin A. Skadsheim from the GC Adventist Risk Management and Lily Cho from NSD.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

Bi-Division Family Ministries Convention

Held in Beijing, China

On October 13, 1999, against the backdrop of Beijing, the capital city of China, 451 delegates from such countries as the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Guam-Micronesia, Sri Lanka, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mongolia, converged on the Resource Hotel for the Bi-Division Family Ministries Convention organized by the Family Ministries Departments of the Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific Divisions. The convention was unique in many respects: It was the first bi-division Family Ministries convention; it was a miracle in itself to have a convention sponsored by a religious organization in the very heart of China; and

despite seemingly insurmountable problems and hurdles, involving a last-minute change of venue, as well as immigration problems dogging some delegates, it took place as scheduled and came to a peaceful conclusion on October 18. For this, we lift our thanks to the Almighty God for making it possible.

The theme for the convention "Strengthening the Family Bond" featured the objective and focus of this important event. It was planned to strengthen family ministries and to equip participants with strategies for holding the family together in an age when families are fragmented.

Speakers at the plenary session, Elder and Mrs. Ron Flowers from the General Conference Family Ministries Department, outlined Family Ministries in the 21st Century and provided insights on how couples can accept differences to strengthen their marital bond. In addition, the eight parallel sessions presented by the local speakers covering such topics as Parenting Teenagers, Developing Moral Values in Children, Mid-life Crisis, Languages of Love, Teaching Sexuality to Children, Ministry to Single Adults, Ministry to Divorced Families, and Life with the Non-Christian Spouse, were designed to meet the varied needs of the participants present.

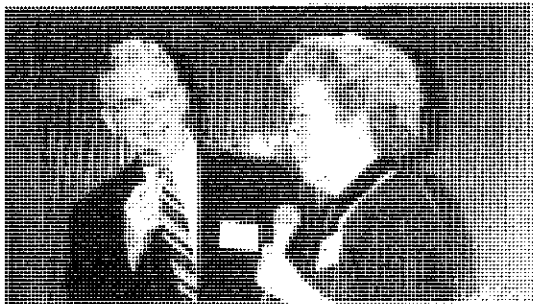
To the delight of the delegates, the convention was topped off with a tour of such renowned places in China as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and Tiananmen Square, and an evening of entertainment by youthful acrobatic artists of Beijing. All who attended felt that they had been blessed by the experience.

The following summary of comments taken from the evaluation forms and the reflections on the convention by several participants should give an added dimension to this report:

Summary of Comments

1. An excellent plan to have such a convention.
2. A very unique idea to have a couple as the speakers. I learned many things by observing them.
3. A wonderful experience to meet people from all over the world. We could only communicate with smiles and body language.
4. Thanks a lot all of the leaders and staff who have been good and excellent.
5. Thank you for the good meals.
6. Thank you very much.
7. I liked the Vespers Service; it was wonderful.
8. I was blessed for coming. Many thanks for the effort and hard work of the organizers.

9. We were really blessed and inspired by this convention. Thank you very much.
10. Very interesting, very inspiring. I wish to attend regularly.
11. It is very interesting and understandable.
12. It was a success.
13. Looking forward to the second Bi-division Family Ministries Convention.



Ron and Karen Flowers from the GC

Reflections

"It was exciting to have brothers and sisters from both divisions come and build, as well as share family issues together in Christ. From our Chinese Union Mission, we had 62 delegates from Taiwan (in spite of suffering from the earthquake) and Hong Kong who appreciated the presentations and enjoyed the vespers and others programs. We appreciate the hard work that was put in by the directors from both divisions, and it is our prayer that delegates from mainland China can join us next time."

Dr. Verna Chuah, Family Ministries Director CUM

"The Family Ministries Convention, 1999, is an unforgettable meeting in many ways. It was quite a challenge for us to take 78 participants to unknown China. China may not be a free country even if its door has been opened a little wider than ever before. We made the decision, however, to go to China, as it would exert a great influence on the Christian lives of the participants to experience a Seventh-day Adventist meeting in an overseas setting and become acquainted with the Adventist there. We hoped that the attendees would have a different perspective of their Christian lives and gain new reflections in a new setting. The theme of the seminar was "Family," which is the most appropriate theme for everyone. We believe that the convention yielded a rich harvest as can be seen in the following paragraph.

At the convention, 78 people in our big family were divided into small groups of six or seven for safety and to enable them to work together more effectively. There were two couples (husband and wife) in a group. One husband was not a Christian, whereas the other husband was a newly baptized church member. They developed a good friendship and influenced each other.

These gentlemen learned together how wonderful a Christian family can be. A woman had been baptized in May. Her roommate was a lady with rich and long-standing Christian experiences. She said that she learned a lot - something that would not have been possible in church.

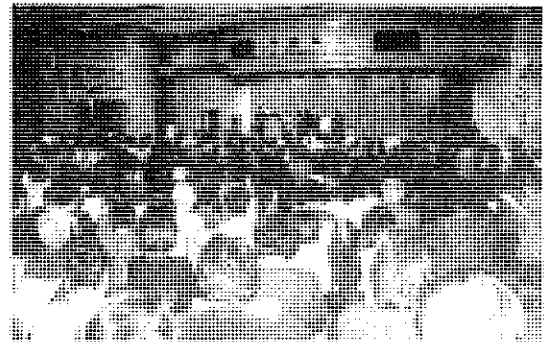
We were able to cultivate unity and harmony in a diversity of nationalities; we learned precious lessons. Thank you very much for God's blessing and for the organizers' hard work."

Mrs. Nobuko Kitabayashi, Family Ministries Director, JUC

"In the days preceding Christ's Second Coming, we see many homes that are suffering from misfortune and despair. We thank God for giving us the duty of taking God's message and rendering service to depraved men in the smallest unit of society - the home.

At the Family Ministries Convention, the sermons and suggestions for recovering the happiness at creation through achieving unity in the family were really great and unique. I hope that peace and happiness will be recreated in Adventist homes, and by the light shining from them, the darkness of this fallen world will be dispelled."

Pastor Im, Young-Jun, Family Ministries Director, KUC



"I was very impressed with the wonderful international flavor of the convention. Several times everyone was given the opportunity to greet others, and as I saw brothers and sisters from all over Asia shaking hands, smiling, and sharing words of greetings, I thought of the excitement of heaven when we, with the redeemed from all nations, will praise God together.

Karen and Ron Flowers' interesting presentations made a very positive impact on me. I also received a real blessing from Elder Carlos Martin's sermon on Zacchaeus entitled, "Today Salvation Has Come to This House." In my opinion, the musical selections from all the unions were outstanding. I felt that God was watching over us and blessing everyone."

Eileen Moores, secretary to Dr. Mary Wong, Family Ministries Director, NSD

Mary H. T. Wong, Family Ministries Director

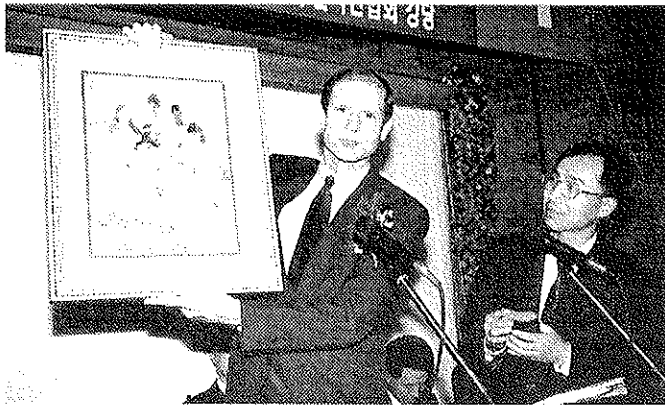
90th Anniversary

Korean Publishing House

Korean Publishing House (KPH) had a memorial worship service for its 90th Anniversary in the auditorium of the Korean Union Conference (KUC) on October 21, 1999.

It was a wonderful opportunity to thank God for His grace, as He is leading the KPH during the past 90 years with warm love into success.

There were about 400 guests, including Elder P.D. Chun, President of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) and Elder Ted N.C. Wilson, President of the Review and Herald Publishing Association. KPH awarded appreciation's plaque to those who served and performed great services in the past and participated in the Signs of the Times donation project. KPH reaffirmed that it is the center of the vanguard movement in publishing work. It was through an Open House on October 21 and 22 that every procedure in publishing a book could be seen, and at the same time books were sold at very low prices providing easy access for the readers.



Ted N.C. Wilson, president of Review and Herald (left) and his translator, Yoon, Byung-In

There was a Chronological Exhibition of books published by the KPH, which symbolized the publishing history of our church. Furthermore, there was a Photo Exhibition, sponsored by Adventist Photograph Association, to share the sense of beauty in nature. In the evening of October 23, for the first time in the history of the SDA Church in Korea, a beautiful ensemble of poetry and music was performed by VOP Cantus Nov Singers and the Adventist Literature Society. This musical event was held at the Seoul Adventist Hospital, more than 700 people attended.

Professors Yoo, Byung-Hye, Violinist; and Lyu, Jae-Kwang, Tenor, both from the Korean Sahmyook University performed beautiful music as special guests. Especially, the commemoration piece written by Professor Pyo, Sung-Soo and composed by Professor Cho, Moon-Yang for the 90th Anniversary of the KPH, as the grand finale, moved all the audiences deeply, serving as the bridgehead in recognizing one more time the mission, which has kept the KPH conscious of the history of our people in the past 90 years.

Yoon, Byung-In, *Editor of the Church Compass in KUC*

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