

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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Expect Great Things

In the New Millennium



The countdown for the third millennium has started already long ago and it is right at the door. Not everybody puts great significance to the coming of another millennium. But I see great significance in it. We are the only generation that will meet a new millennium with full awareness. It is indeed a very rare and great privilege for all of us. If you put a great significance to it, it will bring you a great significance. But if you do not put any significance to it, it will bring no meaning to you at all.

The significance and blessing of a new millennium may increase or multiply as much as you put the significance to it. I want to put one thousand folds of an ordinary new year's significance in order to gain one thousand folds of wisdom. "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Ps. 90:12).

I can hear the creaking sound of Jesus' second coming. He is ready to come. He can come at any moment. Are you ready to meet Him? Have we finished the task He has assigned to each one of us? He is surely coming. I am sure that the physical bodies of the people of the third millennium will be the same as of the second. At the same time I am sure that the way of thinking will be radically different from the previous era.

We have already experienced changes caused by introduction of telephones, radios, cars, televisions and computers. The changes that took place last few decades were rapid and accelerating. But they will be considered as slow as snails when they are compared with the speed of changes that will take place in the coming decades. This fact calls for our vigilance in presenting the unchangeable everlasting gospel to the rapidly changing minds of the world in a most convincing manner.

Though it has been already in the past, everything will be challenged and questioned. Everything means literally everything. Truths, values, norms, established facts, authorities, ethics, morality, family and home, life, order, rules, religion, God and so on. The church has to proactively devise a strategy of how to meet such enormous challenges successfully. If she fails, she cannot escape the fate of obsolescence.

But I am confident that the church, the remnant church, will successfully overcome such avalanche of challenges and will accomplish her mission. Such success is predicted and promised. Great revival of godliness, missionary spirit and evangelism will awaken the whole church and the whole world. The world will be turned upside down with the everlasting gospel through the empowerment of the latter rain of the Holy Spirit.

I have a dream that the number of Chinese Adventist members shall be the largest over all other countries in membership as its population is the largest, currently it is in the twelve place. If they can double the current growth rate, within nine years, there will be more than one million Chinese Adventists.

I have a dream that the Japanese will shake off the fetters of traditions and shackles of materialism and become a leading spiritual world power as Japan is the number two economic world power.

I have a dream that a thousand of Korean missionaries are dispatched to every corner of the world and Korea becomes one of the leading missionary sending countries.

These dreams cannot become a reality by chance. It requires extraordinary commitment and extraordinary efforts. If we dedicate our means, talents, time, and energy, God will use us as mighty instruments in making our dream a reality.

In closing I will quote mottoes displayed at the conference room of the Taiwan Mission:

"To God expect a marvelous work."

"For God accomplish a great work."

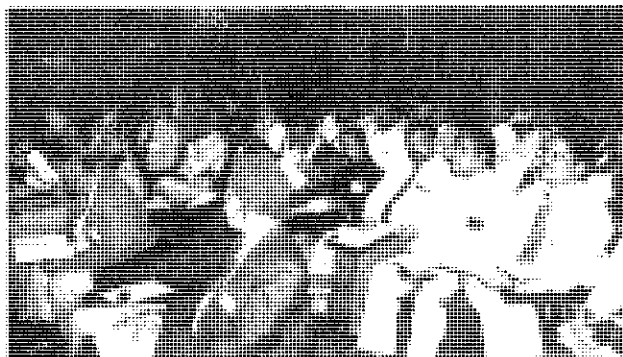
P.D.Chun, NSD President

World Conference on Religious Freedom

New Delhi, India

The International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) sponsored a World Conference on Religious Freedom under the theme, "Religious Freedom: A Fundamental Right in the 21 st. Century," on November 16 - 18, 1999, at the Le Meridien Hotel, in New Delhi, India. Currently, president and secretary general of the IRLA are Seventh-day Adventists, Robert Nixon and John Graz respectively.

The Interfaith Prayer Meeting was conducted at Rajghat, the memorial to a former Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi, in the evening of November 15 and eight different religious groups participated in the program. It was very curious and interesting for us to witness the varieties of prayer styles by different religions. After this special prayer meeting, there was a press conference at the Centre Point hotel for the news reporters.



*The attendants of the IRLA World Conference
on November 16-18, 1999 in New Delhi, India*

This conference attracted about three hundred people around the world including Bangladesh, Belgium, Brasil, China, England, India, Japan, Martinique, Nepal, Poland, Russia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan and USA. Of course, most of the attendees were from India. We could see the Bahai, Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Islam, Jain, Jewish, Parsi, Protestant, and Sikh representatives. In terms of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, eight among twelve divisions sent their delegates to the conference.

I was amazed by the variety of speakers of the conference. There were religious leaders, politicians, police officers, social activists, university professors, lawyers, newspaper editors, and many others. We could listen to more than twenty well-prepared lectures which deepened our understanding about religious issues, especially in India. Several speakers from overseas said, "We came to learn from India where major world religions are recognizing one another and existing together."

Dr. Manmohan Singh, inaugural speaker, noted academic, economist, educator, and leader of the Opposition at the Rajya Sabha (the "Senate") said, "It is in the fitness of things that this congress is being held in the capital of a country which has allowed every religious tradition to flourish and has also provided shelter to those who were being persecuted in the land of their birth."



*Four of the five delegates from the NSD (Liu,
Shinmyo, Hongo and Hsu from left)*

Others speakers dealt with topics such as "Freedom of Religion: A Fundamental Right in the 21 st. Century," "Freedom of Religion and Freedom from Religion," "Background History of Right of Minorities to Religious Freedom," "Religious Harmony in the Next Millennium," "Equality and Religious Liberty," and "Religious Freedom in Comparative Constitutional Perspective." Authorities of Islam, Christianity and Sikh spoke of their perspectives of religious intolerance and violence.

There were five attendants from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), namely Eugene Hsu, president of the Chinese Union Mission, Shin-Seng Liu, president of the Taiwan Mission, Masaru Kawagoe, PARL director of the Japan Union Conference, Kazuhiko Hongo, vice president of Tokyo Adventist Hospital, and Tadaomi Shinmyo, PARL director of NSD. Three of them presented the reports of the religious situation in their countries.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

Evangelism x 2

Reports from Kwangju, Korea and Hong Kong

This is a report on two evangelistic efforts offered during the month of November 1999. For both cases I praised God for what He did, and I thank participating pastors and their congregations for their commitment and support to these projects. Lack of space does not allow me to describe all the activities related to this effort and to name those who were involved.

On November 5-13, I participated in an evangelistic series in Nam San Church, in Kwangju City of the Southwest Korean Conference. Coordinated by pastor Shin, Jang-Ho, four churches from Kwangju area participated in this series with music, financial support, and by bringing their interests. In addition, the Conference sent four intern pastors to gain experience and to help in many ways.

A highlight of the effort was a simultaneous NEWSTART program with a daily attendance of about 100. However, something worth of underlining is that Nam San church offers NEWSTART programs every week of the year! Pastor Shin explains that this effort has created a very favorable image of his church in the area, thus facilitating people to attend other activities, including evangelism. Another unique element of Nam San church is that pastor Shin is the Director of a Social Center built by the government. The ten members of the staff are all members of his church. Hundreds of people came daily for exercises, English classes, piano lessons, counseling, to the library, to the cloth factory, to bring children to the kindergarten, to the cafeteria, to the dental clinic, to the center for the elderly, and to many others activities.

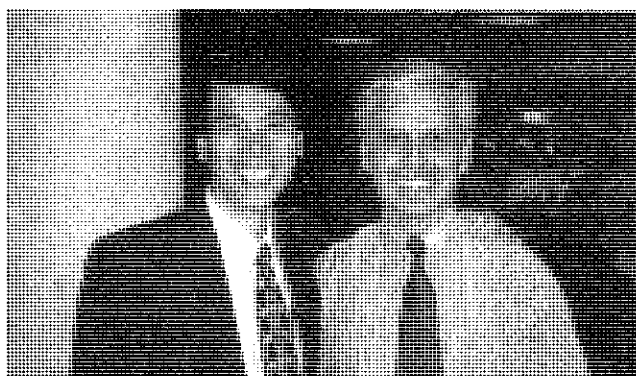


Pastor & Mrs. Shin and Pastor & Mrs. Martin

On November 20-28 I participated in another evangelistic series at Mountain View Church, in Tsuen Wan Adventist Hospital, Hong Kong.

Three churches participated in this effort. Pastor Terry Tsui was the coordinator for this series; church members distributed more than 50,000 invitations in surrounding apartment buildings, which shows the support of his congregation.

A highlight of the Hong Kong series was a class on Field Evangelism. The participants were twelve Theology students from Hong Kong Adventist College, seven students from AIIAS, and three local pastors. They attended a four-hour morning class during six days, visited interests in the afternoon, and served in many responsibilities during the evening services. One of the most rewarding elements at the end of this series was to see the enthusiasm of the students to participate in soul winning. In addition to the 24 hours of morning classes and to the eight evening services, during the crusade I offered a Week of Prayer for the Hospital staff workers, and on Sundays messages to Filipino workers.



Pastor Terry Tsui and Pastor Carlos Martin

In addition to serve as my translator, Pastor Tsui had the opportunity to act as the evangelist for one night. His enthusiasm for evangelism is demonstrated in the fact that after the intense series he continued with evangelistic meetings also using Power Point for one more month, three nights a week. Both series centered on a multimedia presentation using a giant screen of 9x4 meters for three projectors running at the same time. In both places visitors during night services fluctuated between fifty and seventy. In both places there were lively song services before my presentation. In both places prayer bands supported me all the time I was on the platform. In both places the Power Point messages were in the local language and images incorporated local cultural elements. In each place eighteen people joined the church at the end of the series.

Public evangelism is still alive and well in NSD! Public evangelism is not the only way to finish God's work, but evangelism is. Each of us, according to our own spiritual gifts, is asked to participate in the proclamation of "the praises of Him who called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Peter 2: 9)

Carlos G. Martin, MA/HM/GM/AGCN Director

Revival Meetings (Part 1)

at the Mountain Churches in Taiwan

I spent eleven days in Taiwan conducting revival meetings at mountain churches on December 17 - 27, 1999. Dr. Daniel Lu, Assistant to Taiwan Mission President Paul Hsin Sheng Liu was my guide, translator, and driver. I had the privilege of preaching in Japanese at seven different churches. In addition, I visited twelve other congregations, including two city churches.

I began the revival meetings on December 17 (Friday) - 18 (Sabbath) at the Kao Chung Church after driving for two and half hours from Kao Hsiung City. I preached three times under the theme, "Experience the Certainty of His Coming." This was a combined meeting of four churches composed of the Bunun tribe. The special vocal music appealed me very much and reminded me of a Mongolian melody. They sang powerfully in voice and spirit.



The attendants at the Kao Chung Church on Dec. 18, 1999

The chapel was filled with attendants and some visitors took their seats outside the building. There were about seventy participants besides children.

It was very cold on December 24 (Friday) - 25 (Sabbath), but still people came and packed the Shuang Chi Church. The church was well illuminated with Christmas decorations. When I breathed, I could see the white breath even in the chapel having no heating system. In spite of such a severe condition, they listened to me very carefully. It was reported there were over one hundred fifty participants including children to this combined revival meetings for four churches of the Tayaru tribe.

(This report will be continued in the next issue.)

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

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