

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 4, Number 39

Two New Korean Temperance Events

for the New Millennium

Two new temperance events were successfully presented this May in Seoul, Korea. The first was a Students' Stop-Smoking Walkathon held in beautiful Yoido Park. Two thousand middle and high school students participated in this historic health happening, which was the first of its kind in the history of Seoul. The Walkathon was sponsored by the International Temperance Association's Seoul headquarters in order to celebrate the thirteenth 'World No Smoking Day' on May 31, 2000.

The students were able to visit eight strategically placed booths located along the 2.4 kilometer walking course. Each booth presented a short but informative program to help focus the students' attention on the health issues of the day. The students saw a live animal test on the effects of smoking, a mock funeral ceremony for the death of a smoker. They also received counselling, took a "No Smoking" pledge, and practiced their English conversation with participating foreigners. All the booths aroused excited reactions from the students.

All participants received a Stop-Smoking T-shirt, a pin, and some simple refreshments. In addition, a drawing was held to give away soccer balls, basketballs, and several mountain bicycles. Digital pictures were taken during the opening ceremonies so that after finishing the walking course, students could pick up their picture in the center of a lapel pin, which read "No Smoking - New Start."

There is a terrible health crisis attacking Korean youth today. This is evident in examining the statistics from a nation-wide survey of junior and senior high school students. The national average shows that while a low 3.1% of junior high school students smoke, there is a dramatic increase during senior high school to an alarming 41%. Some schools report as much 50-60% of senior high school students as smokers.

This is the highest rate in the world! The Korean government feels the shame and burden of this poisoning of Korean youth. The health damaging effects of this crisis are sure to reach beyond this generation.



A Poster of Stop-Smoking Walkathon

In 1999, the Korean government started to get serious about this problem and began to focus their attention on possible counteractions. Through the Korean Association of Temperance and Health, the Korean government is training leaders in prevention and treatment of nicotine addiction. The Government is investing an ever-increasing amount in the future health of the nation's youth. A portion of the national health budget goes into educating the nation's teachers, at every level, to be health workers and leaders of "Stop Smoking Programs." It is interesting to note that most of the instructors in these teacher training programs are former SDA Hospital staff-members, Sahmyook University (Adventist school) Nursing department professors, and board members of the International Temperance Association (ITA), Korean Headquarters.

Over the past 30 years more than 30,000 people have stopped smoking through our SDA "Five Day Plan" at the Seoul Adventist Hospital. Dr. Shin Sung Rae, of the Nursing Department, received her doctorate degree from Yonsei University in the area of nicotine addiction, treatment, and prevention. Some of the Sahmyook Nursing and Health

College professors have done research for their MPH degrees in the area of Smoking Cessation and Education. A number of Korean SDA pastors are studying for their MPH degrees at the School of Health at Yonsei University with an emphasis on NEWSTART, which is very useful in treating smokers.



A boy making a speech in the contest.

The Ministry of Health and Welfare in Korea has recognized the usefulness of our health message and, in the current atmosphere of health consciousness, has invested more than three million dollars in a National Health Fair. This first Korean Health Fair was successfully presented from May 26 through June 4, at Olympic Park in Seoul. As part of this historic event, the first National Student Temperance Speech Contest was held on May 31. The Grand Prize, a trophy and almost five hundred dollars in prize money, was bestowed in the name of the Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare. The First Prize was given by the Chairman of the Korean Association of Smoking and Health. Second and Third Prizes were presented by the Chairman of the Korean Headquarters of the International Temperance Association (ITA), which was organized in 1970. The Korean Broadcasting Station (KBS) Morning News gave a five minute report on the Stop Smoking Speech Contest, spreading the name of the International Temperance Association (ITA) nation-wide through broadcasts of this event. Most of the university hospitals, big pharmaceutical companies, and major food factories in the nation also joined in the Health Fair. All of this signals an atmosphere of increasing health consciousness throughout Asia and particularly in Korea.

For 30 years the ITA workers in Korea have been leading the efforts against the use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. However, over the last ten years we seemed to have lost some of the vision we once had for temperance work. Our temperance "lamp" burned dimly and served only to light the way for other non-Adventist groups to organize and achieve many wonderful things which we left undone.

Now is the time to awake again to our obligation and destiny. We began to arouse from our slumbers in 1997, when the Korean Union Conference Health and Temperance Director, Pastor Koo Jungmo, reorganized ITA, Korean Headquarters. He worked with several committee chairmen to lay our modern foundation in health activity.

A new leader for SDA health and temperance work in Korea was elected during the May 16-19 31st Constituency meeting of the Korean Union Conference. The Korean Union Conference Health and Temperance Director is now Pastor Cho Woon Oong, MPH, who will ably head up the work of reformation in the most positive health atmosphere yet to sweep Korea. In the coming 5 years of the New Millennium, Seventh-day Adventists will again stand on the front line of the Health and Temperance work in Korea and throughout Asia. It is our deepest prayer that the courage and ability of those under the guidance of the God of Life and Health will light the fires to guide us ever more quickly and surely into Eternity. Amen.



A boy was awarded after the speech contest.

Michael E. Welch, *Vice Chairman* and Esther L. Blackburn, *Asst. Vice Chairman, Committee for International and Government Relations, ICPA, Korean Branch.*

NSD Personnel Replacement

Since Elder Kim, Jong Moon (Northern Asia-Pacific Division Associate Treasurer, Corporate Affairs and Trust Services Director) was elected to the Korean Union Conference (KUC) Treasurer, Elder Kim, Kwang Doo (KUC Treasurer) was appointed to the NSD acting Associate Treasurer and acting Director of Corporate Affairs and Trust Services. (Editor)

Evangelistic Meeting in Japan

Seed-sowing Campaign

I was invited by the Kujikawa Church, in the East Japan Conference, to conduct a series of evangelistic meetings under the grand title "Life and Decision" for four nights on June 2 (Friday) - 5 (Monday), 2000. This church is located in a rural area and has a mini church school with 14 students. Many of the church members are farmers. Therefore, the dates of the meetings were chosen after the rice planting in the paddy in order to get farmers to the church program. The church considered this campaign as a seed-sowing series and wanted to get as many truth seekers as possible so that she might prepare them for ACTS 2000, a harvest campaign in the autumn.

An evangelistic meeting in Japan is quite short compared to series in other countries like Korea where they last 8-10 days. The typical evangelistic meeting in Japan is held on a weekend and usually three nights: Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Sometimes, Friday night, Saturday church service, and Saturday afternoon are used for three meeting times as well. The reason of a short term evangelistic crusade is due to the conception that people are too busy to come to church for more than three days. In spite of such practice in Japan, I persuaded the church pastor, Yoshihiro Atari, to conduct the meetings for four nights instead of three since I would visit his church from a foreign country, Korea. Fortunately, he explained my desire to the church members and got them to agree.

The campaign was well prepared in advertisement, role assignment, program, etc. by the church under the leadership of Pastor Atari. Upon arriving, I could see a banner on a road in front of the church building promoting the meetings. Each day, the program began at 7:00 p.m. with a song service and was followed by a special music, theme song,

pastoral greeting and prayer, message by the preacher, an appeal song, closing prayer and announcements at 8:30 p.m. After the evangelistic meeting, visitors were invited to come to another meeting room for refreshments and fellowship with the church members for an additional 15 - 30 minutes. All programs smoothly proceeded every day and visitors seemed to be relaxed and to enjoy the time in the church.

The number of attendants in this campaign was quite good. Because, although the average attendants of the Sabbath church service in 1999 was 55 adults, the average number of adults for four nights was 82. Among those 82, there were 47 church members and 35 visitors. Besides the adults, there were 8 - 9 children every night. Nine people came to listen to my message for four nights and 14 for three nights. There were all together 74 visitors' names in the record book of the campaign. Most of the visitors seemed to be relatives or friends of the church members. Thus it was reconfirmed that making friends on a daily basis is very effective in inviting people to our evangelistic meetings.

Since the grand title was "Life and Decision," I asked the audience to make a decision after listening to my message. On the second and third night, I appealed them to show their decision by raising their hands before the consecration prayer while they closed their eyes. On the last night, I asked them to stand up if they would accept Jesus as their personal Savior. Then, three visitors responded. One of them has been already prepared for baptism and he, husband of a church member, will be baptized on June 24. Another two were a middle-aged couple and the husband was a friend of a church member. It was a really joyful experience for all of us to know that someone accepted Jesus Christ and decided to follow Him.

Though the ratio of Christians in the Japanese population is less than 1%, there are still sincere and genuine people who are seeking true salvation. We are responsible to meet them with the salvation through Jesus Christ.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*



Theology Students took Field Evangelism

Fukuoka, Japan

The two churches of Fukuoka, Japan, joined in an evangelistic effort during the week of June 9-18, 2000, under the leadership of Dr. Carlos G. Martin and Dr. Keith Watanabe. A group of eight students from Japan Missionary College participated in this evangelistic effort. The series was offered at Acros Fukuoka Convention Center, located in the center of the city. People who would never go to a church to study the Bible may go to a neutral and public place which is perceived as non-threatening to them. The students were lodged at the church and church members prepared food for them. The first class was offered on June 9. Their day began a 6:30 am, when they studied together the Sabbath School lesson, had a devotional sermon, and prayed. After breakfast, they took classes from 8:00 - 12:00. In the afternoon they had more classes or participated in practical assignments such a visitation, making phone calls, distribution of brochures, and rehearsal for the night. At 5:30 pm they left for the Convention Center. Everybody received responsibilities so that by 6:30 pm they had already installed a 6-meter platform, a spotlight, three computers, three video projectors, and the registration desk. After the meeting everything had to be dismantled by 9:00 pm. They returned to the church by 9:30 pm.



Theology Students with Pastors Watanabe (left in the first row), Wagatsuma and Martin (right in the first row).

Every night, between 20-25 church members supported the meetings with their attendance. An average of 10-15 non-baptized adults attended nightly services. The average attendance was 40-50 people every night. A rule of thumb indicates that at the end of an evangelistic series that the total number of baptisms of a series will be about twice as many were ready for baptism on the opening night. In this case, three persons requested baptism. The series was completely bilingual with all texts offered in both English and Japanese. Three computers and three video projectors allowed a dynamic Power Point presentation on a giant screen. The presentation included as many images of Japanese faces, scenery, and themes as possible in order to make the presentation more easy to be understood than one with foreign elements. The eight students and the pastor were promised a free set of the full Power Point presentations when they were willing to try evangelism by themselves. The commitment of some of the students to participate in evangelism in their pastoral ministries was one of the best accomplishments of the series.

Carlos G. Martin, *Ministerial Ass. Director*

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