

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 4, Number 42

Two Weeks with NSD Missionaries

in the Philippines & Hong Kong

On the first two weeks of August I had the privilege of interacting with two different groups of missionaries. I was deeply impressed by the commitment of these two groups of courageous missionaries. They are an indication that there is an awakening of missionary responsibilities in our Division.

Early in July a group of fourteen young people from Hong Kong, thirteen from Korea, one from Japan, and two from the North American Division went to the Philippines to participate in the first short term batch of the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM). One of these missionaries is a medical doctor in Hong Kong, who closed his clinic for one month in order to serve as a missionary.

A group of young people from the Philippines had already started the ground preparation in the town of Penaranda, Nueva Ecija, in which there was no Seventh-day Adventist. As a result of several cottage meetings and personal Bible studies, seventy people had been already baptized by the time of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) group arrived. They were divided in six groups and received a territory. They participated in intense visitation and offering Bible studies. On the last week of July they launched six satellite evangelistic meetings, with an attendance that varied from thirty to seventy in each place.

Missionaries received one week training at the beginning of their short term, and a few additional hours during the reaping crusade. They had the opportunity not only to observe a series of public evangelism but also to preach in public during the ten nights of satellite meetings. They offered Bible studies, and helped people to make decisions for Jesus.

They experienced a new culture, the hard labor of the mission field, the inconveniences of being far away from the conveniences at home, Satanic attempt to discourage them, and the satisfaction of seeing with their eyes the results of their labors and prayers.



The participants and the newly baptized members

On the opening night of the reaping series there were about 300 people in attendance even though it was raining. Actually, it rained every evening of the week! Missionaries picked up their interests, who attended faithfully. Attendance increased every night up to a maximum of about 600. On Thursday six adults were baptized in a sample baptismal ceremony. About 100 people responded on Friday to a straight appeal for baptism. On Sabbath, 87 more were baptized, making a grand total of 164 baptisms in a town where five months earlier there was no Adventist. We pray that these 28 young people from our Division will make a reality the goal of the 1000MM: "Once a missionary, always a missionary!"

The following day I went to Hong Kong to participate in the training of eight Global Mission Pioneers under the leadership of Elder Bob Folkenberg. Two adults went from Taiwan; their purpose is to establish a new congregation in the city of Dolio, in the county of Yun Lin, Taiwan. There is no Adventist church in the entire county. Brother Tu Yi is 63 years old; he closed his business in order to go as missionary. Brother Tu Chi Huan is 75, and was a Police chief in Taipei. Both men left their families for one year in order to serve as missionaries.

Batim, an area in the zone of Kowloon, has an Adventist Academy, 97% of the students are non-Christians. Chan Wai Ho (Jeffrey) is studying medicine and Yong Thau Lip (Vincent) has already finished his second year of Theology. They will establish a church in Sai Wan, an area of Hong Kong with more than 1,000,000 people with not Seventh-day Adventist Church.



The new Global Mission Pioneers in Hong Kong

The other four participants were college students from Hong Kong. They were committed to interrupt their studies for one year in order to plant a church in two areas where there is not Adventist church: in Batim, Kowloon, and in Sai Wan, Hong Kong Island. They aim to plant two non-traditional churches where young people may lead church services, worship using a contemporary style, and witness to other young people through dynamic small groups.

These Global Mission Pioneers received 96 hours of actual training from Elders Choke-Woh Lee, Bob Folkenberg, Miguel Luna, Alphon Chun-Kit Fung, and Carlos Martin. On Sabbath, August 13, under the leadership of the Hong Kong-Macau Conference and the Chinese Union Mission, they were commissioned in a solemn ceremony at the Mountain View Church, in Hong Kong, and received a certificate of training as Global Mission Pioneers. The following day the missionaries departed to their respective mission fields.

These two experiences with NSD missionaries encouraged me very much. In the past, missionaries came from the West. In our days, most of the outreach and church planting responsibilities are left in the hands of professional pastors. These modern missionaries demonstrate that the era of missions is not a matter of the past and that is not necessary to be a pastor in order to assume missionary and evangelistic responsibilities. Hundreds and thousand of missionaries are still necessary to finish the work in our Division.

Only when our senior lay members as well as our young people accept the challenge and move into non-entered areas of Korea, Japan, China, Mongolia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao, we will be able to finish the work. Global Mission is committed to support their efforts.

Carlos G. Martin, *Global Mission Director*

Reaching the Soul, Teaching and Developing the Mind

Volunteer Teachers' Orientation in Hong Kong

The Language Schools in the Northern Asia-Pacific (NSD) exist for evangelistic outreach and community services in Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Mongolia, and China. We presently teach English, Chinese, and Japanese in our Language Schools. We have a total of 42 language schools, 248 teachers and 35,900 students in the NSD. They baptized a total of 360 young souls in 1999. The Korean Language Institute has 24 schools and 190 teachers. They teach about 33,000 students during each two-month long term; this includes adults and juniors, with classes in English, Japanese, and Chinese. The Korean schools baptized 346 young souls in 1999. In Mongolia, the first English Language School was started this year with three teachers and about fifty students.

The sun was shining brightly on the beautiful campus of the Hong Kong Adventist College (HKAC), August 15, 2000. Twenty-six dedicated teachers from the United States, Australia, Canada, South Africa, and England got off buses and taxis with their baggage. For some of them, this was the first time to fly to Asia. "Welcome to Hong Kong!" We exchanged our greetings and experienced the joy of companionship.

The August 2000 NSD & SSD Orientation for the volunteer teachers was held, for the first time, at the HKAC campus, from August 15 through 20. The HKAC extended her hearty welcome and hospitality to these strangers from foreign countries.



*Adventist
Volunteer
Service
Workers
trained
in Hong Kong
with instructors*

Many thanks to Dr. Sally Phoon, the president of HKAC, Elder Hosea Yeun Pak Nin, the business manager, and other efficient personnel for their excellent management and hospitality.

Among the volunteer teachers was Miss Michelle Bobb-Semple, who volunteered for the second time in spite of having had a terrible accident and being hospitalized in Taiwan. Praise the Lord! We admire her spirit of reaching the unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ! We admire the young volunteer teachers of the Language Schools, and the volunteers for the 1000 Missionary Movement!

They are not only "Volunteer Missionaries" to the mission field but also back in their homelands, in their mother churches, and on their school campuses after the completion their terms of service in the mission fields. They are Christ's dedicated soldiers, helping to change the world.

They learned, during the orientation, about SDA Language Schools, organizational and operational structures, evangelism, missionary activities, teaching and other school duties, and about social and community relationships. They also learned from each of the Language School directors or leaders about culture, finance, health care, and other detailed matters.

The lecturers and guest speakers from the General Conference and its divisions were Elder Vernon Parmenter, GC office of volunteerism, Elder Douglas Clayville, SSD associate secretary, and Masaji Uyeda, NSD Language Schools director. We had five directors or leaders as instructors and lecturers: Pastor Glenn Hill (KUC), Pastor Mark Duarte (JUC), Pastor Bob Folkenberg (CHUM), Pastor William Mathi (China), and Ms. Laurie Stankavich (Taiwan).

Big "Thanks" to our efficient and dedicated Directors and Leaders of each Union, who had the second Orientations immediately after this one at their countries assigned. On August 21, the volunteers hurried to the airport, heading to their assigned countries: Thailand, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan. This time we did not have volunteer teachers for China and Mongolia.

So, what are the volunteer teachers accomplishing in the NSD? They are reaching the unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and transmitting Adventist values to a world that is indifferent to Christianity or immersed in technology and humanism. They are giving new life and hope to thousands of young people who come to the safe haven and to the perpetually flowing fountain of eternal wisdom to which they are introduced at our schools. Please continue to pray for the young volunteer teachers and for our leaders in the Language Schools!

Masaji Uyeda, *Education Director*

Death of a Former Missionary

Deane F. Nelson, 62, died Sunday, September 10, in a highway accident near Los Angeles, California. As a health educator, he founded and directed medical-dental clinics for the Korean Union Mission in Seoul, South Korea in 1970 - 72. He ministered as the Director and Civilian Chaplain of the Korean Union Servicemen's Center, Seoul, South Korea, 1970 - 72 and as a lecturer in theology at Korean Union College. He served in South China Island Union Mission College, Hong Kong, and was the speaker for the Hong Kong- Macao Mission Field School of Health Evangelism. (Editor)

Summer Bible Camp

near Nikko, Japan

The Japan Union Conference Youth and English Language School Departments recently conducted a special summer Bible Camp from August 4 - 6 at Kinugawa Onsen, a very popular hot springs area near Nikko Japan. The Camp was conceptualized as a result of discussions regarding how to better connect the language school students with the Seventh-day Adventist Church (SDA) youth. There has always been a gap between these groups due mainly to a natural separation in program operations over the years. Each year, when volunteer missionaries leave for home, many of the students they have worked with also disappear since they have not formed strong connections with the church members.

The original idea was to have a joint camp involving all of Japan, but for various reasons the plans were downsized to include mainly the schools and youth in the greater Tokyo area. About 72 people attended the Bible Camp which took place at Hotel New Sakura. The main speaker was Pastor Yozaburo Bando, senior pastor of the Tokyo Central Church. He spoke on the theme, "Why SDA now?" Dr. David Wong from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division also attended and gave two presentations. Other activities included singing, discussion groups, hiking, river-rapid boat riding, eating delicious food and, of course, relaxing in the hot springs.



The participants of Youth and English Language School Bible Camp near Nikko, Japan on August 4-6, 2000

As a result of Bible Camps Non-Christians often decide to study the Bible regularly, attend church and sometimes commit their lives to Christ. Long term results of this Bible Camp still remain to be seen, but it is our prayer that faith will sprout up from the seeds planted over that short week end and that many new friendships formed there will last until Jesus comes. We ask your prayers as the Holy Spirit works on the hearts of those who attended.

Mark Duarte, *Japan Union Conference International Ministries Director*

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