Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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First NSD Quinquennial Council

Held in Ilsan, Korea

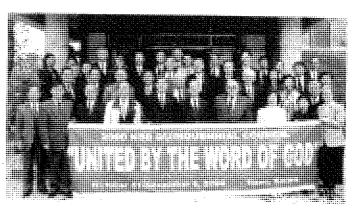
Inder the theme "United by the Word of God," the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Quinquennial Council was held at the NSD office in Ilsan, Korea on October 31 - November 6, 2000. This was the first time for the NSD to conduct a quinquennial council after the birth of the Division in 1997, when the bifurcation of the Asia-Pacific Division took place. In the past four years, there were some changes among the officers and departmental directors. Furthermore, at the recent General Conference Session in Toronto, Canada, Richard Liu, NSD Secretary announced his retirement and was replaced by Stanley Ng, Chinese Union Mission (CHUM) secretary.



S. Ng, secretary; P.D.Chun, president; R.M.Moores, treasurer (from left)

There were around forty attendants during the council including three representatives from the General Conference (GC), namely Larry R. Colburn, assistant to the GC president; Robert L. Rawson, GC treasurer; and

Donald R. Sahly, GC associate secretary. They contributed not only to the business session, but also by preaching in the morning and mid-day devotionals. Their faithful and enthusiastic participation was very much appreciated.



The attendants of the Quinquennial Council

According to the President's Report of the council, we can characterize the past quinquennium as a period of reorganization. This is clearly seen in the presidential report of P.D.Chun: "Creation of New Divisions," "Restructuring of the Japan Union Conference," "Birth of the Chinese Union Mission," and "Creation of ADRA Asia."



The last message from Richard Liu

Although there were around 90 actions taken during the council, most of them routinely, including many policy

amendments. However, a few of them were new and significant. First of all, the officers of the CHUM were elected as follows: president, James Wu Sze Fai, vice president of the Taiwan Adventist Hospital; secretary, John W.Ash III, media center director of the CHUM; and treasurer, Paul Cho Fu Cheng (unchanged). Since the Ministerial Association Secretary, Carlos G. Martin, accepted a call to serve as Seminary dean of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AllAS) in the Philippines, Jairyong Lee, director of the 1000 Missionary Movement in USA was appointed to replace him. The other departmental directors remained in the same positions with some adjustments. Another interesting action was the setting up of the North Korea Special Committee, which held its first committee meeting.



The choir composed of young people from Sahmyook University in Korea

The schedule of the council was quite busy, but the Sabbath day on November 4 was really a day of rest. The delegates attended the Friday vesper at the Ilsan Korean Church and enjoyed first class music prepared by the choir of Sahmyook University. The Sabbath School and Church Service were also conducted at the same church. We were very much impressed by a testimony of a Korean volunteer who worked in Irian Jaya, Indonesia.



D. Sahly (right) and his translator, J. K. Chun

Donald R. Sahly, GC associate secretary, preached in the worship service. In the afternoon at the Sewon High

School auditorium, the brass band of an Adventist high school in Wonju amazed us with excellent music. It was easy to understant why the band got the first prize at the national band contest for high schools this year. In the evening of November 5, a special banquet was planned at a restaurant to express thanks to the former secretary leaving for the USA and to welcome the new secretary coming from Hong Kong.

Many expressed their gratitude to the Lord for having participated in the council. Dr. Birkenstock, president of AIIAS, said, "Excellent planning - the meetings, the materials provided. The weekend arrangements, the music, the programs, the testimonies, reports - all of this brings praise to our lips and it fosters great support for the church and its work." James Wu Sze Fai, new president of the CHUM, wrote, "The devotional messages were the highlights of the council." Donald R. Sahly, mentioned, "The food -10 plus. Excellent. Thank you. The hotel good. The transportation - 10 plus. The hotel location was good and close to the subway. The spirit - NSD is a great place with great people."

Tadaomi Shinmyo, Communication/PARL Director

Osaka District Evangelistic Meeting

Day time attendants more than nigth

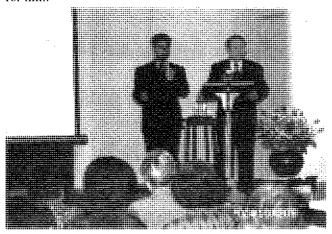
rom October 15 to 21, 2000, we had a week-long evangelistic meeting at Osaka East Church in Japan conducted by Hong, Myung Kwan, Sabbath School/Personal Ministries director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD). The title was "The Hope and Start of a New Millennium."

This project at first was cherished in the bosom of Mrs. Pak, an 80 year- old who Korean lady who has been nominated as the leader of the Lay Evangelism department of Osaka East Church. She wanted to spread the Three Angels' Message to her own people living near the church as well as to Japanese. So, she asked a Korean pastor of her acquaintance to suggest a Korean evangelist for this plan. He talked to Hong, Myung Kwan about her request. To our surprise he himself offered to preach.

However, his condition was to have at least a week

long meeting. In Japan an evangelistic series is conducted for two or three days in average. Therefore, this condition seemed very demanding to us. We were afraid that we would get only a small audience. But Mrs. Pak said, "Don't worry about the number. I believe Pastor Hong will speak as earnestly even to one believer as to a big audience."

Osaka East Church is middle-sized, so it has no influence to attract a large audience. The staff of this evangelistic series requested some other neighborhood churches to come to help this event by attending and bringing their acquaintances. In order to get as much audience as possible, we decided to have the same meeting twice a day. The first session was from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. for housewives and senior citizens, and the second one from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. for the working people. This idea proved to be successful and we got an accumulative total of 726 people during the seven days, including 595 church members and 131 non Adventists. It is the greatest number of audience this church ever had though Pastor Hong confided that it was the smallest one for him.



Pastor Hong (right) with his translator

It was interesting to find that daytime session gathered much more people than the evening session. The greatest factor in this successful meeting was the energetic, spiritual, powerful, straight message of the evangelist. In addition to this, Shinobu Matsuda, associate academic dean of the SDA Language Institutes in Korea, a Japanese, contributed very much to this meeting by serving as a remarkable translator, to convey the message in spiritually, linguistically, and culturally appropriate ways.

After the campaign, we organized a visiting team to call the non-Adventist visitors who came to the series. We found that eight souls had made a decision to be baptized. Among them was a Korean lady who came to Japan two years ago. If this effort had been given by a Japanese speaker, she could not have understood the message so impressively and made a decision. Pastor Hong was really a personal messenger sent to her from her mother country by the Lord.

Last but not least, three Korean ladies flew to Japan at their own expense to help this meeting by giving treatment to attendants through massage and acupressure. Their service greatly pleased them. We are all impressed with the positive and devotional spirit of Korean lay people.

Issei Horiuchi, Pastor of Osaka East Church, Japan

"Light to a Confused Life!"

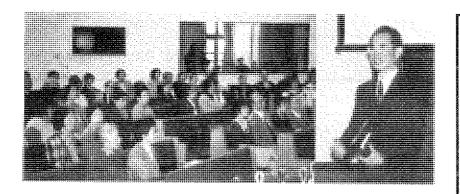
An evangelistic campaign in Kobe, Japan

was invited to conduct a series of evangelistic meetings at the Kobe Arinodai Church in Kobe, Japan. This church is located in the compound of the Kobe Adventist Hospital, which has a capacity of 116 beds. The church holds two evangelistic campaigns a year, in spring and autumn, respectively. The spring campaign is related to health and is given by a doctor. The autumn one contains gospel messages and is given by a pastor. In both campaigns it is possible to see many former and current hospital patients as listeners.

The three-days evangelistic effort was held on October 19-21, 2000 at the main church building under the theme "Light to a Confused Life!" The church prepared some thousands of copies of handbills and distributed them through the hospital, church members, and newspapers.

I presented the messages by using a computer, a projector, and a screen. The title of the first night was "What is the Key to Life?" I concluded telling them that the key to life is to accept Jesus Christ as savior. There were 26 visitors and 75 church members. On the second night my sermon was "What is the Greatest Property?" Again I explained that the greatest property is to find Jesus Christ as savior. On Friday night we got 22 visitors and 88 church members. I preached during the church service on the Sabbath day about "Nature, Law, and Jesus." The sermon on the third night was "What is the Secret to Get Satisfaction?" Once more I said to the audience that the secret of satisfaction in life is to accept Jesus Christ as savior and to walk with Him day by day. There were 26 visitors and 81 church members.

One gentleman who attended the three nights wrote, "I was impressed. Since the sermon was presented through words and pictures on the screen, it was very easy to understand the message." He shared, "I would like to participate in church service."



The attendants and speaker, T. Shinmyo (right)

Another gentleman said, "It was a joyful and beneficial lecture. Beginning next week, I want to attend church service. Furthermore, I want to study the Bible." A middle- age lady wrote, "I felt strongly that God is close to me. I will read the book presented to me by the preacher together with my neighbors and friends." Another lady said, "This was my second time to attend a series of evangelistic meetings since April. It was very good because the presentation was done through words and pictures. We were able to understand the message through both ears and eyes. I want to study the Bible."

Tadaomi Shinmyo, Communication / PARL Director

Death of a Former Missionary

Dunbar W. Smith was born on October 17, 1910, in Dunbar, Nebraska. He died on October 17, 2000, at the Redlands Community Hospital, exactly 90 years after he was born. Dr. Smith had an remarkable record of service for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

He was a minister, a clinical physician, and health administrator in four different world divisions and a solid supporter of the worldwide work of the church. Dunbar W. Smith, served in the old Far Eastern Division as Health Director from 1975 to 1980.

D.A.Roth, GC Representative at Loma Linda University

Coming Events ...

Japan Union Conference Annual Council
November 19-21, 2000 Yokohama, Japan
Korean Union Conference Annual Council
December 4-7, 2000 Seoul, Korea
Chinese Union Mission Session & Annual Council
December 11-14, 2000 Hong Kong

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