

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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Marks of Competent Leader

Everyday, as you glance through the newspapers, you will find another story of Leadership Breakdown. The crying need for leadership comes through loud and clear. A similar scene exists today in many churches, Christian organizations, and educational institutions.

What do we mean when we use the word LEADERSHIP? There are many books in the market written on the subject of Leadership. However, a book was written in 425 B.C. on effective leadership. It was written by a man who was prominent in business and politics in the ancient Middle East. This man not only possessed an exceptional personal philosophy of leadership, but he lived it out as well. This man was Nehemiah.

Believe it or not, what Nehemiah had to say concerning leadership speaks to the very same issues that you and I face today. For example:

- ~ the balance between faith in God and personal planning
- ~ how to handle executive discouragement
- ~ what to do with unwarranted criticism

The book of Nehemiah tells the story of how the people of Jerusalem rebuilt the walls of the city. Under the leadership of Nehemiah the people of God worked together in the face of threats and hardship to complete the task they had set for themselves.

Nehemiah was brokenhearted when he heard the news from Jerusalem. In the first chapter of Nehemiah, we begin to see his gift of leadership unfold. I am deeply impressed with the fact that though he was in a high-ranking position in the World, he had a heart that was very tender towards God. In Verses 4 through 11, there are four very significant factors revealed that are true in the lives of competent spiritual leaders.

1. A Leader has a clear recognition of the needs:

Nehemiah cared about the city of God's house and the people of God. When he heard about the state of the wall and the plight of the people, it bothered him. He saw immediately that there was a need, and he determined to do something about it. We are often guilty of not *responding* as we should to the needs of God's Church today. We should note Nehemiah's example and respond with energy and emotion when we see an opportunity to serve the Lord.

2. He was personally concerned with the need:

He not only recognized the need, but he also sat down and identified with them. Nehemiah was called to rebuild the walls, but first he wept over the ruins. A leader must have compassion.

3. The mark of a serious leader is he goes first to God with the problem:

In verse 5 we hear Nehemiah praying: "I beseech Thee, O God of Heaven." What is your first response when a need comes to your attention?

Your people's problem, whatever it maybe, will not be completely solved until you take it to God in prayer. Prayer is absolutely essential in the life of a leader.

4. Nehemiah was available to meet the need himself:

Nehemiah *recognized* the need clearly. He *got involved* in it. He *took it to God*. Now he was *available* to meet the need.

A genuine Leader is marked by diligent faithfulness in the midst of a task. It is demonstrated by being available and personally involved in meeting needs. There is not much benefits in leadership by proxy. Leaders in God's work would do well to remember that principle. Prayer is primary, but not theoretical prayer. Prayer that gets the job done includes the conviction that says: " Lord, I am available, ready, and willing."

Our world is filled with a fearful and confused humanity. Many people by the millions like sheep without a Shepherd long for a voice of assurance, an authentic model to follow. They cry out for someone to calm their fears, to solve their confusion. They are calling for leaders. God wants you to be a builder of characters.

Stanley Ng, *Secretary*

GC GM Advisory 2001

for NSD and SSD

The General Conference Global Mission Advisory for NSD (Northern Asia-Pacific Division) and SSD (Southern Asia-Pacific Division), held February 22 to 24, 2001, was different from traditional GC advisories, in which only the Division coordinators meet at the GC headquarters. The Global Mission advisory 2001 was held in Bangkok, Thailand, a challenging mission territory where more than 90% of national population are Buddhists. Twenty-one people including Division and Union Global Mission coordinators and some of the local Conference presidents, attended the meetings. NSD was represented by Jairyong Lee, the NSD Global Mission coordinator, and Union Global Mission coordinators: Dong Woon In of Korean Union Conference, Robert Folkenberg, Jr., of Chinese Union Mission, and Yukio Ebihara of Japan Union Conference.

During the meetings Mike Ryan, GC Global Mission coordinator, stressed the importance of global mission work in fulfilling the gospel commission given by Jesus Christ. Daisy Orion, Gary Krause, Don Folkenberg, and Gerald Clifford from the General Conference Global Mission Department gave a series of presentations on how to encourage people to get involved in global mission pioneer programs, how to request financial assistance from the GC Global Mission Department, and how to submit reports on finished projects.

Several of the Union Global Mission coordinators shared reports on the work being done by global mission pioneers and the significant number of baptisms that have taken place as a result. The reports served as a reminder that ministers and lay missionaries need to work together in spreading the gospel message.

As the advisory meeting drew to a close, the participants were filled with a renewed sense of determination to encourage and promote the work of global missions in their respective areas of service.

Jairyong Lee, *Ministerial Secretary/GM coordinator*

**United by
the Word of God**

New Departmental Directors *of the Japan Union Conference*

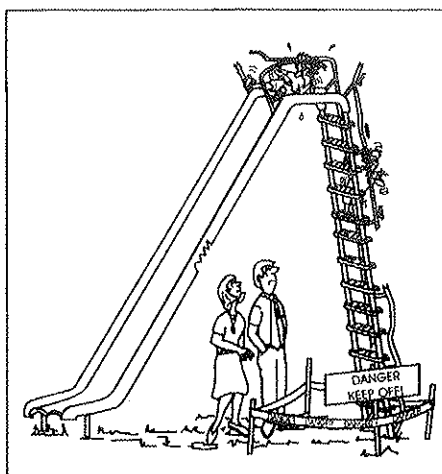
The following names were added to the departmental leaders of the Japan Union Conference (JUC) after her executive committee on February 20, 2001. (See the January issue of NEWS & VIEWS.) (Editor)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Church Ministries Director | Tadashi Yamaji |
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| Communication Director | JUC Secretary |
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| Overseas Japanese Evangelism | Coordinator |
| | JUC Secretary |
| Public Evangelist & VOP Radio Speaker | |
| | Takashi Shiraiishi |

from Adventist Risk Management



Obey warning signs.

A Significant Church Growth

at the Tokyo Korean Church

Generally Speaking, the Japanese Christian churches are struggling in both baptizing people and maintaining church attendants. The Christian population is less than one percent of the total population (about 130 million) of the country. Church growth in Japan is very slow. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is no exception. For example, the Japan Union Conference (JUC) has reported the number of baptisms in the past 5 years as follows: 334 in 1995, 289 in 1996, 329 in 1997, 328 in 1998 and 383 in 1999. The number is up and down. Though it is very little, the membership of the JUC increases constantly in the following way: 13,859 in 1995; 13,975 in 1996; 14,151 in 1997; 14,314 in 1998 and 14,522 in 1999. It is ironic, however, to know that the average number of church attendants does not grow according to the statistics: 6,354 in 1995; 6,429 in 1996; 6,347 in 1997; 6,409 in 1998 and 6,249 in 1999. As you can see, the average number of church attendants in Japan is less than half of the membership.

The congregation of the Tokyo Korean Church in Tokyo, Japan. Sung, Seon Jae, pastor of the church, is the 7th man with glasses from the left side on the third row.



There were 114 organized churches at the end of 1999 in Japan. This means that the average church membership of each church is about 127. The average baptisms per church in 1999 was about 3. The average number of church attendants of each church is about 55. I repeat, this is the average number. While there is a church whose membership is almost 1,000 and whose attendance is about 400, there are churches whose membership and average attendance is less than 20.

During the Ministerial Council of the JUC on January 23, 2001, Seon Jae Sung, Korean pastor of the Tokyo Korean Church, shared about his work among the Korean people in Tokyo, Japan.

He said, "This is my 12th year to work in Japan. When I arrived in Japan, I began to worship in my house. Soon we borrowed a class room in the district where I stayed. Then, we moved to an office of a building. Now, we have held our church services at a larger place in a building since last January." The reason for the frequent moving is due to the increasing attendance.

There was significant church growth in the past few years. Although the average church attendance in 1998 was 32, currently there are from 60 to 70 attending including 5 or 6 children. In other words, the number doubled in two years. The number of baptism in 1999 was 24 and in 2000, 19. As we are reminded of the average baptismal number of each church, this figure is outstanding. What are the secrets of his successful ministry?

He conducts an early morning prayer meeting every day through the whole year. He said, "There is power in the Word." Besides the Friday vesper and Sabbath church service, he holds small group meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday at various places. In 2000, he held a series of evangelistic meetings four times totalling 35 days. He shared a miraculous story of a business man in his church. He and his wife were Catholic, but baptized as Adventists on October 28, 2000. He had operated a small bag-making factory with 13 laborers.

After his baptism, however, orders of bags became nothing within one month. As a result, some laborers left and only two remained. Although he pretended to keep a normal attitude toward the church, he cried in his heart, "Why?" One month later, he rejoiced to find that the orders for bags had doubled. His former laborers also came back and he could employ around 10 workers. Through this business man, 8 persons were led to the church.

At the end of the interview in Japanese, Sung told me, "Kamisama wa imakaradesu." I interpret his words in the following way: "God will work for us much more than ever before and show His power more clearly from now on."

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Comm./PARL/Pub. Director*

Coming Events ...

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Shepherdness International Congress</i> | | |
| | [Postponed] | |
| <i>NSD Women's Ministry Advisory</i> | June 13-15, 2001 | Ilsan, Korea [Dates changed] |
| <i>NSD Family Ministries Advisory</i> | June 17-19, 2001 | Ilsan, Korea [Dates changed] |
| <i>NSD Children's Ministry Advisory</i> | June 20-22, 2001 | Ilsan, Korea [Dates changed] |
| <i>Youth Ministry Advisory</i> | July 4-6, 2001 | Ilsan, Korea |
| <i>NSD SS/PM Dept. Advisory</i> | July 4-6, 2001 | Korea |
| <i>NSD Publishing Advisory</i> | July 5-8, 2001 | Ilsan, Korea |
| <i>Leadership Seminar</i> | July 5-10 | UB, Mongolia |
| <i>NSD Stewardship Department Advisory</i> | July 8-10 | Korea |
| <i>ACM/NSO/AMiCUS Advisory</i> | July 9-11 | Ilsan, Korea |
| <i>Youth Congress</i> | July 13-16 | Taiwan |
| <i>Lay Evang Field School & Evangelism Crusade</i> | July 19-30 | UB, Mongolia |
| <i>Quality Health Care Seminar</i> | August 1-4 | Beijing, China |
| <i>Elders' Training</i> | August 5-10 | UB, Mongolia |
| <i>Pathfinder Camporee</i> | August 10-13 | Taiwan |
| <i>Bi-division (NSD-SSD) ASI Convention</i> | August 22-26 | Vietnam |
| <i>SS Workshop & Friendship Evangelism Seminar</i> | September 1-8 | Japan |
| <i>NSD Ministerial Association Advisory</i> | September 3-5 | Seoul, Korea |
| <i>Evangelism Training</i> | September 10-14 | Taipei, Taiwan |
| <i>GC Council on Evangelism and Witness</i> | September 17-18 | Silver Spring, USA |
| <i>GC Pre-Annual Council</i> | September 18-25 | Silver Spring, USA |
| <i>Women's Ministries Forum</i> | September 19 | Seoul, Korea |
| <i>Stewardship Seminar</i> | September 21-23 | Hong Kong |
| <i>GC Annual Council</i> | September 25-30 | Silver Spring, USA |
| <i>Soul Winning Training Seminar</i> | September 26-November 7 | Taejon, Korea |

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