

# Northern Asia-Pacific Division



# NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 5, Number 50

## 2001 NSD Midyear Committee

*held in Ilsan, Korea*

On May 16-17, 2001, right after the Strategic Planning Seminar, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division Midyear Committee Meetings were held in Ilsan, Korea.

This was the first Midyear Committee Meeting since the NSD Quinquennial Council last year. Thirty-one Division Executive Committee members, including five invitees, new committee members comprising of 3 Union elective members and 2 lay elective members, attended the meetings.

Some of the major decisions made and statistics reported during the midyear committee meetings included the following:

1. Our Division church membership has reached 483,904 by March 2001, with 1,620 organized churches and 2,149 companies. We are expecting this Division to reach the membership of 500,000 by the end of 2001.

2. An amendment on the Mission Statement to read as follows:

"The mission of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists is to proclaim to all peoples in its territory the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as their personal Savior and to unite with His church, nurturing them in preparation for His soon return, and equipping and empowering them for service."

This Mission Statement was voted and will be inserted in the NSD Working Policy.

3. To conduct the NSD Midyear Committee in Hong Kong, on May 15 and 16, 2002.

4. To approve the Guidelines for Conference Candidacy Status review and evaluation.

5. To conduct a secretariat evaluation of the NSD Unions and Mongolia Mission Field as follows:

KUC-	2002	CHUM	-	2004
JUC	-	MMF	-	2005

6. To approve and refer to each Union and the Attached Mission Field the document "Strategic Issues for the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

The NSD, in response to the Mission of Christ, is placing emphasis on three strategic issues: Quality of Life, Unity, and Growth. Some of the action plan ideas were discussed and were referred to each Union/Mission Field for more discussion and implementation.



*Stanley Ng, P. D. Chun & Martin Moores*

7. To record the establishment of an Adventist World Television Committee (AWT) which will replace the Adventist Global Communication Network (AGCN) Operating Committee. The purpose of AWT is to develop a coordinated approach to Adventist Television ministry, targeting both Seventh-day Adventist churches and the general public.

8. Adoption/Amendments on Policy Items:

- Adoption of Policy on "Independent Transfers."
- Amendment on General Conference Auditing Service Board.

- c. Amendment on Early Retirement.
- d. Amendment on Post-Retirement Service.

(A copy of the above adopted/amended NSD Working Policy can be obtained from the NSD Secretariat.)

Ng, Wai Chun, (Stanley), *Secretary*

## Strategic Planning Seminar - for Quality of Life, Unity and Growth

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) sponsored a "Strategic Planning Seminar" at the NSD office in Ilsan, Korea on May 14 - 15, 2001. Since the dates were just before the NSD Midyear Committee, most of the committee members (around 30) were present.

The guest speaker was Michael L. Ryan, General Field Secretary of the General Conference. He introduced the "Strategic Planning Process" as follows: Mission Statement - Picture of the Church (Data and Experience) - Strategic Issues - Identify Indicators of Change - Develop Action Plans (Real Action) - Budget (Real Money) - Implement Budget/Plans (Real Time) - Evaluation (Data, Reporting, Discussion) - Forecasting. This process will circulate. Further, there are interactions among the processes.



*Michael L. Ryan conducting the Seminar*

The Adventist world church has recognized the three issues, namely "Quality of Life," "Unity" and "Growth." In the NSD, the expected results of "Quality of Life" were listed as follows: Bible study, prayer life, Sabbath School membership increased, church attendance increased, reading the Spirit of Prophecy books, involvement in witnessing,

keeping greater percentage of active youth, stewardship of more than 80 % giving units/equal annual increment. Regarding "Unity" we expected respect for church organization and authority, and unity in doctrine. We want to see "Growth" in an increase of more than 0.5 % membership annually, 2 % new churches, from at risk churches (less than 20 members) to 40 members within 5 years, and an evangelism master plan for each conference or mission to select one city.

During this seminar Michael L. Ryan not only gave the lectures but also dialogued with the participants. He helped us see the real picture of the church in each union. Then he led us to think of the expected image of the church. We discussed how we can achieve the expected outcome. For example, we shared some ideas on how to increase the number of church attendance. The following were the suggestions: good sermons; pastor greeting to members before and after the church service; group related programs; more testimony programs; emphasis on prayer; pastoral visitation; response to the felt needs of the people; overseas missions; well balanced pastoral works between sermon, service and fellowship; annual cleaning of church membership record.

This seminar has given a lot of assignments to the NSD to fulfill the visible goals connected with "Quality of Life," "Unity" and "Growth."

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

## NSD PARL Advisory conducted in Korea

Religious Freedom: An Issue for the 21st Century" was the theme of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) Advisory on April 30 to May 2, 2001 at the NSD office in Ilsan, Korea. Tadaomi Shinmyo, NSD PARL director, was facilitator for the advisory.

The main lecturer was John Graz, PARL director of the General Conference (GC). The attendees were from the Korean Union Conference and Chinese Union Mission. Since most of the participants were new to the area of religious liberty, the topics dealt with in the meetings were basic and general as follows: "What is PARL?" "What is religious freedom?" "Religious freedom in the Adventist church" "Religious Freedom World Report" "What is IRLA?" "Relationship between church and state" "Adventist diplomacy" "How to meet a V.I.P.?" "Relations with other churches" "Evangelism and Proselytism."

The participants of the advisory felt that this was really a stimulating and provocative learning experience for them. Since there is strong prejudice towards the Adventist church in Korea, the Korean pastors were encouraged to build a good and positive relationship with other Christian churches. In mainland China, relationship between church and state is the issue. Fortunately, we had John Ash III, PARL director of the Chinese Union Mission, who has worked for the Chinese people for more than 30 years, working in Taiwan and Hong Kong and visiting mainland China. His computerized presentation about the Adventists in mainland China during the morning devotion was very much appreciated by not only the advisory participants but also the staff of the NSD office. There are 309,071 Adventists and 825 churches and 1,889 companies in mainland China as of March 31, 2001.



*The Participants of the PARL Advisory*

The report of the Korean Union Conference (KUC) was very inspiring and useful. The following is a partial report written by Hyun Suh Koo, KUC PARL director. "Youngtae Chung, a SDA four-year medical student at Seoul National University, saw an announcement regarding the postponement of the test dates to Feb. 17 (Sabbath) and 18, 2001. Examinations were not originally scheduled on Sabbath but now it was. He had never failed to keep the Sabbath during his six years of medical studies. He went to his church pastor to ask for help. Hearing the situation, the pastor came to KUC the next day to seek for the help of leaders in KUC. While praying for help from God, I had a good idea. I decided to call on the chairman of Health and Welfare Committee of the Congress. He was elected as a congressman in the city of Kuri where one of our church academies is located. And Mr. Lee, elder of Cheonsung SDA Church had exercised great influence in his election. Mr. Lee accompanied me on my visit to the congressman. We had a good talk, and the chairman asked the high officer of the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) to come to his office. He also called the minister of MOHW and asked for help. The dates had already been publicized in the morning newspaper. It would have been an embarrassment for the MOHW to change the dates. We prayed and came back to

our office, and two hours after our meeting I received a call from a high official of MOHW, and he told me that the dates had been changed! This was the first case in the history of MOHW when a date of such importance had been changed. Chung's scholarly records were not excellent because of Sabbath absences, but he glorified God by getting the second highest scores in the National Medical Board Test."

Knowing that John Graz was originally from Switzerland, we had contacted the Swiss Embassy in Seoul, Korea, for a courtesy call before his arrival in Korea, and we were able to get the appointment. On May 2, we met Ambassador Christian Muhlethaler at his office in the embassy in spite of his busy schedule. In fact, he had just come back to his office on that day after his vacation. It was so nice to talk with him for 30 minutes and to share with him our work and concerns. This was one of example of "Adventist diplomacy" and "How to meet a V.I.P."

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

## IRLA Leaders Visit China

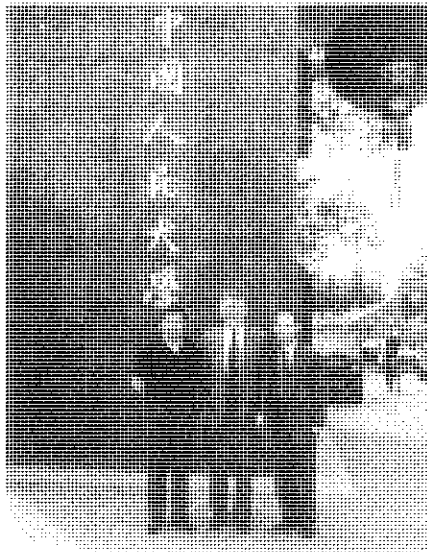
*for preparing congress and building relationship*

Two Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) leaders recently visited China and met a professor of a university and religious affairs officers in Beijing, China.

IRLA is a world wide organization composed of many experts of different religious leaders, lawyers, university professors, etc.

John Graz, secretary-general for IRLA/International, and Tadaomi Shinmyo, secretary-general for IRLA/Northern Asia-Pacific, visited Beijing, China, on May 4-7, 2001.

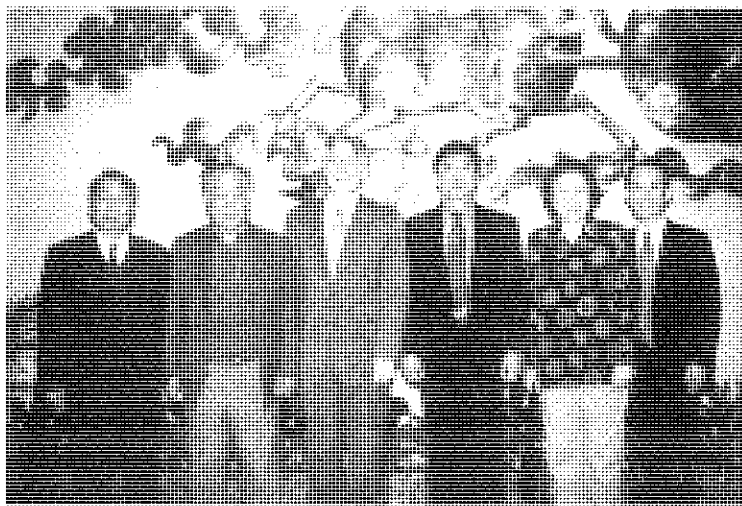
They met Professor Yang Hui-jin, Director of the Institute for the Study of Christian Culture of Renmin (People's) University of China. He provided them with information on his university, his professional work, and the religious situation in China. They were very interested in his current research related to religion. They also shared with him about the work of IRLA and its World Congress in Manila, Philippines next year. One of the key topics of the congress will be the relationship between state and religion.



**Yang Hui-lin, John Graz, Tadaomi Shinmyo (from left)**

They were able to meet Mrs. Zhao Laiqing, a retired professor of Central Conservatory, current council member of the China Population Welfare Foundation and of the Overseas Chinese Friendship Association in Beijing.

She helped them to contact Mr. Ji Wen Yuan, vice director of the Bureau of Religious Affairs of the People's government in the Beijing Municipality and his assistant, including Rev. Yu Xin Li, Associate General Secretary of the China Christian Council and Rev. Zhao Xuyao, a member of the Chinese National Christian Three Self Patriotic Movement Committee in China. They talked about the activities of the IRLA and shared the present issues of religions in the world.



**Zhao Xuyao, Yu Xin Li, John Graz, Ji Wen Yuan, Zhao Laiqing & Tadaomi Shinmyo (from left)**

Graz and Shinmyo were very impressed by their open minded spirit as they discussed various topics together. Expressing appreciation for their hospitality, the two visitors were invited to go back to Beijing again in the near future.

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

**United by the Word of God**

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