

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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"I've Seen the Potential of Mongolia"

What does come to your thought when you hear or think about Mongolia? A country of Genghis Khan, of nomads, of Gobi Desert and vast steppes, coldness, or landlocked closed country? All these may be correct. But Mongolia is more than that. It is a land of great potential. The number of cows, horses, sheep and goats is bigger than the total human population of 2.6 million. The land area is almost three times bigger than that of the North and South Korea and Japan put together. The land contains rich minerals such as gold and copper. Almost limitless expanse of grassland, which can be cultivated for farmland if ever flowing river water, is sluiced to. Every citizen maintains national pride. They are proud of ancient conqueror Genghis Khan who had established the largest empire in the history of mankind ever known. Each one of them is a descendant of the proud worthy ancestors.

I have seen the great potential of Mongolian Adventist Church, too. Within a year they doubled the membership and number of congregation. They have reached the 200 membership mark on June 30 when they baptized 27 new souls as a result of an evangelistic meeting in the city of Sukhbaatar that is situated some 20 kilometers from Russia boarder. Through this evangelistic crusade a brand new Adventist congregation was established. I was pleased to see that some 16 Sahmyook University overseas mission team members were assisting the crusade. Eleven congregations are meeting regularly every Sabbath. They are Ulaanbaatar Central Church, Congregations of Seven Trumpet, Amazing Grace, Tolgoit, Dakhan, Ertnet, Sant, Moran, Bolgan, Sukhbaatar and Gobi Altai.

The members are eager to witness. Many of the believers won souls even before they were baptized. The first Adventist Frontier Mission (AFM) missionary family, Brad and Cathie Jolly, laid a good foundation and tradition.

Another AFM missionary, Joan Park, left great impact upon the new young believers. Having been inherited with such good tradition, Dale Tunnell, the mission field director, is successfully leading the challenging field works. Home Bible study groups are well operational at almost every congregation. Most of them are fully dedicated. If they are well motivated, trained and equipped they can be great soul winners. People are more receptive to the Christian beliefs than ever before. Rapid urbanization is a big social problem. However, it provides good opportunity for witnessing.

Some 45 church leaders attended the 1st Church Leadership Training Seminar held at the Mission headquarters office from July 5 to 10, 2001. P. D. Chun, the Division president gave a seven-hour lecture every day on the topic of Servant Leadership, Qualities Needed for Christian Leaders, SDA Organization, Local Church Organization, and Strategic planning. For all of the attendees, it was an eye opening experience. Some of them traveled 36 hours in order to attend the seminar. All of them returned to their respective places of labor with renewed commitment.

ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) has been working even before there was no single Adventist in Mongolia. ADRA is sponsoring various projects such as straw bale housing project, kitchen garden project, health education project, street children project, family planning project, relief project for herders who lost most of their animals due to heavy snow fall, special education project for the dropout students, and on and on. ADRA Mongolia headed by Lewellyn Juby employs 67 well-qualified staff in order to run such a huge operation.

I should mention about the great contribution of 1000 Missionary Movement (1000 MM) and Gospel Outreach (GO) to the establishment of new congregations in the unentered territories. Currently eight 1000MM missionaries including five Koreans are working in different locations. They are so committed that they do not mind all kinds of difficulties, hardships, discomforts and dangers. Most of the new congregations were established by the untiring efforts of those young volunteer missionaries. I really admire their commitment and courage. I've seen the potential of Mongolian SDA church.

Pyung Duk Chun, *President*

NSD Publishing Advisory

to stop the decline of the work

It was not ordinary for the publishing leaders of the three unions to attend the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Publishing Advisory from July 2 - 4, 2001 at the NSD office in Ilsan, Korea, because it was necessary for them to stop the decline of literature evangelism in the region.

The theme of the advisory was: PROCLAIM NOW "The Present Truth" BECAUSE THE ENDTIME IS NEAR, the theme of the General Conference (GC) Publishing Advisory as well. The GC Publishing Department sent Howard F. Faigao, associate director, for this important meeting to give lectures and suggestions. Using the PowerPoint program, he presented the following topics: "Quinquennial Goals: Literature Evangelists," "Every SDA Member - A Literature Worker - How?" "Why Do Literature Evangelists (LE) Quit?" "How to Retain LEs?" "Student LE Programs," "Leadership," and "Reasons for Publishing House Existence."

From the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM), we had two delegates, namely Hanson Cho, Publishing Director/Publishing Manager/Editor and Gatzau Wang, Assistant Publishing Director. Their report indicates that both the number of working hours and sales amount of LEs are generally declining in the past 5 years.

The Japan Union Conference (JUC) sent three delegates: Yoshikatsu Nakamura, Publishing Director; Tetsuya Yamamoto, Editor; and Masao Fukushima, Business Manager of the Publishing House. The work of JUC is also declining every year both in the working hours and total sales in the past 5 years.

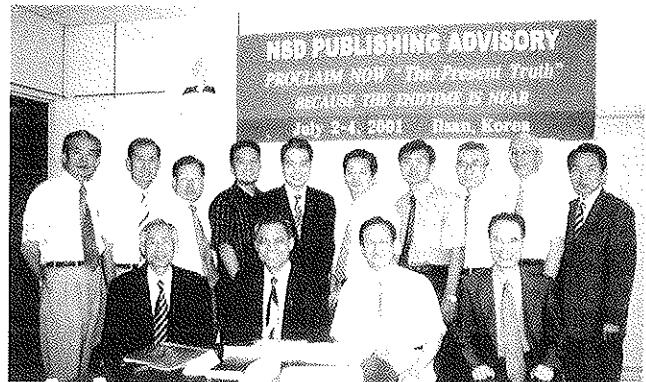
The largest number of attendance was from the Korean Union Conference (KUC). Park Kyung Sook, Publishing Director; Choo Young Bong, Manager of the Publishing House; and Son Yoon Ho, Chief Editor.

Further, four local conference Publishing Directors: Kim Dong Sun, East Central; Lee Kang Pil, West Central; Choi Jung Jin, Midwest; and Kim Koo Hwan, Southeast attended. The statistical report of the KUC indicates that the number of both working hours and sales in 2000 were lower than the previous year.

The main reason for the decrease in the working hours and total sales of all unions is due to the decreasing number of the LEs. Therefore, we set a goal to increase the number of LEs in the next 5 years. (See the Table 1.) This goal seems to be too high, but we need to accomplish it.

Several significant actions were taken during the advisory:

1. Within 5 years, there shall be no church that has no literature evangelist.
2. Our university/colleges will be encouraged to set a prerequisite that all ministerial students put in a minimum of 350 hours of actual canvassing experience prior to graduation.
3. Each academy and university/college will establish a student LE club.
4. Publication and distribution of 35,000 copies of the book, "Colporteur Ministry" under the new title of "Messengers of Hope," to our church members for recruiting LEs.



*The Participants with Howard F. Faigao
(second from the left in the front row)*

We will appreciate your prayers for the Publishing work for the realization of these actions.

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

Table 1. The Number of LEs in 2000 (now) and 2005 (goal)

Union	Full Time LEs		Part Time LEs		Student LEs		Total	
	Now	Goal	Now	Goal	Now	Goal	Now	Goal
CHUM	3	10	20	45	4	150	27	205
JUC	19	40	129	230	5	30	153	300
KUC	150	300	100	150	(1999) 43	100	293	550
Total	172	350	249	425	52	280	473	1,055

NSD Communication Advisory

"Quality of Life, Unity and Growth"

In the past 5 years, all communication directors of the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM), Japan Union Conference (JUC) and Korean Union Conference (KUC) have been changed. Thus, it was very appropriate and timely to hold the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Communication Advisory from July 4 - 6, 2001 at the NSD office in Ilsan, Korea.

The theme of the advisory was derived from the three strategic issues presented by the General Conference (GC): "Quality of Life, Unity and Growth." In fact, we have spent lots of time discussing the theme. Furthermore, it was very wise for Ray Dabrowski, GC Communication Director, to decide to come to Korea to assist the advisory despite his involvement in many things at his office in the GC, because he found something lacking in the documents of the NSD Strategic Issues and Action Plans. The fact is that there is no clear role or participation by the communication department in the NSD Strategic Issues and Actions. Thus, it was recommended to improve the document before its implementation.

As the facilitator and organizer of the advisory, the writer intentionally scheduled the basic topics for the participants to learn and study. Ray Dabrowski presented the following issues using his computer: "Building Bridges of Hope," "Seventh-day Adventist Communication Department Mission Statement," "Communicating Three Strategic Issues," "Communication through Adventist News Network," and "Crisis Communication."

When we listened to the communication department reports of the three unions, CHUM and JUC directors mentioned the radio and Bible Correspondence School (BCS) programs. However, KUC director reported that the radio program is now handled by Media Center and BCS by Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department. In the meantime, the NSD Working Policy still includes the radio and BCS in the work of communication department.

After discussing the prepared agenda, we voted the following actions:

1. Within 5 years, each union and conference/mission will conduct a crisis communication seminar and organize a crisis management team.



The Participants with Ray Dabrowski (center)

2. Within 5 years, the official church logo will appear in the signboards, church buildings, and institutional buildings.
3. Each union and conference/mission will develop a program of on-going active contact to the public media.
4. Each union communication director will become involved in the three strategic issues and action plans, and conduct a seminar on how to contribute them from the communication department.

One of the features of the advisory was a "Church Beautification Contest" which started 5 years ago in Singapore. Each union was required to recommend five most attractive church buildings. Then, the participants to the advisory judged the photos according to the criteria for the best churches. The criteria are (1) Beauty of Design, (2) The name of the church is found, (3) The corporate church logo is found, (4) Uniqueness, and (5) Maintenance is well done. Consequently, the 1st prize was given to Taereung Church in the KUC, 2nd prize to Koza Church in the JUC, and 3rd prize to Feng Gang Ta Church in the CHUM.

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

NSD Stewardship Advisory *conducted in Ilsan, Korea*

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Stewardship Advisory was conducted at the NSD chapel from July 8-10, with the general theme, "Exploring Partnership with God." Ben Maxson, the stewardship director of the General Conference, served as the key resource person throughout the Advisory. Two delegates from the Japan Union Conference, two delegates from the Chinese Union Mission, and six delegates from the Korean Union Conference participated in the meetings.

Tadasbi Yamaji, JUC stewardship director, stated in his report that in general the church members in Japan give tithes and offerings faithfully. However, according to him, there is still a need to provide a continued education on stewardship to pastors as well as laity, and particularly the youth in Japan. The CHUM report was given by John Huang using a power point presentation. According to the report, 2,604 individuals participated in the tithe giving in 1999, while 3,321 individuals did in 2000. The stewardship seminar was conducted in several churches and schools in Hong Kong and Taiwan. Huang said that there is a need to develop more materials on stewardship not only for adults but also for high school students and children. Johnghaeng Kwon, KUC stewardship director, reported that the Union stewardship director together with the five local conference stewardship directors are conducting a five-day stewardship seminar two times every year in six churches of different local conference territories on a rotation basis. It has brought a great stewardship revival to the local churches. Recently, the KUC stewardship department has translated In Search of the Store House written by Edward Reid and printed 1,000 copies for initial use. Soon they will print 50,000 copies and distribute them to all Adventist homes.



The Participants with Ben Maxson (center in the front row)

Ben Maxson gave a series of presentations for about 10 hours on how to do the stewardship ministry in a more effective way. He basically covered three topics: (1) "The Stewardship Journey" (2) "Increasing Discipleship in Stewardship" and (3) "Biblical Motivations for Giving." He emphasized that men and women must be converted and have a close relationship with Christ in order to be faithful stewards of God. Therefore baptizing people by the water is not enough. We must do the follow up, and that is to make them disciples. Then they will naturally bear spiritual fruits in their daily life. Maxson explained it very clearly by using the parable of vine and branches in John 15:1-5.

On the third day of the Advisory, the delegates discussed various issues of stewardship and identified problems that the church is facing currently, and made decisions to send some recommendations to other committees.

Finishing the three days of intensive Advisory, all delegates returned to their posts of duties with new challenges and confidence in the stewardship ministry.

Jairyong Lee, *Stewardship Director*

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