

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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One Week Crusade in the Philippines

by a Japanese Pastor

A Japanese pastor and his wife, a nurse, visit the Philippines almost every year for evangelistic efforts. Pastor Nobuaki Imai from the West Japan Conference conducted a series of evangelistic meetings and service for one week at Pinamalayan in the Mindoro Island in the Philippines. This project was requested by the South-Central Luzon Mission of the North Philippine Union Mission. The preparatory work for the meetings began in May 2001 by two ministerial pre-interns including many lay evangelists through health lectures and home meetings.



*Nobuaki
Imai
(right)
& His
Translator*

The crusade was held from July 9-16 under the title "Victory in Jesus" and concluded with 53 baptisms. The number of attendance increased day by day because the town people showed interest on the pastor's unique stories and fresh news from Japan. Although the average number of attendance was 350, there were over 700 on the final day. From the third day, it became difficult to accommodate all the visitors in a small church building. Many people watched and listened to the messages enthusiastically through the windows from outside. This evangelistic effort was a revival meeting for the church members and also a harvest campaign for the visitors. Therefore, both church members and visitors dedicated themselves on the last day of the series. It was really a meaningful and heart-moving experience to witness the big and solemn baptismal ceremony.

During the same term of the crusade, a free medical treatment of internal, surgery and dental was conducted at the church which became a clinic in the day time. The Seventh-day Adventist Church practised ministry of love to over 4,000 people. It must be mentioned that one Christian dentist was interested in the welfare work of the Adventist church and participated in the service though she was not an Adventist. She extracted teeth from 150 people. The pastor took with him a great amount of medicine from Japan and all were exhausted.



A Free Dental Clinic

Especially, the Japanese medicine for flu and cold compress were very popular among the people because of significant effect. The pastor was asked to stay for three weeks for the meetings. However because of his own home church's need, he stayed for only one week and hesitatingly turned over the follow-up work to the Filipino pastor.



53 precious souls were baptized at a beach.

Pastor Imai is the founder of "Nippon and Philippines Caring Foundation (NIPPI)." Thus, besides holding the crusade, he visited the church schools in Pinamalayan, Malaya and Villa-Pagasa. Then he found some church members who could not send their children to school because of poverty. He promised to prepare scholarship for the children recruiting for foster parents. If you are interested in this program, please contact the editor of the NEWS & VIEWS. Thank you very much.

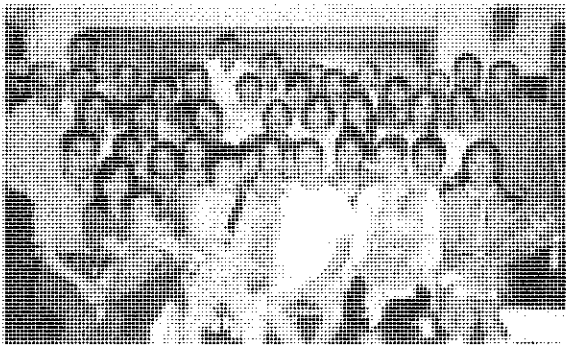
Nobuaki Imai, Wakayama Church Pastor in Japan

Field School & Evangelism in Hong Kong

conducted by Carlos Martin, former NSD Ministerial Sec.

Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts. (Zech.4:6)

God was good to us and surely He blessed the evangelistic series held in Siu Sai Wan Chapel, 26 July - 5 August 2001. The Lord blessed the series with 32 baptisms. It is not only an evangelistic meeting, but a revival meeting to the church members as well. Praise the Lord for that. The results may be summed up in the following few key factors:



The Baptized People with the Staffs

1. Prayer is essential.

"Lord, please revive the public evangelism in this secular city, Hong Kong." "Lord, if it is your will, please give us 30 souls." "Lord, please show your mighty power in the evangelistic meeting." "Lord, please show us that public evangelism still works nowadays."

You could hear those prayers in the Allnight Prayer Meeting, Dawn Prayer Meeting, Fasting Prayer Meeting, Wednesday Prayer Meeting. The most important key of this series was that it was saturated with prayers. During the meetings, you could see prayer bands were in the prayer room gathered together to pray for the speaker, the guests, the people who participated in the event.

2. Pastors' preparation.

The pastors tried all their best to prepare the souls. It is a reaping event, not a sowing one. Before the meeting, many activities were going on to prepare the souls, such as: gospel camp, health talk and check up in public areas, Bible study class and home visitation, etc. Just before the series, 10 souls were prepared for baptisms already.

3. Members' Participation.

The members have tried their best to help. Eight of them

took the day off in order to help, more than 15 Pathfinders gathered together in the afternoon to help; 6 theology students were doing the visitation and Bible Study during the meeting.

4. Warm welcome.

The Pathfinder Club distributed the tracts and invited people to come. They also formed 2 lines at the door before and after the meeting to give the guests a warm welcome. Also, a small gift is given to every visitor every night, that shows someone cares.

5. Material preparation.

The speaker spent a lot of time for the Power Point presentation. About 50 to 60 hours were invested in each presentation. It was designed to use as many local pictures as possible.

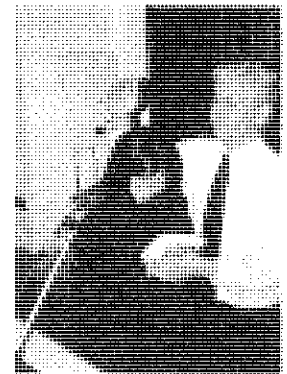
6. Place was strategic.

The meeting place is a social center for the elderly run by the Hong Kong-Macao Conference. It has a very good image to the public. The staff there are committed SDAs. Even the meeting place is a relatively small one, it only holds 80 chairs, but because of its public image and convenience, it was decided to have 2 sessions to solve the problems. One afternoon, specially for the elderly members; the other one in the evening, specially for the outsiders.

7. Holy Spirit was working.

The most important factor was that the Holy Spirit was working, many people stood forward were unexpected. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, nothing could have happened.

Pr. Linda Tsui planned to close the Pathfinder Club after the series because members were not active and there was a lack of leaders, but God's plan was somehow different. At the end of the series, nine Pathfinders were baptised. To God be the glory. He is the One who converted the 32 souls, and He is the only One who could sustain them.



C. Martin Baptizing A Lady

Terry Tsui, *Translator of C. Martin's evangelistic series, District Pastor & Hospital Chaplain, Hong Kong*

First Mongolian Congregation Abroad

fifteen Mongolians baptized in Seoul, Korea

NEWS & VIEWS September 2001

While serving as the Ministerial Secretary at the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, in December 2000 I conducted an evangelistic series in Darhan, the second largest city of Mongolia. God blessed us with 44 baptisms and a new organized church. As Global Mission (GM) Coordinator I felt it also necessary to do something for the 60,000 Mongolians living in Seoul, Korea. The idea struck me when I saw tens of Mongolians coming to the Sahmyook Nursing and Health College to receive free dental services on Sabbath afternoons.

Naidaa Peljee, a Mongolian Adventist lady, was serving as a volunteer translator for Mongolians attending the dental clinic. She is a student at Sahmyook University. She was willing to do something beyond than just translating for Mongolians. So she accepted the challenge to serve as a GM Pioneer in the Mongolian people living in Seoul that is one of the largest non-entered people groups in Korea. Early in January 2001 Naidaa began to offer personal Bible studies and Bible English classes with the help of Celedonio del Rosario, a Filipino missionary. Since that time she has offered formal Bible studies for various attendance groups not only on Sabbath afternoons but also Sundays. Even though she has not experienced pastoral or theological training, she used her creativity to apply the right principles to the circumstances following the guidelines I outlined for her and the advice of Pastor Kwon, the supervisor of this GM project. Eventually the ideas began to take form and she could prepare for this series.

The series was designed to be both as a reaping crusade and as a means to guide a non-believer from scratch to a comprehensive knowledge of the plan of salvation and its implications, ranging from an introduction to Christianity to a full Bible study on the Health Message. It consisted of nine doctrinal presentations. Every night after the meetings we spent a long time talking in an open dialogue. They got Christian answers to their deepest concerns, and the doctrines we studied together began to be make sense as the Holy Spirit began to develop a new worldview in their minds. During the series, four Korean university students who had served as "1000 Missionaries" in Mongolia for one year was willing to form a part of the evangelistic team. They provided a dynamic song service in Mongolian language, welcomed the interests, talked with them in their language, took care of the computers during my presentations, and offered a sweet appeal song at the end of each meeting. They demonstrated that "once a missionary, always a missionary!"

On Sabbath morning the ACT (Adventist Collegians with Tidings) church in Seoul proved to be very sensitive, understanding, and flexible, as the members requested an English sermon translated into Mongolian! Twelve Mongolian adults attended the service! After lunch we went together to the dental clinic. It was thrilling to see our new Mongolian brethren distributing brochures and talking to other Mongolians, inviting them with enthusiasm to attend

the last five presentations. The Bible class leader even urged me to address a group of Mongolians he had been talking to. Ellen white says that "the very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Saviour." (*The Great Controversy*, 70)

Even though they had come in the morning, on Saturday night they returned to their homes after midnight! On Sunday all came again at 4:00 pm. Just before the last presentation I left them to discuss baptism among themselves. I saw them encouraging each other, making what missiologists call a "multi-individual decision." Later they let me know that fifteen had made a decision to be baptized!

The International Church of the Seoul Language Institute provided supper for the group at 7:00 pm on Sunday. By 9:00 pm the church provided several vehicles to take the group to the church for the baptismal ceremony. It was my joy to immerse them in the name of Jesus. After the baptism, the pastors gave them a warm welcome to the church fellowship. All new believers received a large bouquet of beautiful flowers, along with the baptismal certificate and a Mongolian Bible. By 11:00 pm the group was still taking pictures and celebrating the happy occasion! The fact that most of them are around 30 years old makes this group very solid. The three whole families who were baptized for sure are a wonderful beginning for the Mongolian church in Korea.

Since the first Seventh-day Adventists were baptized in 1993, the church has grown and by November of 2000 there were sixty-seven church members in the whole country, in four congregations. By August 2001 there were 207 Mongolian believers in eleven congregations in Mongolia. Now we had witnessed the birth of the first Mongolian congregation abroad! Something great is taking place among Mongolians. Praise the Lord!

Carlos Martin, *Professor of Southern Adventist University*

ASI Convention in Bali, Indonesia on Aug. 22-26 for 169 people

The sun was hot, the breeze balmy, the palm trees graceful, the Balinese people delightful, and the hotel grounds exquisite. But the fellowship with 169 SDA Christian business-people and professionals from Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Guam, Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, and Korea provided the greatest blessing. These missionary men and women represented local chapters of "ASI," which stands for Adventist Laymens Services and Industries. The ASI convention, according to Denise McGhee, "was even better than campmeeting."

Consider the Indonesian dentist who was begged by parents to pray for their devil-possessed child. He took a group of church members. But when the child started violently convulsing, all his Adventist cohorts ran out of the house. Although he was scared and had never experienced anything like this before, he and his pastor stayed by and prayed. Soon the child calmed down. The devil was cast out by the power of God. The whole neighborhood eventually became SDAs because people from all the other denominations in town including the Buddhist priest seemed unable or unwilling to help. Imagine the "Amen's" as we heard about the crippled old man who entered the baptistry on crutches and walked out with strong legs and a clean heart, throwing his crutches away for good.

How we enjoyed the huge 40-member choir from Jakarta who saved for one year in order to fly to Bali and sing for us on Sabbath. They dressed in three different Indonesian costumes reflecting Muslim, Hindu, and Christian cultures. Such beautiful people! They selected a wide range from "The Messiah," "The Holy City," "The Old Rugged Cross," "I Come To The Garden," and contemporary praise songs.

Every meeting featured a teenage worship team, "Soli Deo Gloria," from the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP). Eight high school and college students made their flutes, clarinets, and keyboard sound like a symphonic band as they accompanied worship singing and played many favorites for special music.

Sabbath morning, newly elected officers were anointed with oil including ASI president, Lee Jae-moo, and vice-presidents, Daniel Chun (Korean Union), James Chai (Chinese Union), and Tetsuo Kinjo (Japan Union). They received the baptism of the Holy Spirit to collaborate with our sister Southern Asia-Pacific Division in the equipping of 250,000 missionaries during the next three years. A goal of raising \$175,000 was approved. Pledges for \$51,000 were received in just 15 inspired minutes. If you would like to add your pledge, just send it to ASI, Northern Asia-Pacific Division, P.O. Box 43, Koyang Ilisan, 411-600 Republic of Korea.

All too soon, we gathered for the last time to be dedicated for service. NSD president, Pastor PD Chun, delivered a moving message challenging us to give, as did the boy who gave Jesus his lunch, simply because Jesus asked for it. That boy could never have imagined what Jesus would do with his lunch. Christ fed at least 5,000 people with it. And so God will do with the gifts of time and money we happily give, just because He asked.

The next ASI Convention to which participants from both the Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific Divisions are welcomed, is planned for Japan, during the third week of August, 2004. Testimonies of church planting by the laity will be featured. If you are a professional or employed in any business, please prepare for a Spirit-filled vacation with hundreds of fellow missionaries. The whole package including four nights, food, and tours will cost about \$300 plus air tickets.

My grandfather Oberg, known as Pastor Oh Pyuk when he lived in Korea 85 years ago, would have loved to experience such an ASI Convention and note that the largest group of 52 professional and business-people laity (33%) came from Korea!

John K. McGhee, SS/PM/Health/ASI Director

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