



Adventist Conscientious Objector

*charged to 3 years sentence
to prison in Korea*

A young Adventist, Yoon, Young-chul, 22 years old, was charged 3 years sentence to prison by the prosecutor on March 29, 2002 on the first trial at a military court in Korea. The reason was refusal to bear weapons in his military service. He was called to train in the military after two years of education, majoring theology at the Sahmyook University in Seoul.

Yoon is just one of the thousands and thousands of conscientious objectors in the country. According to a news report, more than 10,000 conscientious objectors have served prison terms, and more than 500 young men, majority of them being Jehovah's Witnesses, are sent to prison annually.

On March 25, 2002, the Korean Bar Association held the "Conscientious Objection and Human Rights" open forum at Korean Press Center in Seoul. It attracted nearly 200 people and the prepared documents were not enough for all the participants. Four invited speakers for pro and con presented their papers, and another six for both sides debated. Then, there was a period of question and answer. The forum continued for 3 and half hours with great enthusiasm.

On January 29, 2002, Senior Judge Park Si-hwan at the Nambu (Southern) Branch of the Seoul District Court decided to send Section 88 of the Military Service Law to the Constitutional Court for review. The military conscription law, which normally requires a minimum of 26 months of service, makes no provisions for conscientious objectors - those who reject military service on the basis of their religious or ethical beliefs.

The court action was taken in response to a petition by 21-year-old Lee, Kyung-su, a conscientious objector and Jehovah's Witness who had spent 40 days in prison. "I was surprised at the news that my petition to review the law was accepted," said Lee. "All of Korea was surprised, wasn't it?" It is said that there are now 1,600 Jehovah's Witnesses in prison for refusing to perform military service.



Four Speakers & Six Debaters during the "Conscientious Objection and Human Rights" Open Forum at Korean Press Center on March 25, 2002

The district court judge said there is "high possibility" that this section violates basic rights guaranteed under the Constitution, especially the right to freedom of conscience, thought and religion. "The duty of military service is the basic duty of Korean people under the Constitution, and is a sacred and important duty necessary for keeping the free and democratic basic order, which is the basic system of the Republic of Korea," the judge said in a statement. "On the other hand, the freedom of thought and conscience is also recognized as a core basic right, which forms the basis of free and democratic order, and freedom of religion is also an important basic right, which is recognized by all free democratic states." Noting that many other countries recognize conscientious objectors as a special case under the law, the judge said it was time for Korea to consider doing the same.

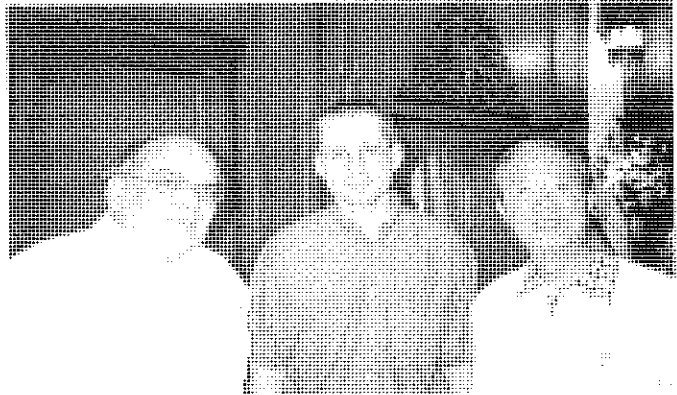
Under Korean law, all male youths are required to perform military service for 26 months on average in the Army. Civilian forms of service are available only those with health problems, while those with serious disabilities are excused.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL/Publishing/SOP/ATN Director*

ADRA Pan Asia Meeting in Thailand

ADRA is not connected to the Church, ADRA is not a part of the Church." When the newly installed ADRA President, Pastor Charles Sandifer, declared this in the beginning of his opening remarks at the first ADRA Pan Asia Consultation Meeting, some of the participants were shocked, if not, at least doubted their ears. There were sensed some ripples of tension in the air. But everybody refrained from verbal expression of his or her concerns. "But ADRA is the Church itself," was the last part of Pastor Sandifer's first sentence. Everyone had a sigh of relief. Though his expression was a little bit exaggerated in order to emphasize the fact that ADRA is an inseparable integral part of the church and her ministry, it set the stage from where the entire discussions and consultations started.

As a matter of fact there had been some tension or, at least, misunderstanding between churchmen and ADRA men in the understanding of the relationship between the Church and ADRA. Throughout the consultation meetings that took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from March 18 to 21, 2002, it was confirmed that ADRA is an integral part of the Adventist Church that inherited the ministry of Jesus Christ.



Marcel Wagner, New ADRA Director in North Korea (center) and Two NSD Officers

ADRA is of the Adventists and by the Adventists but not for the Adventists. ADRA is not established to serve Adventists, but to serve the whole humanity without regard to race, creed, nationality, ideology, or culture. Adventists should not seek to benefit themselves from ADRA programs. On the contrary ADRA is an agency that Adventists benefit non-Adventist general public. Of course Adventists who are in need can be benefited from ADRA program not because they are Adventists but because they are part of the general public who have needs. Besides ADRA program each church should have a systematic plan to help fellow Adventists who are in need. Church members are to be educated to help fellow members and non-members who are in difficult situations through church programs, individual plan, or ADRA programs.

Delegation came from ADRA Central Office, Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific Divisions, Southern Asia Division, South Pacific Division, and many contributing country ADRA's such as Australia, Canada, Germany and Switzerland. From NSD, all country directors including new ADRA DPRK Director, Marcel Wagner who is a Swiss, and Union and Division officers, attended the meeting.

Pyung-Duk Chun, *President*

P. D. Chun Honored

Pastor P. D. Chun, the Division President, was honored by being chosen as the first person to be named the Alumnus of the Year of Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS). In fact Pastor Chun was the first and lone graduate of Philippine Union College (PUC) Seminary, which was the forerunner of AIAS in 1972. He was honored with a Citation of Excellence and a specially made medal conferred at the recent AIAS graduation ceremony in March 2002. Also he delivered the keynote address to the First Grand AIAS Alumni Homecoming Banquet in the afternoon. Pastor Chun was also named as the Most Outstanding Alumnus of PUC in 1985.

According to the report, AIIAS and its predecessors have graduated 1,378 students from the Master's and Doctoral programs. The graduates come from 52 countries and largest numbers are from Korea, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Many of the leaders in the Unions, Conferences, and institutions in the NSD and the SSD are graduates of AIIAS.

Audrey Caranay, *NSD Secretariat*

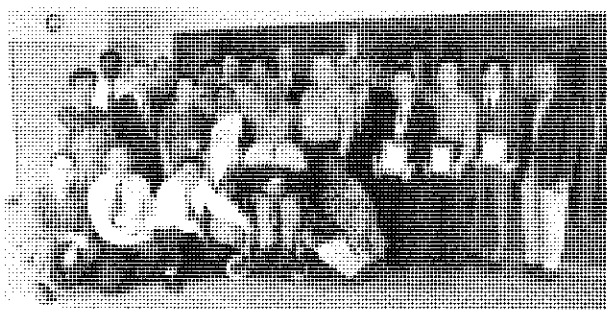
Cast Your Bread Upon the Waters

AWR Asia/Pacific Region Advisory 2002 in Singapore

Adventist World Radio Asia/Pacific Region Advisory 2002 was held on March 18-20, 2002 at the Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM) office in Singapore.

The Asia/Pacific Region of AWR is made up of four world divisions of the SDA: the Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD & SSD), the Southern Asia Division (SUD) and the South Pacific Division (SPD). It is the largest region in terms of population. The region has the largest population of non-Christians.

An advisory of producers or studio/media center directors who are currently participating in producing programs to be aired by AWR in the region was held this year. Although it is a part of the region, there were no delegations from the SPD because none of the studios or production centers of the division at this moment is directly taking part in the AWR.



The Participants of AWR Advisory

There were 14 participants from those 3 divisions: Four from the NSD, nine from the SSD, and one from the SUD. Two division communication directors attended the meeting: Dr. Tadaomi Shinmyo of the NSD and Dr. Jonathan Catolico of the SSD. Along with the producers, 7 participants from AWR worldwide joined the meeting. Since AWR was going to have its periodical planning session in Guam, the staff that

were supposed to attend the meeting also could attend the advisory. Among them was the rather recent member of AWR staff, Dr. Benjamin Schoun, the president of AWR.

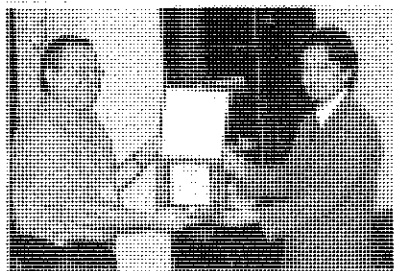
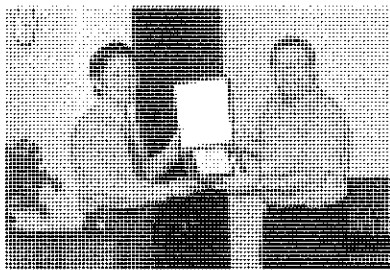
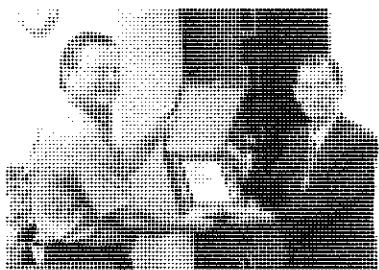
Also there were such persons as Greg Scott who used to be program director of the Guam station, now executive vice president of AWR; newly appointed manager of Guam station, Brook Powers, who has been at the station even before the breaking of the soil; Bert Smit, region director for Europe; Samuel Missiani, region director for Africa; and Akinori Kaibe, region director for Asia/Pacific. Claudius Dedio, frequency management coordinator, did not attend due to his wife's sudden loss of one of her eyesight. The meeting was held at the conference room of the SAUM office. The SAUM office was originally planned to be Asia-Pacific Division (APD). However, the old APD was divided into the NSD and the SSD. Both divisions moved out of Singapore and now the SAUM owns it as the union headquarters. The office building is standing at the old ball field on the right side of the gate, where the old division compound existed.

The purposes of the advisory are to create an awareness of the current situation of the facilities and work, and to look into the possibilities of the work in the future. All the participants gave the short report of what they have been doing. It was good to share each other's experience as they strengthen feeling of oneness in the ministry of proclaiming the gospel beyond the front line of evangelism. Radio ministry functions like the air force in the military strategy. It carries out the mission to the enemy zone beyond the front line to make the work of the operation easier or possible. The AWR carries the message to the parts of the world beyond the front line of gospel work where the gospel workers cannot reach peoples for different reasons. The Guam station has been in this region to send the gospel message to places otherwise difficult to reach. The work has been here for a little over 15 years after the station was built. The seed of the good news was sown over the land, which brought in some harvest into the Lord's storehouse.

We have heard many good reports about how the Lord blesses the work. The work of the AWR is instrumental. It has been the carrier of the message produced by each studio. We have been working together independently as partners, but at this meeting we have discussed possibility of closer ties between studios and station(s). Unlike the studios at the NSD, the other division studios face difficulties, which appear in much less production of programs. The demand is prominent. The need is felt, yet difficult to carry out the mission of producing enough programs. The main problem may be the economy. The AWR has been active in helping to initiate the work, but the local fields, in most cases, are being left on their own to maintain the work. As years go by, the equipments are getting old. But some of studios has no fund to replace the old equipments. The price of the

equipments is much higher in those places. On the other hand, in those countries per capita income is much less than the three countries of the NSD. Even in that kind of situation, some of the producers use their wisdom with making their best efforts to produce as much as they can. This time, award was given to the highest producer in each division.

In 2000, Nepali language producer produced the highest among the languages in the SUD while Singhalese language producer produced the highest in SSD. In 2001, Malayalam and Vietnamese producers were the highest in the SUD and SSD, respectively. The KUC and the JUC studios got a special recognition for their 100% production, particularly for the period of 1995-2000. It takes a great amount of discipline to attain an 100% mark of production in such a long duration of time. Also, the CHUM media center received recognition for the highest volume of production. The studio has been producing something like five hours of daily programs, which comes up to more than 1,800 hours of programs per single year. Such work is worthy of recognition. The Lord has been rewarding them with such abundant fruits for their efforts.



Left Top: Benjamin Schoun (left) & Lee, Ki Myung from KUC (right). Left Bottom: Haruhito Osuga from JUC (right) Right Top: Daniel Jiao from CHUM (left).

The radio work is also called "broadcasting" work. When the writer comes across with the word "broadcasting," he cannot help but remember a verse from the Bible. It is from Ecclesiastes 11: 1, "Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find them." Casting of bread and broadcasting, sound alike as well as bring forth similar result as the Bible verse states. When a radio speaker speaks through a microphone, unlike when he preaches to an audience in a church, he does not see the audience nor is he sure that his message comes across his audience. All he can do is do his best to speak the gospel into the language of the audience. He may not see what happens to the words he did broadcast. The most that the radio speaker can do is pray for the work of the Holy Spirit after the message has been broadcast over the radio spreading over the vast area of the globe. "Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find them." Yes, in gladness, we find the result of broadcasting. Many believers of the gospel sprang up in the countries otherwise never reached. Even among people of different faith, social system, and races, the radio messages penetrate into the hearts with the help of the Holy Sprit. Some may be found to have become preachers of the Gospel themselves.

Akinori Kaibe, AWR Asia/Pacific Region Director

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