

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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Pioneer Mission Movement

A New Church Planting Project of NSD

On May 15, 2002, during the Mid-year Committee held in Hong Kong, the executive committee of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) officially voted to launch in principle the Pioneer Mission Movement to plant hundreds of new churches in the division territories.

What is the Pioneer Mission Movement?

The Pioneer Mission Movement is a Global Mission Project of the NSD for the purpose of new church planting



in its territories. Its goal is to send 100 church pastors to other countries within the NSD territories for cross-cultural missionary work. These pastors will be sent to un-entered territories where no Seventh-day Adventist church exists. With pioneer

spirit they will begin the work. Starting from scratch, they will share the gospel message with numerous people who are perishing in the world of darkness without the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Why Begin the Pioneer Mission Movement?

The NSD is the largest Division in the world in terms of population as well as in the number of non-Christians. About 1.5 billion people, around one fourth of the world's population, reside in the NSD territories. China alone has about 1.3 billion people. Among this huge population only 3% are Christians, and the other 97% are Buddhists,

Shinto Believers, Muslims, Shamans, and Atheists. Challenges are everywhere in this area. How can we finish the gospel work? And how soon can this be accomplished in the NSD territories and beyond? The only way, is to go and seek souls, following the injunction of Jesus: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt 28:19).

The NSD is composed of countries with great challenges. In countries such as Japan and Korea, material prosperity has led many people away from taking a serious interest in the Christian message. Many obstacles in China still prevent the church from doing more aggressive evangelistic work. In Mongolia the church is still weak and struggling, and the possibility of penetrating North Korea with the gospel message is still uncertain. The Global Mission work of the NSD is very challenging, and looks almost impossible to accomplish with the financial and human resources currently available. However, it is not our work. "It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work" (TM, 506). God, Himself, will complete this seemingly impossible global evangelization through dedicated men and women.

The Pioneer Mission Movement is the NSD Global Mission Project to expand the Kingdom of God in its area by planting new churches in un-entered territories. The pioneer missionary pastors will gladly go to "every nation, tribe, tongue and people" as "Golden Angels" having the everlasting gospel message in their hands.

What Can be Achieved by the Movement?

By sending missionary pastors to other countries for cross-cultural missionary work, the churches in the base union will experience new spiritual revival. The church members will learn how to sacrifice and share their material blessings for world mission. Many big and small problems that churches currently face will be solved when their missionary spirit is strengthened. Helping to advance the work in foreign fields will help the work in the home country (6T, 27).

One hundred pastors will be sent to do the cross-cultural church planting ministry, and through the effort of these pastors hundreds of new churches will be planted in the new territories in the next few years. This project will draw the

attention of church members as well as church leaders to the foreign mission field. It will help them understand that their mission field is not limited to their own country, but that the whole world is assigned to them by Christ as their mission field. As He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15). By launching this project, the churches in the NSD territories will be taking a significant step toward the accomplishment of the gospel commission in the entire world.

Mauryong Lee, Ministerial/Stewardship/GM Director

English Home School *a new approach for visiting house to house in Korea*

The SDA Language Institute in Korea is still growing in terms of number of local institutes and students. In addition, the institute developed a new project, "SDA Home School" program and implemented it this year.

The NEWS & VIEWS editor had an interview with Mrs. Lee, Ho Jah, who is supervisor of the home school teachers of the institute, on July 5, 2002 at the editor's office in Ilsan, Korea.

Editor: Thank you for coming to see me in spite of your busy schedule.

Lee: You are welcome. It is my pleasure to explain about our new program.

Editor: First of all, why did the language institute launch in another new project, a home school English study program for children?

Lee: There are several purposes. First, it is for spreading the gospel. Second, since evangelism for adult is difficult, we want to begin with the children. Both parents and children are very eager to learn English. So, we use English as a medium to enter their homes. Third, we can give jobs as home school teachers to Adventist women who experience of difficulties in keeping the Sabbath. Finally, our church can generate income through this system for expanding the work.

Editor: By the way, who initiated this project?

Lee: Pastor Shin, Kei Hoon, president of the Korean Union Conference. Then, the union voted to proceed with his idea last year and the language institute began to prepare the materials since June, 2001.

Editor: When did you open this program and start to recruit children?

Lee: In January of this year, we conducted an opening ceremony of this program at the chapel of the institute headquarters building.



Lee, Ho Jah
Showing Textbooks

three years. Students can study with the textbooks and cassette tapes.

Editor: I see. How about the teacher? How often does a teacher visit a student?

Lee: Well, each Korean teacher has to visit a student at home for 20 minutes once a week. In the meantime, the student is required to come to an SDA language institute and study with a foreign English teacher for 30 minutes once a week.

Editor: How much is the tuition?

Lee: Registration fee is at 25,000 Korean Won (US\$21) and the monthly tuition including the cost of the textbooks is 60,000 (US\$50).

Editor: Now, how has the program been going on in the past 6 months?

Lee: We are currently operating the home school program at 3 SDA language institutes with about 1,000 students. Furthermore, we have 40 visiting teachers.

Editor: It is good start, isn't it? May God bless your ministry.

Lee: Thank you very much.

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

Turn Your Channel to Christ *Motto of Japan* *Union Conference Women's* *Ministries Department*

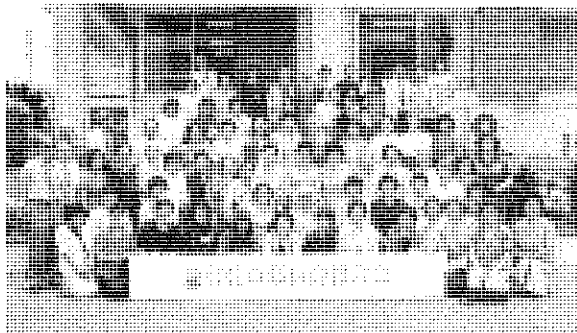
To Love the Lord, Live Cheerfully, and to Serve with Joy"

June 7-9, 2002, our "Women's Congress" was held at Ishigaki Island, Okinawa. Since the first "Japan Women's Congress" was held in Okinawa in 1997, women from all parts of Japan have been urged to come so they can feel the energy of the women of Okinawa.

Our activities began seven years ago, in 1995, the SDA Women's Year. Our activities have attracted so much attention that people are beginning to say that if there is a Women's Ministries Department, there should be a Men's Ministries Department, also.

Whenever there is a "Women's Congress", whether in Japan or in other countries, many women attend. As the responsible person, I am very happy about this.

Why is it such a happy experience to be relieved of family responsibilities, to spend time comfortably with other women, and to share our faith with each other? We have confidence that it is all right to travel and attend a church gathering. Perhaps this is what gives meaning to our "Women's Congress." If gatherings like this give new energy to church women, and this energy flows over into the church, there could be nothing better. However, it is true that the results are not always 100% as we had hoped.



SDA 女性の集い 2002年6月7日-9日 沖縄石垣島

The Participants to the Women's Congress

At the "Okinawa Women's Congress" Ms. Young-Ja Nam, Women's Ministries Director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, said many times in her worship sermon that we should "Turn Our Channels to Christ." In whatever we women do, it is only when our thoughts, our view-points, our hopes, and our plans start by turning our channels to Christ that we can experience the truth of the Bible's words, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

The seminar was led by Dr. Sook-Ja Son, Honorary Professor of Sahmyuk University, Chair-person of NEW

START Consultations regarding Healing through Vegetarian Diet, and President of the Korean Women's Association. She showed her own youthfulness, as in her title, "Growing Older, Youthfully," as she spoke to us about protecting our health by following the "Directions for Using the Bodies God Has Given to Us" and using the gifts God has given to us as we women dedicate ourselves to the ministry.

Because women become free of child-raising responsibilities and free of jobs in their late-fifties, this is the age of women who are able to attend our "Women's Congress." Because it is never too late to learn, we can learn the "know-how" of ministry and put it to use. I think that God is waiting for us to set our channels to Christ and to actively use the gifts He has given us.

How can I answer God's expectations? What should I be doing now?

Nobuko Kitabayashi, *Japan Union Conference Women's Ministries Director*

Death of Dr. J. R. Wood *Former Medical Director of Adventist Medical Center in Okinawa*

James Ronald Wood was born May 31, 1918, in Seattle, Washington, and died at the Loma Linda Community Hospital, Loma Linda, California in the U.S.A. on Tuesday, July 16, 2002, after a short illness.

While he was a student at the College of Medical Evangelists at Loma Linda, he met a nurse, Eloise Callender. They were married in 1940 and he graduated with his MD degree in 1943.

His medical life was highlighted by a stint of service in Okinawa, Japan in the Far Eastern Division, now known as the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. He was the Medical Director of the hospital in Okinawa from July 1, 1968 to January of 1983. It was during this time that the hospital in Okinawa was completely relocated, due to the purchase by a big company who wanted the former hospital site for a resort hotel. All funds for the new buildings, new equipment and everything else connected with the project were given to the hospital. Dr. Wood was at the head of all of this relocation program and at the same time practiced medicine.

D. A. Roth, *General Conference Representative to Loma Linda University*

In spite of a handicap

A Filipino Pianist

Mary Grace T. Gellekano, 23 years old, performed a mini piano concert at the chapel of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) during its regular morning worship hour on June 4, 2002. Although the number of the audience was small, the pianist moved their hearts greatly. The piano music she played were: "It is Well with My Soul (Medley)," "God and God Alone," "Lord I Lift Your Name on High," and "Majesty."

If you don't see her playing the piano, you will never realize that she is handicapped. The fact is that her right arm is only up to the elbow. In other words, she was born with the "cut" of her right arm just below the elbow and the bone there does not bend. She has a fleshy protrusion underneath that's just the right size to hit a key. She says that had her right arm been any shorter or longer, or her elbow bendable, she wouldn't be able to play as she does. With her physical make up she believes that God made her perfect.

She was born as the first child of four siblings. She has three brothers. Her grandmother who believed in her and encouraged her to take piano lessons tried to find a piano instructor for her. However, in spite of her grandmother's effort, the first three piano instructors did not accept her because of her handicap. Then, finally, one piano instructor agreed to give her piano lessons when she was 6 years old. In the beginning, of course, she began to play the piano with only her left hand. After one week, however, she thought she could also use her right elbow. During her junior and high school years, she spent four hours a day for piano practice.



Mary Grace Playing the Piano

Mary Grace graduated from the University of St. La Salle, Philippines, majoring psychology. Her current vision is to become a music evangelist. In fact, she has already traveled to several countries for her music tour. She has visited Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and France in Europe and nine different states in the U. S. A. It was her privilege to play the piano before President Joseph Estrada of the Philippines in October 1998. Her visit in Korea is for a fund raising campaign for the 1000 Missionary Movement program, whose headquarter is located in the Philippines.

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

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