

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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Literature Evangelist Seminar & Retreat in Taiwan

For the first time in the past decade, there were over 40 members in attendance to a three-day seminar and retreat meeting which was held from October 8-10 on campus of Taiwan Adventist College. The theme for this meeting was "Here am I, Send me." We hope that every literature evangelist could respond to God's call. God said: "Go and tell this people." (Isa. 6:9). It is a literature evangelist's (LE's) privilege to spread God's eternal gospel.

In the past, we only invited our literature evangelists to participate in the annual retreat meeting which was hosted by the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM). But the members of our literature evangelists decreased year by year. So, Dr Tadaomi Shinmyo, who is the Publishing Director of Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), gave us a very good proposal. He wanted us to invite church members, who were interested in literature evangelism, and attending LE's retreat meeting. Therefore, we accepted his suggestion and sent an invitation note to all churches in Taiwan. When the retreat meeting was ended, there were sixteen people who decided to take part in the literature evangelism, and dedicated to the service of God's work. Praise the Lord!

This time, we specially invited four guests to be our speakers:

1. Pastor John Ash, Secretary of CHUM.
2. Dr. Tadaomi Shinmyo, Publishing Director of NSD.
3. Mr. John Jung, General Manager of New Start Center.
4. Pastor Bill Cho, the pastor of Tai-an Church in Taichung.

In his presentation, Dr. Shinmyo talked about the following theme: "The Beginning of the Publishing Ministry," "Historical Background and Development," "The Publishing Ministry around the World," and

"Philosophy of the Literature Ministry." His speech was very profitable and edifying.

Pastor Bill Cho taught them the skill of selling. He told them that the keys to succeeding in literature evangelism were perseverance, endurance, and resilience. He said, "You have to be able to tolerate a lot of rejection and still have your self-worth intact. You have to be determined, to be very clear about your good points, and bad points. Focus on the positive aspects of your personality and be realistic about yourself." Each one got encouragement from his speech.



The Participants of the Seminar & Retreat

By the grace of God, we could accomplish this successful seminar and retreat meeting. We also appreciate getting the financial support of NSD for this retreat. We deeply hope that God would bless the literature evangelism in CHUM.

Hanson Cho, *Manager and Editor of the Sings of the Times Publishing Association in Taiwan*

The Saga of Saga *a variety of meetings in Japan*

Saga, Japan is world famous for its annual International Hot Air Balloon Festival held every November. Located in a beautiful lush valley on Kyushu Island, this small city is nationally known for its ceramic art and love for books. Saga's library has the second largest book circulation of all Japanese libraries. Saga's modest University offers graduate degrees in many areas but

specializes in agriculture and engineering attracting foreign students from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Iran, Syria, Indonesia.

Two years ago, this city was chosen by the Global Missions Committee to be the home for Ira and Esther Farley's ministry. They were asked to establish an English Language School, teach healthful living, and make friends with their neighbors and students. In the process, they were to build up a Seventh-day Adventist church family around, Matsumoto San, the only Seventh-day Adventist in Saga.



Japanese Children in Cooking School Learning to Sing "God Is So Good" in Arabic

The Farleys went to work. Using the well-appointed church building - which had been donated 10 years ago by one family - as the classroom, their classes grew from 1 to the present 95 students. Both times Denise and I visited Saga we discovered their students respect and love them. They eat together in each others' homes, go on picnics, call frequently on the phone, share recipes, and take lots of pictures.

Three months ago, these neighbors accepted an invitation by the Global Missions Committee to plan and implement the first International Festival of Culture, Family, Health & Heart. It was held in Saga, Japan, October 19 - 26, 2002. As an evangelistic series, it was unique in Japan for three reasons:

1. Longer than three days.

The average time-frame for public meetings in Japan is three days. The Saga team planned 30 public health classes for 9 days.

2. Friends of the church made it happen.

About a dozen of Ira's students including Moslems, Catholics, Buddhists, Agnostics, and Adventists led by Ota san, taught cooking schools, helped teach seminars, provided transportation, and cared for public relations.

3. All seminars were designed to attract and encourage Buddhists, Agnostics, Muslims, Jewish people, Catholics, and Protestants to become more spiritual people.

Meetings

The Global Missions Committee planned the "International Festival of Culture, Family, Health & Heart." Designed to attract the English Language students Ira has been teaching for the past 15 months, the festival opened with "The Sounds of Peace" featuring a bell choir from Hiroshima Academy and an interview with a local newspaper reporter. Over 100 Saga residents attended.

Daily classes were built upon a theme. Appropriate recipes were chosen to complement the theme. A detailed report with all the recipes and presentations is being prepared. For further information, contact, Pastor Katsumi Higashide, secretary, Japan Union Conference who is the Global Mission Coordinator.

Saturday - Community Day - Musical Concert - theme: Stop terrorism! Be a **CARING COMMUNITY**

Sunday - Muslim Day - Iranian, Indonesian, Bangladeshi food - theme: Believe in **ONE GOD**

Monday a.m. - Jewish morning - Middle Eastern food - theme: Sabbath rest, a gift to the **WORLD**

Monday p.m. - Catholic evening - Italian food - theme: Entrance to Kingdom requires **CHARITY**

Tuesday - Agnostic Day - Russian food - theme: Rational thinking makes sense out of **EVIL**

Wednesday - Day off which we spent in prayer and visitation and strategic planning for follow-UP

Thursday - Buddhist Day - Buddhist food - theme: Prayer and meditation changes our **ACTIONS**

Friday - Protestant Day - Western food - theme: Jesus changed this world by his **LIFE**

Saturday - SDA Day - Japanese food/picnic - theme: Be a patient, faithful, law-abiding **CITIZEN**

Saturday p.m. - Worship & Concert - theme: Glorify God by starting a neighborhood **GROUP**



Final Sabbath Dinner at Saga SDA Church with Bible Study Interests

The focus of the seminars was to embrace people of other faiths, eat their food, benefit from their precious truths and practices, and enlarge their world views as a result. The Seventh-day Adventist world view was shown to include great foundational truths which were identified during the week.

128 residents of Saga attended at least one of the 30 public events which were held between October 19 - 26. 35 people attended six or more events. Six community groups are forming and several of those who worked so hard to offer the International Festival are now asking to study the Bible. Please keep praying for Saga's delightful citizens.

John McGhee, *Sabbath School/Personal Ministries & Health Ministries Director*

Five Korean Missionary Families to Japan

Pioneer Mission Movement

The orientation program for the five Korean missionary families began on October 31, 2002 at the office of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD). The length of the orientation program is scheduled for 100 hours before their departure to Japan. The main subjects are "NSD Mission" by Stanley Ng, Secretary of the NSD; "What is Pioneer Mission Movement?" and "Language Preparation" by Jairyong Lee, Ministerial Secretary and Global Mission Coordinator of the NSD; "Mission in Japan" and "History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Japan" by Tadaomi Shinmyo, missionary from Japan to the NSD; "Evangelism Activities" by Joshua Shin, Youth and Children Ministries Director of the NSD; "Mission Strategy: Small Group" and "Mission Strategy: Personal Evangelism" by John McGhee, Sabbath School/Personal Ministries and Health Ministries Director of the NSD.

As they are going to Japan to plant new churches as the pioneer missionaries, first of all, they will study the Japanese language in Japan for one year from March 2003. Since they are young (29 to 35 years old), they are expected to learn the Japanese language quickly. Then, they will be assigned to five different places respectively to plant new churches within five years. This bold adventure will continue to send the five missionary families to Japan every year for the coming five years. One term of service for each missionary family is five years.

Pastor Kim, Kwang Sung (29 years old) wrote his decision to become missionary to Japan as follows: "Korean Adventists owe to Japan, because Korea was first evangelized with the Adventist message by a Japanese pastor. Now, it is time for us to return this debt to Japan as the Japanese Adventist Church lacks pastors. I am not qualified to accomplish this task, but I want to experience reality rather than theory."

This challenging project is called "Pioneer Mission Movement." Jairyong Lee says, "This program 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 region for cross-cultural missionary work. These pastors will be sent to un-entered territories where no Seventh-day Adventist church exists."

Lee continues to talk about the necessity of the project. "The NSD is the largest region 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 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."

Since China does not open its door to overseas missionaries, Japan was chosen as the first country to receive the Pioneer Mission Movement missionaries. Although Japan is one of the most developed countries in the world, in terms of Christianity, she is one of the most undeveloped countries. The Christian population is less than 1.2 million and it is 0.887% of the total population, around 127 million. In addition, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Japan is stagnating in terms of church growth. Consequently, the church faces lack of pastors. To the contrary, the Adventist Church in Korea cannot afford to hire all the graduates of theology students. Thus, Korea is currently considered to be one of the countries to send Pioneer Mission Movement missionaries to other countries in the region.

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

Stewardship Seminar Conducted

in Japan and Korea

A union-wide Stewardship Seminar was conducted in Japan and Korea with Benjamin Maxson GC Stewardship Department director as the main presenter. The JUC Stewardship Seminar was held in Kamenokoyama Church, Near Yokohama, Japan from October 19-20, 2002. About 50 people composed of church administrators, pastors, and lay leaders attended the seminar. Ben Maxson, in his presentation, emphasized "righteousness by faith" as the basis of strong stewardship. "Man must first be changed in order to become a good and faithful steward of God," he said. His approach was not to deal with money

issues as the main focus, but soteriological to help the audience understand the importance of a right relationship with God as the basis of true stewardship. Tadashi Yamaji, the JUC Stewardship Department director, prepared comprehensive seminar notes for attendees which was very helpful for the seminar and also for future use. The seminar concluded with a question and answer period and a dedication of all attendees.



The Participants of the Stewardship Seminar in Japan

The Stewardship Seminar of the KUC was conducted at the Madalpi SDA Youth Training Center, Korea on October 23-25, 2002. About 70 people attended the seminar. Most of them were local church pastors from the five conferences in Korea. The seminar topic was "The Biblical Foundation of Stewardship." In his presentation, Ben Maxson mentioned that spiritual formation of man is inseparably related to his stewardship. He further emphasized that giving tithe and offering is a response to God's



The Participants of the Stewardship Seminar in Korea

blessings, and therefore it is an act of worship to God. Johnghaeng Kwon the KUC Stewardship Department director, who translated the seminar presentation into Korean, had a thorough preparation for the seminar. The attendees enjoyed not only the seminar classes but also the sweet fellowship with God and their fellow ministers in the quiet atmosphere of the compound. Ben Maxson's enthusiastic presentation on stewardship issues was very much appreciated by all seminar participants. Jairyong Lee the NSD Stewardship Department director gave a consecration sermon at the conclusion of the seminar.

Jairyong Lee, Ministerial/Stewardship/Global Mission Director

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