

NEWS & VIEWS

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

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March / April 2007



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Telling the World

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"Tell the World"
the Good News through the activities taking place throughout our Division territory.

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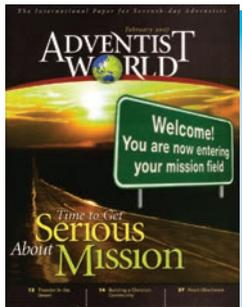


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My mother was an Adventist, so I naturally accepted her religion. But it was only when I was 17 years old that I placed my confidence in God and His Word after a study of the book of Daniel.

At that time, I sought God earnestly. I tried to follow His will and the inspired writings of Ellen G. White. I decided to go to Sahmyook High School. Over the next five years through High School and then Junior College, my faith grew tremendously. There were no significant trials in my life of faith. I lived like a flower in a hothouse. Unlike a weed in the wilderness that has to meet many trials like the wind, the hot sun and the storm, a flower in a hot house is sheltered and protected. Then I went to the army.

When I joined the army, I met the difficult trials that every Adventist man must meet. In the army, keeping the Sabbath was not easy. My hot-house-flower-life had not prepared me for these trials and I surrendered to men of worldly power. So, for two years I passed my time without keeping the Sabbath. I had a very hard time.

After I was discharged from the army, I met the next problem: finding a job where I could keep the Sabbath. Again I surrendered to the trial set before me.

Gradually, step by step, as time went by I became used to not going to church. The first time I didn't attend church, I felt so sad. But two years passed and then three and I felt no longing for religion. It was a time of crisis for me. But God did not forsake me, so He sent me another trial.

Every time I made a plan to earn money, it did not go well. I met with many failures. I tried to earn a lot of money but I got into debt instead. The company I attended, went bankrupt. I realized that life without God only seems to be free and good but it came at the price of more and more sorrow. When we stay close to God, we feel happiest.





Tell the World

After I lost my job, I needed to find another job immediately because of my debt. I had no time to search for a job where I could keep the Sabbath. At last I found a job that would take me to the southern part of Korea. I was to join a company in the city of Daegu.



The day before I left for Daegu, I played soccer with my friends. During the game I was severely injured. I was so disappointed as I needed to attend work the next day but I could not. I ended up in hospital for three months. I was sad and reproached myself. To add to my problems was the demand for payment of my debts. I felt unhappy with my life. And eventually I repented of my sins to God.

One day when I browsed the Internet, I found a help-wanted ad for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists. I applied for the job as a driver but I did not think I would get it. I was very surprised to hear that I got the job. I was very happy and thanked God.

God did not allow me to be separated from Him. Many times I tried to escape from God, but He held my hand because He loves me. Now I am thankful to God, He let me live again in faith. I realized by this experience that when we stay close to God, we are most happy and safe.

Mr. Lee is our driver at NSD and he attends our Ilsan English Church where we are thankful for his kindness and willingness to help. We praise God for His love and mercy.



NSD Assists North Korean Hospital

With the resumption of the six party talks, NSD's K Project is back on track. As reported in the News & Views July/August 2006 edition the K Project is to assistance in modernizing and upgrading medical and health services in Pyongyang. Shortly after this agreement was reached a freeze on aid shipments to North Korea halted NSD's project.

One 40 foot shipping container with 22,080 200ml soymilks for babies, 720 1 liter cartons of soymilk, used clothing, 1900 hospital gowns, 730 nurses' caps and 1000 pairs of shoes all boxed and ready scheduled to be shipped to North Korea on February 16, 2007.



A few months ago the News & Views reported the trip of a number of delegates to Pyongyang in North Korea. On his return, Pastor Kim Daesung, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Director at NSD and Mrs. Kim, Heeja, the coordinator for the K-Project at NSD arranged for the shipment of a container to North Korea. Sahmyook Foods donated nutritional soymilk. ADRA Korea donated used clothing.

One church elder, Mr. Joo, Gyoengbo and his wife made a personal donation of the rest of the content in the container. Mrs. Joo has a factory that manufactures clothes and so they made 800 doctors gowns, 700 nursing gowns, 300 gowns for nursing aids and 100 gowns for office workers along with 730 caps for use at the Kim Man Yoo Hospital in North Korea. They also donated 1000 pairs of shoes. Mr. Joo and his wife are members of the Banpo Church in Gangnam. Mr. Joo is the President of the Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) of the West Central Korean Conference (WCKC). We are thankful for these wonderful examples of generosity.





SDA Language School Winter Camp

Usually whenever I'm playing music on stage I'm unaware of the audience, but tonight is different. At first I can't see anything because the stage lights are beaming down in full force on myself and the accompanying singers. Eventually I'm able to make out the figures up in the balcony and then slowly the crowd in front of me.

They are standing, clapping, smiling, eyes closed, some of them arms raised, and singing with all of their hearts.

I am moved. It's been a long time since I've felt the Holy Spirit so strong in one room.

It is Saturday night, February 3rd and this is the climax of our English Winter Camp. Ninety-five young-adult students out of 1,300 were baptized tonight and now we have gathered together one last time to celebrate their decision to accept Christ and praise God's wonderful glory.

All of the institutes (38) have been promoting this event for several months. We have two English camps every year, a summer camp and a winter camp. The students love hanging out with other students and their teachers. A few English teachers also take the time to prepare different English seminars for the students.

However, one of the main highlights is the ability to interact with our students outside of the classroom. Many of the teachers choose to even share rooms with their students which also includes staying up late. There is no rest for the weary because Koreans love playing games and having fun. I stayed up until 2:00 a.m. and shared a yo (a mat on the floor) with some of my students . . . a memory I will never forget.

But the main focus was Pastor Joshua Shin's (NSD Youth Director) three powerful sermons. Yesterday he dove into several scientific discoveries that contradicted evolutionary theory and followed up today the point that God is our Creator and our loving, heavenly Father. With his moving stories, Holy Spirit filled worship and the prayers of the accompanying pastors and teachers, the students' hearts were moved.



Near the end of the song, the instruments fade and the musicians, the praise singers and the congregation begin to sing a cappella, "Deep in my soul I can feel, that God's love is so real. Troubles may come at some time, but I know He will be close to me." How true this sentence is for all of us.

Reported by Travis Herman

Jonah and Me

// Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah...” but help me not to land in the belly of a whale. The morning of January 22, 2007, saw the beginning of our Week of Spiritual Emphasis here at the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD). Under the title *Jonah and Me* at NSD, Dr. Gerald Klingbeil began what promised to be and certainly ended up to be a fruitful study of the book of Jonah.

Dr. Klingbeil is serving as Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) and is joined in the Philippines by his wife Chantal and their three beautiful daughters Hannah, Sarah and Jemima.

In a passionate presentation on the first chapter of *Jonah* Dr. Klingbeil made it clear that just like Jonah, nobody is immune to spiritual decline. He also emphasized that the choices we make determined the direction we take. “Anyone may take a wrong turn. They may forget the primary purpose as servants of the Lord, namely to follow the Lord wherever He leads and to truly serve

His purpose and not our own”, he reminded us. And that was just the beginning. Through the course of the week, Dr. Klingbeil led us into a deeper understanding of the book of *Jonah* and more importantly we gained a greater understanding of God and His wonderful character of love. Where do you stand with God? How do you pray effectively? How do you deal with making challenging decisions? These and more questions were answered in the thought provoking and personally challenging presentations.





Dr. Klingbeil has been faced with a number of challenging decisions to follow the leading of God. It is thus that he has served in a variety of academic institutions all over the world. Born in Berlin, Germany he completed his schooling and two years of Theology at Bogenhofen in Austria. In 1990 he graduated from Helderberg College with a B.A. in Theology from Andrews



University. South Africa is also where he met his lovely wife, Chantal. After completing his B.A. Honors, Masters and doctorate in Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the University of Stellenbosch in 1994, Chantal and Gerald received a call to Lima, Peru, where they spent six years and where their first two daughters were born. While at Peruvian Union University he served as associate professor of Old Testament Studies, as well as Director of the Research Institute at the School of Theology and Director of the Professional School of Theology. It was also during his ministry in 1998 in Peru that he was ordained to the gospel ministry as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. Following his service in Peru, the family accepted a call to Argentina at

River Plate University where Dr. Klingbeil taught Old Testament Studies and the rest is history as they say. The NSD workers appreciated and were enriched by this wonderful Week of Spiritual Emphasis.

Throughout the week the newly formed fourth group of Golden Angels provided special music.



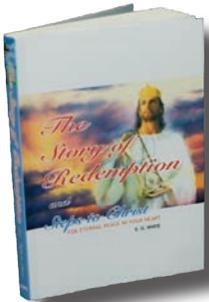
A Time to Repay

Fifteen years ago Mr. Cho Kyeongshin felt he had a debt that needed to be repaid. He said, "The missionaries and their supporters gave so much to me that I might know the love of Jesus, I needed to repay their loving gift. The church in Korea is strong and healthy, both spiritually and financially, because of the sacrifice of those who brought the message. The country is prosperous because of the generosity of others. Now is the time to repay."

Though he is not a rich man, God has blessed a few of his business transactions. He has used the profit to print the books *Steps to Christ* and *The Story of Redemption* in a combined volume. Mr. Cho said he chose these two books because the one lead a person to know Jesus as their personal Savior and the other shows the love of God for the human race throughout earth's history.

Mr. Cho's latest project is the printing of 40,000 copies of this combined book to be sent to Africa. As soon as finances permit he will print another 60,000 copies to follow the first printing.

Before this current production, Mr. Cho and his wife financed the printing of 170,000 copies that have already been distributed. This is just the beginning. Their goal is to print 1,000,000 copies.



AIAS Professors Visit Seminary in China

In order to reinforce understanding and communication, a ten member team consisting of seven from Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS), together with Dr. Samuel Chiu, the Professor of Theology at Hong Kong Adventist College, and Dr. Verna Wu, the education director of CHUM, visited mainland China under the leadership of Pastor Robert Wong. The team visited Yanjing Theological Seminary, Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, Jiangsu Bible School, East China Theological Seminary, Shanghai Committee of the Three-self Patriotic of the Protestant Churches in China, China Christian Council and Nanjing Amity Printing Company, and were cordially received. Dr. Wu notes that God is taking care of mainland China. Churches in China possess their own characteristics and independence due to various historical factors and although the churches of China are post-denominational, respect between each other is emphasized. Christians play a vital role in the development of a harmonized society and country in China. The major challenge is insufficient laborers to harvest the plentiful crops in the vast fields of China.





Widows ‘Mite’ for China

//Dear, I am old and I don't have much. But I know these poor orphans need help and so I will give all I can..." and with that she took some money from her pocket. There was no hesitation and she had no regrets. After she heard about the Zaduo Orphans School in QingHai she decided to help. Among all visitors that day, this elderly lady left us with a deep impression of her generosity.

She had joined visitors from different social classes and various backgrounds, such as professionals, college students, parents with kids, and other elderly from the Adventist Senior Center. December 3, 2006, Sam Yuk Adventist College held a carnival at the Clear Water Bay campus in Hong Kong. There were over 2,000 entrants. At the carnival, more than 40 booths served food, held games and charity sales that were arranged by different organizations. ADRA's promotional booth was located in the new wing of the college. ADRA's simple booth displayed several current projects with colorful pictures. There was also a donation box, leaflets and a television showing our project videos.

Regardless of where they were from, the people all paid full attention to our introduction of ADRA's sustainable projects. We introduced the Orphans school in Zaduo, Qing-Hai, the Animal Bank in Inner Mongolia and Micro- Finance projects.

In fact, the action of the old lady illustrated ADRA's mission and attitude towards the poor. Although our resources are limited, it does not stop our compassion to serve the poor with all we can. Our core vision is to serve the least of our brothers. ADRA raised HK \$12,052 in the above event. All donations will be transferred to the Zaduo Orphans School in QingHai for 2007 project expenses.



PMM Evangelism in Mongolia

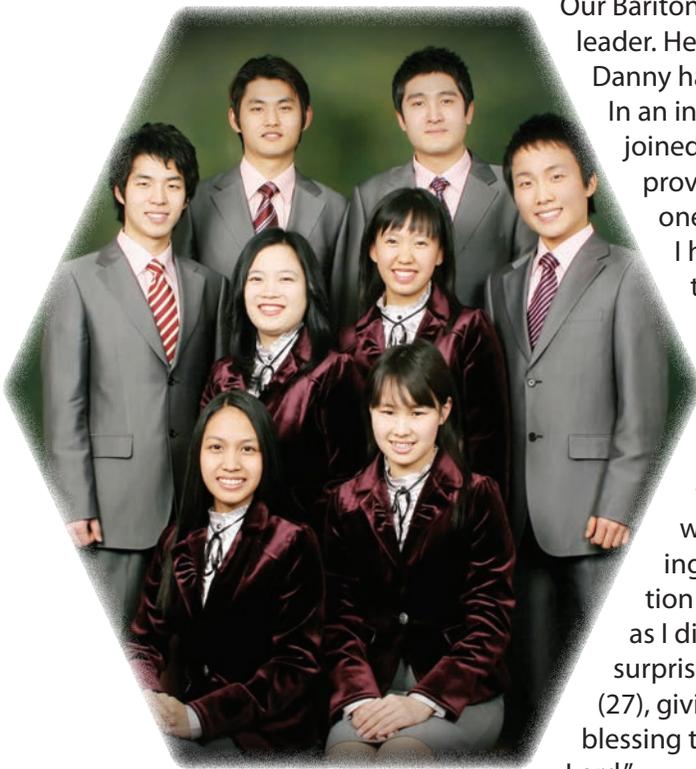
In Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia, PMM pastor Park NoYoung organized an evangelistic series held during August 6-19, 2006. He invited Pastor Kwon JohngHaeng, Coordinator of Adventist Mission of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division along with the Golden Angels to hold the meetings. The Golden Angels held a street concert and visited houses during the day and in the evening the seminar on prophecy was given by Pastor Kwon. Thirty-seven precious souls were baptized as a result of their efforts.



Departmental

Introducing The Golden Angels

// Surrender all", the sweet sounds of voices lifted in song waft through the offices on the seventh floor at the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Four young men and four young women from Korea, Mongolia and the Philippines are practicing 30 songs in different languages. They have dedicated one year of their lives to serve the Lord. They too will travel around the territories of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division spreading the everlasting gospel. Today, I'd like to introduce you to the individuals behind the music group.



Our Baritone Sung, DongYeon (Danny) is the team leader. He is a Vocal major and plays the saxophone. Danny has always enjoyed praising the Lord in song. In an interview with News & Views he says, "Before I joined the Golden Angels I was practicing and improving my skills on the saxophone. I knew that one day, some time God would call me. When I heard from Lily Cho (the accountant at NSD) that the Golden Angels were recruiting singers, I knew this was God calling me."

Kang, HyunDuk (Michael), the Bass and an Electronics major tells his story this way, "It has been my desire for a long time to join a singing group, so I was excited when I heard the Golden Angels were looking for a Bass. But when I came to the audition and heard Danny sing, I was disappointed as I did not think that I would pass. To my joy and surprise I was chosen. Although I am already older (27), giving one year of my life to the Lord is a great blessing to me and I will give my best in serving the Lord."

"Mrs. Kwon called me to inform me that the Golden Angels were holding auditions", Oh, SeHoon (Jack), the Second Tenor and a Sports and Leisure major tells excitedly. Then his face gets serious as he explains the pains and trials he faced. His family did not support his decision and the military had already sent his draft papers and he was planning to enter graduate school. But the conviction that joining the Golden Angels was what God wanted him to do, did not leave him. "Lord, if I pass the auditions, I know it is your will for me to join the Golden Angels. God chose me to sing and I am very excited to see how God will lead me during this year."



The High Tenor and Theology major Do, JoonHan (John) tells a similar story of God's leading. He was surprised when two years ago he was called as a student intern to Sahmyook University Church. A year later another surprise awaited him. Jack informed him about the Golden Angels audition and encouraged him to take part. Faced with three choices and various problems he called out, "Lord, which way do I go? Then I remembered Abraham, how he left everything behind to follow God's calling. So after many answers to prayer, here I am today."

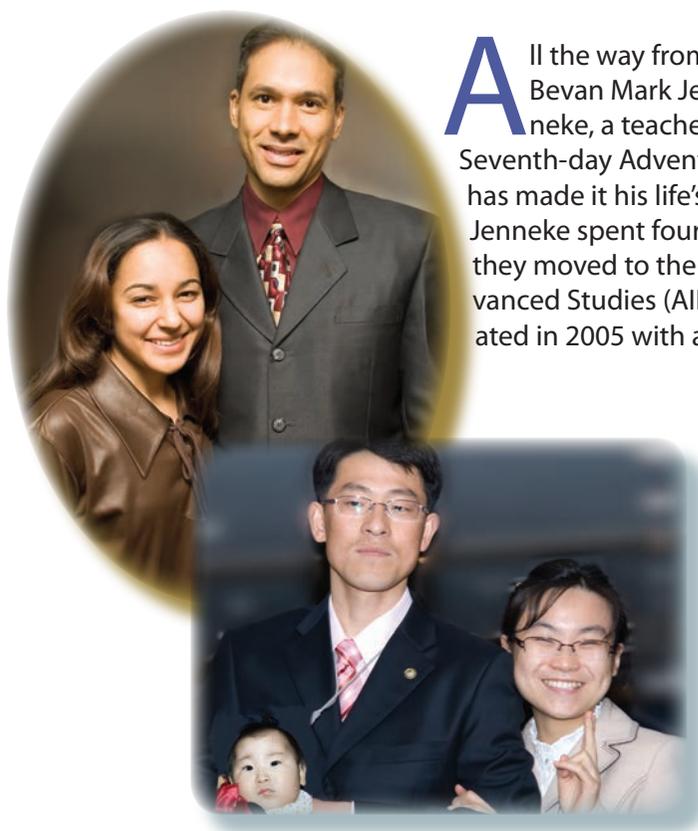
"I was so disappointed when I heard that the Golden Angels would not be recruiting ladies this year. I had hoped for over a year to join this wonderful ministry," Hong, EunHee (Joy), a Vocal major and one of the sopranos explains. "I agreed to be the pianist on Pastor Shin's request, although in my heart I yearned to sing. Then I received a call from my uncle's wife: the Golden Angels need female vocalists. I was so excited and am so thankful to be a part of the Golden Angels."

Julia (Lee, Eun-Chong) a nursing major and one of the mezzo sopranos begins, "my mother prayed that God would use her two daughters in His service. When I heard about the Golden Angels audition I called my mom. She said, 'maybe this is God's call'. So I prayed and it seemed that each time I opened the Word, God said, 'I am calling you'. But at the auditions I doubted. I was so much younger and less talented than the others. Yet, I believed it was God's call. I asked for a sign. If I pass the auditions then I know for sure. It is a wonderful feeling to know that this is God's call and I look forward to serving the Lord."

Lura Delle Labris, a nursing major from the Philippines and the other soprano has always wanted to be a missionary. When she was asked to join the Golden Angels she was excited at the opportunity of becoming a missionary. "But my parents were really unhappy. They wanted me to go to the USA. 'Lord, if this is what you want me to do then let my parents agree.' So, a little while later I plucked up the nerve to ask again and to my surprise my parents told me that the decision was mine. I was so excited to see God leading me."

"Six years ago I joined the Seventh-day Adventist church," Enkhjargal Bayarsaihan (Jagana), the second mezzo soprano and a Korean language major from Mongolia tells me. "It was my dream to become a missionary. Pastor Shin held auditions in Mongolia. A while after I declined the first invitation to join the Golden Angels, Pastor Shin called me again. I explained that I wanted to complete my studies and that my musical talent was not that great. He encouraged me to reconsider and pray about it. 'I'll call you in 24 hours for your answer'. I decided to ask the Lord for a sign: my parents and my professors had to agree. I called my mother, who is not a Seventh-day Adventist and told her about the Golden Angels and the invitation I had received from Pastor Shin. Knowing the respect I had for my teachers she encouraged me to ask their advice. Their reaction? Congratulations! God answered my prayer and I am so happy."

Welcome and Farewell



All the way from South Africa we welcome Pastor Bevan Mark Jenneke and his wife Cindy. Pastor Jenneke, a teacher by profession, was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1995. Since that time he has made it his life's work to tell people about Jesus. Pastor Jenneke spent four years as a missionary in Korea before they moved to the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines where he graduated in 2005 with a Masters of Divinity. We look forward to working with Pastor Jenneke and his wife and want to wish them a heartfelt welcome.

It's time to say goodbye. Already a year has passed since we first met Pastor Choungshik Kim (Charleston), his wife Lee Eunhye (Eugenia) and their baby Hyeji. They took on an amazing challenge by serving a church in a foreign language. We at Ilsan church are thankful for your

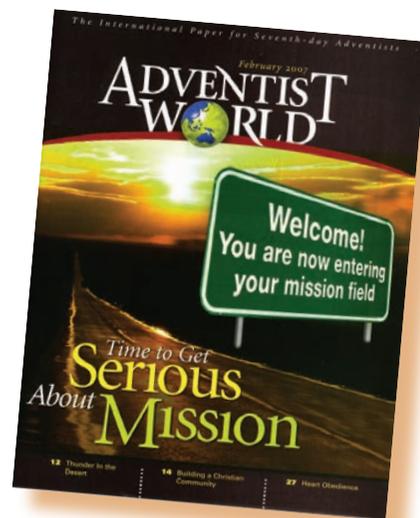
help in laying the groundwork for our English Church and will miss your friendly smiles. We wish you all of the best in your new district and may God give you the wisdom and strength you need for the challenges ahead. Thank you for your willingness to serve in a language not your own and for all your help.

Go Tell the World!



PMM Use *Adventist World* for Outreach

A few weeks ago Mrs. Kwon at our NSD office received a phone call. "Please send us some copies of the *Adventist World*" the request came from Pastor Im JongGap. Pastor Gap is a PMM pastor in Taiwan where he serves the Puli Church. The desire to learn or improve their English skills is great amongst the people in Asia. Recognizing this fact and always thinking about new ways to reach people with the everlasting gospel, Pastor Gap decided to use the English edition of the *Adventist World* as a tool for outreach in his district. We hope to hear the effects of this outreach soon.



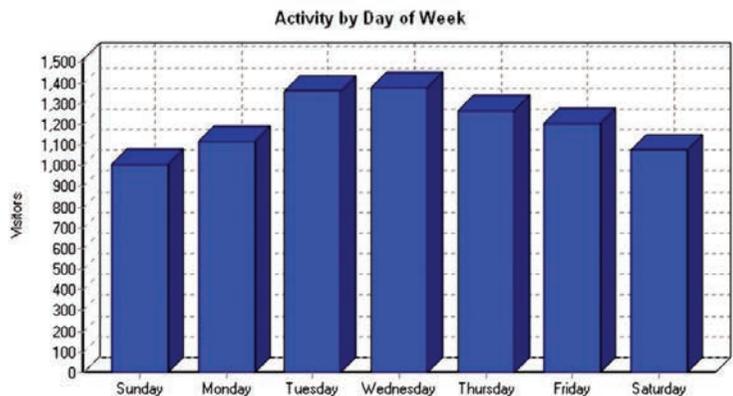
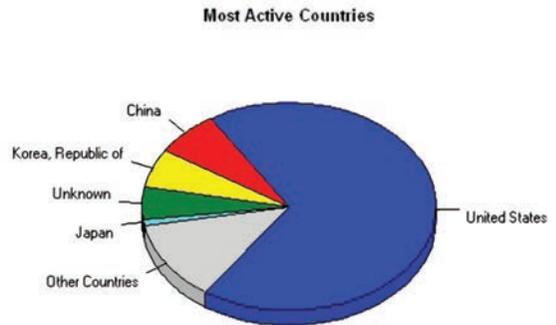
Small Group Meetings in Hakodate, Japan

Beginning with songs of praise, participants shared their personal testimony relating their struggles, doubts and fears and also their triumphs. Each member was touched as encouraging words were spoken, prayers offered for hurting individuals and some even shed tears as they listened. This is the result of one year of planning. Hakodate SDA Church's vision is that within five years, with continued growth of its small group, it will be able to establish a new church. For three days from October 20 to 22, 2006, 30 participants from around Japan met for a national small group meeting at the Hakodate SDA Church. The event was jointly sponsored church and the Japan Union Conference Church Ministries Department. There were three main reasons why the decision was made to hold a small group meeting. The first reason was to share and confirm the vision of the small group with interested participants. Second was to build stronger relationships among group members. And third was that as the Hakodate SDA church began preparations to begin the small group, the church itself would grow spiritually.



NSD Website Traffic

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division has been running its own web server for two and a half years now. "Since December 15, 2004 until now we have been logging traffic and it's interesting to see the increase in traffic on our site through the years", Brian Stepanek ITS Manager commented. "Most people talk about 'hits' on their site, but that can be misleading, because it does not reflect on the individual visitors to the site. On our NSD website, we had a total of 3,137,792 hits for this time period, but when I dug deeper, I saw that the total number of unique visitors was 204,537. That works out to an average of 263 visitors per day. When I looked at the visitors per month, we started out with just 4,253 visitors. Now in January 2007 we had 12,538 visitors. It's great to see the increase in numbers" Mr. Stepanek explained. Feel free to take a look at our website at (<http://www.nsdadventist.org>).



AWR Has New Vice President for Advancement

“My passion in life is to reach the world for Christ through active evangelism in all of its forms,” Jim Ayer newly appointed vice president for advancement at Adventist World Radio (AWR) said. The advancement position is a new role at AWR. Its focus is on implementing strategies for increasing AWR’s philanthropic support from a wide range of worldwide constituencies, by cultivating major donors, liaising with the church’s world divisions, building a base of active volunteers, and guiding the initiatives of the philanthropy, communication, and web staff. Mr. Ayers is the former vice president for public affairs and global events at Amazing Facts in California.

News courtesy of AWR.