

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 1, Number 5

The First Northern Asia-Pacific Division Lay Congress

Over 600 Gathered

The first Northern Asia-Pacific Division's Lay Congress was conducted for five days, August 20 through 25, 1997 at the Mt. Sok Nee Tour Hotel in the northern Choong Chung province. The theme of the Congress was "Sharing the Joy of Salvation."

The Congress was opened with a welcome address by Pastor Hong, Myung Kwan, Director of the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department(SS/PM Department) of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division(NSD). The Congress was comprised of 84 delegates from Japan Union Conference, 73 delegates from the South China Island Union Mission and more than 450 delegates from the Korean Union Conference.

Prior to the bifurcation of the Asia Pacific Division, in which the Northern Asia-Pacific Division was created, several lay congresses were conducted as "Northern Region Lay Congresses"; the first was held in Korea, the second in Taiwan and the third in Japan, consequently this recent congress was the first as NSD's own congress.

The delegates from the two Union Conferences and from the one Union Mission were inspired by the grace of the Holy Spirit as they each participated in the program. The delegates were particularly inspired and encouraged by those who gave their personal testimonies, in which they presented their experiences in soul winning.

Featured speakers during the Congress included

Elder James W. Zackrison, SS/PM Director of the General Conference, Elder Martin L. Anthony, SS/PM Director of the Trans-European Division, Elder David Parks, NSD Ministerial, Global Mission and Health Director and Elder Hong Myung Kwan, NSD SS/PM and Stewardship Director.

Elder Zackrison's presentations described how to effectively reach people through lay evangelism. Elder Hong, Myung Kwan's presentations focused on Personal Evangelism. Their messages were effective and encouraged the delegates to return to their respective locations with the determination to proclaim the Gospel.

Elder Han, Sang Woo, President of the Korean Union Conference gave the keynote address. Elder David Parks, Elder Nam, Sun Kyu of the Southeast Korean Conference and Elder Lee, Yong Hak of the West Central Korean Conference provided the morning devotionals. Elder Martin Anthony presented the evening devotionals. The Sabbath sermons were given by Elder Zachrison and Elder Hong.



Participants of The NSD LAY Congress in Korea

Pastor Kim, Si Young, Director of the 1000 Missionary Movement(1000MM) gave a report to the delegates concerning the activities and results of the 1000MM. More than twenty laymen presented their personal soul winning testimonies.

A special Sabbath School offering was received which was dedicated for the construction of the first Seventh-day Adventist church in Mongolia. Approximately US \$5,000 was received. In addition, one layman from Japan and one from Korea each pledged to donate sufficient funds to build a church in Mongolia. The thank offering on that Sabbath from the delegates amounted to more than US \$ 2,000.

On the first day of the Congress, an international fellowship program was conducted to assist the delegates in becoming better acquainted with one another. Also times were devoted to recreation and hiking in the Mt. Sok National Park.

On Sunday, following the Congress, the delegates visited the famous Korean Folk Village, the Kyung-Bok Palace and several of the major Korean Union Conference's institutions in the Seoul area, including the Korean Publishing House, Korean Sahn Yook University and the Seoul Adventist Hospital. The tour provided the delegates with a better understanding of dimension and scale on which the Lord's work in Korea is currently based.

One of the final actions taken by the Congress was to recommend that the Second NSD Lay Congress be held in the year 2000 in China.



Ten outstanding laymen who were awarded

During the five days and four nights together the delegates became better acquainted not only with each other but more importantly with Jesus Christ. During the closing ceremonies, the delegates gave evidence of their regret for having to leave one another. They left encouraged with the firm determination to serve the Lord even more effectively.

Myung Kwan Hong,
SS/PM/ Stewardship Director/ASI Coordinator

Bi-Division Adventist Youth Camporee 1997

Some 17 Countries Participated

The very first Bi-division Adventist Youth Camporee after the bifurcation of the former Asia-Pacific Division at the beginning of this year, was held in Sumberwekas, Java, Indonesia, August 12-16, 1997.

More than a thousand enthusiastic and energetic youth from some 17 countries participated in the Camporee. During the opening ceremony, Mr. Hayono Isman, the State Minister for Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia, gave the keynote address. In it, he commented the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its young people for the exemplary healthful lifestyle and their positive influence on the other youths.

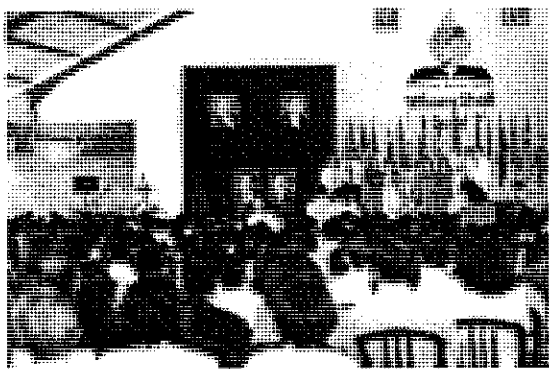
The purpose of this special youth event was reflected in the Camporee theme, "Whom shall I send?" The Camporee was designed as a launching pad for the 1998 youth ministry emphasis on "Youth in Missions." The delegates were challenged to be giants of faith like Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Nehemiah, and Paul who responded to God's call and then boldly engaged in His mission.

During the Camporee, the presence of Elder P. D. Chun and Elder Violetto H. Bocala, the presidents of the Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific Divisions at the Camporee was a tremendous encouragement and blessing to the young people. Their messages during the evening and morning worships and their presentations at the plenary sessions, have inspired the youth to take the Great Commission more seriously and with greater commitment and dedication.

Pastor Richard Barron, the associate youth director of the General Conference, together with Drs. Hedrick J. Edwards, Tommy Wuysang, Hiskia I. Missah, and David Wong provided workshops and seminars on youth's involvement in the Lord's mission and participation in evangelism, and witnessing through living an Adventist lifestyle. The presentations were not only informative, but

participation in the life and the work of the church, especially during the year of "Youth in Missions" in 1998.

One of the highlights of the event was the reports given by the young people from the various unions in the two divisions. What Lord had accomplished through the youth was borne out in their reports on evangelism, community services, short and long term mission trips in difficult and even hostile regions,--a strong indication of the fulfilment of the promise in Joel 2:28. The Holy Spirit is truly falling on the youth, empowering them to attempt great things to the Lord's glory and for the hastening of His return.



Special music by Indonesian singers

At the commitment service on Sabbath afternoon, Elder Violeto Bocala challenged the youth to commit themselves to God and to the Gospel Commission, bringing the gospel message to all the world in this generation. The youth responded by lighting their candles, indicating their acceptance of the call and determined to let their light shine the world till Jesus comes again.

David Wong, Youth Director

Operation Panda Bear

A Project to China from America

As we are near the twenty-first century, great challenges face the church. Among these, the one is the unfinished mission of proclaiming the everlasting gospel to every person on earth prior to the coming of the Lord. And a major part of that unfinished mission is right here in the Northern Asia-

Pacific Division(NSD). How will we reach the 1.3 billion precious souls in China with the invitation to know and accept Jesus?

The leaders of the NSD and the East Asia Association(EAA) continually think, pray and wrestle with that challenge. But recently, we have received some good news!

The North Pacific Union Conference(NPUC) in the North-Western United States has agreed to undertake a project called Operation Panda Bear. The NPUC has been focusing on specific overseas mission projects for several years. During 1990-1995, they contributed funds, personnel & materials to aid the gospel work in Russia under a project called Operation Bearhug. Now that the work in Russia has grown and stabilized, they are prepared to turn their attention to a new project, "Operation Panda Bear", this time in China.

The idea is to produce Bible study, evangelistic and pastoral training videos which could be utilized by our pastors and lay people in China as they share the gospel with these friends and neighbors. Through the combined funding and expertise of the Voice of Prophecy, the NPUC, the General Conference Global Mission and Ministerial Departments, and the EAA, some first-class audio-visuals will be produced which will make the proclamation of the gospel understandable as well as vitally interesting to the Chinese people. Don Gray, who was the director of the Net '95 & Net '96 satellite evangelism programs, is the director of this project.

Under God's guidance, these videos should be available within a few months for use in China. Let's be praying that God will bless this project in a special way and that Operation Panda Bear will be a real asset in the completion of our global mission.

David Parks, Ministerial Association Secretary

*People of Hope
Seventh-day Adventists will
communicate hope by
focusing on the quality of
life that is complete in
Christ.*

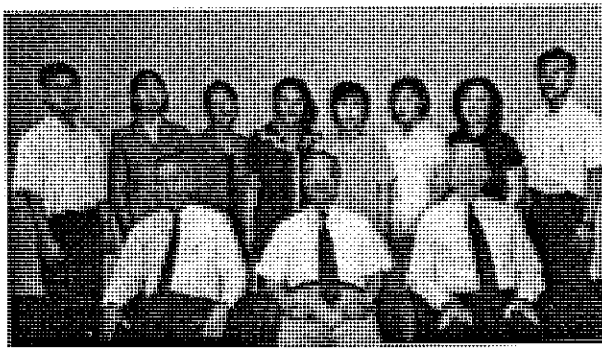
Seven Were Chosen For the Lord's Service

New Staff Orientation Program

On July 18, 1997, over two weeks after the seven new accountants and secretaries had begun their work in the new NSD office, they were given six hours of intensive orientation. Although the seven are comprised of five young ladies and two young men, I cannot help but think back to the appointment of the seven deacons who were chosen by the apostles nearly 2,000 years ago.

Dr. Luke, the Church Historian recorded: "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in their daily ministrations. . . . wherefore brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:1, 3, 4.

The duty of the seven chosen ones was two fold, to serve the multitude of different ethnic groups in the church, and to relieve the leaders' burden and allow them to have more time concentrating on prayer and the ministry of the Word. And that is exactly what we expect from our supporting staff.



NSD officers and new staff

The qualifications of the seven are:
people of honest report, and
full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.

When choosing the Division supporting staff at the beginning of the year, those were also our top

criteria. Of course, in a modern age in addition to these, they have to have other qualifications such as English language proficiency, computer skills, etc.

The General Orientation started with a devotional talk at 7:30 a.m. by our president Elder P. D. Chun. His recent trip to China was inspiring to everyone.

After worship, the seven new employees went to the Division conference room. Elder Chun gave the first talk on Denominational philosophy. For one full hour, he talked on church policy, functional chart of organization, how the officers of each level were elected, etc, without even once looking at any of the policy books he brought with him. His rich experience as an administrator marvels us. At the end of the philosophy session he encouraged everyone to read the GC and Division policy books and Division Employee Handbook.

Pastor Hong Myung Kwan was the next speaker. Before he joined the Division as Sabbath School/ Personal Ministries Director, he was a very successful public evangelist. No wonder his evangelistic efforts drew hundreds and thousands and many of them made their decisions to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. He explained departmental functions. A half hours presentation in Korean went by just like a few minutes. Everyone enjoyed it very much.

Elder Gordon Bullock gave us a thorough coverage on Benefits and Assistance with his years of Denominational working experience. Pastor Kim Jong Moon covered the office procedures part. In his half hour presentation he kept on emphasizing stewardship. He reminded us of being faithful to the work as we are faithful to God. Being the one who worked day and night to make the Division office a reality, he is qualified to urge us to be faithful stewards of God.

Elder Shinmyo spoke on working policy. He is another interesting speaker to whom we never get tired of listening. Though the lunch time is passed when he started, his presentation drew everyone's attention.

The seven chosen ones were surely full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. During the almost six hours orientation they not only showed their patience, but interest as well.

Between presentations they asked questions. One of the questions asked was, "What is the Division's official language?" The answer to that question is

that the ADCOM had voted two months ago making English as the NSD's official language. The rationale is for better communication between the GC and NSD, and the NSD and the Unions. Within the Division office if other languages can serve the purpose of better communication, there is no law to forbid it. We should be proud of our cultures but unite the best of all culture. Unity not uniformity.

After six hours of orientation we enjoyed the Korean food, Bibimbap at the Grand department store across the street. We ate, we talked and we had fellowship together as a family. We are looking forward to working together in harmony to advance God's work in the Division territory so that God's name can be glorified.

Richard Liu, Secretary

Chiang Mai Adventist Educational Center

Enrollment is growing, but.....

Chiang Mai Adventist Educational Center was opened with five students, twenty one years ago. Since those humble beginnings we have added students each year till we now have almost six hundred boarding students. The real miracle though, is that in a Buddhist country where we struggle to get one baptism, 10% of our students enter as Adventist but 90% graduate as Adventist. About 90% of the workers for Thailand Adventist Mission come from our school so you begin to see the importance of this school.

A major portion of our students are so poor they can't even pay the tuition so the school has a hard time meeting the bills much less doing any building. There hasn't been any new building for the past ten years till the generous and gracious Japanese came and built three new class rooms for which we thank them and the Lord.

We are still desperate for two dorms. We have twelve students to a room built for four. They are sleeping double and on the floor. Needless to say there isn't any room for desks or clothes closets. We prayerfully ask for help building at least one of



Number of student more than the number of bed these dorms. Besides dormitories, we lack beds also. One two-level bed costs us \$60.

The dorm will hold 130 students if we put 6 to a room built for 4. But 6 is better than 12 to a room. If you can't help financially please help by your prayers.

Elden L Smith, Administrator
of Chiang Mai Adventist Educational Center

<From Editor. If you are interested in helping the school, please contact **Seventh-day Adventist Church of Thailand, P O Box 234, Prakanong, Bangkok 10110, Thailand**>

World News

- ADRA has been granted General Consultative Status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. NGOs in consultative status have established a Conference of NGOs that has been providing, through various special thematic committees, forums for discussion of substantive matters by its members and with members of the UN Secretariat, delegations and experts. ADRA may now designate official representatives to the UN headquarters in New York and to the UN offices in Geneva and Vienna. (ANN Bulletin, September 2, 1997)
- A mob of 150 armed with sticks and iron rods, attacked and beat a Seventh-day Adventist church volunteer in northern India on August 3, 1997, leaving him for dead. His "crime" was to hold church meetings to which local families were invited. Angered by such religious meetings in predominantly Hindu community, religious extremists warned Iqbal Sikander to leave. Sikander chose to ignore the warnings. Then this incident was taken place. However, his spirits are still high and he hopes to return to Jhind district to continue his work. (Ibid)

Coming Event.....

*Northern Asia-Pacific Division
Pre-Annual Council Meetings
October 27-28*

NSD Office in Korea

Coming Event.....

*Northern Asia-Pacific Division
Annual Council*

*October 29-November 3
NSD Office in Korea*

Coming Event.....

*Grand Opening Ceremony of
Northern Asia-Pacific Division Office
October 30*

NSD Office in Korea

Coming Event.....

*South China Island Union Mission
Annual Council*

*November 17-18
Hong Kong*

Coming Event.....

*East Asia Association
Annual Council*

*November 20-21
Hong Kong*

Coming Event.....

*Japan Union Conference
Annual Council*

*November 23-24
Yokohama*

Coming Event.....

*Korea Union Conference
Annual Council*

*November 24-28
Seoul*

"Thanks" from Editor

Thank you those who responded to "NEWS & VIEWS." From USA Elder Minoru Inada in Ohio and Elder and Mrs. Clinton Shankel in California expressed their appreciations for the newsletter. Miss Naomi Arit from the Philippines wrote her thanks also. They are all former Far Eastern or Asia-Pacific Division workers. Editor likes to inform all readers that they are continuously witnessing the Lord with good courage at their respective places.

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NEWS & VIEWS*

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