

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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Review and Outlook Part 2



Prophecy of Revelation 13 and ...

The year 1998 has brought to the world and to the church many significant events in the last two months already and it will bring a lot more. The most remarkable one must be the economic turmoil rampant throughout many Asian Countries. Indonesia, Thailand and Korea are the most seriously affected. No country in this region is totally insulated from its ripple effect. The Adventist Church and its organizations can not avoid its effect. Church leaders should put forth every effort to minimize the damage and to keep advancing the mission of the church.

One of the notable side effects is the strengthening of the controlling power of the United States of America over Asian countries. Those countries receiving special relief loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) such as Indonesia, Thailand and Korea have to strictly implement the loan conditions. The loan conditions are not limited to the terms of repayment of the loan but are guidelines on how to adapt and operate the economic and financial policies of the country. They don't have any choice but to faithfully following the guidelines set by the loaning authority because "the borrower is servant to the lender."

It is not a secret that the United States is controlling the IMF, the World Bank and even the United Nations. The United States has become the only super power, exacting its authority upon the political, economic, military and diplomatic affairs of the world. Who can prevent her control over the religious affairs of the world? The way is well paved for the fulfilment of the prophecy in the thirteenth chapter of Revelation.

Another super power which has soared remarkably within the last decade or two is the Papal power. The strong alliance between the US and the Papacy is well solidified. This morning's newspaper showed a color picture of Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, handing a gift to Pope John Paul II.

The last day prophecies are fulfilling rapidly before our eyes.

The year 1998 may be recorded as a year of restructuring. The Korean Union Conference has finished its restructuring at their recent Executive Committee Meeting on February 5. They trimmed down the number of officers and department directors by six. One person is named as the Secretary/Treasurer. Each department director serves for several departments. It is not merely a proactive measure to deal with the economic difficulties, but is a gesture for strengthening the grassroot-level activities.

The Japan Union Conference is preparing even more substantial restructuring plans. The essence of the plan is the transfer of the administrative, and departmental functions and financial management, and departmental functions from the local conferences to the JUC. The Local Conferences will maintain only two or three workers at their offices and will concentrate on evangelistic and pastoral functions. The Union will add several more workers at its office. But the total number of office workers at the Union and local conferences will be reduced by around fourteen. Such reorganization is a temporary measure until the membership increases and the financial strength of the Japanese church reaches a sustainable level in the future. They will review their sustainability every five years at their regular constituency meetings.

The Adventist church work has reached an important platform. There are around 230,000 baptized members in China. They have maintained a 10% growth rate for the last several years. There are more than 2,000 meeting points including so called "house churches": most of them are led by lay preachers because there are only around a score of trained ministers. One of the most urgent needs of the church in China is to train Adventist

ministers at the Three Self Committee operated seminaries by special arrangement. We cannot and should not ignore the reality. We have to learn how to make our work progress and prosper under the Three Self Principles. The future progress and success of the Adventist work in China, I believe, depends on the degree of success we achieve in working in harmony with the Three Self Guidelines. Because this is God's work He will guide us to find solutions, if we really seek earnestly. The counsel of Jesus, "Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" should be the guiding principle in working in this territory. The Lord will guide us to prove the proverb, "when there is a will there is a way."

Pyung Duk Chun, *President*

Preparing for Net '98

The largest and most extensive evangelistic campaign ever conducted by the Seventh-day Adventist church will take place in October and November, 1998. The Net '98 series will be presented by Dwight Nelson, pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC) on the campus of Andrews University, Michigan, USA.

Translators from all the world's divisions will be on site at PMC to translate each evening's message into forty of the world's major languages, which will then be broadcasted by satellite. It is anticipated that 7,000 sites on six continents will downlink the program and that approximately 1 million people overall will attend the series of 27 presentations.



Dr. Dwight Nelson,
Speaker for Net '98
and Senior Pastor of
Pioneer Memorial Church,
Michigan, USA

During late February, Dwight Nelson and David Parks, NSD Net '98 coordinator, travelled widely in the division to promote the program and share additional information about it. An enthusiastic response to the program, by pastors and lay people alike, was seen throughout the division.

All of the Unions in the NSD are planning to purchase several dish antennas to downlink the program. In addition to the churches at the antenna sites, numerous churches in the NSD will participate by using a video tape of the satellite broadcast.

The churches in mainland China will not be able to downlink the satellite broadcast but video tapes will be made available to them at a later date. In reality all the locations in the NSD must participate in Net '98 by video tape because the broadcast from Andrews University is in a time zone 14 hours behind the NSD.

A subsidy of US \$ 750 - 1500 (and in some cases even more) is being offered by the NSD, the Unions and Conferences, to each church which conducts a Net '98 Crusade. This is being offered to help the churches purchase the necessary equipment to participate.

"We are anxious to enable every church which desires to do so, to get involved in this high - tech soulwinning Adventure. We believe Net '98 will be of great benefit to the NSD," said PDChun, president of the division.

Please join your prayers with ours, that God will pour out His Spirit on the NSD and around the world, and that many people will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus through the Net '98 program.

David M. Parks, *Net '98 Coordinator*

PEOPLE OF HOPE

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

그리스도 안에서 이루는 참된 삶,
제철일 안식일 예수재림교회는
그 희망을 전합니다.

セブンスデー・アドベンチストは、
キリストにあつて完成する人生の
質に焦点を合わせて希望を伝えます。

基督復臨安息日會傳揚希望,是在
基督裏所達成有品質生命的希望

Adventist World Radio

From Listeners' Letters



● I have listened to your broadcasts for more than a year. My interest grows everyday. I know that your programs are teaching me many good things. Thank God! - Mr Wong, China -

● I congratulate you for your programming which is of great spiritual value as it talks of Jesus Christ and His words that offer life. I think I have never heard anything like this before. - Maria, Costa Rica -

● AWR has attracted millions of listeners through its interesting and wonderful programs. Your staff is very graceful and organised in presenting the programs. - Egypt -

● We are regular listeners to your English programs. They are very, very beautiful and we like them very much. - Kaunik, India -

● I can hear your program very clearly in my part of Iran. I benefit greatly from your beautiful and hope-inspiring programs. I pray that God will grant you success. - Iran -

Experience the Power of God's Word



● I want to congratulate you for your programs. I think it's one of the best in Central America! - Francisco, Mexico -

● Our whole family enjoys your program, 'Voice of Hope'. We want to have the Holy Bible along with other Christian literature. - Baby, Pakistan -

● I tuned my radio to your broadcast. The program was a sermon about salvation, baptism and the crucifixion. The news touched my heart and the heart of those in the room with me." - Lazo, Nigeria -

● The programs have been very helpful in my spiritual journey. I am a sailor and when at sea I feel lonely at times but with your company on the program I feel at home. - Karo, Papua New Guinea -

● I am a 28 year old living in the eastern part of Russia. I heard your radio program and it touched me deeply. I've never heard someone speaking about God like you. The knowledge you gave me, the new words about Jesus are so exciting! - Tseta, Russia -

● I am a seventeen year old boy who listens to your radio program. I have found much blessing through your program. I'm praying for you that God's blessings may be with you as you preach the Good News to every nation. - Edmund, Tanzania -

Pastor's Meeting in Taiwan

Hong, Myung Kwan, Sabbath School/Personal Ministry Directory and David Parks, Ministerial Association Secretary of the NSD were the featured speakers at a Pastor's meeting in the Taiwan Mission, January 19-22, 1998. The meeting was held at the Mission office in Taichung.

Pastor Hong presented a series of lectures on Small Group Ministry with opportunity for the pastors to spend time in groups to practice and experience the principles he presented. Pastor Parks gave a series of Biblical studies on the Gospel Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20 and also shared additional information about the Net '98 evangelistic program.

David Parks, Ministerial Association Secretary

Thanks from Editor

We recently received two letters from the USA. Mrs. Edith Smith wrote as follows: "We just received the News & Views (Vol. 2, Num. 11). ...I read it all... My heart has always been with the Far Eastern Division. ... We paid for the first machine to help broadcast the Voice of Prophecy in Korea." Dr. & Mrs. A. V. Wallenkampf had been at the Baesa campus of Philippine Union College in 1972-1976. In the letter Mrs. Wallenkampf says, "Perhaps there may be someone in your office or elsewhere in the Division who remembers my husband as their teacher in the Seminary ... Unfortunately, my husband is very ill and has been for some time with a terminal illness." May the Lord sustain and bless these former missionaries.



A Significant Event of This Year

Religious Liberty Special in Korea June 12-13, 1998

"If we do not have religious liberty, we can not worship God freely."

- Celebration : 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Purpose : Maintaining & Expanding Religious Liberty
Programs : Messages, Reports, Lectures and Music
Guests : John Graz and Bert B. Beach from General Conference
Attendees : Delegates from Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong etc.



*Dr. John Graz,
Director of Public
Affairs and
Religious Liberty*



*Dr. Bert B Beach,
Director of
Inter-Church
Relations*

Part 1: Religious Liberty Symposium

Time : 9:30 - 15:00 on June 12 (Friday), 1998

Venue : Korean Sahmyook University

* This program is focused on both Adventist and non-Adventist people. The tone of the meeting will be some what scholastic. We will invite other religious leaders and political leaders. This occasion will be a tremendous opportunity to share our faith with others.

Part 2: Festival of Religious Liberty

Time : 14:00 - 16:00 on June 13 (Sabbath), 1998

Venue : Seoul Adventist Hospital Church

* This program is especially focused on Adventist people.

Communication/PARL Advisory & ADRA Workshop in Korea

Since all five local conference Communication/Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) directors are newly elected in January at their conference constituency meetings and also Korean Union Conference (KUC) Communication/PARL director was newly chosen in February, Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Communication/PARL department held an urgent Communication/PARL Advisory for them on March 4-5, 1998 at the KUC office. An ADRA Workshop was also conducted simultaneously because KUC and all five local conference Communication/PARL directors are ADRA directors too.



Participants of Communication/ PARL Advisory & ADRA Workshop in Korea on March 4 - 5, 1998
Kim, Ha Young; Kim, Jae Ho; Tadaomi Shinmyo; Shin, Won Shick; Koo, Hyun Suh; Jung, Bo Yong; Kim, Choon Soo. (from left)

Tadaomi Shinmyo had the responsibility of leading the advisory for the Communication and PARL departments, which was done with computerized slide presentations using a video projector. He dealt with topics such as Communication Department Policy, a brief history of the Voice of Prophecy, Radio & TV Broadcasting, Bible Correspondence School, and Making Our Church More Attractive on the first day. Besides these lectures the participants also had the opportunity of a two hour trip to the Voice of Hope studio, Adventist Media Center in Korea, Korean Publishing House and the Bible Correspondence School on the second day. They were urged to deepen their understanding of broadcasting, picture taking and publishing as communicators.

On the second day Tadaomi Shinmyo focused on freedom of religion. For many of them the concept of religious liberty was a brand new idea and they appreciated the advisory so much. He covered the work of PARL with topics such as Religious Liberty, What is PARL?, What is International Religious Liberty Association? and religious liberty special events, namely Symposium of Religious

Liberty on June 12 and Festival of Religious Liberty on June 13, 1998 at Seoul, Korea. For the special events in June the NSD has invited Drs. John Graz and Bert Beach from the General Conference PARL department. This NSD-wide program will be advertised broadly through all possible channels of our church for the next several months.

At the same time Hyun Suh Koo had a workshop for ADRA, both on the first and second day. In a sense it was very good timing to hold a seminar of communication and ADRA together. Because the work of ADRA is a forerunner of the Adventist church, people will open their hearts and minds towards our church through the humanitarian work of ADRA. Therefore ADRA can be a bridge between our church and society. ADRA is considered as one of means of communication for our church.

Union Communication/PARL director Koo went the second mile during the advisory because he had to translate Shinmyo's English lectures into Korean besides his own Korean lectures for ADRA.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

Christianity in North Korea and Adventists

Division of Korea

The work of Seventh-day Adventists was begun by laymen in 1904 at Pusan in the present Republic of Korea (South Korea) by Son Heung Cho and at Chinnampo in the present Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) by Im Ki Pan. The Adventist work was well developed in north and south before World War II and the Korean War. During the Korean War (1950-1953) many Adventists escaped from North Korea to South Korea. However, there may be Adventists who still keep their faith in North Korea, even today.

Christianity in North Korea

According to Korean Newsreview, a monthly magazine, there are 520 house churches and 12,000 Christians in North Korea. The Religious Liberty Advisory Committee of the State Department in the USA recently announced that the house church movement is growing in North Korea even though all religious activities are forbidden. The report also says that the lack of pastors and the persecution policy of the government are major factors to make the number of house churches increase in the country. Recently, delegates from the United Methodists in the USA visited

North Korea for four days and had a meeting with present religious leaders. Furthermore they had a worship service at the Bongsoo Church in the country.

A major hindrance in North Korea is that it is said that Kim Il Sung's family is deified. Kim Il Sung, who was a human being and passed away, is the only god in North Korea. It is expected that the gospel can be easily spread to the whole country if the door to Christianity will be once opened. An advantage is that the size of the country is small and the people are very genuine and honest.

A winter view of south part of North Korea beyond the river.
(Picture taken from the place of Unification Observatory)



One Defector Family from North Korea became Adventists

Up to now in South Korea there are 700 defectors from North Korea. It is not so easy for them to become Christians because they are confused in the democratic society which is totally different from their former communist one which does not recognize the God who is invisible. They usually refuse God at first because they were trained by anti-religious education. Therefore Christians are encouraged to approach them with warm hearts, seeking to understand the cultural difference and to help them according to their felt needs. Among the 700 defectors at least 3 people are studying theology and 2 of the 3 are studying at Korean Sahmyook University, an Adventist School.

In 1997 two families (14 people) escaped to South Korea from North Korea by a boat, but not through a third country. One of the families, Won Hyung Kim family, has decided to be Christians following their ancestors who were Seventh-day Adventists. Because of the Korean War, the family members were scattered. When his sister in South Korea visited North Korea, she found him. Then he decided to escape from North Korea to South Korea in order to meet his brother and sister. Kim's mother, living in South Korea had prayed earnestly with her daughter for her sons in North Korea for 46 years. Therefore this reunion between her and one of her sons is considered as God's answer to her prayer with her daughter. They are still praying for the oldest son in North Korea so that they may unite together in the near future.

Adventist Work in South Korea

Today we have the official religious organization of the Seventh-day Adventists in South Korea with one union conference, five local conferences and many different institutions such as schools, hospitals, food factories, language institutes, etc. There are about 670 organized churches with 145,000 members. The Adventists in South Korea are praying for the salvation of the people of North Korea and the Adventist headquarters in South Korea is ready to enter North Korea with the gospel at any time.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

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