

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 2, Number 14

NSD Mid-year Committee in Hong Kong

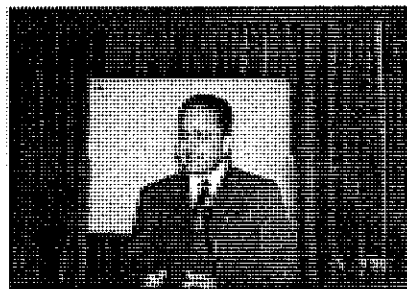
The Mid-year Committee of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) was held in the chapel of the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital on May 4 and 5, 1998. There were 22 delegates from the NSD, Korean Union Conference (KUC), Japan Union Conference (JUC), South China Island Union Mission (SCIUM) and East Asia Association (EAA).

One of the special features of the committee was a 2 hours devotional time each day. Dr. Teofilo Ferreira, Associate Director of the White Estate of the General Conference, was the guest speaker. His topics included word studies on righteousness, covenant, inspiration, atonement and judgement. He also presented material on the life and ministry of Jesus, the work of the Holy Spirit, and principles of healthful living which are the three topics most written about by Ellen G. White. His scholarly presentations were very much appreciated by the participants. Dr. Ferreira also presented Spirit of Prophecy seminars in the JUC and in the SCIUM in connection with this visit to the NSD.



Hong Kong Adventist Hospital where the NSD Mid-year Committee was held on May 4 and 5, 1998.

Besides routine agenda items like policy amendments, authorized meetings, etc., this Mid-year Committee dealt with two special issues and spent most of the committee time on them. One of them was the survey report about EAA. This is a report from the EAA Survey Team composed of 9 members who are the NSD officers; KUC, JUC and SCIUM Presidents; and 3 representatives from other divisions. Every area of activity of EAA was carefully examined by the survey team, then commendations and recommendations were presented. Although there are some difficulties or limitations in terms of evangelism in China, the church growth in China has been 10% for the last several years. For the past 20 years EAA has focused on radio programs for proclaiming the Three Angels Messages to China,



Dr. Teofilo Ferreira, Associate Director of the White Estate of the General Conference.

but now it will focus on strengthening its publishing work. As questions and suggestions to EAA were raised by attendees at the committee, Dr. Eugene Hsu, President of EAA, responded to them and gave an accurate picture of our work in that great country.

Another main issue at the Mid-year Committee was the proposal for the reorganization of JUC. At last year's NSD Annual Council in Korea, the basic idea of reorganization of the Union was approved and the Union was requested to present a more detailed plan to this committee. In order to concentrate the resources of the Union on evangelism and to utilize the funds efficiently, the structure of the Union, including two local conferences and one mission, will be reorganized. The biggest change will be found in the local conferences and mission, which have only a president with no treasurer, no secretary and no departmental directors.



**NSD officers,
Elders Martin
Moores, P.D.
Chun, and
Richard Liu
(from left)**

Each conference or mission president will be expected to concentrate on evangelistic work. In other words, the Union will have the responsibility of all the administrative work. At the same time the Union will increase its departmental directors and these workers will directly help the local churches. Elder Takashi Shiraishi was asked to prepare the flow chart of the new organization or structure at the NSD Annual Council in Ilsan, Korea at the end of October, 1998.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

Meetings for NSD SS/PM Leaders

SS Workshop, SS/PM Directors Certification Program

A Sabbath School Workshop was conducted April 10-12, 1998 at the Hong Kong- Macao Conference office and a SS/PM Directors Certification program

followed on April 13-16 at the conference room of the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital.

The featured speakers at the SS Workshop and the SS/PM Certification program were Dr. James W. Zackrison, Director of the General Conference SS/PM Department and Dr. Jonathan Kuntaraf, Associate Director of the department.

The SS Workshop was sponsored by the Hong Kong -Macao Conference about 50 SS leaders from the Conference attended.

The SS Leaders at the workshop greatly appreciated the presentations which covered "Sabbath School

Revitalization," "Sabbath School Action Units," "Successful Sabbath School Leadership" and "Teaching Skill for SS Teachers." They were given many useful skills on how to run the Sabbath School effectively and efficiently.

The NSD wide SS/PM Directors Certification Program was one of the Department's most important meetings in 1998. The SS/PM Directors from all 3 Unions and EAA, and the Local Conferences/ Missions were provided many useful insights and were challenged to pick up skills and materials which would be useful in their local fields through the several different featured lectures.

The title of the lectures were; Guidelines for SS/PM Directors, International Institute of Church Ministries by Dr. Kuntaraf on the first day, Shared Vision for Mission, and Shared Vision for Bible Schools by Dr. Zackrison on the second day, and Ingathering Proposals, the Local Church by Dr. Kuntaraf on the last day.

The attendees were equipped with much information on the SS/PM Director's job description and were trained to serve people with better strategies in the Guidelines for SS/PM Directors seminar.

The NSD has accepted the International Institute of Church Ministries (IICM) system which has been introduced by the GC SS/PM Department. This system is designed to train leaders by providing a high quality curriculum. In this meeting each union modified and adapted the curriculum to meet the specific needs of its own field. Plans for implementation were also discussed.

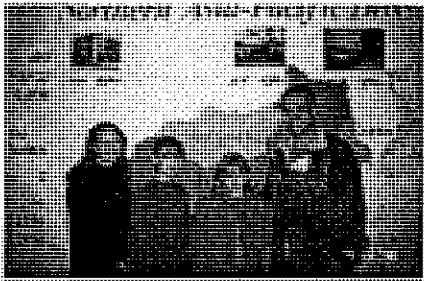
Another specific focus of the certification program was on the strategy under the title "A Shared Vision for the Local Church." Our Departmental Directors actually imagined that they were the local church members and going through the process they would have to go through. Through this seminar they were trained how to make plans with new methods to improve the local churches. All the participants are committed to enthusiastically working the SS/PM field with new methods and vision with God's help.

We would like to thank Dr. Zackrison and Dr. Kuntaraf for their well-prepared and precise lectures and materials.

Myung Kwan Hong, *SS/PM Director*

The Tunnell Family Assigned to Mongolia

The first official ministerial credentialed missionary to Mongolia was sent on April 17, 1998. Elder Dale Ray Tunnell was born into an Adventist home. He is a 5th generation Adventist and his father is an Adventist minister also. Elder Tunnell finished his BA at Southern College and M.Div. at Andrews University Theological Seminary. Before becoming a missionary he served in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of the North American Division. He and his wife Cheryl with their two daughters visited the Northern Asia-Pacific Division office from April 15 to 17.



The Tunnell Family, a missionary family to Mongolia.

Tadoami Shinmyo, *Communicaion/PARL Director*

Family/Children's Ministries Seminar in Okinawa

An Interview with Dr. Mary Wong, Director of Family/Children/Women's Ministries

Editor: "Hi, Mary! What kind of meeting did you have in the Japan Union Conference?"

Wong: "I conducted a Family and Children's Ministries Seminar on May 9 (Sabbath) and 10 (Sunday), 1998 at the International Church in the Okinawa Mission, Japan."

Editor: "What was the purpose of the seminar?"

Wong: "Well, there were two objectives. One of them was related to the Family Ministries, and it was to show the parents how to develop spiritual values in their children. Another was to demonstrate how to make the Sabbath School curriculum for children,

which was produced by the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference."

Editor: "How many hours did you spend on this seminar?"

Wong: "First of all, I preached at the church in the compound of the Okinawa Mission office during the church service on the Sabbath. The sermon title was *The Holy Calling of A Mother*. In the afternoon, we presented the *Women's Ministry Scholarship* to Miss Mika Yagi, who studying medicine in Okinawa. The *Women's Ministries Department* of the General Conference provided her with three thousand dollar scholarship. I spoke from 3:00 to 5:15pm in the afternoon of the Sabbath and from 10:00am to 3:00pm on Sunday."

Editor: "What was the main target audience for you and how many attendees did you have?"

Wong: "The target of the first day was parents and there were about 75 church members. The second day was for the teachers and leaders of children's Sabbath School and there were around 55 people."

Editor: "How did you present your message this time?"

Wong: "On the first day I gave lectures with OPH, but on the second day I made my workshop more practical. After presenting the principles for a new approach in teaching children's Sabbath School, I gave the participants practical experience. Attendees were divided into small groups, and each group was involved in activity about the Creation Story and the story of David and Goliath in the Bible. One group did a drama presentation, and the another sang a song. The participants really had a lot of fun. My intention for this program was to enable the teachers to experience the joy that the children will have in the new approach."

Editor: "As a whole what was your impression of the seminar?"

Wong: "Oh, I found people there were very friendly, hospitable, and responsive. Additionally, the pastor with his family and leaders for the seminar were so helpful. They gave me a strong support. I was very happy."

Editor: "I am glad to hear it. Thank you so much taking your time for this interview."

Wong: "You are welcome."

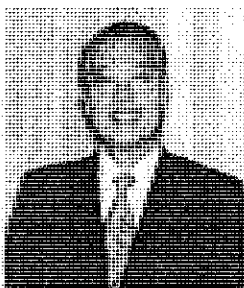
First Adventist Mayor in Japan

Mr. Isoroku Sawada is the first Seventh-day Adventist mayor in the history of Japan. Since August, 1996 he has been working as mayor of Nakamura city in the Kochi prefecture which is on

Shikoku island. A brother of his wife is an Adventist pastor at Hiroshima academy.

Before becoming mayor, he worked at the Economic Planning department of the Japanese central government since 1965 when he graduated from a university in Tokyo. His responsibility was to survey, analyze and make plans for the economic growth, employment growth, international financial balance, etc. of the country.

**Mr. Isoroku Sawada,
mayor of the
Nakamura city in
Japan.**



Thus he has been much involved in making decisions for the development of the Japanese economy. After working for five years at the government office, he was baptized and became a member of the Amanuma church in Tokyo. One of the most challenging issues in his Adventist life was to keep the Sabbath. He sometimes missed good positions and experienced a kind of penalty in the work place because of his stand for the truth. While working for the government, he spent three years at the United Nations in the USA, two and half years in Thailand and half a year in Europe.

In 1996 he was asked by his friends including two former mayors to come back his home town, Nakamura, to participate in the mayoralty election. After serious consideration he decided to resign his job in Tokyo and come back his city to be involved in this election. Although he spent only three months campaigning, he was elected as new mayor of the city.

Since Christianity is a minority religion in Japan, he has some difficulties as an Adventist mayor in his community. Of course, keeping the Sabbath is one of them, but he does not compromise his faith. He says, "It is not good to work continuously without rest on Saturday and Sunday." Another issue is receiving invitations for wedding ceremonies and funeral services of the citizens. Traditionally the mayor has been expected to attend these meetings and to make speeches. He, however, has refused to do so because it takes too much of his time. Furthermore such ceremonies and services are often conducted by priests of Shintoism or Buddhism.

The Seventh-day Adventist church began working in Tokyo, Japan in 1896 through the efforts of an American missionary and a Japanese young man who was converted in the USA. The Japan Union Conference has now around 14,000 members in two local conferences and one mission. The institutions include schools, hospitals, homes for the aged, a food factory and a publishing house.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communnication/PARL Director*

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