

# Northern Asia-Pacific Division



## NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 3, Number 29

### Secret of Church Growth in Korea

#### *Lay Businessmen Evangelism Association*

In the previous issue of "NEWS & VIEWS," Elder P. D. Chun, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, wrote an article, "Ten Baptisms at Tokyo Korean Church." He said, "These people did not make the decision for baptism at the evangelistic meetings, but through personal contacts by lay evangelistic team members from the West Central Korean Conference." Furthermore, he explained how the team worked hard during the meetings.

As a Japanese, I know it is very rare now to hear of ten baptisms after a series of evangelistic meetings in Japan. What was the secret of the successful effort? It was the lay evangelistic team, according to Elder Chun. Therefore, I wanted to know more about the team and its base organization, the laymen association in Korea.

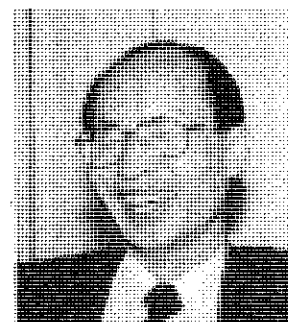
On August 3, 1999, I was able to have an interview with Mr. J.M. Lee, president of "Lay Businessmen Evangelism Association (personal translation from the Chinese characters used)" in Korea. Elder Chun translated Korean to English for me while we talked.

The first "Lay Evangelism Association" was born in the East Central Korean Mission in 1968. The same associations were organized later on in other missions. In 1986, "Adventist Laymen's Service and Industries Association (ASI)" was organized in Korea. The Korean Union Conference (KUC) combined the two lay associations and made them into one, "Lay Businessmen Evangelism Association" in 1996. Mr. Lee has been president of ASI since 1992 and also president of the combined associations since 1996. He is head church elder at the Songnum SDA Church and vice president of a company as a businessman.

This association has a constitution and it covers general rules, officers and members, general meetings, elections, finances, and additional rules. Since the purpose is to spread the three angel's messages, my questions are focused on evangelism.



*Elder P. D. Chun*



*Mr. J. M. Lee*

Q. How many lay evangelistic teams do you have now?

A. There are 27 lay evangelistic teams with 800 members in the 5 local conferences of KUC. The first one was called "Adventist Evangelism Association" in the East Central Korean Conference. A short time later, "Emmanuel Evangelism Association" was born with the members composed of various conferences under the leadership of the Church Ministries Department in KUC.

Q. How many members are there in each team? Are there women, too?

A. Each team has 20 - 30 members. Yes, there are ladies, too, because husbands and wives become members together. Furthermore, we have one team composed of only women in each conference now.

Q. How do the evangelistic team members work? Do they preach in the meetings?

A. Yes. While we help pastors' evangelistic meetings, we conduct the meetings by ourselves. They are usually 7 - 10 days long. During the period, we visit house to house for giving the Bible study, health talk, counselling, hydro-therapy, massage, acupuncture, chiropractic, etc., in the daytime. Then, we have the evangelistic meetings in the evening. Generally speaking, they cover their own travel expenses and usually bring their own food with them. Accommodation is provided by the host church.



*A lay evangelistic team which helped Elder P. D. Chun's meeting in Tokyo (June, 1999).*

Q. How often do you conduct the meeting? Are the teams busy?

A. It depends on the team. Each team holds evangelistic meetings 2-10 times a year. The team composed of farmers choose their own leisure seasons.

Q. Where is it more popular to conduct meetings: in a rural or an urban area?

A. Both. Once upon a time, it was more popular in a rural area. However, because of our health approach, the popularity is catching on in urban areas. We combine the doctrinal and health messages together. For example, we use health treatment in the day time and present the Bible doctrine in the evening.

The more I listened, the more I was convinced that one of the secrets of the church growth in Korea lies in the very active Lay Businessmen Evangelism Association. As far as I know, there is no such powerfully working lay organization in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and mainland China. It is good for church leaders to think of organizing such laymen organizations in each country or territory.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication /PARL Director*

## NEWSTART: Education or Evangelism?

*Japanese Pastors receive  
training at Sahmyook  
University in Korea*

During the second week of August a group of 24 pastors and 14 wives, headed by Elder Kyoichi Miyazaki, went from Japan to Sahmyook University, in Korea, to receive training on the NEWSTART program.

The following are excerpts of the presentation that Dr. Carlos G. Martin, NSD Health Ministries Director, offered to this group of workers.

The policies, structures, and strategies of mission are related to at least three theological issues. A major issue is a theology of mission. Some Adventists do not understand that the purpose of our Health Ministry is evangelistic.

However, a healthy Adventist theology of mission should lead pastors and administrators, colleges and hospitals, to develop programs and strategies which will lead the church in accomplishing God's mission of saving sinners.

To underline his point, Dr. Martin said that if "health evangelism falls short of leading those who come to our programs to a knowledge of the Plan of Salvation, we are only producing healthy sinners."

Another theological issue is reflected in our policies, structures, and strategies is the priorities of mission. An Adventist theology of mission will give priority to the "evangelical mandate" of leading sinners to repentance; however we must not forget the "cultural mandate" of loving our neighbors. Dr. Martin insisted that the "cultural" aspect is subordinated to the "evangelical" commission.

Ministries created under the cultural mandate serve as tools to fulfil the Great Commission. Seventh-day Adventists should remember that all ministries focused on services, such as Community Services, Language Schools, and Health Evangelism are not ends in themselves but means to accomplish a higher goal.

A third theological concern is the relationship between the Health message and evangelism. Dr. Martin defined evangelism as "the presentation of biblical doctrines in the power of the Holy Spirit in such a way that people will be persuaded to accept Jesus as Saviour and serve Him in the fellowship of the church."

When the Health message is taught to nonbelievers we have "health education." When the Health message is used for winning souls and in direct connection with a doctrinal series we have health evangelism.

The Health message provides the principles upon which the methods of health evangelism are based. It is well known that the Health message provides ways to break down prejudices and gain sympathies among nonbelievers.

However, if an "evangelistic effort" using NEWSTART ends without a connection to doctrinal series, it should not be called "evangelism" but "education."

The work of health evangelism is to open doors. However, experience has taught that when pastors using NEWSTART do not secure an immediate continuity with the other Adventist doctrines, much of the gains of the effort dissipates in a few days. The door is opened for a few days, when hundreds attend NEWSTART sessions, but in many occasions people are left in darkness with respect to the most important truths for this time.

There are several options for the use of the Health message as an "entering wedge." One approach involves using health to emphasize and teach religion, and using religion to strengthen and support the principles of health.

NEWSTART, however, presents the Health message to nonbelievers, and ends by presenting the issue of trusting in God. This is an ideal bridge to continue with additional transitional issues such as Prayer and the Bible.

Pastors understood that it is essential that a doctrinal series will follow immediately. It was suggested that pastors could offer a major NEWSTART program in their churches at the beginning of September, 2000, so that it may be followed up by the doctrinal series of ACTS 2000, which will start on September 29.

NEWSTART is already serving as a blessing to those churches which are using it as a door to more advanced biblical principles. Your church can also experience a new start if you implement these principles!

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Carlos G. Martin, MA/GM/HM/AGCN Director

## A free service from NSD office

### *from Ministerial Association*

The NSD Ministerial Association is providing a new service. However, it is not limited exclusively to pastors but it is also available to office staff, Language Institutes, Hospitals, Publishing Houses, educational workers, etc.

The NSD MA office will send EVERY working day, FIVE TIMES A WEEK, throughout the WHOLE YEAR, illustrations, church growth ideas, soul-winning materials, sermon ideas, and news of pastoral interest to all those who meet the following conditions:

- 1) They must be denominational workers
- 2) They must have an e-mail address
- 3) They are willing to receive these materials IN ENGLISH

This service is completely FREE and is available just for the asking. Some of these materials may have a Western flavour; nevertheless many of them are usable. The length of the materials will be usually less than one page.

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NSD e-mailing lists will be update at the beginning of each month.

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Carlos G. Martin, MA/GM/HM/AGCN Director

### PEOPLE OF HOPE

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

# Health Caring & School Rebuilding in Kosovo

## *Involvement of ADRA Japan*

**A**DRA Japan has been in Kosovo for several months conducting the primary & community health care project. The ADRA Japan medical team composed of 7 volunteers, including a medical doctor, is working in the 5 villages which are located in the southern part of the capital of Kosovo.

This moving clinic will continue to do its mission until December, 1999. According to Pastor Toshiya Stephano Tsukamoto, director of ADRA Japan, the Japanese government gave about 28 million Japanese yen for this project to ADRA Japan.

Besides this medical work, Pastor Tsukamoto is involved in rebuilding one of the 104 schools in Kosovo projected by the ADRA International. ADRA Japan is assigned to recover a school in Shale village, which was very badly destroyed by the recent war between Yugoslavia and NATO. Since the damage of the school is so serious, it is planned to establish a new school building. The estimate cost of the construction is 30 million Japanese yen. The school is for elementary and junior high school children with an enrolment number of around 900.

Before rebuilding the schools, mines must first be removed. The soldiers of Yugoslavia used the school building as their base camps as they fought their enemies. They placed mines in and surrounding the schools. Mines are really serious obstacles for the project of rebuilding schools in Kosovo. It will cost about 30 million Japanese yen for the mine professional teams, from the area of the school, to remove the dangerous explosives.

Pastor Tsukamoto says, "We need at least 60 million Japanese yen to remove the mines and to construct a new school building." The completion of the new school will be next year, but the new school year starts in September of this year. Therefore, the school children have to study under the tent prepared by UNICEF until their school is rebuilt. If you are interested donating for the above projects by ADRA, please show your generosity.

Furthermore, Pastor Tsukamoto is looking for some volunteer medical doctors who will be able to participate in the moving clinic in Kosovo for at least one month. He needs doctors of surgery, internal medicine, paediatrics, and gynaecology. If there are such doctors willing, please contact me so that I may give them more detailed information.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

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### NEWS & VIEWS

Editor Tadaomi Shinmyo

Assistant to Editor Nolly Martin

### *We Welcome Your Reports to* **NEWS & VIEWS**

Editor

Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Sam Hee Plaza (5th floor),

66 Chuyop-Dong, Ilsan Gu,

Koyang City, Kyonggi-Do,

Republic of Korea 411-370

E-mail shinmyo@kornet.net

TEL (82)(344)910-1500

FAX (82)(344)919-4412

Web Site

<http://www.sdansd.org>