

# Northern Asia-Pacific Division



## NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 4, Number 34

### My Home Church

#### *Evangelistic Meeting in Taiwan*

Some forty years ago when I was a high school student, I attended the Taipei City Church. As a member of that church I often joined a youth group to help with Milton Lee's Public Evangelistic Campaigns. I remember vividly that in order to avoid the policeman we had to put posters on telephone poles and walls of small alleys on evenings. Two by two, riding on our bikes with a bucket of glue hanged in front and a stock of posters at the back, we went all over the city until late midnight.

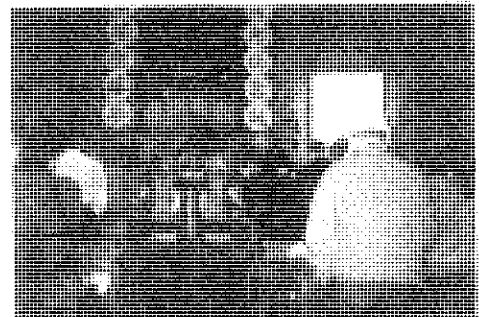
I admired Elder Milton Lee very much. He was at his 40s, tall, and handsome. With a deep voice he spoke almost perfect Mandarin. Nobody could tell that he was an American when listening to his preaching over the radio. His meetings were held in public halls most of the time: City Hall, International Student Center, Military Auditorium, etc. Hundreds and thousands were drawn to his evangelistic series of thirty consecutive nightly meetings.

In the 1970s I came back from the US to serve at the college after finishing my graduate studies. Since then I had more chances to visit Taipei. I never turned down an invitation to preach on a Sabbath at the Taipei City Church. Yet every time I visited that church my heart aches when I see only 1/3 or more than 1/4 of the attendance they had forty years ago when I was a member of the church.

In the last five years a college classmate has served as the pastor of Taipei City Church. Last year while attending a board meeting, I had the chance to preach at my home church again. I asked my friend if he would give me half an hour to meet the church leaders. During the meeting, I first asked them, "When was the last time the church had a public evangelism in a rented hall?" The answer was, "Twenty years ago." "By whom?" "Milton Lee," came the answer. "When was the last evangelistic meeting in the

church and by whom?" They answered, "Five years ago and by Milton Lee also." Then I asked, "Do you have a special message to preach to the world?" Quiet! I challenged them somehow harshly, "If we are preaching the same message that Sunday churches are preaching and they seem to attract more than we do, we might as well join them and close our door." At that point they were completely awakening and decided to have an evangelistic meeting, at least for a try. They asked me to be the preacher plus to give a training seminar.

*Taipei  
City  
Church  
in  
Taiwan*



I emphasized that God's work has to be done in God's way. Perhaps there is no Milton Lee, no budget, no famous evangelist to draw a crowd, but they cannot reach a crowd without prayer, especially when people are wild during the celebration of the last Christmas of a millennium. Most of the senior members may not be able to come out to help or bring friends to the meetings, but they can pray. I invited them to try on God. I encouraged them to organize all members into prayer bands and assign the ones who cannot attend to pray for the meetings during a specific hour of the day.

I preached at the church the Sabbath before the meetings. Someone counted that there were exactly fifty-three attendances. My heart sunk! The first night I decided to invite an elder or two to the back of the church and knelt down to pray to the Almighty God. We asked for one hundred people. I thought that the number was good enough. The attendance even doubled the Sabbath morning worship hour! We kept on praying without even daring to peek out how many turned out. Then the pastor came in. We made a prayer as usual and walked out to the platform. And I looked down. What a sight! It was a lot more than the last Sabbath.

After the meeting, I called church leaders to come to the front for a prayer session. I asked them if anyone took the count. "How many people showed tonight?" An elder who had some doubts before the meetings and wondered if it was wise to have such a meeting, answered me enthusiastically, "There were one hundred six!" What can we say but, "Praise the Lord!"

During the last night of the meetings, when I appealed, one person who had never attended church before, stood up then another one, and another one. Some counted that there were seven or eight, and among them there were two with whom the pastor had never had any contact. The church which used to be my home church is still alive! The most important thing is that the members are aware that they have a unique message to tell the world, and that the God they believe is still a living God who hears prayers. Public evangelism still has its place. Right after the meeting, I was invited to hold the same kind of evangelistic series in one of the nearby churches. Pretty soon I may need to switch my line from administrative to evangelism, and I don't mind. As we "experience the certainty of His coming," don't you think that we need more evangelists than administrators?

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Richard Liu, *Secretary*

## Global Mission Pioneers



### *A Church Planting Program*

This article aims to clarify some issues related to the Global Mission (GM) initiative. The GM Pioneer program is a Division-owned, lay-driven volunteer initiative to place an Adventist presence among all unentered people groups throughout the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD).

First of all, GM focuses on church planting. GM coordinators in all Conferences and Missions should identify the places in which they will focus GM work. GM priorities begin with groups of about one million people in which there is no Adventist presence. For instance, a city or a province with four million people should have at least four churches. Once that goal is accomplished, the local organization will focus on the next larger unentered population segments (counties, municipalities, districts, ethnic minorities, etc.) until every individual at each level has had the opportunity to hear the Gospel.

GM money is primarily available to enter these areas. The GM office will not help fund programs in low priority areas.

Second, the main strategy of GM are the Pioneers. GM Pioneers are lay volunteers who commit themselves to work in a church planting project. They are usually sent in teams of two. GM Pioneers are preferably nationals who already know the language and culture. Volunteers agree to serve for at least one year and receive a basic living allowance in exchange. GM Pioneers are required to undergo a special training offered by NSD and Union GM Coordinators. GM will use foreigners as Pioneers only when there are no nationals able and willing to participate in church planting projects.

Third, financial subsidy for GM projects is limited. By January 1, 2000, the budget for the ten Conferences and Missions in the NSD territory (5 in KUC, 3 in JUC, and 2 in CHUM) is US\$147,452.50, which is about US\$15,000.00 per field. This will be supplemented by not used portions of the caps assigned to previous years. China and Mongolia have a separate budget. A local field cannot save the unused portion of the budget for the following year. Requests for financial subsidies must be first approved by the GM Committee at the NSD and then at the GC. Projects which are likely to be approved will include 1) an explanation why that particular church planting project was chosen, 2) a description of the evangelistic strategies and their cost, 3) participants, 4) a time-line, 5) baptismal goals, and 6) date for the organization of the new church. Church building projects may be necessary but they do not occupy a high priority in the GM Pioneer program, so in many cases they are not accepted as part of this program by the NSD and GC GM committees. All congregations are encouraged to organize a Church Planting Committee. They should send their plans to the GM Coordinator of their Conference or Mission; these plans should include a commitment of financial participation. The local Conference GM Coordinator will secure financial participation of the Conference and will send a form entitled "Direct Action Plan" to the Union GM Coordinator. After the Union votes financial participation, the request is sent to the NSD.

There are some common objections to a church planting program. One is that "our field cannot afford more pastors." However, statistics demonstrate that congregations in which their pastors have three, seven, ten, twenty, or more churches at the same time grow faster than congregations in which the pastor has only one church. The main reason is that members develop their spiritual gifts more easily when the pastor is not continually hovering over the church. A second objection is that "rather than planting new congregations we need to strengthen the existing ones." Statistics and experience demonstrate that church planting is the most effective church

growth strategy. Focusing on inreach is one of the best ways to stop growing.

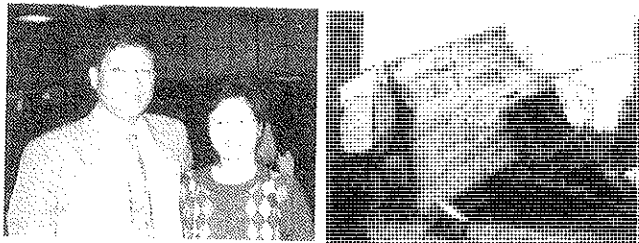
A third objection is that "we already have a church in this city." With more than one thousand churches in the city of Sao Paulo, Brazil, the local conferences are committed to plant an Adventist church every 200 meters! Dumingag, a town of 20,000 in the Muslim area of the Philippines, has two pastors who are in charge of twenty-three SDA churches, and they are planning to plant new congregations! There is always room for more in the Kingdom of God! If you want to become a GM Pioneer or know someone willing to serve as such, contact your GM Coordinator.

Carlos G. Martin, *Global Mission Coordinator*

## Active Korean Pastor helping the victims of the Taiwan earthquake

Pastor Yoon, Sun Hong began his work as missionary from Korea to Taiwan on November 17, 1998. He is currently a senior pastor of the Taichung Church, which is connected with the Taiwan Mission Office.

Within one year after arriving to Taichung city, he and his family experienced the great earthquake on September 21, 1999. Although he was a foreigner and not acquainted with the situation in Taiwan, he demonstrated courage and served as a bold volunteer in helping the victims of the disaster.



*Pastor Yoon, Sun Hong and His wife, Park, Soon Rye (left) and one of the fallen buildings.*

The welfare department of the Taichung Church served at Taichung, Nanto, and Miaoli Hsing areas. Members distributed 985 tents and different provisions valued NT500,000, which were donated from both inside and outside Taiwan. Pastor Yoon called a group of volunteers from Korea in order to help the earthquake victims on November 28-December 6, 1999. The nineteen Koreans, mainly composed of the Korean Sahmyook Senior High School students, visited the suffering people and encouraged them through talks, songs, skits, and fellowship at Taichung and other villages.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

## Coming Events ...

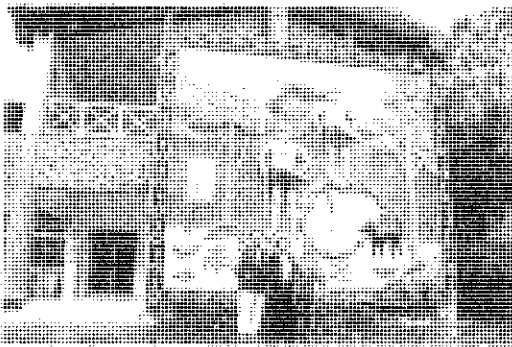
- ACTS 2000 Consultation Meeting*  
January 18-20, 2000  
Seoul, Korea
- Writers Workshop*  
January 27-30, 2000  
Taiwan
- Bible Correspondence School Seminar*  
January 29, 2000  
Okinawa, Japan
- Japan Union Conf. Ministerial Council*  
February 7-10, 2000  
Chiba, Japan
- East Central Korean Conf. and West Central Korean Conf. Lay Evangelism Seminar*  
February 18-20, 2000  
Deer Mountain Camp, Korea
- Bible Correspondence School Seminar*  
February 20-23, 2000  
Taiwan
- Chinese Ministries Committee*  
February 22-23, 2000  
Hong Kong
- Middlewest Korean Conf., Southeast Korean Conf., and Southwest Korean Conf. Lay Evangelism Seminar*  
February 25-27, 2000  
Daejeon, Korea
- Taiwan Mission Youth Leadership Camp*  
February 25-27, 2000  
Taiwan
- Korean Union Conf. Women's Ministries Seminar*  
March 10-12, 2000  
Conference Office, Seoul
- Okinawa Mission Survey Commission*  
March 15, 2000  
Okinawa
- Middlewest Korean Conf. Lay Leaders Field School*  
March 17-25, 2000  
Taeon, Korea
- Hong Kong-Macao Conf. Lay Leaders Evangelism Seminar*  
March 31-April 2, 2000  
Hong Kong
- Hong Kong -Macao Conf. Family Ministries Seminar*  
April 1-3, 2000  
Hong Kong
- Korean Union Conf. Youth Ministry Seminar for Pastors*  
April 3-5, 2000  
Korea

## Revival Meetings (Part 2)

Although the Shuangchi village was badly damaged by the recent earthquake of September 21, 1999, the spirit of our members was strong and positive for recovery. In fact, some church members are still living in tents because of their broken houses, but they are coming to their church and praising the Lord. I have learned many things about the Adventist mission in the mountains of Taiwan through seeing facts with my own eyes and talking with Dr. Lu, who himself was a pioneer worker of several churches.

First of all, there are still many mountain people who can understand the Japanese language. I asked the congregations, "How many of you understand my Japanese sermon more than 50%?" About 10-20% of them raised their hands. Some members carried and read the Japanese translation of the Bible. This time I brought to distribute two hundred copies of the Japanese "Signs of the Times" donated by the Japan Publishing House.

Second, the major religion in the mountains is Christianity. Especially in small villages I could not see Buddhist or Taoist temples. All I saw were Christian Church buildings. I can imagine how the pioneers' missionaries worked very hard to evangelize the mountain people.



*Tuona village office and the Adventist village chief (right)*

Third, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is very strong in the mountains. Our church is usually one of the three largest churches, namely Adventist, Catholic, and Presbyterian. In one village, the Adventist Church has the largest membership with a big church building. In another village, the chief is an Adventist.

Fourth, Adventist in the mountains are very enthusiastic in listening to the messages. Their shining eyes and honest attitudes moved my heart. I was very much impressed by the genuine and simple faith of the village members and their strong responses saying "Amen."

Fifth, it is very difficult for some mountain pastors to make the church membership grow. When I asked a pastor, "What is the most difficult thing for you as pastor in this church?" He answered me, "There are no people to evangelize because all are already Christians." I was astonished to hear that. I envy his problem. In a sense, in his territory, the Gospel Commission is already fulfilled. Of course, he desires to share the Three Angels Messages with other Christians.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

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