

# Northern Asia-Pacific Division



## NEWS & VIEWS

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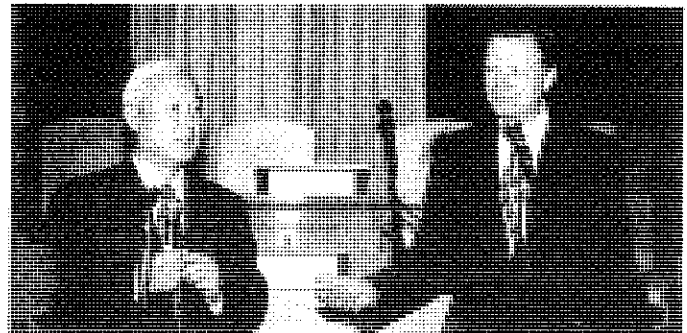
### ACTS 2000 *Training and Ground Preparation Seminar*

On January 18-20, 2000 Elders Mark Finley, speaker of "It is Written," and Royce C. Williams, ACTS 2000 Coordinator, came to Seoul, on their way from ACTS 2000 Madras to their home in the USA. Many pastors from Seoul and delegations from JUC and CHUM gathered on January 19 at the Seoul Language Institute. Elders Finley and Williams explained the underlying philosophies of ACTS 2000 and motivated the attending pastors and leaders to focus on the preparation for this evangelistic event.

Elder Finley explained that the key ingredient for success in this series is a comprehensive "ground work." Both church members and the community need cultivation. The church must secure spiritual revival and training. "When we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure." (Christian Service, 253) Amen! An evangelistic meeting using satellite downlink or video evangelism requires from church the same degree of financial commitment, faithful attendance, and organization in different committees as for public evangelism. Members need training to participate effectively in their different responsibilities during the series.

The community needs to be cultivated. ACTS 2000 is *not* a "seed planting" event primarily designed to attract non-Christians. ACTS 2000 is an ideal opportunity to "harvest" the many interests that our churches have cultivated during the previous months. The results of ACTS 2000 will be in direct proportion to the level of indoctrination that interests received in preparation for the decision meetings. The ideal preparation is to study with all the interests the whole set of doctrines *before* ACTS 2000.

Elder Finley will address his messages primarily to people who have already been exposed to the Adventist message. This preparation can be done through small group evangelism, personal Bible studies, "Voice of Prophecy" materials, etc. By this time of the year 2000 all Unions, Conferences/ Missions, and local churches should have decided on the lessons or materials they will use for this phase of the "ground preparation."



*H. S. Koo, translator (left), and Mark Finley*

On January 20, a group of NSD, KUC, and JUC pastors accompanied Elders Finley and Williams to examine the facilities of Sahmyook University. They considered the auditoriums very appropriate for ACTS 2000. Elder Mark Finley manifested his willingness to preach a series for the students in the mornings and up two sessions in the evenings. With 30,000 church members in the area, they considered that this would be indispensable. Transportation to and from the nearest subway station will be provided for free for those who will attend. ACTS 2000 in Sahmyook University has the potential to be a role model of satellite evangelism for the world.

Encouraging news has just arrive form CHUM. John Ash reports, "We are promoting this series in a way that has NEVER been done in the history of our work." "ALL CHURCHES AND ALL PASTORS (and possibly others in their homes) will begin their meetings on October 20, 2000." They will focus on Taiwan, even though all the materials will be offered in Mandarin, Cantonese, and Taiwanese. CHUM will send all fourteen of the office staffs to work with a specific church in Taiwan at least one time before the meetings, and all of them will be in Taiwan during the series. They have prepared an audiovisual series for preparatory Bible studies.

Four different individuals have been appointed to work in the four areas of this series: John Ash for spiritual preparation, Robert Wong for training, Bob Folkenberg for outreach, and Chet Yat Phoon for the actual meetings. "In proportion to the enthusiasm and perseverance with which the work is carried forward, will be success given." (*Prophets and Kings*, 263)

Success in ACTS 2000 will not be the result of chance. "God does not generally work miracles to advance His truth ... [He] works according to great principles... and it is our part to mature wise plans and set in operation the means [or strategies] whereby God shall bring about certain results." (*Evangelism*, 652-53)

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

## First NSD Writer's Seminar in Taichung, Taiwan

Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) established English as its only official language when it was formed some three years ago. Yet, English is a foreign language to the entire Division territory. Traditionally, literature works mainly depend upon the translation of English books and articles. A translated work is not only the translation of a foreign language but of a foreign culture as well. To reach people's heart with translated literature is not the easiest task. So in the Orient, Christianity is still considered a foreign religion after centuries of missionary work even in Korea where one out of three is a Christian now. With this seminar, I hope that more ministers will start to write articles and books on devotional issues, evangelism, and even theology to reach people's hearts as never before.

A Division-wide Writer's Seminar idea was born under this kind of felt need. On January 27-30, 2000, the seminar was held in Taichung, Taiwan by Elder Marvin Moore, Chief Editor of the *Signs of the Times*, Dr. Carlos G. Martin, NSD Ministerial Association Secretary, who offered a Sermon Writing Course, and Elder Calvin Teng, former Taiwan Mission President, who taught Computer Editing and Researching

Due to the heavy fog in San Francisco, the airport was closed. Elder Marvin Moore had to change his flight schedule in order to be in Taiwan on time. He arrived in Taiwan almost 10:00 p.m. We boarded a bus 10:30 p.m. When we arrived in Taichung, it was already 1:00 a.m. next morning.

The city of Taichung is located at the central part of Taiwan, very close to the epicenter of the last Taiwan earthquake on September 21, 1999. After about four months, some buildings have not yet been fixed. However, the city itself seems to be just as alive as ever, so that no one notices the terrible catastrophe anymore.

Since Elder Marvin Moore and I arrived past midnight, I arranged with Dr. Martin to teach the first morning so that our main speaker, Elder Moore could have some rest after thirty hours flight and waiting in the airports. There were about seventy in attendance, including fifty local pastors from all over the island. The rest were editors and pastors from institutions and others unions.

While holding a seminar at daytime, Elder Moore held three evening meetings preaching on the last -day events. On the first night there were more than one hundred thirty people in attendance. At the end there were forty new names added to the interest list. I wished that the forty would be baptized after the meeting. The lay leaders and pastors who enthusiastically helped with the meetings were encouraged so that they recognized that public evangelistic series by local pastors and the laymen can be successful. The effort is worth the try. The editors of Chinese and Japanese *Signs* plus editors of different institutions learned precious knowledge from the experienced English *Signs* editor. It is our hope that soon we will see innovative improvements on all three languages' publishing work.

Elder Teng's presentation on computer researching through the Internet, computer editing, and Power Point demonstration unexpectedly attracted all the pastors. It shows that our pastors are anxious to learn new ways to present the old time gospel. The most important thing is that we are aware of the nearness of the return of our Lord and the message needs to reach all nations. The watchmen should never slumber.

The timing of the Division-wide Writer's Seminar could not be better. The Chinese Union Mission is promoting ACTS 2000. May the ground work be done in the right way that more souls will be brought to God's kingdom than ever before through the ACTS 2000.

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Richard Liu, Secretary

## "Those Who Hear Will Live!" AWR Offering Day

**T**he offering day for the Japan Union Conference and the Chinese Union Mission will be March 11, 2000. For the Korean Union Conference the AWR offering day will be June 10, 2000.

You know what happens. You've told the story of Jesus to friends, relatives or strangers. You've seen the Holy Spirit work on their hearts, and watched them accept the saving grace of Jesus. It's a life-changing, life-giving experience.

Well, that's what happens to people who hear the good news over Adventist World Radio, perhaps in the privacy of their homes, or in a crowded market place, or in some secret place: they hear the message, and they live! Here are just a few of their stories:

Dencho heard the good news first from some friends. Then one day he prayed, asking the Lord if there was a radio station he could listen to and understand the Word. The answer was immediate: a voice seemed to say, "Listen to your radio at 7 p.m. today." And he did. That was February 1999, when he first heard the Voice of Hope. On May 22, 1999, Dencho entered the baptismal waters with his Savior.

Brother Ho is a new believer in China. The nearest Adventist Church is sixty miles away. Once when he attended there, they told him about the Voice of Hope broadcasts on AWR. He promptly bought a radio, and says, "since then my life has taken on more order. I spend more time listening to your sermons and less time watching TV; more time in reading and less time in chatter. My wife is happy about this change! Your programs have made us a Christian family. We are thankful for this caring God who has brought us such peace and joy."

A long time listener to AWR, Youssif rejoiced when he found that there was an Adventist church in one of the cities of the Middle Eastern country where he lives. He said that the Voice of Hope programs filled him with "love for the Lord" and increased his faith. "I would like to inform you that your efforts bore fruit in front of all those who saw me bury my old life in the pool of baptism and start my new life in Jesus on May 22, 1999,"-- the same day Dencho was baptized in Bulgaria!

Radio broadcasting, when combined with personal visits and Bible study, becomes a powerful, life-changing medium. Do you want to help people hear, to live a new life in Christ? AWR is a donor supported ministry--we need your prayers for the power of the Holy Spirit and your gifts of love. Why not become a regular partner with AWR in sowing the salvation seeds around the world? "Those who hear will live!" John 5:2

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AWR News

NEWS & VIEWS February 2000

## Coming Events ...

### *Taiwan Mission SS and Lay Evangelism Seminar*

April 7-15, 2000

Taichung, Taiwan

### *West Central Korean Conf. Lay Leaders Field School*

April 21-29, 2000

Inchun, Korea

### *Hong Kong-Macao Conf. Stewardship Seminar*

May 5-7, 2000

Hong Kong

### *Northern Asia-Pacific Division Mid-year Committee*

May 10-11, 2000

Okinawa, Japan

### *Okinawa Mission 50th Anniversary Celebration*

May 12-13, 2000

Okinawa, Japan

### *Global Mission Pioneers Training*

June 1-7, 2000

Taipei, Taiwan

### *Korean Union Conf. Public Evangelism & Bible Teaching Seminar*

June 4-10, 2000

Seoul, Korea

### *World Ministerial Council*

June 25-29, 2000

Toronto, Canada

### *57th General Conference Session*

June 29-July 8, 2000

Toronto, Canada

### *Japan Union Conf. English Youth Camp*

August 4-8, 2000

Japan

### *Chinese Union Mission Pathfinders Camporee*

August 10-13, 2000

Taiwan

### *ACTS 2000 Training Seminar*

August 14-17, 2000

Seoul, Korea

### *Northern Asia-Pacific Division 4th Lay Congress*

August 16-21, 2000

Shen Zhen, China

### *Mongolia Mission Field Lay Leaders Seminar*

August 22-29, 2000

Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia

### *Chinese Union Mission Pastors' Kid Camp*

August 28-30, 2000

Taiwan

### *Japan Union Conf. Sabbath School Seminar*

September 1-9, 2000

Tokyo & Okinawa

# BCS Seminar in Okinawa

## *related with ACTS 2000*

Under the banner of "VOP Evangelism Seminar," a Bible Correspondence School (BCS) Seminar was conducted at 3:00-8:40 pm on January 29, 2000 at the Kitanaka Church in the Okinawa Mission, Japan. There were around eighty five participants, including most of the pastors in the Mission. The main speakers were Dr. Tadaomi Shinmyo, Communication director of the Northern Asia - Pacific Division, and Pastor Masaru Kawagoe, Communication director of the Japan Union Conference.

The first purpose of the seminar was to revitalize the BCS in Japan, because a declining trend in the enrollment during the past several years. The second one was to promote the use of BCS as the main method of the preparation for the ACTS 2000 satellite evangelistic meetings on September 29 - October 8, 2000.

Shinmyo spoke of "Efficacy of the BCS," "The BCS for ACTS 2000" and "The Current Trend of the BCS." He used video tapes and computerized presentations in his lectures. It was emphasized that each local church could be a branch of the BCS and that as a result the church would be revived in evangelism. It was also stressed that ACTS 2000 would be a great opportunity to establish a branch BCS at a local church; a congregation could utilize it as an effective method to prepare baptismal candidates, since ACTS 2000 would be a harvest evangelistic campaign.



*The participants of the VOP Evangelism Seminar in Okinawa on January 29, 2000.*

In the meantime, Kawagoe presented "The Method of Mailman Evangelism" and "Let's Use Broadcasting for Evangelism." One of the major roles of a branch BCS is to use the mailman method. He is an expert in mailman evangelism and author of a booklet, "A Manual of Mailman Evangelism." Being also the radio speaker of the Voice of Prophecy in Japan, he talked about the effective relationship between the radio program and the BCS.

Strong and positive responses among the attendants were shown during and after the meeting. There were many questions and comments about our presentations. Since Net '98 in Okinawa was very successful in terms of the number of baptisms, we may expect that the coming ACTS 2000 will be also blessed through the Holy Spirit and the dedication of the church members.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL Director*

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