

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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Almost Home

57th General Conference Session

All roads lead to Toronto! It was the largest, the longest and the most colorful gathering that has ever been held in the two hundred years history of the city of Toronto, Canada. Though the main session was for ten days, the preparatory meetings started some ten days ahead of the session. Even though the authorized delegates were limited to 2,000, about 70,000 Adventists packed the SkyDome. The gathering took place on the diamond ground of the proud Blue Jays baseball team and the world's first stadium with a retractable roof, on Sabbath, July 8. They came literally from "every nation, tribe, tongue, and people" of the world.



High-rise buildings in Toronto, Canada

Their songs and praises almost lifted the SkyDome roof. It was indeed a marvellous scene, a foretaste of the glorious gathering of the redeemed people, "a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands" (Rev. 7:9).



A crowd after the church service on July 1, 2000

Remarkable Growth! When I became an Adventist, I was comforted to know that there were one million Adventist in the world. Now there are more than 11 million among 204 countries of the world. Considering the fact that more than two-thirds of the world's nations have a population of less than 11 million, our membership is not small at all. There is one Adventist for every 552 people.

It was reported that in 1999, 1,090,848 new members joined the remnant church--3,000 every day of the year! Southern Asia, Eastern Africa, Euro-Asia, Africa Indian Ocean, and South America achieved two digits accession rate in 1999,(a growth of more than 10%), while NSD made 7.86% only. Among 12 world divisions NSD is the number one in population, number eight in membership, number five in tithes and offerings, and fourth in per capita.



Delegates from Africa

Major Decisions

1. Constitution and Bylaws were slightly adjusted in order to ensure that the divisions can select at least 10 delegates by themselves. Hereafter, the division department directors can be a part of the official delegate at-large.

2. The Church Manual will be divided into two sections, a section requiring the GC Session approval for changes and the other only requiring GC Annual Council approval.

3. Adoptions of the "Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage" document and Church Manual changes were voted. The term "dis-fellowship" will be replaced with "removal from membership"



After discussing a point of agenda, delegates voted by raising yellow cards.

Highlights of Election

Indeed the election of the world church leadership is the focal point of interest for every Adventist.

First, Dr. Jan Paulsen was reelected to serve five more years as the President of the General Conference.

Second, Dr. Eugene Hsu, the Chinese Union Mission President, was elected one of the seven General Vice Presidents of the General Conference. He is the first Asian among the presidential team. We are very happy and proud of him.

Third, P.D. Chun was requested to continue his current job for the coming years.



Reelected GC President, Jan Paulsen and his wife, Kari

Fourth, Stanley Ng Wai-Chun will replace Pastor Richard Liu, who will be retiring soon, and Pastor R. Martin Moores will continue his job.

Fifth, Pastor Matthew Bediako was elected the Secretary of the General Conference.

Sixth, three other General Vice Presidents were elected, namely : Ted N.C. Wilson, Armando Miranda, and Gerry D. Karst.

Seventh, three new Division Presidents were installed. They are Pardon Mwansa for Eastern Africa, Don C. Schneider for North America, and Arthur Steele for Euro-Asia.

Eighth, two new General Conference Departmental Directors were elected : Jeffrey K. Wilson for Trust Services and Jose Luis Campos for Publishing.

Ninth, six Division Secretaries and seven Treasurers were replaced.



Northern Asia-Pacific Division delegates with their national costumes

No more "Almost Home"

After the colorful Parade of Nations which took two hours in the SkyDome, the 57th General Conference Session was officially declared closed. The delegates and attendees repeated singing the theme song "We have this hope that burns within our hearts, Hope in the coming of the Lord."

We are tired hearing "Almost Home!" We want to shout "Home at Last!" soon, very soon.

P.D. Chun, *President*



A Representative of Her Majesty the Queen, Lieutenant Governor Hillary M. Weston (Center)



A dynamic and enthusiastic singing group



Adventist Women's Choir from Korea



United Nations Under Secretary General, His Excellency Joseph Verner Reed



Lonnie Melashenko, Voice of Prophecy Director & Speaker



Featuring the Chinese Union Mission in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division Booth



The booth of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division



Delegates from the Southern Africa Union



Delegates from the Inter-American Division

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