

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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NSD Nominated New President

at the full executive committee

On February 26, 2003, during the Northern Asia-Pacific Division in-house Executive Committee meeting, Elder Chun, Pyung Duk announced that he has tendered his resignation from the Presidency of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division effective May 15, 2003 and intended to be retired from church employment effective July 1, 2003.

According to the provision of the General Conference and the NSD Working Policy C 17 05, Section 2 and 3, the full NSD Executive Committee was called on March 11, 2003 to recommend a candidate as the new Division President to the General Conference Executive Committee for consideration.



Jan Paulsen (right) speaking to Jairyong Lee (left) after nomination.

Thirty-three Executive Committee members, including the General Conference Executive Committee members from our Division Territory attended this especially called meeting with the presence of Dr. Jan Paulsen, the President of the General Conference who presided the meeting.

Dr. Jan Paulsen explained the procedures of the nomination and shared with the Committee members the

qualifications of a Division President. After much prayers and deliberations, finally, Dr. Jairyong Lee was nominated and recommended to the General Conference as the new president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

Dr. Jairyong Lee began his denominational service in 1970 and was ordained in 1981. He finished his high school at Seoul Adventist High School and earned his BA degree at Korean Union College. Later he received his MA and MDiv degrees from the SDA Theological Seminary in the Philippines in 1978 and ThD degree from Andrews University in 1985.

He was called to be an Assistant Professor at Asia Adventist Theological Seminary (Later it became AIIAS) in the Philippines after his doctoral study at Andrews University. In 1993 he became the Dean of the Seminary until 1997 when he moved to the USA to start the 1000 Missionary Movement that was sponsored by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

In 2001, he accepted the call and came back to Korea, his home country to be the Ministerial Association Secretary, Stewardship Department Director and Global Mission Coordinator for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

May the Lord bless Dr. Lee and his family as they accept such challenge and sacred responsibility.

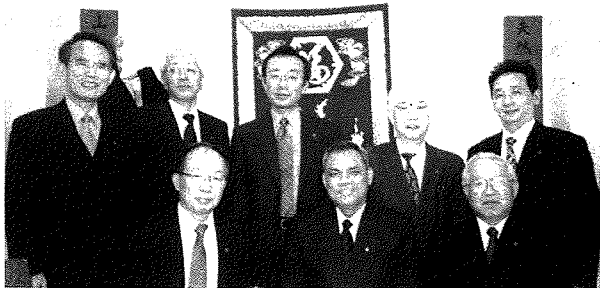
Stanley Ng, *Secretary*

More Attention on Publishing Ministries *through Survey and Evaluation*

The Publishing Ministries Department (PMD) of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), assisted by the General Conference (GC) PMD conducted survey and evaluation of the three Unions' Publishing Houses and Publishing Ministries Departments. Although the NSD policy requires such a survey and evaluation every two years, it has not been done for the past 10 years at some Unions.

Howard Faigao, GCPMD Associate Director, and Tadaomi

Shinmyo, NSD PMD Director, visited Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong on March 3-14, 2003. Since Faigao has been former Asia-Pacific Division Publishing Director, he has already visited all three unions several times and has known the past and present publishing leaders quite well. Moreover, he has really known the whole work of the publishing ministries in detail. Therefore, his presence, insight, suggestion and advice were greatly appreciated by all leaders of each Union.



The survey/evaluation members for the JUC publishing ministries.

First of all, the Publishing House and PMD of the Japan Union Conference (JUC) were surveyed and evaluated on March 4. All three officers, Kenyu Kinjo, Katsumi Higashide, and Daiichiro Ogawa, of the JUC participated in it together with PMD Director, Yoshikatsu Nakamura, ABC Manager, Masao Fukushima, and Editor, Takashi Shiraishi. The Japan Publishing House (JPH) is composed of mainly editorial department. The JPH is producing magazines and books both for subscription and trade. The Japanese Signs of the Times magazine celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2001. The challenge of the publishing work in Japan is to recruit new literature evangelists to stop the decline in the working hours and total sales every year in the past 10 years.



The leaders of the Korean Publishing House with the GC and NSD publishing leaders.

The Korean Publishing House (KPH) and Korean Union Conference (KUC) PMD were surveyed on March 7 and evaluated on March 10. The KUC President, Kei Hoon Shin, PMD Director, Gil Soo Um, and KPH General Manager, Kyu Chul Shin, including its Treasurer, Hyung Shik

Ahn, Editor, Yoon Ho Son, and Factory Superintendent, Won Man Lee, participated. The KPH is one of the major Adventist publishing houses in the world. It has designing, printing and binding department as well as editorial department. The recent significant project of the KPH is the publication of the Korean edition of the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentaries. The bold effort is now going on. One concern is that a large percentage of production in the KPH is for job orders rather than both subscription and trade literature. For example, the KPH is very busy in producing materials for the denominational language institutes. The KUC is the only Union which operates a Literature Ministry Seminary in the NSD.

Finally, the Signs of the Times Publishing Association (STPA) and the PMD of the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM) were surveyed and evaluated. The STPA is located in the Taiwan Adventist Hospital compound in Taipei, Taiwan. For the survey of the STPA on March 12, CHUM Secretary, John Ash, and Treasurer, Paul Cho, participated in besides the STPA Manager/Editor, Hanson Cho, Assistant PMD Director for Taiwan Mission, Lolita Francisco, and Marketing Staff, Esther Feng. The STPA is also mainly composed of editorial department since the printing department was closed in 2000. The challenge of the ATPA is to produce more needed subscription books. Literature evangelism both in Taiwan and



The survey/evaluation members for the CHUM publishing ministries in Taiwan.

Hong Kong in the CHUM is not easy. Fortunately, however, a new horizon is coming in Taiwan by recruiting new literature evangelists. There should be a great effort to revive literature evangelism in Hong Kong.

It was very valuable and beneficial to the publishing houses and PMDs in the NSD to see a clearer picture of their works through survey. In a special way, it was really a rewarded task to get more attention from each union administrators towards the publishing work. Evaluation for each publishing house and PMD including commendations and recommendations were sent to each entity for improvement of its ministry.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, NSD Communication/PARL/Publishing/SOP/ATN Director

Conscientious Objector - sentenced to 18 month-prison in Korea

Lim, Hee Jai, twenty-two-year-old theology student of Sahmyook University in Korea, was sentenced to 18 month-prison for his conscientious objection.

Lim is from the Seventh-day Adventist Dong Gu Neung Church in Guri City, Kyonggi-do and has studied at the Adventist University. When he became senior student of the theology department, he was drafted to military training since August 18, 2002. Then, he rejected to carry guns in the military. Usually, when someone rejects military training after entering in military, the military court has given 3 year-prison sentence until now.

However, on March 10, 2003, the judge gave Lim 18 month-prison sentence rather than 3 year-prison at the 12th Division of Military Police Court in Kangwon-do, Korea. In his case, Jung, Jai Hee, military attorney, was chosen by military court to defend Lim.

Conscientious objection is now one of the social issues in South Korea, because there are around 500 young men, mainly Jehovah's Witnesses, are put into jail every year for their objection to military training. They reject to enter in military although they receive calls to draft. Their cases are now dealt with at civil court instead of military court and they are given 18-month-prison sentence rather than 3-year-prison. Therefore, about 30 NGO groups working for human rights are making a campaign to release conscientious objectors who have been more than 18 months in prison. They insist on equal judgment between civil and military court.

Lim was allowed to speak before the judge. He said, "I hope there will be no more persons like me who will stand in military court because of conscientious objection. I hope the government introduces alternative service to help individuals to serve their country loyally according to their conscience and faith." He cried while he made his speech and the judge was moved by his appeal.

After the judgment, Lim commented his sentence, "I feel more happy though I was sentenced. Because, God has used me to spread the gospel in the military base, a piritual desert. God sowed the seed of the gospel." Further he said, "I am not fighting by myself. Adventist community is very big and a loving community. I was very much encouraged and convinced through the prayers of the Adventist members. I will do my best to live my life according to what they prayed

for me. Although I am a captive in prison physically, I feel free and happy."

Lee, Soo Jai, pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church which is located near to the military court, says, "The real factor to move the mind of people is not the speech or voice of human beings, but the work of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, the prayer of the church members made it possible to decrease the length of prison from 3 years to 18 months."

Under South Korean law, all male youths are required to perform military service for an average of 26 months. Civilian forms of service are available only to those with health problems, while those with serious disabilities are excused. Sahmyook University including junior college and graduate school, has around 5,000 students. Among them around 250 theology students.

Tadaomi Shinmyo, *Communication/PARL/Publishing/SOP/ATN Director*

Adventist Position to War - Church Evaluates Procedures for Emergency Situations

Developing tensions in the Middle East are viewed with concern by Seventh-day Adventist leaders, said Larry Colburn, assistant to the president of the world church.

"We are an international Christian organization, established in nearly every country of the world," Colburn said. "It is only natural for a Christian community to be concerned about the human dimension of any conflict, our own believers and everyone that may be affected. When a conflict develops, innocent people are affected."

The Adventist Church has international personnel, including many volunteers, involved with the church's missionary activities, humanitarian work and administration. Some live in areas that are considered high-risk because of internal or regional strife.

Speaking to Adventist News Network, Colburn said that should the current conflict with Iraq escalate, church leadership is evaluating emergency procedures, including evacuation of personnel, and other potentially adverse effects on the church and its activities internationally.

Colburn said that with each emergency posing different options to consider, "an international team, including representatives from our world divisions, is in place to deal with each situation. We consult often, and consider carefully what response to make, and what procedures to follow."

"We pray, but we also plan ahead in order to be ready for emergency situations that may require special attention," he said. "While we do well to be prepared, as a Christian community we should continue to pray that the winds of strife would be calmed and the conflict will not develop into tragic consequences, often beyond control. War is always the worst option."

"As Seventh-day Adventists we continue to express a position of solving issues through nonviolent ways. As Christians, we are called to be peacemakers," he added.

Last year the Adventist Church's Executive Committee issued a position statement entitled "A Seventh-day Adventist Call for Peace." The statement condemned all forms of violence and terrorism, and called on Adventists to be "agents of peace," and to promote a culture of peace and reconciliation in today's increasingly violent world. "Lasting answers to deep problems of division in society cannot be achieved by using violent means," the statement said.

Ray Dabrowski, *General Conference Communication Director*
[*Adventist News Network, January 28, 2003*]

"Go One Million"

training events in Mongolia

Most recently, we have been conducting Go One Million training events. In the past two months we have had 3 large training events to teach methods of giving Bible studies, and how to use the materials in the training kit. Of the 180 people who have attended the complete 8 hour training, only 90 have been able to pay the \$3.50 needed to purchase the kits.

People continue to scrimp and save to be able to buy the material. They long to have the Bible, Steps to Christ, and other study material at this reduced cost. They are eager to share the Word with their friends and neighbors. The Sow One Billion concept was shared with the members during the Go One Million training. The idea was enthusiastically supported. It was even suggested that Bible school lessons be published and that our churches be encouraged to start Bible schools. This would be an excellent way for our church members to help in sharing the gospel with people that are interested.

Mongolia Mission Field has voted to send out 600,000 invitations to study the Bible during the Sow One Billion initiative. If there is even a one percent response, our membership of just over 400 could be overwhelmed.

Dale Tunnell, *Director of Mongolia Mission Field*

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