

Northern Asia-Pacific Division



NEWS & VIEWS

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2003 NSD Midyear Committee

held in Ilsan, Korea

The Executive Committee of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division met in Ilsan, Korea on May 14 and 15 at the Division office for the NSD Midyear Committee. The committee meetings were co-chaired by Elder Chun, Pyung Duk, the outgoing President, and Dr. Jairyong Lee, the in-coming President.

Following are a few important statistics and the major actions that were taken:

1. As of March 2003, our Division church membership has reached 512,903. The ratio of church membership to population within the Division territories is 1:3,027. The number of organized churches is 904. The total active workers in this Division is 11,829.

2. To appoint a Year of World Evangelism 2004 (YWE2004) Coordinating Committee to encourage all churches, groups and institutions to conduct an evangelistic activity during the year 2004.

3. To approve in concept the establishment of a Geoscience Research Institute, NSD Branch.



The Members of the NSD Midyear Committee

4. To approve the Sow 1 Billion NSD Comprehensive

Plan; a plan that 55.6 million brochures in English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Mongolian will be printed and distributed. The purpose of these brochures is to introduce the population to Christ Jesus to give people the hope of the gospel message.

5. To approve the Operating Policy of ADRA - Mongolia.

6. To record the document, "Positioning the Church for 2020." This document is to enable the church to prepare for future leadership and resource needs in a rapidly changing world.

7. To appoint Kwon, Johnghaeng, KUC Foreign Mission Department Director, as the NSD Associate Ministerial Association Secretary and Stewardship Department Director.

8. To express appreciation to Elder Chun, Pyung Duk for 44 years of extraordinary service and devotion to the Seventh-day Adventist Church; and to Mrs. Chun (Chung, Chung Hee) for 27 years of dedicated service to the Church.

Stanley Ng, *Secretary*

Farewell, Welcome and Retirement Program

for old and new NSD Presidents

During the afternoon of May 15, 2003, following the Northern Asia-Pacific Division Midyear Committee, an impressive program was held at the large Sahmyook University auditorium, Korea. Three special events were featured during the celebration: the Farewell and Welcome Ceremony for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division Presidents, Retirement Service for Elder and Mrs. Chun, Pyung Duk, and the Conferral of an Honorary Doctoral Degree upon Elder Chun, Pyung Duk.

Since the organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Asia in the year 1909 there have been 12 Division presidents. Elder Chun, Pyung Duk has served the third longest term of service as Division president, for almost 11 years, and has the distinction of having served the longest as a Division president in recent times. Elder Chun served as the last president of the Far Eastern Division, the first, last and only president of the Asia-Pacific Division, and the first president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, and has the distinction of being the only person to serve as president of three Divisions. In addition to Division president, he has faithfully and untiringly served in many capacities including Bible teacher, district pastor, departmental director, an institution administrator, and an administrator at various levels of church administration, in his home territory, as well as abroad.



Pyung Duk Chun (left) & Jairyong Lee (right) at Sahmyook University

Mrs. Chung Hee Chun has stood faithfully by her husband's side all these years. She was the perfect president's wife! Mrs. Chun has given 27 years of faithful, committed service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Elder Stanley Ng, Secretary, also extended a hearty welcome to Elder Jairyong Lee who took up the reigns of presidential leadership on May 15, 2003. Elder Lee comes to the Northern Asia-Pacific Division from heading up the extremely successful 1000 Missionary Movement organization in the United States and the Philippines during the past 20 years. On November 7, 2000 Elder Lee was called from the North American Division to join the Division staff as Ministerial Association Secretary, Stewardship Director, and Global Mission Coordinator. As Elder Lee faces the tremendous responsibility of leading this vast Division territory, he is assured of the Lord's help, and the support of his fellow workers in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Mrs. Jairyong Lee is also wished God's blessings as she will faithfully stand by her husband's side throughout the coming years of his leadership.

Elder Jan Paulsen, General Conference President, expressed his congratulations to the two NSD Presidents in absentia by letters read by Elder Douglas Clayville, General Conference Associate Secretary, in attendance from Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, and translated by Kwon, Johnghaeng, KUC Foreign Mission Department Director.

NSD Secretariat

Forty-Four Years Seemed But Four Years *President's Farewell Message*

I never dreamed that one day I would retire at a well-matured age according to the denominational retirement policy. The concept of retirement was totally foreign to me. But when I passed my sixtieth birthday, when I attained the eligibility by policy, I realized it was approaching whether or not I was prepared for it.

Since then I started considering retirement. First thing I should decide was when to retire. For some reasons the first loosely set dates passed by. Then the un-negotiable date was set, that was June 30, 2003. Forty-four years of denominational service and ten and one half years as president of the Division were more than sufficient, if not overdue. My strong conviction is, no matter how capable one is, it is not good that one person serves more than ten years as chief executive officer of the same organization. Let alone for a man who has many weaknesses like me.

During my more than ten years in the Division administration many memorable things took place. In 1994 the Far Eastern Division attained the one million-membership mark. It is the fifth division to reach that mark. The 1000 Missionary Movement commenced in 1992. From its small beginning it grew into a full-grown bi-division institution. Its achievement is remarkable. This year the Pioneer Mission Movement has just launched by sending five Korean pastor families to Japan to study the Japanese language. No one can imagine the full impact of this movement as it expands into every territory of the Division. The last two movements were born through the initiative of Dr. Jairyong Lee, the new NSD president.



Pyung Duk Chun delivers the Morning Devotional during the Midyear Committee in the NSD Office on May 14, 2003

Probably, the most notable thing may be the creation of the Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific Divisions and relocation of the Division offices from Singapore to the Greater Seoul and Greater Manila, respectively. The purposes of the split of the former Asia-Pacific Division were very evident. The ethnic, cultural, religious, linguistic, economic, and

political diversities were more than one division can embrace. By splitting into two, each can achieve its goals more effectively. The second purpose was to include China and Mongolia into a regular Division organization in order to accelerate evangelism. The first purpose has been well achieved while the second is partially achieved. But the rapid growth of Mongolian Church is phenomenal.

I regretfully acknowledge that there are many unaccomplished tasks that are left behind. Among them: the first one is that we could not break through yet with aggressive and effective evangelism in China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, North Korea, South Korea, and Taiwan. I am glad in anticipation that Dr. Lee will successfully make the difference in this matter.

The second one is that we have not yet developed a decent Division compound together with the office building and staff housing. With the current setting we do not experience any major difficulties. However, I feel guilty for passing this task to the next generation leadership. There are many more un-achieved tasks. Maybe some of them may not be achieved until the end of the world.

As I lay down the responsibilities that the Lord and the church have assigned to me, my heart is overflowing with gratitude to the Lord and the church. "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because he counted me, putting me into the ministry." (1 Tim. 1:12) And my thanksgiving goes to numerous fellow church leaders, colleagues, church members, and friends to whom I owe a great deal for their constant support, collaboration, prayers, encouragement and cordial friendship.

Forty-four years passed by very swiftly. Because I loved to work for the Lord, forty-four years seemed but four years as for Jacob the old seven years service for his father-in-law seemed but seven days because he loved Rachel so much.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ and in the blessed hope, be faithful in the faith. Be loyal to the church of God. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is God's last day remnant people through whom He shall finish His work of salvation in this earth. Be diligent in spreading the good news of His soon coming. Jesus is coming, coming soon. Are you ready to meet Him in peace? What profit is it to you if you gain the whole world, but lose eternal salvation?

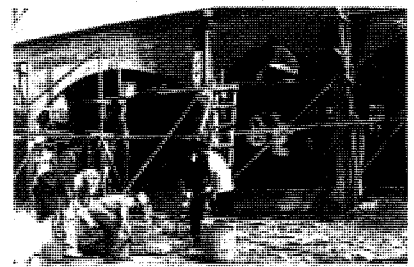
Pyung Duk Chun, *President*

Sow One Billion

Retired Japanese Pastor Built A Church School in Lutucan, Quezon, Philippines

Pastor Nobuaki Imai, retired from the West Japan Conference last year, accomplished a volunteer work together with 10 Japanese volunteers in building a church school in Lutucan, Quezon Province, Philippines, from March 25 to April 7, 2003.

In November 2002, he visited Sariaya 30 minutes distance from Lutucan and conducted a pioneering evangelistic meeting which resulted in the baptism of 64 souls. Then, the church members in Lutucan claimed building a church school in that area. Pastor Imai brought the request to the retired people in Kobe-Arinodai Church in the West Japan Conference. Many of them showed interest. A few more students were added to the retired people, thus a volunteer group was organized. They decided to make up the project with their own expenses.



A Church School under Construction in Lutucan, Philippines by Volunteers

The Lutucan Church members started the construction on January 15, 2003. For the last two weeks the Japanese group joined and worked together with the Filipino brethren. On the ceremony of completion there were much excitement, saying, "This is a realization of our dream. Isn't it a miracle? Collaboration of Japan and the Philippines."

The Japanese were also delighted to participate in the project. They said, "We wish to do another project. We are glad to make new friends. And we are thankful that we are able to help God's work." They are looking forward to the next project.



Ten Japanese Volunteers and Lutucan Adventist Elementary School

Nobuaki Imai, *Retired Pastor in Japan*

"Don't Be Afraid"

SOW ONE BILLION NEWS

Last night I yelled at my wife! And she screamed back so loudly that the baby who lives one floor beneath us started to cry.

Why? It was dark. I awoke with the feeling someone was watching me. After checking, I discovered my wife was not sleeping beside me. So I looked toward the door to our room. It was closed. Still the sensation that some living thing was watching me, persisted. Turning my head again, I caught a glimpse of a person bending over me. The adrenaline surged. I yelled. My wife screamed. The baby woke up.

I can only imagine the talk among our apartment residents today. All because it was dark. And the darkness made it so easy to be afraid. In the light, I would have recognized my sweet wife. In the darkness, I thought she was going to murder me.

It's time to turn the light on in the NSD. We have already started by preparing over 8,000 members with "Go One Million" kits to share God's light with their neighbors so they are no longer afraid.

According to "Sow One Billion" coordinators James Wu, Paul Liu, Lee, Choke Woh, Dale Tunnell, Tadashi Yamaji, and Lee, Hark Bong, there are over 1 billion people living in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Japan, and Korea whose view of God in the dark causes them to be afraid.

On June 8 and 9, "Sow 1 Billion" coordinators and their Communication directors will report, brainstorm, network, and create a comprehensive plan to clearly communicate to **512,903 NSD church members** that **55.6 million "Don't Be Afraid"** pamphlets will be available **September 1, 2003**, to be prayerfully distributed among the **1.5 billion** residents of Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

July has been designated as month of prayer for Sow One Billion. Remember when the **Kings Heralds** used to sing, "If we ever needed the Lord before, we sure do need Him now!"

It's true. What shall we pray for in July?

1. That God will make each of us willing to share an average of three "Don't Be Afraid" pamphlets per day for one year with our neighbors, friends, and fellow travelers;
2. That God will help us dedicate a pocket in which we can keep a supply of "Don't Be Afraid" pamphlets;
3. That God will help us volunteer to join our local church's Bible School to follow up the interests generated by 55.6 million "Don't Be Afraid" pamphlets;
4. That God will help us to NOT BE AFRAID as we turn on the Light of Life in our neighborhoods.

God says, "They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest." Psalm 126:6. Sunlight ripens the harvest. The sun is rising. The morning is calm. A great harvest will soon be ready. Would you volunteer? If so, please sing, "Sowing in the morning..."

Ma, Yo Han (John McGhee), *Sow One Billion Coordinator*

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