

News & Views

September / October 2006

Let Us Share HIM

“Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.” Proverbs 25:25. The world today is small due to mass media, fast transportation, and internet, yet Kampala, Uganda is still a distant land to Asians. Here is the good news.

Our group of 10 Theology students from Sahmyook University and 1 Theology professor, along with 1 support staff from Ajoo University joined in an evangelistic campaign called the ‘ShareHIM’ which is held throughout the year, all over the world. Each one of us became speakers at different sites for 16 nights with 19 messages to present. Our group joined other speakers from the United States and Romania. Our campaign dates were from July 14-29, 2006. The good news is, at the end of the campaign, God has blessed our Ko-

rean group by reaping around 629 souls into baptism. I believe there were more baptisms even after we left Kampala.

I was assigned to a school called Bulenga Light College, a school with students that varied from elementary school students to high school student. An average of 900 to 1,000 people gathered each night to listen to the message. It was such a great blessing for me to preach the Word, meet the students, counsel and pray for the students, and share the love of Je-



Sahmyook Junior Theology student Myoung Kwon with his evangelistic team and students.

sus Christ. And the school welcomed me wholeheartedly and addressed me by ‘pastor’ even though I am still a student.

It was the second Sabbath. One elder came to me and asked me to pray for his daughter. There were two other experienced Ugandan pastors standing next to me, but he insisted that I pray for his daughter. Until we gathered in a small room to pray together, I didn’t realize that this daughter was demon-possessed! I had never encountered a demon-possessed person in my life. It scared me at first, but I prayed to

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Jesus within my heart. I just didn't know what to do. Then I opened up the Bible to Mark 5, and read to the group about the story where Jesus drove out a whole legion of demon from a man. After reading, I asked the daughter, "Do you truly believe that Jesus will help you to be free?" She answered, "Yes, I do, pastor." One other pastor and I prayed for her.

While we prayed, I was worried that the demon would cause trouble. But the problem came from somewhere different. As we prayed, another lady praying together started shaking and making weird noises out of her mouth. After prayer, I found out that she was demon-possessed, too! We brought her into the center and laid our hands on her. Once again, we prayed sincerely. She was still shaking in the midst of the prayer, but when the prayer had ended, Jesus set her free from the demon. On my first encounter, I met two, not one, demon-possessed people, but Jesus showed His power for us to witness.



Myoung Kwon and Ugandan interpreter

Satan continuously bothered our group as we spoke at our own sites. Power would be out, making it impossible for us to use our laptops and projectors. He even burned out my laptop power adaptor four times! Whenever we spoke important messages of our Seventh-day Adventist church, such as Daniel 7, Revelation 12, 13, etc., Satan always broke in and bothered us with electrical power.

But Jesus is stronger than Satan! Through this campaign, we were able to reap many souls. And I truly thank God for inviting me as a speaker to witness the true work of the Holy Spirit. God can use you, too, just as he has used me for His work. Let us go out and share HIM.

Myoung Kwon – Junior Theology Student Sahmyook University

SDA Language Institute / Sahmyook Food Accolades

At the 2006 Korean Marketing Conference, the director of the SDA Language Institute Kim SiYoung and the director of Sahmyook Foods Oh JinGyu received the award for best brand recognition and the luxury award for best brand value respectively. These prizes gave recognition to the fact that both SDALI as well as Sahmyook Foods are both well-recognized institutions in Korea. For the SDA Language Institute, it is their 3rd award since 2004.

Since 1993 the Korean Marketing Conference (KMC) has been in pursuit of successful companies in various areas of service and industry in order to encourage a competitive marketing atmosphere within Korea. The KMC's four chief areas of evaluation are marketing, branding, the Internet and design. They have become famous for their high standard of evaluation.

SDA Language Institute and Sahmyook Foods expressed feelings of gratitude. Their vision and commitment to the future in their own words: "We will do our best to enhance the quality of education and continue to improve food development."



We thank the Lord for the service that these institutions of the SDA Church provide to the community and continue to pray for their advancement.

Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Sam Hee Plaza (5th Floor) 66 Chuyop-dong, Ilsan-gu
Koyang City, Kyonggi-do, Republic of Korea 411-370

Email: newsandview@nsdadventist.org
Tel: (82) (31) 910-1500 - Fax: (82) (31) 919-4412
www.nsdadventist.org

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Editor
Assistant Editor
Contributing Editor
Contributing Editor
Contributing Editor
Contributing Editor

Glenn Mitchell

James Wu
Tadaomi Shinmyo
Park, Sung Ha
Paul Kotanko



International Bible Conference

The *Adventist Theologian and the Nature, Mission, and Unity of the Church* was the title of the 2nd International Bible Conference held in Izmir, Turkey July 7-17, 2006. About 250 scholars from around the world met to explore the biblical doctrine of the church, to foster fellowship and unity among theologians and scholars, and to equip them to better serve the world church. The program included morning devotionals guided by Pastor Mark Finley about spiritual lessons from the actual historical churches that existed in the first century in the Roman province of Asia Minor and are mentioned in the book of Revelation 2 and 3.

Besides plenary sessions and seminar presentations there were organized tours. We visited the archeological remains of the cities of Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, Hierapolis, Colossae, Ephesus, Miletus, Priene and the island of Patmos. During each of these tours we had the company of scholars who gave us additional insights to that of the tour guides from a biblical perspective. The delegates from the NSD had the opportunity to glean information from renowned scholars, Dr. Jiri Moskala and Dr. Jon Paulien



Dr. Angel Rodriguez, director of the Biblical Research Institute made a call for theological unity. A “consensus statement” was passed. The affirmations centered on the importance of the Bible, the unique contributions of the writings of Ellen G. White, the church’s mission in the end times, its dependence on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the role of theologians in helping fulfill the church’s responsibilities.

The session also voted a recommendation to world church leaders that similar Bible conferences be held once every quinquennium, and that smaller conferences to be organized in each of the world church’s 13 divisions.

Mongolia Report

Dr. Jairyong Lee, President of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) and Pastor Daesung Kim, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director at NSD visited the Mongolia Mission Field (MMF) from July 10 to 16, 2006. The primary purpose of this visit was to search for land for the establishment of a dormitory for Mongolian Adventist students. This is a joint project between the NSD and Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI).

After Dr. Lee and Pr. Kim completed their search along with Pastor Paul Kotanko who came to Mongolia on July 12, 2006 as the new MMF director, they visited six churches which were located far from Ulaanbaatar. They traveled 1200km which is just a fraction of the actual size of Mongolia. During this time they had the chance to hear about church conditions from the local leaders.



Despite the two greatest challenges the Mongolian Mission faces (1) the small population (2) the vast expanse of land, 20 churches have been established, membership has grown to nearly 1,000 through the dedicated endeavors of 1000 MM missionaries and PMM pastors.

SDA Language Institute, Summer Camp

“Total Immersion English Bible Camp,” was held at Howon University in Gunsan from July 13-16, 2006. About 1,200 students, teachers and staff were gathered in the big auditorium on Sabbath to hear Pastor Samuel Leonor preach about Baptism. He said, “Baptism is a personal choice that one decides to be with Jesus all of his/her life. Baptism can change people’s mind” When Pastor Leonor asked the group to accept Jesus as their personal Savior, 150 people rose and came up to the front stage. It was an amazing scene and people applauded them. On that Sabbath 96 new souls accepted Jesus Christ.



Tokuyama’s Bible Camp

“All We Need Is Love” was the theme for Tokuyama’s Bible Camp this year. Over 100 people from Shunan, Kudamatsu, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Shinnanyo, Hofu, and Yokohama came to praise the Lord in study, song, and prayer.

Alistair Agbage, fondly called Ali, speaker for the camp and his wife Sharon were key characters in the gathering there because they had been missionaries at Tokuyama before. Little Celeste (2 year old daughter) was also loved immediately.



Ali is considered a dynamic speaker in his home church in Yokohama. The Lord especially blessed the campers with his fun, clear, interesting, and dynamic way of presenting the topics, “What Real Love Is,” (real love which includes being patient and kind comes from God) “Unconditional Love,” (His love doesn’t depend on what we say or do, on our looks or intelligence, on our success or popularity, or even on our performance) and “Loving the unlovable” (God forgives and loves us so we ought to forgive and love others too.).

Gospel music was focused on during Sharon’s workshop to help people understand that Gospel music is an avenue to learn about the gospel of Jesus Christ. It helps us to receive hope and happiness while relating to the emotions that come through having a relationship with God. The *Joyful Gospel Choir* sang inspiring and uplifting music on Sabbath morning.

Another highlight was the vegetarian barbeque that delighted the taste buds of the participants. In spite of it being the rainy season, the time at the camp was blessed with fair weather on Sabbath. Children played and laughed, and life long friendships were made.

Sunday allowed everyone to consider what the weekend meant to them, the sermons, music and English workshop, barbecue, shirt painting, guests from many districts getting acquainted with each other and becoming friends. “Truly this was a great example of the “*Friendship Ministries*” our English Language Schools are striving and praying for.” Ali and Sharon will be returning to the UK soon for him to continue his studies in theology. We pray God’s gracious blessings on them.

Sabbath Keeper Imprisoned

The Korean Military Court pronounced judgment of a two year imprisonment for an Adventist soldier on July 20, 2006. Park HyeongJoo, is a theology student at Sahmyook University and currently completing his military service in the Korean Army. The reason for his imprisonment: keeping the Sabbath during his training.

This kind of case has not occurred since 1995 when two other Sahmyook University students were sentenced to two and three year imprisonment each for keeping the Sabbath.

The judgment seems illogical because these days Korea has changed over to a 5-day work week and a two year imprisonment is hardly ever given to a conscientious objector.

Mr. Park and his family along with Korean Union Conference National Service Organization (NSO) is preparing an appeal to the higher court and trying every possible way to help in this difficult situation. Mr. Park said, "Come what may, I will keep my faith in God's commandments." And his family cheers him saying, "we want him to endure this severe situation by trusting in God."

Dr. Han SeongBo, a professor at Sahmyook University, says, "Park HyeongJoo is a young boy but he was so brave to show his faithfulness in court that I felt that the court was like an Evangelistic event where God's Word was preached."

Former Mongolian Mission Director Beats The Odds

On July 8, 2006, Gerald Christo, opened his mouth, and spoke – beating the odds a second time.

His first odds-breaker happened in 1980 when he became president of the Southern Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists. No one could have predicted that Gerry would become the first national president of that territory including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Burma, and India.

His second odds-breaker happened while doing what he had done thousands of times before – preaching a stimulating sermon about God's grace and giving an invitation to join God's family. However, it was a sermon that should never have been preached.

On July 7, 2005, when Gerald lost his voice and motor skills due to a massive stroke, he became a prisoner of his compromised brain. Day after day, he tried to communicate and failed.

One year passed. On July 8, 2006, Pastor Gerald Christo preached a sermon entitled, "Eternal Verities."

He said to his Hosur, India church family, "After my stroke, I just couldn't imagine how I could live without speaking. But my family was so patient. I just kept trying to talk and worked hard, following my therapists' coaching.

You heard me speak my first two sentences, 'I am happy' and 'I am well.' Later, you heard me stutter through my testimony and pray my first prayer last Christmas. But it was your prayers that made the difference! I am standing here today because of God's power."

Thirty-five minutes later, there wasn't a dry eye in the house when his wife, Birol, joined him to sing "Have You Counted the Cost?" Gerald writes, "it was a very touching service for the whole congregation as they had witnessed my recovery... There were tears of joy as the congregation shook my hand, others embraced me, and some of the women, bless their hearts, kissed me. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."



Gerald Christo is flanked by his wife Birol and son Dr. Johnny Christo, medical director of Bangalore Adventist Medical Center.

John McGhee

Adventist Health International India

KUC Literature Evangelists Celebrate 100 years

To celebrate the centennial of the Korean Union Conference Publishing Ministries, both Korean and Japanese literature evangelists assembled from July 7 to 10, 2006. Twenty-four Japanese literature evangelists from JUC along with Pastor Seong SunJae who is serving in the Tokyo Korean Church, joined this remarkable event. This is the first time that both countries celebrated together. Pastor Nakamura, Publishing Ministries' director at JUC, thanked the Korean church for inviting them. "In Japan, the work of Publishing Ministries is not as successful as in Korea. I was very much touched by Korean literature evangelists and their ministry". This year the Korean Publishing Ministries goal is to reach sales of 3.6 billion Won (\$36,000,000), baptize 250 new members and to reach 800 people who have showed an interest. They are busy working toward their goal. Presently, 300 Korean literature evangelists are working for the Lord.



Golden Angels in Taiwan

One at a department store, one in a government hall, at a nursing home, at a graduation ceremony, elementary schools, a junior high school, Hong Kong Adventist College and various hospitals are just some of the places that the Golden Angels used as a stage to lift up their voices in song.

During their trip they had the privilege of witnessing 19 people commit their lives to the Lord in Taiwan and Hong Kong. As mentioned in the July / August edition of News & Views, the Golden Angels helped with evangelistic series in Taiwan from June 9 to July 16 followed by a youth camp in Hong Kong from July 16 to 20.



In Taiwan the Golden Angels, the Korean Women's Organization and some Korean lay volunteers took part in various evangelistic series in Taidong Church, Taiwan Adventist College, Do-Liou Church, Nan Tou Church and Pin Jong Church. There were health lectures in the morning followed by massage and health consultations in the afternoons and evangelistic meetings in the evening. Korean cooking classes were also given.

At Hong Kong Adventist College Pastor Joshua Shin was the guest speaker for the Youth Camp. The Golden Angels performed music before and after the sermon at both events. They also distributed flyers twice a day to invite people to attend the meetings.

"We are so thankful to the Lord who has been faithful and merciful to us", one member of the Golden Angels said.

ADRA Mongolia

On Tuesday evening at 1:30 am the next Aussie team of volunteers arrived. They went to Overhangai Province to do an evangelistic session there. During the day they tackle a community project. This year's project is to build a play park for the children of the town at the school. The team that came last year also built one there in the center of town. They used our truck, tools and equipment and wanted to do the same this year. The problem this year is that they scheduled their arrival after the busiest week of the year for us, and all the shops are closed for the Naadam Holiday. I arranged for two million tugrogs from the Mission. Finally on Monday afternoon it was delivered to our office at 2:30 pm and our men set out to do their business of purchasing all the materials for their project. They found everything closed for the holiday and came back empty handed.

Wednesday morning bright and early I was contacted by the eager-beaver do-gooders from Australia. I broke the news to them that my men had not been able to purchase their materials. They did not seem too concerned, but wanted to go out immediately to purchase the things. I laughed as this was a high day in Mongolia and can be compared to Easter Weekend or Christmas in North America – everything is shut for the 3 days. They said, “Let’s pray for a solution.” We prayed in our lounge, and went out to find the massive pile of various sized piping they needed. I took the 3 men in my Cruiser to the district where all building materials are sold. *Miracle #1:* of the hundreds of shops in the district, there was one little shop open. They were willing to sell us the pipe we needed. I was amazed. They were only there for that little while when we



called and even helped us to transport the goods back to the ADRA office. The next day we set out to find cement. *Miracle #2:* there was only one shop open in the cement yard selling cement and they could supply us with the 30 bags we needed. We were told the yard would be closed till next Monday.

Next we went looking for all the bolts, nuts, cutting discs and tools the team needed. *Miracle #3:* we found only one shop open and they were able to supply us with almost all we needed. We were able to find a little truck to carry the 1.5 tons back to the office. The greatest challenge was still to be solved. The team wanted a 10kva generator and welder to take with as the job was to be done away from any source of power.

Miracle #4, we again found only a single shop open in a whole street and they could help us with a 20kva generator and a diesel engine. It was one third of the price we expected. We took it home and worked till 9:00 pm making up a base for it so that it can be bolted onto the truck floor. In the morning we quickly got our old forklift started and loaded the generator and diesel engine onto the truck and bolted it down.

What still worried me was finding the angle iron and round bar they needed. We drove down in faith to the metal yards. All were closed. We found one person visiting his steel yard and who was willing to come to our aid. *Miracle #5* had taken place. He rushed away after helping us. Had angels brought him to the steel yard just when we needed him to help us. Truly God is good. The men rode away to Arviaheer 450 km away just after lunch with all that they need to get the job done.

Part of a letter from Llewlyn Juby, ADRA Mongolia Director to Glenn and Suzanne Mitchell

AWR Listeners Respond

I'm one of your faithful listeners. Thank you for saving my life! It was you that gave me the courage and hope to live. I'm only twenty years old but suffer from acquired paralysis. People look at me with dismay. I often feel humiliated and hide myself in solitude, weeping. I'm so lonely but nobody is around to listen to me. Feeling like a redundant person in the world, I thought of suicide.



One day I tuned in to your station. I was fascinated by your message. It really set me free! Even though the audio quality is not so good, I listen to your programs on time everyday. I admire every one of you who work for the Voice of Hope. I have been changed. I do not have a Bible, could you send me one? Thank you!

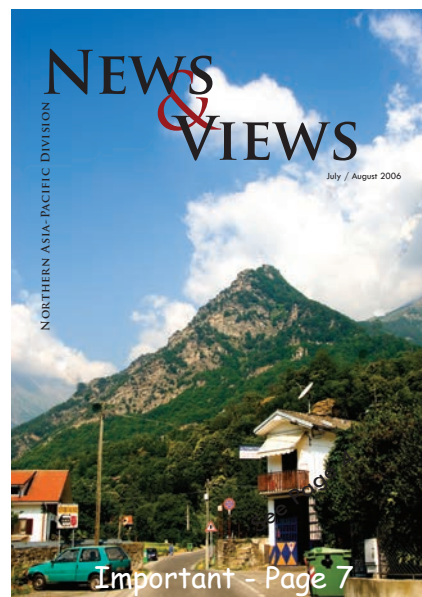
Wei, Guangxi Province

Change is in the wind.

And here at News & Views there is change.

The first change to share with you is that Maike Stepanek has been working on a more efficient means of delivering the News & Views to you the reader. We are exploring the possibility of using a clear plastic wrapper in the near future.

For some months now we have been preparing a change in the look of News & Views. The next issue will be in this totally new look. From an eight page A4 sheet, the new edition will be 16 pages, one half B4 size. The front cover will no longer have a story, but a relevant picture, more of a magazine style. Each month we will feature one of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division's departments. The focus will continue to be the news from our division, so you will continue to know what is happening in this part of the world. We welcome your suggestions as we continue to share what God is doing through out the NSD territory.



Taiwan Adventist Hospital Delivers 100 000th Baby

Doctors and medical staff celebrated the arrival of the 100 000th baby delivered at the Taiwan Adventist Hospital on May 15. Sun WeiHung, the first baby to enter the world at Taiwan Adventist Hospital 51 years ago, and now an employee at the hospital was among those welcoming the new baby. The hospital awarded the newborn with a prize of \$NT100 000. *Article adapted from The China Post*

First Geo-Science Conference in China

Dr. Choi, Chong Geol, NSD Geo-Science Director, held the first Geo-Science Field Conference in China August 10 – 18, 2006. Twenty people attended the meetings in Kunming, Dian, Zhong, Jiang and Da Li, China. Dr. Choi led the group into a better understanding of the flood geology.

The Japan Union Conference coordinator presented lectures giving evidence of God as the creator of the universe. The conference was attended by six Japanese and fourteen Korean's who share a deep interest in this evidence.

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newsandviews@nsdadventist.org

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SEVENTH-DAY
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