

# Retention:

## **Yesterday and Today**



# Summit on Nurture & Retention, 2013

Discipling, Retaining, and Reclaiming

November 18-20, 2013

General Conference Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD





2:45pm - 4:30pm	2I-18	<b>Breakout Session 12</b>	<i>Chair: David Trim</i>	General Conference	
		Presentation	MinHo Joo	NSD	<i>"Disciple-Making through Teaching."</i>
		Presentation	Maria Ovando-Gibson	Fuller Theological Seminary	<i>"The Role of Methodical Bible Study in Discipleship."</i>
		Presentation	Nicholas Zork	Fuller Theological Seminary/ Greater New York Conference	<i>"The Politics of Liturgical 'Musicking' in Urban Adventist Congregations."</i>
		Discussion			
2:45pm - 4:30pm	2I-19	<b>Breakout Session 13</b>	<i>Chair: Passmore Mulambo</i>	SID	
		Presentation	Adrienne Royo	Southern Adventist University	<i>"Scripture and Prayer in Christian Education—Nurturing, Discipleship, and Retention."</i>
		Presentation	Pauline Sawyers	Oakwood University	<i>"Integration of Faith and Learning at an HBCU: Faculty Perspectives on What Works."</i>
		Presentation	Juvenal Balisasa	Valley View University	<i>"The Relationship between Religious Practices and Student's Interest in the Seventh-day Adventist Faith: Perceptions from Valley View University Students."</i>
		Discussion			
4:30pm - 4:40pm		<b>Break</b>			
4:40pm - 6:00pm	2I 13-14	<b>Plenary Session 7</b>	<i>Chair: Derek Morris</i>	General Conference	Presentation of research on SPD, reports by SPD and NSD representatives, and panel discussion.
		Prayer	Willie Oliver	General Conference	
		Presentation	Barry Gane	Avondale College	<i>"The Church-Members' Survey in the South Pacific Division."</i>
		<b>SPD Report</b>	SPD Representative		
		<b>NSD Report</b>	NSD Representative		

# Summary of Findings

- 1. A big gain and loss in membership happens in youth group.**
- 2. Church conflicts and adult members' dual life (hypocrisy) become main causes of youth's loss.**
- 3. Teaching doctrines usually prevents youths from leaving churches.**
- 4. Extravagant public evangelism in the short term and instant baptism have been the cause of the big loss. Public evangelism should be planned and prepared only as a means of reaping.**
- 5. Changing the church atmosphere is a significant part in retaining members.**



- 6. High retention rate is deeply related to the strength and health of small group ministry.**
- 7. Usually many dropouts are coming from the new believers within a year.**
- 8. Pastors get confused about what discipleship training is and what it means. That's why they don't know how to start and progress it. Discipleship training guideline is needed and pastors should understand it all first.**
- 9. The absence of follow-up course and discipleship training causes the big rush of membership loss.**
- 10. Appropriate connection of college students to the local churches should be made before their graduation.**

- 11. All believers should be involved in any kinds of church ministry and activities. Participation is absolutely needed.**
- 12. In each level of church organization (local church, Mission/Conference, Union, and Division) and each institution, retention and reclamation should be discussed and tackled by organizing such a committee.**
- 13. Invitation to music concert is working in reclaiming the former members. The appeal with a short message near the end of it should be made.**



# The 1<sup>st</sup> Summit on Retention & Reclamation

Feb 18-21, 2014









# KUC - Action Plan for Retention

- 1) Organizing Retention Committee by Each Conference
- 2) Retention Committee Activities – Jan to April, 2014
- 3) Report on Activities/ May, 2014
- 4) Appointing Sample Churches – 20%
- 5) Increase of Sample Church – 50%
- 6) Before baptism – Study: Voice of Prophecy Lesson
- 7) After baptism – Discipleship training (FAST Kit)/  
Small group leadership Training

# JUC - Action Plan for Retention

- 1) Providing the useful information on retention & reclamation for local church pastors
- 2) Showing each church's retention rate to stimulate
- 3) Making and circulating the News Letter to the newly baptized to retain
- 4) Encouraging local church pastors to make action plans on retention for their churches





# RETENTION Plus

BY RETENTION AND RECLAMATION COMMITTEE OF NSD

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

2014 August

Vol. 1

## GREETING

### RETENTION Urgently Needed

The mission of the church is to spread the gospel message to the world. Jesus succinctly declared this in Matthew 28:19: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." The church was organized to fulfill this great gospel commission.

By the grace of God and through the united efforts of church members, we are baptizing about 15,000 precious souls in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division every year. Regretfully, however, a significant number of them are leaving the church for various reasons. This has been a great concern for many decades.

I am glad that we are now paying more attention to the issues of retaining church members and reclaiming lost

members. We need to seriously research and develop implementable strategies to retain more people in the church after their baptism. Retention and Reclamation go hand-in-hand with Revival and Reformation. May these great 4Rs be fully accomplished in all of our churches! This newsletter will serve as a means of communication within the church in order to strengthen our efforts for Retention and Reclamation.



Jaiyoung Lee  
President  
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

### Jesus Had Much Concern about Number



Joo MinHo  
Assistant to the President  
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Today, the number is underestimated as long as it is related to baptismal figure, especially among pastors and local churches. Many say the number game in baptism has resulted in the breakdown of church's across-the-board spirituality. This spirit is prevailing widely and even church leaders are hesitant to talk about baptismal figure. By the way, Jesus was different and He had great concern about number.

For instance, the parable of the lost sheep talks explicitly about Jesus' wonderful care and concern for a single soul who is lost. One lost sheep among one hundred. Missing one sheep can be

considered insignificant. However the shepherd representing Jesus went after the lost sheep and made painstaking efforts to find and bring it back to the fold. His efforts to find the lost sheep were not made with only one or two tries. The Bible says, "until he finds it." We can see plainly Jesus' mind not giving up in any situations. Each of us is the fruit our great Shepherd Jesus has found and saved. Eventually, Jesus retained one hundred sheep. In that sense, number was integral to Jesus' ministry and even now it is important to Jesus.

Retention and Reclamation News Letter published at last. I hope it would contribute to the health of local churches and to the change of our attitudes to the lost souls. As a result, retention and reclamation will be made dynamically.

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Jaiyoung Lee  
President  
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

#### RETENTION PLUS

Retention Plus aims to empower Retention Project Coordinators, pastors and leaders with news and articles of 4 Rs, retention, reclamation, revival and reformation for our churches in NSD. Its intention is to awaken, and encourage readers to move forward to practical action that will prepare our members for soon coming of Jesus.

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# NSD 2nd Summit on Retention and Reclamation

March 2 – 5, 2015, Nagasaki, Japan





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