

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION THE MOST CHALLENGING FIELD



The "Mission 16" evangelistic series was held from september 4 to 10, 2016, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

198 souls were baptized on the last day of the series.

### INSPIRATION



### **A New Pentecost Is Coming**

Jairyong Lee, President Northern Asia-Pacific Division

"On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 1:4-5).

Following the command of Jesus, the disciples waited in the upper room and prayed for the power of the Holy Spirit. After 10 days, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon them and "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4). It was the fulfillment of Jesus' promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. What were the experiences that the disciples had on the Day of Pentecost?

First of all, they experienced a great spiritual revival and reformation. The disciples had been chosen by Jesus for the gospel commission, but they were not ready for it. They were not united. Their concept of the Messiah was incorrect. They were full of selfishness, pride, and worldly ambition. Their concern was "Who is the greatest among us?" (Luke 9:46). They wanted to sit at Jesus' side when He established His earthly kingdom (Mark 10:37). They needed a spiritual revival. On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples acquired a great spiritual revival as they had never experienced before. They were fully united. They sincerely repented of their sins and became humble and unselfish. They had a great burden for soul winning.

Second, the disciples experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until they had received the Holy Spirit's baptism. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, they could never accomplish the gospel mission Jesus had entrusted to them. "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..." (Acts 1:8). On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and were filled with the divine power they needed to preach the gospel "both in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and even to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Third, the disciples experienced an extraordinary mission spirit. The ultimate purpose of the Pentecostal

experience was for the gospel mission. Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, they ran to the city of Jerusalem and began to preach to the multitude of people about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The disciples of Jesus were ordinary people. Many of them were from Galilee. They were not highly educated. They were not wealthy. They did not have influential power in their communities. They were common, ordinary people! However, when they were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, they were changed. They were completely changed! They became men and women of the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in tongues. They boldly preached the gospel to the people. As a result, 3,000 people were converted and baptized in the name of Jesus in a day. It was remarkable and glorious!

Ellen White commented about the repetition of the Pentecostal experience in the last days, "It is with an earnest longing that I look forward to the time when the events of the Day of Pentecost shall be repeated with even greater power than on that occasion" (*RH* July 20, 1886). We need to seek this Pentecostal experience. "For the baptism of the Spirit every worker should be pleading with God…" (*8T*, 22).

We also need the same experiences that the disciples had on the Day of Pentecost: spiritual revival, baptism of the Holy Spirit, and mission spirit. In fact, Ellen White said it is urgent to have these experiences. "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work" (*ISM*, 121). "Without the presence of the Spirit of God, no heart will be touched, no sinner be won to Christ" (*COL*, 328). "The missionary spirit needs to be revived in our churches" (*6T*, 29).

Soon we will have the second Pentecostal experiences. "The outpouring of the Spirit in apostolic days was the former rain, and glorious was the result. But the latter rain will be more abundant" (DA, 827). The new Day of Pentecost is coming!

### NSD MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists is to communicate to all people in its territory the everlasting gospel of God's love in the context of the Three Angels' Message of Revelation 14:6-12, and as revealed in the life, death, resurrection, and high priestly ministry of Jesus Christ, leading them to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour and Lord and to unite with His remnant church; and to nurture believers as disciples in preparation for His soon return, and to equip and empower them for service.



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# Mission 16, A Milestone in Mongolia

More Than 190 People Baptized in a Single Day!

The freezing weather in Mongolia, a country known for its low temperatures during several months of the year, gave way to human warmth in a remarkable project by the Seventhday Adventist Church. After a year of spiritual preparation and "sowing," Mongolia Mission (MM), with the support of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), held a huge evangelistic campaign called "Mission 16" from September 4 to 10, 2016. Altogether, 13 churches/companies operating in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, were involved in this bold mission challenge. NSD president Jairyong Lee, NSD Adventist Mission director Kim SiYoung, and MM president Kim YoHan provided great support for the Mission 16 evangelistic meetings, inviting speakers and providing the necessary funds.



In the book The Ministry of Healing, Ellen White said, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" Following "Christ's method alone," many churches provided free medical care and other socially oriented services to the local community. One example of an effective approach occurred in Nisekh Church, which is located near the International Airport of Ulaanbaatar and in a well-populated neighborhood of the capital. Every day hundreds of people were treated by a physician, nurse and physical therapist, or participated in an English school or a sewing school. In order to plan these activities, the church members had done research

on what kind of activities would work well for the local population. Altogether 14 people were baptized in this church. Earlier this year, the church had had only seven members and they had been meeting in a small two-room apartment. Through God's blessing, an average of 70 people attended the Bible studies in the church every night during Mission 16.

Pastor Nyamdavaa Dovchinsuren, MM ministerial association director, emphasized, "Since the very beginning of the Mission, soul winning has been the top priority on our agenda. With such comprehensive evangelistic impact, no doubt Mission 16 was the most significant project we've ever had in Mongolia in just over 25 years of Adventist presence in the country."

Every night the word of God was opened before the Mongolian people at preaching points scattered throughout the capital. The vast majority of attendees had never had any contact with the biblical message, let alone with the Adventist Church. Auditoriums were filled with people thirsting for truth, and they impressed even the most experienced leaders and local church members as well as the main speakers who came from the NSD.\* "When we really trust in God and move forward together by faith, God operates great miracles in us and through us. That is the lesson we have learned from Mission 16," summarized Pastor Nvamdavaa.

On the Sabbath of September 10, 2016, about 900 people gathered at Labor Union Palace, a large conference hall in the center of Ulaanbaatar, for a beautiful spiritual

The joint service was held on the last day of "Mission 16" at Labor Union Palace, Ulaanbaatar.



feast, the closing activities of the week. Praises, testimonies and biblical messages touched the participants, but undoubtedly, the climax of the event occurred during the baptismal ceremony at Tuul Gol, the main river of Ulaanbaatar. A total of 198 people were baptized sealing their decision with Christ and becoming a part of the Adventist Church family in Mongolia. According to MM records, this was the largest baptism in the history of the country in the number of candidates being baptized at once. Praise the Lord!

Retention and reclamation is also a big concern for MM leaders, especially after a fruitful evangelistic campaign such as Mission 16. That's why we have planned a systematic follow-up project in order to keep our retention rate as high as possible and also win more souls through the direct influence and work of these newly baptized members. The idea is to keep them with the church through Bible study and missionary training, called the "Discipleship Cycle." Regular meetings will be held in the local churches for the next few months. The study will focus on the 28 fundamental beliefs of Seventhday Adventists and practical lessons on how to win souls. The idea is to wrap up this cycle by conducting a "Festival of Faith" on March 2017, a special meeting for the newly baptized members in Mongolia. With this initiative, we may know how many are still faithfully attending the church. Each one of them will be challenged to bring a friend as a guest to the Festival of Faith next year and to start Bible studies with the person. We also intend to create a system in which the local congregation can reclaim those who may have stopped coming to church.

The Great Commission recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age," was given to each of us. Everyone in the church of Christ. pastors and lay members, has been called and empowered by God to fulfill His ultimate command, namely, to make disciples of all nations. In accordance with this biblical imperative, the Adventist

Church in the NSD territory has tirelessly prayed and worked to spread the everlasting gospel message "unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1: 8).

Pastor Kim YoHan, MM president, also expressed his impressions and feelings about Mission 16: "Such a wonderful and beautiful scene! Outside under the sky, before many witnesses, 198 precious souls surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ through baptism in the river of Ulaanbaatar. The Holy Spirit, the grace of God and the love revealed on the cross of Jesus were the real sources of power behind the success of Mission 16. I would like to glorify and praise the name of the Lord with all my heart. I also can't fail to appreciate the efforts of all the local pastors, leaders and church members in Mongolia as well as to thank the speakers and volunteer teams who came from Korea and the United States. I earnestly hope and pray that these 198 valuable souls can gather together again when Jesus returns and live in the heavenly kingdom forever and ever."

Apostle Paul said in Romans, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who



believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." We fully believe that Jesus Christ our Lord has the power to transform and save lives through this "Good News" wherever it is preached. The church in Mongolia is willing to do its best to cooperate with God's plan of redemption. Please pray for the many new disciples who were baptized in our territory! May God keep their faith unshaken, using them as channels of blessings for the church and the people of our country until the Day of the Lord. Come, Lord Jesus!

\* Kim SiYoung – Main coordinator; 1. Nalaikh Church – Joanne Kim; 2. Han-Uul Church – Han SukHee; 3. UB Central Church – Pon Clouzet; 4. Amgalan Church – Yutaka Inada; 5. Tsaiz Church – Jairyong lee; 6. Bayan-Khair Church – Joo MinHo; 7. Tolgoit Church – Richard Sabuin; 8. Nisekh Church – Kwon JohngHaeng; 9. Yaarmag Church – Jeon KyoungChun; 10. Amazing Grace Church – Joo YoHan; 11. Maranatha – Kim SukGon; 12. Immanuel – Kim DongHye





# Testimonies

Today is the most joyful day of my entire life. I confess that in the beginning I was just interested in taking advantage of the free medical care that the project offered, but eventually I found much more than that. Through the Word of God and the welcoming of the church I've found love, hope and peace. I've found another family, the family of God. Now, what I want most is to share the gospel with my friends and relatives so that Jesus will come back soon. - Enkhtsetseq

My name is Sanchir, and I am 16 years old. I live in Tsaiz, Mongolia, with my mother, sister, and two brothers. Last September, a neighbor invited me to an evangelistic meeting at a church nearby. I had never been in a church before, and I didn't even know who Jesus was. My neighbor was a member of the Tsaiz Adventist Church. My mom and I accepted the invitation and decided to go. At first, I enjoyed learning the praise songs and singing along as I've always loved singing. Then I heard about Jesus Christ. I started to wonder who He was, and I wanted to learn more about Him. I kept attending until the last day of the meeting. It touched me that Jesus had died on the cross for me and that those who believe in Him will be His children. When I heard the gospel that Jesus will return to earth to save His children, I made my mind to believe in Him and be His child! On the last day of the meeting, my mom and I were baptized. We were born again. These days, I am happy to go to church and meet Jesus there. I also enjoy going to the church after school and doing my homework, reading the Bible, and learning to play the guitar there. I am so happy to know Jesus and to live my life with Him. - Sanchir







Pastor Gramacho prepared baptismal candidates for baptism.

### A Church That Grew From 7 Members to 37 Members

By Kwon JohngHaeng – NSD Stewardship Ministries Director

When the Mongolia Mission (MM) planned "Mission 16," a comprehensive evangelistic meeting planned for all across Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia, they decided to hold evangelistic meetings at thirteen sites, big and small. Pastor Kwon JohngHaeng was assigned to speak at Nisekh Church, which was the smallest among the thirteen churches with only seven members. Nisekh Church was planted a year ago by Pastor Jo JiHong, a Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) missionary to Mongolia. Nisekh means airport, and the church meets in a small apartment room across from the Genghis Khan International Airport.

Pastor Kwon visited the church a month before the meetings to train the seven church members in preparing for evangelistic meetings. When the meetings started on September 2, 2016, Dr. and Mrs. Park KyoungSun came from Korea to offer a free clinic for two days. The clinic attracted nearly a hundred patients each day. One of the translators was Enkhe, one of the members of the church, who translated from English into Mongolian. A non-Adventist patient also served as a translator for Dr. Park, translating from Korean into Mongolian. Mr. Curtis Hartman, a registered nurse who is married to Cathy, the very first Adventist Frontier Mission missionary to Mongolia when there were no Adventists in Mongolia, helped patients the whole week with health consultations.

Mrs. Lais Gramacho, the wife of Pastor Yure Gramacho (pastor of Nisekh Church and director of MM Sabbath School & Personal Ministries Department), is a physical therapist. She helped the seekers with her skillful hands.

During the weekdays, the church opened a sewing school to meet the needs of the people. Mrs. Batdelger Batchimeg, a pastor's wife from 230 kilometers away, was invited to teach sewing techniques. She taught 10 housewives in the morning and another 10 in the afternoon.

Enkhbayar Mishigdorj, the first baptized member in Mongolia and health ministries director of MM, gave a health lecture every evening before Pastor Kwon preached.

Another special community outreach program for Nisekh evangelism was the Coal of Hope project. In Mongolia, where it can get seriously cold, people try to save up firewood and coal for the winter. The church decided to provide coal to those who attended the meetings. The coal was delivered to the seekers after the evangelistic series.

As the result of the total member involvement of all seven members of the church and by the abundant grace of the Lord, 14 people were baptized and three are waiting for the upcoming baptismal ceremony. An additional 13 people began to attend the church. From 7 members to 37 is surely a miracle from the Lord.



The "Mission 16" evangelistic effort in Ulaanbaatar has ended, and 198 souls were baptized and joined the church on the Sabbath of September 10, 2016. Praise the Lord for the advancement of God's work in Mongolia Mission. This is part of the Vision One Million 2020 project of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Now that baptism is over, what shall we do for the retention of the new members?

**1. Visit them in their houses.** We cannot take it for granted that these new members will come to church even on the first Sabbath after their baptism. House visitation will encourage them to come. When visitation is not possible, contact them through different means.

**2. Involve them in assimilation programs.** Many of the new members were baptized without having a deep understanding of Bible teachings and Adventist lifestyles. An assimilation program will ensure that the Bible teachings continue. We cannot wait too long to teach them what they should know. Let them know about the weekly meeting schedule of the church, the history of the church, and the mission and vision of the church.

### Baptism Is Over! What's Next?

By Richard Sabuin – NSD SS/PM Director

**3.** Connect them to DNA. The new members should be introduced to an active member of Disciples in Action (DNA), which is a Sabbath school action unit. The new members need spiritual friends who can give them encouragement. DNA should help them feel at home in the church. Do not wait too long to give new members something to do in the DNA group together with a DNA member. Help them to find their spiritual gifts, and affirm them to serve.

**4. Give them tools for witnessing.** Newly baptized members are full of enthusiasm to share their faith with their family, friends, and neighbors. The enthusiasm should be accompanied with adequate tools. It is the task of the church through DNA to train and equip the new members to be effective witnesses for the Lord.

The Second Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Leadership Summit was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from September 19 to 21, 2016. Around 130 leaders from various institutions within the NSD, such as food factories, hospitals, and academic institutions, gathered to rededicate themselves to God with the mission spirit.

The theme of the summit was "United and Involved in Mission," focusing on the spirit of Mission First in all institutions as well as Total Member Involvement. Division president Jairyong Lee addressed the leaders with the challenges NSD is facing and the possibility of reaching one million members in the NSD by 2020 if all the leaders are guided and prompted by the Holy Spirit in leading each institution. He emphasized the power of the Holy Spirit who could make the vision possible.

Two prominent keynote speakers were invited for the Leadership Summit: Lowell Cooper, former General Conference vice president, and Ron Clouzet, NSD ministerial secretary. In his two talks, Cooper stressed that the guidance of the Holy Spirit drew the new maps for the early church to expand the kingdom of God more widely and powerfully. He presented the role of the Holy Spirit and His lead on all fronts to develop the young churches and church leadership. Dr. Clouzet presented the exemplar case of Moses' leadership and stressed how leaders show Christ-like characters through leadership to their flocks. He also talked about leadership development in the early church and its implications for God's mission.

Two NSD directors also presented on two important mission projects for this quinquennial period: Retention & Reclamation and Total Member Involvement for Vision One Million 2020. Richard Sabuin, NSD Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director, reemphasized how to help the church retain existing members and reclaim lost sheep through institutions. Kim SiYoung, NSD Adventist Mission director, presented Vision One Million 2020 and a viable strategy of



having each member win one soul. He appealed to all the leaders to join this mission vision through each institution's unique business and characteristic.

Two other people were invited to share their mission experiences: Pastor Cha MinKyung who works for campus ministries with her team and Dr. Kim NamHyuk, Eden Hospital president. Pastor Cha was shocked when she saw Adventist students hiding their identity as Adventists. She started campus ministries to help Adventist students have the conviction of Seventhday Adventist beliefs and be proud of being Adventists. Dr. Kim NamHyuk also contributed to the development of the mission spirit of hospital workers by providing various spiritual programs for them. Their testimony boosted the mission spirit of the leaders.

This time, 23 spouses also attended the Leadership Summit and had their own time learning how to support leaders as spouses. Lisa Clouzet and Nilde Lust from NSD Shepherdess Ministries led the special program for spouses. During the commitment service, president Jairyong Lee reemphasized the significance of Total Member Involvement to reach the goal of one million members by 2020 with the Mission First spirit. The leaders showed their dedication to God's mission by being good examples for mission as leaders in each institution.

 & 2. Two prominent keynote speakers were invited for the Leadership Summit: Lowell Cooper, former General Conference vice president, and Ron Clouzet, NSD ministerial secretary.
 KUC president Hwang ChunKwang (right) leads out in morning worship.

4. Attendees of NSD Second Leadership Summit pray together, each holding a small "Mission First banner."



# SUMMIT

By Joo MinHo - Assistant to the President of NSD



## NSD STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES ADVISORY



The Stewardship Ministries department of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) invited two individuals from the General Conference (GC), Guillermo Biaggi, GC vice president, and Marcos Bomfim, director of GC stewardship ministries department. to lead the stewardship ministries advisory meetings for the NSD. The advisory was held for four days from May 30 to June 2, 2016, at the division conference room. Advisory meetings for each department meet every five years after each GC session to consult and share ministry-related information with the newly appointed union directors.

All the stewardship ministries directors from the three unions, nine conferences, and two missions within the division territories were asked to be present. The NSD Stewardship Ministries Department emphasizes spiritual revival and the identity of the remnant people as the basis of stewardship. Many people misunderstand stewardship ministries as a department promoting monetary dedication to the church, emphasizing only tithes and offerings. However, the core of stewardship is redeveloping a relationship between members and our Master through spiritual revival. According to Genesis chapter one, when God created the world, He created man and woman after His own image and likeness so that they could, on behalf of God, manage all the creatures that He had created. God created man and woman as His stewards. As we accept Jesus as our Lord, Master, Creator, and Savior, stewardship becomes worship in our lives.

As Elder Guillermo Biaggi spoke on the "Importance of Church Policies and Stewardship Ministry," he explained stewardship-related policies in the GC Working Policy. Pastor Marcos Bomfim introduced systematic benevolence, and he recommended that the audience decide what percentage of income to give to the Lord. Julian Archer, a guest speaker from Australia, was formerly a business man. Now he devotes his full time to educating church members about stewardship principles. His topic was "Faith versus Finance." According to Gallup polls, the less income, the more religious people are, and the more income, the less religious people are. Archer talked about how to be more spiritual even with more income.

Kwon JohngHaeng NSD Stewardship Ministries Director





Marcos Bomfim, director of GC Stewardship Ministries, shared about systematic benevolence.



Peter Landless, GC Health Ministries director, was invited as one of the speakers.

## NSD HEALTH MINISTRIES ADVISORY

The theme of the Health Ministries Advisory at the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) was "Health is not Talk. Health is Walk." The advisory was held at the NSD headquarters office in Ilsan, Korea, from July 4 to 6, 2016.

During the opening session, NSD president Jairyong Lee emphasized Total Member Involvement in respect to health ministries, saying that every church can be a center of medical missionary work and every church member can be a medical missionary. He shared Ellen White's words: "Medical missionary work is the right hand of the gospel. Every city is to be entered by workers trained to do medical missionary work" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, 59).

The participants of this quinquennial meeting were Dr. Peter Landless, General Conference health ministries director, Dr. Choi Youngil, NSD health ministries director. and directors from the unions and conferences. There were also guest speakers from Sahmyook University: Dr. Chung SungJin on the principles of counseling, Dr. Chun SungSoo on the role of the church in addressing addiction in the NSD, and Dr. Shin SungRae on tobacco control: current practices and future directions. Dr. Park JongGi from the Sahmyook Medical Center helmed a discussion about lifestyle medicine in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Mrs. Hong SunAeh, a nutritionist at the Vegan Kitchen Lab presented nutrition principles and healthy cooking.

During the dedication service, the participants held hands together in a circle as Dr. Landless led out in prayer. He stated, "We will be facing many challenges, issues, and temptations, but God has promised, "I will be with you." The participants made a firm commitment to be faithful, to remain in Him, and to let Him close.









Pastor Jairyong Lee, with other mission project managers,

# 2016 ASI International Co

The 2016 ASI (Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries) International Convention sponsored by the North American Division was held at the Phoenix Convention Center in Arizona, United States, from August 3 to 6, 2016.

The ASI International Convention is held every year to inspire members, to exchange ideas vital to their lay-driven ministry goals, and to support various mission activities. This annual convention encourages attendees and members to join in God's mission directly or indirectly through financial support.

This year, the thirteen Division presidents were invited to the convention so that they could see how lay-driven activities have been developed as part of Total Member Involvement (TMI) and to introduce



Pastor Joo MinHo (left), Pastor Jairyong Lee (right), and their wives in front of the NSD booth.

mission challenges faced by each Division. From the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), Pastor Jairyong Lee, NSD president, attended the convention along with NSD ASI president Song JongHyun, vice president Oh SooHo, and coordinator Joo MinHo.

During the morning and evening sessions, there were plenary meetings to introduce mission activities and projects ASI planned to support through a portion of the 2016 offering. In the afternoon, seminars on various subjects were offered, including how to run nonprofit organizations and how to join mission activities.

More than 200 booths were set up in the exhibit hall to promote different mission projects. The NSD also had a booth to share the NSD vision and to solicit prayers.

The 2016 ASI International Convention planned to support



was invited on stage to share a mission project from the NSD.

# nvention

38 mission projects with the offering goal of \$1.5 million USD. This substantial offering would be distributed to each mission association for its special project. With a view to promoting the mission offering, all 38 mission project managers were asked to come up to the stage to introduce their project and to be interviewed. On Sabbath afternoon, August 6, Pastor Lee was invited to be interviewed to share the challenges NSD is facing in terms of mission.

From this lay-centered, missiondriven convention, the NSD ASI president and coordinator took important lessons on how to run

NSD ASI as a mission-driven organization.



## TWC The Second TWC WOMEN'S CONGRESS

We would like to especially thank God for giving us such joy and blessings. After a long time of planning and organizing, the Taiwan Conference (TWC) Second Women's Congress was held from July 22 to 25, 2016, at Taiwan Adventist College. There were more than 200 attendants, which was more than we expected. Because of God's infinite grace, there were tears and praises during every program. May we give glory to God in the highest.

The theme of the women's congress was "Arise and Shine, Fly for Love." The theme song was "Live Out Love." Everyone there was grateful because we believe that this is the opportunity that God has given us to participate in his sacred ministry of saving souls. Thank God for using a group of dedicated women to achieve what He destined and for allowing us to experience the presence of the Almighty.

Pastor Jairyong Lee, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), sent a message to encourage Adventist women in Taiwan to continue working on the challenging mission for Jesus. Pastor Steven Wu, former president of TWC, and Pastor Noah Lai and Pastor Cyrus Shen, TWC president and executive secretary, were a big support.

Ms. Pilimi Wang, president of Abigail Adventist Women's Fellowship, which is an association of active and faithful Adventist women in Taiwan, was a blessing for this event. In addition, there were other pastors and associates who provided their full support. We especially thank Dr. Huang HuiTing, president of Taiwan Adventist Hospital, for providing labor assistance and financial support. Above all, we want to thank God for His blessing on this event which not only glorified His name but also benefited everyone.



On Friday night, we began the congress with a wedding drama from Matthew 22 to remind everyone that Jesus is the greatest need for people today. On Sabbath morning, we had devotional time. We played a video by Ted N.C. Wilson, president of the General Conference, and he encouraged every woman to take part in community evangelism. Then we had workshops for our participants on various subjects, such as how to comfort a broken spirit and how to prevent dementia and help dementia patients. President Lai, during his sermon, inspired attendees to participate in TWC's 777 Mission Movement.

After the sermon, two sisters were baptized by Pastor Jin Xi You. Both of them had been studying the Bible with Sister BiHwa Chen. Sister Chen was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer, and her doctor said she had only eight months to live. Instead of surrendering to her illness, Sister Chen relies on Jesus and actively lives out the love of Jesus by sharing the gospel with others. Even though she has been through many trials and frustrations, she has saved two precious souls for God. Her story encouraged the participants to be more dedicated. The two baptized sisters promised to lead their family and friends to Jesus.

In the afternoon, practical workshops were provided for the participants: relaxation massage with essential oils, an introduction to herbal plants, natural therapy, neck massage and the personal Bible study methods of four different pastors.

The Sabbath ended with a stirring drama about the woman at Jacob's well, which was played by the women of the Cingshan Church. We all felt touched and wanted to love Jesus more and make an effort at evangelism.

In the evening we had a commitment gathering. At the

beginning of the gathering, we received an encouraging video message from Pastor Jairyong Lee, NSD president, and he emphasized the importance of women in completing the last day mission. Pastor Steven Wu, field secretary of the NSD Taiwan office, also encouraged us to follow Paul's example to devote ourselves to family and community evangelism. Pastor Cyrus Shen guided us to repent of our sins by writing down our sins on paper and burning them in fire. It symbolized that our sins were burned and forgiven. The climax of the evening arrived when Pastor Wu lit his candle and slowly passed it on to everyone while we were singing the song "Pass It On." This candlelight passing ceremony and the song reminded us once again that we should be the light of the world and lead people to God, who took us out of the darkness into the light of heaven.



More than 200 people attended the Taiwan Conference Second Women's Congress.

A group of women give a special song at the congress.

Attendees are taught several body stretches during a health seminar session.



On Sunday, each elected district coordinator from the previous year was awarded a certificate and given an "Arise and Shine, Fly for Love" badge to represent their determination to work together to proclaim the gospel to the world and to experience God and serve God together. Time flew by quickly, and this 4-day/3-night event came to an end. However, the participants did not seem to want to leave. Everyone was still immersed in the touching moments of the congress.

On our way home, we receiving exciting messages from the Abigail Adventist Women's Fellowship members and pastors through a mobile application. One of the messages we received was that every none-Christian participant had decided to join a Bible study group. Another message we received said that one fourth of the participants were wanting to join the Abigail Adventist Women's Fellowship. May the spirit of God continue to work so that there will be more testimonies and stories to glorify our Father in heaven.



Paula Shen TWC Women Ministries Director

### **Three joyful testimonies**

• I must tell you how moved I was by the last few days. We inspired each other and supported each other. This is very important in boosting our morale. I was not aware of my tears when I heard your testimonies and special music. I know that God touched my heart and that He knows my needs. I am still learning, and I pray that God continues to bless our work so that we can be stronger and more enthusiastic and willing to work for Jesus. I can only say I love you all so much. Taiwan Women Adventists, Go! Go! Go! – *Ge Tai* 

• While we were on our way home after the congress, Ms. YuYing, who is not a Christian yet, asked a lot of questions about the Bible. Our female preacher YuLin clearly answered her questions. Mrs. YuYing didn't want to go home when we finally arrived in Sandee Church. I had a copy of the Bible study lessons with me, so I gave it to her. She was so happy to get to know the truth of God. Thank you, God! She also said yes, that she would join a Bible study group. – *ChunZhu Pan*, president of Paiwan District Women Fellowship

• I would like to share some exciting news. I took three participants to the event. Two of the women had already joined the English Church Bible study group, but the third woman had not joined a Bible study group. I talked to her a lot about religion on our way back home to Kaohsiung. Thank you, God! She said yes when I asked her whether she wanted to have Bible study lessons. Thank you for the event. It was very moving. I would like to ask the Abigail women to pray for these three women, especially Maggie. She is going to have her first Bible study lesson. – *YiNuo Lui*, preacher at Kaohsiung Church



# **NOW, TIME TO RUSH:**First Step of Youth Rush Japan

In October 2015, the Japan Union Conference (JUC) asked Daniel Fukuda to come work for the JUC to help initiate and pioneer Youth Rush Japan. Youth Rush Japan is a mission movement emphasizing literature evangelism and Bible work, to train and inspire the young people to finish the work in Japan. Youth Rush Japan models after several youth and young adult ministries and concepts in the North America Division, including Souls West (Pacific Union Conference School of Evangelism), GLOW (Giving Light to Our World), and Youth Rush.

On August 26, 2016, JUC completed the first summer of Youth Rush Japan programs, and the Lord blessed in mighty ways. During the program, young people stayed in fellowship halls and Sabbath school rooms with sleeping bags. Every day they participated in morning and evening Bible studies, intense training, role-playing visitations, and practicing for the literature evangelism work.

Here are the highlights from this past summer:

Tokyo (8 days from July 18 to 31)
 7 student participants
 10,000 doors knocked

10,000+ tracts distributed 275 books sold

 Shizuoka (12 days from August 7 to 26) 18 student participants 36,171 doors knocked 36,171+ tracts distributed 1564 books sold

One of the students who participated in the Tokyo program left a comment after completing the program: "We want to invite all of our friends to join us next time! We also want to start a literature evangelism club at the Hiroshima Saniku High School!"

One young adult remarked, "I wish we had had this kind of program in Japan when I was a student."

In the Shizuoka Program, 9 of the 18 students were theology students. Here are some of their comments:

"Through Youth Rush, I was able to 'discover myself' in other words, discover my relationship with God."

"I learned that surrendering everything means giving up my doubts, sinfulness, good parts, and bad parts all up to God, and faithfully doing my part." "Youth Rush gave me an opportunity to consecrate myself to God and come face to face with my faith. I will forever treasure this experience. I am so thankful!"

Some of the highlights included witnessing many answered prayers, praying with non-Christians, and having genuinely interested non-Christians promising to read our books. An atheist man purchased *The Great Controversy*. A Buddhist restaurant owner quickly bypassed the cookbook and insisted the student show her all of the Christian books. After affirming the student on the importance of believing and following a higher Being, she purchased *The Great Controversy, The Desire of Ages, The Richest Caveman* by Pastor Doug Bachelor, and a book explaining the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church written by Pastor Norihiko Hanada.

At the end of the second week, they held a one-day evangelistic series. The church, which had an average weekly attendance of about 20 people, nearly quadrupled with more than 50 visitors. About 15 of the visitors had never stepped into a Christian church before. Twelve of these visitors came as a result of flyers and personal invitations from the colporteurs. Hallelujah!

Many of the students walked away from the program with a renewed faith, a stronger prayer life, and a fervor for evangelism. Most of the theology students had initially participated in order to fulfill the literature evangelism requirement of the theology program even though they had no interest in literature evangelism and thought literature evangelism work was old-fashioned, outdated, and ineffective in this modern day society in Japan. However, by the end of the program, having experienced the joy of literature evangelism and realizing its significance, these same students unanimously agreed that literature evangelism is fun! Psalm 34:8 says, "O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."

Youth Rush Japan is a mission movement emphasizing literature evangelism.



This is only the beginning of an amazing work that God is doing in Japan. We have only hit the tip of the iceberg. We want to involve hundreds of young people to grow as a movement to help prepare the soil for the All Japan 2018 – Maranatha, the 2020 Olympics, and ultimately for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ! We plan to hold student literature evangelism programs every spring and summer.

Currently, we are strategizing to expand Youth Rush Japan. We desperately pray that the Lord will be the one leading this movement. We pray that young and old, male and female, would work together and finish the work in Japan! We earnestly pray that fully consecrated young people, not just in Japan, but all around the world, would dedicate their lives to the Lord's work in these last days. We solicit your prayers and support as we move forward. We will faithfully move forward until the day when the heavens roll like a scroll, and the Lord declares that "It is finished!"

For any questions on Youth Rush Japan, please feel free to contact us at <u>youthrushjapan@adventist.jp</u>.



Daniel Fukuda JUC Youth Rush Japan Staff Member



A total of 25 students in Tokyo and Shizuoka participated in the Youth Rush Japan programs in Summer 2016.

### DEPARTMENTAL & REGIONAL NEWS

### NSD 2016 Adventist HealthCare **Association** (AHCA) Presidents' Council Stanley Ng





he 2016 Presidents' Council I of the Adventist HealthCare Association (AHCA) was held from October 3 to 7, 2016, on the beautiful island of Okinawa, Japan. About 25 Adventist hospital administrators, medical doctors, department heads, and guest speaker representing 11 member hospitals from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division joined the council.

The Presidents' Council is an annual event for hospital administrators and leaders to meet and to have fellowship with each other for spiritual enrichment, networking and continuing education. The guest speaker for this year's council was Dr. Jerry Chi, tenured professor of management, graduate program director, and assistant dean of the business department at Andrews University.

Dr. Chi presented a twomorning seminar on the subjects of "Innovation Management for Organizational Development in Adventist Hospitals" and

"Examining the Impact of Leader's Integrity, Ethical and Servant Leadership on Adventist Hospital Employee's Job Burnout." Participants actively joined the discussion and received many new ideas and insights on healthcare management.

On the first day of activities, the participants visited the Adventist Medical Center (AMC). The hospital is small with about 50 beds, but it

is neat and the hospital staff is kind and friendly. In the evening, before the business session, AMC gave a welcome dinner for the participants with delicious food and a traditional Okinawa music performance.

On the second day, the participants visited another privately owned hospital and their subsidiary Health Examination Center. People were impressed by the facilities and the eco environmentally friendly atmosphere.

During the council business session under the chairmanship of Dr. Nishino, AHCA president, hospital presidents and representatives gave their annual report on hospital performance. Many were routine agenda items. The council also voted to hold the 2017 AHCA Presidents' Council in Seoul, Korea.

AHCA is the umbrella organization over all the Adventist healthcare institutions within the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. The purpose of AHCA is to provide coordination, services, advice and networking among hospital administrators.



(From left) Joyce Sham, Serene Yau, and Lily Wu



# in Hong Kong

By Lisa Clouzet (NSD women's ministries director) & Serene Yau (HKMC women's ministries director)

On August 20, 2016, more than 250 women from eight area churches gathered at the Hillwood Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hong Kong to increase awareness, responsibility, and involvement to help end violence against women and girls. This program coincided with the General Conference's (GC) worldwide enditnow\* emphasis against violence.

The event was organized by Serene Yau, women's ministries director of Hong Kong-Macao Conference (HKMC). Dr. Lisa Clouzet, Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) women's ministries director, was the guest speaker, and focused on "Learning to Love as HE Loved," one of enditnow's themes.

The program included music provided by different area churches, a poignant skit by women from Yuen Long and Mountain Churches, and a question-and-answer session with Dr. Clouzet. Lily Wu, Chinese Union Mission (CHUM) women's ministries director, closed the day with a season of prayer involving all those in attendance. Joyce Sham, CHUM's women's ministries associate director, was also present to add support and provide translation.

Serene Yau received several comments and testimonies from women who were in attendance. Descriptions of the program included "very educational," "exceptionally informative," "spiritually uplifting," and "a blessing to my spiritual life." One woman summarized that "we were given helpful advice and counseled to draw ever nearer to God."

Many appreciated the questionand-answer session and found it useful to hear others' experiences and questions regarding abusive situations. The suggestions, advice, and solutions offered to these questions provided hope and encouragement regarding a subject that can be very traumatic and overwhelming.

\*Seventh-day Adventists around the world have been saying No to violence against women and girls for many years. The **enditnow** campaign is an extension of God's love and compassion for all His children. More information is available at <u>www.</u> enditnow.org.





# Very Vouth International Volunteer Project in MALAYSIA

The Youth International Volunteer Project of Japan Union Conference (JUC) started in 1988 as a work camp for Pathfinder camporee counselors. Over the past 29 years, mission projects have been completed in Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, Philippines, and China. The purpose of this mission project was to not only help mission work in foreign countries by building churches or digging wells but to help participants develop a good relationship with Jesus in a context different from their ordinary environment.

From the beginning, most of the participants were students from Hiroshima Saniku High School. They gained precious experiences that they could not buy with money. Some of them went on to become pastors, teachers, nurses, and ADRA staff members. This project has been playing a role to nurture future leaders and missionaries in various mission fields of JUC.

This year, the JUC Youth Ministries Department carried out this project in Ruan Baru Village, Sarawak, Malaysia, and 14 high school students participated. Because of the great contribution by Sarawak Mission, they were able to finish the mission work smoothly and safely. During the two weeks, from July 26 to August 7, 2016, the volunteer team stayed at the village, fellowshipped with the village people, and built a new church building. Several experienced Malaysian pastors helped the amateur building team.



The participants were impressed by the tender hearts of the village people, pastors, and workers. One of the female participants said, "We were able to stay there comfortably because they treated us kindly. Even when we bothered them, they always communicated with a smile. Even though we came to help,

we were the ones who were given many things. Some people shed tears at our farewell. I hope to meet them again in heaven." This precious experience certainly motivated her to walk toward heaven. Yasuki Aoki



JUC Youth Director

## JUC Initiative for International Church Members



A small group discusses the challenges and opportunities for mission while living in a foreign country.

Japan Union Conference (JUC) has established a ministry for international Adventists living in Japan. Adventists living in foreign countries may, for various reasons, face challenges in keeping their faith strong in Christ. For example, language could be a barrier, and even when the language is learned, there are still cultural differences and adjustments. International churches have been organized to accommodate the situation, and JUC has established a ministry to minister to international church members with Pastor Genji Imayuki as the director. One of the initiatives to help church members from different countries remain faithful to Christ is conducting special worship services for them. The first national group targeted by this initiative was Indonesian Adventists who are working in Japan.

On the Sabbath of September 10, 2016, twelve Indonesian Adventists came and worshiped together in the conference room of JUC in Yokohama, Japan. Most of them were nurses or nurse-aids, working for hospitals and elderly care homes in Japan. Pastor Imayuki and Pastor Richard Sabuin, director of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries (SS/PM) of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, led the service. In the afternoon, after a seminar given by Pastor Sabuin, the group talked about different challenges and what they can do to remain faithful and to become witnesses for the Lord. The Indonesian group is planning to meet more regularly and more often. There is also a plan to gather other national groups for the same program.

Being in a foreign land should not be an excuse from being involved in the mission of the church. There is always something to be done.



Richard A. Sabuin NSD SS/PM Director



Pastor Sabuin and Indonesian Adventists who are working in Japan

# New Church Members Gather *in Okinawa*

By Richard Sabuin - NSD SS/PM Director

A special gathering was organized by the Okinawa Mission to welcome about 30 new church members in Okinawa who had been baptized within the last three years. The gathering was held on August 14, 2016. As the new members faithfully participated in the program, their faces expressed joy, enthusiasm, and a desire to learn.

The initiative for this gathering came from Pastor Masaru Kobayashi, Sabbath school and personal ministries (SS/PM) director of Japan Union Conference. Pastor Ikemasu, the pastor of Koza Adventist Church where the meeting was held, led out in the meeting.

After being introduced, the new members shared how they had become Adventists and gave short testimonies about their lives after baptism. Irei Motoko, for example, was brought to the truth through literature evangelism. Maetoku Hikari, a young woman from another Christian denomination, was introduced to biblical Sabbath observance when she inquired about working at the Adventist Medical Center (AMC), where she began working after being baptized. Hikari testified about how good God has been to her, reciting Isaiah 41:10.

Pastor Richard Sabuin, NSD SS/PM director, encouraged them, reminding them of their new titles as children of God, members of Christ's body, and disciples of Christ. Pastor Kobayashi taught them the importance



Jahana Kiyoko (left) and her younger sister Oshiro Tomiko (right), who brought Jahana to Jesus Christ.

of discovering their spiritual gifts and using them. Pastor Ikemasu shared with them how to live a devoted life and the significance of the gift of prophecy through the life and writings of Ellen G. White.

The program brought together new members from different local churches so that they could get to know each other and share their challenges and happiness. It also helped them to become better assimilated into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is vital for retention in the church.



# Forum on How to **Keep the Sabbath**

A forum on how to keep the Sabbath was held by ACT (Adventist Collegians with Tidings) Association at Saehim Art Hall on May 21, 2016. This forum was supported by Korean Union Conference (KUC) youth ministries and Korean Adventist Doctors Association. Attendees of the forum had the opportunity to think together about what Sabbath means for Korean Adventists living in the modern world and how we can joyfully spend the Sabbath with God.

"While we focus on how to keep the Sabbath holy, we sometimes forget about how to enjoy the blessings of that day. I hope all of the attendees find the balance between God's law and His blessings through this forum," said Pastor Lee KiHo, KUC youth ministries director, in his welcome remarks.

Elder Son KyeongSang, honorary director of Nomok Nature Observatory, and Pastor Baek GeunCheol gave presentations on "Keeping the Sabbath" and "Enjoying the Sabbath," respectively. Also, three panels from a medical school, the Adventist Training Center and Adventist Campus Mission Association shared their thoughts on



various practical questions, such as "Are we truly happy on the Sabbath day?" "If not, what is the reason and how can we be happy?" "What does Sabbath really mean?" "What does God intend for us to be on the Sabbath?"

Moreover, at the forum, results from a survey of 65 Adventists in three churches were revealed. On the question "Are you happy on the Sabbath day?" 52% of survey respondents said "happy but sometimes feel pressured" and 40% of respondents said they are happy. Also, 54% of respondents agreed, "I know why I am happy on Sabbath, but I don't know how to explain it to others." This was slightly more than the percentage of respondents who agreed "I can explain why I am happy on Sabbath."

# Leadership Training *in China*

By Joo MinHo - Assistant to the President of NSD



For three days, from July 22 to 24, 2016, Dr. Joo Minho, assistant to the president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), trained some 70 leaders in a city in the North China region. The main topics covered during the training were "Righteousness by Faith" and "God's Mission in the End Time."

Church leaders throughout the province in the North China region gathered to receive spiritual training on how to be righteous and live as faithful Adventists. They also received mission training based on social meetings espoused by early Adventism and worked to seek spiritual revival. Dr. Joo appealed to the leaders to work for God's mission through social meetings in the homes, and they committed to doing this and determined to participate in the NSD's mission "Vision One Million 2020."

Pastor He is an ordained pastor in the city where the training was held. According to him, the first home church in the city started in the 1950s by a church member doing colporteur ministry. However, the church was closed during the Cultural Revolution.

In 1983, three Adventist families started a church at home. One of them was Pastor Wu, who was 99 years old. Pastor He received the light of truth from this church and was ordained in 2005. Now he leads four churches in the city.

Every year, the four churches that Pastor He leads win 100 souls on average. The biggest among the four is the S\_\_\_Church, which has a membership of 600 with about 400 attending the church regularly. The leadership training was held at the S\_\_\_Church in the city. **6 T** have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12).

"Mission: Mongolia"<sup>3</sup> just completed its third phase in an ongoing collaboration between It Is Written and the church in Mongolia to further the introduction of the gospel in Mongolia. At the end of each phase, those who attended the evening meetings and the church service on Sabbath morning were given Bibles in the Mongolian language, donated by It Is Written.

Watching an elderly Mongolian gentleman kiss the Bible reverently and clasp it to his forehead reminded me of the words above from Job 23. Many who were a part of Mission Mongolia in August 2016 know what it means to treasure the hope that is cultivated in the heart when we read or hear the words of God. However, the bountiful blessings of God's message from Heaven to humanity in Scripture are virtually unknown to the 2.9 million people who call Mongolia home.

Because we know Christ and have the privilege of reading His Word, we know that God, who is able to speak things into existence, formed man with His own hands. We read that sin separated us from God, but a resounding theme throughout scripture is God tabernacling or dwelling with His people, culminating in the most astonishing form when God became flesh and dwelt among us. We see that Jesus listened intently, touched humanity's hands, their eyes, accepted them

IT IS WRITTEN<sup>1</sup> in Mongolia:

Drawn by His Loving Kindnes

By Neeta Hillman, MD – Internal Medicine Hospitalist Physician

with their faults and helped them rise above the challenges. As we come to know Him, we see the God of the Bible do these same things in our lives.

We wanted to reach out to the Mongolians who had never read these stories that are so familiar to us. We wanted them to experience this hope from God that we had read and heard in Scripture, so we listened, touched, and encouraged as Jesus did. The registration and translation team welcomed them, listened to their problems, and mingled with them. The pharmacy team took the time to ask what burdens they could lift to God in prayer. The physicians, nurse practitioners and nurses listened to their struggles and hopelessness and provided counseling for depression.



They looked in ears, sutured wounds, held children in their laps, encouraged patients that God could bestow the power to overcome the chains that were binding them, provided them with glasses to relieve distorted vision, and pulled teeth that were causing pain and disease. Our physical therapists demonstrated hydrotherapy methods, such as ice massage, and brought relief to the aches and pains people had for years. The human touch was powerful.

As more and more people pour into the city of Ulaanbaatar, the people are crowded together, yet they are also becoming more isolated from each other as they work long hours to provide for their families. Caught up in the daily toil, how often do they have the chance to experience a simple touch of love? Over the course of eight days, more than 60 volunteers from Malaysia, Switzerland and the United States pressed together with innumerable volunteers from Mongolia to be a part of mini clinics in five districts. One of the clinic sites was located in a providentially provided school building in the heart of what is considered a slum of Ulaanbaatar. Some of those patients had never had access to medical care. Many of them are not even registered with the government, but God knows each of them by name.

God used this large diverse team with its intricate array of talents, allowing us to expand the services to include outreach to a local orphanage under the leadership of Pastor Jamie Houghton, dental services under the leadership of Dr. David Hor, obstetrics and gynecology with Dr. Mary Romo and more in-depth health education. Three physical therapists also joined the team for hydrotherapy and massage with therapeutic exercises for those with joint aches, decreased mobility and headaches. One gentleman gained such relief from the hydrotherapy that he brought his wife the next day to see the physical therapist. His wife explained that her husband



had already demonstrated the hydrotherapy to her at home, and she wanted to learn more.

A significant emphasis was given to health education. Realizing that our time was short with those we encountered and that many would not be able to afford medications long-term, we desired to introduce principles of healthy living and hydrotherapy that the Mongolian people could implement at home immediately, even if their access to resources and finances was limited. An interesting side effect of this education was that our translators gained valuable knowledge themselves concerning God's health principles that would allow them to apply these principles in their lives and teach them to others in their native tongue.

A powerful example of this was a gentleman who came to the clinic for help and was baptized during the April 2016 Mission Mongolia trip. He started implementing the lifestyle changes that the physician taught him, and he found there was even more he could do to improve his health. He was struggling with a particular habit that had a stronghold in his life. I encouraged my translator to share his own struggle and victory that God had given him. The patient was moved with hope that he too could overcome. He said that he wanted to be an example to the younger members, letting them know that God could also help them. "They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony..." Scripture came alive.

In five days, approximately 1,100 people were seen by medical professionals for non-dental medical services. 80 people received dental services and nearly 500 people received reading glasses that would enable them to see up close again. In addition, during the eight days, the Gospel of Jesus Christ was presented through music, children's stories introducing Bible heroes of faith well known to Christians but new to many who heard, and health talks that shared God's plan for healing. The Word of God was opened, unveiling the plan of salvation and the hope of a soon returning Christ.

Mission Mongolia sought to become a unified, living demonstration of the Bible to the people of Mongolia, a chance to "show forth the praises of Him Who hath called us out of darkness into marvelous light," a chance to reveal the God "Who pardons all [our] iniquities, Who heals all [our] diseases; Who redeems [our lives] from the pit, Who crowns [us] with lovingkindness and compassion." The right hand of the gospel, medical work, was an opportunity to share with Mongolians in need, a small part of what God has given to us. The Word was made flesh.

<sup>1</sup> It Is Written is a donor-supported ministry of the Seventhday Adventist Church, passionate about communicating the Gospel to the world.

<sup>2</sup> Neeta Hillman, MD - Internal Medicine Hospitalist Physician working at Cumberland Medical Center in Crossville, Tennessee. She served as the medical director for the August 2016 Mission Mongolia trip. Neeta is married to her beloved Jim Hillman, who works at It Is Written in the treasury department. The couple had the opportunity to serve together in Mongolia.

<sup>3</sup> "Mission: Mongolia" is It Is Written's three-year project to share Jesus with the people of Mongolia. The project includes four mission trips involving medical, dental, and evangelism specialists to pave the way for the big evangelistic series in 2017.



### North Korea Mission Forum in US

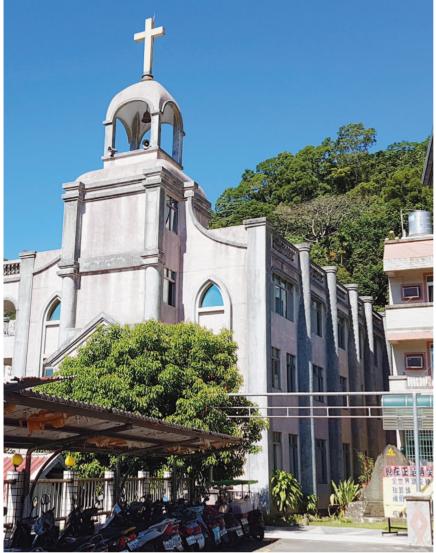
The North Korea Mission Forum, co-hosted by Korean American Seventh-day Adventist Church Associations (KASDA) and the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), was held from July 29 to 30, 2016, at the Loma Linda Korean Church in Loma Linda, California. About 200 Adventists from the United States attended the forum to learn about recent news regarding mission in North Korea and to pray for the people and the gospel work in North Korea.

Recently, tensions between South and North Korea have been high due to various issues, including nuclear weapons, and all trade between the two countries has been banned. "Even though the door for North Korea mission is shut tight now, it will be opened someday. When we are ready, God will surely open the door," said NSD president Jairyong Lee. "Let us think about and pray more for the North Koreans so that the gospel of God can be preached to every single person in North Korea," said KASDA president Kwon OhYoung.

Several people who work for North Korea mission were invited to present activity reports. Pastor Hong DooPyo reported on the work of the Korean American Adventist Relief Agency (KAARA), which helps orphans in North Korea. Pastor Oh ChoongHwan reported on the work of the American Sahmyook International Medical Association (ASIMA), which helps the North Korean Federation for the Care of the Aged and supports dental service. Mr. Kwon SeokDae spoke on the work of the Orange San Diego Municipal Chapter of the National Unification Advisory Council, and Pastor Kim SiYoung spoke about the mission work focusing on the 30,000 North Korean defectors in South Korea.

The attendees earnestly prayed together with one accord for the day that the gospel of Jesus Christ is spread all over the North Korean territory.





# **TOTAL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT** of Jianshan Church

By Kwon JohngHaeng - NSD Stewardship Ministries Director

On August 19, 2016, Pastor Steven Wu, associate director of Stewardship Ministries (Taiwan) of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, took me to Jianshan. It was a half hour drive, about 70 kilometers away, from Kaohsiung, one of the largest cities in Taiwan. A beautiful church was standing in the middle of the town, surrounded by beautiful mountains.

When Pastor Tu Chili of Jianshan Church asked me to lead out in the evangelistic meetings, I was surprised that the meetings would be held over just two days, Friday

Jianshan Church is located about a half hour away from Kaohsiung, one of the largest cities in Taiwan.

evening and Saturday. I wondered how I could hold an evangelistic series in just two days, but I soon realized that his decision was sound.

I was told that the first meeting Friday evening was at 7:30, but a church elder came at 5:00 p.m. to take me to the church. I hadn't had supper yet, and I thought it was too early to go for the evening meeting, but he took me to the church so that I could attend the Sabbath welcome service at 5:30, when the church members gathered together to welcome the Sabbath. It was very impressive. The speaker for the meeting was a middle-aged woman. After the meeting, the members went home for supper and then returned to the church for the evening meeting.

The town has a population of about 700 people, and 250 of them are Adventists. They are members of the Jianshan Church. This means that 36% of the total population of the town, or one in every 2.8 people, are church members. So what are the secrets of church growth? How does the church have a strong impact or influence in the community?

During the first meeting, I noticed that the first couple of rows were occupied by kindergarten age and elementary school age children. I have spoken at more than 200 evangelistic series, and most of the audience have been only adults unless the meetings were specifically for children. However, here, the children were not neglected. A group of them led the song service and gave special music.

The presider of the program was not the pastor of the church nor one of the elders, but a deaconess. I also noticed that the person collecting the offering was a young man with a ponytail and hair







- 1. On the Sabbath morning of the evangelistic meetings, twelve precious souls were baptized.
- 2. Jianshan Church has two free shower rooms on each floor for their guests.
- 3. Mr. Li KunSen (2nd from the left), president of a famous franchise restaurant, donated food when the church had a special occasion.
- 4. The church offers attendees a delicious buffet.
- 5. The church children watch the baptismal ceremony. The children in this church are not neglected in church services or meetings.
- 6. Every Friday evening at 5:30, church members gather together to welcome the Sabbath.

shaved on both sides up to the top of his head. The church accepted the young man and his culture, even with his hairstyle, and did not condemn or criticize.

There were two services on Sabbath morning. Youth members led the song service and gave a special number, and the pastoral prayer was offered by a woman. One of the three platform parties was either a woman or a youth or a child at all the meetings. During the second meeting on Sabbath morning, a little boy offered opening prayer. The song service leaders were adult female singers. As I began my sermon, I said, "Although I am not a prophet, I predict that this afternoon the senior members will sing a special hymn," and they did.

There was a baptismal ceremony Sabbath morning, and twelve precious souls were dedicated to the Lord by baptism. They were not the fruit of this evangelistic meeting. They had been already prepared for baptism by the pastor and lay members. The elders, deacons, and deaconesses did their role during the baptismal ceremony.

The lunch was as luxurious as a buffet of a five star hotel. At the end of the worship service and baptismal service, we saw a van in front of the church with its engine on and its hood open. The van was a food delivery van from Xiùyǔ Sùshíguǎn (秀羽素食館), a famous franchise restaurant in Taiwan. The president of the company himself had driven the van for more than two hours together with his wife to donate the food for the attendees. He had his hood up in order to run the air conditioner to keep the food fresh while he was waiting. He was

not an Adventist, but a Buddhist. When he heard that the church had a special occasion, he had volunteered to donate food for the members. This was perfect Total Member Involvement—not only the members, but even non-members were involved in the ministry of the church.

The first secret of church growth and the high retention rate of members was Total Member Involvement. I couldn't find a member without a role in the church. Every single person, man and woman, young and old, new and experienced, had a role and participated with his or her capability. None of them was a guest or a stranger. Every one of the members sensed ownership by being actively involved in the church service.

The second secret of the church growth of Jianshan Church was

community service. Before the second service on Sabbath morning, the pastor introduced a group of high school students as visitors from another city. They were not Adventists. They were not even Christians. They were a group of basketball players visiting the town for off-season training. The church has a special guest room ministry. They offer guest rooms to the public free of charge. The church provides visitors to the town with room and food without charge. The students who were staying in these rooms attended the Sabbath worship voluntarily and joyfully. I had wondered why there were two shower rooms in the restroom area in each floor of the church building. Pastor Tu told me that the people needed more shower rooms than restrooms after basketball games. The church was serving the

people by providing what was most needed.

The church also has programs for senior citizens and students. Senior citizens spend their time at the church during the weekdays, and children come to church after school before they return home. It seems like the town does not need facilities for seniors because the church is serving them, and the town does not need entertainment facilities for youth and children because the church provides quality programs for them. The church itself is a multipurpose center of influence. It is not surprising that when the government recognized the services that the church was offering, the government began to subsidize their program with 500,000 dollars a year.





### Cottage Meetings in Urban Areas

For the first time in 1000 Missionary Movement (1000 MM) history, cottage meetings were held in an urban setup within a district, all with the same theme "*May Pag-asang Magbago*," which means "There is hope, a chance for change." This one-week crusade was held from August 28 to September 4, 2016,

in the district of Biñan, Laguna, which was where the 48th batch of 1000MM missionaries did their 3-week urban ministry prior to their missionary training under the tutelage of Pastor William Azupardo, who manages a total of five churches in the Biñan, Laguna, district.

The 70 missionary trainees were divided into five groups and placed in five churches of the said district, namely Adelina, Biñan, Courtyard, Dela Paz, and Malaban. They applied what they had learned in their few weeks of training about reaching out to people, mingling with them, sympathizing with them, ministering to their needs, winning their confidence and asking them to follow Jesus Christ.

A holistic and genuine change cannot be acquired by one's effort but only through Christ alone. People from all walks of life yearn for that change especially in this dying world where hope seems bleak and sorrow shows up in everyone's doorstep. People need to cling to that certain hope that can be found only in God, and this is what the missionary trainees shared with the people of Biñan in their daily visits and nightly meetings.



The Philippines team participated in a multicultural cooking contest hosted by MFSC. Guests for the cooking contest enjoy traditional foods from various countries.



### Celebrating Chuseok Holidays with MFSC

During the Chuseok holidays, sometimes referred to as Korean Thanksgiving, the Multi-cultural Family Service Center (MFSC) in Ansan organized special events for multi-cultural families and foreign workers.

On September 14, 2016, they held a multi-cultural cooking contest. Eleven teams from Russia, Bangladesh, Mexico, Cambodia, the Philippines, Vietnam, China and Kenya took part in the contest, and about 150 people gathered to compete or to watch the event and enjoy the food. The participants were able to think about their own home country as well as learn about other countries and their cultures. The China team ranked first, followed by Vietnam and the Philippines. The MFSC covered the expenses for the event, including the prize money for the competitors.

Another holiday event sponsored by MFSC was an outing to Everland Amusement Park and Caribbean Bay Water Park. About 450 multi-cultural families and foreign workers had a wonderful opportunity to break away from daily routine and have fun together.

As Korean society is becoming a more multi-cultural society, the Chuseok holidays are not only for Koreans but also for foreigners living in Korea. MFSC will continue trying to help foreigners living in Korea to not feel isolated and to not suffer from homesickness but to spend happier holidays with the warmth of Koreans as well as the love of God.

The 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM) missionaries were involved in SUPER (Spiritual Unity and Physical Endurance Reinforcement) Training from August 15 to 17, 2016. The training amidst the forces of nature was more challenging than ever. Heavy rains had been pouring days prior to the scheduled training, and those on campus and the volunteers prayed for better weather. The prayers were answered as we indeed had clear skies and bright sunshine on the day we traveled toward the pier.

When we boarded the boat, the waves were raging like madmen. Have you ever ridden a rollercoaster in an amusement park? The boat ride turned out to be just like one except it lasted for almost two hours. One by one the people in the boat got seasick. As some tried to help, they in turn also got sick. The stench was almost unbearable and the sight unforgettable. We could only pray that there would be no more people who would get sick and that the ones who were sick would soon recover. We couldn't have been happier when we finally saw dry land. We praised the Lord and hurried on to our campsite and after a couple hours of rest started the formal training, but perhaps the training had already started when we stepped onto the boat.

Ironically, the weather in Mindoro, where the training was held, was unlike what we had in Manila. It was raining cats and dogs, more like hippos and elephants due to its heaviness, but still the training continued. The volunteers were soaking wet, yet we thanked the Lord for this helped those who got sick during the boat ride and they recovered quite well. At the end of the day, everyone was exhausted but despite that they still learned eagerly and were enthusiastic as Pastor Lowell Quinto, 1000MM associate director for the Central Philippine Union Conference, delivered significant lessons from the life of the "Runaway Prophet" named Jonah.

The training went on between light showers and bright skies and ended successfully after three days. This experience reminded us that as missionaries, when we cross seas, climb mountains, walk any roads in whatever climate, in whatever condition, whatever the cost, we can do it with God's mighty help. For He is the God of the waves, He is the creator of all nature and in Him we can trust. From Him we can draw strength, and for Him we can do wonders for His glory.



# <u>GOLDEN ANGE</u> IN JAPAN

We, the 13th group of Golden Angels, a singing mission team, boarded a plane for Japan, where we would be ministering for two weeks, from October 3 to 15, 2016. During the first week, we stayed at Fukuoka Adventist Church and visited people in several places. We delivered the gospel through our music to the students in the

lower grades of Nishijin Elementary School, to the youth studying at Fukuoka YMCA, and to the elderly staying at the Saga Daycare Center.

In addition to preparing English songs, we had also prepared more than 10 Japanese songs for this Japan ministry in order to draw closer to the people. Many people were touched and pleased through



Golden Angels sing praise songs at Hukumasu Kindergarten.

the praises sung in their own language.

On October 6, we held an outdoor concert in front of the Fukuoka Church. Church members and invited Bible seekers attended the concert. In addition, many people passing by stopped to listen. It was a great opportunity to acquaint people with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

On Sabbath, there was a union worship in the Kyushu area with a Golden Angels concert. It was a heart-touching moment. The church members praised God together, looking forward to the second coming of Jesus Church .

During the second week, we participated in a crusade meeting held in Chiba, Japan. This was the second time we were meeting there this year. Before noon, we sang and distributed invitation flyers on the street. In the afternoon, we visited several facilities. It was especially meaningful revisiting the two



welfare facilities we had visited in May. We thank God that we could bring our joyful music and smiles to them once again.

During the crusade meeting in Chiba, we were glad to meet the people who had been baptized at the last meeting in May as well as other Bible seekers and lost sheep. On the last day of the meeting, on Saturday evening, we went with some church members to a crowded street to sing and distribute mission booklets. Many passersby stopped to pay attention to our small concert and booklets. One elderly man had tears in his eyes and even followed us to the church.

During the two weeks of Japan ministry, we sowed many seeds of true love to many people, from small children to the elderly. We will not stop praying for them, that the seeds planted in their hearts will germinate and yield precious fruits.

The first church specifically for young people in the history of Japan Adventist Church was opened in Setagaya, Tokyo.



## Setagaya Youth Church Opens in Tokyo

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Japan celebrated their 120th anniversary this year, and the status of the church is not lower than other Protestant churches. However, regular members who attend the church are still few in number when considering the population of Japan. Moreover, the average age of the church members is quite old.

When we think about the future of the church in Japan in that respect, the future looks uncertain and dim. However, God has presented us with a special sign to take away our anxieties and worries: The Setagaya Church located in central Tokyo, the capital city of Japan, opened as a church specifically for young people for the first time in the 120-year history of Japan Adventist Church.

Setagaya Church opened in April 2016 with the slogan "Center for Youth Ministries" with the complete support of the Japan Adventist Church. The senior pastor is Yasuki Aoki, who currently serves as the director of the Youth Ministries Department of Japan Union Conference.

There are two defining goals of Setagaya Church: First, to absorb the youth who graduate from Sahmyook schools and to help them to put down roots of faith and settle in the church, and second, to discover youth who have a passion for evangelism, train them as missionaries, and dispatch them for the revival of local churches.

This movement is just beginning, but God will work through this movement for the spiritual revival and future growth of the church in Japan. I hope that amazing revival takes places through the dynamic activities of God's young people and their new church.



Kim NakHyung NSD Youth Director Preaching the gospel and changing people's lives in a challenging urban mission field may seem like a difficult task. This mission report is the story of Shalu Church in Taiwan, a small but solid church which has been changing and transforming with rich experiences of failure and success. This is the story of Total Member Involvement.

Shalu Church is a small pioneer church. About 30 members have been involved in active mission work for the past ten years together with a Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) missionary family from South Korea. However, in the beginning Shalu Church was not like this. When Shalu Church was first started, it was only with the missionary family. Foreign language classes and music lessons were started to draw people to the church. Those free classes brought people to the church one by one. During the last four years, Shalu Church started FAST discipleship training and set up systematic mission plans to reach out to local areas. Church members became disciples, and the church started to look like an authentic church. However, despite these efforts, the number of new baptisms and new church members did not grow much.

Both church members and missionaries were getting tired after outreach efforts with no visible growth. There seemed to be a problem, but they weren't certain about it. They believed that things would change if they were patient and waited. They prayed for these important missions and tried to fix the problems in their outreach. With yearlong patience and new discoveries, they were able to discover problems as well as solutions. Here are their important discoveries.

### **1.** Consider the difference between the church's situation and the district community.

When we looked back at the past few years of mission, we realized that



# TOTAL MEMBER A MISSION SHALU ADVENTIST

we had never analyzed the results of the church's mission efforts. Because we didn't know the causes of our successes and weaknesses of mission work, we repeated the same mistakes again and again. Also, the lack of knowledge about the situation of our church and the needs of the society resulted in our programs having minimal impact in the community. After figuring out the problems in our church and in our programs, and by rectifying them, we were able to shorten the distance between our church and the community.

### **2.** Effectively connect discipleship training and church programs.

Even after years of discipleship training, it looked like the members were unable to sufficiently take part in different areas of the church. Trained church members were focused on only one or two specific



# INVOLVEMENT STORY FROM CHURCH IN TAIWAN

services, such as CARE groups or Bible studies. We needed them to be involved in a variety of ways with their different talents. To solve this problem, we encouraged trained church members to focus on personal ministry by building personal relationships with seekers to evaluate their spiritual and personal needs. Also, we asked our church members to get more involved in different programs in the local community so that they could socialize with new people. We also trained our church members to be more dedicated to our services by getting them involved in church programs, such as cooking, church cleaning, visiting seekers, teaching children's classes, and Pathfinders.

**3.** Understand the needs of the church and the community.

While we held many different mission programs for the community, we usually focused on the traditional purpose of the church rather than the needs of the community. Even though most church members were families with young children, most mission programs targeted only adults. It was quite a burden for parents since there were no programs or guidance for their children. Therefore, when we planned evangelistic programs, we reflected on the personal needs of our members. We organized children's programs and Pathfinder programs on Sabbath afternoons to help with the spiritual growth of children and vouth. We were even able to do largescale youth programs by uniting with other churches and creating an Adventist network. New people from the community were drawn to the church as we reflected on the needs of the church and community in our programs. In this way, we were able to fulfill the needs of both our church and the community and accomplish growth.

### 4. Select a target audience for mission.

We plan many different programs and outreach activities every year, but we often do not select the target audience when we plan our programs. When we gain seekers from evangelistic meetings, we assign them to the church members to care for them and teach them. However, as time goes by, the care becomes neglected and the seekers lose interest. In some CARE groups, there are seekers who have not accepted baptism for years. The problem is that seekers are usually in their 50s or 60s while the church members are in their 30s and 40s. It is hard for them to care for those in their 50s and 60s when their interests and life styles are so different. With this in mind, we developed new evangelistic programs with a new target group—young families. Last March 2016, we held a specific evangelism for young mothers and





- 1. Shalu Church members visited children and youth with Down Syndrome.
- 2. Since there are not enough community facilities for children and middle school children in Shalu, the church launched the "Little Drummers Pathfinder Club."
- 3.Children in the church participate in various programs for their community including street cleaning.
- 4. The church held an athletic event and invited their neighbors.

children, and the number of people who attended was beyond our expectations. Even after the evangelism meetings were over, participation rates for followup programs were very high. Now, church members do not find it difficult to lead new people with similar needs and interests into the church.

### 5. Figure out the talent of the church.

As everyone has strengths and weaknesses, every church has different strengths and weaknesses. Even a small pioneer church has its strengths. Small churches can create a more familylike mood and promote friendship among young members. One sister in the church created play group meetings with young mothers in the community through Facebook. This play group formed a close relationship with the church. All of the young mothers in the church joined this group, and the church lent them a place for free to hold meetings. Later, the church included the group's opinions while planning for new evangelism, which was a great success. While planning for follow-up programs, one member suggested that we have a monthly Mission Sabbath. On those special Sabbaths, members would gather early for worship and then run special programs for seekers. The results were phenomenal! It did not cost much, and every member positively participated and volunteered to help. Members were also able to naturally make relationships with the seekers. This proved the benefits of setting up a mission plan that suits each church's needs and characters.

If we look in the Old Testament, we can see that the armors and weapons for King Saul did not fit young David. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine (1 Samuel 17:39-40).

Without an appropriate and realistic mission plan, our financial efforts and seemingly good plans may not yield the results that we expect. If you properly review and evaluate previous mission plans, and carry out plans based on your unique know-how that suits the church and the community, you will achieve marvelous accomplishments wherever you are, even though it may, at first, look like very dry land.



Kweon HyukMin PMM Pastor at Shalu Church



### 2016 Taiwan PMM Spiritual Revival Meeting

By Kim SiYoung - NSD Adventist Mission Director

Currently, there are 15 Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) missionaries and their families working for mission in Taiwan. A revival meeting was held for these pastors and their families at the Xindian Church in Taiwan from August 22 to 24, 2016.

During the revival meeting, the missionaries had valuable time to pray together and have their hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. As they shared their experiences of mission in unfamiliar territories, everyone was able to see how God has been leading them and how God's work has been fulfilled in their mission fields. The attendees also shared their thoughts about more effective and strategic ways to win souls and expand God's Kingdom in Taiwan.

Jairyong Lee, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD); Noah Lai, president of Taiwan Conference (TWC); Cyrus Shen, TWC executive secretary; Lee JiChoon, ministerial association director of Korean Union Conference; and Pastor Kim SiYoung, NSD PMM director, were invited to preach the message.

Pastor Jairyong Lee remarked, "As the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost and the gospel of God spread to the world, each one of us here must be filled with the Holy Spirit and evangelize Taiwan." Pastor Noah Lai expressed his gratitude to the PMM missionaries for their devotion in Taiwan, where it is not easy to carry out the gospel work, and asked God's blessings upon them.

Through this meeting, the PMM missionaries reconfirmed the urgency of mission, the importance of their work, and the purpose of their dedication.



#### **Messages from the Presidents**

#### Robert Folkenberg, Jr., President, Chinese Union Mission



The church was created by Christ for the purpose of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world. This compelling mission should actuate all of our plans; should dominate all of our conversations and should touch upon all of

our budgets. The Chinese Union fully supports Vision 2020 as it puts into action our faith in Christ's power to accomplish His great work upon earth and it will fill us with hope in finishing this work and hastening the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Hwang ChunKwang, President, Korean Union Conference



VOM 2020! This vision clearly enlightens us towards our gospel mission and goal. For this mission and goal we, all of us, must pray on our knees, stand up and run. Above all, we must let our life be the life of missionaries. When we do this, God

will allow us the full influence and wonderful work of the Holy Spirit.

#### Masumi Shimada, President, Japan Union Conference



To restore the Adventist movement in the 21st century, our goals are to win 5,000 souls for Christ by the year 2020 and to increase church attendance by 20,000 by the year 2020. Soul salvation is our mission through doing His will.

#### Li-Chun Lai, President, Taiwan Conference



I believe that the VOM2020 is a heavenly vision that can motivate the NSD mission works. Through pastors' changed life, and actively train lay members to get involve the mission works, we will experience the Holy Spirit revival as in the Apostolic Age.

#### Kim YoHan, President, Mongolia Mission



We are His witnesses to reach 1 million by 2020. We are called to witness for God through our life, words and character. Our passion and conviction will show others about our loving Father in Heaven.