

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION THE MOST CHALLENGING FIELD



It Is Written's three-year mission project in Mongolia culminated in an evangelistic series by John Bradshaw in Ulaanbaatar. More than 70 precious souls were baptized on the last day of the series.

#### INSPIRATION

# **Divine Fire from Heaven**

### Needed for Great Spiritual Revival and Gospel Outreach

As soon as we have accomplished the gospel work, Christ will come back to take His people to the heavenly kingdom. Ellen White wrote, "It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (*COL*, 69). However, the conversion of a soul is not an easy job. It is a miracle of miracles. God performs this miracle through His human representatives. What do we need for a great spiritual revival and successful gospel outreach?

The Northern Kingdom of Israel was in deep spiritual darkness when Elijah was called by God to work as His prophet. Beginning with King Ahab, most of the people in the kingdom had departed from Jehovah God and were worshipping Baal and Asherah. Israel had become a kingdom of idols! God chose Elijah to bring a spiritual revival and conversion experience to the people of Israel.

On an appointed day, Elijah went to Mount Carmel to prove that Jehovah is the true God. A huge crowd of people gathered on Mount Carmel at the king's command. There were also 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah who ate at the table of Jezebel. They were there from early in the morning in priestly garment, and they tried to encourage the people to support them. They planned to destroy Elijah, the prophet of Jehovah.

Standing up on the mountain, Elijah shouted toward the people, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him" (1 Kings 18:21). But there was no response from the crowd. There was no sign of spiritual revival, but only cold indifference among them.

Elijah's mission was to "restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:6). How could he accomplish the mission? How could he prove that Jehovah is the true God of Israel? How could he bring a great spiritual revival to the people?

The 850 false prophets of Baal and Asherah prayed to their gods to send fire from heaven. They

prayed from morning till late in the afternoon, but there was no answer to their prayers. It was proven that their gods were incapable to respond to them. They were disappointed. The people were also disappointed.

> Jairyong Lee, President Northern Asia-Pacific Division

At the time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah called the people around him and repaired the altar of the Lord that had been destroyed for many years. When Elijah prayed, "the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, 'The Lord—He is God! The Lord—He is God!'" (1 Kings 18: 38-39) When the people saw the divine fire, they repented of their sins and confessed that Jehovah is the true God. The people of Israel experienced spiritual revival.

Elijah's mission will be repeated in the last days as it has been prophesied in Malachi 4:5-6. When the people see the divine fire of the Holy Spirit in us, they will repent of their sins and confess, "The Lord—He is God! The Lord—He is God!"

We have been called by God in the last days for the mission of Elijah. Like in the days of Elijah, multitudes of people are living in spiritual darkness. Many are indifferent to the gospel message. They blindly worship their own gods: mammon, honor, property, scholarship, etc. How can we approach these people with the gospel message? We need the divine fire: the power of the Holy Spirit, passion for mission, and active participation in witnessing.



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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> News & Views is published bi-monthly by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Its mission is to share the news of mission activities and views of mission of the NSD with the world church so that the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be hastened.



# It Is Written's **"MISSION: MONGOLIA"** Fulfilling an Ancient Request

In the year A.D. 1266, the leader of the Mongol Yuan dynasty, the great Kublai Khan, asked two Italian merchantmen to return home with a letter requesting 100 well-educated Christian missionaries to come back and teach his people about the Gospel. Unfortunately, Kublai Khan's desire was not fulfilled that time, and it would seem that his earnest petition was never truly granted. Well, I would say it hadn't been granted until now! The Great Khan could never have guessed that 750 years later, a ministry called It Is Written, in partnership with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mongolia, would respond to this ancient request, focusing its attention on the country of Mongolia with a life-saving message of hope.

**Content** ISSION: MONGOLIA" is It Is Written's threeyear project to share Jesus with the people of Mongolia, over 97 percent of which are non-Christian. The project culminated in a city-wide evangelistic series by John Bradshaw in the capital of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar. The project included four mission trips involving medical, dental, and evangelism specialists who paved the way for the big evangelistic series in 2017.

After three years of spiritual preparation, planning, and ministry, between June 4 and 11, 2017, the It Is Written team, along with Mongolia Mission, held a huge evangelistic campaign, entitled "In What Can You Trust?" Altogether, more than 120 volunteer missionaries came from abroad, and 14 churches/companies in Ulaanbaatar got involved in this bold missionary challenge. The total number of people who were baptized on the last day of the evangelistic series reached 71! Praise the Lord!

"Since 2015, It Is Written has been actively involved in humanitarian and gospel work to help Mongolians get a clearer picture of Jesus as their help in this world and their hope in the world to come," said Erik Flickinger, associate speaker for It Is Written. The humanitarian work began in 2015 by drilling water wells at two local churches where the local community had no access to fresh and clean drinking water. To get water, residents of *Ger* districts have to push carts of empty water jugs to a water station, sometimes located a mile away from their home. Today, three churches have hot and cold running water and can attract people who otherwise might not take notice of them.

The "MISSION: MONGOLIA" project involved medical, dental, and optical clinics as well as nightly Bible presentations by John Bradshaw, speaker/director



John Bradshaw (left), speaker of evangelistic series, conducted by the It Is Written team, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

of the It Is Written team. We wondered how many people would show up for the evangelistic meetings in a country that is 97% non-Christian. On Sunday night, we had the answer: more than 700 people! They continued to attend the evangelist meeting every night in the Union Cultural Center Palace in Ulaanbaatar. This is nothing less than miraculous!

Starting on Sunday, June 4, 2017, It Is Written carried out a major health project in Ulaanbaatar. The team of more than 120—including around 80 medical professionals from at least five countries—conducted clinics at several locations around the city providing a wide range of free health services. In cooperation with the city government, physicians, ophthalmologists, dentists, nurses, physical therapists, and many others ministered to thousands of people. The medical missionary team was divided up and

> went to hospitals, nursing homes, a school, a blind center, Adventist churches and even to a jail, offering dental, vision, surgical, and multiple other services touching many lives through this work. They provided medical services that in many cases people here would not otherwise be able to receive. Missionaries sacrificed vacation time and money to travel all the way to the other side of the world to make friends for Jesus. At the same time, evangelistic meetings were held in the center of Ulaanbataar each night, giving people the opportunity to know Jesus as not only Healer, but as Lord and Savior!

"Our journey to Mongolia could not have ended on a better note. More than 70 precious souls publicly confessed their love for Jesus through baptism. There may not have been much water in the Tuul River but there was enough for us to completely immerse every person. I even had the honor



The "MISSION: MONGOLIA" project provided people in Mongolia with medical, dental, and optical clinics.



of baptizing a young lady with muscular dystrophy. I just cradled her small body in my arms and we both went down in the water. You should have seen her when we came up out of the water: smiling and crying all at the same time. Please don't stop praying for Mongolia. Hundreds more, from our week here, are now being prepared for baptism in the future," stated Yves Monnier, It Is Written evangelism director.

It Is Written's "Mission: Mongolia" project brought the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of Mongolia. People here must be reached. People are having their health needs met. Those who need clothing to protect themselves against the brutally cold winter are being helped also.

When it comes to really approaching them with the Gospel, and witnessing to them, we strongly believe Jesus' simple approach is the best one: meeting their needs. This is the so-called "Christ's Method Alone."\*

In Matthew 24:14 Jesus strongly asserts, "And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end

come" (KJV). Now, if we are to take Jesus at His Word, what that means is that He's not going to come back to this world until everybody in the world, including Mongolia, has heard the Good News. We know Jesus is going to come back soon, which means people all across this great nation, Mongolia, are going to hear the Good News. An everlasting empire and a new Khan (King) is about to come!

\* "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour 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." Ellen G. White, The Ministry of Healing, p.143.



Yure Gramacho MM Communication Director



Our Heavenly Father, what an enormous mission field is still before us; 97 and a half percent of the people in this nation, Mongolia, don't know Jesus. There is a huge and challenging work to do, and we want to thank you for calling us to be part of this work. We pray, Lord, that you'll allow us to be mission-minded and to care about those who don't know you, whether they're in Mongolia or across the street or even in our home. Bless us, Lord, and bless Mongolia Mission and the Mongolian people. We pray and thank you in Jesus' name, Amen!

#### NEWS FOCUS I RECACCE AND FARMER INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL

Lisa Clouzet & Nilde Itin Lust Director & Associate Director of NSD Children's, Women's. and Family Ministries

The first-ever International Leadership Conference was held in Budapest, Hungary, May 10 to 13, 2017. The theme for the conference was "Reach the World." Three closely related departments—children's, women's, and family ministries—collaborated to organize this conference, which brought around 400 leaders representing more than 60 countries from around the world, to focus on current issues facing children, women, and families today. The Northern Asia-Pacific Division was represented by 15 ministry leaders who traveled from Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Mongolia to attend and take part in this event.

The conference provided opportunities to listen and learn firsthand through plenary sessions from well-known researchers, authors, and leaders, such as Dr. George Barna (world-renowned researcher and statistician from Barna Research Group), Dr. Kiti Freier Randall (pediatric neurodevelopmental psychologist from Loma Linda University Health), and Dr. Ella Simmons and Dr. Geoffrey Mbwana (leaders from the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church). A highlight of the conference was the Sabbath sermon presented by Pastor Mark Finley (well-known evangelist).

The various messages presented throughout the conference sought to bring about a deeper awareness of current issues. Barna warned that "we are in a crisis" because families are not intentionally passing on a biblical worldview to their children. According to his latest research, it is culture that is forming children's worldview today. The presenters not only focused on the challenges, but also called on the church as a community to take advantage of this opportunity to address these



15 representatives of children's, women's, and family ministries from NSD at the International Leadership Conference

Dr. George Barna from Barna Research Group led a plenary session lecture.



Women's Ministries delegates have a break-out session, titled "Building bridges: woman to woman."

issues. Randall called for the church to support families and equip parents to spend "time-in" with their children to make a change in their lives and effectively "reach the world." She also suggested that the church consider spending more on children and family outreach.

Breakout sessions during the conference gave the opportunity to deal with particular issues faced by each group. The challenges of reaching at-risk children of affluent families, drug-addicted and HIV-infected parents, were presented at the children's ministries breakout sessions. Women's ministries discussed the challenges of reaching out to women of other faiths. Family ministries touched the topics of sexual identity struggles, the connection between the church and LGBT communities, and the need to genuinely love and respect all people.

Conference attendees were encouraged to work together to reach and welcome those facing challenges and issues inside and outside the church. They were also invited to commit to, develop and promote personal and healthy relationships, and focus on people's needs to make a difference in the world.

# SEASON OF REVIVAL AND EVANGELISTIC FERVOR: NEWS FOCUS II WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN JAPAN

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Japan has about 16,000 members on the books. About one-third of that number actively attend church worship services. Seventy percent of that number is made up of women. That means that out of 5,000 active church members in Japan, about 3,500 are women. Thus, we can safely say that the future of Adventist mission in Japan depends, to a large degree, on women being actively engaged in outreach evangelism in all its phases.

These are the facts behind the purpose, the goals, the seminars and training programs of the women's ministries department of Japan Union Conference (JUC) and its ministry in general.

Akemi Duarte, director of women's ministries, believes it is important for every church member and pastor to understand that women's ministries is not about promoting any kind of political feminist agenda, nor is it about women hijacking the role of men in the church or causing division among church members. Women's ministries is about ministering to women, nurturing



Akemi Duarte from JUC women's ministries and Pastor Mark Duarte of Tokyo Central International Church

and training them so they can in turn be inspired and equipped to minister to others as part of the ongoing mission of the Adventist church. It's about reviving a culture of evangelism in every local congregation, in every member and in every church activity.

It is the priority of JUC women's ministries to plan every seminar and program centered on Christ, the word of God and the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy. One example of this can be found in the monthly seminars held at Tokyo Central Church. Every third Wednesday of each month, a group of women gather to study Bible topics in depth. The seminars have been presented bilingually by Pastor

Mark Duarte of Tokyo Central International Church with translation by Akemi Duarte. The purpose for presenting them bilingually is to afford non-Japanese church members an opportunity to be inspired for involvement in evangelism. Both Pastor Duarte and Akemi Duarte believe that with the increased number of non-Japanese living in Japan and attending various churches more emphasis needs to be put on helping those people and equipping them for outreach ministry in Japan. In 2016 attendees studied the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

Two spiritual retreats were also held last year in both East and West Japan Conferences to further study God's word for inspiration regarding our mission of spreading His precious message of salvation to others. The running theme of women's ministries has been the same as that of the General Conference and the JUC: "Arise! Shine! Jesus is coming soon!"

Once every five years, the JUC women's ministries department sponsors an all-Japan Women's Spiritual Retreat. This year, 2017, is the year of the retreat, and it was held in April on the island of Okinawa. The theme of the retreat was "A Shelter in the Time of Storm." The women chose Pastor Mark Duarte and Akemi Duarte as the speakers.

The JUC women's ministries expected and planned for an attendance of about 80 people. But as participants began to sign up, it soon became obvious that the number Above: 2017 JUC Women's Spiritual Retreat under the theme of "A Shelter in the Time of Storm"

Below: 2016 JUC Women's Spiritual Retreat





would need to be increased. When the deadline arrived, there were 250 participants signed up. That number included women, some men, some families and quite a few non-Japanese attendees. God truly blessed over that weekend, and many attendees said they were revived to do God's work more faithfully in their home churches.

As God brings revival and evangelistic fervor to the hearts of the women in Adventist churches around Japan it is our prayer that He will use those women to help bring revival to His church and to finish the work in Japan. Please pray for JUC women's ministries.



### Korean Adventist Magazine, Signs of the Times, Selected as Seoul Future Heritage

Kim BeomTae

**KUC** Communication

Cince Seoul Metropolitan City Decame the capital city of Korea in 1394, it has been the center of Korean politics, economy, and culture in modern Korean history. In recent years, the city has become an international megalopolis with 10 million residents and a major hub of northeastern Asia in various dynamic industries, such as finance, business, info-communications, digital contents, fashion, and science. Since 2013, Seoul has been selecting tangible and intangible cultural assets worthy of delivery to future generations, the Seoul Future Heritage.

Signs of the Times, a monthly magazine published by Sijosa, the Adventist publishing house in Korea, was the only publication included among the 54 new Seoul Future Heritage items added in January 2017, bringing glory to God and joy to Korean Adventists. This magazine is unofficially the oldest periodical in Korea as it started its first publication in September 1910. It was meaningful that citizens voluntarily recommended the publication. The Future Heritage Preservation Committee visited the Sijosa in December 2016 for deliberation and agreement.

Last January, Seoul City delivered the certificate to the Sijosa. A copper plated sign was placed at the front of the publishing house to signify that it is part of Seoul Future Heritage. The Sijosa also added the Seoul Future Heritage symbol on the cover of the magazine starting in March.

The selection of the *Signs of the Times* means that the Korean

society has officially recognized the value of this magazine. This heritage is based on the social and emotional agreement of citizens and the continuously developing, future-oriented cultural heritage. Above all, it confirmed that the Three Angels' Messages of the Adventist Church enlightens society and enhances the dignity and value of human beings.

Being selected as part of Seoul Future Heritage raised the status of the magazine to a higher level. As readers' responses become more positive, Adventist messages can be conveyed with a sense of weight. It also encourages the work of literature evangelists as they can strongly recommend the magazine to others. Mr. Chung SyeKyun, the chairman of the Korean Congress, Pastor Um KilSoo, president of Sijosa, the Adventist publishing house in Korea

showed interest in the magazine because of its selection as a Seoul Future Heritage item and decided to make a donation in order to send the publication to others.

"The selection of Seoul Future Heritage is a big privilege and a big duty at the same time. We need to accomplish our mission with the consistent attitude of the past 100 years of history," said Pastor Hwang ChunKwang, president of the Korean Union Conference, emphasizing the role of literature evangelism.

#### Interview with Pastor Um KilSoo, President of Sijosa

"The *Signs of the Times* is not a mere magazine, but a gospel envoy that changes people, constructs a church in an unreached area, and sets the captive free."

Pastor Um KilSoo, president of Sijosa, was overwhelmed by



God's amazing plan related to the selection of the magazine as a Seoul Future Heritage item. "All literature evangelists in Korea feel a sense of pride because of this event. It is another chance for the magazine to soar in the future," said Pastor Um.

"It is amazing that the magazine has gained the recognition of society about its sincerity and purity in this day and age when it is difficult to honestly point out sin. People seem to want the *Signs of the Times* to



A ceremony placing the copper-plated sign signifying that *Signs of the Times* was selected as Seoul Future Heritage

remain non-commercial in order to preserve its core values."

He emphasized the importance of literature evangelism once again. "Although there are many challenges that encroach the publishing market, such as smart phones or e-books, the prophecy of the prophet that the gospel work will be finished through printed matters will definitely be accomplished. The Three Angels' Messages can enter a bedroom through mail. No one can stop the strong warning to be ready for the second coming of Christ."

"The Adventist Church is a church with prophecy. Literature evangelism began with prophecy of the prophet. Now, it is time to raise the evidence that God has shown to us. There should be a movement that returns us to literature evangelism. We must reinforce it in crisis, and we need to spread the signs of the time and news of salvation."

At the end of the interview, he said, "The *Signs of the Times* is a seed of everlasting life to people we cannot meet face-to-face. Please provide support through prayer so that the publication can increase its farreaching power."



# **Go Forward! Reaching the World!** NSD Midyear Committee in Taiwan

The 2017 Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) executive committee members met together for the Midyear Committee in Taichung, Taiwan, from May 16 to 18, 2017. They approved various agenda items and shared reports of mission work and strategic plans as they sought God's wisdom and power.

A major agenda item, reported by Kim SiYoung, NSD Adventist Mission director, was the progress of "Vision One Million 2020," the goal of reaching a membership of 1 million in the NSD. Special efforts and plans were presented by the presidents of Unions, attached conference and mission. Last year, the number of total baptisms was 20,637, which was the highest record in 10 years. The total yearend membership was 719,766 as of December 2016.

"It doesn't seem possible to reach the goal, but we pray for the result, asking for power from God to achieve the goal of this quinquennium," said Jairyong Lee, NSD president. Following the General Conference undersecretary Myron Iseminger's morning devotional, Pastor Lee put an emphasis on the "Go Forward" with the Mission First spirit by saying, "Go into the world! Unless we go, we will never finish the mission. We should depart from all our selfishness, and move forward together."

In order to achieve the goal of this quinquennial vision, the administrators and leaders decided on the schedule and venue of the NSD International Mission Congress, which will be held from August 8 to 11, 2018, choosing the same theme of this Midyear Committee "Go Forward." The venue will be KINTEX Convention Center in Ilsan, Goyang City, about 40 minutes from Incheon International Airport in Korea.

As this midyear meeting took place in Taiwan, the presidents of major institutions located in Taiwan presented to the participants their reports on the successful operation of Taiwan Adventist College, Taiwan Adventist Hospital, and the Signs of Times Publishing Association. It was reported that Taiwan Adventist College (TAC) applied for government-authorized degree programs and TAC may receive their certificate in the near future. The official government certificate can help TAC recruit more students and develop upgraded education programs.

By the grace of God, the meetings were successfully finished, and the committee members and invitees returned to their countries, praying that God will continue to lead and bless the mission

activities throughout the NSD territories.



Song SungSub NSD Associate Secretary

# Retention Topic at the TAC Theological Forum



During the first-ever theological forum organized by Taiwan Adventist College (TAC) from April 25 to 26, 2017, retention and reclamation was one of the presented topics. TAC chose "From New Testament Church Growth to 21st Century Urban Ministry" as the theme of the forum. The inclusion of retention and reclamation in the forum sends a message that church growth is not just about adding members but also about retaining the current members and reclaiming the missing ones.

In his presentation, Pastor Richard Sabuin, director of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries (SS/PM) of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), emphasized that the book of Acts of the Apostles does not simply talk about the increase of the disciples of Christ. It also talks about the importance of keeping the flock to remain true to the truth. For example, to the elders of the Ephesian church, Paul says: "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock" (Acts 20:28, 29). After Paul worked for about three years in Ephesus, the church grew. He wanted to make sure that the church would keep all the members to remain in the church.

Another example, after Paul's missionary journey to South Galatian churches, he urges Barnabas: "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing" (Acts 15:36). Visitation is one way to strengthen the new members to remain faithful to the Lord. Also, when the church in Antioch was growing, the leaders in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch. There, Barnabas "encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts" (Acts 11:23).

Other aspects of church growth were also presented at the forum. Dr. Ron Clouzet, Dr. Michael Campbell, and Dr. Terry Tsui presented topics, such as "Growth Factors in the Book of Acts," "Ellen White and Urban Evangelism," and "Leadership and Church Growth." About 40 TAC students and faculty attended the forum. We congratulate Dr. Chen, TAC president, and her administrative team for initiating this program.



Presenters, TAC officers, and forum participants



# **Project Gideon 300:** Train 300 Young Leaders by Year 2020

**Daniel Fukuda** Youth Rush Japan Staff

The youth ministries department and literature ministries department of the Japan Union Conference (JUC) are working together to recruit, train, and inspire young people in Japan.

The following projects are the four pillars of Gideon 300:

- 1. Setagaya Youth Church is a church located in Tokyo, dedicated to training and empowering young people to be active for Jesus Christ.
- 2. Youth Rush Japan is a three-week student literature evangelism program conducted every spring and summer vacation (February, March, July, and August). About 10 to 20 young people sleep in sleeping bags for three weeks at a church and have morning and evening worship together everyday. During the day, they go door-to-door sharing the gospel through literature. Throughout the program all the participants receive thorough basic training from the leader in charge about literature evangelism, Bible study, and devotional life. By the end of the program, the participants learn by experience the joy of evangelism and solid identity as Seventh-day Adventists.

3. All Rush Japan is a program for people of all ages. Through the influence and the energy of the young people from Youth Rush, we hope to work together with people of all ages to plan various outreach events together and experience the joy of evangelism all over Japan in local church levels. Through this project we hope to emphasize and implement the TMI (Total Member Involvement) spirit of literature evangelism all over Japan.

4. GiFTS (Gideon Family Training School) will be an online training program based in Setagaya Youth Church for young people to learn how to start and lead small group ministries. The training program will consist of about 100 hours of both intellectual and practical training tailored for full-time high school/ college students and young professionals. Young people will be required as part of the training to start small groups as they begin their training. We are scheduled to launch the GiFTS program in October 2017. We will give a Gideon number to each young person who completes the training. For example, the first person to finish the course will be given Gideon #001. The second person to finish the course will be given Gideon #002 and so on. Our goal is to have at least 300 young people finish the course by the year 2020.

There are very few Seventh-day Adventist young people in Japan. Humanly speaking, training 300 young people by the year 2020 seems like too big of a number. But God



Participants of Youth Rush Japan, a three-week student literature evangelism program



has big visions, big dreams, and has an infinite amount of love and power. God loves the young people in Japan and wants to save them. Jesus is coming soon! While time still lasts, together with God, we will earnestly pray and work to train and inspire an army of young leaders to lead hundreds, thousands, and millions of precious young souls to receive Jesus Christ and His Three Angels' Messages.

As stated in the mission statement of Public Campus Ministries of the General Conference, the Gideon 300 project would like to emphasize the importance of "Following Jesus, Embracing His Mission, and Changing the World!"

Please continue to keep Gideon 300 in your prayers. Please pray that special wisdom and guidance from heaven will be given to each of the JUC leaders and young people who are involved in moving this project forward. Maranatha!

. . .

### **Retention Seminar** in Tokyo

A seminar on retention and reclamation took place on the first weekend of the Spiritual Revival Week and Training held from April 14 to 22, 2017, in Japan. The entire week-long program was broadcast on the Internet so that church members who did not come to the Amanuma Church might also be blessed through the presentations. The main speaker of the Spiritual Revival Week was Ron Clouzet, ministerial association director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD). The retention seminar was delivered by Richard Sabuin, NSD retention coordinator.

In addition to a sermon on retention and soul winning on Sabbath morning, there was a seminar on retention in the afternoon, which was attended by about 50 people. Besides emphasizing the fact that retention and reclamation is a biblical imperative, the seminar also gave some suggestions about what do to before, during, and after baptism, that newly baptized members will remain faithful to Jesus Christ.

This seminar was conducted as part of the preparation for the project All Japan Maranatha 2018, during which, evangelistic efforts will be conducted simultaneously in at least 150 sites. Let us pray for this plan. Church growth is measured by the number of incoming new members and the retention and reclamation rate of the members of the church. We thank Dr. Clouzet for including retention as part of the revival and training.



A week-long retention seminar in Japan was held at the Amanuma Church as well as brodcast on the Internet simultaneously.

Richard Sabuin NSD SS/PM Director

# **Stewardship Seminar** at Setagaya Church



Kwon JohngHaeng NSD Stewardship Ministries Director

Pastor Kwon JohngHaeng, director of stewardship ministries of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, held a special stewardship seminar for youth members of Setagaya Church in Tokyo, Japan, on May 12 and 13, 2017. The

Setagaya Adventist Church in Japan serves as a "Center for Youth Ministries."





Setagaya Adventist Church is 16 kilometers away from Tokyo Station, in Setagaya Ward, on the west side of Tokyo. Pastor Aoki, who is director of stewardship ministries, youth ministries, and associate director of publishing ministries of Japan Union Conference, is serving Setagaya Church.

Setagaya Church is special to both Japanese and Korean Adventists because it is the last church where late Elder Kuniya Hide served. Pastor Kuniya was one of the very first two Adventist pastors to be ordained in Japan together with Pastor Okohira, who brought Adventism from the United States to Japan. Korean members owe Pastor Kuniya a lot, for he baptized the very first two Koreans in 1904 in Kobe, Japan, and later in the same year, he came to Korea to baptize 74 Koreans and organized 4 churches. One of his great-granddaughters is still attending this church.

On Sabbath morning, there were 32 members in attendance. This is a regular-size church in Japan. But something that surprised me was the ratio of the members. Their median age was 26, and the church was extraordinarily young compared to the median age of Japan, which is 46.9 years. The ratio of female to male, 1 to 1.3, was also unusual.

What made the church different from almost all the other churches in Japan? The aging speed of the church is much faster than that of the national aging speed. The secret is Youth Rush. Pastor Aoki, pastor of Setagaya Church, has three different positions as mentioned above, and he tries to integrate all three of his positions in the Union into his church. For example, Pastor Aoki encouraged the members to join Youth Rush Japan, which is a publishing ministries project for volunteer youth literature evangelists. Volunteers learn how to distribute literature door





to door. They hand out books, such as *The Great Controversy*, *Steps to Christ*, *The Desire of Ages*, and many others.

Fifteen young members joined the project, and they went to Naha City in Okinawa in February and March 2017. For three weeks, each time, they stayed in a local church. They cooked for themselves, something they did not usually do at home. All the youth members who participated in the project experienced spiritual growth, and they became more mature in every aspect of life. They will visit other cities in July and August this year.

The stewardship seminar ended late on Sabbath afternoon. Members stayed behind in the church a long time, even after the speaker left the church. The seminar was a mutual blessing for the members of the church and the speaker. They learned the stewardship of lost souls, not only tithe and offerings. The speaker also learned from their willingness to join the ministry.

## Banqiao Church Youth Hold Evangelistic Meetings



Most of the members of Banqiao Adventist Church in Taipei, Taiwan, are young people. Since it is a youth-centered church, it is vibrant and full of energy with the youth. Pastor Lee WonYoung, who is in charge of Banqiao Church as a Pioneer Mission Movement pastor, has focused on a small group activities. Pastor Lee trained each of the young members to be an owner of the church as well as a Bible teacher.

From April 24 to 29, 2017, Banqiao Church held evangelistic meetings. The church youth who received discipleship training were responsible for preparing all of the programs. They also tried to find souls on the street and taught them the Bible when they visited the church.

Pastor Kim SiYoung, director of Adventist Mission of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), served as the speaker. In addition, the support of Golden Angels, singing missionaries of the NSD, brought more blessings. When young members of Banqiao Church and the Golden Angels led the evangelistic meetings and programs together, attendees were blessed not only with the word of God but by their passion for mission. The Banqiao youth members and Golden Angels grew spiritually through evangelism.

As a result of the meetings, two young souls were baptized. Moreover, some people who had stopped attending the church have started return. It is expected that Banqiao Church will serve as a center of youth ministries in Taipei and lead young people to Jesus.





A quinquennial Publishing Evaluation was conducted both in Hong Kong and Taiwan from April 17 to 21, 2017. The purpose of this evaluation or survey is not to bring embarrassment to any publishing department or publishing house or its leaders; rather, it is to be a growing and learning experience. It was designed to assist our publishing leaders to make improvements where necessary and to excel where they have succeeded and to provide guidance for the general direction of the department or institution.

This year, two publishing leaders from the General Conference (GC) joined the evaluation team: Elder Almir Marroni, GC publishing ministries director, and Elder Wilmar Hirle, GC publishing ministries associate director. Their observation and comments were well received by the local publishing leaders.

The evaluation team first arrived in Hong Kong on April 17 and conducted the evaluation for the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM) the next day together with the presence of CHUM officers and the publishing director. After listening to the report presented by the publishing director, the team carefully evaluated the publishing program in China and Hong Kong, and made some recommendations to the CHUM administration.

The evaluation team flew to Taiwan and conducted the survey and evaluation the next day for the Taiwan Conference with the presence of TWC officers and the publishing director. After a very candid review and open discussion, the evaluation team made some suggestions to the TWC administration on how they could improve the publishing program and increase the enrollment of literature evangelists in the territory.

On April 20, the evaluation team moved to Taipei and conducted the survey and evaluation for the Signs of the Times Publishing Association (STPA). For this STPA evaluation, two other sister publishing house manager and editor were invited to join the exercise, from Korean Publishing House and Japan

### **Publishing Evaluation** in Hong Kong and Taiwan





Evaluation team at STPA Office

Publishing House, respectively. This provided an opportunity for our publishing house leadership in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) to have eye-opening and hands-on learning experiences.

The survey and evaluation mainly focused on the areas of operation and management, financial performance, and marketing strategies. Mr. Tony Chou, the manager of STPA, presented a very comprehensive report about the publishing work in Taiwan, China and Hong Kong. The GC publishing leaders were amazed to see that our publications can enter the secular chained book stores in Taiwan. The evaluation team commended the manager and his team for an outstanding performance and operation management, especially in the area of friendly working environment, spirit of unity, and getting the CIP (Cataloging in Publication) book number in China.

The STPA is the only official Adventist Chinese publishing house in the world to undergo this evaluation process, which proves STPA plays an important role and function to serve the worldwide Chinese community with our Adventist literature and publication.



# NSD Public Campus Ministry Leaders Meeting



The youth ministries department of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) and the public campus ministry department of the General Conference (GC) conducted "Public Campus Ministry Caravan" from May 4 to 13, 2017, in Hong Kong, Japan, and Korea. It was the first leaders' meeting since the GC established the public campus ministry department in 2014.

Starting with the Hong Kong-Macao Conference, campus mission leaders in three countries in the NSD territories gathered together to broaden their knowledge on this ministry by attending seminars and share their vision through each conference's activity reports.

The Hong Kong-Macao Conference does not have any official campus ministry group. In 2015, however, Pioneer Mission Movement Pastor Jeon YeongBo at the Harvest Church recognized the importance of campus mission activities centered on college students and started training and nurturing students to conduct campus ministry. At this leaders' meeting, they had the opportunity to advance campus ministries with strong financial support from Hong Kong-Macao Conference.

The Japan Union Conference youth ministries department supports the Setagaya Youth Church, which serves as the center of youth ministry in Japan. In addition, Adventist college students studying at Oberlin Christian University organized a campus mission club with the permission of the school and are working actively.

The Korean Union Conference campus ministry, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, had a serious discussion on how to deal with the real challenges of college missions in Korea. The conference officers, directors from related departments, pastors for the youth,

"Public Campus Ministry Caravan" in Japan





KUC's public campus ministry celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017.

and the representatives of campus mission from all over the country attended the meeting. They discussed various ideas and proposals for the future of campus ministry in Korea and the training of future leaders.

The NSD Public Campus Ministry leaders' meeting will continue in Taiwan, China, and Mongolia in 2018.



# Hong Kong Adventist Youth Brings Mission to Sabah

A fter four overseas mission trips, the youth at Bible Auditorium Church in Hong Kong decided to continue their tradition in 2017. This time, their destination was Sabah, East Malaysia. From April 12 to 17, 2017, they had a memorable time on foreign soil.

To prepare for this trip, 14 members worked hard for three months. Almost every Sabbath, they visited different churches in Hong Kong to raise funds. God blessed their efforts and they raised more than HKD 40,000 for the church building.

They arrived at Tamparuli village near the city of Tuaran. The villagers were quite poor. The 14 missionaries from Hong Kong, a modern international city, braved themselves against the hot weather, terrible mountainous roads, and inconvenient transportation every day. They visited people door-to-door, bringing daily supplies and Christ's love to the needy. They prayed for the people. They used balloon art to cheer up the local children.

The adverse living conditions didn't discourage the youth. They cared for one another. They encouraged one another with prayers. They learned so much in teambuilding. Although they couldn't help with the new church building project due to insufficient funding, they helped with re-painting the wall of the existing church. They led the church service on Sabbath. One of the mission team members, Denise Wong, preached her first sermon in a foreign country. Nervous as she was, she received a lot of spiritual support from the team members. Everyone was blessed by God during that special service.

The youth from Hong Kong felt God's presence every day in Sabah. They are determined to use this precious mission trip experience to reach out to their target population back in Hong Kong.



- 1. A Bible Auditorium Church mission team visits a church construction site.
- 2. The mission team at Sabah Mission in East Malaysia.



### West Central Korean Conference Health Ministries Department Holds **2017 Health Forum**



The 2017 Health Forum, sponsored by the West Central Korean Conference (WCKC) health ministries department, was held at the CheonSeong Church in Seoul, Korea, on April 2, 2017. The purpose of the forum was to provide an accurate picture of Adventist health messages. About 250 church members interested in health ministry attended the forum.

Chae EunHa, a medical doctor, was one of the speakers. As she presented on the topic "healing principles in health messages," she

defined healing as recovery of life, in another words, re-creation. "All diseases are the results of sin, and healing is salvation from death. Thus, healing is only possible in God, who is the Creator and who is life itself," said Dr. Chae.

Another speaker, Elder Kim YongGun, director of Saeronam Shelter, said, "Jesus did not heal the sick with a special method, but with God's words. Although we have no power, the Holy Spirit works when we ask the higher power. The best way of healing the sick is to lead them to meet Jesus."

Mrs. Choi ChaSoon, director of Bethel Nursing Home, gave a presentation on "the age in desperate need of medical evangelists." "Medical ministries is divine work that God has given in order to spread the gospel to both the sick and the healthy. Adventist health messages are in line with the gospel of God, but Satan tries to separate them so that people emphasize health messages more," said Mrs. Choi.

# Middle West Korean Conference Women's Mission Congress



1. Attendees of MWKC Women's Mission Congress, including members of two women choirs

2. Ahn JaeSoon, KUC WM director / 3. Lisa Clouzet (right), NSD WM director

The Middle West Korean Conference (MWKC) Women's Congress was held in Daejeon, Korea, on June 10, 2017. The congress takes place each year during the world-wide church's Women's Ministries (WM) Emphasis Sabbath. This congress was MWKC's 13th congress and was attended by a total of 320 participants.

During this year's congress, special musical numbers were provided by the Aineo Choir, directed by Nam SeongHyun, and the Marephone Choir, directed by Im JaeKyung. Presentations included a sermon by Dr. Lisa Clouzet, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) WM director, entitled "Women's Mission and Vision." Dr. Clouzet stressed the importance of identifying and using one's God-given spiritual gifts to move forward with *God's* mission and vision. Mrs. Noh TeaSook, a church deaconess, gave a moving testimony entitled "Converting to an Adventist from a Shaman." Dr. Ahn JaeSoon, the Korean Union Conference (KUC) WM director, shared from the Word of God in her presentation entitled "As a Daughter of God, As the Path of His Blessing." Dr. Ahn thanked the women for their faithful service and inspired them to remain focused on Jesus.

Jung SoonAe MWKC Women's Ministries Director

In 2016, at the beginning of the new quinquennium, Pastor Huh ChangSoo, MWKC president, encouraged WM to aim to have 70% of the women in the church involved in mission. Pastor Huh was very interested in WM work and often shared his ideas with the WM leaders. He organized a research team for MWKC WM in September 2016. The team had a twoday retreat. This time together helped them to focus on the importance of mission and to discover what the role of today's women is and what specific things they can do for the next generation. A year has now passed since the WM retreat. The importance of mission and Total Member Involvement (TMI) continued to be a leading focus when Pastor Huh gave his enthusiastic welcome at this year's congress.

The leaders at this year's WM Mission Congress also encouraged those in attendance with another way to become involved. At the end of the spiritually uplifting congress, Mrs. Jung SoonAe, MWKC WM director, introduced a project called "Deborah's Evangelistic Warriors" and asked those in attendance to devote themselves to becoming "Deborah's Warriors." This goal of this project is to have more than 1,000 women become a path of blessing inside, as well as outside, of the church.

One of the "Warrior's" initiatives is the "7531 Movement," which is to weekly (7) make a new relationship with five (5) non-Adventists and to invest three (3) hours to bring one (1) to Jesus. In other words, each will try to meet at least five persons each week to provide a connection later on with the church. The beginning of TMI is to become friends with new people. For more information on this simple, yet practical project, please contact Mrs. Jung SoonAe at sdasoon@hanmail.net.



# **Inter-American Division** Leaders Visit NSD Territories



NSD Assistant to the President

rom May 3 to 17, 2017, 134 Inter-American Division  $\Gamma$  (IAD) leaders came to visit the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) territories to see the mission challenges and learn about foreign cultures. They visited major cities in the NSD, including Hong Kong, Beijing, Xian, Seoul, and Tokyo. The visitors included the Division officers, Union officers, and their spouses. IAD is comprised of 38 countries and 24 Union Conferences/Missions. The church membership of IAD reaches 370 million.

NSD President Jairyong Lee, two other NSD officers, and several departmental directors went to Incheon International Airport to welcome the IAD leaders when they arrived in Korea on May 8. On the following day, the IAD leaders joined the NSD staff for morning worship. Dr. Lee presented mission initiatives by the NSD to expand the kingdom of God in one of the most challenging areas of the world in terms of mission: 1000 Missionary Movement, Pioneer Missionary Movement, HisHands Mission Movement, and Golden Angels. In the afternoon, they visited some institutions in Korean Union Conference: Seoul Adventist Hospital, SDA Education, Korean Union Conference Headquarters, and the Sijosa Publishing House. Dr. Israel Leito, IAD president,



IAD leaders visit Seoul Adventist Hospital

expressed his gratitude to all institution leaders for their hospitality.

On the Sabbath of May 13, they worshiped at Sahmyook University. Pastor Lowell Cooper addressed the congregation with a mission challenge and touched the hearts of the audience. In the evening, Sahmyook University presented a music concert for the IAD leaders, and the leaders refreshed their hearts and relaxed as they listened to the music. The next day, they left for Tokyo, Japan, for a three-day tour of Japan before returning home to IAD.



# Medical Missionary Training in Mongolia



The health ministries departments of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) and Mongolia Mission had a medical missionary training program in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from April 26 to 28, 2017.

Dr. Choi YoungIl, NSD health ministries director, was the main speaker, and his seminars dealt with the Seventh-day Adventist Church's health philosophy and principles, biblical health principles, and Jesus and His healing ministries. He also covered modern medicine, chronic disease prevention, and how to effectively implement the health message to mission work in the community. Mrs. Enkhbayar Mishigdori, MM health director, presented CELEBRATIONS\*, which contains 12 healthful living principles the General Conference recommends. There were group activities related to how to do medical mission successfully at the local church and community.

Forty people attended this program, and twenty church members have successfully completed all courses. They understand that our health message is outstanding and practical and has the strong evidence of modern medicine.

As a matter of fact, the best medicine in the world is the Holy Spirit so all church members can be capable medical missionaries. The participants made a decision to devote themselves to proclaiming the good news with our health message as medical missionaries.

The MM health department will have this program again next year. We are sure that the health approach is an opening gate to people's minds and an efficient instrument of gospel deliverance. Even though mission work in Mongolia is challenging, God will lead us to the best way to proclaim the Three Angels' Message, and health activities will be a powerful approach.

\* CELEBRATIONS\* is an acronym for 12 healthful living principles: (1) choices, (2) exercise, (3) liquid, (4) environment, (5) belief, (6) rest, (7) air, (8) temperance, (9) integrity, (10) optimism, (11) nutrition, and (12) social support and services.

# **Retention Sabbath** at Jeju International Church

Jeju International Church had a unique way of emphasizing retention and reclamation on the special Sabbath of April 1, 2017. The church did at least three things under the leadership of Pastor Kim SeokWoo, the church pastor.

#### 1. Mentoring Program

To retain young people in the church, the church has a mentoring program. Each young member, teenager or youth, has an adult member as his or her mentor.

The role of the mentor is to guide young members to be faithful in the church. One way of doing this is assigning and supervising young members to read books emphasizing biblical moral values. On the Sabbath of April 1, about 12 adult members came to the front and invited their mentees to receive books. Before giving them the books, they introduced their mentees and gave a piece of admonition that they might be faithful to the Lord. On that Sabbath, about 60 people attended the church, of which about 20 were young people.

#### 2. Inventory of Missed Members

These members are not missing. They are missed by the church. In this sense, they may be called missed members instead of missing members. For the past one month, since the arrival of Pastor Kim at the church, more than 10 families have been visited and invited to the church. Although they have not yet returned immediately, efforts have been made. On the Sabbath of April 1, a list of names of the missed members was distributed to each church member. The church then prayed for these names.

#### 3. Sermon on Retention

A sermon entitled "Where Are You?" was preached by Pastor Richard Sabuin, director of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries (SS/PM) of the Northern Asia-Pacific Richard Sabuin NSD SS/PM Director

Jeju International Church conducts a youth mentoring program.



Leaders of Jeju International Church on the special retention Sabbath

Division (NSD). He presented the question that God asked Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:9, "Where are you?" This spirit of searching for inactive members should be in the hearts of all church members. They may not be missing. They may be hiding or wounded or fallen. Just as the Son of Man came to seek and to save those which were lost, so should we.

In the afternoon, the evangelism committee of the church met and discussed their preparation for the upcoming Jeju Evangelism 2017, which is scheduled for July 2 to 8, 2017. They prayed for the seven souls who are considering baptism. Let us pray for many others to accept Jesus Christ and abide in His love and truth. From June 9 to 10, 2017, members of the Saehanul Adventist Church in Daejeon, Korea, had revival meetings with Lisa Clouzet, women's ministries director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD).

Gary Chapman's classic book, *The Five Love Languages*, was the theme of Friday night's meeting entitled "Love One Another for Such a Time as This." Dr. Clouzet reviewed the five love languages and examined how God, who is love, speaks to us in the ways we best understand. Through the Friday night meeting, Daejeon Saehanul Church members learned that everyone has his or her own primary love language. Therefore, it is important to show our love to others through their own love languages, just as God shows His love to each of us in a way we ourselves can understand.

One of the Daejeon Saehanul Church elders, Mr. Yoo, stated, "I was touched by the five love languages: words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, and physical touch. I'm sure that with the five love languages God has shaped my life in the past, as well as in the present, through the Bible and people around me." The meeting was a precious time to learn the real meaning of the Bible verse, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (John 13:34, NKJV).

On Sabbath morning, as part of WM emphasis Sabbath observed by the world-wide church, Sister Clouzet presented "Gifted to Serve for Such a Time as This," focusing on spiritual gifts and Total Member Involvement. Church members had a meaningful time and were invited to make a commitment to share God's love using their God-given spiritual gifts. Many church members had experienced significant challenges reaching out to people around them. In answer to the closing appeal given by Dr. Clouzet, most present decided to recommit their lives in service to God and glorify Him through service and the building up of the church. May all those reading this article also decide to make this commitment for God's glory and honor.

# Weekend Revival Meetings at **Daejeon Saehanul Church**

**Park JinHa** Pastor's Wife and Member of Daejeon Saehanul Church

Lisa Clouzet, NSD women's ministries director, serves as a speaker for the revival meetings at Saehanul Adventist Church.



### **Spiritual Revival** in Japan



NSD Ministerial Association Director

r. Ron Clouzet, ministerial association director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), spent more than a week, from April 14 to 22, 2017, in Japan, training, visiting churches, and focusing on a week-long spiritual revival among the 16 churches involved in the 2017 field school in Japan. On the first weekend, Dr. Richard Sabuin provided training on how to reach inactive members, and on the last weekend, Dr. Clouzet provided training on the successful creation and leadership of missional small groups. In addition, several church groups in Karija, Tokai, and Toyota benefited from his personal visit, training, and encouragement.



The spiritual revival program was well attended by young adults as well as older adults. Pastor Rha, the lead pastor of Amanuma Church in Tokyo, where the nightly meetings took place, was surprised to see that attendance was double the number expected and that it increased night after night. The Lord did His work in the hearts of those who attended. Many others were able to watch the program live online, including the other 15 churches involved in the field school of evangelism this year.

### Parental Education to Prevent Smartphone Addiction of Children



ecause of the increasing number of children **B**and adolescents who are addicted to smartphones, the family ministries department of Korean Union Conference (KUC) held a parental education program to prevent smartphone addiction in children. The program was held at the KUC auditorium from April 26 to 27, 2017. The program was designed to suggest proper guidance of children's autonomous and healthy use of smartphones.

As the main speakers, Ahn JaeSoon, KUC family ministries director, and Pastor Lee SangYong, KUC media center, gave lectures on the theory and practice of smartphone addiction. During the program, lectures, discussion, and practice went side by side. Attendees recognized the problem of excessive smartphone use and the necessity of management and guidance. They also learned parenting tips such as how to let children decide for themselves and how to build an intimate relationship with their children. They could understand the reason adolescents are addicted to smartphones from developmental and generational perspectives.

"Parents' oppressive punishment or control is effective in the short term, but it usually causes side effects as children grow up. This is the fundamental way to lead children to voluntarily accept parents' guidance," said Mrs. Ahn.

**身兒對山口(較迎致** 

# Evangelistic Meetings in Japan

**Joo MinHo** NSD Assistant to the President

Dr. Joo MinHo, assistant to the president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), led evangelistic meetings for 9 days at the Tokyo-Korean church in Japan from May 26 to June 3, 2017. For the success of the meetings, the ten members of an evangelism-support team also participated in the meetings. The Tokyo-Korean church was established for Koreans and Korean-speaking Japanese. Nowadays, a third of the church members are Japanese. That's why the church provides simultaneous translation service.

The evangelism-support team consisted of retired pastors and medical missionaries. Medical missionaries provided medical services, such as massage, removing small spots from faces, and health counselling. When the visitors receiving medical service showed interest in the Bible, the retired pastors gave them a short Bible study so



Four people were baptized on Sabbath after a week of evangelism.

that they might long for regular Bible study. The church members also expressed enthusiasm to lead and guide visitors day and night.

In the evenings, Dr. Joo, the speaker for the evangelistic meetings, spoke to the people about prophesies found in Daniel and Revelation. As a result of the efforts and prayer of all church members and the evangelism-support team members, four precious souls (three Japanese and one Korean) were baptized on Sabbath. Church members were greatly encouraged as they saw four people get baptized as a result of their sacrificial efforts and prayers.

In 2018, Japan Union Conference will have mass evangelistic meetings, called 2018 Maranatha, at 150 churches on the basis of Total Member Involvement. Tokyo-Korean church members have the conviction that they can do it through the experience of evangelism. Adventist Tent Church opened its doors at Seoul Station square in Seoul, Korea. The Seoul Station square is always crowded with people coming and going. The church is the result of the dedication of Mrs. Jeong EunSook and volunteer workers, who have expressed their love for neighbors in various ways, such as tract distribution, street evangelism, free haircut, and free meals.

At the dedication service on March 15, 2017, about 170 Adventist members and homeless people attended to pray that the church will be a lighthouse of the gospel sharing the love of Christ. At the service, Pastor Lee ByungJoo, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director of Korean Union Conference, preached from Numbers 25. He said, "There were Cities of Refuge in which the perpetrators of manslaughter could claim the right of asylum in the Old Testament era. The City of Refuge represents Jesus Christ, while a signpost to the refuge means a church. Please be the church helping people seek Jesus from their earthly sorrow, pain and poverty."

"It was hard to find any Adventists who were doing mission work at Seoul Station square. I hope this church will not only be a refuge to the homeless, but also a place to share the truth. I hope the Holy Spirit will be with this work," said Mrs. Jeong, reporting on the progress.

Adventist Tent Church at Seoul Station has worship service from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. every Wednesday, and materials supporting the homeless are purchased with donations.

### Dedication of **Adventist Tent Church,** the Lighthouse of the Gospel Downtown



Byun SeongJun NSD Communication Associate Director





Pastor Kwon JohngHaeng, NSD stewardship ministries director, speaks at the Adventist Tent Church in Seoul.

# Health Evangelistic Meeting in Mongolia

**Choi YoungIl** NSD Health Ministries Director





Pastor Choi Youngll, NSD health director, speaks at a health evangelistic meeting in Mongolia.

The Maranatha Church in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, is mainly composed of young church members. Because the church is in the same building as an English institute and a community college, the church has the advantage of being able to approach young people. However, even though young people are interested in the Adventist church, it is not easy in Mongolia to have a job and keep the Sabbath.

In order to give hope and to plant the Adventist faith in the hearts of young Mongolians, the Maranatha Church held a health evangelistic meeting from April 24 to 29, 2017. The church invited Pastor Choi YoungIl, health director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), as the speaker.

> Pastor Choi presented a series of encouraging messages under the theme of "The Best Choice Ever in My Life." He spoke every day on different subjects, such as "Success vs. Victory," "Human Power vs. God's Power," "Goal vs. Purpose," "Comfortable vs. Peaceful," "Fact vs. Truth," and "Product vs. Artwork," challenging young people to dream big. Specifically, based on the stories of great people in the Bible, he gave attendees a consistent message, which is that a dream can come true if we stand firmly by faith in God.

> Most of the attendees were interested in his message and their response was very active. About 50 people attended the meeting every day. Thirty-two participants

accepted Jesus Christ as a personal Savior, and 12 precious souls made a decision to get baptized. It was an amazing time for young people in Mongolia.

The Mongolia Mission is planning to have a grand evangelism in June 2017 as an It Is Written project of the North America Division. It is expected that young people in Mongolia will once again be encouraged and touched by the Holy Spirit. The Youngdong Church in East Central Korean Conference organized a Pathfinder club and had a launching ceremony on May 13, 2017. The club is the first step in Gangnam, the center of culture and economy of Seoul. The vision of the club is to prepare their children and young people to become future leaders of their community as well as the Youngdong Church.

The church youth ministry just overcame the recession that had been going on since the early 2000s. Two deacons in the church, Lee JinYoung and Lee JeongHyeon, who were particularly interested in children education and spiritual growth completed the Pathfinder Basic

Training Course in 2014. In 2016, the church produced the first batch of Pathfinder leaders and laid the groundwork in earnest for the foundation of a Pathfinder club. The end of this year, the church will have the second batch of Pathfinder leaders.

During the launching ceremony, Pastor Kim NakHyung, youth ministries director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, awarded the certificates of appointment to the

## Youngdong Church Launches **Pathfinder Club**

**Kim NakHyung** NSD Youth Ministries Director



Pathfinder leaders and gave them an encouraging message. He said, "As of 2017, the number of Pathfinder members around the world has reached 4 million. and we cordially welcome Youngdong Church's Pathfinder members to join this enormous heavenly army. I hope you will bear the spirit of the living Christ in your heart so that you may exalt Jesus Christ with a more moving spirit of salvation and service."

Now is the time to prepare the spiritual heritage for the children and youth of Youngdong Church. Ellen White said, "The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who

in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall" (*Education* 57). It is necessary to cooperate with all believers in praying for the Youngdong Church Pathfinder club so that it can grow into a big pillar of the community.

### Bible Seminar Celebrating the Quincentenary of the Protestant Reformation

This is the 500th year since Martin Luther sparked the religious reformation by posting the Ninety-Five Theses to the Wittenberg Church in 1517. The Biblical Research Institute (BRI) of the Korean Union Conference (KUC) held a Bible seminar "Martin Luther and Ellen G. White Tell Righteousness by Faith" at the KUC auditorium on May 13, 2017, celebrating the quincentenary.

Pastor Lim BongGyung, KUC BRI director, emphasized that the spirit of the Protestant Reformation is in Martin Luther's word "Ecclesia semper reformanda est." "It is the primary spirit of religious reformation to renew and change our hearts by constantly devoting our lives and ourselves to God," said Pastor Lim, the main speaker.



The seminar closed with the conclusion that true reformation is not to create new theology, disturbing the foundation of reformation forged by reformers such as Apostle Paul, Luther and spiritual pioneers such as John Wesley and Ellen White, but to search for deeper and broader biblical truth on their shoulders.

# Combined Worship Service Celebrates **the 53rd Anniversary** of Hong Kong Adventist Hospital

On May 20, 2017, members from the four Adventist churches in the western parish of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region gathered at the Mountain View Church in Tsuen Wan, for worship. One of the highlights of this special Sabbath was to mark the 53rd anniversary of Hong Kong Adventist Hospital (HKAH).

The HKAH leadership team presented the history of how God led Adventists to build two life-saving hospitals in this international city. Especially, with the recent dedication of the new Tsuen Wan Adventist Hospital building, they witnessed countless miracles all through the construction process.

Robert Folkenberg, Jr., president of the Chinese Union Mission, delivered the keynote sermon. He used the story of the healing of the paralyzed man in Mark 2 to demonstrate that Christ cares for both the physical and the spiritual wellbeing of a person. The mission of the two Adventist hospitals in Hong Kong serves the same purpose.

At noon, all the worshippers shared the joy of cutting a big birthday cake for HKAH and enjoyed a delicious buffet on the roof garden of the hospital.



Pastor Folkenberg, Jr. (right), president of the Chinese Union Mission



# NISDAF Organized for Evangelism



The mission call is given to all members of the remnant church. Adventists working abroad are not an exception. The Adventist Indonesians working in Japan responded to the call. From May 12 to 13, 2017, about 40 Indonesians from all over Japan gathered together in a meeting room on the 6th floor of the West Japan Conference building in Osaka, Japan.

The purpose of the gathering was not only to have worship and fellowship programs in Bahasa, Indonesia, but more than that, it was to organize themselves as a group for evangelism. They named the group Nippon Indonesian Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship (NISDAF), and they organized themselves according to territorial groups, which are Kantou, Kansai, and Kyushu, to reach fellow Adventist Indonesians and to reach out to nonbelievers from the same country.

The meeting was coordinated by the foreign Adventist ministries of Japan Union Conference, under the leadership of Pastor Genji Imayuki, who also attended the meeting from beginning to end. Pastor Tsutomu Inada, West Japan Conference president, also gave a welcome remark to the group. The meeting began on Friday evening. Pastor Richard Sabuin, director of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries (SS/PM) of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), in his sermon emphasized the meaning of being baptized in Christ to join the Adventist Church. When a person is baptized, he or she has become 1) a child of God, 2) a member of the church, 3) a witness for Jesus Christ, and 4) a disciple of Christ. We are called to be Christ's disciples that we may also make other people His disciples.

On Sabbath morning, a challenge was given to the group to make sure that they are faithful until Jesus comes and to reach out to other people so that many will have faith in Jesus when He comes again. The group learned to discover their spiritual gifts. They were divided into smaller groups according to their spiritual gifts to discuss what they could do to help God's work in Japan by using their spiritual gifts. It does not take a big group to start doing evangelism. A small group and even individuals can contribute to God's work according to their spiritual gifts. Let us pray for NISDAF that they may continue growing and be active in evangelism.





The 4th batch missionaries who are being trained at the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM) Indonesian Branch held two evangelistic meetings from February 26 to March 3, 2017. A series of meetings was held at a town with a group of seven Adventists, and the other series was held at a town with only one Adventist and no church. Most of the town residents are Muslims, and the others are mostly Catholic or Protestant. The missionaries woke up at 4:30 every morning to walk around the towns as they prayed. They were divided into groups of two to five for Bible studies in the houses. The residents were kind enough to provide lodging and food for them.

A pair of missionaries who were assigned to the town far from the base camp visited an old couple that was well respected in their church. At first, the husband appeared to be uninterested, but soon showed interest in receiving Bible studies. As the studies continued, he started opening up to truths that he had never been exposed to before. He shared that 10 years ago he almost died of heart issues and had to give up pork, drinking, and smoking which he enjoyed. He said that as he listened to the teachings of the missionaries, he realized that he had been so wrong in so many areas though he had been a Christian for so long. His heart was warming up to the message of God's truth that was being shared with him. Unlike him, his wife was not responding much to the studies, but thankfully she was willing to study with our missionaries, even though she never would do so with the Jehovah's Witnesses that visited her every day.

# **Evangelism in Indonesia**

Nam JinKoo PMM Pastor with the 1000MM Indonesian Branch

Finally, the moment for baptismal decision came. The husband decided to be baptized, but the wife did not make the same decision. On Friday morning, however, the day before the meetings ended, she heard something astonishing from her neighbors at the marketplace. "At 4 in the morning yesterday, there were four people walking with bright white clothes on, and we saw them in front of your house, too." When she heard this, she was terrified that they may have been ghosts. When she returned home, she shared what she had heard with the missionaries.

The missionaries were also surprised to hear this because that was the time the missionaries were praying in front of each home. Since these two young female missionaries were scared to go far from the base camp, they were eagerly praying all the more to win souls before leaving. Hearing this, the wife realized that God was leading these missionaries and decided to be baptized with her husband and a neighbor of theirs.

On Sabbath morning, a total of seven souls, including the couple, were baptized in this town and five were baptized in the other town. We just praise the Lord for what he has done. Also, we earnestly pray that the Lord will keep doing a mighty work in Indonesia.







# HISM 3 in Central Philippine Union Conference

We, the HISM 3 (Here Am I Send Me), the official singing group of the 1000 Missionary Movement, left on March 26, 2017, on a one-month mission trip to Central Philippine Union Conference (CPUC).

San Jose, Antique, was our first stop. The Antiqueneos manifested a warm welcome and sincere hospitality. Pastor Milore Fondevilla, the district pastor of Southern Antique, guided us through our itinerary in his respective territory. We sojourned there for two weeks, visiting inactive church members and creating rapport among church members by providing encouragement and eventful experiences with Jesus. We visited six churches. Remarkably, we also witnessed for Christ in a series of praise songs at the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) with the presence of their church pastor, church members, and neighboring brethren. Greatly blessed by the hymns of praise, the UCCP church pastor asked his members, "Are you challenged?"

Iloilo City was our second destination. We were so blessed to minister and worship with the people there during their IEL Harvest Camping. In Bacolod City, our next destination, we served in God's mission at the Bacolod Adventist Medical Center and with our brethren at Illonggo Church and Bacolod Central Church. Lastly, we kicked off "Pass It On" at Central Philippine Adventist College through a rendition of musical numbers during one of their nightly meetings.

The success of HISM 3 ministry in CPUC was the consequence of everybody's united efforts—pastors, elders, church members, lay people, and the angels of God, who tirelessly fulfilled the mission with us. Indeed, God is truly amazing for He has provided us with everything we need and has remained faithful in His promise in Matthew 28:20, "...And, lo, I will be with you always even to the ends of the world." There is nothing for us to be afraid of in surmounting places and people that deeply need the Savior's unparalleled love and living hope, through the power of His majestic music.





Missionaries are ambassadors of the heavenly kingdom of God, so you should be happy!" Pastor Oh ChangKyu, associate director of the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM), earnestly remarked to the 23 senior missionaries who have once again been called to serve. The dispatching ceremony for these senior missionaries, who will be heading to South Korea, took place on April 26, 2017, on the 1000MM campus.

The two-week training they had just completed had prepared them with the necessary skills to face possible adversities and perplexities in their mission fields. They had learned about the Korean culture and language. They had learned Korean songs. They had also become acquainted with teaching principles, such as classroom management, teaching strategies, and facilitating learning. Some of the missionaries who had previously been assigned in Korea generously shared their memorable experiences in the field. Most importantly, the missionaries went through a revival of their mission

# Missionaries Bound for Korea

spirits as they strengthened their relationship with the Almighty God.

Placing themselves in a foreign abode will take some adjustment and require an understanding of a culture so different from their accustomed lifestyles. Despite the struggles they may face, they will not sink into discouragement or even give up, for with them a mighty Savior, Jesus, is always on their side, watching and rendering them a helping hand. Pastor Oh iterated, "Through your emotions, behaviors and attitudes, they will know what heaven looks like."

The Apostle Paul counseled, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (Colossians 3:12). Wherever God calls us, wherever we find ourselves living and working, let us remain His appointed ambassadors who herald the great and endless love of Jesus with eternal life as the primary goal.







## **KUC Holds 31st Annual Foreign Missionary Retreat**

Screams of excitement, laughter from pure bliss, and hugs for one another were part of the overwhelming scene as the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM) missionaries assigned in South Korea got together after many months or even up to a year of being apart.

The missionaries serving in the five local conferences under the Korean Union Conference (KUC) were reunited for the 31st Annual Foreign Missionary Retreat, which was held from May 19 to 21, 2017. The theme of the retreat was "Faith to Faith, Glory to Glory, Day by Day" with 2 Peter 3:18 as the key text.

With its lush ridges, the river flowing with clear water, refreshing green trees, and flowers in full bloom, the chosen venue, the Youth Training Center of Madalpy in Daejeon, Korea, was perfect for God's co-laborers to recalibrate and to be renewed and be revived in all aspects. They were sweetly welcomed Friday evening along with Pastor Lee GiHo, KUC youth director, Pastor Oh ChangKyu, 1000MM KUC regional director, and other Korean pastors who made a huge effort to be a part as the retreat commenced.

The three-day gathering was full of spiritual enrichment from Pastor Eugenio Dele Pena, 1000MM regional director at South Philippine Union Conference, who served as the main messenger from God for the retreat. Pastor Shin DongHee, 1000MM director, also personally witnessed the event and facilitated the Communion Service during the vespers program. With him were the members of HISM 3 (Here Am I Send Me), the official singing group of the 1000MM, who uplifted the spirit of the attendees through their songs of praise.

The missionaries not only received spiritual nourishment through God's messages but also enjoyed the prepared activities, such as the nature games and the conferences' presentations Sabbath afternoon. The activities certainly added extreme happiness into the physical and social aspects of their lives. Before the sun set on the second day of the retreat, the election of a new set of officers (2017-2018) for the Chosen Vessel, the official organization of the missionaries in Korea, took place.

Despite the busy schedules, the foreign missionaries engaged in musical instrument classes, including guitar, flute, and ukulele, headed by a fellow missionary who was willing to teach them. Furthermore, Korean language classes were also offered for those who wished to improve their speaking skills in Korean. On the last day of the retreat, awards and certificates were handed out for the students of these classes.

For the duration of the retreat, the 72 missionaries had gladness reflected on their faces. Though parting was sweet-sorrow, their spirit to serve was certainly rekindled as they move forward toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

# **Golden Angels 14:** Japan Mission Trip

**Kim EunSoo** Golden Angels 14



Breathe in, breathe out. The first impression we received when stepping out of the airport was the clean air of Narita, Japan. Thank God for the clean air! We were glad to give our nostrils a break from the yellow dust that we had been dealing with in Korea.

Our mission in Japan was a bit different from other missions in Taiwan or Hong Kong, where we would usually spend a whole week in one church or school to support their ministry. However, in Japan, we moved from place to place to sing for people. We held small concerts and invited people during the week to the weekend evangelistic meeting, health seminar, etc. We also visited elementary schools; our "main customer" was the young generation of Japan.

There is a reason why Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) pastors aim for the young generation. Because Japan has been a Shinto country for hundreds of

Golden Angels with children of Okinawa Sound Nursery School

decades, it is difficult for the older generation to embrace Christianity. Shinto is settled deep within their culture; it is part of their life. So the church decided to target the young generation to be the path of blessing for all generations in Japan.

We pray that our songs of praises left a good impression on the children we met and that, as they grow and mature, their opened hearts toward Christianity will help them to receive the gospel more easily. I believe that the generation that has received the light will be a strong influence in expanding churches in the future.

During the first week, while staying at Chiba International church, we went to different schools, mostly kindergartens, to sing. We prepared many kinds of Japanese songs so that the kids would also understand our songs. We even sang Doraemon Song (animation theme song), and they loved it. We have learned how





Golden Angels sing outside of Chiba International Church.

music impacts children and opens their hearts, that we may sow the seeds of the gospel inside their hearts.

We have seen that God guides souls who are in need and sends them to us. We met random people on the street, and some of them actually came to the seminar and our concert! It was so wonderful to experience how God hears our prayers for the souls we met, leading them in ways that we have never thought of.

The next week, we visited Japan Union Conference in Tachikawa. We also served the Tokyo Chinese Church for a weekend evangelistic meeting. Five souls received baptism and were reborn in Jesus. During the baptism ceremony, we sang the song "Huo Chu Ai (Live to Love)" together with the church members and reminded ourselves of the commandments God gave us: to love our God and to love each other.

During the last week in Japan, we went to Okinawa. We visited schools and care centers, and had two big concerts in Shuri and Naha. Although it was our last week, we tried our best to keep ourselves motivated with the mission spirit and to praise God and serve others with our very best.

One of the things we observed is that the people are hungry for love. When we first arrived at Chiba International Church, we sang "I Love You, Lord" for the Bible study group. When we started singing, one of the elders started to cry. Also, as we sang "You Are Born to Be Loved" at different churches and schools, many people were in tears. We were surprised by how sensitive they were emotionally and spiritually. I saw a great possibility for evangelism inside their hearts. I felt that we missionaries should bring the good news of God's never-ending love to them and fill their hearts with the infinite love of God. Japan also needs the Lord, so let us pray for Japan, where many kinds of mission challenges still exist.

> SeolAh and Richard, Golden Angels 14 members, with school children of Kujikawa Elementary School



2<sup>nd</sup> NSD International Pathfinder Camporee

Aug 8-12, 2017 | TAC, Taiwan

# **CONTACT<sup>+</sup>** Experience Jesus

Date Aug 8-12, 2017

Venue Taiwan Adventist College, Nantou, Taiwan

Title CONTACT<sup>+</sup> Experience Jesus

Main Speaker Gilbert Cangy, Jonatan Tejel, Jairyong Lee

Registration Early bird 100 USD (until Dec 31, 2016)

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