



NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION
THE MOST CHALLENGING FIELD

NEWS & VIEWS

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January/February 2020



The third session of the NSD's Communication and Leadership Advancement Program (CLAP) run 5 took place at AIU in Thailand from November 17 to December 2, 2019.

Let us make a resolution to risk our lives for soul-winning ministry in the new year 2020!

During a church growth seminar, a pastor shared for hours what had happened in his church and the cell groups of his church. The Personal Ministries director and two deaconesses from the church also gave testimonies about their lives and the work of the church. The core of the testimonies of the pastor and the lay people who had been working hard for mission was this statement: “I risked my life for this work.”

The reason behind their success in soul-winning ministry was their attitude and passion driven strongly by the Holy Spirit through habitual Bible meditation and prayer. When the pastor and church members started risking their lives for mission work, they devoted themselves passionately with one mind. Mission became first in the church members’ lives. The church became a missionary church, with the church budget focused on mission, and church members’ lives became missionary lives.

Because of Jesus who died on the cross, we can risk our lives for mission. Those who know the value of life because they have received everlasting life thanks to Jesus can risk their lives to save the lives of others and live mission-first lives. The great evangelist Paul said that even though he lost all things, he could count them rubbish because of “the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord” (Philippians 3:7-8).

The life of a missionary means a mission-first life, the life of seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, the life of giving up things for mission and even

the life of risking one’s life. This should happen not only in faraway mission fields but also in the very place we are today, that is, in our daily lives.

“And when in the church of today it is seen that by the power of the Spirit the members have taken their affections from the things of the world, and that they are willing to make sacrifices in order that their fellow men may hear the gospel, the truths proclaimed will have a powerful influence upon the hearers” (AA, 71).

Now it is the beginning of the new year, 2020. We start a new year with new resolutions and determination, making new plans with much expectation and hope. I hope that we make the resolution to risk our lives for soul-winning ministry this year and to pray for it. Let’s begin this new year with earnest prayer for ardent soul-winning ministry.



NSD MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists is to call all people within its territory to become disciples of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the everlasting gospel embraced by the three angels’ messages (Revelation 14:6-12) and to prepare them for Christ’s soon return.



Kim SiYoung, President
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

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Vision
One Million
2020

Mission First in All Activities to Reach the World

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.



Baptize Them in the Name of God: Third Session of CLAP Run 5 in Thailand

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) held the third session of the Communication and Leadership Advancement Program (CLAP) run 5 at the Asia-Pacific International University (AIU) in Thailand from November 17 to December 2, 2019. The theme of the session was “Baptize Them in the Name of God,” which implies that winning souls for our heavenly Father is the culmination of our mission. It is one of the missions from Jesus Christ written in the very last two verses of the first Gospel of the New Testament: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20). These verses are known as “The Great Commission of Jesus Christ,” and CLAP adopted it as the theme for this CLAP run. This indicates that the mission, given especially to the remnant church, should be the reason CLAP participants need to be equipped as better communicators and more efficient church leaders. This slogan gives them the motivation and the direction of their intensive study.



Kim SunHwan
CLAP Coordinator

The first two sessions of this two-year program, which started in November 2018, were held in the Philippines. The overall condition and environment of the Seventh-day Adventist Language Center in the Philippines were relevant to CLAP, especially for English education. On the other hand, Thailand gave us the opportunity to experience Buddhist society. According to Wikipedia, three countries in the NSD territory are included in the list of ten countries with the greatest proportion of Buddhists: Mongolia (55.1%), Japan (36.2%), and Taiwan (35.1%). Next on the list are Korea (22.9%) and China (18.2). In terms of Buddhist population, two thirds of the Buddhists in the world are living in NSD countries, including China. Thailand is the second largest Buddhist country in the world in terms of proportion (93.2%) and population (64,420,000). For this reason, having the third session of CLAP run 5 in Thailand was of importance. The participants were able to experience firsthand the same religious people group which will be the foremost target group for our mission in the NSD territory.

AIU has a beautiful campus, with about a thousand students and staff members from more than forty different countries living there. On the first day after our arrival, we attended their annual culture show. Students from different countries presented their own cultural performance. The well-prepared performances and the distinctive costumes were very impressive. We were able to see a variety of cultures, but at the same time, we also felt a unified spirit in the faith of God.

The daily schedule was similar to previous sessions. We started the day with a worship service and prayer session. The reason why I say “worship” instead of “devotional” is because the CLAP participants were given a chance to preach English sermons for the worship services every morning and every evening. We were able to notice considerable improvements in everyone’s English speech. Both their English skills and their ability to convey the message in a foreign language had improved a lot. As the program coordinator, I was very happy when I saw the participants’ enthusiasm in sharing God’s word with one another. They also seemed to enjoy speaking in English.

We had fewer conversation classes because we had fewer tutors than the previous sessions. We had six tutors for one-on-two tutoring classes. However, everyone was still satisfied because all the tutors were graduate students or master degree holders. Erica Hole and Kellie Tompkins, the CLAP English teachers, ran four different English classes by levels. We also invited four lecturers for leadership classes. From the Division office, three directors introduced and taught about ministries they are in charge of: Pastor Han SukHee for Communication, Dr. Lisa



Clouzet for Ministries of Children’s/Family/Women’s/Chaplaincy, and Pastor Kwon JohngHaeng for Stewardship Ministries. Dr. Jee SangHoon, a theology professor of AIU, gave a series of lectures on the “Five Characteristics of Good Christian Leaders.” The leadership classes were meaningful and useful to the participants.

We attended the Friday vespers and Sabbath worship services at the college. One Friday, the CLAP members shared their testimonies. We also played instruments and sang a special song. One Sabbath morning, Pastor Kim SunHwan preached for the divine service, and all the CLAP members sang in choir. It was a wonderful experience of being together worshipping the same God. Yes, it is true that we all are from different places, but we see that we are heading for the same destination. This CLAP session reminded the CLAP participants of God’s special calling and the mission given to the leaders of this remnant church.



One Sabbath during the CLAP session, Pastor Kim SunHwan, CLAP coordinator, preached for the divine service, and all the CLAP members sang in the choir.



My Experience with CLAP

Luo Dan

Participant of CLAP 5



place so that we could have more opportunities to learn and experience the Buddhist culture. We got acquainted with some of the Buddhist students while we stayed on this campus.

We had three teachers for our leadership classes. Pastor Han SukHee, NSD Communication director, emphasized that the purpose of CLAP is to improve both English communication skills and leadership skills. He also shared about five important qualities that we need to develop: vision, prayer, sacrifice, humbleness and loyalty to God.

Dr. Lisa Clouzet shared with us regarding Children's/Women's/Family/and Chaplaincy ministries. Also, her presentation on the five love languages was really vivid and touching.

Pastor Kwon JohngHaeng, NSD Stewardship Ministries director, explained our mission as Seventh-day Adventists: "Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels' Messages in preparation for His soon return."

In a vespers program on November 22, three of our CLAP members shared their personal testimonies. The CLAP members were grateful for the efforts of our teachers and staff.

Let's go and baptize people in the name of God!

The third session of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division's (NSD) Communication and Leadership Advancement Program (CLAP) 5 was held at Asia-Pacific International University in Thailand from November 17 to December 2, 2019. The theme of the session was "Baptize Them in the Name of God." Our coordinator Pastor Kim SunHwan selected this





I am a participant of the 5th batch of the Communication and Leadership Advancement Program (CLAP). Our batch was privileged to stay at the Asia Pacific International University (APIU) in Thailand. On the first day of the program, my colleagues and I had an opportunity to see cultural shows that were performed by 900 students from more than 50 countries. It was a very good beginning to our 2-week session.

The major goal of CLAP is to teach communication skills, especially in international settings. Therefore, I not only studied hard but tried to socialize with students and staff of APIU. At the school cafeteria and the dormitory, I sought out opportunities to talk with them and to share ideas on various issues, sometimes on my Christian faith.

During Friday evening vespers and Sabbath services, we had more opportunities to share about Jesus. All of the CLAP participants sincerely prepared church programs, including testimonies, news stories dealing with missionary work, short sermons, and special songs.

On the first Sabbath of the session, we were able to witness fifteen souls getting baptized. It reminded us of the theme of this CLAP session, "Baptize Them in the Name of God." On that day, the congregation was also impressed with the sermon of Pastor Kim SunHwan, CLAP coordinator from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD). In his sermon, titled "Wake up, Jesus!" he talked about Jesus, who is with us and does not stand still. "We have to let Jesus work. He is with you and ready to help you," said Pastor Kim.

In the evening, CLAP members sometimes hung out with students in APIU. Thailand is a hot country, but in November and December it gets cool in the evening. There were many international students who enjoyed playing sports, and my colleagues and I joined them. Not only did we play soccer games, we also played *sepak takraw*, a traditional sports game of Southeast Asian countries. It allowed me to communicate with APIU students both verbally and physically.

All the days of the third CLAP session were packed with valuable experiences. I will never forget the moments with CLAP teachers, guest speakers, and other people at APIU.

Sawadi CLAP (Hello CLAP)

Lee HyoShin
Participant of CLAP 5

GOLDEN ANGELS ANNUAL CONCERT: HE'S ALIVE

Kim NakHyung
NSD Youth Ministries Director

A place that no one else could fill
아무도 채울 수 없는 곳



The 16th group of Golden Angels, who are serving as singing missionaries of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), held their annual concert on November 2, 2019, at Cheongnyangni Church, Seoul, Korea.

The theme of this year's concert was "He's Alive." When the eight singing missionaries were on stage to praise the living God and glorify His name, the hearts of the audience were touched. The love of God was delivered through beautiful songs, including "Alpha and Omega," "When I Need Him," "10,000 Reasons," "Give Me Jesus" and other songs.

The concert was divided into two parts. The first part focused on the gospel of God, and the second part was designed to enhance the mission spirit of the audience. Two guest singing teams, the Zimbabwe Project Team and GAMD (Go and Make Disciples) were also on stage to add a variety of performances. These two teams were comprised of Golden Angels alumni.

NSD president Kim SiYoung delivered a plaque of appreciation to the 16th Golden Angels members who led many people in the NSD territories to Jesus Christ. "I am sure that the gospel seed that these missionaries have sown in the past year will keep bearing fruits," he

said in his message to encourage the missionaries.

Pastor Kim NakHyung, NSD Youth Ministries director, shared with the audience the ministry of the Golden Angels over the past year. He said, “This 16th group of Golden Angels have had a particularly busy year in 2019 since the NSD territories have had the year of ‘Total Member Involvement Evangelism’ and there have been many evangelistic series all over the territories. Whenever I led a series with them, I was able to witness the great deal of synergy between the gospel of God and their praises.” He added, “It is getting harder to preach God’s words to young people. The heavenly music of the Golden Angels appeals to such young people and encourages them to grow in the Adventist Church.”

- 1 & 2. The audience was able to enjoy not only the music of the 16th group of the Golden Angels but performances of guest singing teams.
3. The NSD delivered a plaque of appreciation to the 16th Golden Angels members.



NEWS FOCUS II



DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE NEW NSD HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Han SukHee
NSD Communication Director

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) held a dedication ceremony of the new headquarters building on November 8, 2019, at the site of the new building in Yadang-dong, Paju City, Korea. About 100 people, including Elder Ted Wilson, Adventist World Church president, Pastor Kim SiYoung, NSD president, NSD directors and staff, guests from the General Conference, Union Conferences and institutions, NSD EXCOM members, pastors from nearby churches and constructors were invited to the ceremony.

NSD president Kim mentioned in his welcome remarks, “This new building will be used not only for the NSD headquarters but also to serve as the Paju International Church and a

Attendees of the dedication ceremony of the new NSD headquarters building



1. GC president Ted Wilson gave congratulatory remarks, and NSD Stewardship director Kwon JohnHaeng translated.
2. KUC president Hwang ChunKwang delivered a message of blessings.
3. The attendees were given a tour of the new office building.



community service center providing various programs for the neighborhood.”

GC president Ted Wilson gave his congratulations on behalf of the world church, saying, “I hope the presence of this building shines as a crown in the community. Also, I hope the good influences and blessings flowing out from here feed abundantly all the people of this city and lead the people visiting here to heaven.”

Pastor Hwang ChunKwang, president of the Korean Union Conference, said in his congratulatory remarks, “My wish is that God will bless the NSD overflowing so that the Three Angels’ Messages will spread like a prairie fire in Asia, the barren land of mission.”

After the ceremony, the attendees were divided into two groups and were given a tour of the office building. At the bright corner room of the fourth floor, attendees prayed together that God will bring a flood of blessings on mission work that will be carried out through the building.

The NSD bought the land in 2010 and broke the ground for construction on September 2017. The building has four floors above ground and one underground and cost approximately 7.3 million USD. The whole size of the site is 6,300 m². The building is 2,657 m², the parking lot 1,272 m² and managed prairie 1,022 m². The building was built using the construction method of reinforced concrete beams in order to enhance safety.

2019 NSD Annual Council



Han SukHee
NSD Communication Director



Three NSD officers:
secretary Yutaka Inada,
president Kim SiYoung, and
treasurer Joel Tompkins

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) held their Annual Council with EXCOM members and invitees from the NSD and the General Conference (GC) from November 7 to 11, 2019. From the GC, president Ted Wilson, associate secretary Elbert Kuhn, associate treasurer Tim Aka, and assistant to the president Magdiel Schulz came to attend the meeting.

President Kim SiYoung, on the first day of the meeting, gave a summarized report of 2019, giving thanks for the grace of God, who blessed the mission work of the NSD, including TMI Evangelism 2019, completion of the NSD's new office building, special mission in Mongolia, North Korea

mission, youth ministry, and others. Through reports from each NSD department, Union Conferences, and institutions, participants were able to see how God blessed each of these areas during this past year. On Friday evening, they were deeply touched by a special program prepared by the Education department with students from Adventist schools who gave testimonies on how they were led to the Lord through the school.

On the Sabbath of November 9, the third day of the council, there was a dedication service for the Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) missionaries and Public Campus Ministries (PCM) missionaries at the Byollae Church. Four pastors and their families were dispatched to Nepal, Taiwan, Myanmar and Philippines as PMM missionaries. Also, seven Adventist young people volunteered to serve in Taiwan for a year as PCM missionaries. These two commissioning ceremonies showed that the core and the focus of NSD's Annual Council was the fulfillment of Jesus' great commission.



Chinese Union Mission Separation

During the 2019 General Conference Annual Council, it was voted to separate the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM) from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) with CHUM becoming a Union Conference directly attached to the General Conference. For 22 years, since 1997, CHUM has been an NSD mission territory, but now it is independent, directly attached to the General Conference. Now CHUM can function as an independent union under the supervision of the Asia Advisory Association Committee (AAAC).

Although CHUM is separating from the NSD, we will cooperate in working together to better accomplish the mission in China. May the Lord continue to bless CHUM in order that millions of people in China can be saved by hearing the Gospel and becoming the children of God.



CHUM leaders and church leaders in the NSD territory pray together for the gospel work in Asia.

2019 Japan Union Conference Annual Council

Toshio Shibata
JUC Secretary



The 2019 Annual Council of Japan Union Conference (JUC) was held from November 24 to 26, 2019, at the JUC office in Tokyo, Japan. From the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), president Kim SiYoung, secretary Yutaka Inada, treasurer Joel Tompkins, and several other leaders came to attend the JUC Annual Council. The NSD leaders delivered God's message for the morning worships during the council, asking the Holy Spirit to lead in all the meetings. During the council, evangelism reports were given from the Union departments, local Conferences in Japan, and the institutions, reflecting upon how God has worked through them during this past year.

All Japan 19 Maranatha

Going along with the NSD's Total Member Involvement Evangelism 2019 initiative, the JUC held 117 evangelistic series throughout the country. Since October 2019 was the emphasis month for evangelistic series, not all the detailed reports of the results had been gathered. However, it is certain that a considerable number of baptisms and Bible interests were as a result of All Japan 19 Maranatha.

Since 2018, holding evangelistic series in Japan has been encouraged. At the time, many people were doubtful and even opposed to the idea of having evangelistic series that is longer than one week. However, after two years of continued emphasis on having evangelistic series, most of the people now accept this method of evangelism. The JUC led the initiative of having evangelistic series in 2018, and the local Conferences led the initiative in 2019. In 2020, local churches will take the responsibility of leading the evangelistic series at their local churches.



Looking Ahead to 2020

1. Kitaura Saniku Middle School Relocation

Kitaura Saniku, one of the three Adventist middle schools in Japan, will be having their 50th year anniversary in 2020. Because the buildings are getting old, in April 2020, the school will relocate from Ibaragi prefecture to Chiba prefecture where the Saniku College campus is located. At the new middle school, the JUC plans to make the school internationally friendly, attracting many students from overseas.

2. Master's Degree Program at Saniku Nursing School

Saniku Nursing School received official permission from the Education Department of the Japanese government to offer a master's degree program, starting in April 2020. Going along with the Seventh-day Adventist mission and educational philosophy, it will be the first and only school in Japan that offers spiritual care at the graduate school level.

3. Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics

In the summer of 2020, the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will be held in Japan. The Tokyo Central Adventist Church is only 20 minutes walking distance from the stadium where the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic games will be held. The JUC plans to conduct special health expos and have various booths to introduce the Adventist Church.

4. Mission Unusual Tokyo Project

Because of the generous financial support and ideas from the General Conference, Mission Unusual Tokyo, which is a church-planting project, is moving forward. By 2025, the JUC aims to have at least 300 small groups and 30 house churches in the city of Tokyo.

With less than 1% Christian population in Japan, many challenges exist in regards to evangelism work. However, with renewed commitment to the work, we concluded the JUC Annual Council.



Mongolia Mission Constituency Meeting

Angelina Pagarigan
MM Treasurer

(From left) Nyamdavaa Dovchinsuren, MM secretary; Kim YoHan, MM president; Angelina Pagarigan, MM treasurer



The Mongolia Mission (MM) held its 7th constituency meeting at Suut Resort, Mongolia, on November 13, 2019. Representatives from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) were as follows: Kim SiYoung, president; Yutaka Inada, secretary; Joel Tompkins, treasurer; Lyu DongJin, undertreasurer; and Kwon JohnGHaeng, director of Stewardship Ministries.

The meeting started with a devotional led by NSD president Kim SiYoung. This was followed by a special Executive Committee Meeting to approve the suggested method of selecting the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee members were selected by choosing three representatives from lay members under the supervision of Pastor Kwon, and three representatives from church leaders under the supervision of Pastor Inada.

The NSD president chaired the six-member Nominating Committee under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. MM secretary Purevjav Bachuluun reported the result of the nomination as follows:

- Secretary: Nyamdavaa Dovchinsuren
- Ministerial Association/ Sabbath School & Personal Ministries: Nyamsuren Myagmar
- Youth Ministries: Buyanbileg Ishargal
- Education Department: Joanne Kim
- Health Ministries: Enkhbayar Mishigdorj
- Publishing Ministries: Adiyakhuu Oktyabri
- Communication Department/ Media Center: Dorjderem Narankhuu
- Women's and Family Ministries: Oyuntuya Batsukh
- Shepherdess: Shin SunHwa

(Everyone on the list serves as a director except for secretary.)

The result was unanimously accepted and voted by the constituency.

A second meeting was held by the Nominating Committee to select the composition of the new Executive Committee of MM.

The evening worship was led by Pastor Kwon. During the worship, the newly elected officers and department directors of the MM committed themselves to God's work in the MM for the next three years.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The person is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

A Bible-Reading Plan for 2020

Ron Clouzet
NSD Ministerial Secretary

Even though the countries in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) celebrate the traditional Chinese New Year, January 1 is accepted internationally as the start of the new year. Technically, 2020 is the last year of the decade, but it feels like the first of the new one. Can you remember what you were doing 20 years ago? Do you remember the fears about Y2K?

Starting a new decade is an excellent opportunity to plan on a serious Bible-reading program. Many years ago, I met H. M. S. Richards, Sr., the founder and speaker of *The Voice of Prophecy* radio program. He was a serious reader. He had a personal library of about 8,000 books and read while he traveled (he never drove), while he waited for people or meetings, and even while he walked! His vast knowledge of many things contributed to his very interesting sermons. He was known in North America as the Dean of Preachers. Pastor Richards read the Bible from cover to cover at least 180 times, since he stopped counting after that. Every January, Richards would set aside all other reading, all television viewing, to read the entire Bible in

one month. He started the new year listening to God.

My personal habit is to read the Bible with a pen in hand. I usually take time reading because I study what I read, I compare it with other sections of Scripture, and I add notes to my Bible margins. But that takes time. There is a wonderful benefit in reading the Bible through, without slowing down, without pausing to ponder on the details. Years ago, I decided to *listen* to the Bible while I drove and while I ran for exercise. Listening to an average of 12 or 13 chapters a day, I was able to listen from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22 in three months. And then, I started over again. So, in addition to my Bible reading and studying, I listened to the entire Bible four times a year. The impact was surprising and significant. It gave me more confidence in God, a conviction that God knew what He was doing in my life as well as in the world.

So why not plan to do a concentrated reading of the Bible this January? Let me provide a few facts. There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible, some long, some short. To read those chapters in 30 days would mean

reading about 40 chapters a day. That may be an average reading of about six hours a day. Can you do that? Will you do that? Obviously, it will take planning. Make a reading table to chart your daily progress. You will also have to think about what you will need to let go in your day in order to add hours to your reading or listening. Turning off the TV or limiting social media to only 10 minutes a day may help you gain the time you need to dedicate to God's Word. If you are less disciplined, it may be easier to *listen* to the Bible on your phone. The benefit is that you can do this just about anywhere.

Remember this wise counsel from God's servant to pastors and church leaders: "There is nothing more calculated to energize the mind and strengthen the intellect than the study of the word of God. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts or give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose that are rarely seen in these times" (*Gospel Workers*, 249).

On September 21, 2019, the SDA Language Institute had a celebration for its 50th anniversary and offer gratitude to God of Ebenezer at the SDA Language Institute Church in Seoul, Korea. About 400 people attended the event, including officers and staff members of the institute and local neighborhood church members.

The SDA Language Institute opened in Cheongnyangni, Seoul, in 1969, with the help of eight missionaries from the United States. Now it is considered one of the top English language instruction schools in Korea, and approximately 5 million people have studied languages at the institute. Moreover, a small mission group that studied the Bible together grew into a church with 50 members in April 1971, and now it is one of the top churches in terms of the amount of tithe in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

“The institution has met not only people’s need of learning but the need of eternity in their hearts. It has not always been easy during the past 50 years, but God has led the way and will continue to do so in any circumstances,” said Pastor Hwang ChunKwang, president of the Korean Union Conference, in his sermon.

Elder Gong SeokHo from Georgia United Church, USA, attended the celebration and gave a congratulatory message. “I found the light of eternal life at the SDA Language Institute when I was in my 20s. I will never forget God’s grace that was given to me through this institute. Thanks to my study here, I was able to go to the United States, and God has continuously guided me in my 50 years as an immigrant with his grace,” said Elder Gong.

At the end of the service, Lee HyungJin, president of the SDA Language Institute, expressed his



Lee HyungJin, president of the SDA Language Institute

gratitude to God and to all the staff members of the institute. He also announced the goals of the institute for the next 50 years, which are “Global Mission,” “Future Education,” and “International Progression.” Attendees prayed together to ask for the blessings of the Lord on these goals.

SDA Language Institute Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary



Rural-Urban Connection Festival



ASI (Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries) of the West Central Korean Conference (WCKC) hosted the Rural-Urban Connection Festival on November 3, 2019, at Solomon Square on the campus of Sahmyook University, Seoul, Korea. More than 3,000 people, including Adventists, seekers, and local neighbors of the university, visited the festival.

Eighty-six booths included farmer's markets, charity sales, and a food court. In addition, there were various events, such as a Bible quiz competition, a talent show, and a lucky draw. The festival was held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some of the farmer's markets sold out all the products they had prepared two hours earlier.

The WCKC also set up a "Mission Center" booth to use the festival as an opportunity for mission. When Adventist church members brought guests to the booth, they were given gifts and were able to relax with free drinks. More than 250 non-Adventists visited the booth and had a chance to know more about the Adventist Church.

"I am so grateful that many people visited the Mission Center booth. It means that the booth was promoted well. Also, local church members put an effort into bringing souls to the festival. Moreover, there were a lot of people who didn't know that Sahmyook University was established by the Adventist Church. This festival also served to enhance the positive image of Sahmyook University," said Bae HongDeuk, president of WCKC ASI.

Based on the result of this year's festival, ASI will put more emphasis on the Mission Center booth with more variety of services in the next year. Also, they are going to set up booths that provide practical help, such as legal counseling and health counseling.



International Bible Conference in Ulaanbaatar



Richard Sabuin
NSD SS/PM Director

For the first time ever, the International Bible Conference was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from September 16 to 18, 2019. Church pastors, Mongolia Mission leaders, and some church elders attended the conference. The Biblical Research Institute (BRI) of the General Conference (GC) organized the event.

Six presenters were sent by the BRI to share research on various topics. Clinton Wahlen, associate director of BRI, presented three papers: “Biblical Hermeneutics and Cultures,” “Interpretation of the Ellen G. White Writings,” and “Creation in the New Testament.” Eugene Zaitsev from Zaoksky University, Russia, talked about the issue of Adventist identity. Further, he highlighted topics, such as “Allos Paracletos: to the Issue of Personality of the Holy Spirit” and “Sola Scriptura as a Key Principle of Reformation: Contemporary Challenges.”

Alexander Bolotnikov from the Jewish Studies Center of the North American Division presented interesting papers on the Sermon on the Mount, emphasizing it as the starting point of discipleship. Furthermore, he compared the Sermon on the Mount and Psalms 1, arguing that the

delight of Jesus was to meditate and to keep the law. In addition, Bolotnikov talked about divorce in the Old and New Testaments.

The BRI made a good decision in sending Gregory Whitsett to this conference, considering that Buddhism is a religious majority in Mongolia. Being the director of the Buddhist Studies Center of the GC, Whitsett presented approaches and strategies to reach the Buddhists.

Leonardo Nunez, dean of theology department of one of the Adventist colleges in Brazil, presented papers focusing on the heavenly sanctuary: “Heavenly Sanctuary and God’s Answer to Suffering,” “Heavenly Sanctuary and the Book of Revelation,” and “Heavenly Sanctuary and the Gifts of the Spirit.” Coming from the NSD was Richard Sabuin, secretary of Biblical Research Committee of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD). He presented a paper on soul winning in the New Testament and a topic on the remnant: “Are the Seventh-Day Adventists the Last Remnant?”

Pastor Myagmar Nyamsuren, ministerial secretary of the Mongolia Mission (MM), translated most of the





presentations. Serving as translator was also Pastor Bold Batsukh, executive secretary of the MM. Amazingly, he could translate directly from Russian into Mongolian when Professor Zaitsev presented his papers.

About 50 people attended the meeting. They were all very enthusiastic in learning the Bible. Their passion for the word of God was evident in the way they followed the presentations. They opened their Bibles, asked questions, and took notes. Pastor Kim YoHan, MM president, thanked the presenters and organizers for making this Bible conference a successful and memorable one. We pray that this mission field with about 3,000 church members will continue growing!

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Stepping-Stone Project of the Korean Adventist Church

The Stepping-Stone Project, launched by the Korean Union Conference (KUC) in 2017, has 208 participating churches in Korea as of November 2019. It is a project in which each church plans out mission strategies tailored for the church's circumstance and neighborhood. A church is required to submit a mission plan, and the KUC provides the project fund. Now, 208 participating churches actively carry out various mission plans, including health seminars, counseling, food sharing, environmental protection, foot massage, and urban farming.

The project has received positive feedback from participating churches. The mission projects make participants feel worthwhile. "Since our church started participating in the Stepping-Stone project, the church members have spent more time together to work on the project and have gotten closer and have built more trust with one another. More and more church members are interested in the project and willing to participate in it. The atmosphere of the church has changed in a good way," said Mr. Oh KyeongHwa, deacon from Nonsan Church.



Churches participating in KUC's Stepping-Stone Project actively carry out various mission plans, including serving free tea, kimchi sharing, cooking classes, and health seminars.



The view of local neighbors toward the Seventh-day Adventist Church has also changed positively. The local people remarked that the Adventist church was doing something valuable for their neighbors. They said that it was not easy these days to find people doing good deeds for other people.

Mr. Park JongSeok, deacon from the Nonsan Church, testified that the Stepping-Stone Project helped the church acquire a good reputation among the local neighbors. "The way our neighbors consider the church has changed greatly after the project. Some people said that they couldn't imagine our town without the Nonsan Church. Whenever I hear such compliments, I feel glad to have a chance to serve my neighbors and am also proud of being an Adventist. Above all, this project helps my faith grow."

Those who recently began to attend church were not an exception. In fact, participating in the Stepping-Stone project helped them to settle into the church. Ms. Lee JeongBoon, who was baptized a year ago, joined the project. "I don't think I have solid faith in God, but this project makes me have responsibility for my church as well as a sense of belonging. Also, I see myself changed through the project. I was not the kind of person who really enjoyed helping others; however, I now want to keep finding ways to care for other people. Isn't it a positive effect of going to church?"

The KUC is planning to build a comprehensive report putting together all the cases of the 208 churches and to release it in 2020. The report will include a manual that enables other churches to build their own mission plans. It is anticipated that the KUC, the local Conferences, and local churches will effectively work together through the Stepping-Stone Project. It will encourage the Korean Adventist Church to strive to reach out to neighbors.

"A church that communicates with local people, looks into their needs, and gives them a helping hand, and is with them whenever they need is the type of church we want to be through the Stepping-Stone Project," Pastor Lee ByungJoo, KUC director of Sabbath School & Personal Ministries, said. Please join the Stepping-Stone Project in praying, reaching the people and leading them to Jesus.

Foot Care Volunteers' Association Goes to National Sports Festival in Korea



The Foot Care Volunteers' Association, one of the Seventh-day Adventist Church volunteer groups in Korea, shared the love of Jesus by foot care activities at the 100th National Sports Festival in Korea from October 4 to 10, 2019. The festival is Korea's largest athletic competition, which has been held annually and marked the 100th anniversary this year.

The association set up booths and offered free foot care services to visitors of the festival for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon during the event. More than 30 foot care volunteers served at the festival.

With people packed around the stadium, the booth of the association was noticeable by its many visitors and well received. On average, fifty people from eight groups were provided foot care each day. On the last day, volunteers offered foot care for 10 groups of people, but many people had to depart without receiving service.

"I depend on the word of God in Philippians 2:5, 'Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.' When I serve people with prayers, the love of Jesus Christ is delivered to them," said Hwang ChanYeon, leader of the association.

Recipients were very impressed by the sincere service of the volunteers and thanked them. One of the recipients left the impression that she had received various kinds of massage while traveling around 70 countries and this foot care was the best and worked well for her body. The volunteers were delighted with positive responses from recipients and shared them through the association's social media app to encourage one another.

The booth brought an opportunity to introduce the Seventh-day Adventist Church to people and invite them to the church. Various publications of the Adventist church displayed at the booth attracted people's attention. People asked such questions as: What kind of Christian denomination is it? Can you visit my church and offer this service? Where should I go if I want to receive this service again? The volunteers were able to naturally introduce them to an Adventist church close to their residence that offers foot care services.

The volunteers of the association said that they will continue to offer their services in order to spread the gospel of God to many non-believers they meet.



Korean American Medical Volunteers Go to Jeju Island

Medical Volunteers without Borders is a volunteer group composed of Korean American health professionals. In collaboration with Jeju Leadership Training Center and the Pyoseon Church, they held a health expo in Pyoseon-myeon on Jeju Island, Korea, from October 22 to 26, 2019. During the day, they provided free clinics, and every evening, health seminars were conducted. On the Sabbath of October 26, the last day of the health expo, a music concert was held in the garden in front of the Leadership Training Center.

The free clinics were set up at the Pyoseon Town Office. About thirty physicians, surgeons, dentists, chiropractors, and nurses provided treatments to the local people. They had brought basic medical equipment for health checkups. More than 800 local people who couldn't afford to go to hospitals benefitted from the clinics.

Their benevolent work was broadcast on television. A nightly news program of the major broadcasting station on the island reported that thirty health professionals came to the small village of the island in order to care for people in their home country. The news anchor added, "Their good deed of helping the needy has moved many people to think of taking care of their neighbors."

"Even though our group members live far away from Korea, we always hear news from there. We know that there are many secluded and disadvantaged areas in Korea, and we are willing to go to help people there. It has been a wonderful opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus with people on Jeju Island during the expo," said Mr. Kim SoonTae, leader of Medical Volunteers without Borders, in an interview.

Pastor Yoon JeSeong, director of the Leadership Training Center, made an effort to host the health expo with the group. "A lot of the local people were provided free medical service and attended the health seminars. I am glad that the health expo strengthened the relationship between the center and our local neighbors." He expressed his sincere appreciation to Medical Volunteers without Borders, who came to Jeju Island at their own expense to help the people of the island.

Medical Volunteers without Borders began their volunteer work in 2002. They have a central office in Los Angeles, California, United States, and have been going all over the world to set up free clinics, especially in places where medical care is not properly provided. They aim to make a positive impression about the Adventist Church on people whom they help, preach the gospel, and finally lead them to Jesus Christ.



The volunteer work of Medical Volunteers without Borders on Jeju Island was broadcast on television.

Meetings in Japan and Korea

Ron Clouzet
NSD Ministerial Secretary

Dr. Ron Clouzet, ministerial secretary of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), was one of the NSD representatives at the recent Japan Union Conference (JUC) in Tachikawa, Japan, from November 17 to 19, 2019. With an excellent attendance of the JUC executive members, there were administrative, departmental, and institutional reports of the mission progress in Japan.

The church in Japan has turned a corner. Even though great challenges remain and many churches still lose members due to their advanced age, more and more pastors and churches are becoming convinced that their mission is not just to survive but to expect God to bless their efforts in reaching others with the Three Angels' Message. Of particular interest was the project Mission Unusual, a comprehensive plan to reach Tokyo, the largest city in the world. Please pray for Japan.

Dr. Clouzet also attended part of the Bible Conference organized by the Korean Union Conference, in Madalpy, Korea, from December 2 to 4, 2019. This was the second conference this year. Dr. Richard M. Davidson, a well-known Old Testament professor from the Seminary at Andrews University, spoke on the subject of the sanctuary. Dr. David Jamieson, the lead pastor of the Church in the Valley near Vancouver, Canada, spoke on compassion evangelism through acts of kindness and the many ways a church can make a profound difference in the community. Close to 300 pastors from three conferences were present for the conference.



Above: Partial group of delegates and leaders for the JUC Annual Council

Below: (From left) Dr. Jamieson, Sister Song (KUC Ministerial office), Pastor Lee JiChoon (KUC Ministerial), Dr. Clouzet, and Dr. Davidson served at the KUC Bible Conference.

Running "Children's Cafeteria" at the Setagaya Youth Church



Arise! Shine! Community Service by Young Adventists in Japan

In April 2016, when the Setagaya Church became the Setagaya Youth Church, the Youth Ministries of the Japan Union Conference tried to focus on building relationships with the local community and encouraging young Adventists to serve the community. When young people reflect the fragrance of the love of Jesus Christ as they interact with people in the community, people will see the church as a less threatening and more attractive place to attend. Our vision is to make the Setagaya Youth Church a community church.

In order to make our vision a reality, we talked with the Setagaya Social Welfare and Community Service Association to get ideas and to find ways we could help the community. As a result, we realized that the community is in desperate need of young volunteers and also a place where people could freely gather and fellowship. We encouraged our young people to volunteer whenever possible, and at the same time, tried to make our church freely available to the local people during weekdays.

In April 2019, we began to be involved with the local "Children's Cafeteria" group. "Children's Cafeteria" has recently become a popular movement all over Japan. The purpose of the movement is to reach and feed children that come from poor and busy households. Usually a host family or a local community center is utilized as a meeting place where people are provided free food and fellowship. The group requested that the young people of the Setagaya

Youth Church help people in need within the community. As we talked to the volunteer leaders of the group, we learned that there are many families and children that are not receiving the necessary help and support. We began to think of ways we could further help those families and children.

Meanwhile, the new Youth Fellowship and Training Center was established in Setagaya. The Center is walking distance from the Setagaya Youth Church. The Center is a local government institution with a fully equipped kitchen, music studio, study rooms, relaxing rooms, gymnasium, and multi-purpose rooms all available to be used free of charge by any young people under the age of 30 who live in the Setagaya District. The center is not only equipped with great facilities but has many youth workers who are ready to help fulfill young people's dreams and plans. I began to dream about having Adventist young people plan and carry out events using the facilities at the Center.

Around the same time, a first-year music student began to attend the Setagaya Youth Church. She studies Musical Drama and Performance at the university. I asked if she would be able to invite some of her university classmates to hold a charity concert for the community. She was very optimistic about the idea.

The church being involved with the local Children's Cafeteria group, the new Youth Fellowship and Training Center being established, and a music university student starting to come to Setagaya Youth Church all happened in divine timing. I was sure that God was telling us to plan a charity concert for the Children's Cafeteria at the new Youth Fellowship and Training Center! I began to discuss the possibility of holding a concert with the staff at the center. I explained that we are from the local Seventh-day Adventist church. I also added that the Setagaya Youth Church is a very unique church with many young people that want to serve the community in some way. In Japan, public facilities cannot be used by religious organizations



The Setagaya Youth Church held a charity concert for parents and children of the local community.

or religious purposes. However, the Children's Cafeteria group that we were involved with had been already using the center and we were able to quickly gain trust and receive permission to plan and have a concert. Furthermore, youth workers at the center along with many young people from the community also worked together with the young Adventists at the Setagaya Youth Church to prepare for the concert.

There was only one Adventist music university student, but she recruited 22 of her non-Christian classmates to help with the music concert. The students not only sang and danced, but also provided various activities for children as well. On the day of the concert, more than 100 young parents and children from the community came to attend and the room reached full capacity. During the concert, we had some time to briefly introduce the Children's Cafeteria and its activities. Obeying the commandment of God to "arise and shine," our young Adventists became the "light of the world" to all who came to the concert, adults, youth, and children in the community. The concert was filled with big smiles, wonderful fellowship, and above all, God's bountiful blessings.

Setagaya Youth Church will continue to encourage young people to strive to reflect the fragrance of the love of Jesus to the people in the community, be a witness for Him, and provide opportunities for people to know Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray for us!



Yasuki Aoki

JUC Youth Ministries Director

Second Commissioning Ceremony for PCM Missionaries



Seven young people decided to serve as PCM missionaries in Taiwan for a year.

Public Campus Ministries (PCM) held a commissioning ceremony for seven young people on November 9, 2019, at Byeollae Church, Korea. These young people were appointed to spread the Three Angels' Messages as the second batch of PCM missionaries of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD). They will all be serving in Taiwan.

Elder Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference, who was in Korea in order to attend the NSD Annual Council, joined the ceremony with members of the Byeollae Church. Elder Wilson greeted the Korean church members by saying "Happy Sabbath" in the Korean language, followed by an inspiring message to the seven young missionaries as well as the other Korean Adventists who were present. "Missionaries are an axis of all the evangelism that the Adventist Church seeks, but missionaries are not the only ones to do mission work. We are all missionaries. Each of you must be a powerful witness of God. The covenant of the second coming of Jesus and the hope of eternal life should be proclaimed. Commit as a messenger of the gospel. Pray for a change of heart. Let this meeting today be an opportunity to reconfirm that."

NSD president Kim SiYoung also gave a message of encouragement to the missionaries. "You may face challenges, trials, and unforeseen difficulties in your mission fields. However, do not be afraid. You are never alone. The living God will be with you. I hope you have an experience of giving yourself entirely to God. He will give you a clear and wonderful victory. Complete the mission by the power of God."

Representing the second batch of the PCM missionaries, Ms. Chung SungHwa recited the PCM mission statement. "I would like to join in making another witness of Jesus so that this generation can share the gospel of the Lord with the next generation, as we have come to know Jesus Christ through the previous generation. We come to the Lord empty-handed. We want to be hands praying for our students when they are scattered across campus."

PCM is a mission movement for college campuses, which enables its missionaries to spread the gospel of God to college students. The NSD was the first of the thirteen Divisions of the Adventist Church to set up this movement.



Kim NakHyung
NSD Youth Ministries Director



News from Tusgal School in Mongolia

Joanne Kim
MM Education Director

On November 14, 2019, the Mongolia Mission (MM) celebrated the 10th anniversary of Tusgal School at the Ulaanbaatar Central Church, where the school is located. The students put together a lovely program with songs and folk dances. Also, special awards were presented to the teachers, particularly the founding members, who have given their all to help make Tusgal what it is today.

Tusgal School was awarded Best Private School in the Chingeltei District, and three of Tusgal’s teachers— B. Batstetseg, S. Mungun-Uzeg, and E. Enkhchimeg— were granted Senior Teacher status. The Ulaanbaatar City Administration also presented T. Otgontoya, the school principal, with an Outstanding Principal Award. This special occasion was commemorated with speeches by Kim SiYoung, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD); Kim YoHan, MM president; and Joanne Kim, MM Education Department director. The school currently has an enrollment of more than 170 students, and with recent renovations, can now accommodate up to 250 students. We pray for the continued success of the school.

On Sabbath, November 23, 2019, Mungun-Uzeg, one of Tusgal’s long-time teachers, was baptized into the Ulaanbaatar Central Church. The Tusgal teachers, administration, and officers from the MM came to celebrate this joyous occasion, which shows that Adventist education is not just an evangelistic tool for bringing students to Christ, but one that reaches our non-Adventist staff as well. May God continue to watch over and bless our new sister, Mungun-Uzeg.

Mungun-Uzeg, one of the teachers of Tusgal School, was baptized at the Ulaanbaatar Central Church.





Staff members of Sijosa sang a special song during the service commemorating its 110th anniversary.

Sijosa Reflects on 110th Anniversary

Sijosa, the Adventist publishing house in Korea, celebrated its 110th anniversary on October 31, 2019. All of the staff and committee members attended the celebration, which was held at the auditorium at the Sijosa. They gave thanks to God.

Pastor Hwang ChunKwang, president of the Korean Union Conference, delivered a sermon at the service. "It has truly been a blessing for Sijosa to serve God and preach the gospel through its publications for the past 110 years." He also brought up the concern over the fast-changing environment of the publishing industry. "If you keep asking yourself what, why, and how in regard to your business and ask God for his wisdom, you can lead the publishing ministries in the future."

Sijosa began its ministries in March 1909 with Washington Hand Press, a small hand-printing device, located in the corner of a school building at "Uimyoung School" in Soonan, which is now in North Korea. Four years before that, in 1905, the church leaders, recognizing the importance of publishing ministries, sent two young men to Japan to learn about the printing technology.

At that time, the name of the company was "Seventh-day Adventist Mission Press." The word "Mission" in its earlier name clearly reveals its identity. It shows the path it has been on and the path forward.

In August 1936, Sijosa imported a high-priced printing machine from Japan, which enabled them to print various magazines and books in large quantities in a short period of time. In September of the same year, the circulation of *Signs of Time*, one of the main periodicals of Sijosa, reached 39,000. They kept printing more than 30,000 copies until 1939. Considering that the population of Korea at the time was 15 million and the number of Seventh-day Adventists was only around five thousand, the circulation is surprising.

Although Sijosa has gone through tumultuous times, it is now recognized as one of the historic gospel publishing houses in Korea. However, it still faces challenges from the unstable publishing market,

which has suffered from a long-term recession in Korea in recent years. Sijosa needs to be competitive with the development of various platforms and contents in conjunction with Information Technology (IT). Innovations that meet the needs of consumers should be made.

“Even though many challenges come from inside and outside, we will strive for continuous improvement. We will respond to the changes in the Korean publishing market, and at the same time, we will keep trying to find opportunities in foreign markets. Through our efforts, we can accomplish the mission of spreading the gospel and hasten Jesus’ second coming,” said Um KilSoo, president of Sijosa.



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Advent Prayer Center Opens on the Andrews University Campus



Advent Prayer Center, a place of prayer especially for Koreans, was opened on the campus of Andrews University in Michigan, U.S. It was the first time in the history of Andrews University that a building was established for Koreans.

Andrea Luxton, president of Andrews University; Justin Ringstaff, executive secretary of Michigan Conference; staff members of the university; board members of the Advent Prayer Center; and neighborhood church members participated in the building dedication

service, which was held on September 9, 2019.

“I hope Advent Prayer Center is not only for Korean mission but for world mission,” said President Luxton in her congratulatory remarks.

“It is a blessing that we have a place for prayers and spiritual trainings on our campus of Andrews University,” said Pastor Ringstaff.

Pastor Roy Catelbrono, who has served as construction manager, preached a sermon at the dedication service. He said, “During its construction, there were lots of difficulties and fears. When one door closed, however, God opened another, better door.” He encouraged every participant to keep faithful, to not despair, and to wait for God’s guidance.

It is expected that many theology students, pastors, missionaries, and lay members will be spiritually revived and well trained as God’s workers through this center.

People Touching Feet Give Foot-Massage Training to Foreign Workers

People Touching Feet, a foot massage volunteering group under the West Central Korean Conference, was invited by the Baekhyang Gimpo Multicultural Church in order to provide foot-massage skill training to foreign workers who attend the church. Thirteen foreigners from seven countries had an opportunity to learn skills to serve their local community.

“It was a great experience for both our volunteers and trainees,” said Elder Kim ManJang, head of People Touching Feet. “Even though it is hard to communicate with each other due to the language barrier, our sincerity to teach and their desire to learn made all of us connected.”

The participants said that they were very satisfied with the training. Although they seemed awkward at first, they soon became acquainted and learned fast. After becoming proficient through practice, they will later join People Touching Feet. They especially plan to give foot massage service to foreigners working in neighboring areas.

“Foreign workers may sometimes get more used to being helped rather than giving help to others. By this training, they have a chance to share what they have with others,” said Elder Kim SeongIl, who served the Baekhyang Gimpo Multicultural Church as a lay leader. He believes that these trained foreign

volunteers will play an important role in mission work toward foreigners in Korea.

The Baekhyang Gimpo Multicultural Church opened on March 1, 2015. Ahn YongHo, who runs his own business, has devoted a lot of his fortune to build a church and deliver the gospel to foreign workers living in the area. About 40 members attend the church every Sabbath, and two-thirds of them are foreign workers. Most of them were not an Adventist until they came to the church.



ELLEN G. WHITE: 175 YEARS SINCE FIRST VISION

December 2019 was the 175th anniversary of the first vision given by God to Ellen G. White. That vision began a ministry that lasted 70 years and helped lay the foundation for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its worldwide ministry in 200 countries. Ellen White went on to have about 2,000 visions and dreams, leading her to write around 100,000 pages of counsel for spiritual growth, mission and ministry, health, education, and many other subjects. (Check <https://whiteestate.org>.)

Ellen Harmon (later Ellen White, once married) was a deeply devoted 17-year-old Methodist who, along with her family, had accepted biblical teachings pointing to the soon coming of Jesus Christ. The Adventists, as they became known, believed Christ would come on October 22, 1844, in direct fulfillment of the 2,300-day prophecy (Dan. 8:14). They misinterpreted that prophecy, and when Jesus did not come, many were deeply disappointed. Among those was young Ellen.

After this great disappointment, a small group of these Adventists pressed on in prayer and study to discern God's will on this matter. One day in December of that year, Ellen went to pray with four other women. As she prayed, the Holy Spirit fell on her, and she saw a vision. She saw a narrow path, high above the world, where the Adventists were traveling towards heaven, at the end of the path. A bright light behind them lit the path so they would not stumble. Before them was Jesus, leading them to the

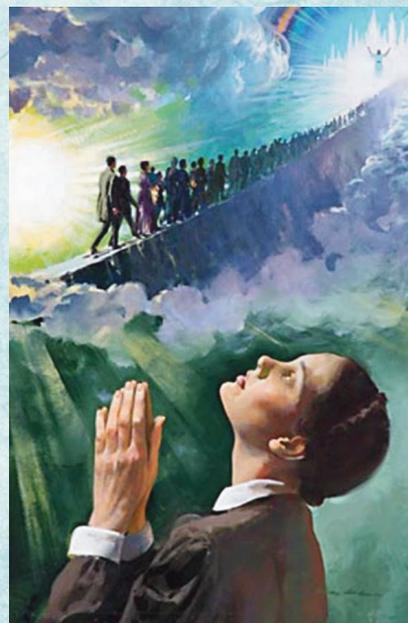
New Jerusalem. As long as they kept their eyes on Jesus, they would not stumble, but those who took their eyes off Him, or doubted, fell off the path (*Early Writings*, 14-15). As she related her vision to others, they were encouraged. They concluded that God had not forsaken them and that if they kept their eyes on Jesus, they would eventually reach the heavenly city.

It took some time for Adventists to accept Ellen White as a messenger God would use on their behalf. Many others in those days claimed to have direct revelations from God, and she was a young female with a weak physical constitution. Before choosing her, God had twice chosen experienced men to send messages to His people through visions and dreams, but they refused to carry such a big burden. Ellen White was described as “the weakest of the weak,” but she humbly submitted to the will of God.

The Lord used Ellen White in mighty ways. As suggested in Joel 2:28-29, she had public visions while young (her last one was at age 47), and private dreams while older. The public visions were necessary so people who witnessed them would believe she was sent of God.

How Early Adventists Came to Accept Ellen White as a Prophet

Historians have identified at least 315 men and women who were recognized as prophets in North America between 1750 and 1820, so the claim to be a prophet of God was not unusual leading to the time of Ellen White. How did the early



Adventists know she was a genuine messenger of God?

At first, they were skeptical. After the disappointment of October 1844, they were weary of the extremism and fanaticism seen among some of the believers. They wanted to be certain and to anchor their faith in the Bible alone. But they recognized that the Bible supported prophetic utterances (1 Thess. 5:19-22) and that it pointed to prophetic activity at the time of the end (Joel 2:28-29; Matt. 24:11, 24). At one point, one of the Adventist leaders offered \$500 USD, a large sum at the time, for anyone who could prove from the New Testament that the gifts of the Spirit had been taken away from the church. No one could come up with such proof. For some, witnessing Ellen White in vision convinced them she was genuine.

Joseph Bates, one of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was initially skeptical about whether Ellen White had the gift of prophecy. A self-described “doubting Thomas,” Bates thought her visions were the result of a weak physical and mental constitution. However, in November of 1846, he was with a group of Adventists when Ellen White was taken into vision. After the vision, she described the heavens, the galaxy of Orion, and several of the planets in the solar system. This really surprised Bates, a former sea captain and an amateur astronomer. He knew Ellen White was ignorant of these things and concluded God must be behind her visions.

Another skeptic of her gift was Dr. Drummond, a non-Adventist physician who believed her visions were the result of hypnotism. One Sabbath morning in 1853, he was present at a church where Ellen White went into vision. Her husband described what was happening to her and invited anyone to check whether or not she was breathing. Dr. Drummond stepped forward and gave her a thorough examination. Then, he turned pale and said, “She doesn’t breathe!” The vision lasted about 30 minutes.

Most of all, early Adventists saw in her messages a thorough support of biblical teachings. In the theological development stage of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, between 1848 and 1850, she never initiated any new teaching, but confirmed the biblical conclusions arrived at by other serious Bible students. In addition, her entire life was a constant reflection of a true Bible-believing Christian. She was put to every test found in the Bible to identify the prophet of God from a false prophet.



Ron Clouzet
NSD Ministerial Secretary



Dedication of the 18th PMM Families

On November 9, 2019, four families dedicated themselves to God as Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) missionaries. They will be serving as cross-cultural missionaries in different countries. Their major task is to plant new churches in unentered or unchurched territories in order to make disciples as Jesus commissioned in Matthew 28:18-20.

This mission movement was launched in 2002 as a cross-cultural church planting project. According to Dr. Joo MinHo, PMM coordinator as well as Adventist Mission director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), 128 PMM families have been sent to 21 countries from 2003 to 2019. As of now, 41 PMM families are serving in 16 different countries.



The dedication service was held at Byeollae Church, which is located in the West Central Korean Conference. The four PMM pastors who were dedicated that day are as follows: Kim TaeYoung going to Nepal, Choi WoonSung to Taiwan, Jeong JiHoon to Myanmar, and Choi Bonkil to the Philippines.

This time, the PMM dedication was combined with the dedication of Public Campus Ministries (PCM) missionaries. Seven precious young missionaries, like the morning dew, were dedicated for campus ministries. They will serve in campus ministries in the NSD territories for a year by mingling with collegians.

The combined dedication of two mission projects drew the attention of many people to its service. In addition to the regular church members, the NSD Executive Committee members and guests from the General Conference were invited to attend the service.

During Sabbath School, Pastor Jeong JiHoon gave the congregation his personal testimony about his previous experience as a PMM pastor. After learning to bake pizza, he wanted to open a pizza restaurant in his mission field, but on the day before the opening, the pizza restaurant burned down along with the pizza oven. However, he showed remarkable resilience by

getting back on his feet and starting again in faith. He has opened 11 pizza restaurants so far. Those in the congregation were touched by his passion, faith, vision and ministries.

During the dedication service, GC president Ted Wilson gave the missionaries a message of irresistible mission spirit. He stated, "There are lot of challenges as Pastor Jeong experienced, but we must go forward by trusting in the Lord. Soon Jesus is coming. He will reward us according to what we have done. We have to deliver this message to all the people."

NSD president Kim SiYoung also encouraged and empowered the missionaries to go to the mission fields with the conviction that Jesus would always be with them. The program participants and church organization leaders were invited to lay their hands on the shoulders of these new missionaries as a token of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the faithful prayers of the members for their ministries.



Joo MinHo

NSD Adventist Mission Director

1. Four pastors and their families have been dispatched to their mission fields as 18th PMM missionaries.
2. Ted Wilson, GC president, gave a message on mission spirit, and Joo MinHo, PMM coordinator, translated.
3. The dedication service was held at Byeollae Church in Gyeonggi-do, Korea.





Jack and his partner JM give free haircuts to their neighbors.



God's Faithful Follower

Batjargal Batmunh
1000MM 54th Batch

I am one of the 54th batch missionaries of the 1000 Missionary Movement. I come from Mongolia. Although I have a long Mongolian name, everyone here calls me Jack. It has been more than two months since my partner JM and I were dispatched to Valencia, Bukidnon, in the Philippines. The mission field we are assigned consists of more than 300 households. During the first month here, my partner and I tried our best to mingle with the people. We wanted to warm their hearts so that they would open their hearts and accept us.

Since I cannot speak Bisaya, the Cebuano language spoken by the people here, my partner is the only one whom I can talk to. Whenever I feel like I am not useful, my partner encourages me. He says that even just staying with him is being supportive and can be a big help. We have done house-to-house visitation five days a week, and we set one day for giving our neighbors free haircuts. Everyone who came to get a haircut returned happily. I am also very happy that I can share my talent for God and my neighbors.

I have learned a lot of things here. When I was in Mongolia, I didn't even cook. Here I am learning how to cook various dishes.

At times, I feel lonely, and I miss my family and friends in Mongolia terribly. However, I know I can overcome this feeling, and I should continue to grow during my term as a missionary.

On Sabbath afternoons, we have held Sabbath School, and more than a hundred children have registered. They seem most happy when they learn action songs from us. My partner and I are blessed by warm and kind church members. They treat us like family, and they help us through prayers and financial support.

Sometimes, there are miscommunications between me and my partner, but God always helps us to resolve it. Every day, we read the English Bible together. Even though my English is not yet fluent, I am sure that God will help me so that He can speak through me. God is the leader of our mission work, and we will continue to follow His guidance faithfully. Please pray for us.



“Minglaba” is how you say “Hello” in Burmese, the language of Myanmar.

I would like to introduce Myanmar, to which I was dispatched as a 1000 Missionary Movement missionary seven months ago. Approximately 54 million people live in this country. Since the population is comprised of seven main tribes and many other minor tribes, there are also several languages being used in the country. Among them, Burmese is the official language and the language of the Bamar people, who are the majority of the population.

Since I began to live in Myanmar, I have always been impressed by people’s smiles. When I greet them with “Minglaba,” they greet me back with a big grin on their faces. Even a frowning tough-looking man working on a scorching day would greet me back with a beam on his face. I think that the smiles of these people are so dazzling that they would brighten up the hearts of others. Later I learned that Myanmar is known as a “Nation of Smiles.” I found that I was not the only one who was impressed by their smiles.

Despite this glamorous trait, Myanmar holds a heartbreaking history. The country was a British colony for more than 120 years and was ruled by Japan for three years. In the process of regaining their independence and consolidating their power as one nation, problems arose.

Mission in the Nation of Smiles

Ahn ChangJoon
1000MM 53rd Batch



1000MM missionary ChangJoon (front) provides English and Korean classes to young people in Myanmar.

The civil war between the Burmese and other tribes has not ceased until today. With the current situation, the northern region is still a dangerous place where foreigners refrain from entering. The place my missionary partner and I are staying is a relatively safe place, located near Yangon, the most modern city in Myanmar.

Buddhism is the national religion of Myanmar, and 90% of the population are Buddhists. Moreover, the transitioning of authority from the military government to the new democratic government has recently opened the door of freedom. Nonetheless, it is still the military government that holds the authority over many things. I think that’s why people tend to be passive in attitude and fearful of change. I find it difficult to share the word of God in such conditions. It seems that the people are not willing to accept Christianity.

Despite these unfavorable situations, through our prayers and efforts to mingle with the villagers, God has allowed us a genuine relationship with some of the people. We especially found it easy to approach students who are interested in Korea.

At present, there are many people in Myanmar who want to learn English and are interested in the Korean culture. The younger generations especially love Korea. We have had issues regarding our stay in our place, but the fact that we are Koreans and that we teach English has helped a lot in settling issues. Now, at the request of the people here, we offer the students English classes. If possible, we will also be teaching them Korean.

Just to talk briefly about our life here in Myanmar, although we have blackouts and water shortage—the way it is all around Myanmar—we are clinging to God, reminding and renewing ourselves of the reason and mission for our stay every time we see the smiles from our students.

As the Bible verse in 1 Samuel 7:12 says, “Thus far has the Lord helped us.” In the remaining few months, we will keep holding onto God in prayer and faith in His promises, believing Him who has been faithful in small and big things in times of our need. Please pray for us that the students we teach may come to know the Lord.



God Teaches Me What I Should Say

Altansoyombo Tegsh-Erdene

1000MM 53rd Batch

I'm a 53rd batch missionary of the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM) from Mongolia. My full name is Altansoyombo Tegsh-Erdene, but here I let people call me Arthur. I am the only Adventist in my family. After receiving training as a 1000MM missionary, I was dispatched to Midsalip District in the province of Zamboanga del Sur, Philippines, with my Filipino partner Davy Famisaran.

My life as a missionary is totally different from my original life in Mongolia. I am not at all a perfect missionary although sometimes people expect me to be a perfect missionary. I can't help but feel pressure from people's expectations. I was baptized on June 2, 2018, and I am learning about being an Adventist as well as being a missionary. I still find difficulty in preaching God's message and sharing my testimony. I think I am better at making friends in the neighborhood, playing with the children, and praying for souls. I am not good at singing, but I love to sing praises to God.

In addition to what is typically considered missionary work, I have experienced many things in my mission field: working in rice fields, driving a tractor, cutting grass, catching fish, painting a school, making decorations, hiking, going into a cave, sleeping on the ground of a mountain, and much more. I am so excited to learn new things that I would never have experienced if I hadn't joined the 1000MM.

As the Philippines is a lot different than Mongolia, my home country, most of the things around me are new to me. That has made me realize how amazing God is. Without God's help, I wouldn't even have even thought about trying new things. Honestly sometimes I wonder why I am here, but I already know the answer: God called me and sent me here to serve people.

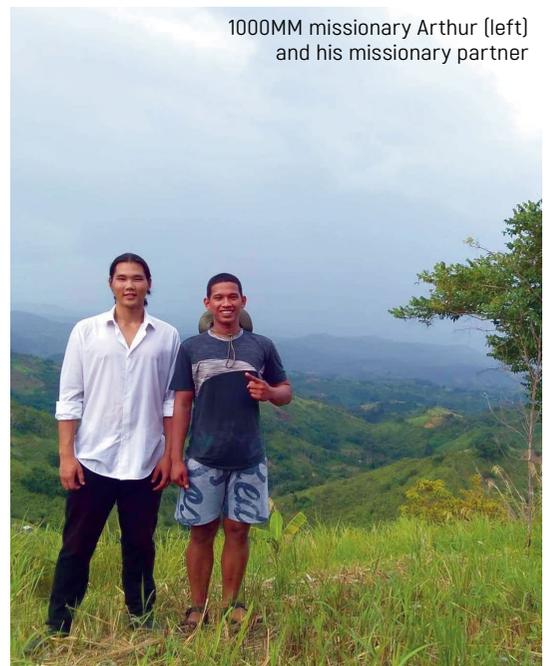
I remember when I took the responsibility of delivering a sermon for a midweek worship for the first time. I was so nervous that I prayed to God with all my heart asking for His guidance when I was delivering His message. On that day, I was able to finish the

sermon successfully by God's grace. Day by day, I learn more about God and am used to living as a missionary. Compared to the first few months, I am used to preaching God's message and teaching people the Sabbath School lesson.

There are several things I have learned here so far. First, if we do not try, we will not learn anything. People can improve by trying, practicing, and even failing. Second, God is changing me little by little. Third, all the people have their own talent. The last but most important thing is that when we are sharing the word of God, we do not have to rely on our own talents or skills. God will be with our mouth.

"And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say" (Exodus 4:11-12).

Serving God has been the most valuable experience in my whole life. I am blessed that God chose me to be part of His work. I am happy in the service of the God Almighty.



1000MM missionary Arthur (left) and his missionary partner



1000MM missionary SeonMi and her missionary partner (1st and 2nd from the right)

Serving God in Nepal

Lee SeonMi
1000MM 54th Batch

I am a member of the 54th batch of the 1000 Missionary Movement. I am from Korea, and I have been serving as a missionary in Hetauda, Nepal, since October 2019.

Let me briefly introduce my mission field. The capital city of Nepal is Katmandu. The country consists of rivers and mountains without seas. The population is approximately 29 million, and most of the people make a living by farming. The national religion is Hinduism, and more than 87 percent of the people are Hindus. There are 53 Adventist churches, 5 ordained pastors, and 5 non-ordained pastors in Nepal. In other words, the number of pastors is much smaller than that of the churches. Since 2017, the regulation for Christianity has become more restricted. If someone is caught due to missionary work, he or she has to pay a fine or go to jail, or it could lead to banishment from the country. In addition, many Hindus of Nepal are proud of their religion because they regard it as their traditional religion from their forefathers. Therefore, the current situation of Nepal makes it difficult and even dangerous to do missionary work.

When I learned about this situation, I was afraid of working as a missionary. It seemed that I could not do anything here. I did not have any choice but to kneel down and ask God why am I here. For many days, I did not receive any answer from Him. I spent my days in a state of torpor. When my missionary partner and I visited people's houses, I was not sure this was the missionary work I had expected. At that time, I went through a hard time with the language barrier and food, and honestly, I really missed my home.

As I admitted that I couldn't do anything by myself, I found out that I can do everything in God. After I realized that God is always with

me and the victory is already in His hand, I didn't worry anymore. I lowered myself and looked up to our Father in heaven who has always waited for me.

In November 2019, missionary training started in the mission center in Nepal. Now my partner and I start each day with morning exercise. Then, we learn how to teach the history of Bible characters, children action songs, piano, Taekwondo (Korean martial art), and the Korean language. These will serve as tools to get close to people and will create opportunities to share the gospel. We are busy and sometimes physically tired, but we are happy to be serving God.

I understand I have many things to do here in Nepal because many people are blind to the true God. I have been entrusted to spread the gospel and the love of God to people in my mission field. Although this land seems hopeless in the eyes of man, God who can do everything will make this land fruitful through the work of His servants.

Please pray for Nepal, and may the Holy Spirit be with us.

A Miracle Story in Taiwan:

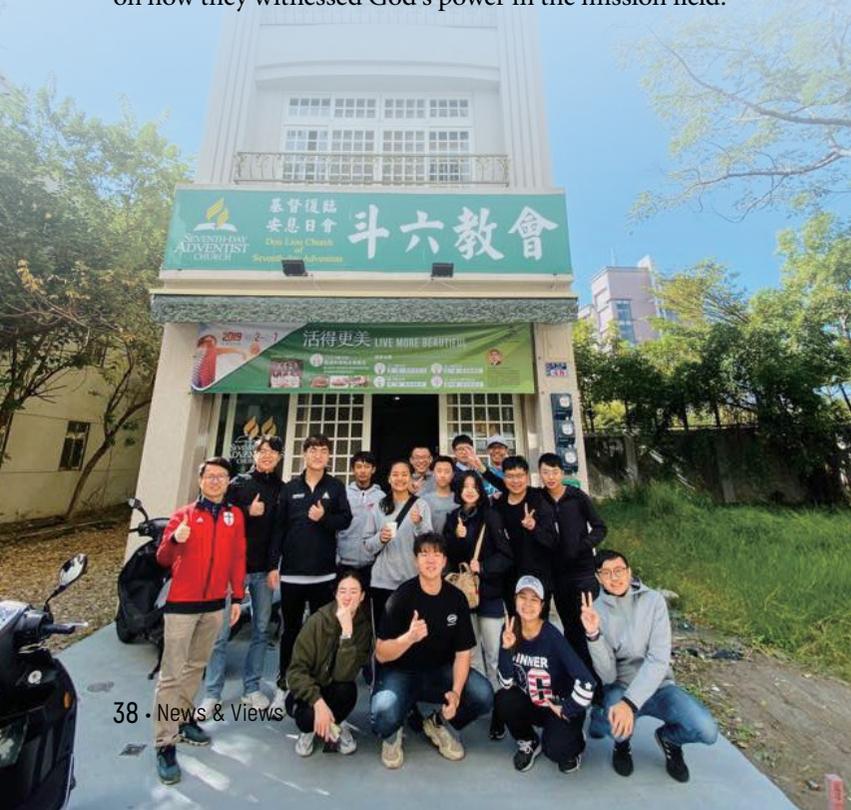
Year End Mission Story of Golden Angels 16

Leah Servidad

Golden Angels 16

The year 2019 was a prosperous and bountiful year for me, not only having a chance to join the Golden Angels, the singing missionaries of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), but witnessing countless miracles of God. Sharing my time and talent for the people in the mission field was worthwhile. The usual reports have focused on our activities and the results of the evangelistic meetings in our mission trips, but for this issue, my team and I want to share a piece of the miracle stories or experiences we had during our mission trip to Taiwan from November 17 to December 22, 2019. These are the shared testimonies of the members on how they witnessed God's power in the mission field.

- At the Nanzhuang Church, the first church in our mission trip, I asked the church pastor if there would be a baptismal ceremony at the end of the meetings and his answer was negative. On the third day of the series, however, it amazed me that two persons responded from the altar call for baptism, and more people responded the following day. On Friday morning, five persons were baptized! I praise the Lord! (Choi JaeHyun, GA16 Bass)
- On the first night of evangelistic meetings at the Douliu Church, the seats were occupied by many university students who had come to the church for the first time. The next day I was a little discouraged that fewer people attended the meeting due to the rain. On the Sabbath day, I was so happy to see the church filled with so many people that we even had to bring more seats to cater to them all. (Lee Sung Shin, GA16 High Tenor)
- I met so many kids in the Nanzhuang Church. Many of them were from poor families, but they all seemed to really like getting along with us. They looked closely at what we did and showed interest in our activities. There was a little boy who always sat next to me and tried to listen carefully to the pastor's sermon. I was touched by his beautiful faith since it is not easy for kids to stay listening for a long time. One day, I saw a scrape on his head, and I felt worried about him. My heart was troubled because he was too young to have a tough life. I tried my best to share God's love with him. I thank God for using me to share His love through the Golden Angels ministries. (Kim JiYoung, GA16 Soprano)
- On the Sabbath day at the Douliou Church, a group of university students attended the worship. In the afternoon, we had a chance to interact with them and teach them English songs. Even though I was not good at teaching songs, I tried my best to share with them how to sing well. I saw that the students enjoyed singing even if their singing was not perfect. As I heard them singing, I was reminded of why I was singing, of why I had joined the Golden Angels. Unfortunately, I had started focusing on making my songs and performances perfect and not caring about doing God's work with joy. As I listened to their songs, I heard God telling me, "My daughter, why don't you enjoy singing for me? It's okay not to be perfect. I already know





Golden Angels with Taitung Church members

your heart.” (Kwon JinJoo, GA16 High Soprano)

- My uncle previously served as a Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) pastor at the Douliou Church. When I visited my uncle’s mission field, there was no church building, but I saw my uncle dedicating himself in his ministry. I am happy that now the church has a beautiful building which serves as a shelter for many church members and its neighbors. (Chung SoMin, GA16 Second Tenor)
- At the Nanzhuang Church in Miaoli, our group visited a restaurant that is owned by a church member. We noticed that the owner has a big belly. We thought she must be pregnant and would give birth in a month. When we were told that she has liver cancer, we were all shocked. We could not see any pain on her face, and she welcomed us with hospitality! What a strong woman she is! After we finished our lunch there, we sang a couple of gospel songs for her. When we sang the song ‘Total Praise,’ she was so moved that she couldn’t help crying. I gave thanks to God for delivering a blessing to her even though I was not able to change her situation. Next day, I saw the woman attending the evangelistic meeting. I was surprised because the church pastor said that the woman had not attended the church for a long time. Praise the Lord for inspiring and encouraging her. She also brought some fruit for us. I sincerely hope that the woman

will be healed by God’s grace. I will keep praying for her and her family. (Tsao Chung Hsuan, GA16 Baritone)

- I believe that it is God’s providence that I had the chance to minister at the Taitung Church during our trip. Mr. James was hired as a driver to pick us up and drive us to Taitung from Miaoli. As we were headed to Taitung, I was looking at the beautiful sky when the driver suddenly said to me, ‘The sky will be like that when Jesus comes.’ What he said caught my attention and we started talking. I discovered that he is a Presbyterian church member. On the way, I had the chance to share with him about Adventist beliefs and prophecy in the books of Daniel and Revelation. I am sure that it was God’s plan that he was the one who drove for us instead of his friend who should have been the one to pick us up. When we arrived at the church, we gave him a Golden Angels CD, and he was very happy and blessed! (Leah Servidad, GA16 Mezzo Soprano)
- I remember the story in the Bible of the widowed woman who gave her last bit of money as an offering. She was not rich, but she gave everything. The church members at the Nanzhuang Church were like that; they give more than they have, which makes me cry. The point is that even though their knowledge about the Bible might be limited, they trust God with all their hearts.

They walk by faith and not by sight. (Wu Enya, GA16 Alto)

In addition to the Nanzhuang, Taitung, and Douliou Churches, there were many churches we visited during the past twelve months of our ministry in the NSD territories as Golden Angels. I believe that each church has its own miraculous stories that reveal how God has led the churches.

Recalling God’s blessings and miracles in our ministries makes me amazed of His marvelous grace because He has sustained us until the last moment of our journey. For all the days of work for Him, the Golden Angels together with our directors Pastor Kim NakHyung and Pastor Cho DaeYeon will forever be grateful for the privilege of serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, my team and I are thankful for the NSD family, PMM pastors, local church pastors, church members, and friends in the mission field. Because of their support and prayers, our team’s mission has been successfully accomplished. Even though a year of mission ends as Golden Angels, we will continue to go forward until Jesus comes because this is what the Lord has commanded us: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth” (Acts 13:47). Golden Angels 16 signing off.



Golden Angels had an outdoor performance at a night market in Taiwan.

10 DAYS OF
PRAYER

SEEKING GOD'S SPIRIT

January 8-18, 2020

“After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.”

ACTS 4:31, NLT

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