



NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION
THE MOST CHALLENGING FIELD

NEWS & VIEWS

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Since mission trips abroad were not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Golden Angels 17th group launched a series of "Room Concerts" on their YouTube channel in order to continue their music ministry.

Unavoidable Change Caused by COVID-19 Pandemic

As social distancing is prolonged due to the COVID-19 pandemic not only in the territories of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) but also all over the world, many of NSD's mission structures and plans are being changed. The most remarkable change among them is that people are getting closer online as they grow apart offline. Now, various meetings, such as worship service of local churches, division meetings, evangelistic meetings, lectures, and prayer meetings, are conducted using an online format, such as Zoom or YouTube. Unlike years ago when negative sentiment toward online worship was predominant, digital is now apparently at the center of worship. There are many smart phone applications for prayer, sermon and praise. There are also many various religious activities using applications. In a life combining online with offline, how should the Adwwwwventist Church cope with those changes today? We should prepare for the challenge, paying attention to the changes and needs of the world while we carry out our mission and role, keeping the essence and identity of the church.

The first is digital transformation. The spread of the coronavirus will accelerate digital transformation even more. Our Adventist churches have realized this already. As church worship was replaced by family worship or video worship, we became keenly aware of the great needs and influence of digital media and digital platform. These experiences will make not only the NSD but the entire world accelerate digital transformation.

The second is routinization of "Untact."

Untact is a neologism created based on the word "contact" to show the diffusion of non-encounter technology. This has become a buzzword describing the social

phenomenon after the COVID-19 pandemic. The routinization of untact is a slice of the world changed by the coronavirus, and it will not disappear but be structuralized hereafter.

The third is economic crisis. An economic crisis caused by COVID-19 came, and it will last for a period of time after the pandemic. Especially, the economies of China and the United States, which have a great effect on world economy, were directly hit by the COVID-19 bomb, causing global economic crisis.

We are already vividly experiencing the reality of the world changed due to COVID-19. Rapid digital transformation, routinization of untact, and economic crisis are the current inevitable for a while. But as crisis is another opportunity, a church, to carry out its mission and role, needs to adjust institution, process and system of the church to fit this new era as soon as possible. It has to prepare for an upcoming economic depression reducing inefficient and redundant finance and manpower and have a system that does not teeter on predicted risks. May Jesus Christ who walked diligently around the seven candlesticks in the time of the early church walk around the internet videos to strengthen the faith of believers in this time of the digital, which has already come due to COVID-19.



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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For free subscription or news items,
send an e-mail to
shhan@nsdadventist.org
ybaek@nsdadventist.org
or
SamHee Plaza 5th Floor, 66
Juyeop-dong, Ilsanseo-gu Goyang City,
Gyeonggi-do 411-370 Republic of Korea

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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.



Golden Angels Launch a Series of Room Concerts

Weijie (Frank) Kao
Golden Angels 17

In February 2020, we, the singing missionaries of the Golden Angels 17th group, had completed a two-month spiritual, physical, and musical intensive training and were ready to follow a schedule packed with mission work. Then came COVID-19. Because of the coronavirus, we had to stop the mission trips we had planned. We canceled plans to travel to Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan as we waited for the spread to slow down. At the end of March, we realized that the situation would seriously affect the plans for our entire year, so we had to begin something different.

Our biggest dilemma occurred when countries closed borders and imposed lockdowns, which means that we could not travel inside and out to any country. When it seemed like everything was ruined, God led us to another path.

We turned our focus completely to media ministry. The problem was none of us were very good at media work. We started to read books to learn. We studied video editing, and we watched a lot of YouTube videos to look for the right style and concept we needed to apply. We also borrowed some filming equipment from the Media Center of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD).

The process of planning and shooting was the most challenging part. We tried to deliver youthful, energetic, dynamic, fun and, of course, presentable shows. It took us a lot of time to plan and shoot the videos.

During weekdays, after our morning routine including Bible meditation and discipleship training,

we discussed the theme of the video clips, such as the introduction of the Golden Angels 17, daily lives of Golden Angels, interview with Golden Angels alumni, history of the Golden Angels, and so on. Then we studied how to shoot the video. Also, we needed to choose songs. The process of filming one video clip usually took three days for us.

After the shooting, we had to work on post-production. The footage was handed over to other members, JiYoon for editing and JoonSoo for sound editing. Other members worked on translation and subtitles in English, Chinese, and Japanese so that people in many other countries would be able to enjoy the video. Finally, the video was uploaded to the Golden Angels YouTube channel at 14:00 Korea Standard Time on Sabbath, with the title of “Golden Angels Room Concert.”

Over the next month, from April to May, we saw the number of subscribers rising and





received very positive responses. Even now we continue to witness more and more people watching our videos. Furthermore, we were able to share videos with the churches that we had planned to visit, receiving good feedback.

After we launched the Golden Angels Room Concert series, we had an opportunity to have an interview with the Public Campus Ministries department of the General Conference and also with Adventist Broadcast Network. Moreover, we were asked to hold a live-streaming concert for churches in Turkey and Australia. The NSD Media Center helped us to make these possible.

While we were trying to find a new way of doing music ministry, we were able to see God's leading hand. Media was not our strength, but under God's leadership, we were able to complete what we planned, and the outcome was even more than what we expected. It is obvious that the gospel can spread fast into many people's hearts through online media. Spreading the gospel is our duty, and we continue to work for our duty in any possible way. "Behold, I will do a new thing. Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:19, NKJV).

We don't know where to go, but God prepares a way for us. We don't see and meet the people who watch our videos, but we believe that God prepares precious souls. It is God's grace that our media ministry allows us to reach many souls whom we could not reach in our traditional way of ministry.



The Japanese school year begins in early April and ends in mid-March. However, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, many Adventist educational institutions, like the rest of Japan, were temporarily closed from April to May 2020. These closures have significantly impacted the secondary Adventist schools, which have a boarding school system.

The boarding school system plays an important role in our San-iku educational activities. For example, the students learn life skills from living in the dorm and healthy eating

habits in the cafeteria. They develop spiritual maturity through religious education and activities provided throughout each day of the week. And they learn musical expression and cooperation through extra-curricular activities, such as choir, brass band, and handbell choir. Unfortunately, because these activities require close personal interactions, we have been unable to conduct our usual learning atmosphere due to the school closure.

Notwithstanding, we have been attempting to mitigate the situation here in Hiroshima San-iku Academy through the following actions.

Going Virtual with the Internet

• Christian Broadcasting

We have been providing worship and religious programs on our academy's official YouTube channel (youtube.com/HSaniku) for all of our students. For example, from Monday to Friday, we upload "Evening Worship" and "Chaplain's Message" programs, and every Sabbath, we livestream the "Divine Worship Service," which is then made available for viewing after the broadcast on the YouTube channel. We also have other programs, such as "Peace Time," where our high school chaplain interviews other teachers about their thoughts on God's Word.

We hope these internet broadcasts will not only encourage our current students but also strengthen all of our alumni in their Christian walk.

• Virtual Classrooms Using Internet Conference System

At 8 a.m., from Monday to Friday, the homeroom teachers can be heard here and there, as they sit in front of their laptops cheerfully greeting their students for short homeroom activity. Our students will then start their studies in their home, using handouts and worksheets (which have been mailed to their homes) and watching video lectures (which have been recorded and uploaded by our teachers).

This learning style has changed our classes from group to individual study. In addition, if the students have questions, they can easily email or call their teachers. While this educational style has its challenges, it may have led to some unexpected benefits, such as building the students' self-study skills and allowing them to study at their own time and pace. For our teachers, they have had to learn many new skills for over 500 video lectures that they have produced, such as shooting, editing, and uploading.

HIROSHIMA SAN-IKU ACADEMY RESPONDS TO COVID-19



Tadashi Yamaji
President of Hiroshima San-iku Academy





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1-3. To reopen the school campus, Hiroshima San-iku Academy has prepared COVID-19 preventive measures, such as partitions between tables in the dining hall, social distancing rules, disinfectant products, and others.

4. The school chaplain and faculty have started a prayer support project to pray every day for students and faculty members.

5. Virtual classrooms, worship, and religious programs for students were provided via YouTube and Online Campus of Hiroshima San-iku Academy during the school closure.

• Virtual Open Campus

One of the struggles our school is facing is not being able to directly reach out to prospective students. Throughout the school year, our school hosts various information sessions and two open campus events, one in late spring and one in the fall. We invite prospective students to witness and experience Hiroshima San-iku Academy's campus life. Open Campus, in particular, is invaluable because it allows the prospective student to personally experience and see the positives of dormitory living.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have been asked to keep outside visits to a minimum for the health and safety


of our students. As such, we will not be able to conduct our usual promotional activities. While it is a poor substitute, we are endeavoring to present the best of our school with several new video broadcasts of life on campus and of interviews with various alumni and current students, teachers, and staff members.

• Musical Activities on Social Media

Here in Hiroshima San-iku Academy, music plays a big role. We have extracurricular activities, such as choir, brass band, and handbell choir. Students can also pursue self-enrichment with music lessons and small music groups, or they can praise God by playing the piano during worship service. Our

school also holds Christmas charity concerts to promote ADRA, which has come to provide aid after natural disasters not only around the world but also in Japan.

As with everything else, these activities have grounded to a halt with the temporary school closure. Rather than let this obstacle hinder them, our students have risen to the challenge. With the help of the music department, they have made remote music videos and broadcast them on various social media platforms. Some of these music videos were viewed more than 3,500 times in only three weeks! Inspired, some of our alumni have contacted our school for the first time in a long time.



The school faculty members prepared and sent handouts and worksheets to students for their study at home due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

Campus Activities

• School Maintenance

Hiroshima San-iku Academy was built to be surrounded by God's handiwork. Maintaining this "Garden of Nature" is a privilege but not without effort. Normally, all year round, our students work around the campus mowing the lawns, cutting the weeds along the roads, weeding the gardens, and planting seasonal flowers.

This first half of the term, our staff—especially the cafeteria department and the dormitory staff—together with some teachers have been making a valiant effort to retain the beauty of our campus. We have taken on the tasks of cutting the grass and caring for the flower beds. And we are also preparing for the return of our students by repairing pathways, installing fences (to prevent the wildlife from harming the gardens), painting the dorms, and more.

• Prayer Support

The junior high and high school religion committees have started a project: prayer support. Every day, the chaplain will get together with selected teachers during the workday to pray for our students, teachers and staff members. During a time like this, it is especially important for us to lean on God. Our new duties and worries often cause us to become so busy with work. We need to take time to remember to not lose sight of the importance of communing with God and with our spiritual brothers and sisters. Prayer is a special way to follow the light and stay the course during these uncertain times.

• Preventive Measures against COVID-19

The students will be returning to campus on June 14, 2020, Sunday. We have been preparing the campus to prevent any COVID-19 infection. The Nurse's Office has prepared bottles of antiseptic solution for each classroom and for the dorms. They have also made up a procedural chart for infection control. The nursing staff have readied protective clothing, isolation rooms (both in and outside of the dorms), a procedure flowchart for treatment with

the school physician, and a contact list with local health center personnel.

During the school closure, we asked the students to keep a record of their daily temperatures and health condition, which they later submitted to the school nurses as requested. For the upcoming campus return, only those students who have been in good health for 14 days prior will be allowed entrance. In addition, for the first 14 days upon returning to school, the students will be strictly monitored to avoid the Three Cs—"closed spaces" with poor ventilation, "crowded places" with many people nearby, and "close-contact settings" of close-range conversations.

Furthermore, during the first 14 days of return, everyone will be required to wear a mask and check their daily temperature. Everyone will be asked to do their part to sterilize common places of touch, such as handrails, doorknobs, and toilet seats. For meals, students will be given healthy bentos, which they will then eat in their own dorm rooms. The school schedule will be limited, with clubs and music activities being temporarily cancelled. After this 14-day period, if no infection is found, we will gradually return to our regular school life.

We have prepared everything we can to welcome students back to this campus.

Not only Hiroshima San-iku Academy but all of the San-iku boarding schools are facing problems and concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe that the Adventist secondary education in Japan is of great value and that the boarding school system is an effective method for providing our youth with the basis of an Adventist lifestyle. Still, we are being asked to offer a more attractive and modern educational method post-COVID-19 in light of the new lifestyle measures being made for COVID-19. We believe we have a mission from God, and we are humbled. We will continuously work in this educational field for the souls of our youth. Please remember us in your prayers.

Online Prayer Meeting for PCM and 1000MM



Kim NakHyung
NSD Youth Ministries Director

A prayer meeting for Public Campus Ministries (PCM) and the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM), two of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD)'s mission projects, was held online on April 30, 2020. The prayer meeting was live streamed on the YouTube channel "Everlasting Gospel TV," which is run by Pastor Kwon JohngHaeng, director of the NSD Stewardship Ministries department.

It was the fourth online prayer meeting that the NSD hosted. Since the coronavirus became a pandemic, there have been prayer meetings for Pioneer Mission Movement and for all the missionaries who were dispatched from the NSD.

In the prayer meeting, NSD president Kim SiYoung encouraged young missionaries, most of whom had temporarily quit their studies or delayed getting a job, to preach the gospel and plant a church in their mission field. "I am grateful to hear the news from mission fields and pray together with missionaries. I hope that the living God will guide you so that precious souls will be brought to Him."

Jang RuBin, a former PCM missionary who served in Mongolia in 2019, gave a report of PCM mission activities, including PCM camp meeting, regular meetings on campus, evangelistic meetings, a Korean class, and others. Pastor Cho JoongGeun, PCM director of the Mongolia Mission, shared his mission strategies. After the mission reports from Mongolia, attendees of the online meeting prayed together for Adventist church members in Mongolia who haven't been able to attend church due to the threat of the coronavirus. Also, the prayer list included planting a PCM church, reopening churches, and lifting travel restrictions from foreigners, which will allow foreign missionaries to work for Mongolia.

There are nine PCM missionaries in Taiwan. Kang SaRah, who is serving in the Hsinchu Golden Star Church in Taiwan, had an opportunity to give a mission report. According to her report, there are 70 students who are attending Korean classes run by the Hsinchu Golden Star Church. The students are divided into eight classes. Some of the classes are held in the church, and others are opened on

campus. She said, "I don't directly preach the gospel of God to students, but I have built up a relationship with them and invite them to the church to meet God." She confessed that she had a hard time in Taiwan, but she's gaining strength by experiencing God's help. "Please pray for PCM ministries in Taiwan," she added.

Pastor Moon JiWan, PCM ministries director of the General Conference, introduced PCM ministries and what PCM has been doing around the world. "PCM aims for non-Adventist college students. The purpose of this ministry is to change the world by fulfilling the mission work and following Jesus." As the prayer meeting was being livestreamed on the official PCM website of the Adventist world church, he urged all attendees to be an example of a young missionary. "Many young people who don't have the mission spirit are leaving the church these days. We need to show them how to live as a missionary and encourage them to participate in mission work," said Pastor Moon.

On behalf of the 1000MM missionaries, Kim JaeHwan and Park JinAh, two of the 55th batch missionaries, shared what had happened over the past three months in the headquarters of the 1000MM after the outbreak of COVID-19. According to their report, the Philippines government has placed a lockdown throughout most of the areas in the country. It has brought crisis both in a financial way and a missional way. The lockdown was announced three days before the 1000MM missionaries dispatching ceremony. They asked Adventist brothers and sisters to pray harder for the Adventist church and its missionaries.



Bible Class Textbooks by KUC



Richard Sabuin
NSD Education Director

From the point of view of Adventist philosophy of education, Bible classes in our Adventist schools are the most important subject. In addition to the Bible classes, Adventist schools are to make sure that faith is integrated in the learning process, including in extracurricular activities. This is one of the aspects that the Northern Asia Pacific Division Commission on Accreditation (NSDCA) always wants to see in all Adventist schools in the NSD territories.

It is for the purpose of maintaining the value of Adventist education that Bible textbooks are needed. After going through three years of work and preparation, the Korean Union Conference (KUC) has produced Bible textbooks for elementary students in all grades from 1 to 6. It is undeniable that the best textbook for Bible study is the Bible itself. However, for the academic setting, the presentation of Bible lessons to our students should be based on the capacity of the students to learn them, step by step. That is why textbooks are important. Students need to learn the truth and grow spiritually according to the truth they learn.

A committee established by the KUC took the responsibility for designing the Bible curriculum and producing Bible textbooks. The committee consisted of Bible teachers and school chaplains. After going through a review process, the KUC approved the textbooks, and now they are available, one textbook for each grade. The committee is still working to produce another textbook for each level.

From grades 1 to 3, the textbooks are entitled *Amazing and Wonderful Story*. From grades 4 to 6, the title is *Wisdom Learning from Bible Playground*. These colorful textbooks come with Bible lessons, worksheets, and Bible activities, suitable for primary students.

On April 22, 2020, Pastor Kang SeokWoo, KUC Education director, and his assistant, Mrs. Kim SeungIm, visited the NSD Education office to present these textbooks. It was a joyful day to see them. "We give permission to any Adventist schools to use these textbooks," said Pastor Kang generously.

Adventist education is the longest and greatest evangelistic effort ever conducted by our church. We believe that many young people will know Jesus Christ through Adventist education.



Pastor Kang SeokWoo, KUC Education director, and his assistant, Mrs. Kim SeungIm visited the NSD office with new Bible textbooks for Korean elementary students.

Korean Adventists Send Food Packages to Nepal



Because Nepal was struggling due to the outbreak of COVID-19, JK*, a self-supporting missionary, wanted to help the people in Nepal who were suffering from food shortage. He asked for help through SNS, including the official website of the Korean Adventist Church. After the news spread, many Korean Adventists at home and abroad sent money to support them.

Nepal, which is called the “Roof of the World,” is a small country between China and India, with a population of less than 30 million. It is among the poorest countries in Asia. More than 80 percent of the population are Hindus, which implies that the Hindu caste system is entrenched. Nepal has limited religious freedom, and religious conversion is prohibited by law. Even though mission work is officially banned, the number of Christians in Nepal has been increasing.

Saturday is Nepal’s official holiday of the week, and people work on Sundays. All Christians worship on Saturday. In that sense, Nepal is an ideal country for Adventists to do mission work. It is estimated that there are about 6,000 Adventists in Nepal.

As of June 15, 2020, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Nepal reached 5,535, and since June, the country has been reporting three-digit new cases daily. The situation is bad in that most of the new cases were acquired from unknown sources. Furthermore, as many Nepalis who have been working in other countries are coming back to Nepal, the community spread of coronavirus is expected to be worse.

At the end of March, a country-wide lockdown went into effect in Nepal to prohibit the spread of coronavirus. Since then, people have been prohibited from moving freely, and most commercial and economic activities have stopped. To make matters worse, neighboring India also imposed a lockdown so that the food supply, including rice, vegetables, and fruits, has become disrupted, and prices of daily necessities have been increasing. As the situation got worse for three months, some people began to protest against the Nepal government’s response to the COVID-19 crisis.

In this situation, providing food relief for Adventists in Nepal would be very beneficial. The Korean Adventist Church gave a package of food, including rice, instant noodles, beans, oil, and other foods, to 800 households in April. Then, an additional 44,000 pounds of rice were sent to the people in Nepal. The food relief went especially to people living in remote villages of central and western Nepal, which have not been benefited by the Nepal Adventist Church or Adventist Development and Relief Agency. Beneficiaries of the food aid were Adventist church members, interests, and neighbors.

“Helping hands from Korean Adventists touched the hearts of Nepali Adventists here. Now they feel connected to the Adventist World Church and are proud of being members of the Church. Moreover, our neighbors who received the food package grew interested in our church, and some of them visited an Adventist church for the first time,” said JK.

Most of the Christians in Nepal are open to any Christian denomination. Members of other denominations are willing to learn about what the Seventh-day Adventist Church believes and visit the church to listen and learn. In recent years, some non-Adventist churches reformed themselves into Adventist churches. “Although there are still many churches whose members are ready to study the Bible and accept the Adventist faith, there are not enough people who can teach the Bible. When the COVID-19 pandemic ends, I hope to invite people who can teach the Bible and lead evangelistic meetings for Nepalis who thirst for the truth of the Bible,” said JK.

* The name of the person is represented by the initials in this article.

Since the beginning of 2020, COVID-19 has become one of the most prolonged world-wide news topics in human history. The virus has changed the whole world drastically and every detail of our individual lives fundamentally. In Korea, children have been staying at home since last Christmas without going to school. Most Adventist churches in Korea didn't have face-to-face services for almost two months and have resumed in simplified ways of services. Though worship services could be provided online, other church activities, such as evangelistic meetings, Pathfinder activities, pastoral home visitations, and various fellowship meetings among church members, have not been possible for a long time. Who could have imagined this would happen to us? I am still not accustomed to this change, and I doubt if I will be used to it someday.

What makes us more worried is the high possibility, as many specialists are foretelling, that we may not go back to our past normal lives. That means it may not be a good choice to just wait helplessly for the end of this disaster. We need to find alternatives that we can do instead. Yes! We need other ways to carry out our ministries because the urgency of God's mission entrusted us has not diminished or disappeared. Rather, the importance of our mission has become greater in this critical situation than in times of peace. What can we start with in my departmental ministry? This was my sincere question.

It has been more than four months since all division directors' domestic and international business trips were banned by the Executive Committee of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) due to COVID-19, since the beginning of February. The



Online Prayer Meeting for Religious Liberty

NSD started a Thursday evening Zoom prayer campaign series for NSD-dispatched missionaries. Then Pastor Kwon JohngHaeng, who was coordinating this prayer series, came to me and suggested that we have a prayer meeting for religious liberty. When I heard his suggestion, it came to my mind that this prayer meeting could be the starting point of alternative ministry activities for my department, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL), during this time of physical isolation.

I invited the PARL directors of the Korean Union Conference (KUC), the Japan Union Conference (JUC), the Taiwan Conference (TWC), and the Mongolia Mission (MM). They were each given five to seven minutes to give a presentation on a religious freedom issue in their country and to share their prayer

requests. I also asked all directors of the entities to invite one co-worker in their PARL ministries, either from pastors or laypeople so that all the issues that would be discussed at the meeting could be shared with at least with one person involved. I also invited the directors of the five local conferences under the KUC, asking them to pray for the prayer requests given by the presenters. Dr. Kang KiHoon, representative of the "Society of Religious Freedom and Equal Opportunity," had taken a lead in the legal process for Brother Han JiMan's Sabbath accommodation case during the last two years. In the same vein, Shin MyungCheol, attorney who fought for Brother Han, was invited for a short testimony. Some of the NSD officers and directors as well as a staff member participated in the

prayer meeting. Most importantly, four translators were involved for efficient communication among attendees.

NSD President Kim SiYoung opened the prayer meeting with an encouraging welcoming remark and an ardent opening prayer. Then, we had time to introduce the participants so that they got to know each other first in order to make the prayer meeting atmosphere more relaxed and familiar.

Pastor Toshio Shibata, JUC PARL director, reported on religious statistics in Japan to show the status of the Adventist Church in Japanese society. He shared some pending religious liberty issues, such as having university entrance exams and medical qualification exams on Sabbaths and having school make-up classes on Sabbaths because of the corona situation. Taiwan has similar issues on Sabbath exams. Since the Adventist Church in Taiwan is small in the country, our appeals were not significantly heard compared to other Christian churches. Pastor Mark Tseng, TWC PARL director, also asked for prayers for Taiwan Adventist

Academy. Pastor Nyamdavaa from the MM asked for special prayers for Adventist churches to get government certificates. Recently, Mongolian government has placed severe restrictions on Christian churches. There was also a prayer request for Mongolian Adventist youth who are in military service to be able to keep the Sabbath.

The KUC shared several recent issues, such as various kinds of Sabbath exams and the Alternative Service Bill for military services. Middle school and high school graduation qualification national tests are scheduled on Sabbath two times this year. Pastor Lee JiChoon asked for a special prayer for our appeal to be granted by the government. Dr. Kang appealed for corporate prayers for religious accommodation for Sabbath observers to be systematically recognized and protected by the legislators, judiciary, and government administrators. He also requested prayers that all those involved will experience God's grace and grow in faith through this process. I understand that this is the reason why God allows His people to

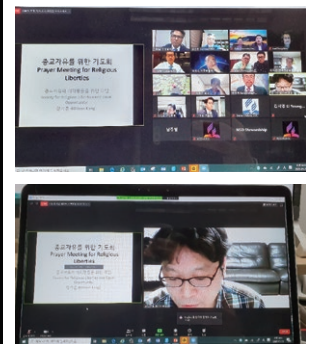
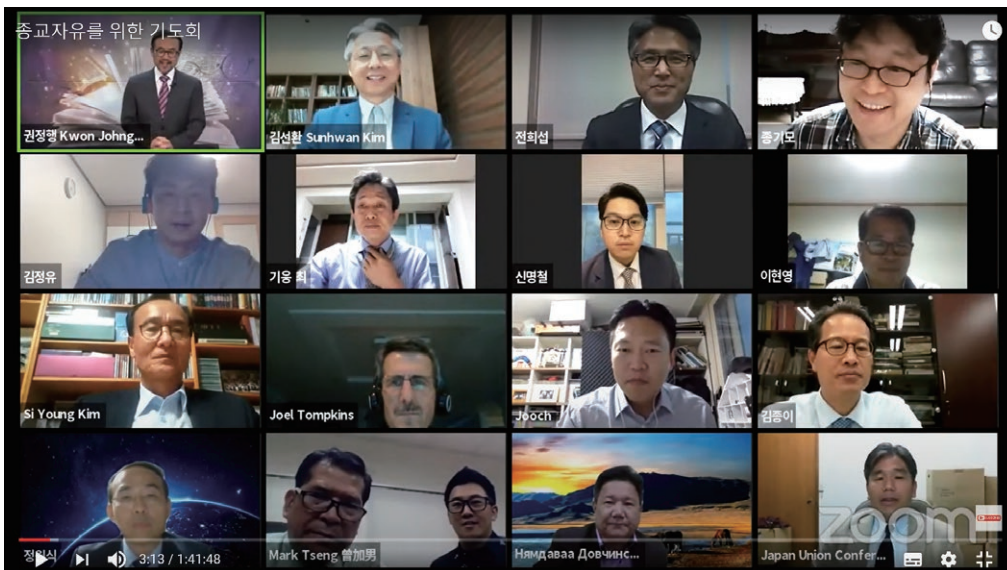
go through difficulties. He permits trials for His people to stand firm in faith advocating their freedom of conscience. Furthermore, this is also the reason why we need to continue to pray for our church members in tribulation.

The Online Prayer Meeting for Religious Liberty was a wonderful time where we were able to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit. We just took the first step of Religious Liberty ministries in times of a pandemic. I believe that God will lead us in every step when we go forward as agents for His freedom until Jesus comes. Please remember our church members who need our prayers. Thank you.

You can watch this prayer meeting through YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfTqo0X18CA&feature=youtu.be>



Kim SunHwan
NSD PARL Director





Important Book on Strategic Prayer to Be Published

News & Views Editorial

Dr. Ron Clouzet, Ministerial secretary of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), signed a contract with Pacific Press to publish a long-expected book on prayer. The working title of the book is *In the Name of Jesus: Power to Pray for People and Places*. The first part of the book deals with a number of biblical references on prayer, giving insight and great understanding on prayer promises. The second part of the book gives specific guidelines for churches to become mighty houses of prayer.

The first chapter of the book presents the need for a strategic revolution in Adventist missions. Taking an analogy from baseball, it makes the point that solid prayer strategies are the first base of the “mission diamond.” Chapters three to five review all the key statements by Jesus promising answers to prayer “in the name of Jesus.” Chapters six and seven carefully review other powerful prayer promises and why we can count on them. Chapter eight deals with the most important topic of prayer and the great controversy. It clarifies what Satan can do to block answers to prayer and how God is able to still prevail. The ninth chapter reviews the Bible certainty that the devil’s strongholds in every city and community can and will fall when faced with the faithful prayer of believers.

The rest of the chapters are very practical in nature. Chapters 10 to 12 explain how to carry on a successful prayer-walking ministry in the community. Chapter 13 instructs on the difference between prayer intercessors and prayer warriors. The next chapter deals with prayer and fasting in the church. Chapter 15 outlines other prayer strategies. Chapter 16 is a powerful chapter on prayer in the context of evangelism. And the last chapter describes how churches and institutions can become “houses of prayer.” Every chapter has one or more powerful, moving stories and experiences, alone worth the reading of the book.

The idea for the book came to Dr. Clouzet three years ago while training Japanese churches to do evangelism as part of a field school of evangelism. His plan was to write a book that focused on prayer-walking; however, the book could not be finished. Three years later, due to COVID-19, the opportunity came again to research and write, but this time, the objective was much bigger: a prayer book to reach the entire world, particularly the large cities of northern Asia.

The Japan Union Conference has voted to translate and publish a Japanese version of the book, and some leaders in Korea have also shown interest in a Korean version.

The book manuscript has been endorsed by many church leaders, including two General Conference vice-presidents, presidents of It Is Written and Hope Television, a number of well-known authors, prayer coordinators, some pastors, scholars, and other church leaders.

This is the endorsement of Dr. Jairyong Lee, former president of the NSD, after he read the manuscript: **This book takes an in-depth look at fervent prayer, both private and corporate, and the most effective strategies for spiritual revival and evangelism, too often overlooked and neglected. The author clearly and convincingly presents God's Bible prayer promises,**

along with practical illustrations and insightful suggestions, such as prayer-walking and intercessory prayer, for people who are living in large, secular cities. I wholeheartedly recommend this book be seriously read and its methods implemented in our personal lives, our churches, and our church institutions.

The English version of the book is scheduled to be out by the time of Annual Council. Other versions may be ready a bit later. We pray that this book may become a powerful tool in the hands of the Holy Spirit to bring revival, reformation, and effective mission outreach in every city where people need to know Jesus.

NSD Leadership Training Center Opens Leadership Academy for Pastors

The Leadership Training Center of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) on Jeju Island held its first Leadership Academy for Pastors from June 1 to 5, 2020. The program aims to enhance leadership capabilities of local pastors who are serving in the NSD territories.

Pastor Yoon JaeSung, who was appointed as director of the center last March, along with other managers of the center, planned and designed the program for more than a year with great effort and energy. However, the program was postponed twice this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. This time, the center made thorough preparations to hold the academy while preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

The academy consists of three steps, and the first step was opened this time for Korean pastors only. The ministerial association of the Korean Union Conference recruited participants. A resident professor of the center and three lecturers were invited as instructors.

A course on spirituality and leadership was held in the early morning hours. During the day time, participants received practical leadership training, and they also had the opportunity to enjoy a time of relaxing surrounded by the beautiful nature of Jeju Island. In the evening, participants were trained to exercise their leadership skills by discussing various topics.

At the end of the five-day program, participants were invited to complete a satisfaction survey. Most of the participants responded that they were very satisfied by the event and that the qualities of the lectures were beyond their expectations. Many of them showed interest in the Step II program, which is scheduled to be held in 2021. In the meantime, the Leadership Training Center plans to hold the Step 1 course once again from August 24 to 28, 2020.



KUC Women's Ministries Sends Face Masks to 1000MM Campus

At the end of March 2020, when the spread of the coronavirus threatened throughout Korea, the Women's Ministries departments of the Korean Union Conference (KUC) and volunteers from the Korean Adventist Women's Association (KAWA) produced organic handmade masks to send to the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM) Training Center in the Philippines. However, international flights were stopped, and a COVID-19 lockdown was imposed in the country, so the masks had to be piled up in a warehouse in Korea for a while.

Finally, on June 1, the handmade masks were received by the 1000MM campus. Pastor Jeon JaeSong, director of the 1000MM Training Center, sent a message of gratitude to KUC Women's Ministries. "I have been given a precious gift from Adventists in Korea. I learned that there are restrictions on sending protective masks overseas, so I worried that the masks would not arrive. It is God's grace that people on the campus can now have high-quality masks from Korea."

Of the 500 masks that the campus received, 400 masks will be given to the 55th batch missionaries who are about to go to their mission fields so that the masks can be distributed to local people. The remaining 100 will be given

to staff members of the 1000MM Training Center and their families. These masks can be washed and worn multiple times by changing filters.

Not long after the year 2020 began, the 1000MM 55th batch missionaries had a horrible experience of the Taal Volcano eruption and earthquake. And before the campus had fully recovered from the volcano eruption, the coronavirus outbreak began. The missionaries' dispatch was postponed, and the center held training sessions for them. "I am happy to see our missionaries growing, but they have had a hard time spending months in a limited space on the campus," said Pastor Jeon. "I am looking forward to the day when they are sent to the mission fields."

Pastor Jeon added, "We are going through an era of uncertainty, full of worries. However, if we make decisions considering safety only, we may lose that limited safety someday. As the director of the 1000MM, I encourage our missionaries to be brave in facing the COVID-19 situation, and look forward to seeing them grow after going through all these difficulties. From the COVID-19 pandemic, we learn that we have no choice but to keep facing similar crises. We must continue to train ourselves to obey the word of God and to remain faithful. That is the only way we can overcome big challenges that are coming." He emphasized that the mission of the 1000MM Training Center is to support young Adventists who, with the spirit of mission, are fighting against big challenges.

Meanwhile, 83 missionaries of the 1000MM 54th batch are currently serving in four countries and will finish their term in July. Many of them have had to stop what they have been working on since the spread of the coronavirus. We solicit your prayers for the 1000MM missionaries.



Pastor Jeon
JaeSong, director
of the 1000MM
Training Center



Korean Adventist Church Helps COVID-19 Victims Who Need Financial Support

The Korean Union Conference (KUC) has stretched out a helping hand to those suffering from unemployment and other financial difficulties due to the prolonged coronavirus situation. Compared to office workers who could keep earning money while working from home or following work guidelines in the office, many day laborers have been displaced from their jobs. Self-employed workers and part-timers have also been at risk financially.

With the help of local Conferences, the KUC found people who were eligible for financial help. The total subsidy amount was about 50,000 USD, and about 300 households benefited from the subsidy. Adventist church members who live in Daegu-Gyeongbuk area, where the largest number of COVID-19 cases were found in Korea, turned out to have suffered the most. Also, residents of Gyeongnam, Chungcheong, and other areas were also provided the subsidy.

In addition, 156 individuals, organizations, and churches from all over the country participated in the special donation for “Overcoming COVID-19 Fund,” hosted by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Korea. Prior to this, ADRA Korea delivered hundreds of food kits to low-income residents living in Gyeongbuk and Gyeongnam areas.

Lim JongMin, country director for ADRA Korea, said, “The coronavirus pandemic is a global crisis, and lower-income people have been hit especially hard from the crisis. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic will end, it is expected that serious infectious diseases will keep

breaking out in the future.” ADRA Korea will continue to find a better way to support the economically or socially marginalized who can also be easily exposed to contagious disease, such as COVID-19.

Meanwhile, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some south-Asian countries, including the Philippines, Vietnam, and Bangladesh, have asked ADRA Korea for support. As an international relief organization, they provided relief packages that included food and antiseptic products. Bangladesh has extended a nationwide lockdown two times to stop the spread of COVID-19, which has led to economic hardship of marginalized households. For those people, ADRA Korea sent emergency food supplies. Moreover, to support ADRA Philippines, ADRA Korea is planning on a 500 thousand dollar relief project with the support of funds from the German government.





Sahmyook University: Adding Dormitory for Mission

Richard Sabuin
NSD Education Director

Twenty leaders cut the ribbon signifying the inauguration of the new dormitory building of Sahmyook University, Seoul, South Korea, on June 22, 2020. This shows that the current pandemic cannot stop Sahmyook University from advancing. There is always a mission to accomplish.

The new dormitory stands on the same location of the old smaller one that was demolished to provide space for the new building. This new five-story women's dormitory can accommodate 290 students, with different room types: single, double and triple occupants. With this new addition, Sahmyook University can provide lodging for 1,553 students.

Dr. Kim IlMok, president of Sahmyook University, stated in his speech: "We want to restore the image of God through these facilities." He was referring to all dormitory buildings: Zion, Eden, Salem, and the newest one Peniel. It was named Peniel as a remembrance of Jacob's victory as he struggled with the Angel of the Lord by the ford of Jabbok, where He saw God and was preserved (Genesis

32:30). The dormitory is a sign of God's glory shown to the campus. It is an acknowledgement that without God, mission cannot be accomplished. This was emphasized by Pastor Hwang ChunKwang, president of the Korean Union Conference (KUC), in his inauguration speech, quoting Psalms 127:1, "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." This is true not only for building a physical structure, but also in accomplishing God's mission.

Dr. Kim SiYoung, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), reminisced about the years when he was studying at Sahmyook University. "We did not have a great building as this, and yet students enjoyed their study and dormitory life." He added, "Our dormitory facilities are built to protect young people from worldly influence."

In line with what he stated, the university president explained that Peniel dormitory is intended to be a center of residential college of the university. Residential college is a combination of living and learning, which provides

effective holistic education and various educational programs, so that students can experience creative and self-leading studies for becoming persons who are mission-minded, vision-oriented, and passionate about Christ. This is planned to promote the driving-motto of the university, namely MVP, which stands for Mission, Vision, and Passion.

Attending the ceremony were conference presidents, KUC officers, NSD officers and Education director, some former presidents of the university, government representatives, the architects, and other key persons in the construction.

The ribbon was cut, and the dormitory is ready. The mission has to be accomplished with clear vision and passionate spirit of service. This school year, Sahmyook University has enrolled 5,517 undergraduate students and 458 graduate students. These are all candidates for heaven!



Ribbon cutting ceremony for the new dormitory building of Sahmyook University

ADRA Korea Helps Venezuelan Refugees

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Korea launched a project that provides temporary shelters for Venezuelan refugees moving to Ecuador. Venezuela, once a country with the highest GDP per capita in South America, suffered an economic downturn caused by the oil price plunge in 2015 and has faced an unprecedented crisis in its history since 2018 due to rampant inflation.

High inflation has made it difficult for people in Venezuela to even purchase basic necessities. According to a study conducted by three universities in Venezuela in 2018,

90% of people in Venezuela have fallen into poverty. As the economic situation worsens, more than four million Venezuelans, around 13 percent of the population, have left the country since the Bolivarian Revolution began in 1999.

Some Venezuelan refugees live in the streets moving from one country to another, being exposed to various dangers, such as robbery, sexual assault, and lack of food. The xenophobia and hostility from local residents where they are staying also worsen their mental health.

To help Venezuelan refugees, ADRA Korea is providing temporary housing for 250 individuals in Huaquillas, Ecuador, on the border with Peru. This is a collaborative project with ADRA Ecuador, the UN Refugee Agency, and the Jesuit Refugee Service. The project supports Venezuelan refugees so that they can live a safe and dignified life during migration by providing them with safe shelters and nutritious food. It also provides legal advice for visa issues and mental health counseling service.

“The Venezuelan refugee crisis is one of the world’s most serious problems. Many Venezuelan refugees are going through a crisis. It is time to give them attention and support,” said Lim JongMin, country director for ADRA Korea.



Earnest Prayer for Sabbath Keeping

Ye YuTing

In 2019, I was a sophomore in college majoring in food services management. I was about to begin my junior year, during which I was supposed to do an internship. It was going to be a difficult time because it usually isn't easy to keep the Sabbath during an internship.

As my major is food services management, I was required to have an internship in restaurants. It is quite difficult to take weekends off in a food service industry, such as restaurants. Therefore, I kept praying to God that the restaurant I would work for would allow me to take a day off on Sabbath.

When I was in high school, every class on Saturday, I had always asked class supervisors for leave. Although they let me take a leave of absence, they had said, "I can allow you to leave now, but what will you do when you graduate and go out to work in the future?"

When I was trying to get a part-time job, I also asked for Saturdays off during the interviews. Every time I tried, it was like a war for me. Interviewers usually did not seem satisfied with my request and asked, "If you go to church in the morning, you could come to work in the afternoon." Of course, I used to say with a smile, "No, I have to keep the whole day."

When I asked teachers in school or managers at work to allow me to keep the Sabbath, I was often challenged and sometimes ridiculed. It was a short period of time in my life, but for me, every time was a battle which required courage and confidence. Whenever I went through this experience, I prayed to God with sorrow, "Please comfort me. Help me to keep following Your way, and give me more strength and courage to fight for what I believe."

Now it was time to choose a place for my internship. I could find an internship in Taiwan, or I also had the option of going



abroad. At first, I planned to go to Japan for an internship because it would be a great experience for me as well as make my résumé look better. I wanted to live a year in Japan working as an intern. While looking for an internship, I was already filled with anticipation. But I had to think about the Sabbath. How could I bring up the issue of keeping the Sabbath? Should I choose the way that God planned for me or the one I preferred? I discussed the matter with some pastors I am close with, and they gave me a negative opinion about being able to keep the Sabbath while working as an intern in Japan.

I finally decided to have my internship in Taiwan. My friends, colleagues, and teachers who knew about my decision felt sorry for me or even scolded me for blowing a good opportunity due to my religion. Once I decided not to go to Japan, however, I didn't regret it.

Then, I had to apply for an internship in Taiwan. The better grades I had received in college, the more options I could have. In other words, if an internship opening is chosen by a candidate with better grades than mine, I should go with my

second priority. I applied for a company where I could work from Monday to Friday morning and have a two-day weekend off. It was exactly what I needed, so I started praying that I would be able to do my internship with that company. And I got a chance to have an interview.

I prayed that I would have enough confidence and believe what God had prepared for me. Then I took the steps to interview with the company. During the interview, I spoke out that I would like to not work on weekends so that I could keep the Sabbath. At the end of the interview, the interviewer said, "I have worked for this company for years, and I have never worked on Saturday. However, if my company suddenly asked me to work on Saturday tomorrow, I would choose to accept." The interview ended, and all I could do was wait quietly for the result.

The result was announced and I didn't get in. I was frustrated at first. I raised many questions to God, and He let me

find answers in the spiritual message of Ellen White's writing, *Patriarchs and Prophets*. "Everyone who seeks to follow the path of duty will at times be assailed by doubt and unbelief. The way will sometimes be so barred by obstacles, apparently insurmountable, as to dishearten those who will yield to discouragement; but God is saying to such, Go forward. Do your duty at any cost."

I remembered how a pastor had once said that we should commit to God. "Commit" means that I should surrender to God, for better or for worse. Since God didn't let me get the internship, it meant He was really in power for me, and there must be a better choice waiting for me. I had peace in my heart, and I calmly waited for the one that God had prepared for me.

Then, the outbreak of COVID-19 happened in 2020, affecting the entire world. The virus forced many countries to lock up. International exchange was suspended, and many things that had been planned became uncertain. My internship was not an exception. Regardless of the country, food service business was one of the industries which have been affected most by COVID-19. Students who had planned to go to Japan for an internship were all rejected by Japanese restaurants, and domestic restaurants withdrew their internship opportunities as well. The school held a meeting to discuss the internship program.

The school finally decided that they would convert the compulsory internship into an elective course and give us three options: 1) the original internship junior year, 2) an internship senior year, and 3) taking a course at the college instead of an internship. When I heard the news, I thanked God and immediately chose the option of not having an internship. Teachers remarked that this was truly exceptional. If it were not for the epidemic, it would not have become an elective class at all.

When I recall the time of agonizing and worrying about my internship, I do find God's grace. In 2019, how many times had I prayed, prepared, cried, rehearsed to keep the Sabbath and how many times had I imagined that the company would schedule me to work on Saturday? And today in 2020, God was leading me in an unexpected way.

Once a pastor shared the Bible verses in Exodus 14: "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward." The more I read these Scriptures and think about my internship, the more I am moved. The Red Sea is like the difficulties and obstacles in our lives. They seem so great that we are afraid to go forward. God says, "Go forward," and He will bring forth His salvation for us. Only when we are willing to take the first step forward may we experience the grace that God has prepared for us.



This article was first published in the June issue of *Mission 360° Magazine* from GC Adventist Mission.

There's nothing unusual about the Adventist Church being involved in mission. Mission has always been our focus. But there is something very unusual about a new mission movement taking off in Tokyo.

The church in Japan has a burden for the millions of unreached people living in the capital city, so they invited the General Conference and the Northern Asia-Pacific Division to partner with them to create Mission Unusual—an ambitious church-planting and disciple-making movement.

Key to the development of Mission Unusual are the Global Mission Centers, which focus on creating resources to share the gospel with unreached people groups.

“Tokyo is the world’s largest city,” says Doug Venn, director of the Global Mission Urban Center. “The challenge is great before us, but guess what? Our God is greater! He has given us this mandate in Revelation 14:6 and other places in Scripture to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. So, how are we doing? Well, we’re not home yet, and that’s where we as an Adventist family worldwide can focus on reaching the unreached people groups of this city.”

A team of church planting missionaries will soon arrive in Tokyo to learn the language and how best to share Jesus with the Japanese. In time, they’ll start new groups of believers who will, in turn, disciple others. Eventually, they’ll be supported by the ministry of Global Mission pioneers, Urban Centers of Influence, volunteers, and tentmakers in a concerted effort to reach the entire city for Jesus!

Helping to lead this team is Pastor Nozomu Obara, president of the East Japan Conference. For years, he’s had a passion for church planting, and he and his wife, Sachiko, are actively engaged in a disciple-making ministry for children. Pastor Obara will be transitioning from his position as president to become the associate director for Mission Unusual Tokyo.

“Greater Tokyo Area is a big area with over 40 million people,” Pastor Obara said. “But in the heart of Tokyo City, there are about 10 million people—and only 10 Adventist churches with about 900 worship attendees every week. So, one Adventist needs to reach more than 10,000 people. Tokyo is a big challenge!”

To confront the challenge, Japanese pastors and missionaries will use a wholistic approach to mission. Mission Unusual will plant the seeds of mission over the next five years. But the mission won’t stop there—these efforts will continue to grow and impact people’s lives for years to come.

“Our focus is not just on events and programs,” Pastor Obara added. “Building relationships and getting involved with people is our focus, finding out people’s needs and meeting people’s needs—in other words, implementing Christ’s method here in Mission Unusual Tokyo.”

We’ll keep you updated as God leads this movement and uses it for His glory. In the meantime, you, too, can support Mission Unusual Tokyo. Please pray for this program as it continues to unfold over the next five years to uplift Jesus in this city.

Millions of dollars are needed to reach Tokyo’s masses for Jesus, and every dollar counts. If God is moving your heart to support this unprecedented program, please give at Global-Mission.org/giving.

Mission Unusual Tokyo

People Touching Feet Donates Disaster Relief Fund for Croatia



People Touching Feet delivers relief fund to Damir Kusen, Croatian Ambassador to Korea (4th from the left)

People Touching Feet, a foot massage volunteering group under the West Central Korean Conference, donated 2.5 thousand dollars. to Croatia in order to support earthquake and COVID-19 relief efforts. Members of People Touching Feet visited the Croatian Embassy in Seoul, Korea, on April 29, 2020, to express their condolences to the Croatian people who were affected by disasters and deliver a donation fund.

People Touching Feet had planned to conduct volunteer work as foot massage missionaries at the “2020 European Taekwondo Championships,” which was scheduled for early April 2020 in Poreč, Croatia. People Touching Feet received an official invitation from the organizing committee of the championships and was expected to offer foot massage services to athletes and staff for 10 days. However, COVID-19 began to spread around the world, and the championships were canceled. To make matters worse, on March 22, a 5.3 magnitude earthquake struck in an area 10 kilometers from Zagreb, the capital city of Croatia, causing considerable damage.

Members of People Touching Feet wanted to donate a relief fund for the grieving Croatians. They promised to pray together at a particular time every day wherever they were to seek God’s mercy so that the hands of recovery will reach Croatia.

“I will not forget your warm hearts,” said Damir Kusen, Croatian Ambassador to Korea. With deep appreciation, he said, “I will share this beautiful news with Croatians. I will do it whenever I have a chance.”

People Touching Feet invited Ambassador Kusen to the Garden of Morning Calm in Gapyeong, Korea, to have a meeting to build a good relationship with Croatia. Also, there were training sessions on foot massage for related organizations in Croatia. The embassy presented a plaque of appreciation to Kim ManJang, head of People Touching Feet, and expressed their hope of maintaining positive relations with the group.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has spread not only in the NSD territories but all over the world. The World Health Organization declared the spread of COVID-19 a global pandemic. Now everyone is afraid of this disease. Since it was found that the virus spreads among people quickly, many people in the world have not gathered together for months.

In Korea, most of the people practice social distancing and strictly follow government guidelines for individuals for preventing the spread of COVID-19. While the increase of COVID-19 cases was rapid, many public gatherings were not allowed and church worship was not an exception. The Korean Adventist Church provided online worship services, including divine services, for about two months.

After a downward trend in new COVID-19 cases appeared in the southern part of Korea, Deokcheon Church in Busan began to prepare an evangelistic series. From June 23 to 27, 2020, the church invited Pastor Kim NakHyung, Youth Ministries director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), and the Golden Angels, the NSD singing missionaries, to have the series.

Pastor Kim delivered God's comfort and hope to church members who had weakened mentally and spiritually due to the continuing pandemic crisis. He also encouraged youth members and Pathfinders of the church with his powerful message. The Golden Angels members supported the evangelistic meetings by leading praise and worship time and doing special music. Throughout the evangelistic meetings, church members were able to remind themselves that only the word of God makes them overcome difficulties and revive their spirituality.

On the last day of the series, six people were reborn by baptism. Five are Pathfinders who are about to enter an Adventist middle school. The other one is a teenager who decided to accept Jesus with the prayer and effort of his friend as well as a member of the S.O.S. (Salvation Only Jesus) mission team. Interestingly, his friend had also become an Adventist through the mission work of the S.O.S. missionaries.

It was truly a week of blessings for Deokcheon Church members who have kept their faith in difficult times and have put their hope in God.

Deokcheon Church in Busan Has Offline Evangelistic Series

Kim NakHyung
NSD Youth Ministries Director



Group photo of Deokcheon Church with six newly-baptized students

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IT'S OUR TIME
 GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF LITERATURE EVANGELISTS
JULY 26, 8AM ET
 (WASHINGTON, DC TIME)
WATCH LIVE ON
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The Publishing Ministries department of the General Conference is preparing a live program to encourage Literature Evangelists (LEs) worldwide as they get ready to resume their ministry after the COVID-19 pandemic. LEs are some of many workers who have faced the challenge of being unable to reach people daily.

On July 26, 2020, we will broadcast a 1½-hour live program with prayers of thanksgiving, inspiring LE testimonies, musical presentations, and a special message of encouragement by Elder Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference. It's Our Time — Global Celebration of Literature Evangelists will be the theme of the program. This live program will be held on Zoom and broadcast on the Adventist Publishing Ministries Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Spiritual Revival and Development of Sahmyook Health University amid COVID-19

Kim JongChoon

SHU Deputy Dean of Innovation & Strategy



Sahmyook Health University holds Mission Week twice a year.

Sahmyook Health University (SHU) has been highly recognized as one of the leading educational institutions of higher education in Korea. Its location has been 82 Mangu-ro, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, since its inception in 1936, surrounded by Sahmyook Medical Center, Sahmyook Dental Hospital, SDA Language Institute Headquarters and the Korean Union Conference (a five minute's walking distance). SHU has been making greatly meaningful contributions to Adventist higher education in Korea, and more importantly, beyond the Korean peninsula to other Adventist and non-Adventist institutions in Asia.

Currently, at SHU, there are almost 1,400 students (21% Adventists), 36 full-time professors (100% Adventists), and 33 full-time staff (100% Adventists) working for God's education ministry. The institution is structured into six departments with seven majors: Department of Nursing, Department of Dental Hygiene, Department of

Beauty Convergence (Medical Skin Care/Beauty Hair), Department of Elderly Social Welfare, Department of Childhood Care & Education, and Department of Medical Information. The university offers a 4-year degree program in the Department of Nursing, a 3-year professional program in the Department of Dental Hygiene, and 2-year associate degrees in the other departments. In addition, the departments of Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Childhood Care offer a special program, "Major Intensive Course," in which learners holding an associate's degree can earn a degree that is equivalent to a bachelor's degree.

What makes SHU special to students and precious in God's sight?

The school motto "Educating sincere people by sincere education" represents one of the most important secrets that the members of SHU put into practice in all sincerity.



Dr. Park DooHan, SHU president, and students of SHU

Dr. Park DooHan, SHU president, states, “It is a ‘sincere heart’ that makes students realize that they are being cared for and, as a result, thankful for the philosophy of Adventist education with two other core values, self-sacrifice and self-improvement.” Moreover, SHU is a God-established and governed university, which definitely distinguishes itself from all other institutions. Holding his office since 2015, Dr. Park has persistently claimed that God is both the founder and owner of the school and that He endows us who serve in His educational ministry with enriched knowledge, heavenly wisdom and technical skills to cope with all upcoming challenges. With the help of God, all the members, being united in one Spirit, are marching triumphantly.

In spite of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic situation, how is SHU increasing its strength and gaining its competitiveness making its students more satisfied than before?

Upon sensing that it would turn into a pandemic situation, the school administration without any hesitation decided to run online (untact) teaching and learning methods and at the same time made endeavors to

establish the system and equipment necessary for running innovative instruction. The school had to provide concrete guidelines concerning teaching and administration as well as invest a great amount of money for the hardware and system. Meanwhile, Dr. Park himself made phone calls to all of the newly entering first-year students, who had been unable to attend a high school graduation or an entrance ceremony, delivering his sincere welcome and words of comfort and encouragement.

During the spring semester, all the full- and part-time professors elaborately recorded and uploaded their lectures at SHU E-class each week and exchanged feedback by corresponding with the students. Quite surprisingly, a recently conducted student survey showed that the degree of satisfaction on overall teaching, learning, and educational services was slightly higher than that of previously offered ones offline. We believe that challenges made the door of possibility open wide toward chances as long as we were willing to move forward in faith. We all trust God for His leadership. Although all the schools in Korea are facing challenges due to the drastic decline of the academic population, we praise God for His blessings in leading us to soar high.

What source of energy drives the school to consistently become more and more dedicated to the mission of campus evangelism?

Based on the never-changing truth that SHU has been founded for the purpose of mission, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God” is the first and last principle which regulates all the norms and manners of the institution. We clearly understand that the more efforts for mission we make, the less energy for routines we need because He cares and He leads us to places where we can lie down in green pastures and beside quiet waters and He will even restore our souls! God is so good! We are actively carrying out plenty of on-campus evangelical programs for students following the Spiritual Master Plan (e.g.



Nightingale pledge ceremony of SHU nursing students



Baptismal ceremony of SHU students

mandatory Bible courses, Mission Week, Global Leadership Program, Youth Church, Friday night vespers, outreach activities, etc.). As a result of these mission-focused activities, each year on average more than 100 students get baptized and some students join the 1000 Missionary Movement. This is how we survive, proceed, surpass, and prosper.

What inspirational implications can other Adventist institutions of higher education learn from SHU in terms of institutional development and campus ministry?

SHU is relatively small in size, but apparently strong in institutional development as well as spiritual revival. Many other universities visit SHU for benchmarking and learning specialties. We owe to God this blessing of being the head not the tail of the world. The annual evaluation recently done by the government once again gave us an opportunity to give both glory and praise to God for SHU has been ranked at the top 3 among all the best-known institutions in Seoul and Gyeonggi Province allowing us to be granted with 2.2 million USD for the 2020 fiscal year. This national funding is to be used to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and revival in terms of spiritual and institutional development. We humbly ask for God's protection, instruction, and leadership, which is the only way that we can be led by God. Amen.

May God's blessings be upon all the institutions in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD).



SHU ranked at the top 3 in annual evaluation of Innovation Support Project from the Ministry of Education in Korean Government in 2019.

COVID-19:

Remember the story of Joseph? He was despised by his brothers (Gen. 37:4, 8). He was sold as a slave to some Midianites (Gen. 37:25-28). He became a slave in Egypt (Gen. 39:1). He was falsely accused for a terrible crime he did not commit and was unjustly sent to jail for it (Gen. 39:6-20). He was forgotten by someone who benefitted from Joseph's kindness (Gen. 40). And yet, when he became governor of Egypt and met his brothers after so many years, he told them: "It was not you who sent me here, but God" (Gen. 45:8). For Joseph, it was a matter of perspective. From his perspective, things could look very gloomy, but he trusted that God was seeing things from a different perspective.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 is the work of the enemy, since "every good thing given...comes from God" (James 1:17), and the pandemic has caused sickness, death, loss of jobs, financial breakdown, and social chaos. How can God be in this? How can we say this is a blessing in disguise?

The pandemic is making many re-evaluate reality. Christians as well as non-Christians have been thinking more about what is happening in the world. Not everything can be solved quickly and easily by our vast knowledge of science and technology. The world—especially advanced countries—has been used to solving its problems because of its vast expertise or resources. With

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

this pandemic, we are finding this is not so. Governments and institutions are playing defense; they are simply trying to survive a virus they do not yet control.

People are discovering who they are when no one's looking. In most of our societies, due to quarantine times, people have had to spend considerably more time at home. People are who they really are when no one is looking. How have you spent your time during quarantine? Have you spent more time with God since you had more time? Have you spent more time reading or learning? Have you spent quality time with your spouse and children? Or have you spent more time with TV and movies and entertainment? What we do when no one is looking shows the true nature of our nature. The Holy Spirit is giving people the opportunity to see who they truly are. If whom they have become is not the best, it gives them the opportunity to realize that more clearly and determine to make changes for the best.

There is a sense of change in the air. Everyone would like to get back to normal—normal being schools open, sports events back on, the economy working well, and international

travel restored. But it is very likely that we may never see the days we experienced before COVID-19. Travel may change in some significant ways. The global economy may shrink to the point that it will never be what it has been, and we will need to live with less rather than more. Those who work in direct evangelism know that times of transition are always the best times for people to consider new concepts. Maybe this situation may encourage many more to process what God, through the Adventist Church, has to offer.

A healthy lifestyle will become more important than before. Based on multiple reports, we know that the greatest number of fatalities from COVID-19 has taken place among older populations and people with pre-existing health conditions or poor lifestyle habits. This is not like the 1918 flu pandemic when so many young adults died for inexplicable reasons. More and more people will begin paying attention to their personal health, and that is something where our Church can also be of help.

Family and friends do matter. Over the last few decades, with the advancement of personal technologies,

people have needed each other less and less. Contacts with others rely heavily on social media platforms. But COVID-19 has helped people appreciate the burden and predicament others experience and feel empathy for them. It has also allowed families or friends of those who contracted the virus to long for their wellbeing. Perhaps the virus is a tool God is using to bring us closer together.

Somehow, good things will come out of this tragic global situation. Some things we may not appreciate or desire, but they may be necessary from God's perspective to get us ready for His soon coming.



Ron Clouzet
NSD Ministerial Secretary

Golden Angels Have Live Streaming Concerts



as “Gotta Get to Jesus,” “The God I Serve,” “Go Light Your World,” “Oceans,” and many more. ABN also interviewed the Golden Angels members for 20 minutes during the concert. The members briefly

introduced themselves and told viewers what made them join this ministry. They also shared the current COVID-19 situation of Korea and why they started the Room Concert series. Their interview would empower those who are thinking of being a missionary or are now serving as a missionary.

Viewers said that they were able to find hope through the Golden Angels online concerts. During the COVID-19 crisis, their songs reminded church members, leaders, missionaries, and many coronavirus-weary people of the love of God. Particularly, for people living in some countries of the Middle East who have had limited freedom of worship due to religious conflict as well as the coronavirus pandemic, this online event delivered power and courage from heaven.

“It is amazing that God uses our small talent to give people comfort and help them keep their faith. We decided to become missionaries to share something good, but we are the ones who have been filled with blessings,” said Golden Angels 17. Now they are preparing for mission work inside Korea and at the same time producing content for the Golden Angels YouTube channel. They expressed their firm resolution to preach the gospel of God through their music ministry under any circumstances in the era of COVID-19.



Taksim International Church in Turkey and Adventist Broadcast Network (ABN), 24/7-hour nonprofit online Seventh Day Adventist Christian broadcast network, hosted online concerts of the 17th batch of Golden Angels, the singing missionaries of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), on May 23 and 29, 2020. After the “Golden Angels Room Concert” series on YouTube, launched by the 17th batch missionaries amid COVID-19, became popular even outside the NSD territories, the church and ABN suggested that they have live-streaming concerts in order to encourage Adventist members around the world who have only a limited right to worship during the COVID-19 quarantine.

Each concert lasted about an hour. The Golden Angels members shared songs that would move and inspire people, such



Members of New Life International Church went to the Keelung River to ride bikes together.

PCM Ministry in Taipei 2020

Rachel Lombart

PCM Missionary at New Life
International Church

It's Friday night, and we are at Daniel's house by New Life International Church in Taipei, Taiwan, for our care group meeting. After eating we usually chat, sing, and share a Bible story before we get into small groups for prayer. This time Jane* is in my prayer group.

Jane is a local university student. I first met her on the school campus when I was printing fliers for our English class. I invited her to join our activities, and to my surprise she accepted the invitation to the Friday care group. I was overjoyed and eagerly introduced her to our young people.

Jane doesn't have any religious background, so during the praise and prayer time, she usually listens while we pray. But this week is different. Before we bow our heads for prayer, we ask Jane if she wants to pray too. "I'm not sure how to. It's my first time, but I'll try," she says. As I listen to her simple prayer, an indescribable feeling of joy swells up in my heart. I can't believe that because I was in the right place at the right time, she is now here learning how to pray to the God of Heaven.

As Jane speaks to God for the first time in her life, suddenly all the months of challenges and frustrations that I experienced in my work seem worth it, just for that one prayer.

It has been several months now since Jane said her first prayer. Now she prays regularly and has started taking Bible studies. It is a joy to see her growing spiritually, and I hope she will one day make the decision to accept God as her personal Savior.

Often as missionaries we hope to gain many souls for Christ. We listen with amazement when we hear reports of hundreds of people being baptized. But mission work is often a lonely and difficult job. Not everyone is open to the gospel and those who are may never make a decision to be



baptized. But we keep reaching out because we never know when one invitation may result in one soul being saved.

This year Public Campus Ministries missionaries are reaching out to hundreds of students around Taiwan. We are sowing seeds, casting nets, making friends and praying for God's strength and wisdom to touch the lives of those around us. Sometimes it's a struggle to balance our studies with our ministry. Sometimes we feel discouraged and don't know if we are making a difference, but we don't give up. We keep doing our best, and we trust the results to God. We may not always know the results of our work, but we know that if we are faithful, our work will not be in vain. Perhaps that one soul we reach may go on to change the world.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

* Jane is not her real name.

Don't Worry; God's Timing Is Perfect

Lee SunMi
1000MM 54th Batch

Hello! I am Lee SunMi, a missionary who was sent to Nepal from the 54th batch of the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM). I hope to share with you a special experience that my missionary partner and I had as we felt the presence of God from Nepal to Korea to the Philippines.

In March 2020, we finished our missionary term in Nepal and were about to go back to the 1000MM Training Center in the Philippines. However, there was a lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I thought the lockdown would soon be lifted, but it continued to be extended, and eventually our plane tickets back to the Philippines were canceled.

While comforting each other, saying, "This is also God's will," I received a call from Pastor Kim JongHoon, who is serving as a missionary in Nepal, letting me know about a chartered plane that was scheduled to fly to Korea. We submitted all the necessary documents to get on the chartered plane. Anyone regardless of nationality could apply, and I was informed that the plane would fly in about a month. Everything was going smoothly and leisurely, but suddenly, the chartered flight to Korea was moved up to June 1, just a



Lee SunMi (right) and her missionary partner leaving Nepal

week later. I was in a panic. Because my missionary partner is a Filipino, she would have to leave Korea within 24 hours of arriving there. She had to rush to book a flight to the Philippines that would leave within 24 hours from Korea.

After several days of twists and turns, on May 29, under God's guidance, we arrived in Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, after completing all preparations for the chartered flight. On the morning of the Sabbath, I was feeling a sense of peace when I suddenly got a call from an airline company in Nepal. The flight on June 2 from Korea to the Philippines, which had been booked by my partner, had been canceled. It felt like a bolt out of the blue. I thought that this is the life of a missionary, that God demands so much faith. At that moment, however, all we could do was pray. "Don't worry," said Pastor Kim. "God will certainly take care of His missionaries."

"I will do my best, but if it is God's will for us to stay in Nepal, I will also be willing to obey it." When I really couldn't think of any other way, I asked the people around me for prayer and kept praying to God about what to do. And then I came up with an idea. "Since she has to leave Korea within 24 hours, wouldn't it be okay if she doesn't go to the Philippines but somewhere else?" After finding out that this would be an acceptable option, I bought a ticket to Indonesia for her right away.

A day before our departure, at around 2:20 p.m., all of a sudden, the airline announced that without a PCR (COVID-19 test) certificate requested by the Indonesian government, my partner could not even get on the plane. I looked for a hospital that gave PCR tests in a hurry and found out that there was a hospital about 30 minutes away from the hotel. However, the operation hours were tight, until 3 p.m. Furthermore, Kathmandu had



no public transportation due to the lockdown, so there was no choice but to run. We ran like crazy.

The hospital didn't answer the phone, and I didn't think I would be able to get there in time, so I grabbed a man who was passing by on a motorcycle, explained the situation, and begged for help. He kept telling me that the PCR results would not come out until at least 2 to 3 days later, and he couldn't guarantee the results, but he told us he would give us a ride. When we arrived at the hospital, I was about to dash inside, but the man asked us to go in with him. He went to the COVID-19 inspection site and explained the situation to the staff. It turns out he was an official at the hospital. Thanks to him, we were able to easily get signed up for the COVID-19 test.

As we were about to enter for the test, the Korean Embassy in the Philippines contacted me, saying that we could stay inside the Korean airport if we had a ticket to the Philippines even if it was more than 24 hours after we arrived in Korea. This meant that my partner no longer needed to go to Indonesia, so she no longer needed the PCR certificate. We thought about just canceling the COVID-19 test, but we decided to go through with it since it was free.

Then I called the airline and booked a ticket from Korea to the Philippines on June 6. However, the airline contacted me again, saying that the ticket had to be within 24 hours of arriving in Korea. That meant my partner would still have to travel to Indonesia. What would

have happened if we hadn't gone ahead and taken the COVID-19 test? A cold sweat and a sigh of relief came out at the same time. One might say that it was a coincidence, that I was lucky, but I only thought it was God at work.

We arrived safely in South Korea at the end of the ups and downs. There, we found out that my partner would be able to stay at the transit center until her flight to the Philippines. We tried to cancel the ticket to Indonesia and request a refund. However, because we had already checked in in Nepal, they said we couldn't do that. While we were waiting, we learned that only diplomats would now be allowed to enter Indonesia so tickets to Indonesia would all be canceled and we would get a 100% refund. While in Nepal, if we had not been able to buy a ticket to Indonesia, my partner and I would not have been able to come to Korea. Finally, my partner had a good stay at the airport and returned safely to the Philippines.

Through these experiences, I learned what living beliefs were like and experienced the narrow door to heaven firsthand. Although Satan stood in the way for a moment and I saw nothing, God shines in the dark, opens the door wide in a way that people do not dare to think, and never lets His workers down. Over the past 11 months as a 1000MM missionary working for God, I was so grateful and happier than ever. I will continue to serve God as a missionary for the rest of my life.

Vanessa Dabatos (left) and her missionary colleague



Waiting for God in Silence

Vanessa Dabatos
1000MM 55th Batch



Before I entered college, I anticipated a smooth college life journey. However, there was a difference between expectation and reality, for instead of finishing college in four years, I took five years to graduate. I share this because what happened to me during college seems to be happening to my journey at the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM).

Before I joined the 1000MM, I counted the number of months I would spend for training and the number of months in my mission field and estimated when I would be back home. I also had expectations that I would grow spiritually through prayer and mission work.

Since we first arrived and began our training session, I have been praying that I be drawn nearer to God that I might become a blessing to others. However, each week nothing seemed to be happening to me—I found no

changes in me. Prayer cells, gazebos, and a garden are witnesses of the hours I cried out my petitions. I knew God heard me and regarded my prayers, but He just kept silent.

During our cottage meeting, I thought this would be a way for me to become a blessing as I had been praying for, but that time it was me who was blessed instead of the people I met. When our cottage meeting was done, many were excited because our training days were almost over and many were expecting to be dispatched. However, I didn't feel the same way. I thought I wasn't yet ready because still I found no changes in me. Many times I kneeled and cried hard asking God for the working of the Holy Spirit in me that I might see myself being prepared for mission. I asked myself, "Why am I here if I can't be as God wants me to be?" And I started to pray for peace. One morning, I confessed, "Lord, I am tired of myself. Please take over and let me give all these burdens to you." That moment I was so weak, and all I wanted was to talk to Him despite the silence.

Due to the spread of the coronavirus, our dispatch was postponed, and we began to have extra training. When the announcement was made, I said to myself, "It is because I am not yet ready to go." I didn't feel disappointed with the news because I hoped that God might talk to me during these extra days of training.

I have spent a lot of time with God, and I now feel that I have received His guidance. He reminded me of the fact that I am a Christian but still in the process of conversion.

He answered my prayers in different ways as He had done before. When I thought I was humble enough, He used some situations to make me realize that I still need to be humbled. When I was reassured from a friend saying that I am a loving person, He used other friends to help me see that I was only favoring people I like and not the way God regards sinners.

Months have passed and still we are quarantined because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When I asked “Why am I here?” God was faithful to answer me after His silence. He sent me here for more than the two months of training. Almost everything in my prayers were answered during our extended stay. And I also realized how God secured me from the illness outside and helped me to learn to trust in Him.

This is now my prayer that those who meet such situations or even worse should faithfully give themselves to God while waiting for His providence as Psalms 62:5 says, “My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him.” He knows the desires of our hearts, and He knows the best for our tomorrow. He

is always willing to perform wonders in our spiritual journey, so we shouldn't try to run ahead of Him. God says in Isaiah 54:8, “With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you.” All we need to do is to believe His promises.

Whenever I meet unexpected situations, I consider them God's way to make more encounters for me and Him. Through my personal struggles on the campus, I found myself bowing down on my knees and running to His Word. Hardship in our spiritual endeavor is not to separate us from our God but to behold the glory of our hope who saved us by the cross, to feel our need of the savior, to contemplate the goodness of our Father. Even in His silence, all things work together for good to His servants and to affirm that He is always in time in molding us even in His delays.





Hold onto God's Promises

Edgardo Jimenez
1000MM 55th Batch



“I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from him” (Hosea 14:4).

First of all, I will share a little bit of my background. I was born and raised in the beautiful island of Cebu, Philippines. For 21 years, I spent most of my life in Cebu. And it has been more than five months since I began to live in Silang, Cavite, Philippines, in order to receive training on the campus of the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM).

Because the coronavirus outbreak has spread all over the world and the Philippines is not an exception, dispatch of the 55th batch missionaries has been delayed and the training session has been extended. This is different from what I expected, so I hold onto God and pray.

Every morning, I wake up at 4 a.m. to have time with my Creator God, give thanks to Him, offer praise, and meditate on His words. Then, my missionary friends and I start cleaning the campus; that is a part of the missionary training. It is my pleasure that our daily effort keeps the 1000MM campus neat and beautiful. What I look forward to the most is sports time. We play basketball, soccer, and other sports. As we have had to stay on campus for months along with travel restrictions due to COVID-19, that is the only time I feel free and relaxed.

I cannot ignore the current situation of delayed dispatch and lockdown measures. Whenever I feel worried and lonely on campus, I read the Bible and try to find wonderful promises God made to me. I would like to quote from the book of Isaiah 41:10, one of His promises, “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Thinking of God's blessings on me during the extended training, I determine to carry out God's commission to proclaim the gospel and to win souls. Sometimes I felt bored staying on campus, but I have spent much more time with Jesus Christ than I did before. I also thank God for giving me friends here on campus. As we have been through the same troubles and difficulties, we are able to care for and encourage one another. We offer prayers together to God to guide us in this unexpected situation and to help us to not give up on the mission from Him.

Rejoice in Your Youth

Park WoonJoo
1000MM 55th Batch

When I prayed for the precious friends I had met on the campus of the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM), God gave me a gift called extended training, allowing me to stay with them a little longer. Originally, our dispatch was supposed to take place on March 21, 2020, but due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the dispatch date has been delayed and delayed again. A series of training sessions have also been extended.

For the first time, I looked on the bright side of the delay. First, as mentioned earlier, my missionary colleagues and I have been able to stay longer on the campus than we expected, sharing precious memories with one another. Being together for three months before being dispatched was too short for us. Spending more time together, training, eating, and sleeping, we have opened our hearts more easily and understood each other better.

Also, I have had a variety of experiences that I had not had during the earlier training session. The missionaries divided into groups and worked together to prepare for praise, prepare for the play, and to make promotional videos promoting 1000MM. My missionary partner and I had time together to plan out the mission work that we would carry out in our mission field.

Before I came here, I was a freshman majoring in theology at Sahmyook University, an Adventist university in Seoul. When I was there, I was the type of person who did everything with enthusiasm and put a lot of effort to get things done. I often felt frustrated and even blamed others when things didn't go well.

Two weeks after I first came here, there was the Taal volcanic eruption. I had to move to another place for safety for a few days. When I came back, the campus was messy with volcanic ashes and other materials. After cleaning up the campus, my missionary friends and I had to leave for Super Training for three days. At that time, I thought those events happening continuously were too harsh to cope with. I felt frustrated that no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't handle everything around me. But now I keep them as a good memory. I learned a lesson that however hard it was to endure, everything passed with the blessings of the Lord.



Park WoonJoo [right] and his missionary partner



So I made up my mind to enjoy every moment. I want every moment as a pleasant memory. Solomon wrote in his book of Ecclesiastes, “One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever. . . . Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that is your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:4, 9:9). I would also like to live in joy, longing for the eternal kingdom of heaven, without lingering in this world to stay for a moment.

Although the dispatch has been delayed due to COVID-19 and we are under training not knowing when it will end, I believe that the God who led us here will prepare the best thing in advance, and that even the most exhausting and difficult moment will pass, so I am looking forward to the moment He prepared, and I am going to enjoy every moment.

“Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment” (Ecclesiastes 11:9).





I am one of the 55th batch missionaries of the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM). Before I joined the 1000MM, I had been carrying out compulsory military service in the Korean army. When I was in the military, I never thought of coming to the 1000MM. However, a few months before I finished my service, God moved my heart and I decided to join the 1000MM and dedicate a year to Him. “A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps” (Proverbs 16:9). I had had another plan, but God changed my mind so that His perfect plan would become true for me.

In January 2020, the 55th batch missionaries gathered in the Philippines training center, being prepared to be dispatched to mission fields. I wasn’t able to join them right away because I had to serve in the army until January 21. I was planning to join the 55th batch later. A few weeks passed, and there was a volcanic eruption close to the training center. Because volcano ashes were all over the place, all of

the missionaries had to evacuate. When I heard that news, I asked myself if it was even possible to go to the Philippines to serve God. My mind reeled with worries, but I made up my mind again to serve Him for the whole year. Things settled down at the training center, and I left for the Philippines to join the missionary training.

Not long after I joined the 1000MM, another thing happened: the coronavirus outbreak. Several days before we finished our missionary training, infected cases of the coronavirus were found in the Philippines. Just as in other countries, it spread quickly here and the situation got serious. Almost all travel by ship and airplane was suspended, and the government took hold of all the streets to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Although our training is now over, we still have to stay on the campus for several weeks or more until the government allows people to travel to other places.

Even though our plan doesn’t seem to be working well, I believe that

Kim SeongMin (middle) and his two missionary colleagues



God has already prepared a plan for us. When we are ready to go to the mission field, I trust that our Lord will send us to places where He needs us. In Ephesians 6:14-17, there is a good example of how God has told us to be prepared in our hearts to be missionaries. It talks about the whole armor of God that we should all have. There are six pieces we should take as spiritual armor: the belt of truth, the breastplate of God’s righteousness, and shoes that have the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword that represents the word of God. When we have the whole armor of God, I think that is the time when we are truly ready to go to the mission field. I believe that God is waiting for us to be prepared with all these pieces so that we can be strong in the mission field and spread the gospel to the end of the earth.

At first, I couldn’t help but be disappointed when our dispatch got delayed because my mind and heart were already in the mission field. However, I now know that even the delay of our dispatch is also part of God’s plan that He has prepared for us. I am preparing God’s armor by faith so that wherever I go, not just in the mission field, I will spread the mystery of the gospel that God has prepared for us. I will serve my Lord until the second coming of Jesus Christ because once a missionary, we are always a missionary.

Am I Truly Prepared for God’s Mission?

Kim SeongMin
1000MM 55th Batch



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KIDS TALENTS FOR JESUS



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KIDS TALENTS FOR JESUS

General Conference Children's Ministries is celebrating 25 years of ministry to children and adolescents! To commemorate this event, we are calling all children and teens to show us their talents and gifts in our "Kids Talents for Jesus." The theme is "Jesus Is My Best Friend." We would love to see all children send in their best piece of art, or poetry, or media production. All winning entries will be featured in the General Conference Children's Ministries 25th Anniversary Kids Talents for Jesus publication.

- Submission: Submit entries with the accompanying submission form to the Union/Conference/Mission Children's Ministries director.
- Deadline: November 1, 2020
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- More Information at <https://children.adventist.org/kids-talents-for-jesus>

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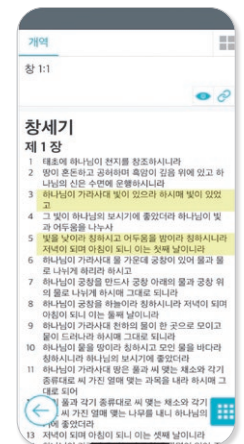
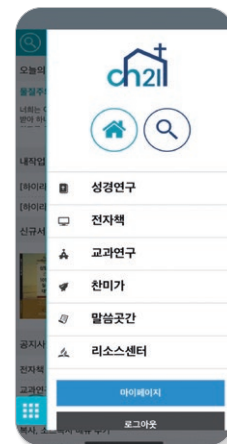
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