

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

THE MOST CHALLENGING FIELD

NEWS&VIEWS

www.nsdadventist.org

November/December 2020



The 17th group of Golden Angels is filming their music video at the beach in the East Sea area with the collaboration of the NSD Media Center.

God's Mission Strategy, NSD's Mission Strategy: I Will Go!

In the Bible, our God's basic mission strategy is to command us to go to the mission field with His calling. In other words, He does not simply let his chosen people sit down, but gives them a mission and tells them to get up and go to the mission fields. In the case of Jonah, God told him, "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it" (Jonah 1:2). In the case of Jeremiah, "The Lord said to me, 'Do not say, I am too young. You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you" (Jeremiah 1:7). What a specific order! No excuse or hesitation works before the command of God to go. When it comes to going, we shouldn't call ourselves children. In other words, boldness and indomitable faith are needed.

Thankfully when God commands us to go, at the same time, He gives us the following promises from Jeremiah 1:8-9: "Don't be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, I have put my words in your mouth." Philip also obeyed God's command. "Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, go south to the road, the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." When Philip obeyed the word of God, it was a desert where there were no people and the environment was poor. But when Philip was obedient, he was able to meet the Ethiopian eunuch in the wilderness and have a precious soul-winning ministry. It is clear evidence that although our environment may seem like a wilderness, we must go to meet our souls. Ananias also went according to God's word. "In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered. The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying" (Acts 9:10-11). God told Peter to go, too. "So, get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them" (Acts 10:20).

The holy impulse that naturally emerges in the spirit and actions of those who believe Jesus Christ

and obey his words is to lead the people to Jesus. A true Christian is reborn as a missionary the moment he becomes a Christian. It is the Christians and the missionaries who cannot endure one day without delivering the word of God.

"He has at times given directions to His servants to go to a certain street in a certain city, to such a house, to find one of His sheep. . . . As the shepherd goes before his sheep, himself first encountering the perils of the way, so does Jesus with His people. 'When He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them.' The way to heaven is consecrated by the Saviour's footprints. The path may be steep and rugged, but Jesus has traveled that way; His feet have pressed down the cruel thorns, to make the pathway easier for us. Every burden that we are called to bear He Himself has borne" (*The Desire of Ages*, 480).

For the last five years (2015-2020), the General Conference contributed greatly to the revival and growth of the world church by encouraging all Christians to join the mission through the Total Member Involvement (TMI) project. Beginning another new quinquennium from 2020 to 2025, the General Conference proposes the I Will Go mission project. This is a missionary movement that embodies TMI, which is aimed at allowing all the church members to participate directly in missionary work in various ways in their neighborhoods and society. Jesus wants us all to go to the mission fields to find souls who are looking for the truth, way and life. Let us all go forward and be the light and salt as His witnesses. Let us answer, "I Will Go," at the call of Jesus and move on to the mission field.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).



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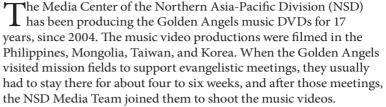
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> News & Views is published bi-monthly by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) of the General Conference of Seventhday Adventists. Its mission is to share the news of mission activities and views of mission of the NSD with the world church so that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



PRODUCTION OF GOLDEN ANGELS MUSIC VIDEOS





The produced music videos have been distributed in the forms of DVD or USB. Many people's hearts have been touched by the graceful and beautiful music videos produced by the Golden Angels and NSD Media Center. There has been a lot of dedicated effort to create these videos. I would like to introduce some of the process.

Producing a music video generally requires a lot of supporting teams and staff, such as a director, a music director, a director of photography, a camera team, a lighting team, a makeup team, a dress team, a graphic designer, and managers of the musicians. But for the Golden Angels music videos, four people—three producers/technicians of the NSD Media Center and I—do all things relevant to filming. These three PDs not only do the work of camera handling but also the lighting, camera drone, Jimmy Jib, gimbals, etc. A coordinator and an associate coordinator of the NSD Golden Angels Ministries lead the Golden Angels members.

In 2020, we have produced six music videos in several different locations. One music video was produced at a rented studio, two at the beach in the East Sea area of Korea, one at the Morning Calm Garden, one at Dear Mountain, and the last one in a Hwaseong Reed Field. For the video shooting in the East Sea area, we rented an underwater film studio to add underwater footage.

Whenever I participate in the video production, I feel that this is not an easy task. First, we need to check various possible locations on the internet, visit those sites to check on the conditions for shooting. And if it turns out to be a good place, we have to submit an official request to the managing office of the place and receive permission. Then we need to submit a request for drone flying to the military office and the aviation office. When all the permissions are granted, it is time to pack our gears and depart before the break of day.

When we reach the location, we need to unload the video gear and carry it to the shooting site. While we install a Jimmy Jib, a drone, a gimbal, etc., the Golden Angels members do their makeup and get dressed by themselves. It usually takes about two hours to reach the location by car and another hour to install the video equipment. When all the preparation is done, we begin our video shooting. It generally takes about seven to eight hours to shoot the video. If the video shooting is not finished, we continue to shoot the following day.

The Golden Angels music video production requires good physical condition because it is usually done during the summer season. In spring, the new Golden Angels members receive training, and then it is time to record their music album. When the music recording is









done, the recording is used for music video production. When we go to shoot the video in the summertime, the rainy season has often arrived with typhoons, strong winds, or cloudy skies. Otherwise, we are under the scorching sun. When we went to the East Sea area this summer, we experienced a typhoon, strong wind, rain, and the hot sun in one day.

After all this challenging work, the Media Center producers come back to the office with videos to do post-editing. They edit music videos cut by cut and add subtitles. We need to translate the English lyrics into the four languages which are used in the NSD territories—Korean, Japanese, Chinese, and Mongolian. These subtitles are proofread and corrected until they are right to be used. The intro graphics are created, and the DVD or USB cover design is finished to be used for the final production for distribution. When everything is done, the music videos are finally released. They are usually distributed at the NSD meetings, evangelistic meetings, Golden Angels concerts, and other occasions. The videos are also uploaded on YouTube, reaching people all over the world.

Throughout the years, the Golden Angels' music videos have been loved and cherished by millions of people around the globe. Whether they are young or old, they have expressed their gladness and joy toward these works. Our only hope is that through these music videos, our God's name will be glorified, and we will be able to continue to deliver the message of hope and love to the people.

Byun SeongJunNSD Media Center Manager

25 YEARS OF **SERVING CHILDREN!**



The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) joins the worldwide church in celebrating Children's Ministries as an official department of the General Conference (GC). Children's ministry has been part of the Seventhday Adventist Church for many years, but it was not until 1995 at the General Conference Session in Utrecht that it was officially voted as a department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

According to Dr. Linda Mei Lin Koh, the current GC director of Children's Ministries, "helping children say YES to Jesus" has long been the mission and goal of Children's Ministries—a ministry of "nurturing, resourcing, advocating, building, and fortifying the spiritual growth of our children and teens." The GC Children's Ministries has produced many resources in various forms (print, videos, animations, books, etc.) for children and leaders. They have also developed a leadership certification program, which has been expanded, updated, and implemented for the past 10 years.

Here at the NSD, as across the world, Children's Ministries leaders at all levels organize trainings, programs, and activities to disciple children, teens, and their families. Regular programs, such as Sabbath Schools, Vacation Bible Schools, Bible camps, TMI evangelistic meetings, community outreach and service nurture the children and teens and also train them in leadership skills. Throughout the NSD, Children's Ministries also promotes and celebrates special emphasis days focused on children and teens; for example, Children's Sabbath, Global Children's Day, World Day of Prayer for Children at Risk, and Creation Sabbath. Across the NSD, Children's Ministries

collaborates with other departments to support the global **enditnow** initiative. This initiative, actively observed by many churches, seeks to raise awareness and advocate for the end of violence, especially against children and women.

From the 1800s, when Adelia Patten began writing narrative Bible story lessons for children; through the 1900s, when Children's Ministries was under the Church Ministries department; to 1995 when Children's Ministries was voted as a separate department of the GC; through the years of NSD's directors (Mary Wong 1997-2002; Dong Hee Shin 2002-2005; Sally Lam-Phoon 2005-2015; Lisa Clouzet 2015-) and continuing to the present, many young lives have been touched and changed forever. Children's Ministries has empowered the young to feel that they have an identity in the Adventist World Church and that they are able to share their talents and gifts through preaching, praying, singing, teaching, witness, and serving.

May we all remember Jesus' words in Matthew 19:14 (NKJV), "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." And may we all take to heart His words in Matthew 18:3-4, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."







The NSD Children's Ministries department had an in-house celebration the week before the NSD Annual Council.

¹ Koh, Linda M. L., Celebrating 25 Years of Ministry to Children. *Kids NewsZone, vol 17 #2*, 2020. To see the complete article, go to https://children.adventist.org/vol-17-2-2020.pdf





FIRST LARGE GATHERING Noah Lai TWC President SINCE COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN TAIWAN

Praise the Lord for His presence and abundant blessings upon Adventists in Taiwan throughout 2020. As He promised in the Scriptures, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways.... As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

The year 2020 is a year of unprecedented difficulties. COVID-19 has impacted almost the entire world. From its outbreak earlier this year until today, we have been experiencing fear and helplessness toward the continued spread of the virus.

Without God's special protection and guidance, the Taiwan Conference (TWC) could not have had a meeting with more than 1,000 attendees amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan eased social distancing regulations on June 7, 2020, allowing restricted public gatherings. Under the government's guidelines, the TWC held a spiritual revival meeting and a sports competition from October 9 to 11, 2020, at Kaohsiung Municipal Fu Cheng Senior High School. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, this was the first gathering with more than 1,000 people in Taiwan. Without the power of God, there was no way to take steps to hold such a gathering again.

The number of total applicants was 1,761, and additional participants also joined the rally without preregistration. Workers from Adventist institutions, including schools, hospitals, health centers, a publishing house, and administration offices in Taiwan, also participated. It is surprising that even officials from the legislature and Kaohsiung City government attended.

All programs of the gathering aimed to build a spiritual family in God's love and learn to live a life of worshipping God. On Friday night, October 9, the rally started with a program on how to prepare and welcome the Sabbath day.

The next day, during Sabbath School, participants enjoyed a special program that had been prepared by young Adventists. Four couples of men and women performed a play demonstrating different types of relationships, such as love at first sight, arranged marriage, unmarried pregnancy, and different religious beliefs. After a series of short plays, three pastors went up on the stage and gave lessons on relationships based on the words of God.

For divine worship, TWC president Noah Lai served as the speaker. He cited Ephesians chapter 2: "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone." He



At the TWC spiritual revival meeting, not only sermons but various programs, including mission reports and musical performances, were provided for the attendees.



said, "Let us remember Jesus Christ was sacrificed on the cross and has broken down the middle wall of partition between us so that we can live in harmony as members of a family, a church, and the household of God."

Afternoon programs included mission reports from 10 mission districts and musical performances. Everyone on the stage expressed gratitude toward God and the hope for Jesus' soon coming. Their mission

stories and performances inspired attendees to make a decision to follow Jesus and work for Him.

Around sunset, a worship service was led by former members of Golden Angels, singing missionaries of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Sabbath evening and the following day, participants enjoyed sports competitions, which was called "Agape Cup." At the opening ceremony of the competitions, officials from Kaohsiung City



TWC president Noah Lai

Government and other government representatives delivered a congratulatory message. At the competitions, basketball, volleyball, chess, and many other games were prepared for participants. Playing games together helped them build friendships and harmony in the extended family of the Adventist Church.

From the first day of planning to the first day of the rally, TWC had to deal with a lot of uncertainties. For example, if the government had ordered not to gather due to the danger of spreading COVID-19, the meeting would have had to be stopped immediately. It was truly a blessing from Heaven that the large gathering was held successfully without danger or interruption.

May God continue to bless the Adventist church members in Taiwan!



Sabbath School lessons were provided in the form of a play.

In recent years, heavy rainfall has been occurring in various parts of Japan. The multiple linear precipitation zones¹ occurred in the Kyushu region, especially in Kagoshima and Kumamoto Prefectures, between July 3 and 4, 2020. The Kuma River flooded and collapsed in Kumamoto Prefecture, killing 65 people. More than 4,600 houses were completely or partially destroyed in Kumamoto Prefecture alone.

Activities of ADRA Japan

Typically, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Japan dispatches staff members to a disaster site as soon as possible for assessment and to plan rescue and support.

However, due to the spread of COVID-19 this year, all support groups nationwide received a guideline from JVOAD, Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, which stated that support organizations should refrain from entering a disaster area to carry out support activities across prefectures unless they received a request from the field. Since ADRA Japan is an NGO that deals with domestic disasters, we followed this guideline and remained in Tokyo to gather information.

Keeping Good Relationships with People Yasunari Urashima ADRA Japan Director

ADRA ADRA

Call from Mr. Kai

About four weeks after the disaster, we received a call from Mr. Kai, a literature evangelist and a member of the Kumamoto Church. He saw a newspaper article about Mr. Yamagami, a long-time *Signs of the Times* subscriber, cleaning his house after the disaster in the Okaki area, Hitoyoshi City. Mr. Kai requested that ADRA Japan help Mr. Yamagami by delivering relief supplies.

We asked Mr. Kai to visit Mr. Yamagami and to find out how we could best serve since we didn't have enough information about Okaki.

Mr. Kai visited Okaki immediately after that weekend to meet Mr. Yamagami.

We found out the following about the Okaki area:

- About 50 houses had been flooded to the roof due to flooding of Kuma River. (Records show that the depth of water was more than 5 meters.)
- Residents have been cleaning up damaged houses for about a month, but elderly people were at the limit of their physical strength without having enough help.
- There were no work clothes, helmets, gloves, goggles, and other necessary items for cleaning up, and some people were injured while working because they were wearing old shirts with holes.

We were deeply grateful to hear what was happening in the field, but at the same time, it was heartbreaking to know that some residents were still stranded a month after the disaster.

Support Activities in the Okaki Area

With information from Mr. Kai, ADRA Japan supplied relief items through SEMA², and delivered them to Mr. Kai's residence. Mr. Kai had to travel about 143 miles roundtrip to deliver the relief supplies. At one point, he made many trips a week to do it. "Thank you for the water of life,"





- 1 & 2. By the heavy rainfall in Kumamoto Prefectures, more than 4,600 houses were destroyed.
- 3. A staff member of ADRA Japan surveys a damaged house.
- 4 & 5. ADRA Japan delivered relief items to people suffering from the disaster.







Mr. Yamagami expressed his gratitude when he received drinking water.

Mr. Kai also visited the site every Sunday with youth members of the Kumamoto Church to help clean up. Here is what one of the youth members shared about his volunteer experience in Hitoyoshi City:

• I decided to go to Hitoyoshi on August 9 as a first-time volunteer. At the time, I had just started to live independently, and I was busy with my own life. When I was asked to go to Hitoyoshi as a volunteer, I prayed to God if I should go. God answered my prayer to go, and I followed God's will. We picked up trash outside the public

hall and cleaned damaged houses in Hitoyoshi. Before joining this volunteer work, I only cared about myself, and I did not want to do anything for others. But through this experience, I learned the joy of serving God and other people, and I am grateful for that.

Serving people in this manner can be an excellent opportunity for young people to think differently. We would like to keep encouraging the younger generation to engage in more volunteer activities.

Support by God's Guidance

The support in the Okaki area would not have been possible without

Mr. Kai. We thank God from the bottom of our hearts for Adventist Church members who serve others by using their own time to go to places where the ADRA staff cannot go.

Mr. Kai's work as a literature evangelist also had a significant impact on this mission. Because he kept good relationships with readers of *Signs of the Times*, our rescue effort was accepted in the community without any problem even during the COVID-19 pandemic. We learned the important role of literature and visiting evangelism and that keeping good relationships with people is vital.

Residents in the Okaki area are still living as evacuees trying to

figure out the future. They have determined to live with the Kuma River that nurtured them even after experiencing a big disaster, and we respect their decision. ADRA Japan will continue to support them with Mr. Kai and the youth of the Kumamoto Church. Above all, we pray that people in Okaki will meet God through this experience and realize that God is the Giver of life.

²SEMA: Social Emergency Management Alliance, a CSR network platform which is composed of 50 companies, 5 NGOs, and Yahoo! Japan CSR office.



Michael Kruger Named ADRA President

Adventist Development and Relief Agency



The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the global humanitarian arm of the Seventhday Adventist Church, announced today that its Board of Directors has unanimously elected Michael Kruger as its new president, effective immediately.

Kruger was elected president in October 2019 to complete the five-year term of former president Jonathan Duffy. A search committee appointed by ADRA's Board of Directors conducted a global executive search to identify a permanent president, and after an extensive review of candidates, the board selected Kruger.

During his six years at ADRA, Kruger has played a key role in a period of enormous growth and transformation for the organization. He served as vice president for finance during a time of accelerated financial expansion, ensuring ADRA could operate more efficiently and transparently. In the past year as interim president, he steered ADRA through the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating strong stewardship while also leading ADRA's global response, which impacted nearly 20 million people in 96 countries through 422 projects.

"Michael Kruger is a proven spirit-filled servant leader. We trust his commitment, vision, and passion to expand ADRA's work globally, but also to ensure that ADRA continues to be relevant and effective in a rapidly changing world," said ADRA board chair Geoffrey Mbwana, a former president of the church's East-Central Africa Division and now a general vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. "Michael has the expertise, the temperament, and leadership to guide ADRA forward so its work can continue to bring hope and new opportunities to vulnerable people

¹The multiple linear zones is one of the metrological phenomena in which cumulonimbus clouds emerge continuously in 50 to 300km zone, that causes serious heavy rain and floods in recent years in Japan.

everywhere, especially now during the global coronavirus pandemic."

ADRA board vice chair Ella Smith Simmons, who led the search process that identified Kruger, was equally affirming. "A large majority of the clients that ADRA serves around the globe are women, many of them mothers of small children, who find themselves socially and economically disadvantaged in so many ways," said Simmons, a general vice president of the world Adventist Church. "During the last six years, I've watched Michael Kruger address the needs of women with unusual clarity and focus, and I'm confident that he will lead ADRA to do even more in empowering women as they raise children, do meaningful work in their communities, and reach their full potential for contributions in their societies."

Erton Kohler, president of the church's South American

Division, highlighted the positive impact Kruger has already made. "During the months after he was appointed to the role, he made a special effort to lead the agency from the bottom up, listening and answering requests that could strengthen ADRA's regional and global reach," Kohler said. "He created a very

positive environment among ADRA's workers across the South American Division."

"Early in 2020, at our headquarters in Miami we received a delegation from ADRA International led by Michael Kruger," said Elie Henry, president of the Inter-American Division, and an ADRA board member. "The ADRA leadership came to listen, and to exchange ideas and projects for good collaboration with a region in the grip of all kinds of crises—humanitarian, environmental, socio-political, and natural disasters, including being in the path of major hurricanes every year. Michael took the ideas we shared at this meeting with the clear goal of assisting the Church in making a difference in the vast and diverse territory of the IAD, and to be of service to the community. I have confidence that God will use Michael to lead the agency successfully with a collaborative approach and a progressive vision."

Responding to his appointment, Kruger focused on ADRA's mandate to care for hurting and dispossessed peoples around the globe and to bring sustainable development regions challenged by war, poverty, and natural disasters.

"I am deeply humbled to serve as ADRA's president. I accept this position with great responsibility and pray to God for guidance so that ADRA can continue to be a source of justice, compassion, and love for millions of vulnerable and marginalized people around the world," Kruger said. "As we look to the future, ADRA will work tirelessly to ensure that we can adjust to emerging challenges and can respond effectively not only in times of crisis but to long-term development problems. I am committed to strengthening ADRA's ministry in alliance with the Adventist Church to ensure that together we can provide healing to a world in need."

About Michael Kruger

Michael Kruger, originally from South Africa, brings more than 25 years of experience to his role as ADRA's

> president and holds an extensive background in international senior management with non-profit and private organizations. Kruger joined ADRA in August 2014 and served as vice-president for finance before his appointment in October 2019 as president for the remainder of a fivevear term.

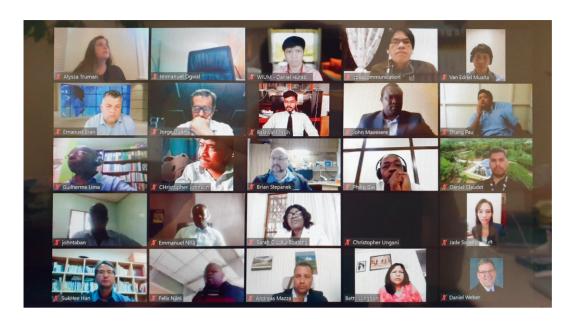


Prior to his time at ADRA, Kruger worked in the financial sector for 23 years and opened his own private practice in 2000, specializing in audit, financial and regulatory services as well as re-engineering distressed businesses. His firm provided auditing and consulting services to ADRA for almost a decade before he accepted a full-time position with the agency.

Kruger also shares his love for the Lord through an extensive preaching ministry developed over many years. He lives in Columbia, Maryland, with his wife and is a proud father of three adult children.

About ADRA

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency is the international humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, serving in 118 countries. Its work empowers communities and changes lives around the globe by providing sustainable community development and disaster relief. ADRA's purpose is to serve humanity so all may live as God intended. For more information, visit ADRA.org.



GC Communication Department Holds Online Advisory Meeting

The Communication Department of the General Conference (GC) had an advisory meeting from July 20 to 21, 2020, with 160 members of communication departments and media operations from the 15 divisions all over the world, including the Middle East and China. For the first time, this meeting was set up through Zoom, an online video conference program, because of COVID-19.

GC president Ted Wilson attended the meeting, encouraging participants in his opening sermon to work harder for evangelism through media mission at this time of serious global crisis caused by the coronavirus.

Elder William Costa Jr., GC Communication director, introduced the "I WILL GO" project, the core strategy of global mission, which Adventist churches throughout the world should embrace during the new session, years 2020 to 2025. He also asked each Division to actively promote this project. This project is to give shape to the Total Member Involvement project of last session, and the crux of it is that all members of churches participate directly on mission activities for neighbors and communities in many different ways. The major communication policies and works presented by the GC in this advisory meeting are IWG (I WILL GO), GAiN (Global Adventist Internet Network), IMM (Internet Missionary Movement), ACT (Adventist Communication Training), CCI (Communication Certification Program), online mission through YouTube, and calling attention to using copyright.

Meanwhile, the Communication department of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) got good reviews on their report about ways of coping with the COVID-19 crisis and church mission activities in the NSD territory, including Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and Mongolia, sharing exemplary cases and materials.





Baptisms at Chinese Church in Tokyo

Yu ChuanfuPastor at Tokyo Chinese Church

fter the social distancing rules Adue to COVID-19 was eased, we restarted our Sabbath worship in June 2020. Since then, we have had an attendance of 25 to 30 people, and an additional 10 to 15 people have also been joining our Sabbath worship through livestreaming on Facebook. We originally planned to have an evangelistic meeting from September 24 to 26, and we invited Pastor Kim SunHwan, NSD PARL director, as the speaker. However, we had to cancel the event because he could not come to Japan due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Instead of holding evangelistic meetings, I started online Bible study activities. So far, five people have accepted Jesus through these Bible studies and have been baptized. Praise the Lord! Here are their stories.

• Zhang Datong, a 27-year-old male and an employee of a Japanese business company from Shenyang, China, grew up in an Adventist family. After graduating from a university in Japan this year, he was led by believers of our church to attend Sabbath services. After my Bible study, he decided to be baptized and join the Adventist Church.

- Tiangen Shinhun is a 57-year-old housewife. Since her three sisters are Adventist church members, they had spent a lot of time sharing the Gospel of God with her. She didn't accept Jesus Christ until her son was diagnosed with cancer. She began to come to church seeking God's mercy for her only son. She was willing to be baptized after participating in my Bible study. Now her son is getting better and recovering.
- Wenzhe Li from Jilin, China, is a 30-year-old male. He has worked extremely hard to become competent in his field, but one day he found out that he had cancer. His family introduced our church



- to him, and I started to share the gospel of God with him. He finally accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and was baptized.
- Wang Enci is a 15-year-old Japanese male student. His father is Japanese, and his mother is Chinese. Both of them have attended our church for worship. A few months ago, his mother died, and he was willing to follow her Adventist faith by getting baptized.
- Zhang Meilan is a 46-year-old housewife from Malaysia. I have known her for eight years. She attended Sabbath worship, but had not decided to be baptized vet. Last month she approached me and said, "I have something significant to tell you. I have decided to be baptized." I asked her what made her decide to finally be baptized. She replied that she had spent eight years seeking the truth, and at the same time, she had witnessed the sufferings of the world. She didn't want to waste time any longer and wanted to be reborn through baptism.





This article is adapted from an article by Sally Lam-Phoon published in the Sept./Oct. 2015 issue of *News & Views*.

The year 2020 marks the 25th year of women's ministries as an official department of the General Conference. From 1995 to 2020, women around the world have faithfully served in women's ministries and used their gifts to bless those around them.

Women's ministries actually began in the days of Ellen White. In 1899, Mrs. Sarepta Henry promoted women's ministries with the encouragement of Mrs. White, who was in Australia at the time. She received these words from Mrs. White: "I have thought, with your experience, under the supervision of God, you could exert your influence to set in operation lines of work where women could unite together to work for the Lord. . . . Believing the teachings of Christ, that through you, the human agency, He communicated His light, His truth, you are the frail instrument through whom the hidden power of God does work, that His strength may be perfected and made glorious in your weakness." Using the leadership skills learned from instituting the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Sarepta Henry worked with a consecrated group of educated women with Christian characters. They were tireless, energetic, enthusiastic, and hardworking.

Every week in 1899, the *Review* gave Mrs. Henry a page, entitled "Woman's Gospel Work," which she filled with Bible studies, poetry, letters, and practical advice. That year, she traveled 9,000 miles (which wasn't all that easy, given that the mode of transportation was a horse and buggy) and spoke 214 times, encouraging women to use their spiritual gifts to serve God. Unfortunately, in 1900, Mrs. Henry



Happy 25th Birthday to Women's Ministries!

died suddenly of pneumonia brought on by overwork.

A nine-member committee continued her work for a short while and then disbanded. By June 1901 the women's column disappeared from the *Review and Herald*. The committee became discouraged without their strong leader, and women's ministries ceased as a department of the church, although individual women continued to work for God in many ways. The organized work of women's ministries came to a standstill.

At the Dallas General Conference Session in 1980, President Neal Wilson, recognizing that the majority of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is female, called for the Church to unleash the potential represented by the God-given talents of women. This appeal set in motion a number of actions that resurrected women's ministries from its 80-year slumber.

Much work was done between 1980 and 1985, when the Annual Council of the General Conference established a women's ministries advisory committee. Betty Holbrook was its first chairperson. In 1988, Karen Flowers took over and formulated a mission statement for women's ministries. In 1990, the Annual Council of the General Conference elected Rose Otis to be the director of women's ministries, followed by the granting of full departmental status at the General Conference session in Utrecht in 1995.

In 1991, seven divisions started up the work of women's ministries. The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (formerly known as the Far Eastern Division, then Asia Pacific Division) was among the first to initiate the work of women's ministries. They elected Dr. Nancy Bassham, a Thai educator, as its first director. Dr. Linda Koh, an educator from Singapore (currently director of the GC children's ministries department), succeeded her in 1994 and served until 1997 when the Asia Pacific Division was divided into the Northern and Southern Asia-Pacific Divisions. Dr. Mary Wong,

another educator from Singapore, took over as director when the Division office moved to Korea. She served until 2003, and Mrs. Young-Ja Nam, a dedicated leader from Korea, was elected as director. She served until 2005 and was followed by another educator from Singapore, Dr. Sally Lam-Phoon, who served for two terms. Dr. Lisa Clouzet, the current director, was elected in 2016. Mrs. Nilde Itin-Lust served as associate director from 2015-2018.

Although women's ministries has had a history of more than 25 years, we are proud to celebrate the 25th birthday of women's ministries as a full department and to continue to answer the call with "I Will Go!"

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NSD Women's Ministries department had a small in-house party to celebrate the 25th birthday of Women's Ministries.





The Most Beautiful Two Hours in a Week

Dorjderem Narankhuu MM Family Ministries Director Not long after the year 2020 began, the COVID-19 pandemic came along to many countries including Mongolia. Everyone was scared of getting sick. The grocery shortage, which later turned out to be a false rumor, seemed to begin. Some people were stocking up food for a couple of months, so some items were out of stock at grocery stores. For Adventists in Mongolia, it has been several tough months without worshipping at church.

Even though those time were really tough for us, we never lost our hope that things would get better and normal days would be coming soon. In September 26, 2020, lockdown officially ended in Mongolia. All companies, schools, churches, individuals and other groups started their activities, but



there are still some strict rules. For example, buildings have to be disinfected on a regular basis. People have to wash and sanitize their hands often, wear a mask, and keep their distance from other people.

Churches are not allowed to gather more than two hours, and lunch should not be served. Despite these regulations, we are so grateful for God's blessing and enjoy the time under His house.

With the hope that we have held on to during this time of pandemic, we are waiting for Jesus' soon coming with patience and faith.

¹ An Introduction to Women's Ministries," Women's Ministries Leadership Certification Program, Level 1.

Seoul Sahmyook Middle School Runs "Project 79"



The coronavirus outbreak has affected many people in the countries of Northern Asia-Pacific Division. The virus has especially had a huge effect on students. During the first semester of 2020, which started in March in Korea, schools were closed for many days. Even after the pandemic situation was mitigated, according to Korean government regulations, middle schools were required to cap the number of students at one-third of the total student body to reduce classroom crowding. It turned out that by July 2002, students had gone to school fewer than 15 days.

First-year students rarely had the opportunity to adapt to new school life. By the time summer vacation arrived, students were still unfamiliar with their schools, teachers, and classmates. Because most school events were unable to be held, students had little chance to learn about the school and to make friends. On the days when they were allowed to go to school, they had to spend much time in face-to-face classes and various assessment activities which could not be carried out online. It kept them busy, and it made it difficult to hang out with friends.

To overcome this situation, Seoul Sahmyook Middle School hosted a week of socializing from July 6 to 10, 2020, under the title of "Project 79." In Korean, "friend" is pronounced "chin-goo," which is similar to the pronunciation of "79." With the help of teachers and the school council, the ministerial department of the school organized the event to create an opportunity for first-year students to become

more familiar with the school and to become closer with their classmates and friends. Furthermore, the project was designed to encourage students to form a close relationship with the ministerial department and school chaplains, which is the foundation of their religious education.

The ministerial department made time for Project 79, using regular morning reading time, Bible classes, morning worships and noon prayer sessions, trying not to disturb students' schoolwork. Many activities were prepared for the students, such as secret friends game, writing letters to teachers, school radio station, and others, which drew active participation from students. When the story of a teacher and a student aired on the school radio station, many people on campus listened carefully to the radio. More students sent a message or story to the radio station, more than the department expected, and they had to go and buy more gifts for those students.

After Project 79 was over, the ministerial department surveyed the first-year students on their satisfaction with the program. Based on the survey, 231 (98.7%) of the total 234 students said they were "satisfied with the program," and 153 students (65.4%) said they were "interested in religious faith." The students gave positive feedback, such as, "Thanks to Project 79, I had the opportunity to write letters to my friends and get closer to them," and "Thank you, pastors and teachers, for making this opportunity amid COVID-19." In addition, parents said they were grateful that the project enabled students to adapt to school.

The event had a positive effect on teachers as well as students. One of the teachers who is in charge of classes for the first-year students, said, "I was touched by a student who never smiles. She saw me and smiled for the first time that week." Without full support of teachers, the project could not have worked out successfully. Before the event, teachers produced promotional videos and informed students of the project in online group chats, encouraging them to actively participate in the event. On the last day of the event, each teacher led a prayer session for their class and gave their students a gift.

Chaplains of Seoul Sahmyook Middle School gave thanks to God who gave them wisdom to plan and carry out Project 79 during the hard time of the COVID-19 pandemic. They said, "One of the reasons this project received a good response was that we did not focus on religion. We tried not to urge students to accept the Adventist faith. Rather, we worked to have their hearts prepared." Based on feedback from students and the survey results, the ministerial department will plan a week of prayer for the second semester.



Kathy Lin & Lisa Clouzet

TWC & NSD MSA Coordinators

Taiwan Conference **Ministerial Spouses Retreat**



With COVID-19 precautions in mind, 27 ministerial spouses gathered from September 13 to 15, 2020, for the Ministerial Spouses Association (MSA) retreat of the Taiwan Conference (TWC). The retreat was organized and led out by Mrs. Kathy (Hui-Chun) Lin, TWC's MSA coordinator, and her team. The retreat provided opportunities to listen to inspirational speakers, visit with and encourage each other, share meals together, and recharge at the beautiful location of Sanyu Health Center.

Ms. Huangshumei Ke was the keynote speaker for morning and evening worships. She focused on inspiring topics found in the book of Daniel. Pastor James Wu, TWC Ministerial Association secretary, presented the Sabbath sermon. Ms. Liying Lin, a professional counselor, was also invited to

lecture and was available for counseling. Highlights of the weekend included the sharing of heartwarming notes of gratitude and affirmation for each of the spouses, written by their church members; enjoying the Sanyu Health Center's spa facilities; learning from Ms. Haoyin Zheng how to make products using essential oils; and a field trip to the Xiangshan Visitor Center at Sun Moon Lake.

The group of spouses really appreciated the retreat and many expressed their gratitude in thank you notes of reflection to the MSA team. One of them included the hope that is found for all of us in Philippians 1:6 (KJV), "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."



The TWC Ministerial Spouses Association had a retreat at Sanyu Health Center.

SDA Language Institute in Korea Has Weekend of Spiritual Revival





The SDA Language Institute in Korea held a weekend of spiritual revival for foreign missionaries in Korea from July 24 to 25, 2020, at the main hall of the SDA Language Institute in Seoul, with the theme, "Rekindling Mission: Models of Mission." A total of 60 missionaries who are serving as teachers in branches of the institute all over the country gathered together along with members of the Kainos Church, the in-house church of the head office of the SDA Language Institute in Seoul.

Johannes T. Maluleke, who works for the Namyeong branch as a teacher, was invited to be the speaker for this two-day event. Based on Bible texts from the book of John, he delivered two with the titles of "He must become greater," and "the Word became flesh." Moreover, when several missionaries shared testimonies from their teaching experience in Korea, participants were moved to tears.

Every year in April, the institute has held a revival meeting for foreign missionaries in Korea, but this year, it was difficult to hold the meeting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. "Without spiritual revival of teachers, however, we cannot expect revival of the institute," said marketing director Kim SeongGon. Even though the event programs were limited compared to earlier years, the event received positive responses from participants.

"Throughout the spiritual weekend, every missionary was able to reconfirm their mission given from God. They were also blessed to be reminded of the spirit of unity in Adventist faith," said Shin SeungYeol, mission director of the institute.







The Adventist Faith Eum Foundation Is Officially Launched Kim Beom Tae Reporter of Adventist Village

The Eum project, which was launched as part of the Adventist church's "Hope 2020" future generation training project, has gone one step further with the establishment of the Eum Foundation. The Eum Foundation is a Christian community ministry that helps parents in their 30s and 40s become leaders of the church and pass on the faith to the next generation with support from churches, local conferences, the Korean Union Conference (KUC), and the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD). Eum is a Korean word that means "connecting one thing to another."

The Adventist Faith Eum Foundation (Eum) had a ceremony on October 25, 2020, at the KUC headquarters. The event included an opening devotional, a meeting of the general assembly, and the launching ceremony. In attendance to show support and encouragement of Eum were officials from the NSD and KUC, members of the Korean Adventist Women's Association, and lay leaders. In addition, a special video was shown, with greetings and testimonies from Eum families in each region who could not attend due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Eum project, which was formerly under the Family Ministries department of KUC, is now an independent entity as the foundation. In the future, Eum will carry out projects to nurture the next faithful generation, providing education, training, and scholarships for mission work. This ministry is considered a must-have project for the future Adventist Church. Throughout the project, step-by-step programs will be carried out to foster the participating families. It was stressed that, regardless of the session or the head of the foundation, the project should continue on the basis of stable financial support. An anonymous benefactor generously donated 100 million Korean won to show support for the project.

Eum began in 2017 with the aim of nurturing future missionaries who would express their joy to the world. To date, 141 babies have been accepted into the Eum project. Let's support our young families to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6, NKJV).

The Health Ministries department ▲ of Japan Union Conference (JUC) conducted an experimental 5-day NEWSTART program for JUC office workers from September 28 to October 2, 2020, in order to improve our health physically, mentally, and most importantly, spiritually. Twelve JUC workers participated in this trial program. Usually the JUC Health department organizes a short livein NEWSTART program this season of the year, but we had to cancel it

this year due to COVID-19. There have also been many limitations in organizing evangelistic meetings and outreach activities at church since the beginning of this year. Churches have been struggling to find some way to reach out to their communities in this difficult time. People not only in Japan, but all over the world, are afraid of this new virus, trying to find a way to prevent getting the virus and looking for health information.

JUC Office Runs **NEWSTART Program** Chizu Takahashi

JUC Health Ministries Staff Member



We wanted to recognize and experience how powerful God's methods are. Without going out to a special place and staying in nature, we continued to work at the office as usual. Our goal was to pay attention to all of the NEWSTART principles: precious health messages that God has given us through the Bible and Ellen White's writings. "Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies. Every person should have a knowledge of nature's remedial agencies and how to apply them" (The Ministry of Healing, 127). These are true remedies that God has given us to maintain our health and for our restoration. It is known by the easy-to-remember acronym NEWSTART: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in Divine Power.

Although we were familiar with the messages, most of us were not really practicing all the principles of health. Changing the lifestyle is not easy, but nothing is impossible through Christ. We wanted to be victorious over our indulgences that tend to weaken our physical and spiritual powers.

During the program, volunteer staff members provided participants with plant-based whole foods for breakfast and lunch, and freshly squeezed juice in place of dinner to rest the digestive system to promote healing during sleep. The day began with spending time with God, being empowered by Him, drinking a few cups of warm water to flush out toxins, walking in the sunshine, doing deep-breathing exercises outdoors, and eating a hearty, wholesome breakfast. Between meals, we were encouraged to drink lots of water, to stand up every hour, and to open the windows to get fresh air for good blood circulation. Normally we seldom got out from the office during the day, so all of us went out for a walk after lunch

for about 20 minutes to get sunlight. Thankfully, we were blessed with beautiful weather during the program. After work, we got together for evening worship and a short health lecture before drinking fresh juice for dinner. The next day's breakfast was provided after the lecture and all went home with the goal to go to sleep before 10 p.m. During the program, no snacking was allowed. Participants ate only what was provided and drank only water and herbal teas, avoiding any sugary, carbonated, and caffeinated drinks.

After the program, there were great results. Even though some had suffered from symptoms, such as headache, fatigue, and drowsiness, on the first few days, all of us had some improvements in just five days. We checked body weight, body fat, visceral fat, body water, BMI (Body Mass Index), BMR (Basal Metabolic Rate), body age and other measurements before and after the program. On average, we lost 1.4% body weight and 5.9% body fat; the best score was 2.6% weight loss and 17.3% fat loss. The following were noted by participants: quality of sleep was improved, sluggishness was gone, the mind got clearer, inflammation healed much faster than before, stiffness of the neck and shoulders was lessened, sleepiness in the afternoon was much less than before, bowel function was improved, menopause syndromes were lightened, concentration level was increased, etc.









The JUC Health Ministries department ran a 5-day NEWSTART program. As a part of the program, they provided vegetarian meals and healthy juice to those who participated in the program.

All who took part in the program realized how powerful God's methods are. Most of the participants are making efforts to maintain their new lifestyle for better health. Now we are thinking of ways we might be able to implement this program in churches around Japan to reach out to people with the health message as the right arm and entering wedge of the gospel work. We encourage our church members to stand up for their mission to share the gospel and bring people to Christ for salvation. As we live in the time of the end, this work needs to be done rapidly. May God pour out His Spirit with abundant wisdom and direct our path to finish the work on the earth before the second coming of Jesus!



All of the participants of the NEWSTART program were helped with their physical and mental health in various aspects.

PyeongSo·Im Foundation Contributes to Publishing Ministry

▼n April 2016, the PyeongSo-**L**Im Foundation, a nonprofit organization, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Sijosa, the Adventist publishing house in Korea, in order to build a cooperative system between them for gospel work through publications. The agreement stated that the foundation would provide funds for the publishing ministries of Sijosa for five year. In accordance with the agreement. the foundation has donated about 374,000 USD, which is the largest donation from a single organization since the foundation of Sijosa. 2020 is the fifth year as well as the last year of their agreement.

It is obvious that the support of PyeongSo-Im Foundation has become a valuable foundation for the expansion of the publishing ministries of Sijosa. For the past five years, Sijosa has sent *The Spirit*







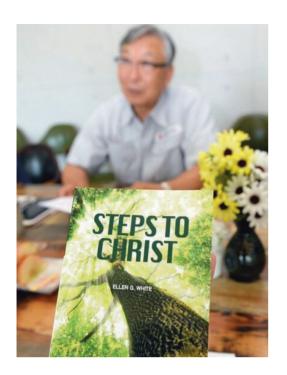
of Prophecy and other evangelistic materials to places where the gospel is not yet preached.

In 2016, Sijosa sent gospel books, including the English version of *Steps to Christ*, to Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, and Zambia. In 2017, more copies of *Steps to Christ* were delivered to Rwanda and Zambia, and small group textbooks on the Book of John were sent to Japan.

In 2018, Sijosa reached out to other countries. For example, 10,000 copies of Thirty-Six Questions and Answers in English were sent to the Philippines. They also translated Steps to Christ and How to Have Eternal Life into Nepali and sent 5,000 copies and 2,000 copies, respectively, of these two books to Nepal. For Bangladesh, they published Steps to Christ and Thirty-Six Questions and Answers in the Bengali language, sending 10,000 copies each. People living in this Islamic country without finding hope for eternal life were able to receive the gospel books published in their own languages. For Mongolia, 5,000

copies of small group textbooks on the Book of Acts were sent.

The effort of sending gospel books has encouraged those who have tried to preach the gospel in foreign countries, such as Pioneer Mission Movement missionaries and other missionary groups. Sometimes good news was heard from the countries where books were delivered. For example, 10,000 copies of Steps to Christ delivered to Kenya were distributed at prisons, high schools, and local churches, being used as a tool to proclaim the Three Angels' Messages. "This book sowed gospel seeds in the hearts of thousands of prisoners and prison workers. Students read the words of Ellen White together in their daily morning worship, and conveyed the messages to their people in their community," said Pastor Jeon KyoungSoo, who has been working for evangelism in Kenya as the president of Bicycle Mission to the World. He expressed his appreciation for Sijosa and PyeongSo·Im Foundation.



The PyeongSo·Im Foundation supports publication ministry not only in foreign countries but in Korea. For two years, they donated 2,000 copies of Signs of the Times and Home and Health magazines for the Korean Adventist Church. This is worth about 32,000 USD. In 2019, the foundation let Sijosa plan and publish *Letter from* My Heart, which is Ellen White's book, Messages to Young People, rewritten in letter format, aiming to give hope and vision to the young generation. This book was sent for free to more than 30 local churches in Korea as well as the 1000 Missionary Movement campus in the Philippines and Tokyo Korean Church in Japan.

Elder Lee BongChoon, the chairman of the board, said, "Thanks to the God of Ebenezer, who has led us to work for the publishing ministry with Sijosa. It is all because of God's grace that our foundation has been dedicated to world mission. I hope that the seed of the gospel we have sown throughout many countries will lead to the harvest of souls. Our foundation and Sijosa will continue to work together in various areas to promote gospel work."

Churches in Western Mongolia Hold **Summer Camp Meeting** Darkhanbaatar Batgerel

fter the widespread outbreak of ACOVID-19, Mongolia Mission decided to divide all churches into several regions, and instead of having regular nationwide camp meeting, it was suggested that churches in the same region get together and hold a camp meeting. From August 21 to 23, 2020, five churches-Arkhangai, Uvurkhangai, Gobi-Altai, Zavkhan, and Uvs-in the west region had their own camp meeting at Ikh Mongol resort in Uliastai, Zavkhan Province. Many of the camp participants had to travel a long distance to the campsite.

The highlights of the 2020 camp meeting of the west region included a revival seminar and sermons, a love market, heartwarming fellowship activities, children's class, and a prayer walk. Also, after Sabbath worship, they had a beautiful baptismal ceremony. Three precious souls made the decision to follow Jesus by baptism.

About 55 people joined this camp meeting. Among them, there were people who had



personal difficulties: a house fire, a car accident, health issues, financial issues, etc. However, nothing could keep them from having fellowship in God. Church members as well as new interests had a wonderful experience of being united as one family in the Adventist Church.

Praise the Lord for His gracious gift of salvation and blessing for every person.

MM Family Ministries Director

Group photo of Naepo Adventist Church members



A Church Company Becomes an Organized Church

Joo MinHoNSD Adventist Mission Director

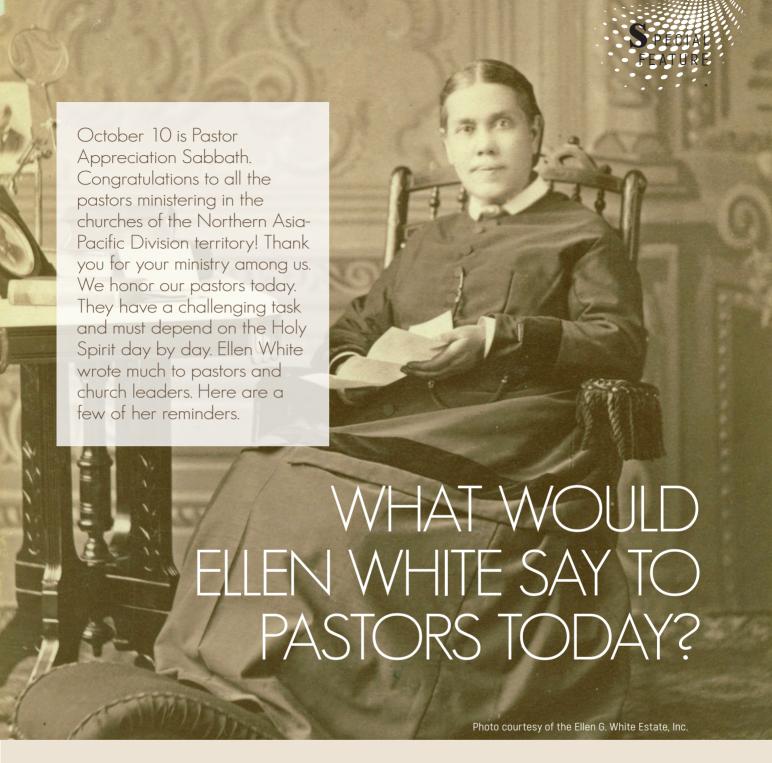
n June 20, 2020, Naepo Adventist Church in the Middle West Korean Conference (MWKC) had a special worship service to celebrate the organization of the church two years and three months after its opening. Due to COVID-19, this event was held without inviting neighboring churches but only three officers of MWKC. During the service, the MWKC secretary called the names of the 75 members and presented 2 elders and 17 deacons and deaconesses before the congregation. MWKC president Hur ChangSoo laid his hands on the head of a new deacon who had been baptized when Naepo Adventist Church company had started. He encouraged the church congregation through his sermon to inherit the pioneer spirit and the leadership of Nehemiah who dedicated himself to the reconstruction of the Jerusalem wall.

As a Global Mission project initiated and subsidized for three years by the General Conference and the Northern Asia-Pacific Division for the purpose of mission to the cities and church planting, a church company was planted in Naepo in 2018 with fewer than 10 people. This was a step in the process of becoming an official church.

Naepo is a new town organized strategically by Chungcheong Province with their plan to develop it as a city of 100,000 people or more. A province hall and affiliated institutions have already been moved into the city. According to a recent report, 26,967 people live in Naepo as of May 2020. Their age range is as follows: 2,999 in their 50s (11.1%), 5,326 in their 40s (19.7%), 5,465 in their 30s (20.2%), 2,840 in their 20s (10.5%)3,633 in their 10s (13.4%), and 4,592 under 10 (17.0%). This means that this city is still young since there are 21,865 people who are in their 40s or younger, making up 81% of the whole population.

Compared to other neighboring churches whose members are getting older and older, Naepo Adventist Church has prepared various ways to approach the younger generation. For example, Naepo Sahmyook Cultural Center as a center of influence provides free English classes for women, badminton classes, and a healthy food store for the community people. They have tried to approach those in their 30s and 40s. This church is also used as a center to promote Sahmyook Elementary School and recruit students by making use of its good image.

Church pastor Cho MyungHwan said that now this church has 75 members and every Sabbath some 60 out of 75 members attend the church. At the church organization celebration, church members resolved to deliver the Three Angels' Messages through their good influence and to build the church as a lighthouse to the community.



This article was first published in the October issue of *Church Ministry Newsletter* from the NSD Ministerial department.

Union with Christ. "My message to ministers, young and old, is this: Guard jealously your hours for prayer, Bible study, and self-examination. Set aside a portion of each day for a study of the Scriptures and communion with God. . . . Draw near to Him in earnest prayer, and He will fill your hearts with high and holy purposes . . ." — Gospel Workers, 100.

"What we need in this time of peril is a converted ministry. We need men who realize their soul poverty, and who will earnestly seek for the endowment of the Holy Spirit."— *Review and Herald*, April 5, 1892.

Personal Organization. "When you rise in the morning, take into consideration, as far as possible, the work you must accomplish during the day. If necessary, have a small book in which to jot down the things that need to be done, and set yourself a time in which to do your work."—*Evangelism*, 652.

Health and Exercise. "A few hours of manual labor each day would tend to renew the bodily vigor and rest and relax the mind. In this way the general health would be promoted and a greater amount of pastoral labor could be performed. The incessant reading and writing of many ministers unfit them for pastoral work."— *Counsels on Health*, 193.

The Family. "The minister's duties lie around him, nigh and afar off; but his first duty is to his children. . . . The world is not so much in need of great minds, as of good men, who are a blessing in their homes. Nothing can excuse the minister for neglecting the inner circle for the larger circle outside. The spiritual welfare of his family comes first."— *Gospel Workers*, 204.

Evangelism. "Let Daniel speak, let the Revelation speak, and tell what is truth. But whatever phase of the subject is presented, uplift Jesus as the center of all hope."— *Testimonies to Ministers*, 118.

"When the church see that the ministers are all aglow with the spirit of the work, that they feel deeply the force of the truth, and are seeking to bring others to the knowledge of it, it will put new life and vigor into them. Their hearts will be stirred to do what they can to aid in the work."— *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 49.

Lay Empowerment. "The people [the church members] have had too much sermonizing; but have they been taught how to labor for those for whom Christ died?"— *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 431.

"If ministers and men in positions of authority will get out of the way, and let the Holy Spirit move upon the minds of the lay brethren, God will direct them what to do for the honor of his name."— Review and Herald, July 9, 1895.

Leadership. "Sometimes a man who has been placed in responsibility as a leader gains the idea that he is in a position of supreme authority, and that all his brethren, before making advance moves, must first come to him for permission to do that which they feel should be done. Such a man is in a dangerous position. He has lost sight of the work of a true leader among God's people."— Testimonies to Ministers, 491.

WHEN THE PASTOR IS DISSATISFIED WITH THE CHURCH A TRUE STORY

This article was first published in the October issue of *Church Ministry Newsletter* from the NSD Ministerial department.

 \mathbf{Y} ears ago, a young pastor was assigned to a small church in a small town. The area was beautiful to live in, surrounded with pinecovered mountains and pristine blue lakes. The church was small but had potential. It included a new school building and had plenty of property next to a busy highway. Members could be divided into three groups. A third of them worked in the medical profession as doctors or nurses. They carried the financial burden of the church and made most of the important decisions. Another group was bluecollar workers. They did not contribute much, financially, but the pastor could count on their faithfulness. The last group was retirees who were not involved in leadership but attended services regularly.

The young pastor had dreams of getting the church mobilized for outreach, but was frustrated by the fact that the most capable members never seemed to have much time for mission service. These members were very busy with their professional lives, but the pastor noticed that they always found the time they needed for leisure activities. He eventually

concluded that those members simply were not sufficiently spiritual or committed to the mission of Jesus Christ. Even though he maintained good relationships with them, he felt distant from these members.

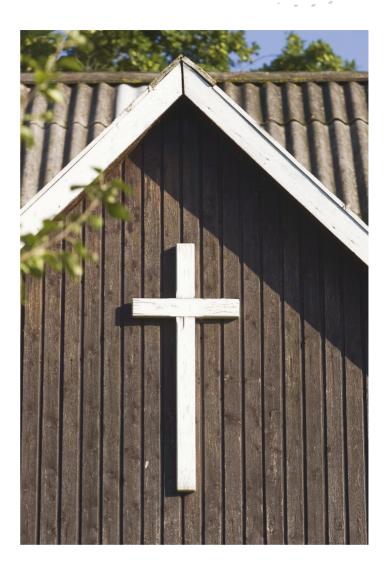
The minister began to wish he could pastor other churches instead. Time and time again, he would pull out a map of the conference territory, look at the location of all the churches, and wish he could be pastor somewhere else, where members were more responsive to ministry and service. He settled on five of the 127 churches in the conference—all larger than the one he had—where he thought he'd like to go. However, he never consulted with God about his dreams, although he complained to God about his members.

One Sabbath afternoon, after returning from church services, he began to pine away to his wife about his members. He thought they were too secular, too distracted with their work, too unresponsive to the call of sharing with others the good news of Jesus. His wife listened to him for a long time in silence. Then, she asked him one question: "Remind me again, why did you become a pastor?"

The pastor was stunned by the question. He couldn't stop thinking about it. Why was he a pastor, anyway? Why was he doing this when he seemed so unhappy with the members of his church? This led him to self-searching and an earnest time of prayer, for about three days. He wrestled with God about his call to the ministry. He realized that the problem was not so much his secular members but his own lack of love for them. The Holy Spirit led him to repentance, and he promised Jesus he'd be content pastoring his members for the next 10 years, if that was the Lord's will. He settled in his heart that he would accept his members as they were and give the best he had to offer to them, for their sake. He stopped dreaming of being transferred to another church.

Things changed for the pastor and the members. The pastor's sermons became much more relevant, meaningful to the congregation. Members noticed he cared for them more than before. Although still young, the pastor seemed to be maturing. His leadership became much more effective than before. Now the pastor loved his people, with their faults and all.

Six months later, the conference transferred the pastor and his young family to a much larger church with much greater potential for growth.



Coincidentally, it was one of the five he had wished he could go to. And the Lord truly blessed his ministry there much more than he could have imagined. The ministry impact made in that new church blessed thousands of people.

The Lord never ignored the young pastor's wishes. He did not dismiss his narrow, though well-meaning ambition. But He knew that what the pastor needed was a different attitude. He needed to love and accept his members as they were before he could hope for their change. Once he submitted to God, letting Him work through him, God responded to his longing. "Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell

in the land, ...and He shall give you the desires of your heart" (Psalms 37:3-4).

Ron E. M. Clouzet

NSD Ministerial Secretary



Two-Year Journey of CLAP 5th Cohort



↑ Then the 5th cohort of the Communication and Leadership Advancement Program (CLAP) began its first session in November 2018, the participants did not know how the two-week program, done in four separate sessions, would form permanent relationships between students. The participants represented Korea, China, Japan, and Mongolia. Pastor Kim SunHwan from Korea was the newly appointed CLAP coordinator—but not a stranger to English language learning (he had served as the director of the SDA Language Center in the Philippines for some years prior). He formed a team of two teachers, Erica Hole (from the UK) for the advanced students, and me, Kellie Tompkins (from the US), with the beginners. His assistant Chelou Completado worked diligently organizing the two-week session. The program also employed numerous Filipino tutors from the Language Center, well-trained in teaching English to conduct daily conversation classes with each student.

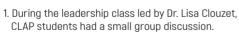




Students faced a stringent schedule that began with worship at 6 a.m. every morning and moved to English classes and leadership seminars throughout the day, ending with worship at 8 p.m. English was thrust at them throughout their waking hours and encouraged at every point of the day. Shyness quickly gave way to the reality of communicating in the language that sometimes gave them fits. Immersion was the only way they would overcome their uncertainties and hesitant speech. And overcome they did.

Hidden in the midst of the leadership training seminars, the English classes twice a day, *and* conversation time, was the chance to mingle with each other and to connect between cultures and countries in such a way to form tight friendships. Most of the students served as pastors in their home countries, but not all. Some were elders in their church. Others worked in the mission, conference and union offices. Together they brought a wide variety of life experiences. They shared those experiences in classroom exercises, in the cafeteria, during recreation time and especially through their testimonies every morning and evening. Participants learned the trials and challenges of their classmates as they became Seventh-day Adventists, or their struggles with unbelieving family members, or their joys of overcoming huge obstacles. Summed up: a family was formed.

"You have to understand," said Paul, a Korean pastor, "English has been a nightmare for us all our lives." During lunch in the cafeteria, he described the tortuous journey parents go through to get their children to learn English, and the pressure on children to learn a language that had clearly created a stigma of dread. Gradually as the two weeks passed, the dread gave way to a relaxed realization that learning English was a matter of practicing.



- 2. CLAP students started each day with morning exercise
- Only after memorizing at least one Bible verse perfectly were they allowed to enter the cafeteria for breakfast.









It was as if 25 adult women and men had turned into school chums minus the uniform. After worship every morning, they went outside into the sultry Philippine air and jogged around the compound. Before they could enter the cafeteria for breakfast, they had to recite in English the day's Bible memory verses. During leadership seminars, they could be seen moving about in groups on the compound working together in activities that strengthened teamwork and leadership skills. They were hungry at mealtime. They were ready to exercise in the evenings, playing badminton, basketball, soccer. Many had musical talents and often a flute played softly in the night air from a student's room.

Weekends involved Sabbath School and church and group activities, sometimes visiting small churches in the area and providing afternoon programs for the children. Sundays allowed for time off from the week's packed routine—day trips to beautiful places in the Philippines. When the two weeks were over, it was like saying goodbye to a sister or brother. There were hugs, even tears.

And thus, the sessions passed, from November 2018, then July 2019 back in the Philippines. The third session met in November of 2019 in Thailand at the Asia-Pacific International University, a sprawling campus in the lush hills of Thailand with lovely gardens. Classes were held on a hill at the university church compound. By that third session, students opened their books with expectation and confidence. Without realizing it, their English had

changed. They no longer searched for words frequently. Confidence replaced the fear of failure. The language had lost much of its dread. They spoke in front of their peers in English, and prayed in English, which is perhaps the most difficult act when it is not the native language.

Abigail, a young student from China, delivered a powerful testimony one evening at worship time. She chose the story of Esther and then wove it into the struggles and great obstacles facing China. With tears running down her cheeks, she appealed to her colleagues to pray for China. She demonstrated her own leadership skills as she stood there declaring the needs of that huge country and drawing from the strengths of Esther. When she finished, students surrounded her in an outpouring of support. Her message had touched something deep in each person.

A few months after the November 2019 session in Thailand, COVID-19 became a pandemic. Countries shut their doors to travel. Scheduled for July 2020 to meet in the Philippines one last time and to conduct on-site evangelistic meetings, the final session was delayed. But the pandemic continued, so in September of 2020, Pastor Kim made the decision to conduct the last session of the 5th cohort via Zoom from the offices of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) in Korea. Plans were altered but out of sheer determination the participants came together peering at one another through their computer screens.







- 1 & 2. Dr. Ron Clouzet, NSD ministerial secretary, was invited to deliver a lecture for CLAP students.
- Nutritious meals were provided every meal time to CLAP students.
- 4. Since the coronavirus became a pandemic, the last session of the CLAP 5th cohort was conducted via Zoom.







The full program was produced through Zoom, with worships and team duties, leadership seminars, and English and conversation classes, complete with tutors from the Philippines faithfully logging on every day to hold conversation with their students. The team came together to make the last session happen despite a pandemic. And the faces looking at one another on a digital platform were familiar. The friendships were grounded in six previous weeks of bonding. It was not the same as meeting together for two weeks, but it would have to do. And in the final minutes of the last day, everyone crowded onto the screen with faces in little squares, waving and saying goodbye, no one wanting to leave the meeting. Finally, Pastor Kim had to count to three and then close it off. It's not easy saying goodbye to family members when there is uncertainty of seeing them again. But CLAP reinforced in its participants and teachers that as Seventh-day Adventist Christians who await the second coming of Christ, we know without a doubt we will surely meet again.



 CLAP members visited a local church on Sabbaths and provided sermons, Sabbath School lessons, a special song or other church program.

2 & 3. On Sundays, CLAP members had a chance to visit tourist spots or places worth seeing.

Pastor Yutaka Yamaguchi

Members of the 5th cohort of CLAP deeply mourn the loss of one of its family members—Pastor Yutaka Yamaguchi from Japan. Yutaka was a student in my English class and the loss of his gentle and kind character leaves a hole in our hearts. He was an excellent English student who faithfully worked to improve. His quiet personality was full of humor and when asked to play a part in a sketch,

Yutaka entertained us all through the characters he played. He was an example for all of us to be more respectful, to be more kind, to do our best, and to recognize the power of God in our lives. We look forward to seeing Yutaka again by the grace of Jesus Christ who will return and raise him up with a body healed from all sickness.

Alumni Specials –

Story from Lakpahana Adventist School



Twenty-five years ago, I served as the 9th batch of the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM). My heart still starts pounding just by hearing the name "1000 Missionary." Missionary—that was the word that changed my life.

I am so happy to live my life as a missionary that I have served in three different mission fields for the past 10 years. I am currently serving as a principal at the Lakpahana Adventist School in Sri Lanka, a small island called Pearl and Tears of the Indian Ocean. While I was serving as a missionary, God gave me three lovely daughters as gifts, and they are dreaming to become missionaries as well.

Do you know much about Sri Lanka, a country well known for black tea? Sri Lanka's old name is Silon. It

is a country of black tea. It is a country of Buddhism, where 70% of the population are Buddhists. Around a hundred years ago, the Seventh-day Adventist Church began in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has a very small number of church members, about 3,000, so it is very challenging to evangelize here.

For Adventists in Sri Lanka, Lakpahana School is their spiritual home and the living fruit of the gospel. On the other hand, it's a place that is suffering financially, struggling to pay for monthly employee paychecks and operating expenses.

One day, the treasurer of the school came into my office and showed me the balance in the bank account. It was so hopeless that I did not know what to do. He said that we were in danger of having the electricity and water cut



off because we were not able to pay bills due to the lack of salary and operating fees for the month.

I went to the garden of prayer quietly, and I started praying and fasting.

About two days after I started fasting, Pastor Kim ShinSeop from Korea called me. "Mr. Park, the whole world is in a very serious situation right now due to the COVID-19 pandemic. How are you doing?"

I told him about the school's financial situation and the fact that I was fasting and praying. Our school needs about \$12,000 (about 14.5 million Korean won) a month. "Send me a solicitation letter," he said.

A week passed, and Pastor Kim called me back. "Mr. Park, something amazing happened. It is a miracle. It is the help of angels. Your prayer has been answered. In a week, we have collected a month worth of your operating fees."

I danced and shouted, "God is alive! God is truly alive." The pastor appealed to the Adventist Weekly and Korean Adventist website with the help of reporter Kim BumTae. God allowed us, through many helping hands, to receive a generous donation to run the school for more than three months.

Lakpahana Adventist School Principal Park YoonKwon with his students



Dear fellow missionaries all around the world, let's praise God today for allowing us to live under the noble name of missionary. We are the people whose blood is flowing with the blood of the missionaries.

"Once a missionary, always a missionary."



Seeking God's Will

Park Gina 1000MM 55th Batch



Hello, I am Park Gina, a 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM) 55th batch missionary from Korea. By the grace of God, I was sent to my mission field, which is called Bucal, on June 23, 2020. It has been four months since the church I work for was closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, and the church members have been worshipping from home through Zoom, a video meeting platform.

My partner and I had to think a lot about God's will for sending us here. We were not able to easily get acquainted with the people here because of the continuous increase of coronavirus cases. Moreover, they didn't feel comfortable with me since I have a different skin color than they do. When I heard that they were afraid of me, I cried in my room. I just wanted to do God's work. I had waited for a long time on the 1000MM campus to be sent to my mission field, and finally, when I was sent here, it broke my heart hearing that I frightened them. It tore down my passion and desire to do ministry.

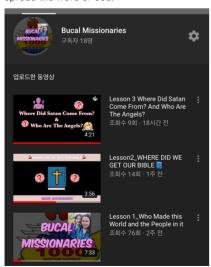
Because the COVID-19 situation was worsening, we could not leave a 1-km (0.62 miles) radius. I wondered what I should do in this situation. What was God's will?



And I came to realize that I was a weak person with no ability to do anything. In that situation where I couldn't do anything, I kept asking God, "Why did you send me here of all places? Wouldn't it be better if you sent me to a place where I can work? Did you send us here just to look at these souls?" My mind was filled with frustration and complaints.

However, as time passed, God made me realize that a life of a missionary is not just about winning

Gina and her missionary partner opened a YouTube channel "Bucal Missionaries" to spread the word of God.



every moment and preaching to many people. I realized that a life of a missionary is that no matter how much Satan attacks us and although we fall, we will continue to rise up and hold onto God. That is the life of a missionary.

Here is a quote from Ellen White, in her book *the Desire of Ages*: "Jesus told Peter, 'Follow Me.' Hitherto Peter had been inclined to act independently. He had tried to plan for the work of God, instead of waiting to follow our God's plan. Jesus bids him, 'Follow Me.' Then you will not have the hosts of Satan to meet alone. Let Me go before you."

I like to plan everything and live as planned, but it seems even the smallest plans are always disrupted here. Things do not go as planned. Looking at the moments that did not go my way, I realized that God wanted me to fully rely on Him even for my little plans.

One thing I really appreciate about God's grace is that He rekindled my passion and desire in my heart. I have wanted to do something in this situation, where I have not been able to do anything because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, my missionary partner and I are getting ready for a new ministry. As it is

difficult to visit people personally, we decided to spread the word of God through social media. We would like to share the love of God through social media so that people who do not know God can easily access it. If this is God's will, I believe that we will overcome any interruptions that will come from Satan.

When I record videos, edit them, and study the word of God with my partner, I feel the presence of God even in this small ministry. I have come to realize that I cannot do even one little thing without God's help. Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

I am very thankful to God. Whenever my faith becomes weak, He always raises me up. Looking back, God has been with me on every journey of my life. I remember I was afraid to come to the Philippines. The morning when I was to leave for the Philippines, I had severe back pain and had to go to the emergency room. God allowed me to pray with tears, asking Him to guide me safely to the Philippines. I was also able to learn how to be thankful wherever I was through my missionary colleagues who said that they are happy every day even when the volcano erupted and when they had to evacuate to another place. I also learned to be patient when we had the extended training due to the pandemic and made many more memories with my fellow missionaries.

At that time, I wondered why God allows these things to happen to us, but now that I look back, God was with us, and it was an opportunity for me to grow more.

Please pray for me and my partner's ministry in Bucal, Philippines, and for the church brethren here.

"God, please use me. I want to serve you for the rest of my life."



Children of San Jose De Urquico village were given flip flop, which were made possible through donations.

Being a Missionary Is the Biggest Blessing

Bryan & Jacob 1000MM 55th Batch Greetings to brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ all around the world! We are 55th batch missionaries of 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM), Bryan and Jacob. It is our privilege to share our story with you.

We have been sent to San Jose De Urquico village, upper Luzon area, which is full of beauty and grace. The way of living here is simple. Most of the people's source of income and consumption here is from farming of rice and vegetables. The source of water is from pumps. When we came here for the first time and we saw our house, we thought it looked like a gazebo. The house is too small for us because one of us (Jacob, actually) is tall, but the home is comfortable enough for us to sleep. We were not so used to it at first, but we are happy and thankful that we have been provided a place to stay.

During the first day of our stay in this place, we saw the back of the elder's house, and we saw that it was barren, so we planned to plant vegetables. We asked permission from the elder, who in turn allowed us and even joined us. The seeds started to grow and became bigger, and a couple of months later, at last, we see the fruits of our labors. As we see the growth of what we planted, the word of Jesus became our faith. "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy, thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."

We also met all the brethren here, and they warmly welcomed us. I was amazed because most of the members are young people, and there are also many children in this village.





1000MM missionaries Jacob (left) and Bryan (right)

Later we learned that children in the village have been coming to our church for worship services on the Sabbath. We are blessed to have young people who help us to teach those children who come to our church.

However, we did not have enough money to feed the young people after we did the children's program. We prayed to God about what we needed, and we started to ask the local people and even people from abroad for help. A few weeks later, God answered our prayers and we received responses from some people. They donated money to support our children's program. Our God is alive and always listening to our prayer! He provided all our needs for the ministry. By God's grace, we were also able to prepare a gift for the children to protect their feet. It is such a blessing to be part of God's plan. While we were preparing and providing flip flops as a gift for our beloved children, joy and happiness were totally ours. We truly experienced that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

We had an online crusade led by the church pastor and the youth in Urquico village. We desired to unite to serve the Lord. At the end of the 15-day online crusade, by the grace of God, twelve souls decided to follow Jesus. Praise the Lord, who makes what we seed fruitful! What kind of experience can be greater and more exciting, more marvelous, and gracious than a missionary life, which is a bridge of God's blessing for the world? We are incredibly thankful for the calling of God to be a missionary, and joining the 1000MM has definitely been the best decision. We place our hope in Jesus, who says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Mission in the Philippines amid COVID-19

Park HaEun 1000MM 55th Batch

Along with Kendra, my Filipino partner, and Betty, my Mongolian partner, the three of us were dispatched in early July 2020 and have been in our mission field in Old Albay Legaspi, Philippines, for about two months now.

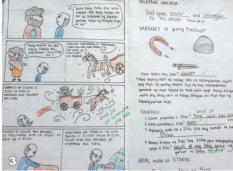
After two weeks of quarantine in the church and a week of self-quarantine at home, which adds up to a total of three weeks of quarantine, we were finally able to get out of the room and feel the fresh air. When we were quarantining on campus, I didn't realize there were so many changes in the Philippines due to COVID-19. The tricycle, one of the main transportations in the Philippines, was able to carry 4 to 5 passengers and has now changed to only 1 passenger per tricycle. Moreover, the Jeepney, transportation in the Philippines that serves as a bus, put up a partition wall for each seat to separate the passengers from any possible physical contact. No matter how hot the weather is, people have to wear masks and face shields everywhere they go. Even entering the market, everyone has to check the temperature before they get in. Once, when I was





- 1. HaEun and her missionary partner Betty visited a home with children.
- The three missionaries made their own children's book, which includes a Bible story with illustrations.
- Since gathering in groups was not allowed due to COVID-19, the missionaries visited where children live and delivered the gospel message.





entering a big market to buy some necessities, they asked me how old I am, and when I said I was 19, they banned me from going in because I was under 21 years of age.

As we got started with our ministry, I could feel more of the impact that the coronavirus brought us. One day, while we were having a great time doing children's ministry at Pinaric, one of the two mission fields that we were assigned to, a police officer told us we could not gather in one place. We later learned that one of the children's parents had called the police. I was very scared and worried wondering what we should do now for our ministry. That same evening, the three of us got together and started praying. "God, please let us know the way. Please help us to open up the hearts of the people in this town."

After a few days, we went to the town hall and asked if it was okay for us to go to the same mission field, and the town officials said that we could not gather in one place like we did last time, but we could still go and visit them. I was so thankful to God. God moved the hearts of the villagers, and I was very happy that He allowed us to revisit our mission field.

Though we were not able to shake their hands and get super close with them, the children were so happy, and they welcomed us with the brightest smiles. In this type of situation, we were concerned about how we were to deliver the message to our children. Then we came up with an idea that we should give them a handout with a short Bible story. We bought some paper, drew some pictures, made simple questions, and gave it to the children with crayons. Later on, when we checked their papers, we were so happy to see the effort they had put into coloring the pictures and answering the questions.

As I mentioned earlier, we have another mission field. It is called Banyadero. This place was in the countryside, so it was relatively easier to gather than at the other place. That's why we were able to do more activities with the kids there. We taught them

action songs, Bible stories, and recently we started teaching them how to play the flute recorder. Thanks to the children's smiles and hard work, we were able to do the ministry with a more positive vibe and energy.

I think I'm getting to know more about God here and can feel His love every day. I realized every little thing contains God's love. Here are some ways I have sensed God's presence in the mission field:

- 1. When we were worried about how to get home at night, God sent us a church brother who drove us home safely.
- 2. When the weather was so hot, God gave a cool breeze.
- 3. Children and their parents welcomed us with warm smiles.
- 4. A grandmother came to us wanting to have Bible studies.
- 5. The barangay hall, which initially stopped us from gathering with the children, later allowed us to do so.
- 6. God helped the three of us partners get along well.
- 7. We have delicious meals every day.
- 8. We are able to see beautiful nature every day.
- 9. God gave me the chance to meet a very good landlord's family member.
- 10. I thought that there's nothing I could do, but God gave me a ministry that I can do.
- 11. There is lots of water in our mission field.
 - I thank God for all these things that He has provided for me.

WORLD CHURCH DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

