



NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION
 THE MOST CHALLENGING FIELD

NEWS & VIEWS

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January/February 2021



**NSD 2020-2025
 Strategic Focus**



The NSD has decided to embark on the strategic plan of *I Will Go*, the mission initiative the Adventist World Church launched for the new quinquennium.

I Will Go: The Holy Impulses of Those Who Accept Jesus Christ

The holy impulse that naturally rises in the spirit and behavior of those who accept Jesus Christ and obey His words is the desire to lead people to Jesus. Therefore, a true Christian is reborn as a missionary at the same time he becomes a Christian.

“Every true Christian will possess a missionary spirit, for to be a Christian is to be Christlike. The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Savior” (*Testimony Treasures, vol. 2, 126*). “No sooner does one come to Christ than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus; the saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart” (*Steps to Christ, 78*).

In Lamentations 20:9 Jeremiah the prophet cries out, “If I say, I will not mention him or speak any more in his name, his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.” Jeremiah was a true Christian and missionary.

The apostle Paul confesses in 1 Corinthians 9:16, “Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” He is also a Christian and a missionary like Jeremiah. Therefore, a missionary is a person who lives a missionary life with every missionary in mind and prepares for and responds to the needs of the mission field. Missionaries who obey and follow where the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Mission, leads, live a “missionary life” where they faithfully carry out what they can do for missionary work every day.

The new year, 2021, has already dawned. During this quinquennium from 2020 to 2025, the NSD will focus on the *I Will Go* mission project. Of course, since the global COVID-19 pandemic has not ended yet, it is expected that there will be lots of obstacles, restrictions, and challenges in various

missionary activities. However, no matter what barriers and constraints lie ahead of us, the *I Will Go* mission that God entrusted to us in this last era will never disappear, never be canceled, or change depending on the environment

and conditions. On the contrary, this mission project we should implement becomes clearer and more distinct.

Here is God’s word, Deuteronomy 6:4-7: “The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” This Bible verse emphasizes the importance of the word of God, but it can be applied to the importance of the practice of the *I Will Go* mission today.

I Will Go missionaries, they live thinking of missionary work. Having had an amazing experience of salvation through the cross and the crucified Lord, they always think of missionary work when they lie down, get up, sit at home, walk along the road and talk to people. Just as it is natural for salt to taste, and just as it is natural to brighten up when there is light, missionary life appears natural in their daily lives. They have received God’s love. They have God’s message for people. They have a prayer request list to pray and manage. They have a distinct mission schedule. They have missionaries to support. They have a promised Holy Spirit. They have a place to go and share the good news with others. They are blessed and precious people living missionary lives as true Adventist Christians in this last era. All of you who read this article are the missionaries of *I Will Go*.



NSD MISSION STATEMENT

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



Kim SiYoung, President
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

TABLE of NEWS & VIEWS CONTENTS

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INSPIRATION I Will Go: The Holy Impulses of Those Who Accept Jesus Christ / **2**

COVER STORY Seventh-day Adventist Strategic Plan 2020-2025 / **4**
NSD Strategic Planning for I Will Go / **6**
Korean Union Conference I Will Go Strategy / **8**
Japan Union Conference I Will Go Strategy / **9**
Mongolia Mission I Will Go Strategy / **9**
Taiwan Conference I Will Go Strategy / **10**
Relationship Between I Will Go and Total Member Involvement / **10**
I Will Go Exemplary Activities / **11**

NEWS FOCUS The Last Concert of Golden Angels 17 / **12**
Testimonies of Golden Angels 17 / **14**

DEPARTMENTAL & REGIONAL NEWS

NSD Annual Council 2020 Takes Place Online **16** KUC Session 2020 Ends Safely in Thorough Quarantine during the COVID-19 Pandemic **17** Creation Sabbath in Mongolia **19** NSD Mission Revival Week **20** Perfect Combination **21** Tusgal School Keeps Shining during the COVID-19 Pandemic **22** Opening of the New SEKC Mission Center **24** Mokdong Church Experiences Revival **26** Jonah and Us **27**

Special Feature I Didn't Know How to Say No / **28**

1000MM Standing in the Presence of God / **31**

God's Plan Must Surely Be Fulfilled / **32**

Family of God / **34**

Villages Struck by Super Typhoon Rolly / **36**

PCM Third PCM Missionaries Dedication Ceremony / **37**

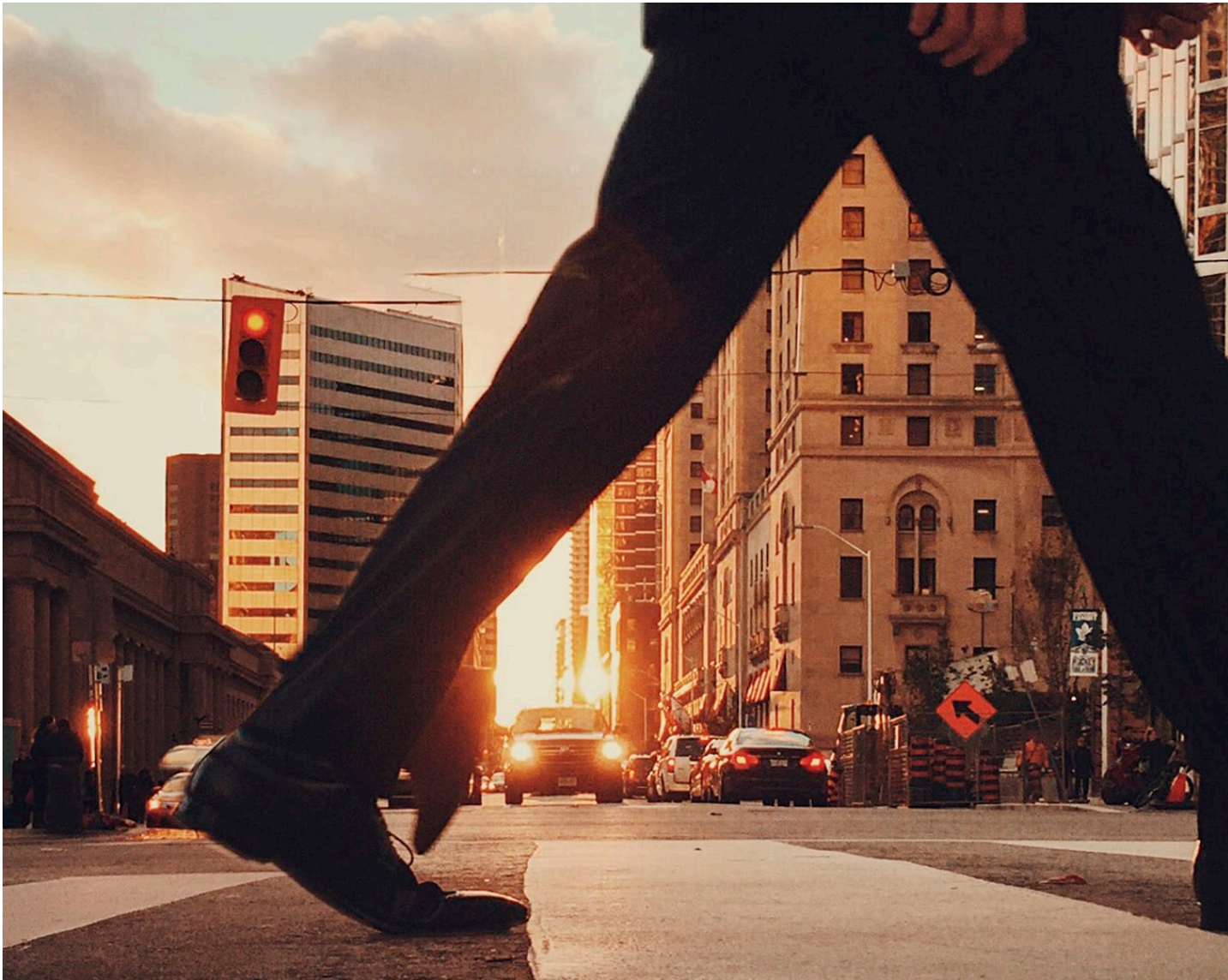
PMM 19th PMM Dedication Service / **38**

Golden Angels We Are One in the Lord: Online Ministry of Golden Angels / **39**

**Vision
One Million
2020**

Mission First in All Activities to Reach the World

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



SEVENTH-DAY ADVE STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025



NTIST

I Will Go is the mission initiative the General Conference launched and shared with all Divisions and world churches for reaching the world. It encourages all church members to be involved in God's mission by using their God-given spiritual gifts in witness and service for Christ.

This initiative is the brand-new strategic plan of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the next five years until 2025. In support of this directive, there are two key passages in the Bible: Isaiah 6:8 and Matthew 28:19, 20.

“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). God is still calling His faithful servants to go and deliver His message. All members should have the voluntary spirit as Isaiah did.

Before His ascension, Jesus gave His last command to His disciples. “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19, 20).

As His church we should respond to His continuous calling and His last command. Also, as the end-time people, we should spread the Three Angels' Messages to our neighbors and community.

The *I Will Go* strategic plan encourages all members to do missionary work in the place where they live. To Seventh-day Adventists, missionary work means going to their neighbors, helping them, and meeting their needs to make friends for God.

“Many are waiting to be personally addressed. In the very family, the neighborhood, the town, where we live, there is work for us to do as missionaries for Christ. If we are Christians, this work will be our delight” (*The Desire of Ages*, 141).

This plan comprises three major themes—Mission, Spiritual Growth, and Leadership—and ten objectives. Under the ten objectives, there are 59 KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) for each Division and even each local church to design action plans for reaching the world.

The details of the strategic plan are based on data collected from Adventist members through several research studies. The 2018 survey of 63,756 Adventists in all 13 world Divisions has a margin of error of one percentage point.

One of the KPI goals for all Divisions is for a “significant increase in the number of church members regularly attending divine service and Sabbath School.” The 2018 survey indicated that church attendance is down by 7 percent. It is now at 71 percent of the church's 21 million members, compared to 78 percent in the previous survey in 2013.

The *I Will Go* strategic plan, reflecting all data, will help us, as Seventh-day Adventists, grow spiritually and become more effective in our mission to the world.



Joo MinHo

NSD Adventist Mission Director





NSD STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR *I WILL GO*



Ron E. M. Clouzet
NSD Ministerial Secretary

When careful planning takes place, an organization has a stronger sense of direction and accomplishment. Without that preparation, its priorities are unclear. When that organization is God's church, strategic planning is even more important.

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division set out to work on its strategic plan for 2020-2025, guided by the *I Will Go* mission initiative for the new quinquennium.

Administrators and departmental directors met in May and June of 2020 to review each of the ten major objectives already articulated by the worldwide church, as well as 59 key performance indicators (KPIs) which identified goals to accomplish those objectives. These indicators were assigned to the different departments or administrative units. An additional 16 KPIs were created that uniquely fit into the context of the NSD. These groups also met with their counterparts from the unions for consultation and feedback.

The NSD developed six questions designed to help leaders accomplish their goals. 1) What is the plan, and does it connect with unions or conferences? 2) What does the plan hope to achieve, and for whom? 3) How will it be measured? 4) What is the time frame (days, months, years)? 5) What actions and resources are needed to get this accomplished? 6) By what date will the plan be accomplished?

These strategic planning meetings also produced a rallying cry for the NSD's evangelistic mission over the next five years called *10/40 with Christ!* Our division is mostly located in the 10/40 window that missiologists have identified as the area of the world with the greatest need of the gospel. The challenges here are great. Except for South Korea where a third of its population adheres to Christianity, all other countries have little Christian background. Japan is secular. Mongolia has deep roots in spiritualism. Taiwan is Buddhist. And North Korea is



atheist. Even in South Korea the challenge is significant since Protestants hold a strong prejudice against Seventh-day Adventists.

This rallying cry for Jesus is defined by two measurable goals that reflect the numbers 10 and 40. The first one is to increase church attendance to 100,000 (or ten 10,000); and the second one is to lead 40,000 new believers to baptism and membership in the church. Low church attendance has characterized sections of our division for some time, even before COVID-19 struck. So, this first goal will be a challenge to reach. And before the reorganization in 2019, China brought by far the largest number of baptisms into the division. Without China, the second goal of 40,000 new members is indeed a worthy challenge for our church to strive for.

But all things are possible with the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 19:26; Mark 9:23)! And God's greatest strategic plan has always been to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). Our prayers are that leaders, pastors, missionaries, and committed lay members will dedicate their lives and energies on behalf of the cause of Christ, so we can shout, at the end of this quinquennium: *10/40 with Christ!*

NSD PRESIDENT'S ENCOURAGING MESSAGE



The General Conference has launched the *I Will Go* mission strategy for the quinquennial years 2021-2025. This initiative involves all church members in reaching the world, inspiring and equipping them to use their God-given spiritual gifts in witness and service for Christ.

Aligning with this, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division has set up two major mission goals with the theme: *10/40 with Christ!* The first goal is to increase church attendance every Sabbath to 100,000. The second is to bring 40,000 new members baptized into the church. We believe this goal can be reached if all churches, institutions, school leaders, pastors, and lay members work with a united spirit.

“Evangelism, the very heart of Christianity, is the theme of primary importance to those called to herald God’s last warning to a doomed world. We are in time’s closing hours, and the Advent message must swell to a loud cry reaching the uttermost parts of the earth” (*Evangelism*, 5). Mission is not optional for a follower of Jesus. It is not a choice. The Great Commission is the God-given mandate. Therefore, all of us should arise and go forward to reach the people around us, saying, “*I Will Go.*”





KOREAN UNION CONFERENCE

I WILL GO STRATEGY

The Korean Union Conference (KUC) established the *I Will Go* plan in step with the NSD.

The goals are as follows:

1. Average church attendance: 70,000 members.
2. Tithe: 75.6 billion won.
3. New Christian disciples: 25,000 members.
4. Church planting in metropolitan cities: 10 churches.
5. Organize 50 new mission teams to plant churches in metropolitan cities.

In doing this, we plan to increase the number of church members to 280,000 within the next session. Above all, we plan to carry out an active ministry to increase attendance for young adults (30s and 40s), youth, and children.

The specific goals are as follows:

1. Young adults increase from 13,242 to 15,000 members.
2. Youth increase from 14,861 to 15,000 members.
3. Children increase from 9,508 to 10,000 members.

Specifically, we plan to carry out the “Bible Worker 3,000 Movement” to cultivate active disciples. For this purpose, we will also develop a Bible Textbook Application (APP) that Bible teachers can use to teach the Bible more easily.

For media ministry, we are going to radically restructure the organization and develop digital ministry that fits the current era. And for pioneering missions, we will try to plant a new type of church—focused on people and ministry-centered pioneering movements rather than buildings and space centered high-cost, low-efficiency structures.

Until the day when all God’s people become gospel missionaries, we can never stop encouraging, training, and preparing His people.

Lord, here I am, send me!

I Will Go!

JAPAN UNION CONFERENCE

I WILL GO STRATEGY

The church began with one order from Christ—The Great Commission. Jesus said, “Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations” (Matthew 28:19). In response to this, there is a need for disciples of Christ who are devoted to saying, “*I Will Go!*” as Isaiah responded to God’s call in Isaiah 6:8. The General Conference is appealing to the churches around the world to participate in this *I Will Go* project for the next quinquennium.

This plan will not replace what we’ve already been doing. For example, *Total Member Involvement* will fulfill the *I Will Go* plan while

creating new initiatives and improve the ones we are already doing. *I Will Go* is not some feel-good slogan for lukewarm members to comfortably observe mission from afar. I would like the Japanese churches and church members to fully embrace the calling God has placed on them. Jesus commanded: “Therefore GO and make disciples of all nations,” and this is our opportunity to say, “*I Will Go.*” Let us go and testify of Christ to our family, friends, and neighbors and pray that they will be another disciple of Christ. *I Will Go!*



MONGOLIA MISSION

I WILL GO STRATEGY

The Mongolia Mission (MM) is excited to take part in the 2020-2025 General Conference *I Will Go* mission project. Our main focus will be discipleship and evangelism.

Through discipleship training and evangelism, our goal is to increase souls in the Adventist Church with:

1. 1000 new baptisms.
2. 1,500 regular attendees in 35 churches, and 10 new congregations by the year 2025.

The following key targets will be achieved by MM over the next five years:

1. Competent leaders in each church.
2. 100 percent self-supporting churches.
3. 60 percent of MM church leaders supported by local tithe.

My dear colleagues and church lay leaders, the MM administrators and department directors will work together with the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) to achieve these goals. The strength and potential of our cooperative alliance can achieve even more than the above-stated goals. And our all-powerful God will work with us and enable us to achieve them. Lastly, I would like to give you a special reminder from the Bible: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

May God Almighty bless the *I Will Go* mission project, NSD leaders, all our fellow workers and church lay leaders in Mongolia Mission. Amen.





TAIWAN CONFERENCE *I WILL GO* STRATEGY

This is a wonderful plan and goal, and it is in line with the mission brought about by the teachings of God. The Bible says, “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age’” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Goals for 2020 to 2025

I. Total Member Involvement

The Taiwan Conference continues to engage its members in this initiative through community service activities while enlisting church members to actively participate in reaching out to their communities. Through TMI, doors will continue to open to the populations in Taiwan who have not yet experienced the saving power of Jesus.

II. Pastor training and small group ministry goals

We intend to implement an aggressive small group ministry goal, starting with 100 small groups through 2021 and increasing it to 400 by 2023 and up to 1,600 by 2025. Each small group will follow up and train small group leaders and members and set the goal to lead 1 to 2 people per year.

III. 2020 – 2025 Church Plant Ministry in large cities based on populations with more than 200,000 people in the district

1. New Taipei City: Population of 4,028,324 people (Xinzhuang District, Zhonghe District, Tucheng District and Yonghe District)
2. Taichung City: Population of 2,816,819 people (Xitun District and Taiping District)



3. Kaohsiung City: Population of 2,769,434 (Sanmin District and Zuoying District)
4. Taipei City: Population of 2,615,642 people (Daan District, Beitou District, Wenshan District and Zhongshan District)
5. Taoyuan City: Population of 2,262,440 people (Zhongli District and Bade District)
6. Tainan City: Population of 1,876,829 people (East District)

IV. Hold a public evangelism meeting once a year with the full support of all department directors.

“Message to Be Given Quickly. The Lord has shown me that there is a work to be done in the cities that is scarcely entered upon. This question of the work in the cities is to become a living question with us. We must not now lay plans for a long, extended work. The message is to be carried quickly. The long delay in carrying out the instruction of the Lord regarding work in the cities has made the work of reaching all classes more difficult. The work must be undertaken at once, and the Lord calls for consecrated laborers who will engage in earnest effort according to the light He has given” (*Ministry to the Cities*, 26).

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN *I WILL GO* AND TOTAL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

During the previous quinquennial period, we encouraged all church members to participate in the *Total Member Involvement* (TMI) initiative. It was our motto for reaching the world. All local churches and church members happily involved themselves in God’s mission through community service and meeting the needs of those around them in winning souls to the Lord.

I Will Go is the comprehensive strategic plan for God’s mission based on the TMI spirit. Therefore, when the *Total Member Involvement* spirit is embedded in doing God’s mission, we can fulfill the next phase of *I Will Go*. They go together and cannot be severed from each other. All institutions, all local churches, and all church members should be involved in reaching the world. That is, *I Will Go*!

That is why we can say, “If there’s no *Total Member Involvement*, there’s no *I Will Go*.”

I WILL GO EXEMPLARY ACTIVITIES

MISSION POSSIBLE

The spread of COVID-19 stopped most activities due to the declaration of a state of emergency. Although the state of emergency has been lifted for all of Japan since May 2020, most churches are struggling to start mission activities. Young people were hoping to continue the Youth Rush programs this summer as usual, but the spread of COVID-19 resulted in a cancellation of the programs that required lodging. Youth leaders prayed and discussed what they could do, and they decided to ask the youth to think up alternative programs to replace Youth Rush for the summer of 2020.

As a result, they came up with about forty ideas. Five of these programs were carried out with many people participating. One of the five programs was “Mission Possible.” It was a simple plan. Every morning they had short online worships connecting participants from different prefectures. After that, participants prayed and committed to hand out at least one flier during the day. They found there were many opportunities to hand out the fliers, such as to non-Christian friends, co-workers, a beautician, and a postal worker.

We discovered from this “Mission Possible” program that we need only a little courage and the opportunities opened to hand out fliers all around us. Currently, we cannot canvas, and our gatherings are limited due to COVID-19. Thus,



we tend to think our mission is impossible.

But in the midst of COVID-19, we are hopeful that through a small flier at least one person will be able to connect with another person and save souls who do not yet know Jesus. The mission is possible.



WITNESS OF GOD

The church members of Taichung Church in Taiwan participate in a community service program twice every quarter where they walk a hiking trail and give hikers a bottle of water, boiled eggs, and hand sanitizer. At the same time, they hand out a mission booklet and offer a prayer for them. They also conduct home visitations in isolated areas to warm people’s hearts through God’s word and to let them know of the free gift of salvation.

God wants us to be a witness for Him. Witnessing is never about us, but it’s always about God. We may ask this question every day to ourselves: “How many people have heard the gospel from my own lips?” Witnessing is the divine calling to each Christian. Our duty as a disciple is to go and follow Jesus. He wants us to become fishers of men. Therefore, you and I will go. We are not alone because God will lead us.



Bring Him all my problems
그분께 저의 모든 문제를 가져갑니다



THE LAST CONCERT OF GOLDEN ANGELS 17

In 2020, when the world lived in fear due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 17th batch of Golden Angels, the singing missionaries of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), continued to spread God's love around the world. On November 14, 2020, the missionaries held their annual concert at Hong MyungKi Hall in Sahmyook University, Seoul, under the two themes of "There Are No Unknown Soldiers" and "The Final Battle's Ended."

Throughout the year 2020, it seemed that the name of "Golden Angels" was overshadowed by the unpredicted spread of the coronavirus. It resulted in unprecedented happenings, such as cancellations of all scheduled trips to foreign countries and loss of opportunity to sing on stage. However, where there was no hope for the future and everything seemed to disappear, the eight missionaries accepted the reality and decided to move forward. As the title of the concert states, no one has been forgotten in the presence of God. It was revealed that God delights

in any little effort. This is why the 17th group was able to continue their ministry in 2020 without giving up.

The concert was held simultaneously onsite and on YouTube livestreaming so that more people were able to watch the concert safely in the midst of the pandemic. During the first part of the concert, titled "There Are No Unknown Soldiers," the Golden Angels made beautiful harmony through songs, such as "The God I Serve," "Jesus Messiah," "Step into the Water," etc. During the second part, "The Final Battle's Ended," they praised God with songs, such as "No Greater Love," "When Life Gets Broken," "Oceans," etc.

After the second part of the concert, Pastor Kim NakHyung, NSD music ministries director, shared with the audience the mission work done by the Golden Angels in the year 2020. He said, "The COVID-19 pandemic affected all aspects of the Golden Angels ministry. The virus completely destroyed all of their plans. However,

they built a new, unprecedented platform of music ministry, and they have made a miracle that amazed the world. There is no disappointment in God's calling!"

NSD president Kim SiYoung delivered a plaque of appreciation to the 17th Golden Angels members. He said, "I am very proud of these young people who dedicated their precious time to God for missionary work, especially this year, when the entire situation pressed them to give up. I thank them for believing God's promises and for continuing with their ministry. Their music has the power to change people's minds and lead people to Christ because their songs are their testimonies of experiencing Him." He encouraged them to continue to serve as missionaries to bring souls to Christ.

Also, Pastor Cho DaeYeon, associate coordinator of Golden Angels, said, "The deeper the darkness, the brighter the stars shine. Stars don't complain about the darkness. The 17th batch of Golden Angels have spent time like those stars, so their music has shone more brightly and has been able to touch many people's hearts."

After the pastors' words of encouragement, the 18th group missionaries appeared on the stage and sang, "My Name Is Jesus." Then, the 17th and 18th groups joined together to finish the annual concert with the song, "Amazing Grace + Arirang."

Through the annual concert, both the audience and the missionaries were touched by God's faithfulness. Church members in Argentina, Japan, and other countries who watched the concert through online broadcasting said, "I couldn't see God with my own eyes, but I believe that the grace of God was leading the missionaries through online ministries."

In the interview clip that was shared during the concert, an interviewer asked the question, "Would you participate in the Golden Angels again, knowing that COVID-19 was going to explode?" They all answered "Yes" as though there was no other option. It was a definite answer that

"The Deeper the Darkness, the Brighter the Stars Shine"

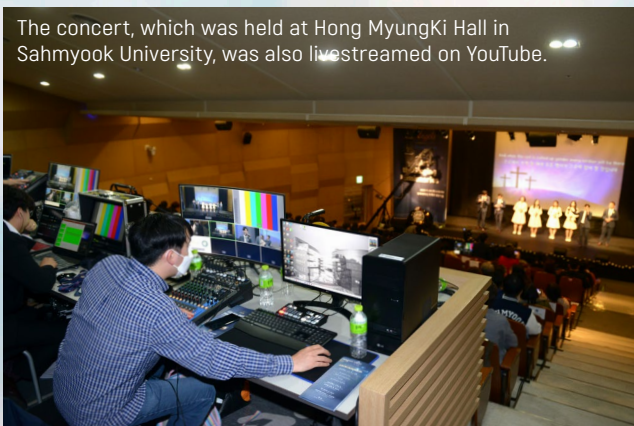
came entirely from their belief in God. Throughout the year, they knew very little about what was ahead of them, so they had to learn simple obedience to God.

All eight members shared the same sentiment in their testimonies: "This year was the most precious year of my life." As their Golden Angels ministry is limited to the year 2020, they may feel disappointed that the COVID-19 situation has not abated, but God has controlled all things and He called them as missionaries at this time and allowed them to do their work. For some people, this year may seem like a failure, but the members realize that it was the most meaningful year in God's great plan. How many tears, prayers, effort and praises there have been until they could say with conviction, "There is no failure in God's missionary work." They also said that they sincerely pray that their story will comfort the hearts of many church members living in fear and uncertainty from the pandemic.

Kim HyoKi, leader of the 17th batch, said during the concert, "People try to hold onto honor, wealth, and other achievements, but we decided that we would focus only on God. We decided not to be afraid of being forgotten, but be afraid of being forgotten by God. When I kept reminding myself of this, I could find peace and comfort. We've been moving forward, believing that He never forgets us, never gives us up."

After the concert, the Golden Angels worked on producing online praise videos to send to Pioneer Mission Movement pastors serving in Taiwan. Other videos will be sent to Taiwan Adventist College. Also, they plan to support the online evangelistic meeting of Paju International Church and a church on Jeju Island. They ask for your prayers and encouragement so that the sound of praising God can be spread continuously by the Golden Angels ministry.

The concert, which was held at Hong MyungKi Hall in Sahmyook University, was also livestreamed on YouTube.



TESTIMONIES

Kim HyoKi

It was a year during which I could think deeply about true praise. It is a humble and sincere praise. And God never forgets such praise and testimonies. A singing missionary should live according to the lyrics of the song he or she sings. I will be a singing missionary for the rest of my life, following the lyrics I sing.



Kamino Seika

It was a year of trying to get closer to God. Everything was new to me: living in a foreign country, singing praises with colleagues, and everything being canceled because of COVID-19. But I believe that through Bible meditation, God has taught me the attitude of seeking God at any time and under any circumstances. I will go back to my regular life in my country next year, but I will live with the living faith that I learned from living as a missionary.

Weijie (Frank) Kao

This year means a lot to me because I had a different experience that previous Golden Angels missionaries could not have. We could not go outside of Korea due to COVID-19, but with God's guidance we pioneered a new path and achieved it. Also, personally, it was a time to have courage to face challenges and learn about myself.



Lee YeeOn

Through this year, God has taught me that living with Him begins with small things. I was not able to throw away all my old habits at one time, but I have tried to build a life of living with God. I used to think that I had no power to get up again when I fell down with mistakes and regrets, but I learned that falling is part of God's lesson for me and He says, "You can have another starting point."

OF GOLDEN ANGELS 17

Kim JiYoon

In 2020, I learned the way to find God even when I make mistakes. I learned that even when I am falling apart, God always holds me firmly. He has always prepared the way for us. I don't think I could have had this experience anywhere. A year as a Golden Angels missionary will be remembered as the most special time of my life.



Ko EunWoo

“A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps” (Psalm 16:9). The expected ways were closed, but in the midst of this pandemic situation, I was always able to build a trusting relationship with God and move forward as I saw Him opening the way through YouTube, online evangelistic meetings, and other ways. Whenever I felt difficulty because things were not what I had expected, God was the Commander-in-chief who turned the situation around beautifully.



Seo JuHee

Through the Golden Angels ministry, God taught me the importance of ministry. Through Bible meditation every morning, I was able to establish a closer relationship with God and set a goal of following Jesus. In particular, the success or failure of a ministry does not depend on the number of souls or evangelistic meetings or mission work, but it depends on how sincerely and honestly you care for your souls at the moment.

Choi JoonSoo

After the COVID-19 outbreak, the world changed in a lot of ways—I think our Adventist Church also needs to accept those changes. This year, I learned video editing and YouTube broadcasting for Golden Angels ministry. Some might say that the Golden Angels 17th group lost a year, but we are sure that we have prepared for life-long ministry here. It was a time to prepare myself for the rest of my life, which will be dedicated to God.

NSD Annual Council 2020 Takes Place Online



Song SungSub
NSD Associate Secretary

From November 5 to 9, 2020, the Annual Council of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) took place via ZOOM due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the Annual Council, for two days from November 3 to 4, the officers' councils and departmental interviews were conducted with leaders from the Korean Union Conference, Japan Union Conference, Taiwan Conference, and Mongolia Mission, using the ZOOM breakout rooms.

All the meetings during the Annual Council, including sub-committees or standing committees and institutional constituency meetings, were conducted using the ZOOM conference platform. Because of social distancing and mandatory quarantine regulations for people traveling into Korea from other countries in order to prevent the spread of the virus, the best choice for the NSD year-end meetings was virtual meetings, which has never been an option before.

Although the virtual meetings were not as good as physical attendance meetings in the areas of emotional contact and interactive communication with face-to-face and eye contact, the attendance rate was very high from beginning to end. Praise the Lord!

For the devotional message of the Annual Council opening day, the General Conference (GC) president Ted Wilson encouraged the participants by saying, "Nothing including the Covid-19 pandemic is going to stop the proclamation



of the everlasting gospel and the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14, because this is God's movement, and this is God's special people. I hope that each of you has fixed in your mind the amazing identity of who Seventh-day Adventists are."

During the Annual Council, the full expanded executive committee members received and approved the various agenda items, including authorized meetings, budgets, and institutional reports. According to the treasury report, thankfully the church members gave tithes and offerings faithfully and generously, keeping a positive income balance and sound financial situation in spite of fears of a global economic recession due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NSD strategic plan, "*I Will Go*," was presented to the participants. This strategic plan follows the GC initiative, which is the Adventist global movement launched in 2020. The report on the NSD strategic plan indicated specific goals, including membership and church growth, discipleship trainings, missionary sending, and various mission activities in the territories of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, Korean Union Conference, Japan Union Conference, Taiwan Conference, and Mongolia Mission.

Since the year 2020 is the regular session time for NSD institutions, Taiwan Adventist Hospital, Taiwan Adventist College, Signs of the Times Publishing Association, Adventist Multi-cultural Family Service Center, the NSD Leadership Training Center, and the NSD Geoscience Research Institute had their own constituency meetings in conjunction with this Annual Council. At their constituency meetings, new institutional board members were elected for the next five-year term. These newly composed boards will elect their

institutional presidents or chief executive directors at their first board meeting, respectively, after the constituency meetings.

At the constituency meeting of Taiwan Adventist Academy, a significant decision was made to transfer its ownership and governance from Taiwan Adventist College to Taiwan Conference. The constituency members, who were the NSD Executive Committee members, the board members, and the school faculty members, reached the decision on the transition with the expectation that the Taiwan Conference will be more effective in recruiting students to the school.



The Northern Asia-Pacific Division headquarters in Paju, South Korea



KUC Session 2020 Ends Safely in Thorough Quarantine during the COVID-19 Pandemic



Han SukHee
NSD Communication Director

The Korean Union Conference's 36th Session was held on December 6, 2020, with the slogan "I Will Go," a strategy for concentrating on missionary work during the new term of the Korean Union Conference (KUC) in accordance with the General Conference. The session, which was held amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, was "multi-location" in a "one day" and "untact" manner, reflecting the quarantine authorities' social distancing guidelines and concerns of the third outbreak of COVID-19.

Representatives from various regions across the country gathered at the Byeollae Church, which serves as the site of the headquarters, as well as four large churches that are located near the headquarters. All processes were operated by both video conferencing and face-to-face meetings. Since the meeting, which normally takes three days, was reduced to a one-day event this time, it mainly focused on appointments, such as the election of new leadership, rather than policy discussions.



“The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 made us face numerous challenges both inside and outside the church,” Kim SiYoung, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, said in the opening sermon. “We should look to God, who governs the history of the world. I hope today’s session will be a time of deep reflection on God. According to His guidance, we should plan, decide where to go, and serve the church.”

Attendees were briefed on various projects, including “Hope 2020,” conducted by KUC over the past five years. The reports of five local conferences and institutions under KUC, such as hospitals, educational institution, a publishing house, a food company, and others, were made by video and written documents in order to save time.

With more than a majority of the representatives present at the nominating committee’s proposal, Pastor Kang Soon-Ki, who was serving as the president of the East Central Korean Conference, was elected as the new president of KUC, to work for the next five years. Pastor Park JungTaek, who was working as the president of the South West Korean Conference, was appointed as the new executive secretary, and Elder Park JongKyu, who was serving as an internal auditor of Sahmyook University, was elected as treasurer.

Pastor Kang SoonKi, the newly elected leader of KUC, said in his acceptance speech, “I feel a heavy responsibility for God’s calling and the words of the prophet Isaiah pass through my mind, ‘Woe to me, I am ruined, and I am a man of unclean lips.’ It is hard and sad to look

at various problems Korean churches face, but I believe that God has a way to solve these problems, and I will follow him.”



Pastor Kang SoonKi, the newly-elected leader of KUC



1. NSD president Kim SiYoung
 2. Former KUC president Hwang ChunKwang
 3. The meeting was held under safety measures and all attendees followed social distancing guidelines.

Looking back on his term, Pastor Hwang ChunKwang, former president of KUC, said, “Big and small things constantly happened in both society and the church. None of the days were easy. Moreover, in 2020, the last year of the quinquennium, people had to live with constraints and crises due to the coronavirus. But under all circumstances, God has always been with us. Every day was entirely through God’s grace.”

Then, he thanked church members and pastors across the country for cooperating for the past five years, saying, “We should always look at Jesus Christ and stand firmly on the word of God and walk the path of a true Adventist. Whether you get the time or not, in season and out of season, you should arm yourself with Isaiah’s ‘I Will Go’ spirit, spread the gospel, and focus on your mission to save people.”

NSD president Kim SiYoung said in an appreciation speech, “Even though the last term was a time of challenges and difficulties, KUC planned and promoted various mission projects that were timely and appropriate. I am sure that KUC is heading in a future-oriented direction, which focuses on strengthening local churches and implementing practical mission strategies particularly for children and youth.”

KUC’s 36th Session held with the slogan “I Will Go” ended at 9 p.m., accommodating the one-day schedule. As it was held in the pandemic situation, the meeting was strictly in compliance with quarantine guidelines. There were some minor technical problems due to a blending of online and offline, but overall, all the steps, procedures, and programs ran smoothly by God’s grace and guidance.

Creation Sabbath in Mongolia

Munkh-Orgil Lkhagvaa
MM Children's Ministries Director

Mongolia shifted to a democracy thirty years ago, and Christianity came to this country after that. To Mongolia, the gospel was not only about Jesus Christ, but also about God the Creator. Mongolian people, who have been taught only that “labor created man himself” for 70 years before democracy, have just heard the truth that God created human beings. However, a majority of schools teach Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution. Therefore, Christians, especially Seventh-day Adventists, have a greater responsibility than anyone else to teach and proclaim the truth of creationism.

For the first time, the Children’s Ministries department of Mongolia Mission (MM) organized a special program on Creation Sabbath, which is officially announced by the Adventist world church. From October 24 to 25, 2020, the Creation Sabbath event was held at the Suut Resort of the Adventist Church, located 57 km from Ulaanbaatar, and 70 children and 12 instructors registered for the program. The children were Pathfinders and Adventurers from Ulaanbaatar Central Church’s Pioneers Club, Amgalan Church’s Faith Keepers Club, Lord Is My Fortress Church’s Fortress Club, Maranatha Church’s Future Club, and the Seventh Trumpet Club of the Amazing Grace Church.

Pastor Nyamsuren Myagmar, MM ministerial secretary, was invited to the special program. During the morning and evening devotion time, Pastor Nyamsuren gave an interesting seminar on creationism. He also shared with the children his personal experiences from his travels and life.

The instructors divided the children into groups and provided trainings according to the schedule, and each class included creative activities. The Adventurers participated in Astronomer Award, My Feathered Friend Award, Habitat Award, Fish Award, and Friend of



Instructors of the Creation Sabbath event

Nature Award. The Pathfinders pursued the Stars Honor, Mountain Honor, River and Stream Honor, Bird Honor, Fish Honor, and Amphibians Honor.

At the end of the event, a scarf was given to new members of Pathfinders and Adventurers. Pastor Nyamsuren, who taught Creationism, was the first to present the Creationism Honor to the children. Then, all the instructors handed out the awards and honors for the subjects they taught and officially completed the program. Each participant was overjoyed to complete this program, successfully defending seven honors for Pathfinders and five awards for Adventurers. The event involved many children who have non-Adventist parents, some of whom had just heard of creationism.

The MM Children’s Ministries department is committed to making this Creation Sabbath program an annual tradition, providing an opportunity to teach children about God the Creator and creationism through this program.

Seventy children in Mongolia joined the two-day Creation Sabbath event.





NSD Mission Revival Week

Joo MinHo

NSD Adventist Mission Director

From October 19 to 23, 2020, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) had a mission revival week. This special week aims to boost and enhance the mission spirit in the hearts of NSD workers. The Adventist Mission department decided to find speakers who have had good experiences in doing mission work in the Division territories and even beyond. Five speakers were invited to share their testimonies and mission stories for five days.

On the first day of the week, Pastor Kim JeongTae, Pioneer Mission Movement missionary working in Vietnam, joined online as a speaker to share his mission stories during COVID-19. As a foreign pastor in Vietnam, he received the document giving him permission to preach. This is not the usual case, but he was able to get that permission and to open the International Church in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, by God's grace. Although the COVID-19 pandemic

has not subsided, his church is providing community service for the people, especially giving lunch boxes to people on the street.

On the second day, Lee ChunOk, deaconess at Chuncheon Central Church in Korea, shared her service experience with voluntary ministry for North Korea defectors. When North Korea defectors arrive in Korea via other countries, they stay in Hana Center for a couple of months to receive necessary education on how to adjust themselves to the new society and live as South Korean citizens. After completing that education, they are released to live by themselves in the society. From that time, North Korea defectors need some help from voluntary helpers. Deaconess Lee has been working as one of the volunteers. While helping those people, she has led some North Korea defectors to the Adventist Church. She is still caring for around ten defectors with love.

Pastor Yutaka Miyamoto, who is serving in Kashiwa Church in Japan, was invited as the third speaker for the week. He has been running "Kids' Restaurant" every Saturday for the past five years. This is a part of the church becoming the center of influence in their community. Kids' Restaurant is a means to meet the need of the community by providing free lunches for children. Every Sabbath, 10 to 30 children attend the church for lunch, and church members and volunteers from their community are teamed up to provide free meals. The church also offers free tutoring classes for elementary school students and junior high school students whose families cannot afford to send them to tutoring classes.

On the fourth day, Pastor Cho KiSang from Chunyang Church in Korea visited the NSD to share the story of his church. When he was first assigned to the church,

the church was isolated and its building was decrepit. He convinced the members that they needed to renovate the church. After renovating the physical area of the church, he encouraged his members to provide community service for local people. Members learned how to bake several kinds of breads and cookies. The church invited a professional in foot massage and learned from him how to massage feet. All members started investing their energy and time in providing necessary services for community people. In September 2020, this church baptized six precious souls, and four of them were led through community

services. It is certain that the church was connected to the community through those services.

On the last day, Lee SooKyung, Youngam Church deaconess, spoke to NSD workers about her personal evangelism experiences. She was a psychology professor in college, but she was not satisfied with it. She could not find the satisfactory answer to her life. She studied fortunetelling and combined it with her knowledge of psychology. As a result, she earned a lot of money, but she was still not satisfied. While she successfully pursued her career, she was diagnosed with acute leukemia. This disease led her to an Adventist

hospital, and she had a chance to study the Bible there. She found the truth in the Bible and devoted herself to the Creator God and Redeemer. Later, she started teaching the Bible. During COVID-19, she visited people staying at home and gave them Bible studies. The Youngam Church baptized 12 people in 2020 through her door-to-door visits and teaching of the Bible. (You can read the full story in the next article.)

Throughout the week, the NSD workers were touched by the testimonies and mission stories. The mission spirit must have been instilled in the hearts of the NSD workers.

Perfect Combination

Lee SooKyung, Youngam Church deaconess, was a psychology professor in college, but she did not feel satisfied. She could not find the satisfactory answer to her life. She studied fortunetelling and combined it with her knowledge of psychology. As a result, she earned a lot of money, but she was still not satisfied.

Then she was diagnosed with acute leukemia (blood cancer). For a year, she received chemotherapy. Nevertheless, there was no sign of recovery. After a while, someone introduced her to Yeosu Adventist Nursing Hospital. Learning the Word of God through the Bible every day at that hospital was a wonderful experience she had never had before. She was miraculously healed through the power of God's Word.

After getting baptized, she began attending the Youngam Seventh-day Adventist Church. God prepared her to work in wonderful combination with Elder Lim HyangRye at that church. Elder Lim used her own income to distribute homemade food and gifts to her neighbors. Those who were moved by her gradually became interested in visiting Youngam Church, even to participate in Bible studies. From there SooKyung's role began. She would teach them to give their hearts to God. As a result, the church, where only 18 people initially gathered, has grown into a church of about 50 people. In 2020, Youngam Church baptized 15 people despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Hallelujah!

Elder Lim HyangRye and Deaconess Lee SooKyung



The Bible studies led by Deaconess Lee have led souls to Christ.



Tusgal School Keeps Shining during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Richard A. Sabuin NSD Education Director &
Otgontuya Tserenpil Tusgal School Principal

The academic year from 2019 to 2020 was a tough year for the school due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which deeply disrupted our everyday operations. Since January 27, the Mongolian government imposed a lockdown and all educational institutions were required to run its activities in a non-classroom setting. The decision continued until August 30.

Beginning the second week of February 2020, the school relayed all information to parents regarding the virtual lessons prepared by the government. By March 1, the school staff had successfully managed to transfer to teaching online. Teachers used Google class, Facebook group messenger, ZOOM, and Google drive to post their lessons online. The academic office paid special attention to the quality of all virtual lessons. Everything was organized promptly. While working online, all teachers and staff communicated with each other regularly through online conferencing applications.

During the second and third quarters of the academic year from 2019 to 2020, the teachers of Tusgal School prepared and taught a total of 647 online classes. The decision to loan laptops to five of the teachers during this difficult time proved to be timely and important. The school plans to continue this practice in the future and loan laptops to another five teachers. Commitment has already been made by the school administration to provide the teachers with technical equipment crucial to their professional development.

In the academic year from 2019 to 2020, seventy-two students were awarded scholarships and financial assistance worth 39 million tugriks (about 14,000 USD), whereas for the academic year from

2020 to 2021 sixty-one students were granted scholarships and financial assistance worth 30 million tugriks (about 10,000 USD). Additionally, due to the difficulties caused by the coronavirus outbreak, parents were able to receive a 20% discount for half-year payments for the academic year 2019 to 2020. For this year's tuition, former students have not been subjected to an increased payment.

In order to enhance the educational program, the school provides opportunities that will help students to recognise their hidden talents, develop their skills and discover their



strengths. The school runs ten different kinds of clubs that have been especially adjusted to students' needs and interests. These include aerobics, piano, guitar, clarinet, table tennis, English, etc.

Moreover, throughout the course of a year, the school organizes four to seven different kinds of extracurricular activities that cover topics, such as health, ethics, Mongolian customs, Mongolian language, mathematics and English. These activities are organized by the initiative of the school staff and the students themselves.

Each year, the success of Tusgal School teachers and students has been recognized not only within the local district but also the whole city of Ulaanbaatar. We praise the Lord for what He has done through the teachers and students.

At the start of last school year, the school was recognized as the top school in Chingeltei District. This school year, the school was recognized for the following achievements:

- Two teachers were awarded the “Senior Educator” award by Ulaanbaatar Office of Education

- One teacher was awarded the “Certificate of Honour” by the Mongolian Teachers’ Association
- Three teachers were awarded the title of “Excellence” for their teaching methodology
- Three teachers were awarded by the Tusgal School administration for their teaching methodology
- One teacher was recognized as an “Honourable Teacher” by the Association of Private Primary and Secondary Schools
- One teacher was awarded the “Top Teacher” award by the Association of Private Primary and Secondary Schools

In 2019, the school principal, Ms. Otgontuya Tserenpil, was invited to participate in the Brazilian business forum to introduce the school. This event was an opportunity to share experience and to network. At the end of the forum, a proposal was made to collaborate with Brazil Adventist University (UNASP) Campus 3. That means students from Tusgal School will be able to study at UNASP with a 100% scholarship. Now we must only wait for the pandemic situation to be mitigated.

Since its establishment in 2009, Tusgal School in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, has been doing its best to offer Adventist education. Of the total of about 170 students in this school year, 26% of them are children from Adventists families, studying at the primary and secondary levels of the school. During the COVID-19 pandemic, 50 students left the school to study in public schools for free. However, 40 new students have enrolled at the school.

Principal Otgontuya Tserenpil says, “In the future we will continue to focus on expanding our network, building our foreign relations, improving our academic environment and educating Mongolian children with positive attitudes, keen intelligence and an international outlook.” These are all planned in the context of offering an education with the Adventist philosophy of education that uplifts Christ as the center of all aspects of the school.



Left: Renovated Tusgal School building

Below: The cozy lounge for teachers and students of Tusgal School



The South East Korean Conference (SEKC) held an opening ceremony for their new mission center on November 21, 2020, at the site of the new building in Alpha City District in Daegu, Korea. The SEKC Mission Center was completed 14 months after groundbreaking at a cost of 10 million USD, including land purchase and construction. The building has two basement floors (about 24,000 ft²) and four ground floors (about 27,000 ft²). Office facilities, parking lots, machine rooms, and convenient facilities

were constructed. A new chapel hall was built on the fourth floor. The Shiji New Heaven Church and the Gyeongsan Western Church were merged to become the Alpha City Church.

The construction of the mission center was a long-cherished hope of Adventist members in SEKC. The previous Daemyung-dong office building, which was set up in 1991, was a continuous reminder of the need for relocation or reconstruction due to its narrow space and inconvenient traffic. The SEKC unveiled a blueprint for the

construction of the mission center at the beginning of this term and proceeded with related procedures. In September 2018, the Construction Committee was formed, and construction began on September 26, 2019, with the groundbreaking ceremony. The SEKC plans to move its offices to the new building by the end of 2020.

At the opening ceremony, church leaders from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), the Korean Union Conference (KUC), other local Conferences, constructors, pastors and members from nearby churches attended to celebrate the new chapter of the Conference.

“There were a lot of challenges to get through in each step, from planning to completion, but God prepared things in advance, and gave us strength to keep up the work,” said SEKC president Kim WonSang in his sermon at the service. He cited Psalm 136, “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.” He also expressed his gratitude to the people for their generous devotion and prayer support.

Pastor Kim also thanked those who voiced opposition. He said, “Those opinions helped me to maintain a balance. Thanks to them, we were able to set a more precise, detailed budget and raise funds more carefully.” He continued by saying, “I hope this valuable building will serve as a turning point in the history of the SEKC and will give all church members an opportunity to have confidence in God’s guidance.”

NSD president Kim SiYoung gave a congratulatory message, quoting Nehemiah 12:27, “At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres.” He said, “Through this place,

Opening of the New SEKC Mission Center

Kim BeomTae

Reporter of *Adventist Village*



The newly-built SEKC Mission Center in Daegu, Korea



The SEKC held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new mission center.

the Three Angels' Messages will be delivered to all the people of this region.”

Pastor Hwang ChunKwang, KUC president, also gave his congratulations. “The completion of the SEKC Mission Center is one of the historical moments where God has taken the lead in accomplishing the task. It is the result of tearful prayers, strong faith, and amazing devotion of church members of SEKC, as well as evidence of God’s grace and power. May God bless all those who have worked together to make this possible.”

Adventist Church members who attended the ceremony thanked and praised God that the mission center was completed without any accidents despite the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. “Please make this place a new history of evangelism and revival, so that it can become a center of Adventist faith.”

It is worth remembering that stories of devotion and sacrifices of Adventists are marked in every corner of the building. All pastors and staff members affiliated with the SEKC gave their one-month salary. Adventists institutions in SEKC, including Busan Adventist Hospital and Sahmyook Food Factory, provided financial support. A retired pastor who lives in the SEKC region devoted his one-month retirement pension. Another pastor gave his three-year savings. A retired pastor who used to serve in the SEKC and who now lives in the United States sent a part of the savings for his funeral expenses in order to help his home Conference.



SEKC president Kim WonSang delivered a sermon at the service.

There were other people who donated money in gratitude for God’s grace and mercy. Han JiMan, a Korean medical school student who won a lawsuit against a medical school regarding Sabbath accommodations in January 2019, gave half of his compensation from winning the lawsuit. A patient who is recovering from cancer offered a large part of her insurance compensation, saying that she thanks God that she hasn’t lost her hair during chemotherapy and has had little aftereffects.

The hope of all who have prayed for the completion of this building is that the great commission of Jesus will be fulfilled in the new mission center by continuous prayers of Adventists.

Mokdong Church Experiences Revival

Ron E. M. Clouzet
NSD Ministerial Secretary

The Mokdong Church, along with a dozen other churches in Seoul, held reaping evangelistic meetings the last week of October 2020. However, instead of the typical five or six meetings, Mokdong held 11, to give members and inquirers greater exposure to the Scriptures and the opportunity to make eternal decisions. Dr. Ron Clouzet, ministerial secretary of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), was the speaker.

In addition, the church carefully followed up with a preparation plan that Dr. Clouzet had taught via video at a time when the members could not gather at the church. Pastor Yun HanSu was very happy about the impact the training had on many of the members. They got organized to reach out to missing members (one or two came to the meetings), they participated in a 40-day prayer plan, and they also got involved in the community.

Because the evangelistic meetings had to be translated, each meeting was relatively long, about 1 hour 45 minutes. Pastor Yun expected about 20 people to attend each night, but instead, an average of 34.4 people attended in spite of COVID-19! Others joined online. There were a few non-member interests who attended, an average of 2.55 per night. However, four of them made the decision to be baptized and were baptized on Sabbath, October 31! Nearly 100 people filled the church that wonderful day.

Chun BongSoon is the CEO of her own travel agency. She learned about Adventists through Sahmyook Foods. When she was baptized, she said, “Today, I’m reborn spiritually as a new baby. I pray that I can grow in Jesus day by day.”

Lee SunOk is one of four sisters who grew up as an Adventist but had never made a decision for baptism. This week, she surrendered to Christ, and her family was overjoyed! “Thanks to these meetings, I determined to follow Jesus,” she said.

Shim JungYeon comes from an Adventist family, but had not made her decision to follow Jesus until this week. She said that these meetings were the motivation that led to her decision. “I want to live a life of sincere faith (in Jesus).”

Her cousin, Kim ChaeYoung, studied the Bible with her uncle, Elder Kim KyungMok, and surrendered to Christ during this past



week. “I want to share my faith and the truth with my family, and lead a faithful life,” she expressed.

There was great joy in the church on that Sabbath. Many pictures were taken, and flowers and gifts given. The Holy Spirit took over these four ladies’ lives, and the church rejoiced!

Jonah and Us

Dorjderem Narankhuu
MM Communication Director

On November 11, 2020, Mongolia reported its first case of local transmission of COVID-19, and a nationwide lockdown was imposed again from November 12.

Churches in Mongolia had held worship services via Facebook from the beginning of 2020 to September in response to the spread of the coronavirus. Finally, in mid-September, the COVID-19 lockdown officially ended, and churches resumed their activities, but it didn't last long.

This lockdown is different from the last one. Now we are not even able to go out of our own house. It reminds me of Jonah who was stuck in the whale's stomach, waiting for God's blessing as the whale vomited Jonah out.

Mongolian Adventist churches went back to online worship services using Facebook. Last time, all Adventists in Mongolia worshipped online together, but many problems occurred. This time, the Mongolian Adventist churches are providing their own online worship service. It's a challenging time for churches and church leaders. At the same time, online worshipping helps church pastors and leaders to improve their knowledge and skills on media mission while making and releasing quality church content.

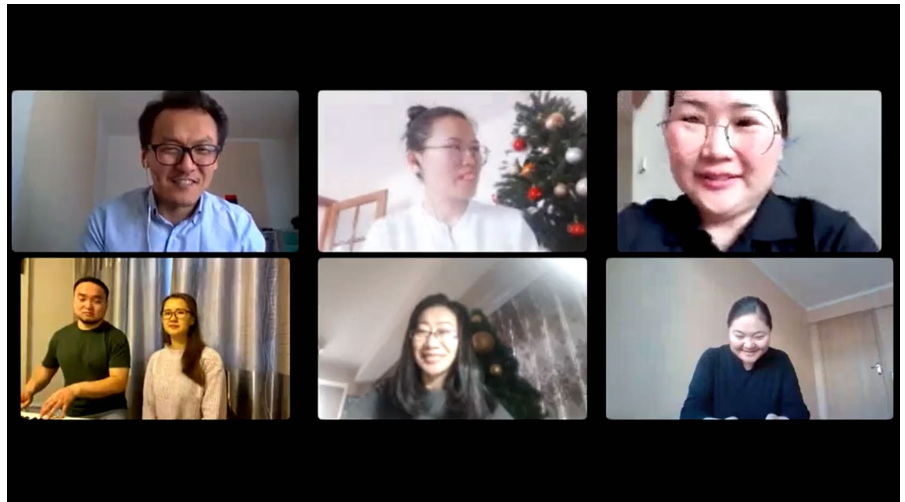
At every worship service, using Facebook's Messenger Room service, we can see and hear each other. We will keep trying to gather together and share the gospel in every possible way until the Lord Jesus returns.

Jonah said, "You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness" (Jonah 4:2). Dear God, help us to get through the pandemic days. Save Mongolia as you saved Nineveh. Amen.



Above: Dr. Clouzet and Pastor Yun preach at the evangelistic meeting at Mokdong Church.

Left: Drs. Clouzet, Pastor and Mrs. Yun with the four newly baptized ladies



Adventists in Mongolia keep worshipping together online during the COVID-19 lockdown.

I Didn't Know How to Say No

Hideko Nagata

Chaplain at Tokyo Adventist Hospital
with Deena Bartel-Wagner
Editor of *The Adventist Chaplain*



Hideko Nagata

This article was first published in *The Adventist Chaplain*, Issue 3, 2017, published by the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Growing up in a non-Christian home, Hideko Nagata never dreamed she would one day become a Christian chaplain. “Although my parents were not Christians, they instilled many values in me,” says Hideko. “Following high school, I took a job as an office clerk.” At work, Hideko made new friends among her co-workers, but social occasions made her feel uncomfortable. “My co-workers often organized drinking parties, and I didn’t enjoy attending those,” says Hideko.

One day as Hideko and a co-worker walked down the street, events would set in motion a life-changing event for Hideko. “My friend met a teacher from the English language school where she studied,” says Hideko. “After she introduced us, we visited for a short time. As we finished our conversation, the teacher invited me to attend vespers at the language school.”

The invitation caught Hideko off-guard. “I didn’t really want to attend, but I also didn’t know how to say no,” says Hideko. “I finally agreed to go.” Unsure of what to expect, Hideko was surprised by the service. “Everyone at the program seemed to be enjoying themselves,” says Hideko. “I couldn’t believe that a group of young people could have fun without drinking alcohol.”

Attracted to the program and the group, Hideko began to attend regularly. She listened carefully and wondered about this God whom the teachers talked about. “When I heard the teachers say that God is love, I was curious what that meant,” says Hideko. “Walking home from the meeting, I thought about this and wanted to learn more.”

For three-and-a-half years, Hideko attended vespers and other programs at the language school. Finally, she decided to be baptized. “My father told me I could not take this step,” says Hideko. “When my father said this, I felt scared. He was the center of my value system. If he thought this was a bad idea, how could I go forward?”

Another 18 months passed before Hideko would finally step forward in faith and enter the waters of baptism. Following this, she began working at the English language school and with the student missionaries who taught classes there. “I learned I enjoy working with people,” says Hideko.

A Book Creates Change

One day Hideko read a book on how to help terminally ill people prepare to die. “This topic fascinated me,” says Hideko. “I decided to ask one of

the doctors at Kobe Adventist Hospital about it. He told me about chaplains and that it is part of their ministry.”

Hideko desired to learn more and made an appointment with the hospital chaplain. “In Japan, it isn’t our custom for women to become pastors,” says Hideko. “I was surprised when the chaplain encouraged me to think about entering into this type of ministry.”

At first, Hideko didn’t think she would be able to follow through with the advice. “I had finished high school, but I had not continued my education,” says Hideko. “The idea of needing both an undergraduate degree and a Master’s of Divinity overwhelmed me.”

Our thoughts and plans for our lives are sometimes different that God’s. “Events kept happening that pushed me to consider getting the education that I needed,” says Hideko. “I had no funds to attend school. My older sister and her husband offered to support me with the funds I needed to obtain my degrees.”

God’s Plans

Hideko attended Pacific Union College and completed her studies for a Bachelor’s in Theology. “When I completed my degree, my advisor told me about a newly designed master’s degree in bioethics offered by Loma Linda University,” says Hideko. “I enrolled and became the first graduate of the program.”

Along the way, Hideko faced discouraging words about her dream of becoming a chaplain. Some asked her why she couldn’t be satisfied being a Bible worker.

“During my studies in the United States, I felt a strong calling to return to Japan and minister there,” says Hideko. The need for the gospel is great among the Japanese people. A chaplain who understands the culture and the way of life, along with the language is an invaluable asset to the hospitals.

Then the chaplain from Tokyo Adventist Hospital shared his excitement with Hideko. “He was very happy about my desire to minister as a chaplain,” says Hideko. “He said I would become the first female chaplain at Tokyo Adventist



Hospital.” Today, Hideko serves as the head chaplain of Tokyo Adventist Hospital.

A conference board meeting served as a turning point for Hideko. “I was not known by anyone at the Japan Union Conference. A meeting was going to be held in which the board would discuss hiring me as a chaplain at Tokyo Adventist Hospital,” says Hideko. “God directed events without me even knowing it. The ministerial director for the East Japan Conference was a member of the board. He had been the pastor at my sister’s church. My former pastor, who was now the ministerial director for the West Japan Conference, also attended.” These two men spoke favorably of Hideko and the board voted to hire her as a chaplain.

A Trailblazer

Trailblazing new territory always provides opportunities to teach others. During Hideko’s first days at Tokyo Adventist Hospital, it seemed some people didn’t quite know how to adjust to a female chaplain. “When I first began working at Tokyo Adventist Hospital, I was required to wear a clerk’s uniform,” says Hideko. This requirement



Hideko Nagata (fourth from left) with the Tokyo Adventist Hospital Administrative Committee.

sometimes caused confusion for the patients and staff. It limited the growth and understanding of the role of the chaplain. Finally, after six long months, Hideko was allowed to wear professional clothing appropriate to her position.

The role of the chaplain's office has grown with the support of the hospital administration. "As I began my chaplaincy ministry, people told me it would be difficult to minister to people's needs in Japan," says Hideko. "I've found the opposite. Although chaplaincy is not well-known outside the hospital setting, when people come here, they are willing to share their stories with me and my staff."

Understanding a patient's spiritual pain is a necessary part of the chaplain's job. "A doctor

once asked me how I know when a patient has spiritual pain," says Hideko. "I replied that when you are overwhelmed with the feeling that you want to run away from the situation, you have been receiving and understanding their pain. Then it is time to turn to them and minister to their hurts and fears."

I Know Everyone Needs to Learn to Pray

Most of the nursing staff at Tokyo Adventist Hospital follow different faith traditions. Daily, these nurses are exposed to the ministry of the Adventist staff members. The nurses watch and listen, and seeds are planted deep in their hearts and minds.

One day, the head nurse told Hideko that a hospice patient was

close to death. "The family wouldn't be able to arrive in time, and the nurse thought it was important that I be with the patient," says Hideko. "We went to her room and I sat by her bed and read Psalm 71. Before I finished, the patient drew her last breath. The nurses who surrounded her bed were not Christians, but they knelt in prayer with me as I prayed for the woman's family."

Modeling prayer and living a Christ-like life does make a difference to those around you. One day a patient admitted to the hospital told the nurse that she wasn't a Christian, but she had come to Tokyo Adventist Hospital to die there. She knew that the hospital was run by Christians and that she would receive good care.

"Then the patient asked the nurse if she would pray for her," says Hideko. "The nurse had heard other Christian nurses pray daily for patients and the nursing staff. Although she didn't know how to pray, this dear nurse invited the patient to pray with her."

Later, the nurse approached Hideko and told her, "I have learned that everyone needs to pray. I want to learn more about Christianity."

Hideko's own family has been touched through her calling to chaplaincy. "Once my parents begged me not to be baptized," says Hideko. "I have witnessed my parents and other family members accept Jesus." All of this was because Hideko didn't know how to say no to an invitation to a vespers service.

The 3rd Adventist Chaplains World Congress, a virtual event was held October 19 to 22, 2020. During the Congress, the ministry of seven women chaplains was recognized during a special tribute. Chaplain Hideko Nagata was one of the featured chaplains. These words were part of the recognition. "We celebrate and honor you today, Chaplain Hideko. We thank you for not knowing how to say no. Because, today, you are able to provide the care, the love and the nurture to those you come in contact with. As you faced discouragement, as you wondered what your dream of becoming a chaplain would look like, you allowed God to lead you. We thank you, honor you, and celebrate you. We ask God to continue to bless you in your ministry."

Standing in the Presence of God

Choi BongGil

Associate Director of the
1000MM Training Center



Pastor Choi and his wife on the campus of the 1000MM training center

Leaving behind the excitement of the World Cup semifinals in the year of 2002, I took my first step in the Philippines as the 20th batch of the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM). Eighteen years later, in the year of 2020, once again, God has called me back to this place, to the 1000MM Training Center campus, as the associate director. Just as with many other 1000MM missionaries, this is a place where my passion and love dwell. Coming back here in a different position and with a more mature age, I've started to see things differently and experience things differently.

The 1000MM could proudly report their numbers and statistics. So far, 7,236 missionaries from 64 different countries have been dispatched to 43 countries. They've led 71,433 souls to baptism, built 798 churches, and initiated 1,481 home churches in different locations. In addition, if we added the number of backsliders contacted, Bible studies, and Vacation Bible Schools, the numbers would be enormously higher. However, after training and dispatching these missionaries, we feel that there is something more, something greater hidden behind these numbers when we visit them in their mission fields.

Our mission field visitation, which was initially scheduled to depart on the last Monday of October 2020 was moved to the following day due to Typhoon Quinta, which hit the country until the day of our trip. During the 12-hour road trip, we could witness the effects of the

typhoon and its impact on people's lives. Many banana trees were divided into two, with their heads touching the ground. Some bodies of water that we thought were lakes turned out to be rice paddy fields. There were many houses with torn roofs and many trees fallen on the streets. After getting through all the debris from the typhoon, we finally got to meet our missionaries. When we started listening to their stories, we could really feel the presence of God.

After visiting the missionaries, I realized that only a few missionaries were living in proper places. There were missionaries who slept in the church because they didn't have another place to stay, and there were missionaries who slept looking at the night sky because the typhoon took away their roof. In fact, there were missionaries who lived in such a small house that we couldn't all fit in, and the smell of mold struck our noses. Due to poor sanitary conditions, some missionaries had scars, wounds, and all kinds of skin issues. Even when they were suffering from unbearable back pain, they would still go out to seek people. However, not a single word of complaint came out of their mouths. Despite their situation, none of the missionaries said a word of discontent but showed smiles on their faces. Rather, they were satisfied with the given environment and were full of gratitude, thanking God for sending them to their mission fields. These missionaries are full of love towards children and a longing heart for souls.



Seeing the growth of these young people and witnessing the depth of their thoughts and attitudes, once again I realize that I am standing in the presence of the work of God. I could witness that the same God who made Moses leave his palace and prepared his character in the wilderness is working with these young people. This is the biggest harvest and fruit the 1000MM bears. In the future, those seeds will grow into trees that bear another thirty, sixty, and hundred times the fruit.

Although there are many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, God has no willingness to stop this movement. Since the government of the Philippines has banned all foreigners from entering the country, the 56th batch missionaries training will be held in Korea, and the missionaries will be sent directly to their mission fields. I humbly ask for your prayers that the Lord's presence will be upon all our 56th batch missionaries, with their support, training, and upon their dispatch.



Pastor Choi BongGil, associate director of the 1000MM Training Center



God's Plan Must Surely Be Fulfilled

Lee YoungIn
1000MM 55th Batch

Lee YoungIn (middle) and his two missionary partners



It's been about a year since the mission story about the "church built by praying knees" was shared in *News & Views*. I would like to follow up on the mission story of that church, the Panganiran Church.

As soon as I arrived at the Panganiran Church, I thought to myself, "This must be the church built by praying knees." I also noticed that there were a few areas that had not been completed. As my missionary partners and I discussed our plans for the mission field, I carefully approached them about the idea of additional construction. To be honest, it took me awhile before I brought this up to my partners. I wondered, "Is this truly God's will? Or am I starting this work with my own intention?" Although I didn't have a clear answer, the construction work started. I continued praying, asking God whether this was His plan or just mine.

For the construction fund, we asked for support from church members in Korea. We hired construction workers and bought

the materials need for construction. Everything seemed to be going smoothly, yet there were many problems every step that we took. Furthermore, it made me wonder if we were doing the right thing by constructing the church rather than doing other ministry. I couldn't stop thinking to myself, "Oh, I must've started this work with my own intention."

I am writing this story in December 2020, with only a month left before our homecoming, and our current situation has not changed much. Just as before, there are a series of problems that are happening and that are being solved. The construction work, which we thought would be finished in a month or two, has not been completed since August, and in November, all the construction work stopped due to four consecutive typhoons in the Philippines. The typhoons made the water level rise in the river, so the materials for the construction were not able to be delivered to the village.

We have lots of problems, but one thing that has changed from the beginning is that there is now conviction and belief that this is God's plan. In the Bible, King David really wanted to build the temple. However, God did not allow him, not because he lacked money, nor power. Moreover, it wasn't an issue with the situation either. It was because God's plan was not in David's time, but in Solomon's time. I am convinced that even if everything is in place, it cannot be done if it isn't God's plan, and even if nothing was in place, if it is God's plan, He will surely accomplish it.

Looking back with such conviction, I see that there were so many times God reminded me that this is God's work. There were times when funds came in, just the right amount that we needed, and there were times when the materials for construction were delivered to us unexpectedly when we had all given up hope. We are so grateful to God that although we did not do much for the villagers, they continue to visit the church, and even the construction workers, they too started to attend the church and join the worship service.

In spite of everything, we are still under construction, and sometimes we are so tired and exhausted that we want to give up and just take a break. However, I am still trying my best every day, praying and believing that this is God's plan and He will accomplish it.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone of you who helped with prayers and sponsorship for the Panganiran Church.



While constructing the church building, missionary Lee YoungIn, his missionary partners, and the members of the Panganiran Church have been able to experience God's guidance.



Family of God

Park GaYoung
1000MM 55th Batch

It's amazing and wonderful to see people who love others more than themselves. It's good to see that no matter how sinful the world is and how selfish people are, sacrificial love still exists, which means that we still have hope. I am living in a place full of such hope and love. Although we have different appearances, different personalities, different names, and even different nationalities, yet we still call each other family.

Here, Saimsim, Philippines, is located near the lake of Taal Volcano, which erupted in February 2020. Most of the local people here are fishermen, and they live by catching fish in the lake. Most families here are Catholic, but through the hardships and efforts of many missionaries who were sent by God, many people have shown an interest in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and they were able to build a church here with more than 40 people in the congregation.

I believed that once I got to my mission field, I would be better at loving people, but every day I am realizing that I am just a human being that cannot do things for others. Rather, I feel that I am receiving more love than I could give and expect.

Early in the morning, a child comes in with a handful of fish that his father just caught in the lake. We fry the fish, and there's no need to worry about food for that day. When my missionary partner and I visit the neighbors for a Bible study, again, delicious food has already been prepared for us. Even when we feel like we're so full that we're about to go into a food coma, they ask us to eat just a little more. Although our stomachs are so full that we cannot take any more food in, their love is constantly filling our hearts.

On days when I am feeling sick, people never stop visiting the house. They come in and wash my feet, cook rice, do the dishes, and clean the house for me. They speak to me with concern. Once they said that I might have gotten sick because the floor is cold, and out of nowhere they brought a bed and put it in my house. Though it's not a soft bed like in a hotel, nor a clean new bed, but their thoughtful hearts warmed the cold night and our bodies and minds. The roof, which had leaked during the rain, was fixed with the help of a neighbor.

On Sabbaths, all the children, adults, and animals gather together to worship the Lord. Before the service begins, they sweep the dusty church and bring chairs and tables from their own houses. Though the church building itself is not yet completed, it looks like a completed church when people bring their things together in the church. The enthusiastic praise of people fills the church. My heart is moved when I look at the people listen to the word of God. People here, who know how to love others, respond sincerely to God's voice, seemingly more than anyone else. After the service, they share the food that they brought from their homes. It is because of these people that the church of God is present here. Although some of them are not yet baptized, they are just as trustworthy and reliable as the head elders and deacons of the church.

If I hadn't come here, I would never have met these wonderful people who are like my family, sometimes even closer than family. The love we're receiving here is so great that we could not write it all down on a small paper, but it's being recorded in our hearts daily. Is this the kingdom of God where these hearts are gathered? I think it must be a place full of happiness.

Sometimes I ask God, "Why did you send me to this place? I am still young, I don't know how to do anything, and I have no love." Now I have no worries and concerns asking God to give me an answer to my prayer.

Here is the answer I received from God, my Father: You have found out that there is no love in your heart. That's ok. I will show you My love. This is the love I desire from you. I hope you will learn this love and be a great daughter who can share this love with others. Don't be anxious. "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go... for I will

not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you" (Genesis 28:15, NKJV). "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, NKJV). Don't be tired nor reject the love I have for you. When this love fills your heart, your life will truly change.

God shows us daily how we should live our lives. Through our neighbors, our partners, and through nature, we learn every moment of our lives: A generous heart that is willing to share with others, without being wealthy, a sacrificial heart that is willing to give away everything without having its own, a truthful heart that can sympathize with others' pain, directions to use time wisely, the proper way to pray, and learning how to rely on God every moment. Although I'm still a small seed that hasn't even sprouted yet, I want to grow up to be a wonderful tree drinking the living water from our Father God.

Due to our sins, we have lived as strangers to one another, but when we put God at the center, we become a family. Now we are learning to love each other by sharing the word of God together. We are all family of God.



1. Park GaYoung (2nd from the left) and two missionary partners on her left and right
 2. Members of the Adventist church in Saimsim, Philippines.
 3. The church building where Sabbath worship is held is still being constructed with help of villagers.





Villages Struck by Super Typhoon Rolly

Vanessa Dabatos
1000MM 55th Batch



I am Vanessa Dabatos, a missionary who has served in Burabod, Libon, Albay, Philippines. I have lived here three months and 24 days with my partner, Anjalika Tharangani.

November 1, 2020, was indeed a blessing to us amidst Super Typhoon Rolly, which is considered the strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines this year. We saw how roofs were being torn apart and how houses were being destroyed by strong winds. However, my partner and I witnessed God's protection. In the disaster-struck region, we were kept safe by the mercy of our God.

After the typhoon, we went out and visited some of our friends, neighbors, Bible students, and church brethren. The ravages of the typhoon were what you see in the

pictures. They were indescribable. It broke my heart to see people in such devastation. We knew that they were suffering from losing their shelters and their sources of living. To make matters worse, the COVID-19 pandemic has made their situation more hopeless. Some families have been living together in a constricted evacuation center.

As we witnessed the hardships of the people, we were moved to knock at the doors of your hearts that somehow their cry for help will be heard. May your prayers give them hope and courage amidst the discouraging circumstances they are in right now. May we allow ourselves to be used as an instrument of blessing to those who are in pain and suffering today.



1000MM missionary
Vanessa Dabatos (right)

Third PCM Missionaries Dedication Ceremony



Kim NakHyung
NSD PCM Director

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) had a dedication ceremony for the third batch of Public Campus Ministries (PCM) missionaries. The dedication ceremony was held at Paju International Church on November 7, 2020. Four young missionaries have volunteered to serve for one year in campus mission in a foreign country.

NSD president Kim SiYoung delivered a special sermon for the missionaries with the story of Paul’s third missionary journey. “A missionary is a person chosen by God to teach His word and to evangelize people. A missionary is a person who gives his or her whole life to Jesus. Whenever you meet and talk with someone in your mission field, let Jesus Christ be the center of your talk.” He also said, “Don’t forget the spirit of humbleness and sacrifice that Jesus showed us as a missionary. Sometimes people may misunderstand you. In particular, with the COVID-19 situation, there will be more difficulties and challenges than ever. But remember that you are not fighting alone. God will protect you, give you wisdom, and meet your needs.” His words of encouragement uplifted and strengthened the hearts of the missionaries.

As a representative of the third batch missionaries, Kim YeIn gave the dedication speech, saying, “I am determined to serve God with pure principles, and I will devote myself to the Lord by purifying the temple of the heart and putting Christ in the heart. I look forward to seeking and praying and asking how the Lord will use us.”

All four missionaries are being dispatched to Taiwan, where COVID-19 has been relatively well controlled compared to other countries and where mission work is available. Kim YeIn was assigned to Baquiao Church. Min SiYoung will be helping a pastor plant a church in Taipei City. Park SeolAh and Choi JiSoo will do their campus mission with Golden City Church in Hsinchu. Nam DongHyun, who is currently serving in Beitun Church, has decided to extend his service in Taiwan for another year.

Before PCM missionaries are dispatched to their mission fields, Pastor Kim NakHyung, director of NSD Youth and PCM Ministries, and Pastor Yoo KyungHo, Korean Union Conference PCM director, provide basic training, which will help the missionaries to understand the culture of the country, the current situation of the Adventist Church, the significance of campus mission, and other topics.

For the past two years, God has richly blessed PCM. Thirty young college students have participated in the ministry as missionaries. Through their efforts, 77 non-Adventist college students have been led to the church, and 41 people have been baptized.

The NSD PCM will continue to send missionaries to numerous non-Adventist college students who do not know Jesus Christ. They will continue to move forward with campus mission and church planting.



Four missionaries were dispatched as the 3rd batch of NSD PCM missionaries



Left: 19th batch PMM missionaries
Below: NSD president Kim SiYoung and church leaders pray together for the PMM missionaries.



19th PMM Dedication Service

Joo MinHo
NSD Adventist Mission Director

The 19th Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) dedication service was held on November 4, 2020, at Paju International Church, during the 2020 Annual Council of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD). PMM is a mission project with the purpose of church planting in other countries that are less evangelized. This year, for their cross-cultural ministries, three pastors and their family members applied for PMM and promised to dedicate themselves through this special dedication service.

Usually, a PMM dedication service is held in a big church in order to share the mission spirit with church members and to encourage them to support the project with their prayers and finances. However, due to COVID-19, the General Conference leaders were not able to attend the NSD Annual Council, and meetings were held through Zoom, a video conference platform. Only a few leaders who were in Korea were invited to congratulate the PMM pastors and their families.

These three PMM families will be sent to Taiwan for church planting in big cities. NSD president Kim SiYoung encouraged them with a message titled “The Channel of Blessings.” NSD PMM coordinator Joo MinHo presided over the dedication service, and the names of the three pastors and their spouses were announced by Pastor Lee JiChoon, ministerial secretary of the Korean Union Conference (KUC). Pastor Hwang ChunKwang, KUC president, gave the welcome remark, and NSD ministerial secretary Ron Clouzet offered the dedicatory prayer for the three PMM pastors and their spouses.

The three PMM pastors of the 19th batch are Kim KwangSeong, Kim SeDam, and Cho SeongKyu. As of November 2020, 38 families are currently serving in 31 different countries as PMM missionaries.



We Are One in the Lord: Online Ministry of Golden Angels

Lee YeeOn
Golden Angels 17

The 17th group of the Golden Angels held online concerts and led virtual choirs with the Harvest Church in Hong Kong and with several churches in Japan on July 18 and September 12, 2020, respectively. The Golden Angels had kept thinking about how hope could be delivered to churches and to their members who had not been able to be actively involved in church activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That was the beginning of this project.

Each event was held on Sabbath afternoon through YouTube livestreaming. There was a one-hour online concert, followed by a 30-minute session on creating a virtual choir with the Golden Angels members.

At the concert, the message of hope and consolation was shared through 15 songs, such as “The God I Serve,” “The Promise,” “We Are Standing Here,” “There Is Nothing Greater than Grace,” “In That Great,” “Oceans,” “Hanamo,” and “Amazing Grace.”

Then, through video chats, a training session was provided in order to create a virtual choir. During the session, the Golden Angels members and the church members greeted one another. Tips were provided on how to use the recording device to produce an audio track and to create a virtual choir. Moreover, the Golden Angels members shared an important lesson on sharing and multiplying hope. They said if there is hope from God in their minds, the hope should be shared to other people rather than just keeping the hope to themselves.

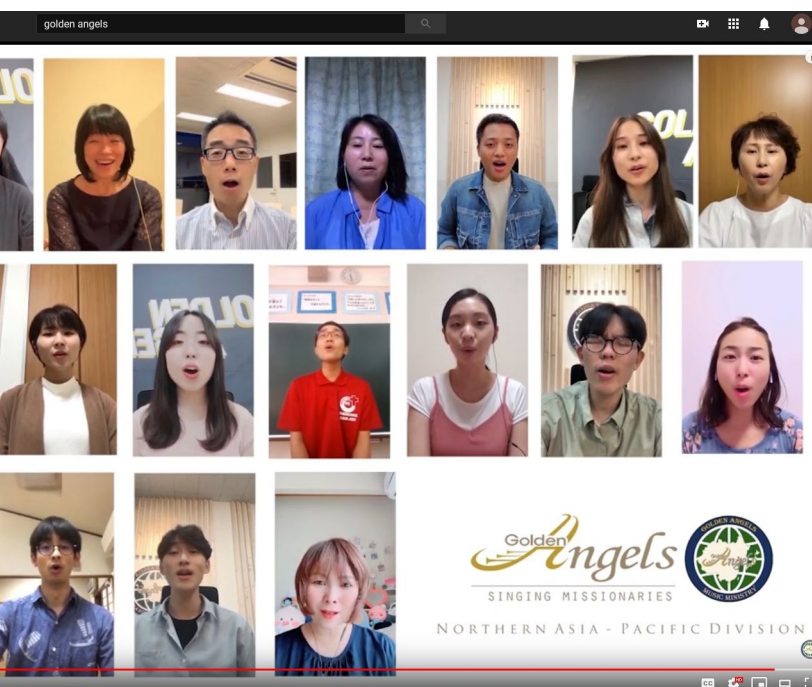
The project itself served as a hope to church members who were exhausted due to the pandemic. It also made them realize that they need to keep moving and working to share the gospel of God.

After finishing the project two times, the Golden Angels received good feedback from Hong Kong and Japan. According to the feedback, the concert and the virtual choir gave them strength to overcome their loneliness from socially distanced life and joy to see their church friends and to work with them online.

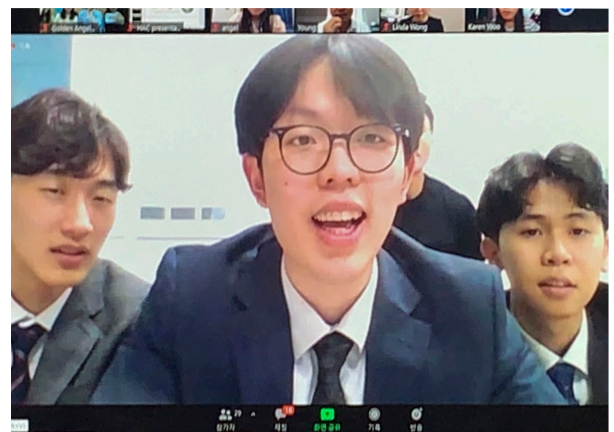
Deaconess Maya from Kagoshima Church in Japan sent these words as a thanksgiving to God: “It seemed like a situation where nothing could be done, but through this work, the church members were able to reach a turning point where they could turn their eyes unto God and have their sad and weary hearts be comforted again.”

In addition, each member of the 17th group expressed their gratitude to God, “who promised to be with us always and who promises us to lead us to find the way, even in situations where it seems nothing can be done.” They are also thankful that they were able to share this promise with other people through their songs.

The video clips of the virtual choir can now be accessed on the YouTube channel “Golden Angels TV.” The Golden Angels are also working to produce a virtual choir with churches in Colombia and Argentina.



Golden Angels members led a training session on developing a virtual choir.





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