



NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION
THE MOST CHALLENGING FIELD

NEWS & VIEWS

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May / June 2021



Questions About God, Truth,
and the Meaning of Life

Dr. Ron E. M. Clouzet



Together with the NSD Media Center, Dr. Ron Clouzet, NSD ministerial secretary, is working to produce a series of 10 video presentations on Christian apologetics.

Northern Asia-Pacific Division

I Will Go Mission Emphasis

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) had its midyear meetings from April 28 to 29, 2021, and has a new beginning with newly appointed departmental directors. Looking forward to the next quinquennial year, together they have set up the following mission strategies. Every aspect of mission is important, but the NSD has decided to focus mainly on four aspects and do its best to accomplish the mission entrusted to the division.

The first is “Mission First.” This means the NSD, Unions, Conferences, churches, and institutions under the NSD will put mission as its priority. When the NSD created the *I Will Go* Mission Strategy, it selected its slogan, “10/40 With Christ!” Its goal is to increase the 60,000 Sabbath attendees to 100,000 attendees and also lead 40,000 new souls to Christ by the year 2025. Most countries under NSD territory reside in the 10/40 window. These areas hold mission possibilities yet at the same time, they have big challenges. I pray that all the departments, churches, institutions, and schools plan mission-centered strategies and focus their resources and energy on the mission. I sincerely hope that the leaders and church members will be united with one *I Will Go* spirit and go forward.

Second is media evangelism. Since the strike of COVID-19, the world is shaking and is changing to a new paradigm in the economy, social system, even in politics. Likewise, church mission strategy should also adjust to these changes. New and various creative methods should be developed. Along with these new changes, the NSD will emphasize media evangelism and develop various online mission strategies.

Third is the emphasis on children and youth mission work. One common challenge for the countries within the NSD is an aging society. While the population of elderly people is increasing due to the increase in the average lifespan, the birth rate

is drastically dropping resulting in an aging society. There needs to be education and training for young people for them to be strong church leaders for the future. Also, we should raise them as mission warriors who can share the Gospel with their friends and youth out in the world. We should make the church young by filling it with young people.

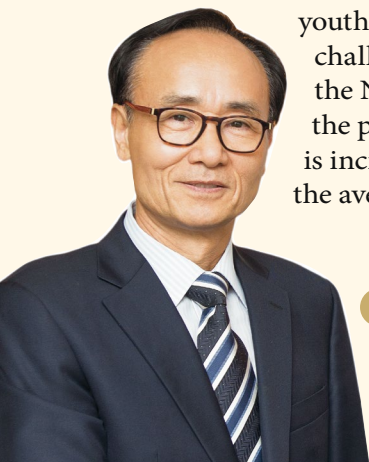
Fourth is North Korea mission. Twenty-six million people are living in North Korea. They also are precious souls who need to be saved by the love of God. Unfortunately, for the past 70 years, North Korea has thoroughly shut the doors for the Gospel. We have to be well-prepared to bring the Gospel to these 26 million people. We have to train youth, laypeople, and pastors as future missionaries and also train people who left North Korea and open opportunities for them to be missionaries for North Korea mission. There need to be careful, and broader studies for this mission. When we make thorough preparations, God will work miracles to open the door to North Korea to spread His mission.

“The course of God’s people should be upward and onward to victory. A greater than Joshua is leading on the armies of Israel” (Christian Service, 110). This is God’s precious promise for us. When we firmly stand up and go forward, God will give us victory and the Kingdom of God will be enlarged.



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** Northern Asia-Pacific Division I Will Go Mission Emphasis / 2
COVER STORY Series on Christian Apologetics Planned / 4
NEWS FOCUS We Are Missionaries for Mission Unusual Tokyo / 6
Make Disciples of All Nations / 6
Only By His Power and His Methods / 8
How God Makes Me Closer to Him / 10

DEPARTMENTAL & REGIONAL NEWS

Children's, Family, and Women's Ministries Advisories Held **12** Hope Channel Korea
Launches Children's Worship Program **13** Korean Pastor Kim WonSang Appointed as
the New President of Bangladesh Union Mission **14** Sahmyook University's Foreign
Students Community Bears Fruits of Souls **16** Korean Adventist Youth Celebrate
2021 Global Youth Day **17** Mongolia Mission Children's Ministries Activities During the
Pandemic **18** Adventist Possibility Ministries Sabbath Day **20** First Sabbath School Quiz
Bowl in Mongolia Mission **21** Sahmyook University Selected for the National Program
of Excellence in Software **22** Retired Professor and Wife Donate Maturity Savings to
Sahmyook University **22** NSD Youth Ministries Advisory Meeting **23** As Light Lingers:
Basking in the Word of God by Nina Atcheson **24** I Will Go Online Event **25** Sahmyook
University Holds a Special 150-day Feast of Prayer **25** Healthy Lifestyle Program
of Pei Yuan Church **26** Kids Talents for Jesus Winners Announced **27** Adventist Global
Virtual Campmeeting to Launch May 19 **28** Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Day in
Mongolia **30**

Special Feature Praying for Prodigals / 30

1000MM Three Main Tasks of Christians / 32

God-Directed Land: Pakistan Adventist Seminary & College / 34
Lighthouse / 36

Golden Angels Golden Angels 18 Gears Up for Singing Mission / 38

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.



Series on Christian Apologetics Planned

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) voted a plan and a budget for Dr. Ron Clouzet, NSD ministerial secretary, along with the NSD Media Center, to produce a series of 10 audiovisual presentations on the topic of Christian apologetics. The series will be professionally done in a studio with a backdrop specifically built for this purpose, and will be aimed at reaching non-Christians. Apologetics—from the Greek word *apologia* found in 1 Peter 3:15—means a defense of Bible truth. Although the 10 programs will present a biblical worldview, there will also be references to history, Asian culture, philosophy,

science, and archaeology, to help nonbelievers make sense of God.

Apologetics is commonly understood as *pre*-evangelism. Some of the topics planned are the concept of a personal God, Creation and evolution, life origins, the purpose and destiny of mankind, the cause and reversal of suffering and evil, the origin of the Christian Bible, the prophecies of the Bible, the historical Jesus, and Jesus' impact on mankind. The series will be in English, but each program will be offered for free to other media centers in Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Mongolia, to add translation subtitles to it.

■ Topics and Objectives of Dr. Clouzet's Christian Apologetics Series

#	Title	Objective	#	Title	Objective
1	What Is Truth and Why Does It Matter?	To explain how we got the Bible and why it's different than other writings	6	Why Is There Evil and Suffering in the World?	To discover the origin of evil and suffering and the Great Controversy
2	Who Is God and Who Made Him?	To introduce the God of the Bible and some of His unique characteristics	7	When and How Will Suffering End?	To learn about the end of evil and give hope for the future
3	How Did Life Begin?	To introduce biblical Creation as compared with Evolution	8	Who Is Jesus Christ?	To appreciate the historical Jesus and His claim to divinity
4	Where Did We Come From?	To explore how humans came to be and why	9	What Can Jesus Do for People?	To review the life and death of Jesus for mankind
5	What Is Our Destiny?	To clarify the purpose and future of human beings as opposed to reincarnation or natural demise	10	How Can We Know the Future?	To realize God's foreknowledge and anticipate a deeper study of Scripture



We hope the series will be ready by June 2021. Dr. Clouzet has taught apologetics at the Seminary in Andrews University, taped a series of 16 programs on the subject for Hope Channel, and written a book on the subject that has been translated and used in Japan, China, and Mongolia. The first video test was done on May 4, and the series will start being taped the week of May 17.

Once the local language subtitles are added by the Union/Mission media centers, the following is recommended:

1. For Union/Missions to develop an outreach plan on how to best use this valuable resource.
2. For the Korean Union Conference to translate Dr. Clouzet's small book on the subject, which can be used as a gift or a response to people who have shown interest. The book is already translated to Japanese, Chinese, and Mongolian. Those fields can simply make more copies.
3. For the series to be made available to every pastor and church in the field.
4. For local churches to design a strategic plan about how to use the video series which includes the offer for viewers to contact the church with questions, or for the book offer.

5. For churches to widely advertise the series and put it on their YouTube channels.

This is the last major project to benefit NSD pastors and churches done by Dr. Ron Clouzet, who is returning to North America. Please pray that this new series can be of practical blessing to pastors and churches throughout the division as they seek to reach non-Christians with the liberating truth of God.



Dr. Clouzet's book on apologetics has been translated and used in Japan, China, and Mongolia



WE ARE MISSIONARIES FOR MISSION UNUSUAL TOKYO

The Mission Unusual Tokyo (MUT) project, an initiative of the General Conference, started in 2020. This is a church-planting project to reach secularized people in Tokyo. Two pastors working in Japan have joined this project, and three missionaries and their families from the United States and Brazil moved to Japan in December 2020. In order to carry out their mission work effectively, they are now studying Japanese. Here are their testimonies.

MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

Yure Gramacho
Mission Unusual Tokyo
Missionary

I have been following Jesus as an Adventist minister for about 15 years. During these years, God called me to work in different positions in His church, such as a school chaplain, church pastor, Youth Ministries director, associate ministerial director, and professor of theology. In spite of this wide range of ministries, since I was a young student back in the seminary, I have always been passionate about world religions, foreign language acquisition, and cross-cultural missions. Just a few years

ago, this passion consumed my heart to the point of persuading me to leave my country, Brazil, along with my family, and taking us to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the coldest capital city of the world, where we had a real life-changing experience serving the Lord as missionaries for about 5 years, from 2015 to 2019.

I was in charge of the Communication department in the Mongolia Mission, where we were graciously blessed by God leading a faithful team and spreading the

Pastor Gramacho baptized a young man in Mongolia, his previous mission field.



everlasting gospel through different kinds of media. However, first and foremost, I had the privilege and honor to work as a frontline church planter, leading a Global Mission Project to reach the unreached, making disciples and planting a church in a strategic area of the city with no Adventists. We could clearly see God's hand working in us, through us and in spite of us, in order to establish this new local congregation and leave behind a mission-minded leadership who would faithfully commit themselves to carry on the mission of God among their own people. By doing so, I would be able to leave Mongolia, my mission field, in order to go to other challenging places according to God's will. My wife and I were earnestly praying, asking for God's guidance, and He showed us our new assignment in His harvest field. The great city of Tokyo was literally the answer to our prayers!

About a year and a half after we returned to Brazil, I got an official call to serve as the Program Director of Mission Unusual Tokyo (MUT), a bold missionary effort that aims to ignite both disciple making and church planting, focusing especially on reaching out to Tokyo's 23 wards. But I fully believe that this is just the first step of a long and successful journey. By the power of the Holy Spirit and with the support of the Japan Union Conference (JUC) as well as the local Conferences, MUT will be primarily catalyzed not by foreign missionaries but by faithful and well-trained local leaders who will be empowered to spread this mission-oriented movement even beyond the target area in Tokyo to other cities in Japan. Certainly, God will make a way!

Our core group is already on the ground. As missionaries, the more we develop cross-cultural mission skills the more we are going to fit in the new culture where we are serving. In this very first year of our term, the missionary families are fully committed to getting immersed in Japanese culture in order to communicate the gospel in a meaningful way. We are doing this by acquiring the language through an intensive Japanese course, mingling with the people in our neighborhood, getting used to their worldview, understanding their needs

and making the necessary connections and critical contextualization between the biblical message and their cultural/religious background. I love Ellen G. White's quotation which says, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'" (*The Ministry of Healing*, 143).

The Great Commission as registered in Mathew 28:18-20 has only one imperative from Jesus, which is to "make disciples of all nations." The Bible's promise is that as long as we are wholeheartedly engaged in God's mission, He is always with us to the very end of the age.

Pastor Yure Gramacho's family with traditional Mongolian costumes



ONLY BY HIS POWER AND HIS METHODS

Sergio Quevedo

Mission Unusual Tokyo Missionary



Pastor Sergio
Quevedo's family

My story starts in an “unusual” way. First of all, I need to say that I did not want to be a pastor. In fact, I ran away from God’s call for many years. The Lord made clear to me that He wanted me to be a pastor, but I wanted to do something else. By His grace, He never gave up on me, and I finally said yes to His call. For the last ten years, I have been in full-time ministry as a youth pastor, a senior pastor, a church planter, and most recently, I have been appointed as assistant director for a church planting project, Mission Unusual Tokyo (MUT).

My last assignment, before coming to Japan, was as a church-planting coordinator at Southern New England Conference. While working for the Conference, my team and I planted three churches and a school. I was always passionate about mission, especially church-planting work, and God blessed our efforts.

The first church planting started in 2015, with me and two other friends. They were two young men I was mentoring and discipling. I remembered that Jesus tells us to make disciples and that’s what I was trying to do. Obedience to that command is just as important as obedience to all other commandments of God. Church planting is a result of making disciples of Jesus. If we focus on developing new disciples of Jesus, we are able to use this opportunity of multiplying disciples to plant more churches.

For a whole year, we had a small group that went in the community to mingle, befriend, bless, and share Jesus with them. In 2016, we began worship gatherings, and in the very first worship, we brought 20 people out of our group of 50 at that point, and we laid hands on them to send them to plant a new church. Our church was born and was already giving birth to another one! That was our dream—to exist for the sake of Jesus and His mission, which is to expand His kingdom and salvation to places where people need to be reached.

In 2017, we began our church planting project in Boston, and in 2018, we started another one in the Boston area as well. Finally, we planted a high school in the city of Boston with the intention of turning students into committed disciples of Jesus and church planters. In 2019, I began working at the Southern New England Conference office, equipping pastors and lay leaders to become expert church planters, starting a support system for a church-planting movement. Our conference had had a negative record for churches—more churches had been closed than were being planted. In the last year of my term, the balance turned into positive with many church plants popping up all over the territory!

I was invited to go to Tokyo in February 2019 to train some of the pastors there. It was a wonderful experience

getting to know leaders and pastors of the Japan Union Conference (JUC) and their families. On the last day of the training, I left a little before the end of the training in order to get to the airport in time for my flight back home. As I was coming down the stairs of the JUC office in Tachikawa, Tokyo, I felt such a burden in my heart, and I cried for the people in Tokyo who had not yet been reached. I felt this burden for them, but I didn't understand why. I cried all the way to the airport. Little did I know that God was preparing my heart for a call in the following months.

When we received the call to go to Japan, my family and I struggled because everything seemed perfect where we were. I loved my job in ministry, my two children (now 12 and 14 years old) loved their school and their friends, and my wife had an excellent job she had studied so much to achieve. Was God asking us to leave everything behind and start from zero in a new place where, not only would we be leaving everything we had, but we didn't even speak the language? Well, after much struggle and prayer, the Lord made it clear to us that Tokyo was going to be our new home! As we look back now, we see God's hand in everything and how good He is. We love Tokyo, and we love Japan. More importantly, we love the Japanese people. God has placed this burden not only in my heart now, but in the heart of every family member.

Our goal is not only planting churches. Church planting will happen as a result of making disciples and leaders who will catalyze a movement of multiplication in Tokyo and beyond. Better than planting churches, it is for us to plant a movement! At the moment, the five

families are focused on preparing the ground to develop and equip new leaders who will become church planters and catalysts of this movement. The three families that immigrated in are focused on learning the Japanese language and making friends at the same time. We have been connecting with new friends and neighbors to set the example of how to mingle and infiltrate the current culture and make disciples out of them. We want to be able to share real stories of miracles in Tokyo with the new leaders we will be developing to carry this MUT project forward.

Regardless of my story or how God brought us here, we understand that the MUT project belongs to Him and will only happen if the Holy Spirit is the key player in this endeavor. In order for this movement of multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches, the Holy Spirit needs to do 95% of the work and we come in with 5%. That's the kind of partnership He looks for—He calls us to an impossible mission that can only be accomplished by His power and His methods.

Please pray for the city of Tokyo and the MUT Project. If you hear God calling you to become a part of this movement in any way, please get in touch with us! We would love to get to know you and see how we can move forward together. Your participation can be through prayer, donation, a word of encouragement, or your full commitment. Matthew 9:38 says, "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." We are praying that the Lord of the harvest will call and send you!

Pastor Quevedo worked as a church-planting coordinator at Southern New England Conference.



HOW GOD MAKES ME CLOSER TO HIM

Daniel Meder

Mission Unusual Tokyo Missionary

Where should the leaders of the Adventist Church spend most of their time and energy: Helping church members to grow and develop or reaching people from outside the church?

I hear this question over and over again. It's an important one. As a pastor, I've had many members of my churches ask and defend one position or the other, and sometimes even fight for his/her point of view.

I didn't grow up in an Adventist home. I learned about Jesus' love at school (yes, it was an Adventist school—my mom wanted an education with Christian values). Most of the students in my class were not Adventists, and the teachers did a very good job finding the right balance to talk about this whole new reality to us children and teenagers, who couldn't take a whole lot of "church stuff" but were so interested in all the fascinating stories about Bible heroes and God's love.

Today, I still remember my first prayer. I wanted to do it exactly like the teacher told us in class about Daniel's prayer. I asked God to keep the bullies away and to let me have more than one friend. It was a little child's request, but guess what, God did answer my prayer.

Years later, I was not an Adventist yet, but I was always looking for ways of presenting this message to my friends—the message that there is a God and that He cares for us. I remember praying for the right opportunity to invite my friends to come to a camp meeting or a youth event.

I prayed so hard asking God to send a speaker that would captivate them. I prayed that other youth from the church would come and talk to them and make them feel comfortable. I prayed for the Holy Spirit to empower the preacher and give him wisdom so that the message wouldn't be too churchy or too secular, but just right to present Jesus to my friends.

Even though we were not Adventists yet, we were there every weekend. The church had a wonderful amount of



Pastor Daniel Meder and his wife

youth activities and people our age (at the time). Well, later on, I got baptized, and so did some of my friends. I was 19 years old.

Life moved on. I made more friends and had the opportunity to go to England for four years to work and study. I remember that some of my Adventist friends were struggling to stay in the church. But when the temptation started to approach me, God did also, and He sent someone asking for a Bible study. I spent time preparing and praying for that person who was willing to learn more about God, and because of it, I didn't have much time to criticize the church or spend time on things that would drive me away from God.

Years later I became a pastor and started working as a Bible teacher in an Adventist school in Brazil. I was always looking for new ways to make the Bible interesting for people who were not familiar with it. How could I present this message in the most practical and real way possible to non-Adventist youth? How could I find a way to show them there is nothing more interesting and fascinating than God's plan for them? I was constantly looking for answers. These prayers, readings, and research also helped me to come closer to God and get much more familiar with Him myself. Sometimes the non-Christians would ask questions I never did, but when I was looking for the answers, I would find beautiful truths about God that I never knew existed. Again, helping the unreached to know God made me closer to Him.

When I look back on my own experience, I realize I am where I am today because my teachers cared about a

child who was completely clueless about God. And as soon as I started my journey with Him, I wanted my friends to know what I knew, and that passion, that responsibility made me a much stronger Christian myself.

The prayers for my friends created opportunities for me to spend a good amount of time with God. My constant search for the best opportunity to bring my friends to some event where they could be exposed to God's love made me more conscious of God's plan and my mission (although I didn't have it elaborated like that in my mind at the time). Teaching someone about the Bible kept me busy and at the same time strengthened my relationship with God.

Back to the initial question: In my experience, when I focused on non-Adventists, I became a stronger Adventist.

I believe that is why, when I became a district pastor, and was given nine churches to look after, I used the same strategy God used with me: I tried to create a church culture focused on the outside. Most of our programs, events, sermons, series, and even recreation time had the aim of bringing non-Adventists to a closer relationship with God. Everything that was done was done with non-Adventists in mind.

As a result, most members realized they have a personal mission here on Earth. They didn't

Pastor Meder and his former church members



have much time to criticize or feel sorry for themselves because there was a much bigger goal to achieve. They needed to plan and pray for the next opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, to show Christ to someone.

At the central church, we started a specific series created for outsiders. Each church member had a role. Some would cook, some would drive, some would decorate, some would play. The church was so happy, so alive! And it was full because each member was praying and working for a friend who came to hear about Jesus. The Adventist members became stronger and some of the non-Adventists became Adventists.

I truly believe that true growth doesn't come from a lack of problems in my life, but from actively living the mission God created me to live.



Five missionary families of Mission Unusual Tokyo with former JUC officers



Participants of the NSD Children's Ministries advisory meeting (left) and Women's Ministries advisory (right)

Children's, Family, and Women's Ministries Advisories Held

Between March and April 2021, Children's, Family, and Women's Ministries departments of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) gathered through Zoom for the pre-advisory and advisory meetings for the 2020-2025 quinquennium. Since the majority of the field directors had recently been elected, the two-hour pre-advisory meetings were an opportune time to have introductions and orientation. The additional two hours of advisory meetings were to invite participation and input from the General Conference (GC) directors. Another advisory will be held for each department following the 2022 worldwide GC Session in St. Louis.

The GC departmental leaders were present through Zoom for each advisory: Dr. Linda Koh for Children's Ministries (CHM), Dr. Willie and Elaine Oliver for Family Ministries (FM), and Heather-Dawn Small and Raquel Arrais for Women's Ministries (WM). Dr. Kim SiYoung, NSD president, presented inspirational devotionals to begin the CHM and FM sessions; Heather-Dawn Small did the same for the WM session. The main emphasis for these advisories was to explain the *I Will Go* initiative for the current quinquennium. Time was spent going over the objectives and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each department. Another important focus was the presentation of departmental resources available, specifically in terms of how each connects to the current objectives and KPIs.

Please pray for the current NSD field directors as they continue to serve on behalf of the children, families, and women in Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and Taiwan. Please also prayerfully consider volunteering in your local church's children's, family, or women's department (or whichever department you feel called to). "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38, NKJV).



Participants of the NSD Family Ministries advisory meeting on the screen



Lisa Clouzet
NSD CHM, FM & WM Director

Hope Channel Korea Launches *Children's Worship Program*

Kim BeomTae

Reporter of *Adventist Village*



A thumbnail image of the first episode of Hope Channel Korea's new program, *Children's Worship*, titled "Love in Creation."

Many Adventist parents have been concerned since the outbreak of the coronavirus. As the social distancing measure has continued to be implemented and indoor gatherings have been prohibited, there have been no on-site worship services at churches unless it was carried out in a limited way with a limited number of people. This situation has made it hard for parents to give their children proper Christian education. Although some contents targeted for children on worship and mission are available, they are not enough compared to what children learned and experienced in a church.

In order to help Adventist parents who are worried about their young children not receiving enough religious education and having difficulty attending worship services, Hope Channel Korea launched a new program, *Children's Worship*, in March 2021. The program was designed to help children remember and keep the Sabbath wherever they are and to help the seed of Adventist faith grow well in their hearts. The first episode, titled "Love in Creation," was released on March 6.

A new episode comes out every Friday morning on the Adventist Village website, the YouTube channel of Hope Channel Korea, as well as the official website of the Korean Adventist Church. Each episode is available in three

versions—a longer version, a shorter version, and sermon only. The longer version lasts more than 15 minutes. All episodes are downloadable on the Adventist Village website.

An episode begins with an interesting Bible story laid out by a young woman and a girl. This is then followed by praise and a prayer. Then, a pastor delivers a sermon that specifically targets children. All programs include various visual illustrations in order to allow children to easily understand the content.

"We created this program for those who need to have Sabbath

worship service at home with their children or those who are in charge of children's ministries in their churches, looking for a program for children," said Pastor Koo JiHyun, director of Hope Channel Korea, and his team. "We consider this project to be one of the most significant ministries in this age, trying our best to make it valuable. It is our hope that this program will be a help to Adventist parents in giving their children Adventist education and will serve as a precious gift to children, sowing the seed of Adventist faith in their hearts."



Korean Pastor Kim WonSang, former president of the Southeast Korean Conference (SEKC), was appointed as the new president of the Bangladesh Union Mission at the request of Southern Asia-Pacific Division. He took over the position from Korean Pastor Lee MyunJoo, who was moving to Pakistan Union Section as president.

Pastor Kim first declined the call because he didn't consider himself adequate, and he felt unprepared to take the position. "But now I believe that God calls me because He needs me there. If He wants to use me for gospel work, I cannot make any excuse for it. I am grateful for being able to comply with His calling," said Pastor Kim at the SEKC annual council that was held at the end of 2020.

He added, "Twenty-seven years ago, I went to a church in northern Bangladesh to support their mission work. I stayed there for only a short time, but that was enough time to share the love of God with local church members. Leaving the church, I made a promise to the church members to surely come back. It takes a long time to keep the promise." At the annual council, he urged attendees to pray for him and asked them to support his mission in Bangladesh. He said that even though he was



Korean Pastor Kim WonSang Appointed as the New President of Bangladesh Union Mission

Kim BeomTae

Reporter of *Adventist Village*

appointed as president, he is determined to be a missionary, serving the Bangladesh Adventist Church.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Pastor Kim took a COVID-19 test on March 6, 2021, and tested negative. He left Korea for Bangladesh on March 9 and arrived the next day. His official schedule started with the welcoming ceremony and worship service, which were held for two and a half hours on March 11.

This year, 2021, the Bangladesh Union Mission celebrates the 115th anniversary of Adventist mission work in the country. The Bangladesh Union Mission has four missions in the country's east, west, north, and south. As of June 30, 2020, the membership of the Mission was 33,681, and every year, an average of 1,500 people become Adventists through baptism. There are a total of 411 places to worship—127 organized churches and 284 church companies—and 240 ministers serve the churches.

In Bangladesh, the Muslim population constitutes more than 90% of the total population, and they usually have control over the economy and society. Among the rest of the population, 8% are Hindu, and Adventists account for only a small percentage of the population compared to those major religious groups. In this difficult environment, the Adventist Church has, over the past few decades, established a foundation for the church organization with internal dedication and help from the outside. The Adventist Church has especially utilized educational institutions as a center of mission work. In Bangladesh, the Church currently runs 123 primary schools, 7 secondary schools, 15 English institutes, and two institutes of higher education. Among 550 teachers and instructors, more than 95% are Adventists.

However, since the crisis from COVID-19 has lasted for longer than a year, students from low income households have given up going to school. Schools have suffered from difficulties in their operation because they mostly depend on tuition fees. The key agenda discussed at meetings of the Bangladesh



The Bangladesh Union Mission welcomes their new president from Korea, Pastor Kim WonSang, and his wife.

Union Mission is how to increase the enrollment, but it doesn't seem easy in the pandemic.

Nevertheless, the church membership rose in the year 2020, adding about 1,400 members. It is certain that the Bangladesh Adventist Church has a great potential to grow if its educational institutions and local churches would keep being supported and strengthened.

Pastor Kim is planning to place emphasis on the growth of local churches as a primary goal for his term. Bangladesh Adventist Church has grown through mission work driven by institutions, even while financial conditions of local churches have not been sound. The new leadership of the Bangladesh Union Mission has a plan to study how to meet the needs of local church members in both practical and spiritual ways, and to set up a mission policy focusing on local churches.

Second, the Bangladesh Church will train young people to be members of the Bangladesh society by being able to get decent jobs. This will have a positive effect on the title and financial condition of the Church, and it will finally make the Church self-supporting, no longer dependent on help from the outside. Currently, only an Adventist nursing school has been approved by the government, so the Church will work to make other educational institutes receive accreditation from the government.

Last but not least, Pastor Kim revealed his ambition to establish a medical school and a dental school. To reach this lofty goal, he plans to first establish departments in natural sciences in current Adventist schools.

Bangladesh is a rapidly growing country. Considering that it has a population of approximately 164 million, it bears an opportunity to deliver the gospel of Jesus Christ to many people. Let's pray for the development of the Adventist Church in Bangladesh and the great commission of Jesus that will be fulfilled in this vast land.



Pastor Kim WonSang visits Bangladesh Adventist Seminary School and College.



Three members of the AMC at Sahmyook University made the decision to follow Jesus by baptism.

Sahmyook University's Foreign Students Community Bears Fruits of Souls

The Asian Members Community (AMC), a community of foreign students at Sahmyook University, celebrated the baptisms of three members who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior after studying the Bible with AMC every Sabbath.

Co-sponsored by Sahmyook University's Asian Mission Church and the Career Support Center for International Students, AMC provides a place for cultural exchanges among Korean students and students of various nationalities and backgrounds, serving as a bridge to studying the Bible.

Sun Yan from China joined AMC last year. After learning about the Bible from a graduate theology student, who was also from China, she decided to get baptized. She even introduced God to her boyfriend and mother. At first, they opposed to her getting baptized, but later, she made it possible to lead their hearts to turn to Him.

Mamta Chejara from India was a Hindu when she entered the Graduate School of Sahmyook University. It was at AMC where she learned Korean and joined Bible studies. At her baptismal ceremony, she declared her wish to replace her Hindu name, Mamta. After prayers and an in-depth discussion, the AMC leaders gave her a new name, Ruth, wishing her the same beautiful blessings that Ruth in the Bible enjoyed when she left her family religion to become a child of God.



Korean Adventist Youth Celebrate 2021 Global Youth Day

On 2021 Global Youth Day (GYD), which was celebrated on March 20, 2021, Adventist young people from all over Korea shared the love of Jesus with their neighbors. The 2021 GYD was held under the theme of “Reaching Out: Colors, Cultures and Communities,” which represents the hope and desire to reach out to the neighborhood and to be connected with one another even during this time of social distancing in order to keep ourselves safe from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the East Central Korean Conference, youth members from the New Life Mongolia Church gave out flowers, small gifts, and Ellen White’s book, *Steps to Christ*, to Mongolians living in Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, Korea. Youth from Seongnam Central Church visited Filipino families around their church and delivered gifts.

Juksan Dasarang Church of West Central Korean Conference invited young people from multicultural families. The church is about to open their Youth Culture Center at their church and are ready to implement ministries for young people including those from multicultural families. Also, at the Bible Truth Church in the same Conference, youth members were in charge of the Sabbath worship service, including prayers, special music, and the sermon, introducing the meaning of GYD to other church members.

Three churches of Southeast Korean Conference gathered on GYD to clean up their neighborhood. Dongrae Church had a prayer meeting for the democratization of Myanmar and a peaceful resolution of coups.

In the Middlewest Korean Conference, Yesan Church participated in GYD by distributing fruits to multicultural families around them while Domadong Church delivered Korean dumplings to the elderly living alone. Two churches in Daejeon district gave out masks to people, and six



churches of the conference cleaned within their village.

Two churches of Southwest Korean Conference, Morning Dew Church and Youngam Church, carried out an environmental protection campaign against the use of disposable products in their neighborhood. They also cleaned the area around their churches and Hampyung Beach. Mooaneup Church selected several multicultural households and provided the service of repairing and cleaning their houses.

GYD, which began in 2013, is an international event in which 8 million Adventist young people around the world set one day of the year and conduct community service. It is organized by the Youth Ministries department of the General Conference and is implemented on the third Sabbath of March every year. The theme of every GYD reflects major issues or problems currently faced by the world.



Mongolia Mission Children's Ministries Activities During the Pandemic

Munkh-Orgil Lkhagvaa & Lisa Clouzet
MM & NSD Children's Ministries Directors

The COVID-19 pandemic has been going on for quite some time. Churches in Mongolia and other places are no longer meeting together as in the past. To help meet the challenge of ministering to children, Mongolia Mission's (MM) department of Children's Ministries (CHM) has sought to provide a variety of activities and even outreach. For example, one thing they did was to prepare a 13-series Sabbath School program for children and share it on the church's official Facebook page each Sabbath afternoon. The online program included sections on praise and prayer, a Bible story, Bible verse memorization, new songs, and crafts. Over the 13 Sabbaths, an average of 250 children watched the program online. Many children enjoyed the special programs and sent pictures of their handicrafts.

At the beginning of 2021, when the worldwide church was observing the annual 10 Days of Prayer, the MM CHM officially joined these 10 Days of Prayer for the first time and organized a livestream prayer meeting. This year's theme was "Seeking Revival." Each day the meetings were broadcast live at 2 p.m. The meetings were hosted by the son and daughter of Pastor Munkh-Orgil Lkhagvaa, the MM CHM director.

At the beginning of the online meeting, they studied the Bible study and materials provided by the General Conference CHM department and gave

the children health advice on how to prevent COVID-19. They also watched *The Lord's Prayer*, a children's film series, and ended with a prayer by reading the prayers of the Bible characters. On the final day, they watched a movie entitled *The Story of Jesus for Children*. An average of 120 children attended daily, and they were thrilled to be united with the adults during the 10 Days of Prayer.

Due to the effects of the pandemic, many families were under lockdown for days and even months, leaving many in serious financial situations. During this time, the MM CHM department became a branch of the "No Food Day" project (see <https://nofoodday.org/>), with Pastor Lkhagvaa becoming the project coordinator. The project's aim is to help the poor, orphaned, and disabled children. To date, the MM project has helped 20 children in 20 churches through charitable donors. An average of \$50 per child is donated to buy food, clothing, and school supplies, and local church pastors continue to work together on the project. The goal is to continue the relief campaign every quarter to help meet the needs of those in our communities. A future goal is to raise enough funds to reach others who are in need, including children of non-Christian families. Since the success of this project depends on donations, the contributions have been received with grateful hearts. These tangible acts of kindness and love for our neighbors have been well received and much appreciated. We pray that God will continue to bring fulfillment and purpose through these projects.

By joining the "No Food Day" project, the MM Children's Ministries department was able to help 20 children in 20 churches through charitable donors.



An average of 120 children daily attended the MM 10 Days of Prayer and enjoyed programs for children.



Adventist Possibility Ministries Sabbath

Possibility Families

April 24, 2021

“All are gifted, needed and treasured!”

www.possibilityministries.org





Image: Shutterstock.org - EUDCOMM

Adventist Possibility Ministries Sabbath Day

The General Conference (GC) of Seventh-Day Adventists set up April 24, 2021, as the Sabbath day of Possibility Ministries. Adventist Possibility Ministries used to be referred to as Special Ministries. However, this ministry is now called Adventist Possibility Ministries (APM).

The motto of APM is “All are gifted, needed, and treasured!” Before the Creator God, there is no special person who is superior to others. All are sinners, so we all need His grace. There is no exception. Everybody is valuable and special, everybody is different, and all are in need.

APM is about caring and inclusiveness. It involves education and acceptance for everyone and the development of plans that will help bring about opportunities for involvement and a sense of belonging for the special needs person. It is a ministry that calls all to a life of service.

Ellen White says, “I saw that it is in the providence of God that widows and orphans, the blind, the deaf, the lame, and persons afflicted in a variety of ways, have been placed in close Christian relationship to His church; it is to prove His people and develop their true character. Angels of God are watching to see how we treat these persons who need our sympathy, love, and disinterested benevolence. This is God’s test of our character” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, 511).

APM has seven categories as follows: bereavement for spousal loss ministry, blind and low vision ministry, deaf and hard of hearing ministry, mental health and wellness ministry, physical and mobility ministry, orphans and vulnerable children ministry, and caregiver ministry.

Dr. Joo Minho, the APM coordinator of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, instructed and encouraged Union and Conference APM coordinators to make special plans for the Possibility Ministries Sabbath on April 24, 2021, and to invite people that Adventists should care for. The Korean Union Conference prepared posters, sermons, and Sabbath School programs for that Sabbath.

The GC also prepared a webinar about spousal loss for the Sabbath afternoon from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Some panelists who experienced spousal loss shared their grief and the methods on how to overcome challenges. Around 1,200 people attended this webinar and expressed their thanks to the panelists for sharing their experiences.



Joo MinHo

NSD Adventist Mission Director

The first Sabbath School Quiz Bowl in Mongolia Mission (MM) was held on April 3, 2021. The event was organized by the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries (SS/PM) department in Mongolia with the support of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD). The contents of the bowl were taken from the Sabbath School lesson quarterlies.

Last year, Pastor Richard Sabuin, NSD SS/PM director, suggested a way of organizing effective Sabbath School programs as a quiz show as a way to emphasize Sabbath School lessons. We decided to run the Sabbath School Bowl, but in the beginning, it was not easy to come up with questions. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic was getting worse, so an in-person event could not be held. It seemed that Satan was working so hard.

But God gave us wisdom. He always opens the doors. I discussed the event with some of my co-workers and friends. Then, we decided to hold the event through the ZOOM meeting application online. A team for the Sabbath School Quiz Bowl was created, and they came up with all the guidelines and rules. Local churches supported us by registering their best participants for the event. The event was new to all of us, but we were so blessed to have good teamwork that everything was well prepared.

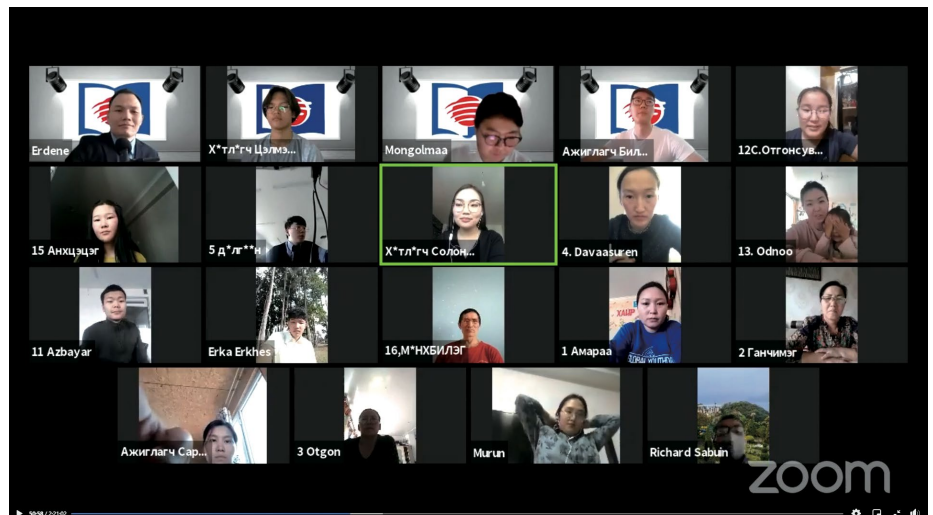
On the day of the Sabbath School Quiz Bowl event, seventeen people participated out of 33 churches. It was not a familiar Sabbath School activity at all for all church members. Plus, participating in an online event was also uncomfortable for them. That is why the churches sent their most faithful members.

The event was not only for those seventeen competitors. We broadcasted the whole program through Facebook livestreaming so that all other church members and their friends enjoyed the program. Because of the event, they were motivated to read and study the Sabbath School lesson book. I look forward to having more people participate in the bowl next time.

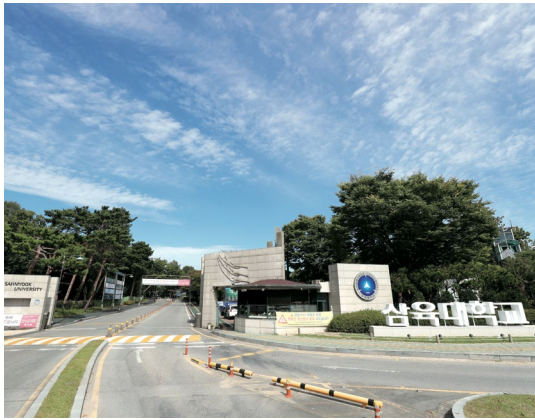
The SS/PM department of the MM keeps designing and organizing programs which are able to motivate our church members so that they will be trained as God's faithful disciples.

First Sabbath School Quiz Bowl in Mongolia Mission

Ganerdene Ganbaatar
MM SS/PM Director



Sahmyook University Selected for the National Program of Excellence in Software



Sahmyook University has been recently selected to run the government-funded “National Program of Excellence in Software.” The university is now poised to become a leading software-oriented university, with as much as 60 billion KRW (5.4 million USD) in support from the government for the next six years.

As part of the government’s grand initiative in which 1 trillion KRW (93.5 million USD) will be used to cultivate 100,000 specialists in the fields of AI and software by 2025, the “National Program of Excellence in Software” aims to innovate and expand software education in universities.

Sahmyook University will run the program with the goal of “nurturing convergence experts in the field of software for health science for a healthy local community.” With over a century of accumulated know-how in the specialization of health science, the university has an ambitious plan of developing convergence specialists with software expertise by grafting new technologies, including AI and big data, into healthcare.

The first step of the plan the university is taking is creating a new interdisciplinary program that converges software-related departments and healthcare-related departments. The university will thus expand a number of full-time faculty members and provide enhanced basic software training to all the students. “Sahmyook University will take one of its long-established strengths, the specialization of healthcare and health science, into software-based convergence education which is in tune with the era of the 4th Industrial Revolution,” said President Kim IlMok.

Retired Professor and Wife Donate Maturity Savings to Sahmyook University

Retired Professor Kwon OhDal of Sahmyook University and his wife, Lee KyungHee, former principal of Sahmyook Middle and High School, visited the campus of Sahmyook University eight years after retirement to donate their maturity savings of 30 million won (27 thousand dollars) toward university development.

Since joining the department of Horticulture (currently, department of Environmental Horticulture Design) in 1988, Professor Kwon devoted himself to the development of the university by serving as the head of Academic Affairs, dean of Student Affairs, and dean of the College of Science and Technology until his retirement in 2013. Former Principal Lee devoted her entire teaching career to Sahmyook Middle and High School and retired in 2013 as principal.

After retirement, the couple opened a savings account with a 5-year installment payment, hoping to express their gratitude to Sahmyook University. When their deposits matured, they withdrew the savings and donated it for the development of the university.



Retired Professor Kwon OhDal and his wife, Lee KyungHee, former principal of Sahmyook Middle and High School

Kwon said, “Sahmyook University is where I spent my entire career life, met so many students, and got to form precious relationships with great people. Also, this campus was our first home as a couple. We have received so much from the university.” He continued, “We are only repaying the tiniest bit of the kindness and grace that we have been blessed by. I thank my wife who gladly agreed to make this donation.”

NSD Youth Ministries Advisory Meeting

From April 6 to 7, 2021, the Youth Ministries department advisory of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) took place via Zoom for a total of seven hours. The previous advisory meeting was held on Jeju Island, South Korea, five years ago.

This year, we have newly appointed youth directors from Korean Union Conference (KUC) and the five local Conferences in Korea, Taiwan Conference, and Mongolian Mission. They are all motivated and enthusiastic for youth mission work. Supportive and capable youth leaders from the General Conference (GC), the NSD, and the Japan Union Conference also participated in the meeting.

During the devotional message on the opening day of the advisory meeting, NSD president Kim SiYoung encouraged participants by saying, “As youth leaders, we must be like the five wise virgins keeping watch and providing oil for our young people. And let us make our life influential not for ourselves but for others. Youth leaders and young people should mingle, care for one another, and share their spirituality with others.”

Gary Blanchard, GC youth director, introduced the Global Youth Leaders Congress to the participants. It will be held virtually right after the GC Session, which is scheduled to be held in June 2022. He also shared the *I Will Go* strategy for the youth.

Kim NakHyung, NSD Youth Ministries director, presented on the topics of Public Campus Ministry

(PCM), Pathfinder Ministry, 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM), and other ministries. Through the discussion led by Pastor Kim, the 3rd International Pathfinder Camporee was approved to be held in South Korea in 2023.

The director and associate directors of 1000MM headquarter also attended the meeting. When they shared their report about recent mission work of the 1000MM, the attendees could see that God is certainly using faithful young missionaries to expand His kingdom.

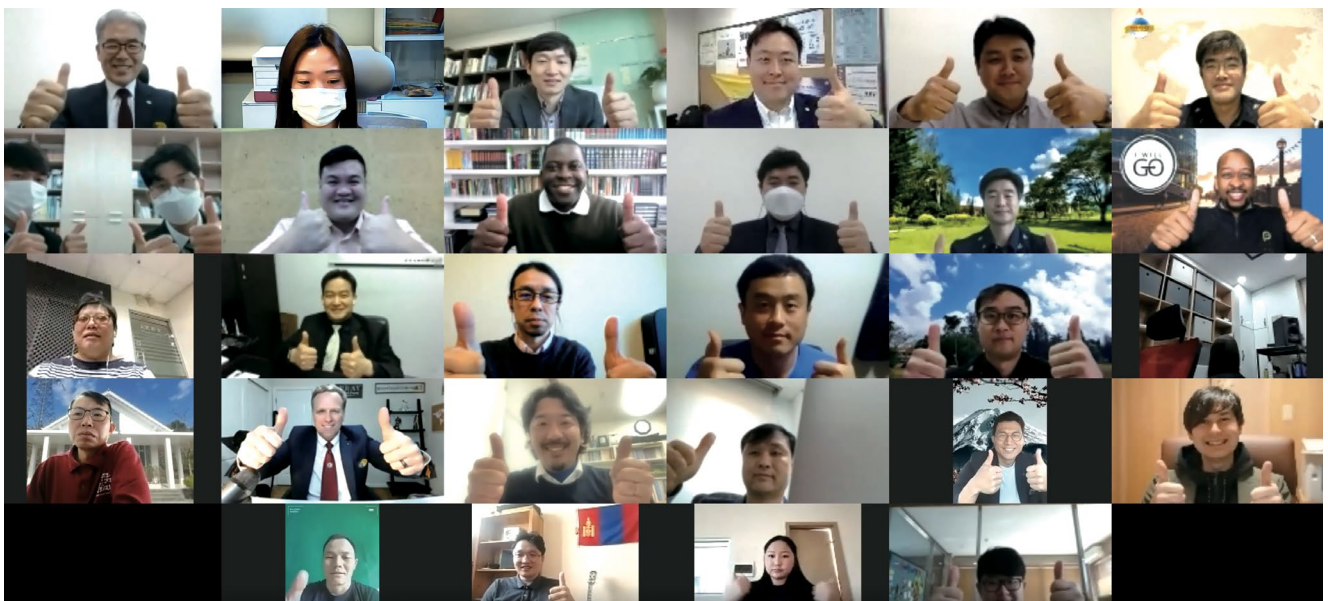
The KUC youth director and youth directors from the five local conferences in Korea participated in the advisory meeting with their PCM coordinators. They presented on their vision and plan of reaching young people during new quinquennium.

Through the report of each Union, Conference, and Mission, we had a meaningful time to assess the current status of youth ministries in the NSD territories and get ideas for the future.

At the conclusion of the advisory, the youth leaders in the NSD territories once again determined to arm the youth in our fields with the spirit and philosophy of *I Will Go*, a global mission initiative of the Adventist world church, and to send them to the campus, the workplace, and the community where they belong.



Kim NakHyung
NSD Youth Ministries Director





As *Light Lingers: Basking in the Word of God*, originally written in English by Nina Atcheson, has now been translated and is available in the four main NSD languages.

As Light Lingers: Basking in the Word of God by Nina Atcheson

Lisa Clouzet & Oyuntuya Batsukh
NSD & MM Family Ministries Directors

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Family Ministries (FM) department, with the help of the FM directors from Korean Union Conference, Taiwan Union Conference, and Mongolia Mission, has realized the completion of another one of this quinquennium’s Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). KPI 6.4—**Significant increase in number of church members regularly engaging in family worships** comes under the General Conference FM department’s chosen Spiritual Objective #6: **To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults.**

With the recent completion of the Mongolian version, the book *As Light Lingers: Basking in the Word of God* by Nina Atcheson has now been translated, published, and distributed for the four main NSD languages: Chinese, Korean, Mongolian, and Japanese. (The book had previously been translated into Japanese by the Japan Union Conference.) The purpose for this project was to help provide and promote concrete Bible study skills, along with personal and family devotional inspiration.

As Light Lingers has been well received and read by many at the time of this writing. These are some of the comments about the book: “This book is really inspirational and I was very blessed through this work”; “The book is a must-have for every family and is an inspiration to read. Thank you for translating this book”; “I was really blessed with this book and I want to read my Bible more”; and “This book has given me good ideas of how to introduce my children to Jesus and help them to enjoy spending time with Him in prayer and Bible study.”

For more information about *As Light Lingers*, please visit <http://aslightlingers.com>. May the Lord continue to use this book and the concepts found within.

I Will Go Online Event

Dorjderem Narankhuu
MM Communication Director

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Sahmyook University Holds a Special 150-day Feast of Prayer

Sahmyook University begins a new semester amidst the COVID-19 pandemic with a Feast of Prayer, which will fill the entire semester with prayers for overcoming the crisis. Organized by the Office of Chaplain Affairs, the "Special 150-day Noon Prayer Feast" is to be held until July 31, 2021.

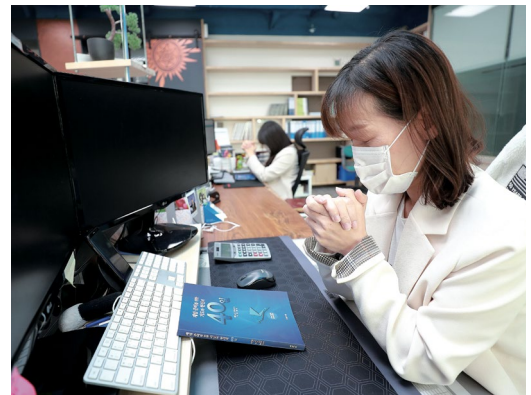
Throughout the semester, for 10 minutes right before noon, all professors and staff members meditate on a reading specially produced by the Office of Chaplain Affairs, followed by individual or group prayers in their respective department or office. Issues to be prayed about include mission revival, the growth of donation culture within the university, and the government-run evaluation for higher education restructuring.

Additionally, Sahmyook University also held the "United Early Morning Prayer Week for the New Semester" for five days from March 1 to 5, 2021. The meetings began at 5:50 a.m. each day at the main sanctuary of Sahmyook University Church, and were livestreamed on the University's YouTube channel.

"I believe that the moment we realize our weakness and vulnerability is when we need to turn back to our God," said Kim WonGon, head chaplain of Chaplain Affairs. "I sincerely hope that the entire Sahmyook community will come together and pray and experience the power of our almighty God this year."

The Mongolian Adventist Church is participating in the General Conference's initiative for this quinquennium, the *I Will Go* strategic movement. As part of this movement, the Mongolian Adventist Church organized and presented a strategic plan for the quinquennium of 2021 to 2025 at the *I Will Go* online event on February 6, 2021. On that day, department directors of Mongolian Mission (MM), pastors who are in charge of the eastern and western area of Ulaanbaatar City, and pastors in charge of the Mongolian countryside shared their 2020 mission reports and their *I Will Go* strategic plan for the next five years.

At the event, MM president Kim YoHan said that the Mongolian Adventist Church will focus on discipleship training in the years ahead, sharing the gospel of Christ in order to baptize 1,000 people, reaching 1,500 Sabbath worship attendees on average, and building 10 new church buildings. Throughout the meeting, all MM department directors, institutions, churches, and pastors were encouraged to combine efforts to reach the goals for this quinquennium under the banner of *I Will Go*. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).





Healthy Lifestyle Program of Pei Yuan Church

Jacob Ko

TWC Health Ministries Director

Pei Yuan Seventh-day Adventist Church is located in the Big Taipei region in Taiwan. Pei Yuan is not the name of a place. Rather, it means northern indigenous community in Taiwan. Almost thirty years ago, many Adventist indigenous members in Taiwan came from their hometown to Taipei for jobs. Most of them work at factories and construction sites. Although requesting a rest on Sabbath from their jobs is not easy, they are eager to have a church where they can gather and worship God as they did in their hometown. In the past, the location of the church has moved from place to place due to rent issues.

At present, Pei Yuan Church has about 40 regular members, composed of those from different tribes as well as those who are from the plains of the country. It is multicultural but united and harmonious. The annual tithe offering of this church reaches about a million TWD (about 35,000 USD). Their biggest project is to have a permanent church building.

After the Lunar New Year of 2021, church elder Lam and church health department head, Sister Sew Mei, started the health promotion project in Pei Yuan Church. Elder Lam had experienced a serious illness before, but he overcame it through faithful prayer and from practicing a healthy lifestyle. He often presented health seminars to the church members. Sister Sew Mei is also very interested in a health promotion program for the church.

In February 2021, Elder Lam and Sister Sew Mei started church health promotion projects. At the beginning, they prepared a weight scale and body fat measurement

and recorded the weight, B.M.I. (Body Mass Index), and body fat data of the church members as a pretest. The project emphasized a light dinner or no meal at night, and building regular exercise habits. Members were also taught to develop a social network so that they could encourage each other. They did group exercise, including hiking, walking, riding bicycles, and playing badminton.

Pastor Clark Ke, the church pastor, mentioned that the church members were very excited and involved in various health activities every week. He said this ongoing project will focus on the church members in the first half-year of 2021. They have an extension plan to promote this health project to the community near the church in the second half-year of 2021.

They are preparing themselves to do health cooking demonstrations, health lectures, exercises, and health assessments for the community. Before providing services to the community, they want to experience the benefit of a healthy lifestyle that could give them the confidence to share health messages, as well as the message of eternal life to others.

I am very impressed by the voluntary spirit of Pei Yuan Church members in doing health promotion in the church as well as in their community. The church does this with their own resources, including financial resources. They are eager to work, and for them there is no time to wait. They see the needs and plan for the program. Let us pray that the members of Pei Yuan Church be blessed by doing this program for the growth of the church.

Kids Talents for Jesus Winners Announced

Lisa Clouzet
NSD Children's Ministries Director

To help celebrate the General Conference Children's Ministries 25 years of ministry, children and teens from around the world were invited to send in their talents in the form of art pieces, poetry, or media production. The theme for the contest was "Jesus Is My Best Friend." The following categories were designated for judging: Gold Recognition for Art, Gold Recognition for Poetry, Merit/Creativity Recognition for Art, Merit/Creativity Recognition for Poetry, Special Mention for Art and Poetry, and Special Mention for Video Production. The winning entries have been chosen and those in the Gold category are featured in the *General Conference Children's Ministries 25th Anniversary Kids Talents for Jesus* publication, currently being published.

Sixteen submissions were received and considered from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. The following six winners from the Japan Union Conference were chosen for the Gold Recognition for Art category, and their art submissions will be featured in the 25th anniversary commemorative book, along with the entire list of winners:



- Yuiiri Zenke (8 years old)
- Naomi Hiraga (12 years old)
- Tomorou Itou (10 years old)
- Rin Nagakawa (11 years old)
- Ryouta Arima (11 years old)
- Takamasa Ooshige (12 years old)

We congratulate these young artists and are grateful for all those who submitted entries. Let's continue to encourage the children and youth to enhance the talents they've been given and help them use these gifts from God for His glory.

Art submissions from Yuiiri Zenke (left) and Ryouta Arima (below)





GLOBAL CAMPMEETING

Adventist Global Virtual Campmeeting to Launch May 19

The COVID-19 crisis has brought unprecedented challenges to the globe as millions of people face social isolation, severe health concerns, loss of income and even death. According to the World Health Organization, “the economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating.”¹

As a faith community, Seventh-day Adventists understand the importance of fellowship with other believers. As the body of Christ, we are to encourage and uplift each other through difficult times. As 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, “. . . Comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing” (NKJV).

Throughout the pandemic, local congregations, conferences and regional offices have been doing their best to provide connection between members through virtual church services, special conferences, and online prayer meetings—and these have been filling a need for

many. General Conference (GC) leadership have also desired to make a contribution.

A collaborative group from GC departments had already been planning a virtual exhibition hall for the GC Session in St. Louis, which had to be postponed due to COVID-19 concerns. They decided to use the scheduled time for an alternative event that would still bring members together from around the world to encourage each other, focus on our beliefs and prepare for the mission at hand.

“We thought, ‘What better way than to have a big campmeeting?’” Tim Aka, associate treasurer and director of investments for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, says. “I grew up going to campmeeting and enjoyed everything that goes on there,” he says.

“Of course, a virtual campmeeting isn’t quite the same, but it could be a good spiritual refreshing for people. We



“This online event will bring members together from around the world to encourage each other, focus on our beliefs, and prepare for the mission at hand.”

also thought it would be good to hear from our global leaders—from the deep thinkers, scholars and theologians of our Church—what we believe and what we hold to be the truth. This time of spiritual refreshing is something that is needed right now,” Aka notes.

How will a virtual campmeeting work? Over the weekend of May 19-23, 2021, keynote speakers such as Dr. Barry Black, Alejandro Bullón, Dr. David Williams and Dr. Michael-John Von Hörsten will share, followed by over 350 seminars offered in six different tracks: discipleship, education, health ministries, media, missions and theology. Speakers will keep their presentations relatively brief to allow for interactive question and answer periods afterward. Members can register for any seminar that interests them.

Presenters are directly involved with booths people can visit in the online

exhibit hall. Sam Neves, associate director of Communications for the World Church, explains how the exhibit hall will function. “When you enter the website, you have an image of a big hall. There are posters and banners for exhibitors. You can select a floor to visit and a rolling banner of virtual ministry booths will appear. After making your selection, you will see all the information about that ministry. Some will offer online chat sessions with a booth volunteer who can answer any questions you have,” he says.

The organizational committee hopes that this event will “expose the best of Adventism. Very few people have the opportunity to see what entities, ministries and organizations around the world are doing. This global campmeeting will provide a way for members to travel virtually across continents to see how the mission is advancing, and what exciting projects others are doing,” Neves says.

Based on the Church’s strategic theme, *I Will Go*, this virtual campmeeting will give church members an opportunity to get the resources and information they need to take part in the mission of the Church.

In order to make this a truly global campmeeting, the event will “have programming centered around three major regions: Asia-Pacific, Euro-Africa and the Americas. Seminars will be scheduled for convenient access from time zones around the world.”² More detailed information and registration is available at campmeeting.com.

Event organizers invite you to make this global campmeeting your spiritual highlight of the year. “Join us at the Adventist Virtual Global Campmeeting to fulfill our mission to Reach the World with the gospel of Jesus, and be ready to say, *‘I Will Go.’*”³

The original version of this story was posted on the Adventist News Network site.

¹ Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-10-2020-impact-of-covid-19-on-people%27s-livelihoods-their-health-and-our-food-systems> on April 12, 2021.

² Retrieved from <https://www.campmeeting.com> on April 12, 2021.

³ *Ibid.*

Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Day in Mongolia

Dorjderem Narankhuu
MM Communication Director

On January 23, 2021, the Mongolian Adventist Church had a special Sabbath focusing on Public Affairs and Religious Liberty. The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department of the Mongolian Mission cooperated with Basic Civil Rights and Development, which is a non-government organization, to hold a special Sabbath event. During the online event, lawyers from Basic Civil Rights and Development delivered lectures on human rights, a right to worship, registration of religious organizations, and other issues. After the lectures, there was a question and answer session to help Adventist pastors and church members understand more about religious freedom. During the Sabbath worship, Bazarsad Sukhbaatar, a member of Amazing Grace Church and a lawyer, delivered a special sermon, emphasizing religious liberty.

Шүтэх эрх болон шашны байгууллагуудын хууль эрх зүйн орчин
2 сарын 22 өдөр 11 - 13 цагт

Г. Мөнхцэцэг эрх зүйч
Сэдэв: Хүний эрх ба Шүтэх эрх

Ц. Цэндбаатар хуульч, өмгөөлөгч
Сэдэв: Шашны байгууллагын бүртгэл, сунгалт, татан буулгах эрх зүйн зохицуулалтын зарим асуудал

С. Базарсад хуульч өмгөөлөгч
Сэдэв: Шашны байгууллагыг бүртгэх, сунгах тухай аймаг нийслэлийн иргэдийн төлөөлөгчдийн журам, түүний зохицуулалт

Ч. Жадамба хуульч, өмгөөлөгч
Сэдэв: Шүтэх эрхийн талаарх шинэ хуулийн төслийн үзэл баримтлал, зохицуулалт

Д. Чинзориг хуульч өмгөөлөгч
Сэдэв: Шүтэх эрхийн хамгаалалт Эрүүгийн болон Зөрчлийн хуулийн зохицуулалт

LIVE Монголын Эвангелийн эвсэл

Lectures on human rights, a right to worship, and registration of religious organizations were given on a special Sabbath focusing on Public Affairs and Religious Liberty.

PRAYING FOR PRODIGALS



Ron E. M. Clouzet
NSD Ministerial Secretary

The greatest heartache Christian parents can experience is the loss of their children. But that heartache is magnified when their children, once they become adults, walk away from God, renouncing the faith of their fathers. And when this happens to pastors and their spouses, the burden is unimaginable.

Most pastoral families work hard on behalf of their children. They provide them with a good, loving home environment as they grow up. If available, they make sacrifices to pay for a good Adventist education. And they instill and model in their children solid biblical values. Pastors know their most important converts are their own children. But sometimes, those children embrace the world once out of the home. “Satan works most zealously to lead the children of ministers to dishonor their parents. If possible he will bring them into captivity to his will and imbue them with his evil propensities” (*The Adventist Home*, 357). When that happens with an adult child, all the pastor has left is to pray for them.

How does he do that? How does a mother do that? The answer to this varies with each family and each individual prodigal. But there are a few common denominators we should keep in mind when we pray for adult children who need to return to Jesus.

1. Pray Without Ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17; 2 Timothy 1:3). Praying for prodigals requires more than praying so they may get a good job or find a suitable mate for marriage. As important as these things are, what we’re praying for is a change of character. We’re praying for our sons and daughters to be born again, and that remains the toughest miracle the Holy Spirit can perform in a person’s heart. Parents must understand the concept of praying their children *through* until the desired breakthrough takes place. And that may take years.

The moment our intercession for our children weakens, the enemy takes further advantage of them. While we pray, God can put limits on the devil’s plans to lead them even further away from God. We must realize that we are

praying for changes our very own offspring are *not* likely praying for. When Jesus prayed for the soldiers who crucified Him to be forgiven, it was because no one else was going to do so, not even they themselves, since they were pagans. They didn't realize their great sin against the Son of God. Our children may not realize their lost condition, just like those soldiers didn't. Parents might be the only knowledgeable intercessors they have on earth. So, never give up. Never.

2. Pray God's Promises (Isaiah 49:25; Isaiah 44:3-5). Take a moment and read these two promises. God is specifically speaking of our offspring. God's promise in Isaiah 44 is that He will pour out His Spirit on our descendants and they will then "spring up like poplars by streams of water." Poplars are trees from the willow family. They grow fast and very tall, and have much need of water. But most importantly, they develop a strong root system of up to 40 meters (130 feet) in diameter. We pray for our children to develop a good spiritual foundation. Another promise is found in Joel 2:25, where God promises to "restore. . . the years that the swarming locust has eaten." We pray for God to reverse years of mistakes and waywardness.

Ellen White points to Augustine's mother Monica as an example of one who prayed without ceasing and prayed the promises of God. She "prayed for her son's conversion. She saw no evidence that the Spirit of God was impressing his heart, but she was not discouraged. She laid her finger upon the texts, presenting before God His own words, and pleaded as only a mother can." (*Testimonies*, vol. 5, 322). Years later, Augustine was converted, and he became one of the greatest theologians of early church history. He never forgot what a priest once told his mother, when Monica agonized with tears about her son: Trust in God, he told her, for "it is not possible that the son of these

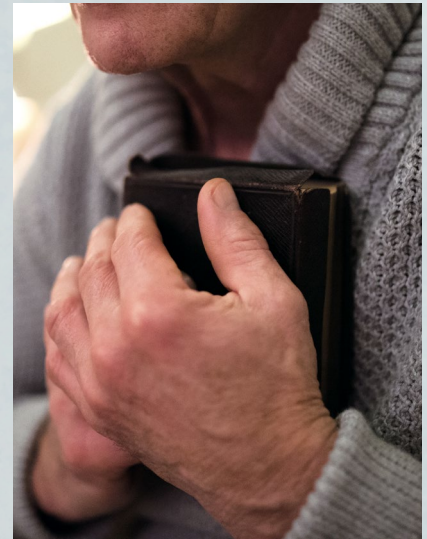
tears should perish" (*Confessions*, Book 3, chapter 12).

3. Pray Believing God Will Change the Situation (Mark 9:14-25; Matthew 15:21-28; Luke 8:40-56). The two most common statements by Jesus when He walked on this earth were "Do not fear," and "Where is your faith?" Jesus lived by faith in His Father. He trusted His own Father implicitly. "Have faith in God," He said, and "all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you" (Mark 11:22, 24).

The three texts highlighted in this section all deal with parents' agony over sick, dying, or demon-possessed children. But they also note the role of faith played by the parent. In the case of the demon-possessed young man (not a little boy), Jesus tested his father. "All things are possible to him who believes," He told him (Mark 9:24).

The father recognized his limited faith, replying, "Help my unbelief" (v.25). When Jairus found Jesus, and pleaded on behalf of his dying daughter, Jesus set out to go with him to heal her (Luke 8:41-42). But He was delayed (vv.43-48). Imagine you being that father! Your daughter dies because Jesus was delayed, healing someone else (v.49)! What a great test of faith. What did Jesus say to him? "Do not be afraid. . . only believe" (Mark 5:36). Once they reached home, Jesus resurrected Jairus' daughter. God can resurrect our own children from darkness, worldliness, confusion, and loss. He can reverse the situation.

When Jesus healed the daughter of the Syrophenician woman, a non-Israelite, it was in spite of every evidence that mother had that the situation would and could change. But she held on to Jesus, stubbornly trusting He would heal her daughter. The Bible says, "Then Jesus said to her, 'O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish.'



And her daughter was healed at once" (Matthew 15:28).

Satan's number one objective is for parents to focus on what is not working well with their adult children. He wants parents to wallow in discouragement, knowing that a faithless prayer will not go far and how easy it is to deplore and regret the current situation. God is counting on parents to believe, to trust that He alone can reverse the situation, and to believe no one loves our children more than He does. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that *He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*" (Hebrew 11:6, emphasis supplied).

By God's loving grace and His mighty power, one day, our children will come home.

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Three Main Tasks of Christians

Choi BongGil

Associate Director of the 1000MM Training Center



There are different criteria for dividing the world's population—country, religion, income, culture, etc.—but what would the world population look like if we looked at the earth from a Christian's eye and a mission perspective? According to a study, the world population can be broadly divided into four categories: **devout Christians** (approx. 770 million, 11% of the world population), **nominal Christians** (approx. 1.4 billion, 20%), **non-Christians within the reach of evangelism** (approx. 2.52 billion, 36%), and **unreached people** (approx. 2.3 billion, 33%).

Devout Christians refers to those who attend church regularly and who are faithful with offerings and church activities, literally sincere members of the church. **Nominal Christians** are those who have been baptized and have become members of a church, but have little faith in their lives. For instance, those who attend church only once a year are included in this category. **Non-Christians within the scope of evangelism** refers to those who live near Christians but reject the Gospel even though they have an opportunity to encounter the Gospel at any time. Family members, friends, and co-workers who often receive invitations to the gospel from nearby Christians but refuse to do so are included in this category. Lastly, the **unreached people group** refers to those who have little or no access to the Gospel unless someone carries the Gospel to them.

Edward R. Dayton, a missionary and missiologist, insists that Christians must perform three tasks in order to fulfill Christ's great commission. The nature and difficulty of the three tasks are different, but the importance is the same in that all three must be accomplished.

1. Nominal Christians must be disciplined. In many countries of the world, especially in Korea, there are countless people who attend church but do not live as witnesses of Jesus Christ.

On a tower at the 1000MM training center is their slogan, "Once a Missionary, Always a Missionary."



2. We need to evangelize non-Christians with whom we may be in direct contact. We must find ways to bring our non-Christian friends and neighbors to the gracious love of our Heavenly Father and God's desire to make them citizens of the kingdom of God.
3. We need to find unreached peoples, and develop missional strategies to share the Gospel with them. This is the main task of the church. Today, less than 10% of missionaries are reaching these unreached people groups. We should send missionaries to these 2.3 billion people in order to plant indigenous churches so that locals can evangelize the locals.

Today, Korea is the country where Christianity is the most active in Asia, and has become the second- or third-rank country in the world for sending missionaries. However, about 130 years ago, Korea was one of the unreached people groups. In other words, it was a land where the Gospel could never be known unless missionaries came to Korea with the Gospel. According to records, between the late 1800s and the mid-1900s, there were about 1,600 missionaries who stepped foot in Korea. 1,600 missionaries entered into this small country. Many people crossed the Pacific Ocean and set foot in Korea just because there was no way to share the Gospel with Koreans without sending missionaries.

Korea, 130 years ago, was completely different from today. Many missionaries who got off the boat would die within a year due to serious endemic diseases. Before the adoption of antibiotics, it was a land of bloody tears with the death of one out of every two babies. The situation of missionaries was no different when they gave birth to children in Korea. Although their skin

color was different, female missionaries and Korean mothers became one family through the same pain of losing children. There were countless number of missionaries who devoted their lives for more than 30 to 40 years even with countless pains and sufferings. Some missionaries even returned to Korea in their old age in order to live the last years of their lives in Korea, which they loved wholeheartedly. Their tombs are now located in Yanghwajin, Seoul. The devotion of the missionaries made Korea bear numerous fruits of life and grow into a healthy tree that sows the seeds of the Gospel.

The importance of local evangelism toward nominal Christians and non-Christians around us cannot be overemphasized. At the same time, we have to intentionally send missionaries to the wasteland of the Gospel with sincere support for them. This is because there are still a lot of people all over the world who are unable to hear the Gospel without missionaries. Therefore, it is absurd to wait for the second coming of Jesus Christ without sending missionaries and supporting them.

As of April 2021, the 1000 Missionary Movement has 338 young people serving as missionaries through the headquarters in the Philippines and branches in other countries. These young missionaries are working in Pakistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Taiwan, Korea, and Islamic countries near the Middle East. They strengthen the congregation, lead non-Christians to the Lord in their respective positions, and faithfully play a role as a lighthouse of the Gospel among unreached people groups. Thinking of these young missionaries, it is clear that the day of the second coming of Jesus Christ is drawing closer. Maranatha!

God-Directed Land: Pakistan Adventist Seminary & College

Kim SooA
1000MM 56th Batch



The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you’” (Genesis 12:1).

Before I arrived in Pakistan, Pakistan was an unknown, fearful, nervous, and curious land for me. My mission field is Pakistan Adventist Seminary & College (PASC). When I first arrived, people asked me, “May I help you?” and greeted me with bright and friendly smiles. PASC currently has grades 1 to 5 in elementary school, 6 to 8 in middle school, 9 to 10 in high school, a college, and a Community Learning Center (CLC). Currently, the school has 760 students and 70 faculty members.

Pastor Ji SungBae is the president of PASC, and Pastor Nam KyungWon is the chaplain in charge of the in-house church. Missionary Han ShinHa and his family members are here together. We, missionaries of 1000 Missionary Movement, help the two pastors visit local churches and lead Pathfinder clubs and choirs. And we work for the school according to each one’s talents. I lead an ensemble as a music teacher and teach violin and piano in elementary school. Missionary Kim HyunSeo teaches flute and English at CLC. Missionary Lee KyungJin began her ministry as a computer teacher at the elementary school and CLC, and works as a Bible teacher for children for midweek worship.

There are various school programs. Although Pakistan does not have music education, PASC provides learning opportunities for piano, violin, and cello. There are ensembles and choirs to form a sense of belonging and instill responsibility. There is a Pathfinder club during the weekdays so that students can expand their



experience through various activities. Students are taking steps toward God through discipleship training initiated by Pastor Ji.

My first impression of PASC was incredible. We arrived at the campus just before vesper service and went to worship right away. The sound of praise filling the church filled me with great emotion—the sound of praise in this country, where Islam is a state religion and prohibits music.

Outside, the sound of Muslim prayers is heard loudly through speakers from nearby mosques, and the sound of cars passing along the road just over the fence is noisy. But their praise comes much louder than that. The sound of praise makes me realize that I am in God's place, and this brings me peace. And I am wholeheartedly thankful that I am able to worship God on the Sabbath.

I am currently working on the basics. I look around, work on my mission, try to stay together with people, experience my mission field, wonder, and adjust. Sometimes there are things that are hard for me to understand. It is an entirely different environment from the one I have lived in so far. However, I have learned that hardship is also God's grace, providence, and gift.

I have no idea what's going to happen, but I will pray, reminding myself that everything is up to God so that I can be a missionary who sees the world a lot, experiences a lot, cries a lot, fails a lot, succeeds a lot, and prays a lot. I am expecting God to lead me, and I am looking forward to the providence He will show me.

1000MM missionaries at Pakistan Adventist Seminary & College support Pathfinder ministries of local churches around the school.





1000MM missionary Park SoJin is praying in a public place in her mission field.



Lighthouse

Park SoJin

1000MM 56th Batch

It may be lonely, but it's worthwhile to live as a lighthouse that lights the way for fishermen in the dark sea. The lighthouse shines its light every day and signals that it is there. It is the role of a lighthouse to show the path to those who are lost. Many missionaries live as lighthouses of God in a world darkened by the many tricks of Satan.

Five times a day, the sound of prayer is heard in Camii (a place of worship for Muslims). My mission field is where the seven churches in the Book of Revelation were located and where the majority of the population is estimated to be Muslim. I was excited to be sent to a place in Bible history. It is wonderful to be a missionary in changing people's lives. I live here with the goal of making local friends, talking together, and studying the Bible with them if I have the opportunity. It is my ministry to live as a Christian in this place where Christians are treated with contempt.

One day, as I sat in a café and watched people, I asked myself, "Do these people need me?" People may live well whether I am here

or not. I spent some time thinking about why I was here. “Am I a missionary?” “What is missionary life?” There were many moments that I wanted to define a missionary.

After being dispatched, I was a bit dazed and confused for about a month. I had to move two times before settling in my current house. Onsite worships were not allowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and I had to be careful in meeting with people. As more days passed in such a situation, I felt lethargic and frustrated. I wanted to clearly know what I had to do for mission and wanted to see souls before my eyes. I wondered what God wanted me to do. I was an immature missionary who had been in my mission field for only a month and wanted to get an absolute answer.

God reminded me of Joseph. Joseph remained in prison for two years after interpreting the dreams of two chiefs of the government. I thought of how he must have felt in prison. As Joseph lived forgotten for two years, would he have been impatient? Was his faith shaken? Did he doubt why God sent him there? But Joseph waited for God’s time. He remembered that God was with him, and he waited quietly in prison where there was nothing to do without light.

As I meditated on Joseph’s life, I realized that what I needed to do was “to wait.” It is my job to wait for God’s time by shining the light of Jesus. In order to not become a lighthouse that has lost its light, one should meditate on the word of God day and night and look at souls with the eyes of love. Then the lighthouse will do its job to show the light of God to lost ships.

So the first thing I am doing is letting people know about my existence—a Korean who shows up at the same time every day and does something at the same place. It has only been a week, but there are people who recognize me. If I silently announce my existence here and try to shine the light as a person of God, wouldn’t a lost soul have a chance to someday live by looking at Jesus?



Until half a year ago, my dream of becoming a missionary had seemed far away. When I was preparing for the national exam, I never imagined writing a testimony in the mission field. Half a year later, I came to a place that takes more than 18 hours by plane from Korea, and I am waiting for God’s will while reading His words at this place. God’s word is powerful. Even now, the Holy Spirit lives in everyone’s heart and constantly speaks through life. At the decisive moment to set the fire, the Lord will draw me to a soul. Until that time, I just need to hold on tightly to Jesus so that Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, can be clearly illuminated. All work should be done by God.

The lighthouse is not noisy. The light shines silently on the spot. The lighthouse remains lit up all night for all ships, even though there may be only one ship drifting in the wide sea, a ship that has never been seen before. Such a lighthouse allows lost ships to find their way.

Is the lighthouse lonely? No, the lighthouse is not lonely because it has the lighthouse keeper. We have our lighthouse keeper, Jesus. Our lighthouse keeper, who gives us the light, is always with us so that we can shine more brightly on lost souls. I pray every day to live as a missionary accompanying Jesus.

Golden Angels 18 had a mini-concert at Paju International Church.



Golden Angels 18 Gears Up for Singing Mission

Niang San Lun
Golden Angels 18

Three months of the year 2021 has passed. We, the eight dedicated young missionary singers, have finished intensive training, and are ready to go to the mission field. If we were on a regular schedule as in previous years, we would be leaving the country for various mission trips. Due to another year of COVID-19 travel restrictions, this isn't happening at the moment, but we are not discouraged by the situation. Our great Leader never fails; neither does His ministry.

Just like the previous batches, we, the 18th batch of Golden Angels, had a mini-concert at Paju International Church. The concert was on March 5, 2021, during the vespers worship. It was also broadcasted live on Golden Angels TV, our YouTube channel.

As a special dedication for this year and with hopeful hearts, we started our ministry with a dedication ceremony on March 12, 2021, at the auditorium of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) office, which was the first ceremony of the kind in the history of Golden Angels. While maintaining COVID-19 safety guidelines, department directors, administrators, and staff members of the NSD honored the ceremony with their presence.

At the ceremony, we rendered three songs. After each one of us gave our personal oath, we were given the Golden Angels patch and pin. Afterward, NSD president Kim SiYoung shared an encouraging message and sought the blessings and strength of God in prayer. We are thankful to the Lord for being with us during the planning and finishing of the ceremony, and we are thankful to everyone who attended and witnessed the beginning of young missionaries.

As a starting point to our ministry, we were given a chance to participate in Global Youth Day (GYD) 2021, with the theme of *I Will Go*. With the collaboration of the NSD media team, we recorded videos of us singing in the NSD studio. The songs were used during the broadcast of the GYD program that the General Conference held on March 21, 2021. We were very glad for the opportunity to be able to participate in the program. Through this, we sense the direction of God for this ministry. When we are willing and ready to be used, God will bring us through anything.

In addition to the GYD program, we were also able to support the week of prayer at Hong Kong Adventist College (HKAC). If there was no pandemic, we would be with them cultivating and nourishing our faith together. This time we could join them only in live singing through Zoom. After the week of prayer, we received messages from HKAC students that they were blessed and grateful for our songs.

All of this may seem small, but this is just the start of greater causes that are coming on the line of our ministry. We believe that this seemingly impossible situation will turn into heavenly achievement through Jesus Christ. We request your prayers for the ministry. We are ready to go wherever it may be. We will serve with gladness.



Golden Angels filmed videos of their performances at the NSD studio to share with participants of 2021 Global Youth Day.



**REACH
THE WORLD**
Seventh-day Adventist
World Church
STRATEGIC PLAN

