

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION www.nsdadventist.org

NEWS&VIEWS



July / August 2022



INSPIRATION

What Do You Need the Most?

Kim YoHan, President
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

We face many challenges, and many solutions are needed to solve them, but one of the biggest problems is lack of unity which causes the gospel work to retreat instead of moving forward. If I had to choose one solution, it would be to pray for the Holy Spirit in unity.

When we gather together with one mind, prayer exerts tremendous power beyond our imagination. An example is the Monday Peace Prayer Meeting, which started in 1981 with a small number of people. This prayer meeting began at St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig, East Germany. They held a “Prayer for Repentance and Peace” every Monday. They continued to repent and pray earnestly for the restoration of Germany.

Eight years later, on September 25, 1989, the peace prayer movement grew into a prayer gathering of 8,000 people. The number increased to 20,000 on October 2nd of the same year, to 70,000 on October 9th, and finally to 120,000 on October 16th. In the end, God heard their prayers, and on November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall fell, and East and West Germany became one.

From the General Conference (GC) of our denomination to the small church on the front lines, what do we need the most? We need the united prayers offered by people of one heart and one mind like the prayers that broke the Berlin Wall.

According to the statistics of the GC Session held in St. Louis, June 5-12 this year, the church has grown into 21,912,161 registered members from 212 countries (as of October 13, 2021). With growth, the church faces numerous

challenges. Some of these challenges include distrust of Ellen G. White. The challenges the GC receives are transmitted to the 13 divisions and small churches on the front lines. What we most need right now is the united prayer of people of one heart, one goal, and one mind.

Ellen White says how important and powerful it is to pray in unity with one heart as follows: “Notice that it was after the disciples had come into perfect unity, when they were no longer striving for the highest place, that the Spirit was poured out. They were of one accord. All differences had been put away. ... they claimed the endowment of power that Christ had promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day. So it may be now. Let Christians put away all dissension and give themselves to God for the saving of the lost” (*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, 20-21*).

When the selfish and self-centered disciples united and devoted themselves to prayer in the upper room, strife was eliminated, the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands of souls were joined in salvation every day with amazing results.

Acts 1:14 says: “these all were continuing with one accord in prayer and supplication, with women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”

In this way, the Holy Spirit of the early rain fell on the upper room where 120 disciples gathered and prayed with one mind. The consequences are all too well known to you.

Let us unite and pray with one accord. Let us pray with one purpose. Let us experience the receiving of the Holy Spirit like the Day of Pentecost when 120 disciples devoted themselves to prayer. Let us receive the Holy Spirit of the latter rain. And let’s spread the gospel to the ends of the world, receiving the great blessing of welcoming the Lord’s coming in our generation.



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NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

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News & Views Editorial Team

Editor Byun SeongJun
Assistant Editor Baek YoungShim
Contributing Editors Toshio Shibata, Lee
SangYong, Han SukHee, Tom Sun
Designer Baek YoungShim

For free subscription or news items,
send an e-mail to

sjbyun@nsdadventist.org

ybaek@nsdadventist.org

or

67-20, Beonttwigi-gil, Paju-si, Gyeonggi-do,
Republic of Korea

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.

“Jesus is coming! Get involved!”

61st General Conference Session in St. Louis, USA



Kim SunHwan
NSD Adventist
Mission Director



The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a global church, and one of the factors that make it possible for the Adventist world church to be united is the General Conference (GC) Session. All the Adventist churches scattered around the world participate in the GC Session by sending representative delegates.

Postponed On-and-off Blended GC Session

The 61st General Conference Session was held in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, on June 6-11, 2022. This was

the first time a session had been postponed by events other than World War I and II. The 61st GC Session was supposed to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the session was put off for two years. The GC Constitution stipulates that the GC Session can be postponed in the case that special world conditions make it imperative to postpone the calling of the session. However, the postponement of the session is not to exceed two years according to the GC Constitution's Article 5.



The 61st GC Session adopted a combination of on- and off-site meetings.

The GC Constitution also defines that at least one-third of the total delegates must be present at the opening meeting of the General Conference Session to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. At least 900 delegates out of 2,700 must be present on site when the GC Session opens to constitute a quorum. But just in case less than 900 delegates attended the onsite session due to Covid-19 restrictions from other countries, the General Conference held a Special Session on January 18, 2022, to amend the GC Constitution, allowing virtual attendees to be counted in the quorum. Finally, the on-and-off-site blended GC Session, for the first time in Adventist Church history, was held in St. Louis, Missouri.



A Shortened and Minimized GC Session

In previous GC sessions, special delegates and invitees alongside regular delegates were allowed to attend. However, the 61st onsite Session was restricted to regular delegates only. Typically, the session consists of ten days, from Thursday to the following Sabbath. However, this session was held only six days, June 6-11. Though the session officially started at 8 a.m. on June 6, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) had its first caucus meeting at 7 a.m. with session meetings continuing until 9:15 p.m. every day with two breaks for lunch and supper.

Special messages were rendered at the beginning and the end of the daily program focusing on the Holy



1. KUC delegates at the “Mission on the Move” program representing the multicultural nature of the Adventist Church.
2. Special music is rendered at the Sabbath worship.
3. Delegates of Mongolia Mission come on the stage, holding their name plate and flag.

Spirit and Creationism. Business meetings, various reports, as well as the nominating committee process were done the first four days, with all division reports presented throughout the day on Friday. The GC Session Operating Committee decided not to have business meetings on Friday because Friday in St. Louis might



Adventist world church president Elder Ted Wilson gives opening remarks.



Jonas Arrais, NSD ministerial secretary, speaks at the business session.



Oh BeomSeok, NSD North Korea mission director, appealing to attendees to pray for North Korea.

CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

ST. LOUIS
2022
61ST GENERAL
CONFERENCE
SESSION

St. LOUIS
2022
61ST GENERAL
CONFERENCE
SESSION



be the Sabbath day to some delegates who were joining online from the other side of the world. The six-day session climaxed and closed with “Mission on the Move” at 5:30 Sabbath afternoon where representatives from each country marched with their name plates and national flags. Representatives of countries where the Adventist church has not yet reached came up to the stage, reminding all attendees of the mission that we still need to accomplish by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Election: GC and NSD Leadership

The Adventist World Church chose stability when electing its world leaders. Elder Ted Wilson was re-elected as president of the General Conference for his third term. This will be his third term. Erton C. Kohler and Paul H. Douglas were also re-elected as GC secretary and treasurer. Their terms of office will be three years until 2025.

A new NSD president and executive secretary were also voted in. The former president, Dr. Kim SiYoung announced his retirement and the NSD nominating committee, along with the advisers, recommended Dr. Kim YoHan as the new president of NSD and it was approved at the session business meeting. Dr. Richard Sabuin, who was the NSD acting secretary, was elected as a GC Education department associate director, and Pastor Hiroshi Yamaji from Japan Union Conference was elected as the executive secretary of NSD. The current NSD chief financial officer, Elder Joel Tompkins, was re-elected for the same position. Their terms of office will be three years until the General Conference Session in 2025.

Dr. Kim YoHan is a man of mission. He served with the 1000 Missionary Movement for ten years, the first five years as associate director and the other five years as director. He also



1. Kim YoHan, new president of NSD, and his wife Shin SunHwa.
2. GC President Ted Wilson and his wife, Nancy, as he accepts his re-election for a third term.
3. Kim SiYoung, former NSD president, raises his hand in greeting with his wife, Oh MyungSook, after announcing his retirement.

served as a missionary for seven years—two years in Uganda and five years in Mongolia. Recently, Dr. Kim served as the NSD Adventist Mission director for one year. At the interview with *Church Compass*, a monthly periodical for Korean Adventists, right after he was elected (see page 9), Dr. Kim expressed that he would continue to keep the “Mission First” spirit like his predecessors. He also mentioned the importance of revival and reformation of the church. He emphasized that it is possible only when we are united in prayers and go forward in faith.



Delegates of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Ebenezer: “Thus Far Has the Lord Helped Us”

What we cannot help confessing is that our God has helped thus far. The 61st General Conference Session was the time for us to witness and confess that it was God’s special help that made it possible for the Adventist World Church to grow up to this point. The church is vulnerable, but our God is strong. The GC Session teaches us that we can trust God—if He has helped us thus far, He will also continue to be with us until He comes. In the near future, we hope that we may have the General Conference Session with Jesus Christ in heaven.



Kim YoHan Elected President of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division



Dr. Kim YoHan, the current Adventist Mission director and assistant to the president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), was elected as the new president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

The Executive Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Church during the 61st General Conference session, which convened in the morning of June 8, 2022, elected Kim as the new spiritual leader of the division. He has been serving as the director of Adventist Mission and as an assistant to the NSD President since June 2021.

Kim began his pastoral ministry at West Cheonan Church of the Middlewest Korean Conference in 1991. While pastoring at Jeongsan Church in 1996, he was called to serve at the 1000 Missionary Movement Training Center and served both as an associate director and as a director for 10 years.

He then returned to Korea and served as the director of general affairs at Sahmyook Health University. After his service at Junggok Church in the East Central Korean

Conference, he was sent to Uganda to serve as an overseas missionary from March of 2013 to February of 2015.

Upon returning to Korea, he devoted himself to local church work at Gangneung Central Church and then the following year, he was appointed as president of the Mongolian Mission to spread the Three Angels' Messages to the "Land of Chinggis Khaan."

After being called as director of the NSD Adventist Mission, he spearheaded projects such as Global Mission, Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM), *Mission to the Cities* as well as the *I Will Go* Initiative. He contributed in the planting of churches in unentered areas, sending and supporting PMM missionaries to various parts of the world, and leading the *I Will Go* mission strategy as promoted by the General Conference. He and his wife, Shin SunHwa, have an adult son and daughter and who are married.

Kim holds a Doctor of Preventive Health Care from the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP).

Interview with Kim YoHan

“All of the NSD’s mission projects will be implemented according to the *I Will Go* mission strategy.”

Interviewer: Kim HyoJun

Editor of *Church Compass*

Dr. Kim YoHan, the newly elected president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) recently talked about the projects he plans to focus on during his time of service—*Mission First*, digital evangelism, empowering children and youth ministries, and the strengthening of the North Korean mission. The following is the content of the full interview.

► **You received the call to be the new division president. What are your feelings?**

I was surprised at the unexpected and sudden decision. When I was working as a departmental director in NSD, and in the past when I was working as the director of the 1000 Missionary Movement and as president of the Mongolian Mission, my motto was to always have fun and to engage in a delightful ministry. Our workplace should always be like that, and I have attempted to create that environment.

I don’t think it’s right for one to work under stress or face difficulties while fulfilling one’s duties and responsibilities. As president of NSD, I would like to help every member, whether in the local church, institution, or in the mission field, to enjoy their work atmosphere. It is better and necessary to work in such an atmosphere.





► **Which projects do you wish to focus on during your term in office?**

The direction that our division must take is clear. “Mission First” is our number one priority. Digital evangelism is important as modern society lives in the age of digital media. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, digital evangelism work became more important. This must continue to be strategically activated as NSD carries out practical ways to strengthen our digital media mission work. The Communication department has taken over the responsibility of supporting the development of digital evangelism in Korea, Japan, Mongolia, and Taiwan in various ways and by training professionals. Practical training in the countries within the division has already started.

The strategic empowering of the children and youth ministries also cannot be left out. Particularly in Korea and Japan, the population decline is serious. It should be considered that these generations are disappearing. In a situation such as this, it is necessary for us to think about how we can invest and implement projects for the development of mission work in the upcoming generations.

The NSD established the North Korean mission department last year. It’s an area that we have always been interested in, a barren land deprived of the gospel. I am thankful and grateful that pastor Oh BeomSeok, the director of the department, is doing his best on the

project. In the new, upcoming session, we are determined to make more efforts for our mission work in North Korea.

All of these projects will be focused on and implemented according to the *I Will Go* mission strategy of the General Conference.

► **What do you think is the most urgent issue in NSD at the moment?**

Revival and reformation. I don’t think it is necessarily a problem, but I believe that it is something urgent.

► **Lastly, what would you like to ask or emphasize to the church members in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division?**

For 17 years, I lived as a missionary in a foreign land. What I felt and experienced personally is the fact that I gained great strength when the church members mentioned my name in their prayers. Perhaps, it may sound like a cliché, but the most essential and practical aspects are the prayers of the members. A person with shortcomings has been given a large burden. As a leader, it is possible to face many temptations and challenges. I solicit your prayers that I may not become vulnerable.

I’ll heed to the voices in the frontlines. I would appreciate it if you could talk to me any place and anytime. I would also appreciate if you could share with us what NSD needs to hear. When you give me unhesitating advice regarding God’s church and evangelism, I will humbly receive and do my best to implement it. I would like to solicit your prayers and your advice.



Hiroshi Yamaji Elected as NSD Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Church voted to elect Pastor Hiroshi Yamaji as the executive secretary of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division during the General Conference business session on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. Pastor Yamaji has various experience in pastoral service, departmental ministry, and administration.

For the past year and a half, he has been the president for East Japan Conference. Before that, he served five years as assistant to the president for evangelism at Japan Union Conference. He successfully led the “All Japan Maranatha” evangelistic series in 2018. From 2006 to 2022, he served as departmental director for



various ministries—Sabbath School and Personal Ministries, Health Ministries, and Adventist Mission at JUC.

He began his pastoral work as a local church pastor in 1994. His pastoral ministry includes serving at the college church in Japan and Loma Linda Japanese Church in the United States. He worked as a registered nurse for five years before earning a bachelor’s degree in theology. His wife, Sakiko Yamaji, is also a

registered nurse.

Pastor Yamaji and his wife have five adult children and a history of pastors in the family—his father is a retired pastor, his older brother is a pastor currently serving as JUC treasurer, and his nephew is a pastor.

Joel Tompkins Re-elected as NSD Treasurer

The Executive Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Church voted to re-elect Elder Joel Tompkins for a second term during the General Conference business session on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. Tompkins, one of NSD’s three executive officers, has served as NSD treasurer since 2018, following German Lust joining the General Conference.

Joel Tompkins comes to us with extensive experience in treasury and finance. Before he joined NSD, he was the treasurer of the New Jersey Conference in North America. Prior to that, he worked six years as treasurer of the Southern New England Conference. From 2006 to 2011, he and his wife were missionaries in Egypt, where Elder Tompkins was in charge of the field’s finances. He has also served as: vice president for finance of the Washington Conference; associate treasurer for the Planned Giving department in Michigan Conference; undertreasurer of Kansas-Nebraska



Conference as well as Planned Giving. He also worked as an auditor for Adventist Health System and as a controller for a county hospital. Mr. Tompkins has a B.S. in business administration and is a certified public accountant.

Kellie Tompkins earned a B.A. in journalism. She worked as a journalism teacher and editor at schools. Her writings on the plight of Sudanese refugees generated funds to grant scholarships to Sudanese students. In addition, she worked as a news reporter and a freelance writer. Mrs. Tompkins has spent many years working with children in school environments and has also taught English as a second language (ESL). She has been contributing to NSD as a teacher for CLAP (Communication and Leadership Advancement Program) and as a proofreader of the *News & Views* magazine.

The Tompkins have two adult sons living in the United States, who are married and have two children each.

A Man of Vision, Passion and Mission

Interview with Kim SiYoung, Former NSD President

Interviewer: Byun SeongJun
NSD Communication Director



► **Pastor Kim SiYoung, thank you for your willingness to be interviewed in your busy schedule. I want briefly to hear from you about how you began your Christian life and pastoral ministry.**

My mother was a faithful Adventist member, so from my childhood I was raised as a Seventh-day Adventist. Her life, faith, and prayer-life greatly influenced my decision to become an Adventist pastor. As I look back on my life, I can just say that everything was God's guidance and provision.

► **Your work for the past 43 years has included pastoring a local church, conference and union youth director, and director of various institutions such as the 1000 Missionary Movement, SDA Language Institute, and Korean Publishing House. Then you served as a director, and ultimately as president of Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Can you tell me some of the most memorable or meaningful moments during your career?**

The highlight of my ministry was the experiences I had as a director of 1000 Missionary Movement. It was an unforgettable and a very precious time for me. I nurtured my dream for mission work while praying, training and planting churches with missionaries at the mission field.

Another precious experience was the English Bible camps held at the Language Institute with the hundreds of students every summer and winter. I felt very much rewarded upon witnessing around 1,000 young and talented students receive God's Word, accepting Jesus, and experiencing changes in their lives.

► **In your long career, there must have been times of difficulty. I want to hear about your ministerial philosophy or experiences that kept you strong and faithful in such times.**

God is great and faithful. I think that if you have the conviction that God is almighty, there is no problem. And in God's words, there is a way and an answer for every problem. If you live according to God's words, He will lead you to the best way. I was sometimes weak and fragile, incapable of doing anything. But God has been with me throughout my humble ministry and has made everything possible.

► **Working with you in the division office, I've seen your passion in doing God's work. You served as a director and the president of the division from 2012 to 2022. Looking back on these past ten years, tell me about the focus of the division's mission work.**

In the first sentence in the book *The Acts of the Apostles*, Ellen G. White clearly states the mission of God's church: "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world" (AA, 9). The goal of our mission work is to realize



Pastor Kim SiYoung and his wife Oh MyungSook

this statement. I believe the power of the Church lies in local churches. When local churches properly recognize the mission of the Church's existence and are given power and energy to do gospel work, this mission can be accomplished. We tried to revive the mission work at the local church level and it was our top priority.

Pastors and lay leaders are the ones who serve and lead local churches. Therefore, we focused on training them for mission work so that they could collaborate with church members for mission work. I believe that there will be a great mission revival when the pastors and members in our division, union, and each conference work together with the right vision for the church.

▶ As you carried out various mission projects in the division over the past 10 years, I am sure you had to face many obstacles and challenges. What is the most urgent challenge for the division to overcome in order to advance in terms of mission?

As I mentioned earlier, local churches should be revived. Pastors and lay leaders lead local churches. They need to have a strong conviction about mission work. It's a paradigm shift. Mission work cannot fail because it's God's work. The Holy Spirit's power will be with the plan and practice of mission work. With God's help, each and every church's mission work will be successful and churches will be filled with new souls. With the mindset of "We can do it. Mission work cannot fail," the leaders should challenge themselves to mission work, clinging to God's power, and vigorously moving forward saying, "I Will Go!"

▶ You made a decision to retire during the recent General Conference session even though you could have served another term as the division president. I wonder about the background for it.

Whenever I make a big decision as such, I just surrender myself to God's guidance. I thought it would be better for the church to have a leader younger than me who is passionate about mission work to serve and lead our division.

▶ They say the word "retire" means to change tires and start running anew. I'd like to know about your post-retirement plans and service.

The biggest reward you get from pastoral ministry, I think, is working at the frontline of mission work. It would be wonderful if I can stay in good health and spend the rest of my life at the frontline of mission work helping young leaders save souls under God's guidance.

▶ Please say a word to pastors and leaders in ministry and administration.

When Jesus went back to heaven, He left behind this church. He entrusted the church to fulfil the mission tasks. I think it is important to keep the church



grounded on those tasks and purposes. We have been called for that goal. If we respond to that call and work faithfully, God will bless us abundantly.

► **Thank you for your hard work and dedication as the leader over the past ten years for the spiritual growth and revival of the churches and members in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Lastly, please say a word to the church members within our division territory.**

I want to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to you, church members, for your support and love. Your ceaseless prayers for me gave me so much courage and strength. I pray that Jesus will come again soon. I hope we can fulfil our mission tasks quickly and go to heaven, to our eternal home with our Lord Jesus Christ. May God's loving guidance and grace be with your family and church.

1. Pastor Kim at the Pathfinder Camporee in Korea.
2. Pastor Kim chose his ministerial experiences in the 1000 Missionary Movement and SDA Language Institute as the highlight of his ministry.





Raquel Arrais
Associate Ministerial Secretary

“God Knows Your Name. Do You Know His?” NSD Week of Prayer and Spiritual Emphasis

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) held its Week of Prayer on March 21–25, 2022, with guest speaker Heather-Dawn Small, General Conference Women’s Ministries Director who talked on the theme, “God Knows Your Name. Do You Know His?” During that week, the NSD family had the opportunity to delve deeper into our knowledge about God’s names. These special days of learning led us in a growing experience of praise, thanksgiving, obedience, reverence, and service because of who God is and what God does.

On Monday, Small’s opening message titled “God Knows My Name,” challenged us to know God in a personal way. “The more we know God, the more we trust God. The more we trust God, the more we seek Him,” she said.

On Tuesday, she encouraged us to depend on Jehovah-Ezer, the God who is our Helper. As an example, Small used King Asa when he called to the Lord and said, “There is no one besides You to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength” (2 Chronicles 14:11).

“Emmanuel—He is With Me,” was the message shared on Wednesday. She taught us that we have nothing to fear: We have God before us (Isa. 48:17); God behind us (Isa. 30:21); God on our right (Ps. 16:8); God on our left (Job 23:9); God above us (Ps. 36:7); God’s arms beneath us (Dt. 33:27) and His Spirit is within us (I Cor. 3:16).

Thursday we were invited to trust in the God who is faithful from the beginning to end. “Jesus Christ is

the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). “He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it” (I Thessalonians 5:24).

On Friday’s sermon, Small reminded us that we are not alone; we have a gentle Shepherd—Jehovah Raah, who leads us through the mountains and valleys, that “if in a narrow path or through the valleys, to be ever in His presence, where He leads, we will go, we are safe.”



Heather-Dawn Small, General Conference Women’s Ministries director, was the speaker of the week.

Deeply rooted in God’s word, the speaker appealed to the NSD family to take the names of God with us wherever we go as we share God’s love in the NSD territories.

The many names of God in Scripture constitute additional revelation of God’s character, work, and relationship to us. They tell

us many things about God’s care and concern for us. This is one of the fascinating realities the Bible presents for such a time as this.

Each message closed with a season of prayer for the NSD territories and their specific needs. This was also a time for dedication and recommitment as servants and voices of Jesus’ love and His soon return.

2022 NSD Ministerial Advisory

Jonas Arrais
NSD Ministerial Secretary

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) held a one-day ministerial advisory on May 9, 2022, for Japan Union Conference, Taiwan Conference, and Mongolia Mission via Zoom, and then on May 16, a face-to-face meeting was possible for the Korea Union Conference. These meetings provided a great opportunity for instruction, training, fellowship, and for the participants to be acquainted with the new NSD ministerial secretary.

Ministerial secretary has an important role in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It includes a variety of responsibilities, such as:

- Following up the academic preparation of future pastors who are attending the seminary.
- Following up, training, and evaluating intern pastors before ordination.
- Following up, equipping, and evaluating ordained pastors in ministry.
- Following up, support, and care for retirees.

In other words, this important ministry in the Adventist Church exists to help, support, train, encourage, motivate, evaluate, partner, and be the voice of pastors and be their representative before church administrators.

During the advisory, all participants had the opportunity to revisit the major activities and roles of a ministerial secretary. It emphasized the importance of training, equipping and caring for the pastors and their families. It also highlighted the ministry of the local church elders, deacons and deaconesses. Many training resources were presented and offered to the participants to make their ministry more effective as ministerial secretaries.

Another topic emphasized was the responsibility of each ministerial secretary to teach, promote and do evangelism, with the understanding that evangelism is not a department of the church, but a church lifestyle.

Important time was also dedicated to discussing the church program and initiatives, like “Reach the



Above: Ministerial secretaries from KUC attend an onsite advisory. Below: Three ministerial secretaries from JUC, MM and TWC have an online advisory.

World” and “Total Member Involvement,” which are about involving every Seventh-day Adventist member in God’s last day message—from speaking the word to living the word, everyone can be a soul winner.

The NSD Ministerial Spouse Association, under the coordination of Raquel Arrais, also presented a variety of resources available online to support and motivate pastors’ spouses in their roles and their spiritual growth.

And plenty of time was dedicated to discussing the issues that challenge pastoral families today. All the discussion and interaction also had the purpose of providing alignment in the ministerial procedures of the NSD territory.

The advisory was enriched by the participation of NSD’s three officers: Dr. Kim Si Young, Dr. Richard Sabuin, and Elder Joel Tompkins. Our deepest gratitude to each ministerial secretary in the NSD territory for your great support and commitment to the pastoral ministry in your



field: Eisaku Morita (Japan Union Conference), Clark Ke (Taiwan Conference), Myagmar Nyamsuren (Mongolia Mission), Huh ChangSoo (Korean Union Conference), Jung GeunTae (East Central Korean Conference), Jung WonSik (West Central Korean Conference), Kim SamBae (Middlewest Korean Conference), Nam SiChang (South East Korean Conference), Jang WonKwan (South West Korean Conference).

Global Children’s Day in Mongolia - Serving from the Heart

Jugderjav Purevdulam
MM Children’s Ministries Director

On Global Children’s Day, Sabbath, March 19, 2022, the Mongolian Mission (MM) organized a special children’s program. Adventist children learned how to help, give, and share God’s love with other children from the community in an initiative called “Serving from the Heart.”

That Sabbath, Mongolian Adventist churches paid careful attention to the planned activities involving children according to their abilities. God blessed and it turned out amazing! Church members, families, and youth members loved attending and collaborating for this special Sabbath of the year. Personally, I was deeply encouraged and motivated by the parents who participated and helped their children to grow and minister as Jesus ministered.

Participating children learned how to make cookies, cards and bags to give away. They also creatively wrote many Bible verses decorating each one of them according to their meaning. They colored books with their church’s address and phone number and went out and shared them with children in the neighborhood. Some churches invited those members and their children who were no longer attending regularly and

welcomed them to church again. They were so happy to return to their churches with excitement and joy.

It is hard to imagine how badly this pandemic affected our children concerning their church attendance. Adults have been able to attend online programs, but the children were left behind. Most of the children come from non-Christian families, so we were grateful and happy for this special program where we could offer the opportunity for our children to return to their own local churches and be connected again. We praise God for our children and their engagement in outreach.

I think celebrating this day was a very practical exercise for our children to learn and serve others with love and compassion, and to tell others that Jesus loves them unconditionally.

As a result of this special program, many new children have come to our churches and they are all ready to start attending. I give my big thanks to God because Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Mark 10:14).





Jeong SoYeong, a theology graduate and a school counselor, gave a donation to the theology department of Sahmyook University.

Fledgling Employee Donates 10 Million Won to Alma Mater

Jeong SoYeong (Theology Department, Class of 2017), who had worked as a fixed-contract school counselor since graduation, decided to donate 10 million won (\$8,000 USD) in scholarships for the Theology Department.

She credited the donation in thanks to several donors, professors, and seniors who provided her with financial support so she could complete her studies without much difficulty. “I hope my donation can help my juniors and inspire them to extend a helping hand for their juniors in the future,” Jeong said. “In this regard, I believe donation creates a virtuous cycle.”

Jeong’s donation resulted in savings from a part of her monthly wages while working as a fixed-contract school counselor. “I know it’s not a small amount for a young adult who has just begun her real working life in society; however, I believe donating is rather a more significant and greater investment because you’re spending your money for something valuable and meaningful,” she said.

Recently Jeong was hired in a counseling job at a private middle school in Seoul and began working in March 2022.

Jeong was a sophomore at Sahmyook University when she began dreaming of becoming a school counselor after running a counseling booth with her friends at the university festival. While she hadn’t had any professional counseling training, students who visited the booth found a conversation with her comforting and helpful. Wishing to be able to provide more significant and practical help to others through professional counseling, the young theology major then signed up for a double major

the next semester and took courses in counseling psychology as well as teaching.

Participating in the school counseling internship program, Jeong found it was very rewarding to provide counseling to middle and high school students, and she began to shape her plan to become a professional school counselor.

“Witnessing students with psychological and emotional issues look into their deepest inner-self and experience change and improvement, I learned that counseling means to accompany them on one of the most exceptional and important journeys in their lives,” Jeong said. “There are frustrated students who have possibilities yet are not able to reach their full potential due to their circumstances or unexpected events. I want to be a counselor who walks with them and is with them in their most exceptional and shining moments.”





Jacob Ko (left), NSD Health Ministries director, delivers a health lecture for Chinese Adventists in Korea.

Health Missionary Seminar for Chinese Adventists in Korea

Jacob Ko
NSD Health Ministries Director

Chinese Adventists who live in Korea organized a “Health and Healing Missionary Seminar” at the Mission Leadership Training Center of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) on Jeju Island March 20 -26, 2022. Three NSD directors were invited to give lectures in the seminar. I was blessed to be one of them to meet this group and give my health lectures in Chinese.

My first lecture was about the inherited health message from creation, preserved through the characters of the Old Testament, Jesus and His disciples, and finally coming down to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The lecture included how God instructs His health principles in His redemption and restoration plan. Participants learned it is a privilege to receive such health principles and an obligation to share them with the world.

Health assessment skills were emphasized in the second lecture. Participants were taught the Important tools for health assessment and its interpretation, as well as major risk factors of unhealthiness. To decrease the risk of death and fatal diseases, people need to practice healthy lifestyles and avoid unhealthy behaviors and environments. Health assessments provide information about people’s health situations such as body weight, body fat, waist circumference, blood pressure, and blood glucose levels.

For this health missionary seminar, participants gave positive feedback, agreeing that the lectures and training on health assessment skills fulfilled their needs for their ministries. We promised to continue to help each other and pray for the ministries under the Chinese in Korea, and we are looking forward to the next gathering.



Summer Vacation Bible School at one of KUC's local churches.

KUC Children's Ministries Prepare for the Future

Kim YoungUn
KUC Children's Ministries Director

The number of children in the Korean Adventist Church is significantly decreasing as the years go by due to declining fertility rates. Recently, social distancing restrictions on face-to-face worship because of COVID-19 have worsened the situation. From the beginning of its 36th session, the Korean Union Conference (KUC) recognized the seriousness of this issue. In response to this urgent need to breakthrough this declining trend, the KUC Children's Ministries Department has made plans for the mid to long-term development of children's ministry for the future of the Korean church as follows.

First, as children's missionary environments are not limited to a church building but extended to small groups and families, more detailed programs and materials are required for children's

teachers and their parents. We are forming several professional ministry teams to develop programs such as Vacation Bible School, children's Sabbath School lessons, Sabbath afternoon programs, children's discipleship training, and content for families.

Second, children are the hope of the church, and the hope for children is through their teachers. It is important to train teachers to efficiently use the various programs and material. Particularly, online education has dominated during the COVID-19 pandemic situation, thus teachers need trained to adapt to online teaching and communication. Accordingly, KUC Children's Ministries is currently developing an online children's teacher curriculum.

Third, for each local conference, five to ten churches will be appointed as "base churches" for children's ministries. The conferences plan to focus their support on those base churches, allowing well-trained teachers to carry out their plans with funds and various materials. Once those base churches grow, they will be required to assist children's ministries in their neighbor churches. Base churches could dispatch their teachers to other churches temporarily, offering consulting, and working in collaboration with them on Vacation Bible School or evangelistic meetings for children.

We ask for constant prayers, hoping that our plans will become a new breakthrough and bring vitality for the future of children's ministries.



A training session for Children's Ministries teachers.



Evangelistic meetings for children at their classroom.





A pastor, professor, and a staff member of Sahmyook University participate in a special noon prayer movement.

40 Days Walking with Jesus: Special Noon Prayer Movement

From March 14 to May 6, 2022, Sahmyook University held a school-wide prayer campaign under the theme of “40 Days Walking with Jesus.” The campaign invited all Sahmyook community members to form groups of three, each consisting of one pastor, one professor, and one staff member, to gather at the Sahmyook University Church at noon every day to pray for 15 minutes for daily prayer requests and the university’s departments and offices. After the prayer meeting, spiritual greetings and prayer batons were delivered to the assigned prayer members. The daily list of prayer requests was delivered via SU-Talk, the university’s official mobile messenger application.

At the same time, all other Sahmyook University professors and staff read Dennis E. Smith’s book, *40 Days: Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming* in their offices and prayed together.

It is well known that the number 40 in the Bible has special meaning. For Moses and Elijah, 40 was significant because it reflected their time of refinement. Also, before Jesus began His service on this earth, He spent 40 days in the wilderness to pray to His heavenly Father.

The 40-day campaign of daily prayer ran until the day before the “Spring Love Sharing Week,” held May 9 to 13, 2022, which aimed to reap the first fruits of soul salvation of the spring semester.

2021학년도 SU인재상 (돌봄부문) 시상식

■ 일시: 2022.03.11.(금) ■ 주관: 삼육대학교 글로벌사회혁신원 사회봉사단



12 Volunteers-of-the-Year Selected for the SU Exemplary Award

Sahmyook University has established the “SU Exemplary Award,” to recognize students who reach out to the local community through volunteering. Award candidates are selected through a contest or recommendations, among which the final winners are chosen based on the quantitative and qualitative evaluations of their performances throughout the year. For the year 2021, the SU Exemplary Award selected a total of 12 persons, including two Grand Prize winners, five Excellence Prize winners from the contest, and five Excellence Prize winners from recommendations. The award ceremony for them was held on March 11, 2022.

Jo YunAh, a junior in the English-Korean Interpretation and Translation Department, was one of the two Grand Prize winners. In 2021, she participated in as many as 226.5 hours of community service. Specifically, she joined the English education mentoring program for children and North Korean defectors. She also helped the Seoul Youth Center to manage the center’s space for youth as well as planned, organized, and operated youth programs.

“It was a meaningful and invaluable time for me to gain various experiences through volunteering and to be able to offer a little help to my community,” Jo said.

The other Grand Prize winner, Park SuAh, a junior in the Food and Nutrition Department, performed 178.5 hours of volunteer work. She participated in a social contribution program that helps children whose learning abilities develop later than their peers. From February to June 2021, Park provided online one-on-one mentoring sessions to these learners. She used easy-to-read books and picture books in her teaching to improve students’ communication skills, as well as role playing, quizzes, and games.

“After the mentoring, they showed improvement in the examination of their communication competency,” Park said. “Participating in this community service gave me an opportunity to not only pay more attention to various social issues but also to feel a sense of responsibility to bring about changes in our community by helping others.”

Yoon JaeYoung, head of the Sahmyook University Community Service, said, “I am grateful to everyone who has participated in volunteer activities with a genuine heart in seeking the true meaning of community service. They are indeed a great example of the university and deserve to be awarded.”

How to Run a Bible Reading Group for Japanese People

Women's Ministries in Japan Union Conference (JUC) has been intentionally teaching women how to run a Bible reading group online or in person. "This is a seminar that anyone can organize and share especially in this time where we are using an all digital platform to empower our women to stay connected in God's Word," said Mie Morita, JUC Women's Ministries director.

The goal is for families or intergenerational church members to pass on their faith while respecting each other's views.

The meeting was held every Tuesday from March to May 2022, at night (21:00-22:00), after the children were asleep. Participants received a few bookmarks for their Bibles with prayers, ideas, and how to start a group for reading the Bible together. Instructions included how to help them start reading the Bible as a group. More than 10 groups were formed this year—groups of family members, friends, and fellow participants.

A second session is scheduled to be held from September to November. "We praise God for these groups as they come together for prayer and have Bible study," said Mie Morita.

AIAS Confers and Commissions 98 Graduates During its 106th Graduation Ceremonies



Sharnie Love Zamora
Editor of *Flags*, the AIAS Magazine

The Class of 2022, represented by a total of 98 graduates, received their degrees during the in-person 106th Graduation Ceremonies held on May 20-22, 2022, at the Siew Huy Auditorium of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS)

The graduating class chose the theme, “Resilience: Thriving in Adversity,” because most of the graduates began their classes right before the eruption of the Taal Volcano in January 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic which followed two months later.

When God Calls, He Empowers

Elder Erton Kohler, executive secretary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, spoke for the commencement service. His message featured the parable of the Good Samaritan. He developed his message around the idea that it is one’s mission to be like the innkeeper, willing to assist and take care of God’s children who are in need. “The Lord does not ask us to do a work for which he has not given us the means to do. He calls, but He empowers. He gives us challenging regions, but before that, He gives us special preparation,” said Kohler. “He gives us a great mission to fulfill. But before that, He gives us the vision and passion necessary to fulfill it.”

God’s Guidance Throughout Adversity

The consecration message was delivered by speaker and director of the Jesus 101 Biblical Institute, Dr. Elizabeth Viera Talbot, in which she highlighted lessons from the biblical story of Joseph. She reminded the graduates that resilience comes from God, developed as a person goes through adversity. She added that it is God’s presence in one’s life that provides the antidote to fear. “Resilience comes from believing what Joseph believed at all times, that God was with him. . . .When there is adversity, you can thrive in adversity because you have a big God who not only has saved you eternally, which is the gospel, but also gives you His presence, His provision, and His purpose for your life, now.”

Called To Be Resilient

The Friday evening consecration service was facilitated by graduating class sponsors Raimond Luntungan, faculty of the business department, and his wife, Dr. Grace Mang, faculty of the public health department. During the dedication, they encouraged the graduates to uphold their theme by relying and “hanging on” to Jesus amidst life’s challenges. “You are called to continue to be resilient in this turbulent world. You can make a difference in this world by starting a difference within yourself, your family, and others.” The Luntungans challenged the class: “Let your light, the light that comes from God, shine out of the darkness of this world.”

Great Things Happen to Those that Trust in God

Baccalaureate speaker Kim SiYoung, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, delved into the biblical story of Joshua and the Israelites who conquered the city of Jericho. Elder Kim noted that Joshua, being a man of faith in the moment of crisis and despair, looked up to God





AIIAS class of 2022 at their graduation ceremony, themed “Resilience: Thriving in Adversity”

in heaven for a fight that seemed impossible without His help. “If we look at the large city of Jericho, the way is not seen. We feel frustrated and scared. Instead of looking at Jericho, Joshua lifted his eyes to the face of the mighty God. Let us lift our eyes and look up to the great God who is ready to go before us and walk on behalf of us.” Kim urged the graduates to put their faith in the God who will do great things for those that trust in Him. “As you graduate today and start a new career, please remember that wherever you go, God will go before you. You can be greater in resilience, thriving in adversity when we trust in our God,” he assured them.

Virtual Graduation Turned In-Person Celebration

The institution conferred degrees on a total of 98 graduates representing 23 countries, and representing 11 out of the 13 world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Out of the 98 graduates, five Korean students represented the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. The AIIAS Seminary presented 37 graduates and the AIIAS Graduate School presented 61 graduates.

From the beginning of the pandemic, all of AIIAS’ events were broadcast online as strict precautionary health measures were nationally mandated by the government. This included the 2021 graduation ceremony, held solely online. With an improvement in the pandemic situation, an opportunity to resume the in-person commencement was permitted by the government, provided all participants and attendees were fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This, in turn, opened an exciting opportunity for the graduates who had initially expected that they would be unable to celebrate their academic milestone with their colleagues, friends, and family members.

Because this year’s graduation ceremony was initially planned as an online-only event, the guest speakers were unable at short notice to physically travel to AIIAS, and each spoke via a video address as originally planned. Response from the graduates and attendees attested to their appreciation of the speakers’ support at the event.

Sharing the Love with Children with Special Needs

Every one of us enjoys gifts. And amongst all of them, a child is the most precious gift and comes from God the Almighty. “Share the Love” was the theme of the outreach program in April 2022 organized by the departments of Adventist Possibility Ministry (APM), Children’s Ministries and Volunteer Community Service of Mongolia Mission (MM). The service aimed to reach children with disabilities.

All children are valued in God’s eyes. And we should not forget that we are all born separated from God because of sin and therefore we all experience sickness, disease, pain, fear and sadness, disabilities, and many more to add. But God loves us unconditionally. Love is the most important thing and if love is removed from life all things will become meaningless for God created the world with love. Therefore, this is the gospel that should be delivered to all human beings: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son” (John 3:16).

At the beginning of March 2022, a survey about disabilities was held throughout the churches in Mongolia Mission with 32 parents of children with disabilities participating in the questionnaires. The results showed 17 out of the 32 children were born in Christian families and 15 of them were born in non-Christian families. We contacted each family asking for the



Families of children with special needs gather with Mongolia Mission departments to enjoy fellowship.

most wanted or needed things they would love to get as a gift for their child. A food mixer, wet wipes, diapers, body lotion and body soap, clothes, stuffed toys, and other supplies were requested, and the gifts were prepared accordingly.

On Apr 22, 2022, a special worship and mission program of “Share the Love” was held at Emmanuel Church. The church was chosen because it was accessible for children with wheelchairs. The special program was held by Mongolia Mission APM department and Volunteer Community Service

members. Pastor Nyamsuren Myagmar, the preacher of the day, welcomed all the special guests of the day. Every child as well as the parents were happy that they were involved in such a social activity. They all loved the gifts they received. Also, on that day, 1,200 copies of APM brochures were distributed.

This special outreach program could be possible with the help from those who contributed financial resources, volunteered to prepare those various gifts and meals, and were dedicated to helping in this program.



Baptism of Two Chinese Students

Two students attending Sahmyook University from China accepted the redeeming grace of Jesus Christ when they were baptized on May 14, 2022. The event was joined by over 40 people, including Kim IlMok, Sahmyook University president and his wife Kwon YoungSoon, Je HaeJong, the university’s head chaplain, the academic advisers of the two students, and several Chinese students celebrating their classmates’ new start.

The newly baptized students are Yuan Wenxu (a junior in Art and Design) and Liang Tongyi (a freshman in Physical Therapy). After studying the Bible every Tuesday for six months with the pastor of the Chinese Church at the university, Jeong SeongCheol, the two came to understand the true meaning of baptism, and upon firm conviction, they decided to get baptized.

“This certainly is the best moment of my life,” said Wenxu at the baptism.

“I can’t promise that my faith will stand firm at all times down the road, but I know for sure that my confession of faith at this moment is genuine and sincere,” said Tongyi.

“These two students will continue studying the word of God and grow further in their faith,” said Pastor Jeong. “We look forward to seeing that the change they have experienced will resonate with other Chinese students.”

Lead Now, Learn How: Women's Ministries Leadership Training School



Raquel Arrais
NSD Women's Ministries Director



Women have served in many essential positions in Korean Adventist churches. To respond to the growing need to train them properly, the Women's Ministries department of the Korean Union Conference (KUC) has provided various training programs over the years. From March 27-30, 2022, the KUC Women's Ministries held a "Women's Leadership Training School" at the Mission Leadership Training Center of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) on Jeju Island.

In the school, 42 women leaders who were recommended by five local conferences under KUC gathered to enjoy fellowship and benefit from helpful lectures. Speakers included Raquel Arrais, NSD Women's Ministries director, Kim SiYoung, NSD president, An JaeSoon, professor of counseling psychology at Sahmyook University in Korea, Lee HakBong, former president of Yeosu Sanitarium and Hospital, Yun CheongSil, KUC Women's Ministries director, and Yoon JaeSung, director of the Mission Leadership Training Center on Jeju.

The Women's Leadership Training School was attended by members of the Korean Adventist Women's Association, leaders of missionary groups, women and family ministries leaders from local churches, and Sabbath School coordinators. It was a time to encourage and motivate them to renew their commitment and dedicate themselves to the Korean Church's mission initiative: "I Will Go, Reach My World."

After the event, the feedback survey showed high satisfaction with the training. "We will continue to run the leadership school so that more women can benefit by educational opportunities. We also plan to produce and distribute video lectures which allow women to train themselves to be God's servants wherever they are," said Yun, KUC Women's Ministries director.



Mongolian Adventist Church Reaches out to Community

Angelina D. Pagarigan
MM Treasurer

Every local church in Mongolia tries to reach out to their local community. Among those efforts, “Loving Buzz” was organized by members and friends from the Ulaanbaatar Central Church who support the ministry for their neighbors in need.

Recently, with the leadership of Purevdulam Jugderjav, Children and Health Ministries director of the Mongolia Mission (MM), the program was opened to all church members who are willing to help their neighbors. Through the program, several districts around the church have been visited, clothes and food have been distributed, and many souls were reached with the literature ministry by receiving gospel books, children’s books, and books by Ellen G. White. The programs have been ongoing every week.

Sister Purevdulam said she felt blessed by this program as she ran the fundraising, saying that she could not believe that her goal of 500,000 MNT (approximately \$160 USD) for the first quarter was doubled by the involvement of all church members. With the remaining budget, she is now planning to visit and minister to people with disabilities.

Meanwhile, Bumchin Erdenebat, pastor and CEO of the Suut Resort of the Adventist Church, came closer to the community of local herders and shared some packs of food and clothes, together with some of the local church youth leaders. The warm welcome of a herder’s family touched the heart of MM Shepherdess Coordinator, Chun EunKyung, as she was invited and entertained in a *ger*, a Mongolian traditional dwelling. She enjoyed mingling with the local family and experiencing their hospitality.

A flyer for JUC’s monthly seminar, “Family Talk,” aimed at people trying to live by Christian faith in their family life.

家庭部 オンラインセミナー

ファミリートーク

家庭や教会で必要とされていることについて、
各分野の専門家に話を聞き、質問して、
みんなで話し合ってみましょう!

人との つまあい方
家族のこと
子どものこと

講師
3月 小野田恵美 (特別支援学校教諭)
子どもの発達障害について
4月 飯塚絳司 (精神科医)
大人の発達障害について
【司会】 森田実作 (伝道員)、森田純江 (家庭部長)

セミナー日程
2022年3月～12月 (年隔10回)
毎月 第2土曜日 15時～

プログラム
開会のお祈り
講義
質疑応答
グループごと話し合い
閉会のお祈り
発表

セミナーは ZOOM で行われます
お申し込みはコチラから

参加費 無料

3/12 6/8/13
4/9 7/9/10
5/14 8/10/8
6/11 9/11/12
7/9 12/10

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セミナー開催 2 日前の木曜日までにお申し込みください。

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発行期間 2022年12月10日

Family Talk: A Time to Strengthen Relationships

From March 2022, Japan Union Conference started a monthly seminar called “Family Talk” with the purpose of understanding one another in a deeper way. The goal for this program is to help Adventist families follow God’s plan for their lives and grow in faith and commitment in this generation. Church members were invited to participate along with counseling professionals who presented topics relative to families during this time we are living in.

The first session was on children’s developmental disabilities presented by a former schoolteacher for the disabled. Sixty people from all over Japan participated in the online seminar, and through a question-and-answer session, participants were able to deepen their understanding of what kind of responses are required at home and at church.

In the future, we plan to take advantage of the Zoom online meeting application and to hold more group discussions and establish support groups to serve our families in Japan. We thank God for technology that enables us to keep connected and engaged as families.



AIIAS Opens for Arrival of Foreign Nationals as Pandemic Restrictions Ease

Sharnie Love Zamora
Editor of *Flags*, the AIIAS Magazine

The last two and a half years have shown that the Lord is to be greatly praised as He has taken utmost care of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS) campus and its residents amidst the aftermath of the Taal Volcano eruption in January 2020 and the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, which followed shortly.

With the Philippine government's regulations on pandemic restrictions, including social distancing and other preventive measures to minimize the spread of the virus, AIIAS has been holding classes online, such as flexible and synchronous virtual face-to-face classes. The once lively and large AIIAS community decreased as students opted to return to their home countries while staying enrolled through AIIAS' online courses.

January 31, 2022, was a historic occasion for the AIIAS Korean community as the last Korean pastor and his family left campus to return to their homeland. "The Korean community of AIIAS was known for being one of the largest populations on campus. However, this was the first time no Korean students were on campus since AIIAS opened," said AIIAS Chaplain Dr. Song MiHyang—she and her husband, seminary professor

Dr. Song KyungHo, are the longest-serving Korean faculty on campus.

Thankfully, as soon as the borders opened for fully-vaccinated tourists from visa-free countries to enter the Philippines, it also paved the way for the re-entry of AIIAS students to come and prepare for the resumption of face-to-face classes, allowing those like Pastor Lee HoChul to come to AIIAS with his family in March 2022.

Lee Ho Chul and his family planned to come to AIIAS in June 2021. However, their initial travel plans were postponed indefinitely due to the pandemic. "I chose to study at AIIAS because of my good memories of living on the campus back in the day," Lee HoChul shared as he recalled being a student at AIIAS 10 years ago to learn English and attend a single year of coursework at the Seminary.

The East Central Korean Conference gave Lee HoChul the opportunity to study on the AIIAS campus. Even though he wasn't sure if he could enter the Philippines, he continued to pursue the plan to come to AIIAS. "I prayed that God would open the way. As soon as I found out that the Philippines opened its borders to foreign citizens, my family and I decided to proceed with our

plan to move to the AIIAS campus. With the support and prayers of our family and church members, and by God's grace and guidance, I'm finally at AIIAS with my family, and we can say that we have made the best decision to move here for the time being. I would like to encourage my colleagues to come and study here at AIIAS.

We arrived on campus on March 1, 2022, and I began my first class for the Master of Divinity program on March 15, 2022. I expected that all campus activities would be more restricted because of the pandemic, but I could walk much more freely than I thought. The environment is essential to consider for living. Here,

from AIIAS and now are leaders in our church in Korea. Not only that the Korean community has received blessings through AIIAS, they themselves have become blessings to many other students who studied at AIIAS."

AIIAS president, Dr. Ginger Ketting-Weller, said "We look forward to warmly welcoming students once again, and to the rebuilding of our communities from the NSD, including the Korean community which has traditionally been one of the largest on campus, and the growing Mongolian community."

For students planning to study in-person at AIIAS, there are two benefits of entry into the country as



The AIIAS flag flies on a beautiful day with the other nations' flags.

the sky is beautiful, the air is fresh, and the nature around our beautiful campus makes me happy. The beautiful environment of AIIAS gives students an excellent environment for learning. Here you can study, meditate, and experience a spiritual journey with God. I thought face-to-face classes would be difficult.

However, I'm also grateful for the online classes. People on campus are very kind. Professors treat students with kindness and consideration, and the administrators are approachable and ready to help. Furthermore, at AIIAS, you will meet people from all over the world, sharing a perspective of various cultures on campus."

Dr. Richard Sabuin, Education Department director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, said, "AIIAS has become a blessing for many Korean students, both church workers and members. Many have graduated

soon as possible: the richness and experience of in-person interaction with the international community on campus, and physical access to the AIIAS library resources. Students planning to arrive and study at the AIIAS campus from any location may direct queries to the Student Services Office. Arrival and visa information should be coordinated with the Admissions Office. Please note that the Commission on Higher Education requires that in order for students and faculty to attend face-to-face classes, they must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS) is a graduate school situated in Silang, Cavite, Philippines. AIIAS offers master's and doctoral programs in four major curriculum areas: business, education, public health, and religion.



MM Family Ministries provides various online programs for children, teens, and adults.



Mongolia Mission's Christian Home & Marriage Week

Mongolia Mission (MM) had the “Christian Home & Marriage Week” in the third week of February 2022. During the week, MM Family Ministries organized an online program inviting special speakers to teach eight seminars on dating and family planning. It was rewarding to have the Mongolian Adventist high school students participating and talking with university students as well. At the end of the program, students had the opportunity to share their thoughts along with biblical messages on digital platforms. We praise God for the engagement of the young people and for their commitment to build healthy relationships.

In addition, during the Christian Home & Marriage Week, seminars on “Family Relationships” were held online. Several topics were addressed in the seminars, including mutual understanding, jealousy, old age

crisis, health of family members, and family prayer time—these topics were deeply discussed among those who attended. The six seminars on family relationships were viewed by 9,700 people on Facebook.

Meanwhile, a training session on involvement of parents and teachers in the upbringing of children was organized with the teachers from Tusgal Adventist School in Mongolia. The training offered many ideas for parents to focus on how to raise their children and help them to thrive. Parents received help on topics such as how to work with teachers. Teachers also gave advice on how to protect their children from temptation. The training, which was livestreamed on February 19, 2022, was viewed by over 6,300 parents. We thank God for the opportunity to use technology to help our families at home.

Seminar on War and Pacifism

Sahmyook University's Graduate School of Theology held its regular academic seminar on May 18, 2022, at Bae ChangHyeon Hall on campus. Under the title “War and Peace: Christian Pacifist Beliefs.” The seminar looked into the topic of war and pacifism from the Christian point of view. This topic was raised from the center of recent global discourse since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine.

The seminar brought together experts both from home and abroad, including keynote lecturer Daniel Heinz, professor at Friedensau Adventist University

in Germany, and presenters such as Yeon GyuHong, professor at Hanshin University in South Korea, and Bae YongHa, general secretary of the Mennonite Church in South Korea.

In a video lecture on “Pacifism in the Adventist Church in Europe,” Professor Heinz presented a paper on the discovery of cases of Adventist soldiers in World War I and II who were persecuted for their conscientious objections and beliefs in unarmed military service, confirming their belief of the Adventist Church's take on faith and military service.



Discipleship Ministry of Sahmyook Open Church Bears Fruit

A baptismal service on April 30, 2022, celebrated a new chapter of life for five people at the Sahmyook Open Church—its parent church is the Sahmyook University Church.

One of the newly baptized members, Ms. Shim, had a protestant background but drifted away from her religion. When she connected to the Sahmyook Open Church, she recovered her faith and decided to be an Adventist through baptism. The other four were part of three generations of a family. Ms. Jeong's spiritual revival led her mother, husband, and daughter to discover the truth and believe in Jesus.

The Sahmyook Open Church is based on small group and discipleship ministry. In January 2020, the church began with nine believers who shared the same vision for small group ministry. The church has grown to seven small groups with a total of 140 members.

Leaders of each group have gone through a course of discipleship training that enables them to teach the Bible and nurture anyone connected to the group. As every activity at this church centers around the groups, the mission of preaching the gospel and guiding souls to God is mainly laid upon the members rather than the church pastor. When seekers visit the church, one of the groups teaches the Bible to them, nurtures them, and devotedly works for their spiritual growth. The church mostly consists of either new believers or believers who have been away from religion for a long time.

The five newly baptized members have no direct connection with Sahmyook University. They all met and accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and decided to be baptized through the church's small group ministry.

Following Heinz, Professor Yeon gave a lecture which enlightened the historical significance of the declaration on national unification and peace made by the National Council of Churches in Korea 1988.

General Secretary Bae had a presentation titled "Anabaptists' Pacifist Beliefs and State" from the perspective of the Mennonite. In his presentation, Bae reviewed the essence of Mennonite non-resistance and anarchistic view of state from a historical and practical point of view.





Local Church in Mongolia Runs Children's Program

Tsolmontuya Nergui
Pastor at Byankhair Church



Since the outbreak of COVID-19, children's classrooms in churches have been empty over the past two years. Unable to attend church, the children have begun forgetting their teachers. That's why the children's teachers of Bayankhair Church in Mongolia carried out a children's program titled "Let's Play with Teachers" on Sabbath of March 12, 2022 and invited the church's children and their friends. This event was the beginning of the church's plans for this year, holding programs to revitalize children's ministries in the spirit of shepherding and reaching out to parents through their children.

Our children praised, danced, played, listened to Bible stories, and prayed together with teachers. They also made a heart out of paper, wrote a Bible quote and colored it, put it in a gift bag with cookies made by their teachers, and distributed it to the children outside. A total of 40 children received the bags, and every child who received the gift of God's love from the hands of these children was full of joy and grace.



Left: Group of non-ordained pastors meeting at Anmyeondo Island Retreat.
Right: Group of newly ordained pastors meeting at Deer Mountain Retreat.

KUC Ministerial Association Offers Training for Pastors

Jonas Arrais
NSD Ministerial Secretary

The Ministerial Association of the Korean Union Conference (KUC) held two important training meetings in March and April 2022. The first meeting was designed for non-ordained pastors and the second one for newly ordained ministers. During these two meetings all the attendees had the opportunity to be together and talk about their challenges as pastors.

The events were coordinated by KUC Ministerial Secretary, Pastor Huh ChangSoo. He invited several guest speakers from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, KUC, and local conferences. Relevant topics were presented on church growth, world mission, discipleship, media ministry with emphasis on digital evangelism, preaching, church administration,

and other practical themes that provided guidance, motivation, and vision for pastoral ministry.

All the attendees were enriched and blessed through the program and fellowship time. It was a good time for the young pastors to grow in knowledge and understanding, and to be more effective in their ministries. As Ellen G. White once affirmed, “Never think that you have learned enough, and you may now relax your efforts. The cultivated mind is the measure of a man. Your education should continue during your lifetime; every day you should be learning, and putting to practical use the knowledge gained” (*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 561*).

Mongolia Mission Emphasizes Leadership Development

One of the major strategies of the Mongolia Mission is to send young church workers for formal education in theology to improve the quality of church leadership in local churches. Currently, there is a church leader who received a full scholarship for himself and his family from Parana Adventist Academy in Brazil. He and his family’s visas are being processed to begin their studies by August 2022. And there are four Mongolian students in the Philippines who are studying at Mountain View College to pursue degrees in theology.

Continuous professional development of the current church leaders is also in place by sponsoring four pastors and church leaders to study online for their master’s degrees at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines. Moreover, the sponsorship is not limited to church leaders, but it is also extended to department directors and treasury staff. The MM chief accountant and the Health Ministries director are also being sponsored for a master’s degree in business administration and public health, respectively.

Visitation to the West-North Countryside Churches in Mongolia

Angelina D. Pagarigan MM Treasurer
 & **Nyamsuren Myagmar** MM Ministerial Secretary

As Mongolia Mission (MM) focused on strengthening the local churches, MM President Han SukHee, Executive Secretary Nyamdavaa Dovchinsuren, Treasurer Angelina D. Pagarigan, Ministerial Secretary Nyamsuren Myagmar, and the Ministerial Spouse Association Coordinator Chun EunKyung headed to the west region of Mongolia and to the farthest north to visit six countryside churches.

Early in the morning of March 21, 2022, we drove more than 800 kilometers from Ulaanbaatar to reach the local church in Khovsgul. This church was built by foreign missionaries who came many years ago. One of the biggest challenges of this church is the outflow of youth members from this region to the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. This challenge is not unusual to almost all local churches outside of Ulaanbaatar as many young people move to the city for their university studies. But Khovsgul has quite a large land area that

can still be developed. One of the main projects is to build a Center of Influence at a beautiful lake where many tourists visit, about 100 kilometers from the Khovsgul Church.

The second destination was Bulgan Church, one of the historic Adventist churches in Mongolia as it was built by early volunteer missionaries and church members. The church has been well maintained by its leader, Pastor Saran Bolorgegee and his wife. And they have established a very good relationship with the local government. It is inspiring to know that they are connecting with the community by teaching Korean and English at the local court office. The church building is large and has space on its second floor that needs finishing to

accommodate visiting evangelistic teams. Before COVID-19, an active pathfinder program was well appreciated by the parents in the community. Now that the church can hold face-to-face gatherings, this program is expected to be revived.

Erdenet Province is the third province in Mongolia where a church has been built. Also, most of our young church leaders who



(From left) Three MM leaders, Bulgan Church Pastor Bolorgegee and his wife.

The faithfulness of Khutul Church members was shown by their tithes and offering reports and bank books.



are now serving in different capacities in churches were first converted through evangelistic crusades conducted in this city. The church leader Gantugs Dashdendeв has been teaching guitar lessons to attract young people to the church and his wife, Otgontuya, has started a soap making project. For this project she wrote a proposal to the government and was successful in receiving support. She is using this activity to meet people and connect to the community. Mongolia Mission has two properties here. One is where the current church is located and the other one is another promising property located at the main highway near a hospital. This property is being studied on how to further develop the presence of the church in this fast-growing city. From Erdenet Province, the visiting team went to Sant, a small town where there is also a promising property. The church leader Munkhtuya Natsagdorj expressed her need for further support in this area to have an evangelistic team preach the word of God and share the good news of salvation. She said that the church is well-known and respected in the town and she has formed a good relationship with the people.

The next destination was Khutul Church, one of the strongest churches in Mongolia led by Sister Baljinnyam Dolgor. The church members are still meeting in her apartment but MM acquired land in 2016 where a church and a community center can be built. This church has about 30 active members with community connections who are faithful tithe givers. It was so impressive how all the printed activity reports from year to year with their tithe and offering reports and bank books were laid down on the table with the sumptuous meal that warmly welcomed the MM leaders. One of their latest stewardship activities is to encourage each church member to use a bank for savings. The passbook from the bank showing their savings was among the documents presented to the MM leaders.

Then, we went to the church at Darkhan in that province, which is the second largest city of Mongolia. This church was started using their church during weekdays as a “dress shop” for second-hand clothes that were donated by Korean church members. The money they generate from this shop is what they use to support local church members in need and to run their community service activities. As the city is developing very fast, Pastor Kim JungChul, one of the Pioneer Mission Movement missionaries in Mongolia, has solicited funds to buy a bigger plot of land in a strategic place for a community health center. The MM leadership visited this property and prayed for the Lord to guide every step as the church pastor continues to find the needed funds to develop the land.

Selenge Province was the last destination of the leaders during this visitation. In this area, MM has three parcels of land: one is where a church was also built by missionaries and the two other properties are farm land where agriculture projects can serve as promising sources of funds to support local church operations.

The local church visitation was very engaging as the Mission leaders sat down with each church pastor and lay leader to discuss their victories and challenges in their respective areas of ministry. The MM leadership received a comprehensive report and gained a fuller view of the needs for physical development of the local churches as well as a need for professional training and support of the assigned church leaders.

It is with prayers and continued supplications to our Lord Almighty that the work in the countryside of Mongolia will grow and prosper through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to every leader and member. We continue to solicit your wholehearted support through prayers and benevolent donations for the furtherance of the work in Mongolia until all people in every local area are baptized and accept Jesus as their personal Savior.



(Left) Four MM leaders in front of Selenge Church.

(Right) Munkhtuya, Sant Church leader, appeal to MM leaders for further support in evangelism in Sant area.



enditnow[®]
Adventists Say No to Violence

enditnow[®] Initiative Because We Care

What is enditnow[®] Emphasis Day?

The **enditnow**[®] Emphasis Day comes in the church's global calendar on the fourth Sabbath of August. It provides an annual opportunity for local churches to address domestic violence, to educate church members and leadership, to facilitate awareness in their communities, and to let victims know that their church cares about them.

Although it is an uncomfortable subject for many people, it has become more and more obvious that abuse is a serious problem for Christians and for Seventh-day Adventists. Abuse in any form deforms the body of Christ—for the victim, for the perpetrator, and for the church that is left with the hurting members.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church supports the **enditnow**[®] global initiative to raise awareness and advocate for the end of domestic violence around the world.

Why do you need a special day for this on the global church calendar? Because there is still domestic violence, including Christian families. Because there are so many more who still don't understand the message of NO to violence. Because we need more persons with the right tools to help those who are suffering. Because God condemns all kinds of abuse and violence.

In 2016, six additional departments of the Seventh-day Adventist Church joined Women's Ministries as co-sponsors of the **enditnow**[®] initiative: Children's Ministries, Department of Education, Family Ministries, Health Ministries, Ministerial Association, and Youth Ministries. Each of the sponsoring entities are committed to developing and sharing resources that address many expressions of abuse against women, children, and men.

What Can We Do?

The question for us is *Should we do anything?* Yes, we should. Then *What can we do?* What follows are a few things we can make a difference together:

- Visit the www.enditnow.org; there you will learn not only about the depth of the problem but how you can help get your own local church members involved.

- Present sermons and workshops to the congregation and the community on issues of gender-based violence relevant to your community. Offer to present age-appropriate information in local schools.
- Examine church policies and practices to be sure none foster or encourage hurtful or discriminatory attitudes towards women, children and men.
- Provide ongoing support to a local women's shelter or other organization benefitting victims of gender-based violence.
- Care for hurting people in our church. Be non-judgmental. Develop support groups.
- Help raise awareness. Share materials about gender-based violence with your community.

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division has been mobilizing churches and leaders to support this special Sabbath as an opportunity to provide resources, information, education, hope and healing to our churches and the surrounding communities. So, they can go out with more awareness of the problem and how to respond.

Violence against women, children and men is real, it is here, and it needs to stop. That is what the **enditnow** Emphasis Day is all about. Be involved. Be an agent of healing. Be hope.

More information about the **enditnow** Emphasis Day and free resources follow the links below:

<https://www.enditnow.org>

<https://women.adventist.org/enditnow-emphasisa-day-english-archive>

Raquel Arrais
NSD CHM/FM/WM Director

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

This statement was approved and voted by the Executive Committee of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on June 23, 2010, and released at the General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia, June 24-July 3, 2010.

We, the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, speak up and join with others to bring an end to violence against women and girls. Global statistics indicate that in all societies women and girls are more frequently the victims of violence. Actions or threats likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering are incompatible with biblical ethics and Christian morality. Such actions include, but are not limited to, family violence, rape, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), honor killings, and dowry murders. Manipulation, denial of personal liberty, and coercion are also acts of abuse and violence. To such behaviors the Seventh-day Adventist Church says, "Let's end it now!"

Seventh-day Adventists recognize that creation in God's image bestows dignity and worth on every individual. The measure of that worth is seen in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ to provide eternal life for everyone. The love and compassion that

characterized the earthly life of Jesus sets an example for all His followers in their relationship with others. Christ-like behavior leaves no room for violence against family members or persons outside the family.

The Bible counsels Christians to view the body as the temple of God. Bringing intentional harm to another person desecrates that which God honors and is therefore sinful behavior. Seventh-day Adventists commit themselves to being leaders in breaking the cycle of violence perpetrated against women and girls. We will speak out in defense of victims and survivors through teaching, preaching, Bible study, and advocacy programs.

The Seventh day Adventist Church seeks and welcomes partnerships and collaboration with others in addressing this global issue. The collective voice of many can save tens of thousands of women and girls from the harm and suffering that result from abuse and violence.

(This statement is supported by the following Bible references: John 3:16; Genesis 1:26; Isaiah 61:1-3; Ephesians 5:2-3; 1 John 3:10, 15-18, 4:11; 3 John 1:2; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19; Romans 12:1-2.)



SAVE
THE
DATE

enditnow[®] Emphasis Day

Adventists Say No to Violence

"To heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to set free those who are oppressed." Luke 4:18

www.enditnow.org

The 4th
Sabbath
of every
August



Abuse of any kind, whether perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys, is evil.

Besides gender, abuse crosses all cultural, racial, socioeconomic, and religious or denominational boundaries. If you sense someone is facing abuse, offer empathetic help and hope. If you are a victim, seek help.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Children's Ministries, Education, Family Ministries, Health Ministries, Ministerial Association, Women's Ministries, Youth Ministries



MINISTERIAL
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