

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION www.nsdadventist.org

NEWS & VIEWS



May / June 2023



Mobilizing Resources For Mission

Kim TaeSeung, Treasurer
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to: “Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels’ Messages in preparation for His soon return.”— www.adventist.org

If we were to express this mission statement in four words, it would be: proclaim, unite, nurture, and prepare.

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division has been in operation for 27 years. It seems we are nearing the end of our journey to heavenly Canaan, and it seems like the time has come to look at where we are and whether we are on the right track. As described in Peter A Drucker’s book, *Managing in Turbulent Times*, “The greatest danger in turbulent times is not the turbulence. It is to act with yesterday’s logic.”

First, let us consider the challenges facing the church from a gospel financial perspective.

- Balancing growth and stability.
- Ensuring sufficient working capital and liquidity.
- Moving toward higher levels of self-support.
- Dealing with uncertainties due to geo-political conflicts, currency volatility and changes in regulatory environments.
- Understanding paradigm shifts brought about by crisis events, new technologies, and changes in generational thinking.

Ellen White said, “I am receiving light from the Lord that there should be wise generalship at this time more than at any former period of our history” (*Principles for Christian Leaders*).

But how should we adapt and change?

Every leader must model behavior that is guided by a commitment to ethics, transparency, and accountability.

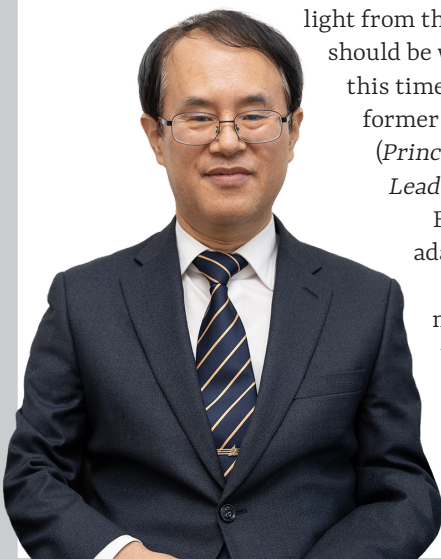
It is also “imperative for leaders to promote and design the most appropriate systems that will safeguard the resources which are used to support the mission of the Church” (*General Conference Working Policy*, 521).

We believe that God is the source of all resources, and that we are His stewards. We are committed to using our resources wisely and effectively to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. And we should use those resources to glorify Him and further His kingdom.

If we are committed to providing our members with the resources and training they need to be effective witnesses for Christ, we should use the following guidelines:

- **Anticipate:** By documenting a planned response to these scenarios or developing a response framework for unanticipated scenarios, the organization creates safeguards against the prospect of being caught flat-footed when there is a crisis.
 - **Align:** It is imperative to align these structures and systems to ensure the effective utilization of resources. This should be an ongoing exercise that seeks to spend more on the mission and less on the machinery.
 - **Automate:** Maximizing advances in technology to automate repetitive tasks will enable organizations to recalibrate staffing levels to control costs or repurpose personnel to more frontline mission responsibilities.
 - **Associate:** Breaking through the veil of established geographic boundaries and finding ways to associate with other church organizations within the family allows for leveraging the best available competencies and lessening the duplication of effort to produce similar resources or perform standard responsibilities.
 - **Analyze:** There is a wealth of information trapped in the transactional data that is recorded by an organization. Employing such a data-driven approach to management and governance keeps organizations on the leading edge of knowing what is happening, why it is happening, and what should be done in response.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7).
Maranatha!!



NEWS & VIEWS

MAY / JUNE 2023



On the Cover

The Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrate its 160th anniversary. The Church looks to the future, focusing on unity, identity, and mission.

INSPIRATION

2 Mobilizing Resources For Mission

COVER STORY

4 Chosen for Mission: Celebrating 160 Years of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

FOCUS

6 2023 NSD Midyear Meeting I Will Go: Be His Witness

DEPARTMENTAL & REGIONAL NEWS

8 NSD Directors Meeting on Ganghwa Island
 8 NSD Family Ministries Advisory
 9 NSD Women's Ministries Advisory
 10 The 3rd Healthy Lifestyle Leadership Training Course
 11 Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries of NSD Holds Seminar
 11 NSD Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Advisory Meeting
 12 NSD Adventist Mission Advisory
 13 Hope Delivery Project with *Signs of the Times*
 15 Okinawa International Seventh-day Adventist Church Community Outreach Ministry
 16 A Small Yet Significant Step in the Heavenward Journey
 17 Back to the Altar One Day Conference Sahmyook University Church
 18 "Sharing the Vision of World Mission"—Winter Overseas Mission Report Contest
 20 NSD Stewardship Ministries Advisory Meeting
 21 2023 God First Rally—Stewardship Seminar for Taiwan
 22 Taiwan—a New Website, Sabbath School Training and a Church Plant
 23 Adventist Possibility Ministries Special Sabbath Sharing the Love
 24 Pastoral Visitation with Elder Jonas Arrais in Mongolia Mission Territory
 25 Youth Department PCM Organizes Successful Event for Churches in Mongolia
 26 New Church plant in Bayankhongor, Mongolia—Set off by Evangelistic Effort
 27 A Group of the Mongolia Tusal Adventist School Visits Korea

MISSION PROJECT

28 Once a Missionary, Always a Missionary
 30 1000MM Cottage Meeting -The Amazing Things God did Through Me
 31 Opening of the 1000 MM Mongolia Branch and First Group of Trainees
 33 Relationships with Public Institution —Hope 365 and Ansan Urban Corporation
 34 ACM — A New Online Mission Program
 35 The True Question

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.



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Chosen for Mission: Celebrating 160 Years of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

On May 21, 2023, the Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated its 160th anniversary. Despite challenges, the Adventist movement has now reached communities worldwide with the Gospel message—all due to its missional efforts over the last 160 years.

Aptly themed “Chosen for Mission,” the celebration is an invitation for all members of the World Church to pledge commitment to mission through Mission Refocus. It also is a call for renewed dedication and participation in discipleship through Total Member Involvement (TMI).

Elder Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the Adventist General Conference (GC) headquarters, said of its development, “We are incredibly grateful for the privilege of sharing God’s final messages for the past 160 years.”

Chosen for Mission precedes and seeks to prepare the World Church for the upcoming mission milestone in 2024—the 150th anniversary of Adventist mission to the world.

A Historic Gathering: The Birth of the Adventist Church

When Ertön Kohler, GC Secretary presented at the 2023 Spring Meeting about the 160th-anniversary celebration, he emphasized the wisdom in looking to the past to inform and guide the future. Using an analogy, he stated, “Healthy organizations move forward looking at the windshield while at the same time looking at the rearview mirror.”

Our rearview mirror is as a Church reaching back to 1863, when on May 20, 1863, 20 delegates from across the United States gathered in Battle Creek, Michigan, to organize the church. They had a shared vision and commitment to

preach the Three Angels’ Messages and recognized the need to organize to propel the mission forward.

On May 21, 1863, a selected committee comprised of eight delegates developed a constitution outlining the structure of what would become the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

According to Dr. David Trim, historian and director of the Adventist Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR), the constitution included a preamble, outlining the purpose and focus behind the development of the GC: “To secure unity and efficiency in labor and promoting the general interest of the cause of present truth,” Trim shared at the 2023 Spring Meeting.

He added, “Article five of the first GC Constitution stated the Executive Committee was to have the special supervision of all missionary labor and as a missionary board [would] have the power to decide where such labor was needed and who shall go as missionaries to perform the same.”

In summary, the purpose of the GC was to promote “unity, identity, and mission,” Trim emphasized.

Reflecting on the Legacy: The Adventist Church Today

Today, the Adventist Church is dedicated to helping individuals find freedom, healing, and hope in Jesus through a deep understanding of the Bible. After 160 years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s mission efforts have impacted education, healthcare, and media evangelism. The movement that began with 3,500 members and six conferences has now grown into a global membership

of over 22 million people, spanning more than 200 countries.

With over 9,000 denominational schools and universities worldwide, the Church has nurtured the minds and hearts of over 2 million students.

The Church's healthcare system is another significant aspect of its legacy. With over 200 hospitals and sanitariums, and more than 1000 clinics, the holistic health approach of Adventist healthcare institutions has contributed to the physical, mental, and spiritual health of global communities.

Additionally, the Church's media presence has continued to increase in recent years. From literature evangelism to publishing houses, TV and radio channels in over 80 languages, and now its web and social media presence, the Church has been pivotal in spreading the Gospel.

"The remarkable growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church over the past 160 years is a testament to the commitment and involvement of every local church member. Each individual plays a vital role in our mission," said Paul Douglas, chief financial officer and treasurer for the Adventist Church.

He added, "As we celebrate this anniversary, we invite all members to join hands, stepping forward with renewed passion and dedication. Together, let's reflect on what it means to be chosen for mission, knowing that our collective efforts can transform people's lives around the world."

A Vision for the Future: Unity, Identity, and Mission

When the Church reflects on its rich legacy of the past, "We receive new commitment, new energy, [and a] new vision for the future," expressed Köhler.

As the Church moves towards the future, its emphasis these last 160 years highlights three key points:



unity, identity, and mission.

160 years ago, Adventists united with the purpose to fulfill their mission focus. Now, Adventist leaders invite divisions, unions, conferences, and local churches to join in advancing the mission today, tomorrow, and for years to come.

Our identity is God-given, Bible-based, and emphasized by the Adventist Fundamental Beliefs. This message must be shared with the world, by Christ-followers with a unique identity, Kohler said.

In a new upcoming video series meant to reaffirm and deepen Adventist identity in members worldwide, Frank Hasel, associate director of the Biblical Research Institute, and co-host Kéldie Paroschi, explore the foundation for the 28 Fundamental Beliefs along with guest historians.

Mission is also at the center of the Church's vision. Köhler stated, "Our 160 years stand as an invitation to revive the unwavering commitment of our pioneers and embrace the extraordinary achievements the Lord has prepared for these crucial times. In the midst of polarization, let us forge ahead united, fortifying our biblical identity amidst the challenges of relativism, and rejuvenating our unwavering dedication to mission."

Adventist leaders will share and highlight new 160th anniversary projects and initiatives at the 2023 Annual Council in October and members worldwide can look forward to articles and resources throughout our 161st year so every member can become involved in Chosen for Mission.



2023 NSD Midyear Meeting

I Will Go: Be His Witness

The 2023 Northern Asia-Pacific Midyear Meeting brought together church leaders, administrators, and representatives from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Mongolia to discuss important matters, strengthen bonds, and chart the course for future mission work. With the theme of "I Will Go: Be His Witness," the meeting aimed to ignite a renewed passion for sharing the gospel and fulfilling the mission of the church.

This year the meeting took place in the vibrant city of Yokohama, Japan, situated on the picturesque Yokohama Harbor. This place is a significant place for the Adventist Church in Japan. It was here, on November 19, 1896, when William Calhoun Grainger arrived as pioneer missionary to Japan. With this historical importance in mind, participants looked forward to engaging sessions, insightful presentations, and meaningful discussions centered around the advancement of the church's mission in the NSD territory.

One of the special features of the Midyear Meeting was the spotlight on Japan Adventist Academy. The academy's handbell choir, 16 students and three faculty, performed for the NSD EXCOM in celebration of the opening of JAA.

Among the challenges of aging societies and low birthrates, all the glory was given to God for opening the new school with 97 students. Undoubtedly, this educational institution will play a vital role in shaping the minds and hearts of young Adventists in Japan. The focus on education at the beginning of the Midyear Meeting emphasized the importance of investing in the next generation of church leaders and members.

Mission Refocus Japan was also a prominent feature this year, with a report from the Japan Union Conference (JUC) that outlined the progress, challenges, and opportunities for spreading the gospel in Japan, highlighting the need for strategic initiatives and increased support. Other special features such as Back to the Altar (Raquel Arrais), Digital Evangelism (Byun SeongJun), Great Controversy Project 2.0 (Kim Kwon), and Total Member Involvement



Kim HyunMin
NSD Associate Secretary



1. Japan Adventist Academy students perform handbell choir.
2. From left, NSD Executive Secretary Hiroshi Yamaji, President Kim YoHan, Treasurer Kim TaeSeung pray for the pathfinder camporee.
3. Pastor Byun SeongJun explains about digital evangelism.
4. Pastor Toshio Shibata outlines the progress of JUC.
5. Edgard Luz is elected as the new NSD Education director.

(Jonas Arrais) were presented to the Executive Committee.

One of the items discussed and voted in the meeting was changing Jeju from an Attached Region to a Mission. (It is part of the Korean Union Conference.) After numerous meetings and interviews, the survey team concluded that Jeju as an Attached Region has shown enough evidence of both local and global missional contribution; it has a well-balanced program in the activities of departments; it has shown a willingness to work in harmony with the policies and plans of the denomination; and it has demonstrated the willingness and ability to carry its share of financial responsibility. EXCOM members applauded and praised the Lord as Jeju Mission embarks on a new missional journey.

Participants also received updates and policy mergers that align with the evolving needs of the church. This process ensured that NSD remains relevant and

responsive to the challenges and opportunities faced by the churches in NSD.

As the Midyear Meeting came to a close, there was a special promotion and dedication service for the NSD International Pathfinder Camporee. This grand event scheduled for August 1-5, 2023, will bring together nearly 3,000 Pathfinders from NSD and other parts of the world. The EXCOM members prayed for life-changing experiences, times of fellowship and spiritual growth among Adventist youth.

Finally, the 2023 NSD Midyear Meeting concluded with a special dedication ceremony, symbolizing the commitment and consecration of the leaders to the mission of the church. The attendees were reminded once again of the importance of missional focus and reliance on God's guidance to advance God's kingdom in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.



NSD Directors Meeting on Ganghwa Island



On April 18 and 19, 2023, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) held a department directors meeting on Ganghwa Island. The meeting served as a preparatory gathering for the upcoming in-person Mid-Year Committee. Pastor Hiroshi Yamaji, executive secretary of NSD, delivered the opening sermon where he appealed to attendees to be faithful workers. This upcoming Mid-Year Committee will be the first totally in-person conference held by the Division since the COVID-19 pandemic. After Yamaji's sermon, he introduced the agenda items from the General Conference Spring Meetings and emphasized the need

for cooperation among NSD in identifying areas where they need to work together. New areas of work were also discussed. Raquel Arrais, director of the Women's, Family, and Children's department, expressed her hope that the meetings would be a time for attendees to gain inspiration and find motivation for their ministries. Pastor Kim HyunMin, NSD's associate secretary briefed department directors on the schedule and asked them to pray deeply for the success of the event. In the evening, Pastor Kwon HyukMin, who had dedicated himself as a seventh batch missionary for the Pioneer Mission Movement in Taiwan, was invited to discuss the Taiwan Simultaneous Evangelism Meeting to be held July 3-8, 2023. Pastor Kwon emphasized the importance of understanding Taiwan and its culture before conducting the evangelistic meetings. He shared his experiences and solutions for his concerns about local contextualization while serving at the Saru Church in Taiwan. He presented several key points that the department directors should consider when delivering their messages, emphasizing the importance of family-based evangelism while presenting examples of how he saved many souls through that method.

NSD Family Ministries Advisory



Front row: GC Family Ministries director, Dr. Willie Oliver and his wife, Elaine Oliver.
Back row: Family Ministries directors from JUC, KUC, MM, TWC and NSD.



Raquel Arrais
NSD WM Director

Under the theme, "I Will Go with My Family: My Family, My Ministry," Union and Conference directors were happy and inspired for the opportunity to share new concepts in their work of reaching families for Jesus after the pandemic. Three areas of emphasis for Family Ministries were highlighted during the two days of meetings:

- Revival: To strengthen the family's spiritual growth.

- Leadership: To equip and inspire families to lead.
- Mission: To empower families as centers of service and mission.

The meetings were held at the NSD headquarters in Paju, South Korea on April 3-6, 2023. Dr. Willie and Elaine Oliver, General Conference Family Ministries directors shared their expertise, ideas, insights, and guidance, while providing direction for the work of Family Ministries in NSD. Reports which covered challenges and plans for the NSD fields were given by each Union, Conference, and Mission leader. Special sessions were devoted to prayer and a recommitment to the task.

The leaders had the opportunity to discuss important issues, brainstorm, share ideas and align the work of Family Ministries for the years ahead. Dr. Willie Oliver led the discussion on the Adventist Family Ministries Strategic Focus with a special emphasis on Rebuilding the Family Altar: Family Worship. He also presented The Elijah Message, which is the Family Ministries' initiative contribution to the Three Angels' Messages of the World Church. He stressed the importance of the parents passing on their faith to the next generation, the need for parents to turn their hearts toward their children and children to turn their hearts toward their parents. This will create stronger and healthier families who are dedicated to God's mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus to other families, he said.

Dr. Elaine Oliver introduced the new Family Ministries Leadership Certification Program 2.0 to all the directors encouraging each field to train and enrich their leadership through this program. She also presented a compelling seminar titled "Emotional and Verbal Abuse in the Family" and how to break this cycle. "Emotional abuse is difficult to define, and many cases are never reported; nevertheless, it's clear that this form of destructive behavior is based on power and control, and it is destructive and cannot be ignored in a family relationship," Oliver stated.

I give praises to God for the days we spent together as Family Ministry leaders. We finished the advisory spiritually refreshed and to lead effectively where God has placed us for such a time as this. The directors returned to their fields inspired and empowered. To God be the glory!



NSD Women's Ministries Advisory

Raquel Arrais
NSD WM Director

The Women's Ministries (WM) Department Advisory was held April 2-4, 2023, at the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) headquarters. This was a special moment where the directors could meet each other face to face after the pandemic.

Directors and leaders met from around the division to prayerfully strategize for the rest of the quinquennium. Heather-Dawn Small, General Conference WM director, and Nilde Itin, General Conference associate director assisted Raquel Arrais, NSD WM director, with inspirational messages and guidance on every issue that impacts WM. Virginia Baloyo, Southern Asia Division WM director, and Karen Holford, Trans-European Division WM director, were also powerful guest presenters. Their experience, wisdom, and projects were well received by the directors.

During the three-day advisory, WM leaders focused on "I will GO, Reach My World," and "A Ministry for Every Woman." Reports which covered challenges and plans for their territories were given by each union and mission leader. Special sessions were devoted to prayer, brainstorming, and planning as well as time to exercise and refresh.

Dr. Kim YoHan, NSD president, welcomed the directors and encouraged them to lead out in the spirit of mission and Total Member Involvement to GO and REACH their WORLD. A special presentation was also given by Seong JunByun, NSD Communication director, on how to use social media for evangelism.

The book of the year, *The Great Controversy 2.0*, was presented by Pastor Kim Kwon, NSD SSPM director, who motivated all the participants to be part of this

movement in a personal way. Jonas Arrais, NSD ministerial secretary, shared tools and ideas on how to engage the women in Total Member Involvement using their spiritual gifts.

A highlight of the advisory was visiting the Aegibong Observatory on the border with North Korea. It was a moment for special recommitment and prayer as we asked God to open North Korea for the gospel.

The WM department has set goals for work to be done in the upcoming years. The emphases are divided into three areas: Nurture, Empower and Outreach. WM will seek to nurture, empower, and reach out to ensure that all women are involved in God's mission and service. There is a ministry for every woman as "We Go in the strength of the Lord" (Psalm 71:16).



Women's Ministries directors hold candles to emphasize the mission, "Go Light our World."

The 3rd Healthy Lifestyle Leadership Training Course



Jacob Ko
NSD Health Ministry Director

A Healthy Lifestyle Leadership training course was held at Anmyeon Training Center in Korea April 16-21, 2023. The event was organized by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division and the Korean Union Conference, along with the five local Korean conferences. This was the third event since last year. The fourth event is

planned to be jointly hosted in Mongolia by Mongolia Mission, KUC, and the NSD Health Department.

About 25 church leaders attended the course. Our slogan was "NEWSTART lifestyle is not just a theory, but practice." The participants engaged in learning practical lectures, such as proper and healthy vegetable

and fruit-based meals for dinner, aerobic exercise (walking), and stretching and muscle training. The attendees expressed their satisfaction with the practical training of the NEWSTART lifestyle, as they had only previously learned the theory of the program. They pledged to lead out in this program for health reform and practice it as pastors in their local churches.

Jacob Ko, the Health Ministries (HM) director of NSD, emphasized that God's plan of redemption requires physical, spiritual, and intellectual restoration, which is why the churches, hospitals, and schools were established through Ellen White. He stressed that this comprehensive approach is what God desires for restoration.

Park SangHee, the HM director of KUC, lectured on the importance of faith in the NEWSTART Lifestyle program and why it is the most important thing. Other local conference directors also lectured on practical aspects of NEWSTART.

During the morning session, stretching, muscle training, and core exercises were conducted. In the afternoons, participants walked for about 10 kilometers daily. In the evenings, they had fruit-based meals. Initially, the leaders were skeptical about having only two bananas for dinner, but they realized that the slow process of chewing made them feel full.

They also experienced firsthand that a simple fruit meal can be great, especially for those who feel exhausted after a long day.



Adventist-Laymen’s Services & Industries of NSD Holds Seminar



A seminar on the history and mission of Adventist-Laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI) was hosted by ASI of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) on April 1 and 2, 2023, at the Korea Union Conference Center.

The theme of the event was “History and Mission of Adventist-Laymen’s Services & Industries.”

Elbert Kuhn, associate secretary of the General Conference, and Dr. Philippe Baptiste, director of the North American ASI, were invited to lecture on various topics, including: “The History of ASI,” “The Mission of ASI: Church Builders,” and “The Business and Activities of the North American ASI.”

Elder Song JongHyun, the president of NSD’s ASI, emphasized the importance of understanding the purpose and direction of our journey while Kang SoonKi, president of the Korean Union Conference hoped that the seminar would inspire further development and cooperation of NSD and its affiliated organizations to hasten the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

In the lecture Kuhn asked, “For what purpose are we here?” He encouraged the attendees to use their abilities for the glory of Christ and to work toward the mission of saving souls through their work.

In the seminar, Baptiste highlighted ASI’s mission, vision, and purpose and urged everyone to use their abilities for the glory of Christ. He also emphasized that mission is a solemn task given to all of us and that anyone can witness to the gospel. ASI seeks to take the gospel to the ends of the earth by partnering with laity, pastors, and churches, empowering and encouraging them to actively spread the love of the cross. We must be passionate and engaged in ministry to spread the Three Angels’ Messages.

Members who attended the event stayed until the end and focused on the lecturers’ messages. They agreed with the identity and role of the Peace Council and promised cooperation with an “Amen!” They also showed their determination and resolve to fulfill their mission.

NSD Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Advisory Meeting



Kim SunHwan
NSD AM / PARL Director

The department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) is part of the global endeavor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to create favorable conditions to share the good news of freedom and to invite all to loving fellowship with God and fellow human beings. Additionally, PARL proactively and diligently works to dispel prejudices against the SDA church—its identity, message, and mission—by mingling with people, and sharing distinct Adventist insights through peaceful persuasion. Essentially, PARL works to position the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its services to a standing of credibility, trust, and relevance in the public realm.



GC PARL director, Dr. Diop (center) and directors from NSD, KUC, JUC, TWC, and MM.

The above statements were emphasized at the NSD Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Advisory which was held on April 24-25, 2023. Dr. Diop led two days of morning sessions. In the afternoon sessions, NSD PARL directors held their own discussions on PARL ministries within the NSD territory. Since most of the PARL directors of the Unions and Conferences are the executive secretaries, it means PARL is not their main responsibility. However, this advisory helped them understand the importance of the PARL ministry and that it is never less important than their other jobs.

Through the rest of the week, until the Sabbath, a series of events were held by KUC, Dr. Gounue, and Pastor Kim SunHwan, NSD PARL director. On April 26, Sahmyook University and Graduate School held the Religious Freedom forum. More than 200 students and faculty members as well as pastors gathered to

hear Dr. Diop speak. In the evening of that same day, PARL directors had an interview with a group of people named “the Society of Religious Freedom and Equal Opportunities” to discuss current religious freedom issues in Korea. The next day, there was a special meeting with a legislator to communicate the chronic problem of religious liberty in Korean society. On Sabbath, Dr. Ganoune Diop and Pastor Kim SunHwan visited two churches: Bonbu Church on Friday and Taerung Church on Saturday to share the message of a biblical foundation for religious liberty that applies to our current church situation.

I hope and believe that this advisory with the follow-up events provided momentum for PARL directors and all participants to learn how we can advocate religious freedom to put our church in a better position for mission.

NSD Adventist Mission Advisory

Adventist Mission is not just one of the Church’s ministries. It is the mission that has been entrusted to the remnant church of the last days. We cannot have any other responsibility of greater importance than to participate in this Great Commission of Jesus Christ: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division Adventist Mission department held its advisory meeting March 27-28, 2023. Prior to the AM advisory, a North Korea Mission Congress was held at Sahmyook University. Elder Erton Köhler, General Conference executive secretary, attended the congress, and opened the AM advisory meeting with his inspiring message to AM directors and NSD members of the division. Elder Gary Krause, GC Adventist Mission director and Jeff Scoggins, GC AM planning director lead several sessions titled: Overview of Adventist Mission; Church Planting; Global Mission Pioneers and Tentmakers; Urban Centers of Influence; Mission Strategy to Reach the Unreached; and Mission Priority System.

Gregory Whisett, GC Global Mission Center director joined via zoom, speaking on “Global Mission Centers



AM directors and leaders during advisory meetings.

and Their Roles.” Dr. Khamsay Phetchareun, director of the Center for East Asia Religion, shared mission strategies within a Buddhist context.

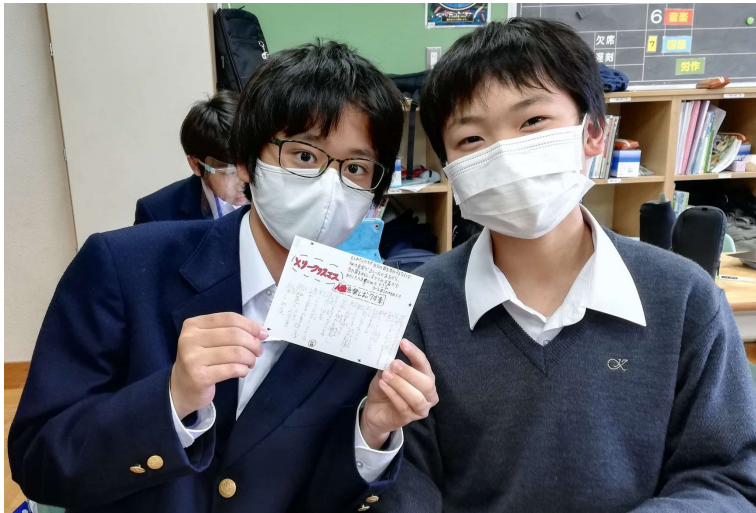
This AM advisory was also a time to share what the Division has done in terms of Global Mission. All NSD Adventist Mission directors gave reports on their ministries, and four current PMM pastors shared their experiences with the advisory participants. This was an opportunity for AM leaders to benchmark some methodologies to apply to other parts of the world.

I believe this advisory meeting helped all AM directors understand the goals and purposes of Adventist Mission, allowing cooperation for laying strategic plans for the next three years. May the Holy Spirit be with all AM directors, associates, and all relevant leaders in the field of Adventist Mission, so that Jesus’ coming may be hastened and His kingdom come in our time.

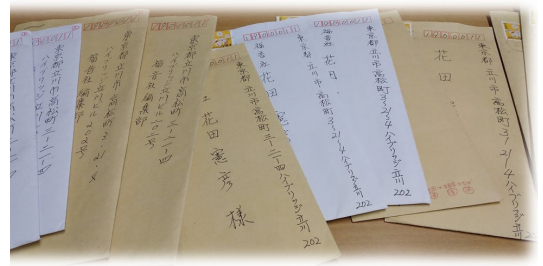
Hope Delivery Project with *Signs of the Times*



Norihiko Hanada
 Editor in Chief,
 Japan Publishing House



Japan Adventist Academy students write Christmas cards to prisoners.



Letters by prisoners.

For three years from 2019 to 2022, the Publishing house of Japan Union Conference has carried out the “Signs Hope Delivery Project.” Japan is said to be an underdeveloped country in evangelization, and among them, prisons are said to be the most difficult mission sites to deliver the gospel.

We have been praying for a long time that we would be allowed to deliver *The Signs of the Times* to Kumamoto Prison. It is a place for inmates involved in serious crimes such as murder, injury causing death, and robbery with a sentence of 10 years or more. About half of them are members of gangs. We have decided to present 17 copies every month for the prisoners and three copies for the staff.

Since 2019, Pastor Norihiko Hanada, editor-in-chief of Japan Publishing House, has held a presentation ceremony every year at the Kumamoto Prison Warden’s office. The director highly praises the magazine, saying, “This magazine is necessary for the rehabilitation of prisoners.”

Currently, in the library of Kumamoto Prison, there are 30 books besides *The Signs of the Times* from Japan Publishing House. I hope the messages in these books and magazines reach the souls of prisoners.

In addition to the Kumamoto Prison, this delivery

project of hope also sends the *Signs* every month to 800 inmates nationwide through an NPO called Motherhouse. Founder and CEO Hiroshi Igarashi has three criminal records and has spent a total of about 20 years in prison. However, he met Jesus Christ in prison, launched Motherhouse after his release, and is striving to realize a society without recidivism.

In Igarashi’s book he writes: “Loneliness does not mean being alone. It means having no one to share with. In loneliness, there are people who are searching for the meaning of their lives, a place that accepts and fulfills who we are, and the presence of those who understand us. In order to change people’s minds, we need the power to support them and the power to stand up.”

Igarashi encountered Adventism when he was imprisoned in Gifu Prison. He read Pastor Saburo Aragaki’s book, *From Death Row to Pastor*. “That book really encouraged me,” he said. Furthermore, Igarashi said that he had taken the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence Course while in prison. The person who corrected his Bible answers was Pastor Toshio Yamagata, who was the president of Nippon Saniku Gakuin college. Although Pastor Yamagata lived a very busy life, he was serving a nameless person in prison.

It really moved me. And the seeds sown at that time have now led to the wonderful work of Motherhouse. The seeds you sow will surely bear fruit. It encouraged me that our hard work in the Lord will never be in vain.

It is quite difficult in Japan for us to personally visit prisons and introduce the gospel to prisoners. But *The Signs of the Times* magazine can be like an angel visiting the prisons on our behalf. I would like to continue to deliver hope to prisoners through the gospel, saying, "There is such a wonderful hope in life." And I would like to share with you a letter from an inmate:

"...I did things like going to jail and lost all trust from people....I lost what I thought I had. I would like many people to know that there are such people among those who are sentenced to prison.... There are cases in which the lives of children, the elderly, the weak, and sometimes the lives of parents are treated poorly. I think that if the power of the Christian church was at work even a little, it would be possible to prevent this kind of thing. I am grateful that reading *Signs of the Times* has taught me many things and has enriched my heart..." This man started Bible Correspondence courses and has now completed two courses.

Here is more from that letter:

"Thinking about things easily, taking the easy way out, living with the feeling that things will work out somehow, seeking alcohol and pleasure, ... If something goes wrong in life, blame it on the world and blame it on others. I was trying to justify myself and run away from my weaknesses.... At that time, I discovered Christianity. After reading the Bible, my feelings changed. For the first time, I felt a sense of crisis about the way I was living."

And at the end of the letter was this: "Finally, we are living in a difficult world with the lingering summer heat and the spread of the new coronavirus. I pray for

the safety of Pastor Hanada, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Japan Publishing House, and the people in the whole world."

I think it's really wonderful that the work of our church is being prayed for even in prison.

There is one more thing I would like to report. The other day, I received a letter from a detention center. When I read the reason why this person sent the letter here, my body trembled.

After the presiding judge read out the verdict and the main text, and looked him in the eye, he said, "I don't want to say any particular religion, but I hope you will find peace of mind. I hope you will do your best to live and work hard." A few days after the judgment, the court-appointed attorney who helped him gave him a Bible and the September issue of *Signs of the Times*. I don't know why this lawyer had this magazine, and why he chose it along with the Bible out of the many books in the world. But this sequence of events opened the prisoner's mind. Surprisingly, he applied for the correspondence course through this magazine that was handed to him. It is strange that such a person was reached by a completely different route from the "Delivery of Hope" project. But the Holy Spirit is at work! I feel the deep guidance of Heaven.

In this project, we collaborate with Motherhouse to send Christmas cards with messages from Saniku middle and high school students to 800 inmates nationwide each year. In these last days, I want you to keep these words of the Lord in mind: "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

We ask for your continued prayers and support in this prison evangelism.

Hiroshima Adventist Academy students make Christmas cards.



Pastor Hanada delivers magazines to Kumamoto Prison.





Okinawa International SDA church visits nursing home.

Okinawa International Seventh-day Adventist Church Community Outreach Ministry

Messan Komedja

Pastor of Okinawa International Church

Background of the Ministry

Since COVID-19 affected our lives in 2020, things have not been the same. Our church has gone through a lot of changes when it comes to worship services and how we serve the military and the local Japanese communities. However, God gave us an opportunity to start a ministry during the COVID pandemic. It all began with Mr. Ishikawa, a homeless man that the church was sheltering, who volunteered to help us reach more needy people in the community. After some time searching for nonprofit organizations that we could support in Okinawa, he introduced me to Mrs. Smith from “Women’s Pride.” She accepted to partner with The Okinawa International Seventh-day Adventist Church in supporting some single mothers that had been left behind with children by their American military partners. We empathized with these single mothers and their children and wanted to share in their pain and challenges.

Our Contribution

Soon enough, we received a list of needed items: rice, baby diapers, toiletries, clothes for children, baby formula, school supplies, etc. We informed the church members, and on Sabbath collected the items which were then handed to Mrs. Smith since we were not allowed to have personal contact with the families. All we had was a picture of the family receiving our donations, and a thank you note. It’s been over two years since we’ve been helping these mothers.

In November 2022, instead of having a “Thanksgiving” dinner for our church family, we

decided to extend an invitation to the Women’s Pride single mothers and their children for a “Thanksgiving Lunch.” To our surprise, the mothers accepted our invitation and came out in numbers. It was beautiful to see our church lawn used as a safe place for these mothers and children in need of support and love. It was also our first time meeting them in person. After we fed them, we taught the children some easy Christian songs, presented a skit on “The Good Samaritan” and gifted them with some food items and Adventist literature. They were very happy, and we plan to invite them again this year.

Other Activities, Accomplishments and Future Plans

On other occasions last year, we offered a basket of various items to 30 single mothers among whom four were refugees from Ukraine. We also took our children to sing in a home in our neighborhood during the Christmas season; they were very happy to welcome us. We have sheltered in the past three years, three homeless people without proper accommodations. That’s why in our new church building plan we have included a guest room so that we can be equipped to help more people in the future.

Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, “Verily I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.” May we reach the needy and share Christ’s love with them in these trying moments.

A Small Yet Significant Step in the Heavenward Journey: North Korean Defectors' Baptism at Uimyeong Mission Center

Every baptism is certainly a joyful occasion and a blessing for the entire church, as E.G. White describes, “Angels rejoice, and the song of triumph rings through the courts above” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, 190).

But the baptisms that took place at Uimyeong Mission Center on the Sabbath of April 15, 2023, were even more special; Mr. Park and Mr. Jang, two men who had left their families and friends back in North Korea, officially joined the worldwide Adventist family.

Adjusting to a new life in South Korea was challenging for Park as it is for most North Korean defectors, who not only face loneliness but also struggle adapting to a new society. He had turned to religion for comfort and started attending Sunday churches. But after a while, he felt disappointed and disheartened by the worldly practices there. When a fellow defector invited him to his Saturday church, he thought, ‘why not?’

It was there at the Uimyeong Mission Center where he met Pastor Choi who guided him through the biblical and historical evidence to find the truth about the Sabbath and Adventism. Intrigued by what he was learning, he invited another defector, Mr. Jang, and a couple of months later, the two of them got baptized. Park expressed his desire to study theology and become a pastor for his fellow defectors and

he hopes for a way to help them become financially self-supporting, especially with Sabbath-keeping challenges.

Both Park and Pastor Choi, a fellow defector who first heard of the Adventist church through a booklet while in China, strongly emphasized the importance of evangelizing and training defectors as future missionaries for the North Korean mission. Since they greatly miss their families back home, once the doors are open, they want to be the first to share the gospel and the hope for a better and happier life in Heaven with their loved ones.

Currently, Uimyeong Mission Center is the only Adventist church by and for North Korean defectors. Most of the church members travel long distances to stay there from Friday evening through Sunday to study the Bible and fellowship together.

Park says his heart was filled with joy and gratitude when his friend told him, “Now, I will come to this church for the sake of my faith, even without you being there.” That certainly would warm anyone’s heart and the first step in that direction may be through fellow defectors and our systematic and church-wide support and prayers. May we all join the angels in rejoicing when our brethren from the North are brought to the Lord.

North Korean defectors’ faces are mosaicked to protect their identity.





Back to the Altar One Day Conference at Sahmyook University Church

On April 1, 2023, the Family Ministries Department from Korea Union Conference and East Central Korea Conference held a special conference on Sabbath at the Sahmyook University Church titled, “Back to the Altar and Family Relationships” with Dr. Willie and Elaine Oliver, General Conference Family Ministries directors.

The presentations focused on the theme, ‘Rebuilding the Family Altar’, which was the theme for the Family Togetherness Week of Prayer last year. The Olivers provided tools to help families restore their faith despite separation and divorce as well as helpful ideas to strengthen marriages and family relationships. The couple conducted lectures such on “Leaving a Spiritual Legacy” and “Becoming Close Partners.”

Elaine Oliver suggested specific methods of help, saying, “In order for family members, including couples, to become intimate partners, they should start a conversation expressing their feelings, rather than starting a conversation with an aggressive ‘you’ attitude.”

Dr. Willie Oliver, quoted Ellen White’s words, “works speak louder than the most accurate confession of piety.” He said, “God’s gift for us is eternal life. We must pass on our precious spiritual heritage to our children and grandchildren. I, too, inherited my faith from parents and I am here,” explaining the importance of passing down our spiritual heritage.

Yoon ChungSil, KUC Family Ministries director said, “The Family Ministries Department is the department that works hard to strengthen marriages and families, and to promote the passing down of our spiritual legacies to the next generation.”

Raquel Arrais, NSD Family Ministries director, said in her welcome address, “I hope that today’s meeting will be a time for all of us to receive divine inspiration, learn the concept of a healthy family presented in the

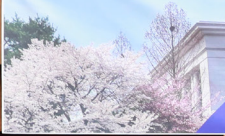
Bible, and restore our relationships.”

Kang SoonKi, KUC president, said, “Most Adventist churches conduct business with a focus on missions. However, the Family Ministries department has a mission to present to Adventist families. Families today are the ones in charge of mission as they pass on their faith to their children, so they can stand as a happy and healthy family during this special time we live in.”

Family Ministries materials were provided for the attendees: Calligraphy—reading the light of life with your fingertips, Prayer Gratitude Notebook ‘100 Gracious Hearts’, Play QT with Parents, 365 Prayers for Infants and Toddlers, ‘Meet Every day’, My First Bible Story, Parent Education Lectures, and information on the home. Attendees were very grateful for all the information received. The organizers broadcast live through the Advent Village App, Sahmyook University Church, and the YouTube Sahmyook University Channel for members who could not participate in person.

The Family Ministries Department believes in the biblical teachings through the marriage institution (Genesis 2:18-24, Matthew 19:6) which God planned for the happiness of human beings. We are working with the goal of strengthening and restoring our families to the image of God.





“Sharing the Vision of World Mission”— Winter Overseas Mission Report Contest

Sahmyook University completed the “Winter Overseas Mission and Volunteer Service,” dispatching 259 people from 20 teams (231 students and 28 professors) to eight countries around the world during the winter vacation.

On March 3 and 30, 2023, Sahmyook University held the 2022 Winter Overseas Mission Reporting Contest under the supervision of the Ministry of Education. About 50 people attended the event, including Pastor Elbert Kuhn, a vice president of the General Conference, Kim YoHan, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, Kang SoonKi, president of the Korea Union Conference, and Kim IlMok, president of Sahmyook University, as well as volunteers, academic advisors, and departmental pastors.

Sahmyook University dispatched its large-scale overseas mission service and volunteer group last winter vacation. The groups were sent to countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, the Philippines, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan, and Taiwan. At each location, the volunteers performed evangelistic meetings, Korean cultural exchange, medical, education, construction, and relief services.

The Department of Chemistry and Life Sciences SU-GM Medical Volunteer group was dispatched to Manila by forming an allied volunteer group with medical staff from the Department of Theology and Glendale Church in the U.S., including doctors, nurses, oriental-medicine doctors,

dentists, and chiropractors. The volunteers treated as many as 7,700 patients, including children and adults for ten days and gave nine patients cleft lip permutation surgery and ophthalmic surgery. They also provided architectural services to six households. In addition, an evangelistic meeting was held with a local church, and 14 people were baptized.

SAY, Taiwan Campus Mission Development

Sahmyook University Adventist Youth (SAY) dispatched a volunteer group of 74 students and eight professors in six teams across Taiwan. They operated evangelistic meetings and Korean cultural exchange programs at Beitun Church, Xindian Church, and Xin Zhuang Church, where PMM pastors and PCM missionaries were sent. These churches have opened Korean language clubs on university campuses in large cities to adopt a missionary strategy that utilizes Hallyu (the Korean wave) and Korean culture as a point of contact for missions.

Kim IlMok, president of Sahmyook University and Dean Je HaeJong visited the mission field in person during the mission service period. President Kim met with the presidents of the local universities, and discussed international exchange and cooperation plans, and contributed to the PMM ministry.

The Bangladesh Adventist Seminary and College (BASC) dispatched a volunteer group of 48 students in five teams

with five professors and two staff members to develop the 'Change the World' project. 'Change the World' is a service-learning project through cooperation with local students, breaking away from one-sided charity service.

Starting with the launching ceremony attended by President Kim IlMok and the Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh, Lee JangKeun, they carried out intensive social contribution activities such as cultural exchange, medical service (Department of Physical Therapy), improvement of environmental awareness, and Korean food upcycling for one week.

Through this project, which will last for the next two to three years, Sahmyook University plans to establish cooperative relationships with the local universities and communities and contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

An Unforgettable Lifetime Memory

The outcome gained through such overseas missions and overseas volunteer activities has been the growth and change of the students who participated in the volunteer work. Jeon HaYeong (3rd-year English Interpretation and Translation Major, Department of English Language and Literature), who attended the Beitun Church Volunteer group in Taiwan, had no religious background before entering Sahmyook University. Then, after admission, she participated in SAY activities and with the department community. She received discipleship training during the last winter vacation and participated in overseas missionary service afterward.

"I will never forget the hearts of people living in completely different cultures becoming one through Jesus. I wanted to learn more about Jesus through discipleship training and winter overseas missionary work," Jeon said.

Bae MinSeok (3rd-year physical therapy student), who participated in the 'Change the World' project in Bangladesh, said, "I have always lived with the idea of doing something by myself, but after coming here (Bangladesh), I realized that I needed help from others. Also, I thought I didn't like children very much. However, through the volunteer service experience, I could feel love for children to the extent that I couldn't believe."

Elbert Kuhn, associate secretary of the General Conference, who attended the report contest that day, said, "My heart was warmed after hearing the students' testimonials. I was convinced that Sahmyook University's fantastic vision for world missions and the students are not different from those of the world church. If the opportunity arises, I'd like to join the



volunteer services."

Samhyook University as a Hub for World Missions

Sahmyook University plans to dispatch volunteer groups to various places domestically and abroad during the summer vacation, including the Overseas Mission Volunteer Group, Change the World (2nd Stage) Domestic Volunteer Groups, Glocal Service Learning, Departmental Volunteer Clubs.

President Kim IlMok said, "Sahmyook University will continue to provide various missionary support to serve as a central channel for domestic and international missionary activities and a hub for world missions. I want to express my gratitude to the many donors who have supported this project."

NSD President Kim YoHan said, "We ask you to continue and expand the overseas volunteer project that changes people and the world." He added, "I hope that more students will learn about the world and become great people who move the world while volunteering for their neighbors at home and abroad."

Kang SoonKi, president of the Korea Union Conference, said, "We will hold a Korea Union Conference briefing meeting in March of 2024 to collect and present the missionary service activities of Sahmyook University, Sahmyook Health University, 25 elementary, middle, and high schools, each Conference, organizations, local churches, and various mission teams. Sahmyook University brilliantly started the first kick-off."

Meanwhile, before the briefing session, Sahmyook University held a mission meeting with leaders from each organization, sharing the current status of missions by organizations and their plans while seeking ways to cooperate.

NSD Stewardship Ministries Advisory Meeting

GC Stewardship Ministries director, Marcos F. Bomfim explains about stewardship.



Kim NakHyung
NSD Stewardship Director

Creator, Redeemer, and Lord, and to manage His affairs on planet Earth, guided by God's first principle. He reminded us that Satan has aimed to lead men to put self first. As Christians, we must be aware, knowing God is the source of everything.

During the conference, Pastor Marcos also spoke about a variety of issues impacting offering and tithe. He emphasized regular and systematic giving in his lectures from

the Book of Counsel on Stewardship. The attendees enthusiastically shared their opinions, thoughts, and suggestions for consideration through the group activities, and heard many amazing, inspiring testimonies regarding stewardship from our mission fields.

During the day, conference participants had the opportunity to visit Sun-Moon-Lake and the Aboriginal Cultural Park as a refreshment in nature.

A fantastic stage was prepared for this advisory, a

From April 25-27, 2023, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division Stewardship Ministries Department Director Kim NakHyung organized the 2023 Stewardship Ministries Advisory at SANYU Health Education Center in Taiwan. The event focused on the Theme: "God First."

The purpose of the Advisory was to awaken the stewardship spirit in these end times, a "God First" spirit to our church members. During the pandemic period, there were many crises that we faced, including economic challenges. Our churches had to change the offering-giving style to electronic devices. Therefore, a spirit of "God First" is needed for every church member. The conference was open to all Stewardship Ministries directors of NSD; approximately 21 people were in attendance.

The Taiwan Adventist Academy (TAA) student choir opened the conference. Kim NakHyung, NSD Stewardship director, gave a warm welcome and presented an inspiring message. He emphasized that mission and stewardship are the two wings of the church.

The keynote speaker was Marcos F. Bomfim, Stewardship Ministries director of the General Conference. In the beginning, he said, stewardship was God's assignment for humanity to acknowledge Him as



The participants of stewardship advisory have group prayer time.

communion ceremony, mission reports, testimonies, a noon prayer meeting, and award distribution.

The communion ceremony was especially inspiring. During the ceremony, candlelight created a warm atmosphere. Pastor Kim NakHyung asked the attendees to put two drops of olive oil on the palm of their partner, then pray for each other. Through this activity, attendee's hearts were inspired by the Holy Spirit and they recommitted themselves to the Lord. It was a significant time during the advisory.

At the end of the program, Pastor Marcos and Pastor Kim NakHyung stood at the door and offered a special farewell to all the attendees as an opportunity to say thank you for STW's dedication.

All participants were very enthusiastic and blessed by the entire program. A memorable day came to an end, and the participants returned home with great joy.

We thank God for His protection and guidance for this amazing and meaningful Stewardship Ministries Advisory.

2023 God First Rally— Stewardship Seminar for Taiwan

As part of the stewardship emphasis week in Taiwan, the Taiwan Conference organized a one-day “God First” seminar on Sabbath, April 29, 2023, in the Song-San Church, Taipei. The seminar focused on encouragement and putting God first. There were representatives from all the Taipei churches—Shilin, Banquiao, Xindian, Luzou, Xinzhuang, and Newlift Opening remarks and an introduction to the program was given by Pr. Steven Wu. He highlighted that the responsibility of the steward was given by God, and that through our lifestyle we could be faithful servants of God.

The sermon was given by GC Stewardship Director Marcos Bomfim, on Psalm 51, the prayer of David. He said that feeling guilty is a condition for us to accept God and a time to come to the presence of God, that a contrite heart is more important than offerings and tithes.

The NSD Taipei office provided a healthy and delicious lunch box for every participant. After lunch Kim NakHyung, NSD Stewardship director, shared the message of a stewardship lifestyle and the Apostolic offering principle. Then, Pr. Marcos told his testimony regarding offerings and tithes to encourage all church members to put God first in their lives. He clearly addressed the concept that giving was based on what God did for us.



After the lecture, there was a time for Q & A. One of the church members reminded us that offering is based on Acts 1:8, that we are supposed to be a witness, to work for the church from local to international. God instituted the church for us to support the gospel work and to put all resources together for doing something bigger and moving faster. A retired pastor said that giving is a freedom of choice, and the greater poison is selfishness; our offering is to make our selfishness die, then God's blessings will be given to us.

Lord, we thank you for making this day possible, the day was made beautiful because of Your presence! Amen

Taiwan—a New Website, Sabbath School Training and a Church Plant

Michael Wang
 Director of Personal Ministries,
 Publishing Ministries and Sabbath School Ministries

Taiwan Conference Website Reconstruction

The Taiwan Conference website has been serving primarily Seventh-day Adventist church members since its establishment. However, the website’s usage rate among church members is low and not fulfilling its intended function. Furthermore, it lacks the ability to reach out to non-SDA populations for evangelism purposes. Therefore, we aim to reconstruct the Taiwan Conference website, improve the quality of services provided, and provide a platform for the cultivation of Taiwan SDA church members. Additionally, non-SDA individuals can also use this platform to learn about the gospel and get to know Jesus better.



Jinmen Church Planting Ministries

The focus for the first-third quarters of 2023 is on developing the Jinmen ministry. Although the mission statement of Taiwan Conference has expressed a desire to develop the Jinmen mission, various factors have hindered its implementation. However, in the second half of 2022, with the support of Taiwan Conference administration officers and the Personal Ministries department, we began the Jinmen church planting ministry.

Currently, the Jinmen group meets online every Wednesday night with six participants. In mid-May 2023, the Taiwan Conference team will have visited the church members in Jinmen once again to discuss the rental of a house as a meeting place. May God guide and direct us in all our endeavors to fulfill His will.



Sabbath School Seminar

From January to March 2023, Sabbath School teacher training was conducted in four mission districts. The purpose was to train more qualified teachers who can lead the study of lessons in a lively and interesting way, enhance the interest of church members in the study of truth, and help build their spirituality.

Sabbath School has three aspects: the donation envelope, the record card (rollcall card), and the minute book. It is important to propagate the use of these in local churches so that the church can better grasp information about its size. This will enable the work of the gospel to be effectively adjusted and changed, resulting in more effective church work overall.



Adventist Possibility Ministries Special Sabbath Sharing the Love



Adventist Possibility Ministries (APM) affirms that all are gifted, needed, and treasured; people go where they are welcomed but stay where they are valued; value is inherent through creation and not determined by what a person can or cannot do; each person is unique and has a God-given purpose; included in that purpose is the call to enrich the lives of others which flows out of a sense of gratitude for what they themselves have received.

Each year Adventist Possibility Ministries celebrates a special Sabbath with the purpose to create awareness and to reach families with disabilities. For the second year the sermon for this special Sabbath has been translated, distributed, and preached by our pastors and leaders in their congregations throughout Mongolia. 'Sharing the Love' was the theme that mobilized the Mongolia Mission Adventist Possibility Ministry and Volunteer Service to reach children with special needs. A total of 30 families participated in the program. It is a blessing to report that 11 out of 30 families are SDA families with 19 from non-Adventist families.

Children's ages ranged from 2-15 years old; organizers contacted each family asking what they would like to receive as supplies or gifts for their children. They received positive responses and the children were provided with toys and supplies.

The "Share the Love" service was held at Emmanuel Church for Ulaanbaatar residents, chosen because it is wheelchair accessible. During the program APM brochures and the book "The Final Hope" by Clifford Goldstein were distributed to the community.

Families and children appreciated the gifts they received, and each child took home a heart craft they made with their parents. During the program, parents were provided a relaxing massage by the National Association of the Blind Chiropractor. The parents who received the massages were happy and grateful. "In their daily routine parents provide massage for their children, but not for themselves," said one of the organizers.

"Today was a day full of joy, laughter, and tears where my beautiful children enjoyed one of the most remarkable days in the year. Thank you for your kindness and love. Thank you for the team who provided vitamins, pampers, napkins, toys, special medicine, school supplies for every child with special needs. Also, thank you for the best massage by the blind chiropractors. Thank you for the good meal, music, insightful speech, photos full of memories, and the wonderful day where we met nice people who we haven't seen for a long time," said one of the mothers who participated in the program.

Special thanks to the Northern Asia-Pacific Division APM, the Andrew Chia family for their financial support and donations, and for the Emmanuel church for opening its doors to the children and their family members. We are grateful for being able to host this program twice a year for these children through the generosity of many people.

It is important to keep these children with special needs in our daily prayers. Pray for them to listen to God's voice and accept Jesus as their Savior and may they one day receive the gift of new healthy bodies. To God be the glory in touching the lives of children with special needs.



Pastoral Visitation with Elder Jonas Arrais in Mongolia Mission Territory

Bold Batsukh
MM, Ministerial Secretary

Planting churches in rural Mongolia has always been a challenge due to geographical isolation, limited access to resources, and cultural barriers. The vast distances between settlements, extreme weather conditions, and the nomadic lifestyle of many Mongolians can make it difficult to establish and maintain a consistent church presence. But Mongolia Mission with the help of Adventist Mission projects and the support of sister churches has been able to plant and maintain churches in rural areas of Mongolia. But the need to nurture pastors and church leaders is essential to continue the work in this country. This is why pastoral visitation is an essential aspect of the ministry of pastors, especially in rural areas in Mongolia. I was privileged to have Elder Jonas Arrais, Ministerial Secretary for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, join me in visiting our pastors. In the future, we are planning to visit more pastors and offer encouragement to those serving in distant locations.

The recent pastoral visitation took place in the northwestern part of the country. We visited Darkhan, Selenge, Sant, Hutul, Erdenet, and Bulgan churches covering close to 1,000 km on country roads. The communities we visited are small compared to Ulaanbaatar, where more than half of the population resides. During our visit, we had the opportunity to interact with a few of the members and pastoral families. We held meetings with the church leaders to

discuss pastors' spiritual and personal family needs and also the needs of churches, exploring ways to enhance their ministries.

One of the key observations and encouragements during the visit was the strong sense of commitment from our leaders to serve God and the people. Despite the challenges faced by the lack of funds and resources, including lack of financial means to maintain church buildings and provide for needed church programs, our pastors and church members are demonstrating a high level of resilience and commitment to one another. Pastors serving in rural areas face unique challenges, such as isolation, and a lack of support. However, they also have the opportunity to make a significant impact in the lives of the people they come in contact with.

We were encouraged as we renewed our commitment to serve those working in these remote areas and would like to continue our visits because we can identify areas of need and provide encouragement and support for them and their congregations and the wider community. For pastors serving in rural areas, the challenges may be many, but the opportunities for impact are just as great. By embracing the community, cultivating resilience, building partnerships, and prioritizing self-care, pastors can remain effective in their ministry and make a significant difference in the lives of those they serve.

NSD Ministerial Secretary, pastor Jonas (right) and pastor Batsukh (left) encourages Mongolia church leaders.



Pastor Jonas visits a local Mongolian church





Youth Department PCM Organizes Successful Event for Churches in Mongolia

Od
MM, Youth department director

The Adventist Church in Mongolia held its annual Mini Olympics event at Hawaii Sport Center, organized by the Youth Department Public Campus Ministries (PCM). The event brought together members of the church from all around Mongolia with the aim of having fun and strengthening relationships within the church community.

The event featured a range of competitions, including volleyball, basketball, tennis, darts, and chess with a total of 18 teams participating. One special moment during the event was the recognition of Gan-Erdene, who previously organized the Mini Olympics event. The Youth Department PCM presented him with a token of appreciation for his efforts in organizing past events. This gesture underscored the strong sense of community and togetherness within the Adventist Church in Mongolia.

Participants enjoyed the event and gave positive feedback about the activities and atmosphere. They appreciated the opportunity to meet and socialize with other church members from different regions of the country, which helped to foster a greater sense of unity and fellowship within the church. Thus, the event achieved its goal of bringing church members closer together.

The Youth Department PCM organizers expressed their gratitude to all who participated and made the event possible. They emphasized the importance of events like this in strengthening the bonds of the church community and encouraging members to support one another in their spiritual journeys.

Overall, the annual Mini Olympics event was a huge success, and the Adventist Church in Mongolia looks forward to continuing this tradition in the future. This event serves as a reminder of the importance of fellowship and community within the Church, and its success is a testament to the dedication and commitment of the Youth Department PCM organizers and participants.



New Church Plant in Bayankhongor, Mongolia—Set off by Evangelistic Effort



Bayankhongor, Mongolia - The sound of worship songs and prayers can now be heard in this province center, a region that was not previously reached by the Seventh-day Adventist Church due to the remote location and a lack of interest in starting a church. But it is our duty as a church to extend God's message of grace to these unreached areas. I am optimistic that if we move with prayer and faith, God will surely provide the people and the means for His work. Pastor Vadim Butov, living in Australia since 2011, has visited Mongolia four times with a vision to plant a church in Bayankhongor. He has fundraised for a year's worth stipend to send a young couple to this unreached province. He recruited eight church members from Russia to join in the preparation work of visitation and giving out pamphlets. He also contacted one woman from Germany to conduct health talks and a woman from Australia to perform musically during the two-week evangelistic effort. Mongolia Mission sent nine people from various churches across the country to support the meetings. We would like to thank all those individuals for their help and support.

According to local reports, there have been concerted efforts by other local Christian organizations to conduct evangelistic activities in the past, but not a two-week evangelistic program in Bayankhongor. Our initiative was a longer and more arduous effort aimed at reaching out to people in the area who had never heard the gospel before.

We are excited about what God is doing in Bayankhongor. This is a strategic area that has been overlooked for many years, and we believe that the time has come for the gospel to be preached here. The evangelism activities included visitation, handing out literature, health talks, children's programs, singing ministry and systematic evangelistic presentations yielding significant results. More than 450 people came on opening night and after the two weeks many people in the area responded positively to the gospel, while 21 precious souls gave their lives to Christ and were baptized.

We are grateful for the partnerships with our brothers and sisters from Russia, Australia and Germany. They have provided us with the resources and training we needed to effectively reach out to the people. We are confident that the new church will make an impact on the lives of the people in Bayankhongor and will provide a sense of hope and community to the people. It will be a place to come together, worship, and learn more about the gospel. The church is also planning to provide practical support to the community through initiatives such as family and children's programs.

The success of the evangelism and church planting activities in Bayankhongor is a testament to the power of partnership and collaboration. By working together, local churches and partnering organizations have been able to effectively reach out to the people of Bayankhongor and share the love of Christ with them.



Children in Bayankhongor attend evangelistic program.



Kim HakTaek
Principal of Hankook Sahmyook High School

A Group from Mongolia Tusgal Adventist School Visits Korea

When I first became involved with Tusgal Adventist School (TAS) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, I was serving as a member of the NSD school evaluation team October of 2022. At that time, I noticed several areas that could be improved compared to Korean Adventist schools and recommended to Ms. Uljii, the principal of Tusgal, that visiting schools in Korea could greatly assist with school management. Finally, she put my recommendation into practice.

And on April 24-30, 2023, teachers and students from (TAS) visited different educational institutions in Korea. The visiting group included the principal, chaplain, five teachers, and three students.

During their time in Korea, they toured Sahmyook University, a renowned AI-centered school, where they also attended lectures, and they visited the Northern Asia-Pacific Division and Korean Publishing House. As part of

their school visits, they came to Hankook Sahmyook High School, Seohae Sahmyook Middle and High School, and Seoul Sahmyook High School to learn about the school systems and educational curricula. They also visited the Sahmyook Food Factory in Cheonan, where they observed the development of the healthy beverage market of the Korean Adventist Church and expressed their gratitude for the warm hospitality they received.

My school and Seohae Sahmyook Middle and High School have established a sisterhood relationship with Tusgal Adventist School and have decided to continue cultural exchanges and support activities in the future. I am delighted to be able to assist in a place where missionary work is challenging, and I will do my best to contribute to the sharing and development of Korea's IT-related businesses in the future.



Once a Missionary, Always a Missionary



Choi HoYoung
NSD Youth Ministries Director

May 4, 2023 (Thursday) The Islands of Negros and Siquijor

Early in the morning, six people with the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM), including me, got into a van to catch the 3 a.m. flight from Manila Airport to Bacolod. The journey focused on four missionaries sent from Korea to the Visayas Islands in the Central Philippine Union.

After driving for about three hours from Bacolod Airport, we arrived in Kamang where missionary Lee JaeRim and his team were dispatched. The lodgings of the three missionaries were poorer than expected. Having attended the first missionary assignment here 30 years ago, I was quite surprised to see that there had been no significant changes in the living environment of the missionaries. There were no beds, so they had to sleep on the floor. In the kitchen, there were traces of cooking rice with a charcoal fire, and several chicks were being raised in the chicken coop next to it. A missionary receives a stipend of \$100 per month. This should cover lodging and missionary expenses. Without the grace of God and the support of the local church members, missionaries cannot carry on their work. We delivered a small amount of money for encouragement and care

packages like Korean ramen to the missionaries and encouraged them with fervent prayers.

Our second destination was a small island called Siquijor. After crossing the island of Negros and a five-hour drive, we finally arrived at the Dumaguete Passenger Terminal. We had dinner with cup noodles in the waiting room and hurriedly boarded the ship with little time left after ferry boarding procedures were completed. It took us two hours to cross the sea; the sun had already set when we reached Siquijor. It would take another 30 minutes from the port to the place of missionary Jeon HaEun and her Filipina partner. It was night and no cell phone signal, so we had no choice but whenever we saw any villagers on the road, we stopped and asked for directions until we finally arrived at the church where the missionaries were to live.

Their lodging was located next to the church building. It looked

safe but it was all in one room with the kitchen and bathroom outside. Despite the inconvenient environment, our female missionaries seemed happy with bright faces.



As we chatted with the missionaries, the time was already pointing to 10 p.m. The eyes were closing. During the 22 hours from the 1000MM headquarters, the only sleep we had was on the plane, in the car, and the ship, so our bodies were very heavy. But even though it was a tiring journey, by the grace of God, we felt rewarded and grateful.

“And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests,

but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head” (Matthew 8:20). Oh Lord, thank you for coming to this earth land where you had nowhere to lay your head and to prepare us a place to lay our heads in heaven.

May 5 (Friday) Bohol Island

The second-day itinerary started with moving from Siquijor to Bohol Island by ferry. On Bohol Island, we could only stay for about five hours and then move over to Cebu.

After having vespers together at the church where the missionaries were to attend, we delivered the encouragement money and some consolation items we had prepared. We had to hurry to catch the 10:30 pm boat, but still we took the time to have a late dinner and chat with the missionaries. Less than a minute was left when we arrived in front of the ticket counter at the passenger terminal. I hadn't even booked a ticket yet, so it was a foregone conclusion that I would miss the boat. I could only smile to the ticket attendant out of desperation. If we missed this ship, we had to wait in the waiting room until 4 a.m. Then a man appeared as a savior. He called someone urgently, and got into our van and asked to accompany us to the dock. Normally, the ship should have already sailed five minutes earlier. But the ship was waiting. It was like a miracle. Lord, please

send angels and perform miracles when the missionaries are in trouble.

May 6 (Sabbath) Cebu

We got on the road early to Tabunok Church to meet missionary Bang YoungIn about 30 minutes from Cebu. Bang's father had served as a first-batch missionary, and she was carrying on it that spirit.

I had the great privilege of sharing my 1000MM missionary experience that Sabbath with church members. Although I dedicated only one year in my 20s, God has blessed my life in many ways over the past 30 years. Even now, visiting and seeing 1,000MM missionaries serving the Lord for a year is more exciting than any other trip for me. It is because I have also experienced the problems, worries, and pains of missionaries who are facing many challenges in poor environments. Their experiences will never be in vain, growing and maturing our young people spiritually and mentally.

The visit to the mission field for the past four days and three nights once again awakened my missionary spirit. Although I participated in the 1st batch of missionaries of the 1000MM 30 years ago, my heart is still excited and passionate. The motto “Once a missionary, always a missionary” has settled deep in my heart.



1000MM Cottage Meeting -The Amazing Things God did Through Me



Lim HanNa
1000MM 60th Batch

This 1000MM program serves as a practicum and partial exposure of the scenarios the new missionaries will encounter in their future mission fields. It involves a week of conducting an evangelistic series in the Philippines. During the week, they share how the Lord has been with each missionary, they learn how effective serving in Christ can be when working together, and that if the spirit of (self-sacrificing) love abides in each of the missionaries they will not reap in vain.

I was excited about the people I would meet and the things I would hear, but I was worried because it was my first time evangelizing to foreigners and I didn't know where we would be going. All I could do was pray for the event with my teammates. When we arrived at the evangelistic venue, which took about eight hours by bus, we realized that we had to conduct the meetings on an empty construction site with no church, and we had to start immediately that afternoon, so we hastily made wooden chairs, set up a tent, and went door-to-door to hand out tracts to people. When I was doing visitation, my mind was filled with doubts and worries: "Will people

really come to the evangelistic meeting invited by a foreigner they don't know?" However, contrary to my worries, when the evangelistic meeting started, many people, from children to adults, came and welcomed us, and we were able to proceed with the order of the songs and words we had prepared.

Before the evangelistic meeting, we visited people's houses to meet them, sing songs, and help the sick. For those who wanted to study the Bible, a Filipino missionary told Bible stories. I couldn't understand Tagalog (a Filipino language), so all I could do was pray for the people as the missionary talked to them and shared the Word with them. I wondered if I was preaching God's Word. For this reason, I didn't think about baptizing them. But after a week, on Friday evening, we had nine baptismal decisions. What was even more amazing was that on Sabbath afternoon, three more people decided to be baptized, bringing the total number of baptisms to 12. A 15-year-old boy who had been disappointed that he could not be baptized because of his parents' opposition was baptized, and a couple who had been baptized in the Catholic Church were baptized on Sabbath afternoon.

All I did during the crusade was meet people, pray with them, play with them, and teach them songs. I was a foreigner with a different language and a different look, but God used me and the missionaries to touch people's hearts. The people who came to the crusade and the people who decided to be baptized were all God's work.

This Cottage Meeting showed me that if I do the best I can, God will fill in the blanks.

Before I came here, I prayed to share God's love with people, but I was the one who received more love. As a missionary, I came here to save people who didn't know God, but I realized that God called me here to save me.

I don't know which mission field I will go to in the



future and with which partner, but I have experienced God's presence and that He is with me and uses me no matter what the situation. If I have one resolution in my heart as I am about to be sent on March 25, 2023, it is to do my best to do the work entrusted to me in the mission field and to be a missionary who receives and shares more love in the next 10 months.



Opening of the 1000 Missionary Movement Mongolia Branch and First Group of Trainees

On Sunday morning, April 2, 2023, the city of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, had a blizzard with cold strong winds as the temperature suddenly dropped to minus 15 degrees Celsius instead of warm spring weather. But the cold and snowstorm could not cool off the enthusiasm of 16 missionaries who applied for the 1000 Missionary Movement as a first batch and the opening of the Mongolian branch of 1000MM.

Mongolia Mission, led by President Han SukHee, held the opening ceremony at Suut Resort. Guest speaker, Pastor Jeon JaeSong, Director of the 1000MM Training Center in the Philippines, was invited to share a special message for the first 16 trainees. The launch of the 1000MM program was a historic moment for Mongolia Mission.

About 20 years ago, there were intermittent activities for 1,000MM in Mongolia, but programs were suspended due to various circumstances. With the active support of 1000MM Training Center Director, Pastor Jeon JaeSong and the NSD Youth Department Director, Pastor Choi HoYoung, the Mongolia branch was formed and the mission work in Mongolia has entered a new era.

In his opening remarks, Pastor Han shared about his own background as a member of the first batch of 1,000 missionaries: "When this movement began in



Opening ceremony of 1000 MM Mongolia branch.

the Philippines about 31 years ago, it was a weak and seemingly insignificant movement that had to make something out of nothing." He further recalled, "However, this movement, which started in a barren environment, amidst numerous challenges, has produced around 14,000 missionaries, brought about 74,600 baptisms, in over 1,500 meeting places and 800 churches." He thanked God for being part of these historical events, and expressed his heartfelt desire for the future, "I look forward with eyes of faith, that the same amazing results and great

MISSION PROJECT

blessings will be realized in Mongolia through the new Mongolian branch.”

Pastor Han also emphasized the three elements of the movement: “First, the work of the Holy Spirit; second, the participation of young people who have pledged to dedicate one year of their lives to the Lord; third, the constant prayers, encouragement, and support of administrators and church members. As long as these three elements have been effectively implemented in the establishment of the Mongolian branch and our young people, clear as the morning dew, continue to be trained as missionaries, a lot of people will be brought to baptism through them, and many churches will be established throughout Mongolia, reproducing the growth of the early church. I sincerely hope that the missionary horizon in Mongolia will be greatly expanded.”

Pastor Jeon Jae-song, said, "The 1,000 Missionary Movement, which serves as a channel for God's blessings in each mission field of the global village, is a movement that trains and sends 1,000 elite young people every year and supports these missionaries to be active bearers of the gospel to barren areas of the world. Congratulations on the historic opening of the Mongolian branch, which will carry out this century's greatest challenges on Mongolian soil. A sincere welcome to the 16 amazing young people who applied to join the first batch of trainees.”

Pastor Jeon went on to ask, “Who are the true Adventists?” In his sermon titled, “Seven Characteristics of Adventists”, he indicated that they bear the following characteristics: 1) Church members who are connected to Jesus Christ. 2) Church members who study, practice, and share the Word of God. 3) Church members who devote their lives to the work of saving souls. 4) Church members who have a meek, kind, and considerate character. 5) Church members who live true and sincere lives. 6) Church members who are guided by the power of the Holy Spirit. 7) Church members who live the life of a missionary, whether in season or out of season, whether they are going as or sending missionaries.

Pastor Jeon JaeSong, Director of the 1000MM Training Center in the Philippines shares a message.



Jeon praised the program for its effectiveness in retaining church youth: “The 1,000 Missionary Movement is the best way to protect Adventist young people in Mongolia from the sinful outside world, to quickly complete the gospel work in Mongolia, and to strengthen the local church with the spirit of volunteer missionary service.” He ended with his earnest hopes for success.

Pastor Abba, who is the coordinator of the 1,000MM Mongolia branch, said, “The current general atmosphere of Mongolian society is being rapidly overtaken by secularization, materialism, and egoism.” These are very worrisome circumstances, and he fears that young people will lose their innocence and be easily swayed by secular influences.

Abba is convinced that at this time of crisis, the 1000MM training program is the most timely movement for Mongolia, turning young people into an army of gospel-bearers, making them missionaries, sending them to different regions, saving souls, and planting churches. He asks for everyone’s interest, support and prayers.

There is a total of 16 first-batch trainees, who, after completing the six-week training program (April 2-May 13), will be dispatched in pairs to strategic church planting areas designated by Mongolia Mission. These young missionaries will receive \$100/month for living expenses and will serve as missionaries for the Lord for one year.

Pastor Han SukHee, The Mongolia Mission President’s encouraging words:

This movement was started by the presence and wisdom of the Holy Spirit and is progressing with the power of the Holy Spirit and will be completed through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The 1,000 Missionary Movement is literally a movement of the Holy Spirit, and it will continue to bear fruit through God’s power. We all hope and pray that the activities of the Mongolian branch of 1,000MM will help expedite the Gospel work in Mongolia.

Once a Missionary, Always a Missionary! Maranatha!

16 missionaries of the first batch attend opening ceremony.





Relationships with Public Institution — Hope 365 and Ansan Urban Corporation

Kim GeunSoo
Hope 365 Director

Our relationship with other institutions could be a friendly one, a competitive one, or an aggressive one. Mostly it depends on what the partner institution is like. But how should we as Seventh-day Adventist entities form relationships with government offices and public institutions?

Our denomination has a policy of separating politics from religion. This principle is important to maintain our denomination and to keep our identity, and to prevent government manipulation. But it doesn't mean we build a wall against government offices or treat them with hostility.

When Jesus said, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's," (Matt. 22:21), He didn't mean to build a wall against the state or show hostility to it. He meant to separate the things belonging to God and the things belonging to the world. This also means we should put God above and the world below when beliefs contradict.

But what if we are doing good things and the government wants to help or contribute? Should we refuse or deny? Should we build a wall and not let them approach us? As long as it is not breaking our spiritual beliefs and principles there is no reason for us to reject them. In fact, we should find more ways to cooperate with them; helping those in need, supplying their necessities, and having meetings for future planning must be carried on more passionately.

One day in December 2022, our office received a phone call from Ansan Urban Corporation (affiliated to and operated by the city of Ansan). They asked if they could pay a visit to our center and said they were willing to do volunteer services as well as donate LED lamps for us.

We didn't have a reason to refuse this. So, we said yes. We welcomed them and listened to what they said. They wanted to donate 300 LED lamps, help in repairing our playground, and give opportunities to the children to use their facilities for free.

MISSION PROJECT

We can appreciate people's good hearts when they are willing to help others. In this greater cause, we are totally free to join projects and go hand in hand with public institutions. Would there be any barriers among different beliefs and religions by helping people in need?

Despite the differences of religions and denominations, whether it is public institutions or private individuals, the important thing is, are we willing to take action together? The famous story about "The Good Samaritan" in Luke 10:33, 34 is recorded like this: "When he saw him he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him ...and he said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'"

Jesus asks the same question to us today from verse 36: "Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" Let us joyfully help others in our daily lives and not hesitate to join with others in providing help to those in need.



Before repairing.



After repairing.

ACM — A New Online Mission Program



Mission ministry can sometimes feel isolating, but we can find strength and encouragement to continue serving by praying for each other and supporting one another's work. Adventist Culture and Mission (ACM) shares stories of people who are dedicated to spreading the gospel through missionary activities, gospel songs, messages, testimonies, and more. This program is based on your stories and experiences.

ACM has performed through digital mission and Adventist cultural music with the 18th batch Golden Angels' "We are Witnesses" music video. The theme for ACM is based on Jeremiah 1:7—"Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak." This reminds us that God

does not look at our limitations or our age as a stumbling block. God calls each of us to accomplish His purpose and to spread His message to the world.

It doesn't matter if we feel ordinary or inadequate. Throughout history, the work of spreading the gospel has been done through ordinary people. God uses people like us to make a great impact on other people's lives. Jesus calls us to be missionaries right where we are. So, anyone who participates or attends an ACM program is already learning to be a missionary. That's why I believe ACM reaches out to others, spreading the gospel, and making a positive impact on the lives of those around us.

If you have any ministry-related experiences or inspiring stories that you want to share, please send an email to acm@nsdadventist.org. We value your interest and will share updates regularly through YouTube. Thank you for your prayers and attention.



The True Question

Jonas Arrais
NSD Ministerial Secretary

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him. — James 1:5 (ESV)

What kind of wisdom is James speaking of here? We know that wisdom in the Bible is not a collection of random ideas about God or holy living. In order to remind ourselves of this important concept, here is a short list of some of the things the Bible teaches about wisdom:

- a) Wisdom in the Bible is primarily about developing discernment. Discernment is the ability to distinguish between what is good and what is not, or even between what is good and what is best.
- b) Wisdom in the Bible comes from God himself. From the first pages of the Bible onward God is presented as the one who truly knows how to discern between good and evil. God is also presented as a God who desires humanity to develop that same discernment. God is wise, and desires humanity to grow in wisdom. Proverbs 2:6 says: “for the Lord gives wisdom, from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”
- c) “The wise” in the Bible are those who do not trust their own claim to wisdom (these would be considered foolish) but who are always open to receive from God that which sometimes they do not even clearly understand themselves (Proverbs 12:15).
- d) Wisdom in the Bible is not merely theoretical knowledge but is found in the process of bringing knowledge into life. It is always found in applying what one seeks to learn, to life and to practice (Proverbs 3:7).

With these ideas in mind, we can now perceive that what we find in our context today is a community of faith seeking wisdom and discernment in times of trouble and

distress, seeking the kind of knowledge that can be applied to their problems and issues. What is the community to do when families are being broken, when people make lawsuits against the faithful, when people lose their jobs and become poor because of their faith? When faced with such challenges, and experiencing a sense of a lack of wisdom, what is the community to do?

The simple answer James gives is turn to God. He first introduced God as a generous father willing to give his children what they need to live. God is a provider.

So, God is portrayed as a father who gives “generously” and without “reproach” without hesitating, without asking for more time, without waiting or withholding needed blessings. The idea of a “reliable” God will appear throughout the book of James, and even at the end of the first chapter when James writes (1:17): “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

Are we trusting in the God who gives us wisdom in times of trials? The call from James is: in relying upon the reliability of God, let us become more reliable toward those around us. Let us not depend on the generosity of God while lacking in generosity toward others. Let us live consistent and single-minded lives! Let us be like God, the father who does not hesitate to give good things to those in need!

The true question is not necessarily if we will ask God for wisdom, but if we will have ears to listen, hearts to understand, and hands to offer others what Divine wisdom gives us as we live by faith in the One who is faithful.



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CAMPOREE

FOCUSING *Our* VISION

2023. 8. 1. ~ 5.

Website ▶ nsdcamporee.org

Organizers ▶ NSD Youth Department, KUC and
5 local Conferences of Youth Department

Venue ▶ Sahmyook University



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