

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION www.nsdadventist.org

NEWS&VIEWS



July / August 2024



MISSION FIRST!
GET INVOLVED!



2024 NSD LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

April 29
May 03
2024
Bangkok, Thailand



Leadership by God’s Grace

Hiroshi Yamaji
Executive Secretary,
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

“Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.” (Psalm 46:8)

From late April to early May this year, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division Leadership Summit took place in Bangkok, Thailand. Reflecting on my journey as a leader, I realize that it has been quite a few years since I stepped into this role. Lately, I have found myself asking God:

Lord, what can I do? I have nothing. I don’t have exceptional financial power. I don’t have extraordinary athletic ability. I don’t have remarkable intellectual capacity. I don’t have special talents. Yet, you called me to be a leader. Why? This question baffles me every time. What can I do? I feel I can do nothing.

Coming to a country where I don’t understand the language has intensified these thoughts.

Suffering from an illness that causes dizziness and nausea when I think too hard has made me feel this way more. Feeling distant from those who once supported me has made these thoughts more prevalent. Seeing my children leave the nest and start their own lives has deepened these feelings.

I received no direct answer from God. However, I started to realize that maybe the belief that I did everything by myself was an illusion. Perhaps, I never had any power at all.

In truth, God had been mercifully providing me with help exactly when I needed it.

In truth, God had

been mercifully giving me ideas precisely when I needed them.

In truth, God had been mercifully supplying me with the right words at the right time.

In truth, God had been mercifully granting me everything I needed exactly when I needed it.

If this was the case, how should I live as a leader now that I realize this? Four points were revealed to me:

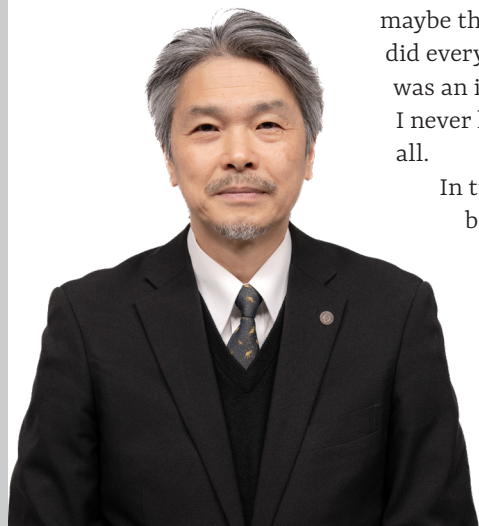
1. Relax and Release Your Own Efforts: If I don’t let go of the idea that I’m doing everything by my own power, I might not notice how my efforts are negatively pressuring those around me.

2. Calmly Assess Your Position: By understanding your most crucial role, you can see what should be prioritized. Focus on what should be done first. Don’t take on others’ tasks. Delegate responsibilities that should be delegated.

3. Recognize the Team and Talents Around You: The church is an organization that exists as a team. Value and cooperate with teammates who are different from you. This teamwork will result in outcomes beyond your imagination. There are things only the youth will notice, and things only the elderly will see. There are things only men will notice, and things only women will see. There are insights unique to people from different countries. The diversity within church workers leads to outcomes that one person alone could never imagine.

4. Always Seek God’s Voice, Not Your Own: The most crucial attitude is here. Are you hearing God’s voice? We hear our voice when we speak. Are we constantly listening to our voice instead of God’s? We need to be silent. When we are deep in thought, are we only hearing our inner voice? Or are we listening to the voices from the TV, radio, YouTube, or social media? Are those voices shaping our thoughts? We need to regularly be still and listen for God’s voice. Our work begins and ends here.

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth” (Psalm 46:10).



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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.



On the Cover
75 leaders from NSD territories gathered in Bangkok, Thailand for 2024 NSD leadership summit.



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Assistant to the President Choi HoYoung, Wu ChungFeng (Taiwan Affairs)
Executive Secretary Hiroshi Yamaji
Associate Secretary Lee HyungJin, Toshio Shibata, Kim SunHwan
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Communication Byun SeongJun
Education Edgard Luz
Health Ministries Jacob Ko
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Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Kim SunHwan
Publishing Ministries, Sabbath School & Personal Ministries Kim Kwon
Stewardship Ministries Kim NakHyung
Youth Ministries Choi HoYoung

News & Views Editorial Team

Editor Byun SeongJun
Assistant Editor Lee EunYoung
Contributing Editors Toshio Shibata, Lee SangYong, Yang EuiSik, Clark Ke
Designer Lee EunYoung
For free subscription or news items, send an e-mail to
sjbyun@nsdadventist.org
irislee@nsdadventist.org
or
67-20, Beonttwigi-gil, Paju-si, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea

2024 NSD Leadership Summit



From Lahore to Bangkok: A Journey of Faith and Leadership

In February Lahore, Pakistan was cold. Amidst the harsh weather and the passage of time, the Pakistan Union Section offered a safe and warm campus at the entrance of the city. As a frontier for Muslim gospel outreach, the Pakistan Union Section was home to leaders of passion.

In March, Kathmandu, Nepal was chaotic. As we traveled along the unpaved roads, the dust in the air made it hard to see ahead. Yet, at the Scheer Memorial Adventist Hospital and Hetauda Mission Center we visited, there was a clear purpose. As a frontier for Hindu outreach, the Himalaya Section was filled with leaders dedicated to telling Hindus about Christ.

In April, Colombo, Sri Lanka and Dhaka, Bangladesh were hot. Amid the densely populated cities stood the

Lee HyungJin
NSD Associate Secretary

headquarters of the Sri Lanka Mission and Bangladesh Union Mission. Beyond the intense heat, people were met with warm welcomes, and the leaders showed their dedication with unwavering love in these urban frontiers.

In May, in Bangkok, Thailand, 75 leaders from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division gathered, united in one faith with leaders on the front lines of Muslim, Hindu, and urban missions, from different nationalities and cultures.

Harmony within Diversity

Each of the 75 leaders was unique. During the opening ceremony, a special performance featured four NSD directors from different nationalities harmonizing together. Despite their differences in language, they communicated in English from the very first day, overcoming linguistic barriers. On the second day, leaders who initially wore their diverse traditional attire unified by donning green shirts.

At the closing ceremony, NSD President Kim Yohan led the service. Leaders, hand in hand, sang “Side by Side,” embodying the unity achieved throughout the event. This gathering was a celebration of unity within diversity, demonstrating that despite their differences, they stood together as one.

Stand at the Basic Belief

The Leadership Summit was enriched by the wisdom of Pastor Kim DaeSung, former NSD and KUC president. His keynote addresses delved into the core beliefs and mission strategies of the Adventist Church, and were a beacon of clarity and inspiration for NSD leaders, emphasizing the church’s identity and the urgency of its mission.

A series of seminars provided practical insights and tools for effective ministry. Jonas Arrais lead with a seminar on Church Leadership, guiding leaders on the qualities and skills essential for leading their congregations with vision and compassion. Following him, Kim NakHyung’s session on Stewardship highlighted the

importance of managing church resources responsibly, aligning financial practices with spiritual principles.

NSD Treasurer Kim TaeSeung held a seminar on Finance Management, ensuring that the church’s resources are utilized efficiently to support its mission. Lastly, Jonas Arrais returned to delve into the Church Manual, demystifying the guidelines that govern church operations and helping leaders navigate the administrative aspects of their roles.

Mission First: Get Involved

The climax of the Leadership Summit was encapsulated in the theme “Mission First: Get Involved.” Hiroshi Yamaji, NSD executive secretary, presented a compelling case for “Mission Refocus.”

The workshops began with Clifmond Shameerudeen, director of the Center for South Asian Religions, leading a session on engaging effectively with Hindu communities. His approach combined respect, understanding, and clear communication, vital for fostering relationships in regions dominated by Hindu beliefs.

Then, Petras Bahadur, director of the Global Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations, took the stage to discuss strategies for outreach among Muslim communities. His workshop emphasized empathy, patience, and the importance of building trust and respect, which are crucial in any mission-focused interaction.

Mission First

In every conversation and shared meal, in every session and spontaneous discussion, the leaders of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division embodied the summit’s spirit of unity and dedication to mission. With their hearts and minds aligned, these leaders are set to forge ahead, placing their mission first, inspired by the unity and diversity they celebrated together in Bangkok.





NSD and SSD Unite for Women's Convention



More than 800 women gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, July 18-21, 2024, for the two-division Women's Convention themed "Made to Flourish: Women's Leadership Congress." This event brought together women leaders from the Southern and Northern Asia-Pacific Divisions (SSD and NSD), showcasing their unwavering support and dedication to sharing the gospel. Delegates from over 20 nationalities joined to inspire, fellowship, and renew their commitment to the church's initiative to reach more people worldwide. The convention emphasized the vital role of Adventist women in advancing the church's mission, highlighting their unique contributions and the responsibilities God has entrusted to them.

Virtual Pajama Party

The convention began on the evening of Thursday, July 18, with a virtual pajama party. Delegates, dressed in comfortable yet modest pajamas, joined an online evening worship attended by hundreds of participants from diverse cultures and backgrounds. The 'Made to Flourish' Women's Leadership Conference kicked off with this heartwarming event on Zoom, bringing together Women's Ministries Leaders from various countries to celebrate fellowship.

Irelyn Gabin, SSD Adventist Possibility Ministries director gave an inspiring talk on 'Flourishing Fellowship,' symbolized by the spring crocus flower. Gabin said that crocuses represent rebirth, joy, hope, and fresh beginnings.

Convention Opens with a Vibrant Display of Diversity



Raquel Arrais
NSD Children's/Family/
Women's Ministries Director

Virginia Baloyo, SSD Women's Ministries director opened the plenary with powerful reminders of women's responsibilities in the church's mission. "It is God's will that women should flourish," Baloyo said. In her welcome speech, Baloyo drew from the Spirit of Prophecy, quoting Ellen White to emphasize that women should exemplify the character of God in leadership, mission, families, and relationships. She said, "The concept of leadership extends beyond administration. Every Christian and woman is to represent Christ and serve as an ambassador for Him and His kingdom." Delegates on the platform showcased the vibrant colors of their countries, adorned in their beautiful national attire.

Messages of Welcome and Encouragement

During the devotional, Galina Stele, GC Women's Ministry director encouraged women delegates to deepen their understanding of their role in God's mission. Stele inspired the delegates by reminding them of their identity and character in Jesus.

In a video message, SSD President Roger Caderma welcomed all women delegates and expressed deep appreciation for the women of the Southern and Northern Asia-Pacific Divisions who are committed to the church's mission of bringing more people to Jesus. "I am encouraged to see every woman ready to go, reach, and light the world for Christ," Caderma said.

On the first day of the convention, presentations and reports were given on physical and mental health, leadership development, identity in Jesus, and updates on the church's missions within the Asia-Pacific region. These vital sessions addressed current challenges in ministry and explored how the church, particularly women, can minister to individuals facing similar challenges in society.

Sabbath Fellowship

On Sabbath morning, Raquel Arrais, NSD Women's Ministry director, highlighted a beautiful moment when Yuriko Kumaoka, a delegate from Japan, joined her on stage carrying a poster with a phrase written in Kanji (Han characters). Yuriko, who is not a Seventh-Day Adventist but considers Saturday a blessed day of rest, was accompanied by other Japanese delegates as she held the poster that read "Sabbath Day." Yuriko received a warm welcome from all the delegates, emphasizing the inclusive and embracing spirit of the convention.

Arrais affirmed during Sabbath School the importance of women flourishing in mission through those ministries active in countries within the Northern Asia-Pacific territory. This region, which includes South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh, is predominantly Buddhist and Muslim. Arrais and women leaders from these countries shared the challenges they face and how the Lord has guided them in their mission within these demanding fields. In a special moment, the women delegates offered a heartfelt prayer for countries with no Adventist presence. This mission, which the women are committed to, united them as they petitioned for a miracle, hoping for these countries to open to the gospel.

Messages of Service and Discipleship

Galina Stele delivered an inspiring message on flourishing in God's service, and pointed out that everyone is entrusted with special gifts from God, but the key question is how each person will respond. "Jesus called us to be disciples and to make disciples. But how can we be called disciples? Only when we respond to the call of Jesus," she said.

Three-Day Convention Comes to a Close

During the concluding part of the convention, a special tribute was given in memory of Heather Dawn-Small, the late GC Women's Ministry director, who passed away after facing challenging health conditions. Women leaders came together to honor the inspiration and friendship Small left behind, and they offered a special prayer for her family. Raquel Arrais closed the convention with a powerful reminder about standing firm in adversity and committing to service. Arrais shared that as we approach the soon coming of Christ, life will be filled with challenges that may hinder our journey to follow Jesus. "It doesn't mean that His presence will immediately end our adversity, but it means He will guide us through it," she said, emphasizing God's promise. "There may be seasons we are not blooming, but the roots are growing."



Third “Creationism, Faith, and Science Conference” Successfully Concludes



Park GeonGyoo
NSD News Reporter



The Education Department of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division and the Geoscience Research Institute held the “Creationism, Faith, and Science Conference” at Sahmyook University’s Hong Myung Ki Hall June 21-22, 2024. Speakers included Dr. Benjamin L. Clausen, Dr. Timothy Standish, Pastor Kim SoonGi, and Professor Heo SangMin.

Seminar 1: Understanding the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages (Kim SoonGi)

Pastor Kim SoonGi explained the historical background of the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages, and how these periods connect to biblical creationism. He emphasized that artifacts and relics from these periods demonstrate that human civilization’s development aligns with God’s creation. Kim argued that archaeological evidence supports the historical accuracy of Genesis, underscoring the rational basis of faith grounded in scholarly and logical foundations.

Seminar 2: Plate Tectonics: Researching Worldwide Rates, Genesis to Revelation (Benjamin Clausen)

Dr. Benjamin Clausen explored the relationship between geological phenomena and biblical records through the

lens of plate tectonics. He introduced research on plate movement speeds worldwide and explained geological events from creation to Revelation. Clausen claimed that the Bible references geological catastrophes, which can align with scientific discoveries.

Seminar 3: Recent Biological Evidence for Creation (Timothy Standish)

Dr. Timothy Standish discussed recent biological research supporting creationism. He emphasized that complexity and design features of organisms favor creationism over natural selection-based evolution. Standish presented various biological evidence that aligns the origins of life with biblical creation, highlighting the sophisticated design of genetic structures and physiological processes.

Seminar 4: Theistic Evolution: Between Creationism and Evolutionism (Heo SangMin)

Professor Heo SangMin discussed theistic evolution, which combines elements of creationism and evolutionism. He highlighted fundamental issues with this theory, warning that interpreting biblical events symbolically undermines their historicity and weakens

biblical authority. Heo argued that theistic evolution limits God’s omnipotence to natural laws.

Seminar 5: Radiometric Dating: Trusting the Creator’s Time Mystery (Benjamin Clausen)

Dr. Clausen explained how radiometric dating can be understood within a creationist framework. He acknowledged that radiometric dating suggests millions of years for Earth’s geological history but introduced creationist rebuttals. Clausen stressed the importance of maintaining faith in the Bible and God’s word despite scientific uncertainties.

Seminar 6: Competition vs. Cooperation for Survival (Timothy Standish)

Dr. Standish concluded with a discussion on the importance of cooperation over competition for survival. He contrasted Darwinian emphasis on struggle with the reality that life thrives on cooperation. Standish explained how understanding nature as an interconnected, cooperative system can improve environmental stewardship and biodiversity conservation.

The event saw the participation of over 70 attendees on-

site, with many more joining via online broadcast. After each seminar, a Q&A session was held. The purpose of this event was to explore the intersection of faith and science, emphasizing the divine creation described in Genesis, and to enhance understanding of how scientific discoveries align with biblical teachings. Organizers announced that future events would include more interactive sessions, additional hands-on activities, and networking opportunities to enhance collaboration among attendees.

Edgard Luz, NSD Education department director said, “This event has reaffirmed the importance of integrating faith and scientific research,” adding, “This is a core aspect of Seventh-day Adventist education, aimed at developing students physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially.”

Following this event, there are plans to continually promote the exchange between faith and science, organize conferences and workshops on creationism in other countries within the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, and create a platform for ongoing research and discussion in this field. Additionally, these lectures will be integrated into the Seventh-day Adventist education curriculum to enrich students’ learning experiences and fields of study.



1. NSD President, Kim YoHan
2. Pastor Heo SangMin lectures about Theistic Evolution.
3. Dr. Benjamin Clausen speaks about Plate Tectonics and Radiometric Dating.
4. Edgard Luz, NSD Education director expresses his gratitude to the attendees and speakers.
5. Dr. Timothy Standish talks about Recent Biological Evidence for Creation.
6. Men’s quartet

NSD Hosts Muslim Mission Workshop to Educate Leaders in Korea

Park GeonGyoo
NSD News Reporter



The Adventist Mission department of Northern Asia-Pacific Division hosted a workshop focused on Muslim mission work, aiming to equip its pastors and missionary families with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective ministry. Held at the Adventist Training Center in Wonju, Korea, July 2-5, 2024, there were approximately 50 Korean pastors and missionary families.

With the recent addition of four new countries, the Muslim population in the division has surged to 400 million. This workshop aimed to prepare church leaders in Korea to engage effectively in Muslim missions, creating an environment of learning, discussion, interaction, and prayer.

Samuel Lumwe, associate director for the General Conference Global Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations, delivered insightful lectures on the history, theology,

beliefs, and culture of Islam, as well as, Raquel Arrais, NSD Women's Ministries director, Kim SunHwan, NSD Adventist Mission director, and Gee SungBae, president of Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College. These were valuable lectures on Islam and Muslim communities supplemented by personal stories from mission fields. Daily programs ended with group prayer sessions focused on the Muslim mission.

Through this workshop, the NSD Adventist Mission's department reinforced its commitment to addressing the spiritual needs of the Muslim population within its territories and equipping its workers with the necessary tools to carry out this vital mission. The event was a testament to the dedication and collaborative spirit of NSD and its partners, aiming to bring hope, healing, and the message of Jesus to a growing and diverse community.

Share Rush: Digital Evangelism in Japan Successfully Concludes



Toshio Shibata
JUC Communication Director



【聖書の教え】人生に意味はある！～明日へのEXIT①～...
1173 回視聴 3 週間前

VOPオンラインセミナー2024 『明日へのEXIT』 1日目
日本では「人は偶然の命から進化してきた」...もっと見る

HopeChannelJapan
チャンネル登録者数 2340人

81 1 1 1 1 1 1

再生リストの終わり
明日へのEXIT【VOPオンラインセミナー2024】 - 7/7

コメント 14 並べ替え

コメントする...

The second session of Share Rush was held June 1-8, 2024. This was an online evangelistic program organized by the Japan Adventist Digital Evangelism Center (JADEC). The program involved a series of online videos prepared by JADEC, which participants shared with their friends or relatives through emails or social media platforms.

For Japanese participants, sharing online content with non-Adventists can be challenging, as they often worry about offending others with sudden introductions of religious material. Therefore, encouraging and praying for each other in small groups during the evening debriefing sessions was very important.

The first session, held in October 2023, about 50 people registered to participate, but only half of the participants were actively involved. JADEC aimed to reach 100 participants for the second session but ultimately had 69 people register. However, the number of shares during the second session was significantly higher, which demonstrates the effectiveness of personal sharing.

Unexpected discoveries were made during the two sessions of Share Rush. Initially, the people in charge believed that digital evangelism would be more suitable for the younger generation. However, it was found that younger people were hesitant to share evangelistic content with their friends or relatives. Instead, Share Rush was well received by older individuals, who appreciated the ability to participate from home as long as they had smartphones. Therefore, JADEC is considering focusing more on older church members in future sessions.

Participants shared positive feedback, such as, "I received good responses and replies from non-Adventist people, and I felt that the Holy Spirit was at work." Another participant noted, "I thought digital evangelism was difficult, but I found it surprisingly easy when I followed the instructions. I learned a lot from this program."

The third session will be held in the fall of this year. JADEC hopes for even more participants and is optimistic about the continued success and expansion of Share Rush.

Bridging Faith and Culture with the Manga Mission Project



Toshio Shibata
JUC Communication Director



The publishing department of the Japan Union Conference (JUC) is delighted to announce the upcoming release of a groundbreaking manga book inspired by the concept of the Great Controversy. Set to be published in July 2024, this unique project represents a significant milestone in blending traditional religious narratives with contemporary Japanese culture.

The idea for the Manga Mission Project was sparked by visionary thoughts among the members of JUC. “It would be exciting if the story about Lucifer’s sin, written in the first chapter of Patriarchs and Prophets, could be expressed in a manga,” they mused. This vision aimed to create a manga book that could engage the younger generations, especially through the Youth Rush programs, by making complex theology accessible and intriguing.

Through divine guidance, the project was blessed with a dedicated team possessing the

necessary skills to bring the vision to life. The team included scenario writers and talented manga artists, supported by a generous special offering that surpassed the project’s funding requirements.

Despite initial concerns about depicting the invisible world and potential misunderstandings with Lucifer as the main character, the team was determined to use manga, a deeply ingrained form of expression in Japanese society. Their goal was to provide a meaningful exploration of the Great Controversy, addressing the critical question among young people: “If God exists, why does suffering still exist in this world?”

Two staff members crafted the manga’s scenario, while an in-house manga artist handled the main artwork with assistance from two external artists. This collaboration enabled the project to be executed at a significantly lower cost compared to industry standards. The review process was thorough, involving department directors and professors from the Adventist seminary, ensuring the narrative remained true to its theological roots as well as accessible and engaging.

While there were some differences of opinion on minor points, the solid foundation provided by Patriarchs and Prophets minimized any confusion in the story’s development. The entire project, completed over approximately two years, stands as a testament to the team’s dedication and the guidance they received.

The Manga Mission Project aims to convey the meaning of Jesus’ sacrifice to children, young people, and adults who may not yet know God. Although based on the Spirit of Prophecy, the manga incorporates many creative elements to suit its format without fully being an exact representation of biblical descriptions or doctrines.

Manga has become a distinctive aspect of Japanese culture, and its use in this project demonstrates innovative ways to communicate traditional religious messages. JUC hopes this effort will glorify the Lord and reach a broad audience, fostering a deeper understanding of faith among Japan’s younger generations.

The Japan Union Conference looks forward to its positive impact on bridging faith and contemporary culture while making the profound messages of the Great Controversy accessible to all.

Digital Evangelism Launches AI Chatbot “Adventist Church GPT”

The Digital Evangelism Department of the Korean Union Conference has developed an AI chatbot called “Adventist GPT,” led by Lee SangYong, director of KUC’s Digital Evangelism.

Designed to address inquiries and clear up misconceptions about the Seventh-day Adventist Church, this service furnishes information encompassing Adventist doctrine, history, beliefs, and lifestyle. Going beyond providing accurate details, it offers education and counseling services connected to Bible correspondence schools.

Through fine-tuning, ‘Adventist GPT’ delivers teachings precisely aligned with Adventist beliefs. The team enhanced its capabilities by training the AI on an extensive corpus of official church documents and materials. Available 24/7, its prompt responses aim to benefit church members and the general public. Featuring an intuitive interface accessible across digital devices like smartphones and computers, it facilitates natural, seamless conversations.

“Based on user feedback, we’re continuously refining this platform to elevate the user experience,” said Pastor Lee SangYong. “It will enable users to better comprehend and connect with Adventist beliefs and teachings.”

One beta tester expressed satisfaction that surpassed expectations, noting, “While general search engines and GPT models frequently provided inadequate or inaccurate information about the Adventist Church, ‘Adventist GPT’ conveyed relatively accurate details.”

Another user remarked, “Although I was knowledgeable about the Adventist Church and beliefs, I struggled to articulate explanations whenever questions were asked about them. However, by effectively utilizing this chatbot, anyone can confidently introduce the church and expound on the rationale behind his or her beliefs.” The person added that they would employ it as a valuable evangelism aid.

The anticipated benefits encompass a broadening outreach about Adventist doctrine and beliefs, rectifying misinformation

and misconceptions, while distinctly communicating the denomination’s stance on pertinent issues.

Complementing non-face-to-face evangelism, automated counseling will enhance user engagement, while automated responses to repetitive questions will conserve human resources and boost efficiency.

The partner company ‘OPENBUS’ significantly contributed through pro-bono technical guidance and development, optimizing performance and usability.

The Digital Evangelism department intends to implement continuous updates and enhancements to ‘Adventist GPT’ for fortifying the church’s evangelism and outreach initiatives. It will proactively solicit and integrate user feedback to progressively elevate the chatbot’s precision and capabilities.

Adventist GPT’ is accessible through the church’s website (adventist.kr) and its CRM service for counseling purposes.



재림교회 GPT

재림교회에 대한 궁금증?
재림교회 GPT와 함께 풀어보세요!

✨ A GPT: 안녕하세요! 반갑습니다. 😊 궁금한 것이 있다면 저에게 물어보세요. 그렇지만 저도 가끔 실수할 수 있으니 중요한 정보는 꼭 다시 확인해 주세요! 🔍

🙏 믿음과 행함, 구원의 관계는?

❓ 예수님은 언제 재림하시나요?

🍗 사람이 죽으면 즉시 천국이나 지옥으로 가나요?

📅 재림교회는 왜 토요일에 예배 드리나요?

🌍 재림교회는 왜 음식을 가려 먹나요?

📖 재림교회의 조사심판은 무엇인가요?

👤 엘렌 지 화이트는 누구인가요?



재림교회 GPT

재림교회에 대한 궁금증,
GPT와 함께 풀어보세요!

33rd Summer Retreat with Faith and Fellowship

Kim BeomTae
KUC News Reporter



The Adventist Collegians with Tidings (ACT) along with Public Campus Ministry (PCM) met for the National SDA University Student Summer Retreat, June 30-July 2, 2024, at Anmyeondo Training Center in Korea. This event marked the 57th anniversary of ACT and the 10th anniversary of PCM.

Under the theme “Faith Tour with PCM,” 210 students and pastors came together to share and experience God’s love and grace in their lives. Participating for the first time were the seven members from Jeju PCM, formed last year. Korean students from the U.S. and Australia, as well as international students currently studying in Korea, also attended, creating a truly diverse gathering.

Park JaeYoung, president of PCM Association, a collaborative body of PCM Campus Ministry and PCM Club, encouraged members to invite Jesus into their lives. He said, “If you start a new journey with Jesus, the obstacles before you will turn into steps for your growth.”

Choi HoYoung, youth director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, highlighted PCM’s motto in his opening sermon by referring to Elisha’s disciple, an unnamed young prophet. Pastor Choi emphasized, “Our identity is not defined by our names, universities, or majors. It is found and remembered in our relationship with Christ.” He underscored the importance of fulfilling one’s calling and mission.

Choi continued, “This unnamed disciple was able to change the world by following God and embracing

His mission. An unprecedented ‘spiritual coup’ occurred in Israel’s history, and God’s word began to be fulfilled. Likewise, though we may be inexperienced and weak, if we truly follow Jesus and embrace His holy mission, we can transform the world with the gospel.”

The main speaker, Cho SangIk, internal medicine specialist, shared his experiences through lectures titled “For the Glory of God,” “Jesus in My Life,” “Nothing Is Impossible for Believers,” and “The Love of the Cross.” He

recounted his personal stories from family, university, and medical school life, testifying how God protects and blesses those who remain steadfast in faith, without compromising through injustice.

Cho assured his listeners, saying, “Some of you might be going through dark and oppressive tunnels in life. But our Savior God is beside us. Do not worry about failure or stumbling. Humans make mistakes, but God never does. He will guide our precious lives, bought with the blood of the cross, to be used for His glory.”

The young attendees were deeply moved, many shedding tears in response to Cho’s testimony. In small groups, they shared their reflections and questions about their lives, binding their hearts together. Special activities were themed “Faith Tour” and involved virtual world travels. They conducted group games like music relays, paper cup stacking, and action play, highlighting the unique features of major cities like Seoul, Paris, and Rome.

In the closing service, Kim HyungJoon, youth director of the Korean Union Conference, emphasized the three C’s PCM members should return to: Church, Community, and Campus. He challenged them, saying, “Shall we not dedicate our youth to God as part of ‘Faith Tour with PCM’? Shall we not live as admirable disciples of Christ in our local churches, communities, and campuses?” He urged members to actively participate in PCM’s mission, encouraging them to commit their youth to God’s service.

Large Volunteer Group Dispatched During Summer Vacation



Sahmyook University organized an extensive volunteer initiative during its summer vacation (June-August), deploying 327 participants across 25 teams to nine countries and nine domestic regions. These destinations included Mongolia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, the Philippines, East Timor, Turkey, Malawi, and the United Arab Emirates.

The university marked the commencement of this ambitious project with the “2024 Summer Volunteer Group Launch Ceremony” on May 29, held at Yohan Hall on campus.

During the ceremony, volunteers, including students Kim YooJung (Physical Therapy) and Kim JaeHyun (Computer Science), solemnly recited a pledge to “commit wholeheartedly to volunteer work, uphold their duties as



students, and enhance the honor of the university and the nation.” Their commitment to selfless service was evident.

Sahmyook University’s new president, Jae HaeJong and the director of the Global Social Innovation Institute, Lee ByungHee, handed over the ceremonial flags and dispatch certificates to the team leaders and student representatives.

In his inspiring speech, President Jae referenced Matthew 10, “Freely you have received; freely give,” urging volunteers to share their talents, time, and resources generously. He assured them that their efforts would not deplete their reserves but would enrich them further. He conveyed his hope that the volunteers’ contributions would bring significant blessings to the global community under the banner of Sahmyook University.



2024학년도 하계 계절학기

국내 및 국외봉사대 발대식

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Institute of Future Society and Christianity Hosts Spring Academic Conference



On May 31, the Institute of Future Society and Christianity (IFSC) at Sahmyook University, led by President Jae Haejong, organized a spring academic conference titled “The Role of Christianity in a Healthy Society” at Jang Geuncheong Hall in the International Education Building on campus.

In response to numerous contemporary challenges and crises, the role of Christianity extends beyond religious practices to actively contributing to societal problem-solving. This conference brought together experts from various fields to explore how Christianity can effectively address and help resolve societal issues.

The first speaker, Choi Kyunghwan, representative of Erasmusa, delivered a lecture on “Public Theological Social Participation of Korean Christianity.” He emphasized the importance of public theology in highlighting the church’s social responsibilities, urging Christians to embody God’s justice and peace in society and culture, beyond the confines of church ethics.

Professor Lee Beomjin, director of the Korean Association Against Drug Abuse Research Institute and a professor at Ajou University’s College of Pharmacy, presented on “Sustainable Drug Policies and Education.” He particularly addressed the alarming exposure of teenagers to drugs, identifying its causes, and introduced the UN’s phased approach to drug prevention education as a viable solution, citing UN reports.

Professor Suh Kyunghyun from the Department of

Counseling Psychology at Sahmyook University presented on “Does Religiosity Truly Make People Happy?” He analyzed the impact of religiosity on mental health and well-being, warning that feelings of religious helplessness, guilt, and a lack of religious practice and growth could negatively affect happiness. He proposed strategies for religious communities to mitigate these negative aspects.

In the afternoon session, participants engaged in discussions on topics such as the health issues faced by parents with disabled children, the experiences of caregivers, the independence journey of parents with severely disabled children, and empathy training between parents and teenage children. These discussions aimed to find ways to create a more inclusive and healthy society by addressing the challenges faced by marginalized individuals.

Jae Haejong, president of Sahmyook University and director of the IFSC, reflected, “The presentations by distinguished experts at this conference have provided us with new insights into the social roles and responsibilities of Christianity. I hope this will greatly aid us in concretely setting our direction for practical action.”

The IFSC at Sahmyook University was established to conduct academic activities grounded in Christian faith, including interdisciplinary research, convergence studies, and the implementation of Christian values for future societies. The institute publishes a bilingual academic journal, “Convergence Studies and Christianity.”

Deadly Cyclone ‘Remal’ hits Bangladesh

Imran Mrong
BAUM Communication Secretary



The deadly cyclone ‘Remal’ hit coastal areas of Bangladesh on Sunday evening, May 26, 2024, lingering in its territories until May 29. According to the local authorities, “Remal has destroyed 35,483 homes, damaged 115,992 homes and affected 3.75 million people in Bangladesh. The cyclone affected crops, uprooted trees, knocked down electricity poles, broke embankments and washed away fish enclosures as well.”

As per the report of a local correspondent from South Bangladesh Mission, seven districts of Bangladesh were heavily affected and damaged by this deadly cyclone. It has affected numerous Seventh-day Adventist churches

from Godiapur, Bagdha, Shalabunia, Musuria and Rajapur Circle belonging to the territory of South Bangladesh Mission. Thousands of people including members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church either had to take refuge at their neighbor’s homes or spend nights under the open sky. The cyclone damaged and destroyed the homes of church members, affecting their crops and fish, leaving many homeless. They suffer from lack of pure drinking water, sanitation, foods and shelter. Let’s pray for the people of Bangladesh and extend our loving hands for them.



A church member’s house is severely damaged due to the cyclone.



The damage caused by the cyclone increases, affecting more people.

Sabbath School and Stewardship Seminars Conclude in Pakistan



Park GeonGyoo
NSD News Reporter



The Pakistan Union hosted Sabbath School and Stewardship seminars at the Northern and Southern Pakistan Sections July 25-29, 2024, led by Kim Kwon, NSD Sabbath School Department director, and Kim NakHyung, NSD Stewardship Department.

Over 100 local church pastors and members attended the seminars to learn about effective Sabbath School management, evangelism strategies, nurturing new believers, and reaping souls. The Stewardship seminar focused on defining what it means to be a steward and the steps required to become a faithful steward. The teachings were centered around the theme “True stewards return to God,” based on Malachi 3:7 and 4:6. The slogans “God First” and “Mission First” provided great encouragement to the attendees. Following the seminars, a book dedication ceremony was held, for translated books related to stewardship.

A special awards ceremony, “Winning Souls



Kim Kwon, NSD Sabbath School director leads Sabbath School seminar.



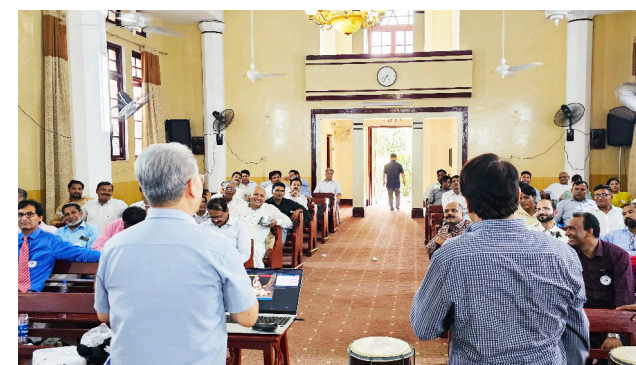
Kim NakHyung, NSD Stewardship director leads Stewardship seminar.



Over 100 local church pastors and members attended the seminars.

Champion,” was also conducted. Pakistan Union Section President Lee M. J. had previously promised to award motorcycles to pastors who brought more than 50 souls to the church in the past year. Impressively, 18 pastors achieved this goal, surpassing expectations. Due to the unexpectedly high number of achievers, only the top five pastors received motorcycles, but President Lee assured the others that all would be rewarded in due time. The pastor with the most souls led to Christ brought in 118 people.

Pastor Kim Kwon and Kim NakHyung also visited various institutions within the Pakistan Union Section to offer encouragement. The participants concluded the event with chants of “God First! Mission First!” President Lee M.J. expressed his gratitude, stating, “The Pakistan Union will continue to nurture faithful stewards and Sabbath School members. I sincerely thank Pastors Kim Kwon and Kim NakHyung for their dedication and hard work despite the scorching heat.”



Northern Pakistan Section Holds Children's Baptismal Celebration

Farzan Yaqub
PKU Children's Ministries Director

On May 18, 2024, the Northern Pakistan Section held a baptismal celebration in Sohal Church. There were 13 Sabbath School adolescents who accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior through baptism after a baptismal class provided by the Pakistan Union Section Children's Ministries department.

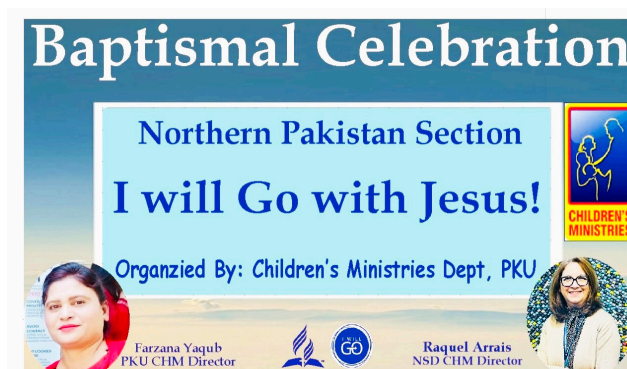
"Praise be to God for the remarkable blessing of 13 children accepting Jesus through baptism," said Raquel Arrais, NSD CHM director. "This joyous occasion is a testament to His unending grace and love. Each child's decision to follow Christ marks the beginning of a beautiful, transformative journey of faith. We celebrate their courage and commitment, and we thank God for guiding them to this moment. May their lives be

filled with His wisdom and light as they grow in their relationship with Him. Let us rejoice in this divine milestone, knowing that Heaven celebrates alongside us, and continue to support and nurture these young believers," Arrais said.

Farzan Yaqub, Pakistan Union Section's CHM director also provided guidance and seminars for parents. "Teaching children to be faithful to God involves nurturing their spiritual growth through prayer, Bible study, and living by example," Yaqub said.

On Sabbath, May 18, Lahore District held a baptismal celebration. In addition, 23 Sabbath School adolescents accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

To God be all the glory.



Farzan Yaqub, PKU CHM Director and one of the young men baptized.

Thirteen adolescents accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

A Touching Testimony from the Great Controversy 2.0 project in Taiwan

Tony Chou
Manager of Signs of the Times
Publishing Association



The annual missionary book, "The Great Controversy 2.0," promoted by the General Conference, has been launched in Seventh-day Adventist churches worldwide since 2023. In Taiwan, the book's promotion has been carried out through close cooperation between the Signs of the Times Publishing Association (STPA) and the Taiwan Conference (TWC). These efforts include: introducing the book in local churches, establishing book clubs to nurture church members, and promoting the newly revised edition of "The Great Controversy" in over 600 commercial bookstores across Taiwan. This initiative aims to spread the gospel to those who have not yet heard it, offering them the most precious gift from heaven.

The essence of literature evangelism is to ensure that the gospel will not be confined to one place; the power

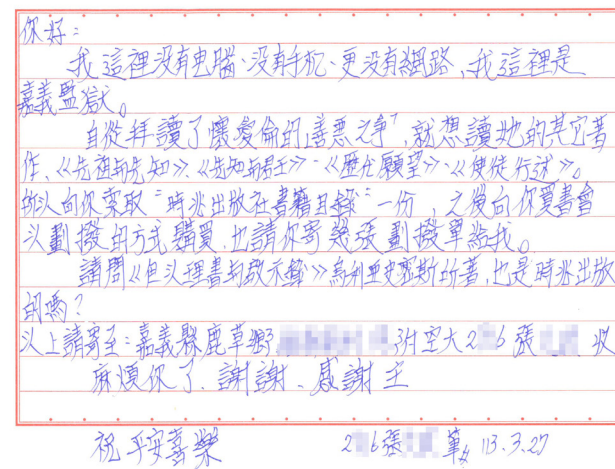
of literature evangelism can reach where pastors and missionaries cannot. For over 20 years, STPA has been dedicated to prison evangelism, frequently receiving letters of gratitude from both prison and inmates. Since 2023, aligned with the promotion of "The Great Controversy 2.0 Project," STPA and literature evangelists have actively distributed "The Great Controversy" to over 40 prisons across Taiwan. Countless lost souls now have the opportunity to read this enlightening book, serving as a guiding light in the end times of the battle between good and evil.

In May, 2024, STPA received a short but earnest letter from a prisoner in Chiayi Prison, Taiwan. It is written as follows:

(continued on page 24)

I'm writing to you from Chiayi Prison, where I'm currently serving time. I don't have access to a computer, phone, or the internet. Since reading Ellen G. White's *The Great Controversy*, I've become very interested in her other books like *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Prophets and Kings*, *The Desire of Ages*, and *The Acts of the Apostles*. I'd like to request a copy of STPA's catalog so I can buy these books from you. I'll use a postal money order for payment, so please send me a few money order forms as well. By the way, is "Daniel and the Revelation" by Uriah Smith also published by STPA? Thank you so much for your time and consideration. May God bless you!

The letter from a prisoner in Chiayi Prison, Taiwan.



This is a sincere and inspiring testimony, showing us how the Holy Spirit uses literature to spread the gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Although his body is imprisoned and he has lost his physical freedom, "The Great Controversy" has liberated his soul. His longing for the gospel is unmistakably evident. This is a beautiful testimony, as the Bible reveals in Colossians 1:27: "To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." May the Lord bless the Great Controversy 2.0 project to achieve its greatest impact, making those who read it become useful vessels for evangelism, swiftly spreading the message of the Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth until Jesus' Second Coming.



A Week of Impactful Outreach in Dornod Province

Raquel Arrais
NSD Children's/Family/
Women's Ministries Director

From May 6-10, 2024, a Mongolia Mission team of nine dedicated individuals embarked on a mission to Dornod province, conducting a series of outreach activities under the blessing of God. Their unwavering dedication and hard work made the event highly fruitful.

Every morning the team provided essential health check-ups to the local community. These check-ups played a crucial role in the early detection and prevention of health issues. Various health services were offered, including blood sugar level checks, intravenous therapy, visceral fat measurement using specialized equipment, foot reflexology massage, and guidance on healthy living. 250 people received valuable health advice and care from these health services. During the day, the team actively distributed literature and visited various organizations to conduct training sessions. This effort included spreading awareness about the event and inviting people to the evening seminars. The team evangelized and invited new members to the church, handing out books and seminar invitations to people encountered on the streets. This initiative was seen as an excellent opportunity to attract new members to the church.

A seminar on the theme "Hope and Unity" was held each evening. These seminars aimed to foster a sense of community and provide spiritual encouragement. They were well-attended and left a lasting impact.

A special program for children was organized, with 10-15 children participating daily. The program included craft activities, Bible stories and lessons tailored for children, praise songs, and interactive learning sessions. These activities were highly influential in engaging the children and imparting valuable lessons.

The team visited the homes of five long-time church members, inviting them back to the church as part of the TMI Reclamation and Retention initiative. These visits included praying together and fostering fellowship, giving the members a sense of recognition and value.

The team visited four organizations to conduct family and health seminars. These well-received seminars provided vital information to the attendees, further enriching the evening meetings.

The outreach activities in Dornod province were highly successful. The diverse range of activities, from health check-ups to children's programs and spiritual fellowship, significantly impacted the community. The team's dedication and the positive response from the local population were genuinely encouraging.

The mission was a testament to the power of community and faith, demonstrating how collective efforts can lead to profound and positive changes in the lives of many.



The Mongolia Mission Team provides health massages.



Children participate in various activities during the outreach.

A Holistic Mission in Mongolia's Khuvsgul Province

Raquel Arrais
NSD Children's/Family/
Women's Ministries Director



The "I Will GO" mission in Mongolia empowers church members, especially women, to reach out with hope, healing, love, and compassion. This event in Khuvsgul Province exemplifies the initiative's goals, as it brings people closer to God and witnesses many individuals accepting Jesus as their Savior. Through their dedicated efforts, the team left a lasting impact on the community, showcasing the profound difference that faith-based outreach and holistic care can make in the lives of many.

A dedicated team of 12 members from seven churches embarked on a mission to Khuvsgul Province, Mongolia, under the "I Will GO Reach My World" initiative. This blessed ministry aimed to share the good news of Jesus and bring spiritual and physical healing to the region.

The mission began each day with Bible study, prayer, and fellowship, fortifying the spiritual journey of the team and local participants. Mornings were dedicated to health talks, checkups, and various wellness activities, including head massages. These interactions provided an opportunity to engage with the community, offering physical relief and spiritual support through conversation and prayer. A hands-on approach to local schools and neighborhoods was integral to the ministry with the planting of seedlings in a greenhouse, demonstrating a commitment to sustainable practices.

They conducted career-choice training, health education, and skills development at local schools— Delgermurun School (88 students), Future 21st Century School (130 students), Crown School (320 students), and Talented School (160 students)— impacting a total of 698 students. In addition to the school programs, the team extended their outreach to 47 elderly individuals at the Elderly Care Center and nine employees from the city improvement sector. The evenings were filled with testimonials, health advice, worship songs, sermons, group discussions, and fellowship, creating a nurturing environment for spiritual growth and community bonding.



Children's Spiritual Camp 2024: "An Answered Prayer"

Alice Emerson
SLM Children's Ministries Director

The Children's Ministries department of the Sri Lanka Mission of Seventh-day Adventists recently hosted a vibrant and spiritually enriching camp at Lakpahana Adventist College, May 8-11, 2024. Under the dedicated leadership of Alice Emerson, director of the Children's Ministries department of Sri Lanka Mission and Dr. Orathai Chureson, Children's Ministries director of the General Conference, the camp brought together over 200 children from across Sri Lanka to explore the theme "An Answered Prayer."

Pastor Ravishankar, Sri Lanka Mission Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director, provided daily spiritual guidance alongside Pastor Majintha, who delivered inspiring morning and evening messages from the book of Daniel that deepened the children's faith and understanding of prayer.

A well-rounded program featured special sessions on health, hygiene and addictions, equipping the children with essential knowledge and life skills. Mrs. Esther led engaging camp craft activities, allowing the children to express their

creativity and develop new skills.

The camp's schedule also included morning and evening worship sessions, music and a variety of games, campfire activities, and a nature walk.

A particularly memorable moment was when the children prayed for a break in the rain for their nature walk. Their prayers were answered as the rain stopped just in time, resuming only after the walk was over, powerfully reinforcing the camp's theme.

Thanks to the generous support of donors, and with special appreciation to Raquel Arrais, Northern Asia-Pacific Division Children's Ministries director, the camp was a resounding success.

As the camp concluded, the children left with renewed faith, new friendships, and a deepened understanding of the power of prayer, truly experiencing "An Answered Prayer."



Let us Do New Things for the Lord that We Have Never Done Before

Umesh Kumar Pokharel
SLM President



The Himalayan Section's Ministerial Association Department organized a training program for pastors, Bible workers, elders, deacons, and deaconesses from June 27-30, 2024, in Banepa City, outside the Kathmandu Valley with the theme of "Church Leadership and Mission."

This was the first meeting of its kind organized for all pastors, elders, deacons, deaconesses, and Bible workers by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division Ministerial Association with Jonas Arrias, NSD ministerial secretary, as the speaker.

On June 27, during the opening devotion, he challenged all participants to be creative, live purposefully, and set goals—asking how they envision their lives a year from now and how they plan to reach that point.

Arrias posed a powerful question to all participants: "Where do you exhibit your God and Bible principles in

your own lives, and how can people recognize that you are followers of Christ and different from the world?"

In another topic he called people to daily personal worship time with God with the desire to increase personal and family devotion to know God and His will in their lives to carry out His mission.

Arrias clearly set out the roles and responsibilities of pastors, elders, deacons, and deaconesses, and emphasized that a pastor should be like Jesus—loving Him, emulating Him, and depending wholly on Him. A pastor should have a balanced combination of knowledge, abilities, and attitudes, and should be willing to serve, not to be served. He highlighted the importance of elders, deacons, and deaconesses in church life and growth, noting that the church is organized through the Church Manual, an authoritative document of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Jonas Arrias, NSD Ministerial director leads first ministerial training in the Himalayan Section.



Jonas Arrias and leaders of Himalayan Section.

There were 89 participants representing the churches of the Himalayan Section. At the end of the training sessions, participants were asked to provide feedback. Most expressed satisfaction with the facilities and requested that such meetings be held at least once a year.

This was the first ministerial training conducted in the Himalayan Section for pastors, Bible workers, elders, deacons, and deaconesses. During the meetings, Arrias created an atmosphere for participants to evaluate their lives in connection with their faith, teachings, and lifestyles. He challenged everyone to ensure that their beliefs and preaching continually be in harmony with their personal lives.

All the participants were richly blessed and returned to their respective places with renewed hearts, visions, and commitments.



89 participants attended the ministerial training program.



Health Principles Empower Women in Nepal



Raquel Arrais
NSD Children's/Family/
Women's Ministries Director



Two days of seminars on Women's Health Awareness were conducted in Taksera Rukum Damchan, an area in western Nepal, May 28-29, 2024.

The team from the Himalayan Section Women's Ministries department, led by Shanti Pokharel, Rabina Dhakal, and Mina Kumari Rai, left Kathmandu, the capital city, on May 26, 2024, and arrived in Tampa, Nepal on May

28. They interacted with women in the village, teaching them about personal hygiene, lifestyle, food habits, and how to keep their homes and surroundings clean to stay healthy and prevent serious illness. They also provided Bible studies and emphasized the importance of a personal connection with Christ through reading, praying, and sharing their faith.

The women were taught about the importance of women in the family and how to keep their faith alive in different situations, especially in places like Tampa where basic human needs are scarce, and people live in poverty and illiteracy. Widely accepted practices of child marriage, divorce, family violence, smoking, drinking, gambling, and superstitions are prevalent in the area.

The team checked blood pressures, sugar levels, and weight of the women and encouraged them to have regular health checkups to prevent serious illnesses. They also taught them that the body is the temple of God and needs to be kept holy. We praise God for the women who accepted Jesus and were baptized.



Due to its geographical location, the village has a cold climate with rocky, stony lands, allowing only one crop per year, the people surviving four months out of the year depending on meat and milk from their animals. Most men leave home for manual jobs for six months or even years, leaving the women to take care of the home, children, elderly, farms, and cattle.

Women work even during pregnancy; they often don't receive proper nutrition or medical attention, resulting in many deaths during childbirth. Due to the difficult lifestyle, people age prematurely.

Many children don't go to school due to the distance from school or poverty, and stay home to help their mothers with cattle grazing or household chores. The



visiting team distributed Bibles for those adults who could read, told Bible stories with pictures for children, and baptized three girls.

God's presence was in the mission trip, even though it was a long drive on the mountainous and rough roads. Visitors can only come during the summertime. When the rainy season starts, the area is almost cut off from outside. Even though people in this area live in deep poverty lacking basic human needs, still God has shone His light on them through constant guidance and visitation.

If we could help these children to attend school either at their own village or in the Adventist boarding school, that would further transform the area through education. Please remember these precious people in your prayers.



Nepal’s First-Ever Youth Leadership Camp Marks New Beginning



Choi HoYoung
NSD Youth Ministries Director

The Himalayan Section Youth Department, supported by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) and the Korean Union Conference (KUC) Youth Department, organized a groundbreaking youth leadership camp at the Dapcha Adventist Educational Center June 13-16, 2024. Themed “The Love of Christ Compels Us,” this event marked the first-ever youth leadership camp in the Himalayan Section’s history, signifying an important step in nurturing future church leaders in Nepal.

Youth leaders were trained as Master Guides and in Senior Youth Leadership to become the future leaders of the Nepali churches; the camp showcased practical examples and models of youth ministry from the KUC Youth Department. Initially, 25 participants registered for the camp, but the number rapidly increased to 55, with 70 attendees joining the Friday evening worship service.

The camp commenced with an opening worship message from Samuel Saw, General Conference associate secretary. Following this, Hiroshi Yamaji, NSD secretary, and Umesh Pokharel, Himalayan Section president, delivered greetings. Keynote speakers included Pastor Choi HoYoung, NSD youth director, and Kim HyunTae, KUC youth director. The participants actively joined in the training sessions, gaining a comprehensive understanding of Adventist youth ministry and committing to participate



in advanced leadership training courses in the future. Pastor Choi HoYoung expressed his sentiments: “Every moment of this event was inspiring. It was particularly moving to see Elder Bajuram Shrestha, the first Nepalese Adventist, attending throughout and making a profound impact during the Sabbath sunset worship.” This camp is expected to invigorate the Pathfinder ministry in the Nepalese Adventist Church, creating opportunities for youth evangelism and leadership development. NSD and KUC have pledged to continue their support by inviting the Korean Church Pathfinder volunteer team to Nepal within the year to enhance the advanced leadership training program further.

Over 50 participants registered for the Youth Leadership Camp.



enditnow Special Emphasis Day in Nepal



Shanti Pokharel
HS Women’s Ministries Director



On August 24, 2024, ENDITNOW was a special emphasis day celebrated by the Himalayan Section of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nepal. This worldwide initiative aims to raise awareness about the violence that women face in their lives—whether verbal, physical, mental, economic, or physiological. The goal is to educate women about their rights and how to protect themselves against abuse and violence. The initiative also advocates for equal treatment and legal protection for women.

ENDITNOW is a special initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to create awareness both within church structures and beyond about the various forms of violence and abuse that women face.

The Women’s Ministries Department of the Himalayan Section observed ENDITNOW Special Emphasis Day on August 24, 2024. They organized various programs in different churches, including street marches and rallies featuring the NSD Campaign #BETHEVOICE, which reached every corner of Nepal. Women followed the Bible’s command: “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.” (Proverbs 31:8).

The sermon “GO FIND MY SHEEP” emphasized that abuse victims need to know that Jesus cares about them. “And that’s where we come in,” said Joanna Daniel, author of the 2024 resource packet “Go Find My Sheep.” The Shepherd is looking for people to go in search of the lost. He is looking for people who will minister as He does.

The day concluded with fellowship meals, leaving all the women with a renewed sense of spirit and hope.





enditnow[®]
Adventists Say No to Violence

You Have a Voice

The Bible tells us: “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31:8 -9).

Every day, thousands of innocent people around the world—many of them children—experience abuse. Abuse comes in many forms—child sexual abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, abuse by clergy, human trafficking, rape, female genital mutilation, and many other horrific forms. And sadly, abuse exists everywhere—even within the church.

Seventh-day Adventists affirm the dignity and worth of each human being and decry all forms of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and family violence. The church recognizes the global extent of this problem and the serious, long-term effects upon the lives of all involved.

Although it is an uncomfortable subject for many people, it has become more and more obvious that abuse is a serious problem for Christians, for Seventh-day Adventists. Abuse in any form deforms the body of Christ—for the victim, for the perpetrator, and for the church that is left with the hurting members.¹

As members of the Seventh-day Adventist church we “have a voice.” We together can respond to abuse and family violence both within the church and in the

community not becoming indifferent and unresponsive but taking every opportunity to address this issue at the local church level, in our schools, and institutions to educate church members and leadership, and to let victims know that their church cares about them.

“It’s so important that we as leaders, and members, not only be aware of the signs of abuse, but actively take steps to prevent it from happening, listening carefully and compassionately to those who have experienced abuse, and taking action—such as taking preventive measures, reporting perpetrators to the proper authorities so the perpetrators can be held accountable,” said Ted Wilson, General Conference SDA President.

YOU HAVE A VOICE

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

- Visit the www.enditnow.org. There you will learn not only about the depth of the problem but how you can help get your local church members involved.
- Present sermons and workshops to the congregation and the community on relevant issues of gender-based violence. Offer to present age-appropriate information in local schools.
- Examine church policies and practices to be sure none

foster or encourage hurtful or discriminatory attitudes towards women, children and men.

- Provide ongoing support to a local women’s shelter or other organization benefitting victims of gender-based violence.
- Care for hurting people in our church. Be non-judgmental. Develop support groups.
- Help raise awareness. Share materials about gender-based violence with your community.²

“There are many issues the church as a whole needs to address, and **enditnow** is one of them. In Galatians 6:2, Paul urged the church to ‘Bear each other’s burdens,’ so with more grace and love we can turn on the light in the darkest rooms of those who are helpless and victims of abuse. Let our churches become safe places for the uncomfortable things we have to deal with. Let’s be the voice and the hands to promote justice, providing hope and healing for those in need” said Jonas Arrais, NSD Ministerial Secretary.

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

“Recognizing the profound impact that abuse can have on people’s lives and the importance of promoting healing and well-being in an environment of information, awareness, faith, and spirituality, Adventist education is dedicated to empowering educators and students on

this vital topic. This commitment contributes to creating welcoming and safe environments where those seeking support and healing find a space for recovery based on compassion and mutual support” said Edgard Luz, NSD Educational director.

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

GET INVOLVED

- You can launch the enditnow campaign, which is the fourth Sabbath in August, or on any other Sabbath that works for your church.
- Launching an enditnow campaign will help your church draw awareness to the issue of abuse, promote collaboration with the community to develop solutions, and help your church become a safe place for everyone. YOU HAVE A VOICE.

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

2024 enditnow complete Resource Packet below:

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

<https://women.adventist.org/enditnow-emphasis-day-english-archive> **enditnow** is a global initiative to raise awareness and advocate for the end of violence around the world. It aims to mobilize Seventh-day Adventists around the world and invites other community groups to join in to resolve this worldwide issue. For more information about enditnow go to www.enditnow.org.

“Go Find My Sheep”

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

Both the Old and the New Testaments refer to God’s people as sheep, to the body of believers as a flock, and to our Lord as the Shepherd. More than ever, abuse victims need to know that Jesus cares about them. And that’s where we come in, says Joanna Daniel, author of the 2024 **enditnow**[®] sermon titled “Go Find My Sheep.” The Shepherd is looking for people to go in search of the lost. He is looking for people who will minister as He does.

In the seminar titled “The Trauma-Informed Church,” Joanna Daniel tells us the trauma-informed church is aware of the impact trauma makes on the lives of members. The informed church operates with sensitivity, care, and compassion, making the environment safe for everyone to worship. She describes five ways the church

can help traumatized people heal and find a community. They include an informed team, awareness of existing barriers, effective listening, preserved confidentiality, and continued support. August 24, 2024, has been designated the Sabbath to give special emphasis to this issue. Please take this opportunity to be the voice to **enditnow**[®].

May our congregations, with God’s help, become safe and caring places. May they become oases of Jesus’ love.

INSIDE THE ENDITNOW 2024 PACKET

- 1.Word document with the scripts for sermon, seminar, and children’s story
- 2.PDF with the scripts for sermon, seminar, and children’s story
- 3.PowerPoint for Sermon
- 4.Seminar: The Trauma-Informed Church

enditnow[®]
Adventists Say No to Violence

"Speak up
for those
who cannot
speak for
themselves"
(Proverbs 31:8)

BE THE VOICE

Emphasis Day on
**the Fourth Saturday
of August**



Visit www.enditnow.org
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Seventh-day Adventist Church
NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

