

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION [www.nsdadventist.org](http://www.nsdadventist.org)

# NEWS&VIEWS



November / December 2024



## 2024 NSD YEAREND MEETING

NSD Auditorium  
November 5 - 11, 2024



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church  
Northern Asia-Pacific Division





INSPIRATION

# The Adventist Message to all the World

**Choi HoYoung**  
NSD Youth Ministries Director

It was 32 years ago that I served as a missionary in the 1000 Missionary Movement, yet the experience continues to impact my life. Since then, as a youth director at the Conference, Union, and Division levels, I have recruited, trained, and sent many young people from Korea to the 1000 MM Training Center in the Philippines. The greatest reward is seeing these young people return transformed after their one-year missionary experience.

The hope of the church rests solely on children and youth. We must provide opportunities for all Adventist young people to experience missionary work in any way possible. If feasible, we should offer as many opportunities and financial support as possible.

The world is changing rapidly. Advancements in technology and AI are so swift that even a single year seems like distant history. Satan will lay numerous traps in the lives of young people through various media that captivate their eyes and ears. Ellen White expressed concerns about this while also offering various solutions.

“The youth are the objects of Satan’s special attacks; but kindness, courtesy, and the sympathy which flows from a heart filled with love to Jesus, will gain

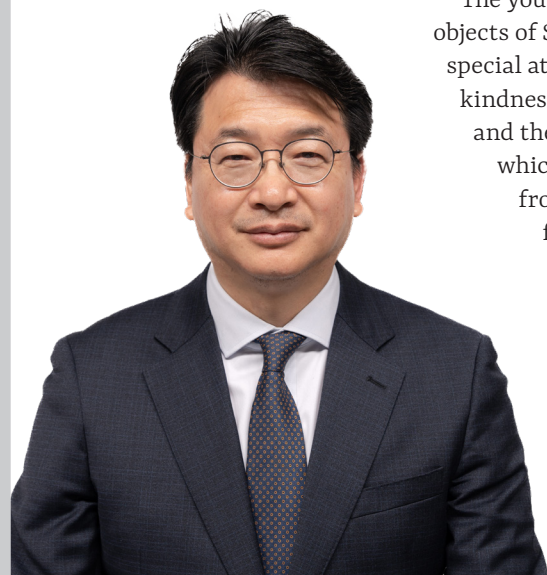
their confidence, and save them from many a snare of the enemy... There must be more study given to the problem of how to deal with the youth, more earnest prayer for the wisdom that is needed in dealing with minds... We should seek to enter into the feelings of the youth, sympathizing with them in their joys and sorrows, their conflicts and victories... We must meet them where they are if we would keep them... let us remember the claim of God upon us to make the path to heaven bright and attractive” (Gospel Workers. 207-212).

I wholeheartedly agree with Ellen White’s solutions and believe that the right way to build up our youth is to equip them with a missionary spirit.

In 1907, at the General Conference held in Gland, Switzerland, Pastor M.E. Kern was elected as the first youth director of the Adventist Church. He laid the foundation for writing the Pastor’s and Elder’s Handbook for Youth Ministry, where he summarized the objectives of youth ministry as follows:

- To raise the level of devotional life of the young person.
- To lift up the standard of attainment of the youth.
- To educate and train youth for service.
- To provide opportunities for outreach and service.
- To teach the principles of stewardship.
- To lead youth to discover their individual worth and develop and discover their spiritual gifts.

What is the AY Aim? It is “The Advent message to all the world in my generation.” The Aim of Adventist Youth Ministries is very clear: to train and involve young people in global missions and nurture them as leaders with a missionary spirit. Through this, our purpose is to welcome Jesus’ return to this generation.



## NEWS & VIEWS

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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**  
Left to Right: Hiroshi Yamaji, Kim YoHan, Erton Köhler, Nancy Wilson, Ted Wilson, Paul Douglas, Magdiel Perez Schultz, Kim TaeSung, Choi HoYoung.

  
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# 2024 NSD Yearend Meeting concluded successfully

**Park GyeonGyoo**  
NSD News Reporter



The NSD Executive Committee members and guests chant the motto 'Mission First' & 'I Will Go'

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Year-End Meeting concluded successfully, Nov. 7-11, 2024. This gathering brought together NSD leaders and invited guests to share the church's mission and vision, review various mission activities in each country, and discuss future plans. Notably, this was the first annual meeting that all the EXCOM members attended since adding four new countries: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal to NSD, with attendance rising from 80 last year to over 100 this year. Additionally, all three General Conference (GC) officers attended, making it a rare and memorable event.

The first day began with Ted Wilson, GC president, in a sermon expressing gratitude for NSD leaders dedicated to the Lord's work. He emphasized, "The signs in the world show that the Lord's coming is near. We must work with

renewed energy, relying on God's power, to spread the gospel further." Following this, Kim YoHan, the President of the NSD, gave a welcome address, and attendees recited the Adventist Church Mission Statement, marking the official start of the annual meeting. This day included reports on mission activities from various countries, a president's report, departmental director's reports, and a special vision seminar led by the GC officers in the afternoon. The first speaker, Erton Köhler, GC executive secretary, emphasized, "Our call is to fill heaven, not just the church. Our priority is to transform the church, not to impress, and our church needs a change of content, not format." Köhler shared six essential principles for leaders to uphold.

A series of reports continued on the second day. Beginning with a morning message from Erton Kohler, the

following business session included the secretary's report, reports from the four new countries, the 1000 Missionary Movement report, and a Hope Channel update. In the afternoon, Paul Douglas, GC treasurer, led a Seminar, discussing the importance of financial management and suggesting strategies for efficiency. Petras Bahadur, director of the Global Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations, also introduced a new approach to Muslim mission work, interpreting the Three Angels' Message in Revelation 14.

On the third day, Sabbath, attendees participated in the 120th Anniversary Celebration of Adventist Mission in Korea at the Sahmyook University auditorium. Around 3,000 pre-registered members attended to celebrate the history and growth of the Korean Adventist Church. The service was followed by a commemorative event that included an awards presentation, opening a metaverse

history exhibit, and the commissioning of PMM and PCM missionaries.

The fourth day saw attendees returning to the meeting hall after a brief rest despite the previous night's late celebration. Paul Douglas delivered the morning sermon based on Luke 5, where Jesus says, "Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch." Douglas encouraged, "Let go of what hinders, discourages, and disappoints you. Go into the deep regions of the 10/40 Window—among Buddhists, Muslims, and Hindus. Trust that the Lord is with you, and go into the deep!" After the worship, financial reports, updates from Hope365, ADRA, ASI, and country reports followed. Notably, Nepal's Scheer Memorial Adventist Hospital received congratulations for winning the Gold Award for Community Hospital Excellence at the 2024 Hospital Management Asia Awards in August.





The final day began with a morning sermon from Magdiel P. Schulz, assistant to the GC president, who spoke on six characteristics of people God uses, stating, “We must acknowledge our limitations and weaknesses, remain loyal to God, and wait for His timing.” Following this, participants addressed the remaining agenda, including departmental and North Korea mission reports, concluding the meeting’s schedule. The final part of the session was a dedication, where participants joined hands, and Ted Wilson offered a closing prayer, saying, “As we hold hands now, may we continue to work faithfully and in unity for the Lord’s mission.” This dedication gathering marked the official close of all annual meeting events.





# Japan Union Conference's 11<sup>th</sup> Possibility Ministries Congress

Toshio Shibata  
JUC Communication Director



In Japan, there are four voluntary support ministries within the Adventist Possibility Ministries: the visually impaired, hearing impaired, physically disabled, and the Okinawan group. These groups collaborate as an association to hold a joint congress every four years. After a seven-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 11th Congress was held at the Japan Union Conference church in Yokohama, Sept. 6-8, 2024. The theme was “Toward a Symbiotic Society, Bearing Each Other’s Burdens.”

Over 100 participants, including members from the four disability groups and their families, attended the event. The presence of Jeff Jordan, associate director of Adventist Possibility Ministries at the General Conference, who is hearing-impaired, was particularly inspiring. His message about the value the Adventist Church places on Possibility Ministries resonated with many. Pastor Jordan’s presence and his personal journey inspired many individuals with disabilities. He also offered Possibility Ministries training to the disability groups and church members, further reinforcing his commitment and the importance of the ministry.

Hiroshi Yamaji, executive secretary of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, and Jacob Ko, director of Adventist Possibility Ministries, also supported the conference and encouraged participants. Additionally, theology and nursing students from the Adventist college in Japan were invited. They led the song service and volunteered to assist with various tasks throughout the event. This experience allowed young church members and Adventist students to become more familiar with the Adventist Possibility Ministries, bringing a vibrant energy and strength to the conference.

Japan is often referred to as a “super-aged society,” with nearly 30 percent of the population over 65 years old, and the number of elderly, disabled, and sick individuals rising, including within the church. To address this reality, the church must have a vision and take action to see the opportunities to reach out to these groups, many of whom remain unreached. The Japan Union Conference, along with Japan’s Adventist Church and its institutions, urgently need prayers so they may experience God’s blessings through Adventist Possibility Ministries.

# Korean Sahmyook Foods Builds Wells and Schools Worldwide

Jeanne Damasio  
ANN



Sahmyook Foods volunteers helps build school in Kyrgyzstan.



11th batch of Sahmyook Foods volunteer.

The Korean Union Conference (KUC) shared its mission to serve beyond Korea’s borders during the 2024 Annual Council, held at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (GC) in Silver Spring, Maryland, on Oct. 14, 2024. Sahmyook Foods shared how they have embraced the “I Will Go” strategic focus, demonstrating that it can be implemented outside of traditional church settings.

Kang SoonGi, KUC president, began by underscoring the region’s dedication to global outreach. Highlighting

the work of Sahmyook Foods, Kang hoped to inspire other leaders to prioritize and integrate social responsibility into their own initiatives.

## “I Will Go” Implementation by Sahmyook Foods

Kim Minhyung, international sales manager of Sahmyook Foods, stated that at Sahmyook, “We believe that by providing nutritious food, we’re not just feeding bodies, but supporting overall well-being.” Their main goal



is to “take health to the world,” recognizing that physical well-being can be a pathway to overall wellness, including spiritual growth.

As South Korea’s second-largest soy milk producer, the company sees nutrition as only one aspect of its work. Kim explained that businesses can create meaningful social impact by prioritizing community service and education alongside profitability.

“Most companies seek large profits, but Sahmyook has a purpose that drives us,” stated Kim. “We work to support education in South Korea and spread a message of holistic health. This is our mission.” With this focus, Sahmyook Foods has ensured that its far-reaching mission integrates the Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic focus, especially as the company supports vulnerable communities.

In the area of education, Sahmyook’s support extends to 27 institutions across South Korea, including schools, universities, and other learning centers. By directing profits towards these institutions, Sahmyook Foods seeks to uphold a tangible commitment to improving educational access and quality. It believes that education is key to nurturing intellectual and spiritual growth.

**Employee Engagement: Living the Mission**

In an effort to foster a corporate culture that aligns with its spiritual values, Sahmyook encourages its employees to see their work not just as a job but as a calling – an opportunity to make a positive difference in the world.

“Our employees understand that their work goes beyond producing food,” Kim notes. “They’re part of a larger mission to improve lives and spread hope. This sense of purpose energizes our team and infuses everything we do with meaning.”

Currently, more than 350 employees are personally engaged in community service initiatives aimed at helping others, bringing comfort, improving quality of life, and providing food and other necessities to nurture body, mind, and spirit.

In South Korea, employees actively participate in local projects, such as conducting home repairs for vulnerable groups and serving meals to seniors. Internationally, volunteer teams from Sahmyook Foods travel to countries like Cambodia, Mongolia, and Kenya, where they undertake projects such as constructing school facilities, building fences, and installing wells and toilets.

Some employees have helped build schools and educational facilities for children in underserved communities. Kim said, “We believe in the power of education to transform lives and communities. Our mission is to support and improve the well-being of people, wherever they may be, by addressing their fundamental needs.”

Additionally, Sahmyook Foods plays a significant role in disaster relief across Asia and other continents, providing aid when natural disasters strike. The company offers both immediate relief and long-term support to affected communities, delivering assistance to those in need regardless of their background or beliefs.

# Shema English Bible Recitation School Empowers 1,403 Over Three Years



Middelwest Korean Conference completed 12 courses of english bible recitation school.

The Shema English Bible Recitation School (SEBRs) is a unique and creative initiative of the Korean Union Conference aimed at spiritually equipping children. Rooted in the Word of God, the program was initially developed by pastor Lee EunSup, who serves as a local church pastor in the Middelwest Korean Conference (MWKC).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it became increasingly difficult to maintain active children’s ministries. However, Yi JinHyun, the Children’s Ministries director of MWKC, was determined to create something meaningful for the children. After careful consideration, SEBRs was launched, and a team of young pastors was assembled to lead the initiative.

The first term began in 2021, and as of October 2024, the 12th session has been completed. Over the course of these 12 sessions, 1,403 participants joined the program. While the primary target audience was children, many mothers and middle school students also took part. Hundreds of children, parents, and teachers dedicated their time to

memorizing over 150 Bible verses. Each session concluded with a graduation ceremony, where participants recited the verses they had memorized.

The program aims for participants to use the Bible verses they have learned in their future mission work. Deeply engraved in their hearts, these verses are expected to support their spiritual growth and help them become future leaders in God’s church.

Pastor Yi shared, “SEBRs began with the hope that Bible memorization would foster faith and revival within families and strengthen and restore relationships between parents and children. I hope the 150 Bible verses memorized over the past three years will serve as a spiritual foundation for every family. I expect the verses memorized in childhood will be engraved in their hearts, helping them continue their faith journey.”

Looking ahead, he mentioned that they are planning to expand SEBRs beyond a single-department project and make it a conference-wide initiative that continues to grow.





## A Month of Spiritual Growth Across Bangladesh



35 couples from South Bangladesh Mission participated the Adventist Family Seminar

In October 2024, the Bangladesh Union Mission organized a range of seminars and programs across Bangladesh. These events, aimed at promoting spiritual growth, and provided valuable insights and encouragement to families, women, and youth as they navigated their faith journeys.

The first of these events took place on Oct. 10-11, at the Kellogg Mookerjee Memorial Seminary, where a couples seminar brought together 35 couples under the leadership of Mahuya Roy and Monju Falia. With the theme “Adventist Family in God’s Purpose,” the seminar helped couples deepen their relationships and explore how to strengthen their families through faith. The participants engaged in various activities such as worship, workshops, and discussions reinforcing the importance of aligning their family lives with God’s will.

Following closely, on Oct. 11-12, the North Bangladesh Mission hosted a Women and Family Evangelism Seminar at the Kalachandpur SDA Church. This event focused on empowering women and families to actively share the gospel, encouraging participants to grow spiritually and strengthen their community outreach.

On October 17, in Chittagong City, around 25 women gathered for the Women’s Ministries program, titled “I Will Flourish with Real Glow.” Led by Mahuya Roy and

Jennie Lillian Das, the event highlighted 10 essential principles for spiritually and physically thriving, covering topics like spending time with God, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and setting personal goals. The program left attendees feeling uplifted and motivated to apply these principles daily.

October 18 saw the continuation of the couples seminar in Chittagong City, this time with the participation of another 25 couples. Under the guidance of Timothy Roy, executive secretary of the Bangladesh Union Mission, the seminar once again focused on building a strong, faith-based family life. Couples reflected on the importance of a God-centered household and their unique challenges in today’s world. Also, a seminar for teenagers was held at the Bangladesh Union Mission headquarters that day. It offered young people spiritual guidance on navigating the challenges of adolescence with faith and provided practical advice on remaining grounded in their beliefs while pursuing personal growth.

These events helped participants grow closer to God, equipping them to live out their faith more fully in their everyday lives. The mission looks forward to continuing these efforts, bringing hope and transformation to more individuals.

## AWR Training Center Launches Gospel Workers



### 2024 – The Second Batch

Second group of 20 participants of the Adventist World Radio(AWR) training

The Adventist World Radio (AWR) Training Center was established at Monosapara Adventist Seminary and School approximately 225 km north of Bangladesh’s capital, Dhaka. The center’s mission is to empower workers for the Lord’s harvest, following the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The first batch of trainees completed the program in 2023, and in June 2024, the second group of 20 participants began their five-month spiritual and practical learning journey. The program is designed to equip gospel workers with essential ministry tools, inspire a deeper spiritual connection with God, and provide a more vital understanding of biblical truths and the Spirit of Prophecy. It also offers hands-on experience in service to others.

Rebecca Nowdesha, a key facilitator and master trainer, plays a significant role in leading the program alongside Pastor Jewel Raksham and Mary Raksham, who received their training in India. Together, they provide comprehensive education covering health and mental wellness, practical lessons in hydrotherapy, body massage, cooking, and natural remedies, aiming to nurture the holistic development of the trainees.

This training program is a commendable effort to equip gospel workers with unique skills that enable them to reach unreached communities.

By combining health education, natural remedies, hydrotherapy, and the message of Christ’s imminent return, the program prepares these workers to serve with spiritual and practical knowledge.





# Training for Financial Transparency for Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission



The Treasury Department of the Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission (BAUM) has embarked on a transformative journey by installing and implementing Sunplus accounting software. To empower Adventist treasurers and accountants to strengthen financial accuracy and transparency, the BAUM head office in Dhaka hosted a comprehensive 10-day training program Oct. 9-18, 2024. This program aimed to equip treasurers and accountants from various missions and institutions with the skills they need to effectively utilize Sunplus, covering all key aspects of the software. It was facilitated by David Anokeye Larbey, Jerson Guanzon Paican, Kenneth Jo Deles and Vedhamuthu Andrews Selvaraj.

This 10-day training program began with David Anokeye Larbey sharing biblical reflections, “so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:17). He urged all union administrators, treasurers, accountants, and BAUM employees to serve the Lord with accuracy, diligence, integrity, humility, and ethical responsibility.

The Sunplus software is designed to enable treasury personnel to manage resources more effectively, enhance report capabilities, advance the church’s financial management, and improve overall efficiency. It was an important initiative where the participants highly emphasized transparency, good governance in financial management, stewardship, and accountability. It covered all critical aspects of the Sunplus software, including the biblical foundation of stewardship in financial management, techniques for generating insightful reports, and strategic planning.

The treasury department of Bangladesh Union Mission and treasurers and accountants from missions and institutions were highly encouraged and empowered with unique skills to foster a culture of transparency and accountability, ensuring that each financial decision would be served for the glory of the Lord and fulfill the greater purpose of the church’s mission.



# Bangladesh Children Growing in Faith with the Bible

Ruth Ashir  
BAUM Communication Director

In October 2024, the Bangladesh Union Mission organized events that played a crucial role in nurturing children’s spiritual growth and preparing them for a life guided by biblical principles.

The One-Day Bible Conference held across local churches brought a truly transformative experience to children. Through interactive lessons, games, and storytelling, young participants learned how the Bible is a source of wisdom, comfort, and direction. The event emphasized the importance of seeing the Bible as the greatest treasure and Jesus as their ultimate guide. In addition to teaching biblical values, the conference addressed critical life topics, such as body awareness and personal boundaries, with lessons on the concept of “good touch” and “bad touch,” empowering children to protect themselves and understand their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.

Similarly, the Shine for Jesus Bible Camp, organized by the Dhaka Mirpur Adventist Church from Oct. 3-5, 2024,

focused on guiding children to experience the presence of the Lord in their hearts. This camp covered all key aspects of spiritual development, challenging children to know the Bible deeply. The camp was packed with engaging activities like sermon contests, solo song performances, storytelling competitions, memory verse recitations, and special seminars addressing teen issues such as friendship and drug awareness. In a powerful culmination of the event, 17 children were baptized, marking a significant spiritual milestone.

Both programs developed a culture of spiritual growth and teamwork, enabling children to deepen their faith and strengthen bonds with one another. These initiatives by the BAUM Children’s Ministries and Dhaka Mirpur Adventist Church provide a holistic foundation for children’s physical, moral, and spiritual well-being, encouraging them to live faith-centered lives as they follow Jesus.



17 children were baptized in the event



## Sewing Machines Provide Hope in Pakistan

Farzan Yaqub  
PKU Children's Ministries Director



In Pakistan, many women have been abandoned by their husbands and are left to raise their children alone, often with limited education and few job opportunities. To address this issue, the Women's Ministries department of Pakistan Union Section has launched a project to provide these women with sewing



machines, enabling them to become financially independent. This project supports women from the Sindhi region in southern Pakistan, an area severely impacted by last year's devastating floods. These women are now learning valuable sewing skills and creating and selling clothing to earn a livelihood, giving them the tools they need to succeed while transforming lives in communities where opportunities are scarce, bringing hope for a brighter future.



## The PCM of Sanmin Church Fosters Spiritual Growth

Park GeonGyoo  
NSD News Reporter

The PCM (Public Campus Ministries) mission of the Sanmin Church in Taiwan has again borne abundant fruit this year. On Sabbath, November 16, 2024, an inspiring baptism ceremony was held for two young individuals, Wang Shiwei and Li Jie. This significant event resulted from God's grace and the church's persistent missionary efforts.

This baptism was the culmination of months of dedication, as these young individuals embraced the gospel during evangelistic meetings held in August and September and continued to study the Bible diligently. A small group evangelistic meeting in September focused on youth and was particularly impactful. It provided a precious opportunity for young people to take an active role, experience spiritual challenges, and grow in faith.

The consistent efforts of missionaries Kim SoYeon and Inada Ayumu played a pivotal role. Every Sabbath, they led Sabbath School lessons and afternoon worship, building deep spiritual connections with the youth. Their unwavering dedication has become a cornerstone for young people to sustain and grow their faith. Reflecting on this, Missionary Kim SoYeon said, "We plant the seeds, but God reaps the harvest," emphasizing the divine work

behind their efforts.

The fruits of these baptisms reaffirm the importance of youth ministry. Through the dedication and participation of the younger generation, the church is becoming more vibrant and future-oriented.

Kim GwangSung, the senior pastor of Sanmin Church, stated, "Missionary work brings the greatest blessing to the missionaries themselves and also extends grace to the youth in the mission fields. I hope this ministry will continue to provide spiritual benefits to Adventist youth in Korea and opportunities for salvation to the youth in Taiwan."

Meanwhile, Sanmin Church is planning a Korean Language Camp in collaboration with Sacheonan Church of the Middle West Korean Conference early next year. This project will provide local youth with a valuable opportunity to learn Korean culture and share their faith. The PCM mission of Sanmin Church does not merely end with events like baptisms but serves as a foundation for ongoing spiritual growth. Through these efforts, the active commitments of young people are leading the church toward a more dynamic and forward-looking future.



(From Left) Wang Shiwei, Pastor Kim GwangSung, and Li Jie.





# Entire Nursing Class at Scheer Memorial College of Nursing Passed Licensure Exam in Nepal



### Congratulations to Our New Registered Nurses!

NEPAL NURSING COUNCIL LICENSURE EXAMINATION JUNE 2024

SMAH College of Nursing  
Passing Rate

100%

Nepal Nursing Council  
Passing Rate

85%

 <p>Aakriti Dhakal</p>	 <p>Abisha Shrestha</p>	 <p>Alisha Rai</p>	 <p>Ambika Basnet</p>	 <p>Chhaya L. Tamang</p>	 <p>Deepa Khadka</p>	 <p>Ganga Adhikari</p>
 <p>Jyoti Gurung</p>	 <p>Jyoti K.C.</p>	 <p>Kritee Shrestha</p>	 <p>Pratiksha Bhandari</p>	 <p>Preeti Bohara</p>	 <p>Rashmila Paudyal</p>	 <p>Roshika Tamang</p>
 <p>Sushma</p>	 <p>Sushma</p>	 <p>Sushma</p>	 <p>Sushma</p>	 <p>Sushma</p>	 <p>Sushma</p>	 <p>Sushma</p>

All 20 graduates from the 15th batch of Scheer Memorial Adventist Hospital College of Nursing passed the nursing licensure exam conducted by the Nepal Nursing Council on June 29, 2024. The national passing rate was 85 percent.

The College of Nursing (CON) began in 2005, offering a four-year bachelor of science in nursing with support from sister institutions like Loma Linda University. In 2009, the first batch of graduates took the nursing licensure exam and achieved a 100 percent passing rate. Due to this success, the Medical Education Commission allocated 20 seats to the Adventist nursing school with success continuing in the following years. By 2011, the number of seats allocated to the College of Nursing increased to 30.

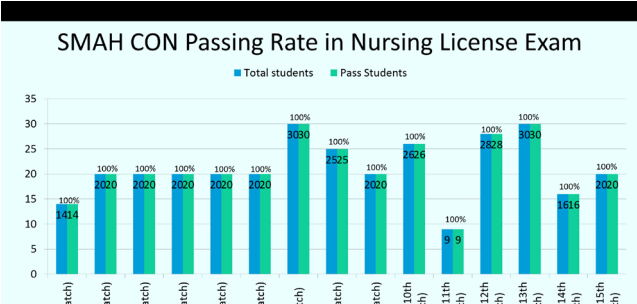
However, the college began facing challenges, including student enrollment, quality of education, leadership, and financial viability. In 2015, enrollment declined, the allocated seats were not filled in 2018, and by 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no student intake for two years. Operating the College of Nursing became a burden on hospital operations. The hospital was already operating at a deficit, and the additional financial strain from the College of Nursing exacerbated the situation.

There were even exploratory discussions about possibly shutting it down to avoid further impacting the hospital's finances.

In 2020 and 2021, with zero enrollment, the CON leadership and faculty were challenged to make extra efforts to recruit students and keep the nursing school viable. They rose to the challenge by conducting career counseling seminars in various review centers and senior high schools. The following year, 13 students enrolled out of 40 available seats. In 2023, the Medical Education Commission of the Government of Nepal reduced the allocated seats to 20. However, this time, the nursing school achieved full enrollment. Despite these gains, the college staff continued their dedicated efforts, and in 2024, by God's grace and blessing, all 40 allocated seats were filled.

During a recent inspection by the Medical Education Commission, the inspectors were impressed with the facilities and quality of education provided. They even commented that the school could be allocated up to 60 seats.

The recent nursing licensure exam results testify to Scheer Memorial College of Nursing's quality education, consistently provided by dedicated faculty and staff. Since the first CON graduate took the nursing licensure exam, all graduates have passed, up to the latest batch. To God be the glory.



# 1000MM Completes Three Months of Training for the 63rd Batch— Ready for the Mission Field

Han SukHee  
1000MM Director



In its 32nd year, 1000MM recently completed the intensive three-month training program designed to prepare its 63rd batch of missionaries for their mission assignments. Comprising 90 missionaries from nine countries, including the Philippines, Korea, Japan, China, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Vietnam, the training focused on both spiritual development and practical skills essential for mission work.

### Training Programs and Highlights

- Foot Massage Training: The missionaries underwent foot massage training to serve one another and their communities. This humble act of service is symbolic of their mission to meet the needs of others.

- Prayer Emphasis Week: Missionaries participated in a time of prayer and spiritual reflection.
- Cultural Night: Held on Aug. 25, 2024, this event was a celebration of the diverse cultures represented within the 63rd batch.
- Cottage Meetings and Baptism: As part of their hands-on training, the 63rd batch engaged in cottage meetings in various churches in Cavite, Philippines. Their efforts led to the baptism of 36 souls, marking a significant spiritual milestone for the batch.
- Super Training: This physically demanding training involved day-long exercises and mountain hikes, pushing the missionaries to their limits, and preparing them for the endurance needed in the mission field.



• **Survival and Revival:** A two-day activity focused on survival skills, where the missionaries practiced creating fires, hunting for food, and working together to overcome challenges, reinforcing their ability to adapt and thrive in difficult conditions.

• **AIIAS Mission Week:** On Sept. 7, 2024, the 63rd batch participated in a special worship service during Mission Emphasis Week at AIIAS. The event, themed “I Will Go,” was aimed at inspiring both missionaries and the congregation to embrace the call to mission work and was delivered by Han Sukhee, 1000MM director.

• **Candlelight Dedication Service:** On Sept. 20, 2024, the missionaries gathered for a deeply moving ceremony that marked their commitment to the mission field. Pastor Junnifer Colegado delivered a powerful sermon reminding the missionaries of their divine calling and the sacred duty ahead.

The candle-lighting ceremony, led by Pastor Han, symbolized the missionaries’ commitment to carry the light of the gospel to every corner of the world. Pastor Han shared an inspiring story about how personal transformation begins within, echoing the message that each missionary’s light, though small, can shine brightly and spread far when shared with others.

• **Announcement of Mission Partners:** On Sept. 20, 2024, Pastor Kim Sun announced the missionary partners and their assigned mission fields. This year’s batch will be dispatched to the Philippines, Japan, and East Timor. Many of the missionaries will serve in the Philippines, with assignments distributed across four union divisions: 20 to the North Philippine Union Conference (NPUC), 30 to the Central Philippine Union Conference (CPUC), 20 to the South Eastern Philippine Union Mission (SEPUM), and 16 to the Southwestern Philippine Union Conference (SWPUC). Internationally, Japan and East Timor will each receive two missionaries. These individuals are now prepared to embrace the challenges of their respective fields, knowing that they are not alone, but guided by God’s grace.

• **Foot Washing and Communion Service:** The ceremony was a reminder that the missionaries are called to serve others with the same love and humility as Jesus.

• **Foot Massage Certification:** After three months of intensive training, each missionary received a foot massage ID and certificate, signifying their qualifications in this humble act of service, equipping the missionaries with a practical way to care for others. The certificate is not only proof of their



training but also a reminder that true service often starts with simple acts of kindness. Upon completing their mission, they will also receive recognition as experts in this skill, further cementing their readiness to serve both physically and spiritually.

• **63rd Batch Dispatching Ceremony:** Sept. 23-24, 2024, the missionaries were dispatched to their assigned fields. The atmosphere was bittersweet, filled with both tears and excitement, as the 63rd batch parted ways. The emotional farewell was a testament to the strong bonds formed during their three months of training. Despite the sadness of separation, the missionaries stepped forward with faith, confident

that with God’s guidance, they would succeed in their mission.

Present at the ceremony were several pastors, including Pr. Han Sukhee, director of 1000MM, Pr. Kim Sun, associate director in KUC, Pr. Cho Kihyung, Pr. Raymond Echavez from Luzon, Pr. Demetrio Jun Taotao from SEPUM, Pr. Deonnel Peren from SWPUC, and Pr. Elly Abejero from CPUC.

**Conclusion**

Their journey may be filled with challenges, but their purpose is clear—to be a beacon of light in a world that desperately needs the hope of the gospel.





# EDUCATION

## Adventist Education in Northern Asia: Challenges and Opportunities for Leadership in the AI Age



**Edgard Leonel Luz**  
NSD Education Director

We live in a world impacted by constant transformation, which demands new leadership models, especially in the educational field. Forming well-rounded citizens capable of facing challenges now and in the future requires a holistic approach that transcends mere technical development. In this context, Adventist educational leadership is fundamental to creating a more just, egalitarian, and sustainable society.

In challenging times, the importance of well-prepared and resilient leaders becomes even more evident. They are essential for stability and progress. From creating a collective sense of working together to making responsible decisions after communicating with others, to coordinating resources and teamwork, and facilitating learning, every aspect of the leader's role becomes vital to facing challenges and overcoming adversities.<sup>1</sup>

Twenty-first century events have created a complex and challenging scenario for leadership in all areas, including Adventist education, especially in Northern Asia,<sup>2</sup> and more specifically in the 10/40 Window—a region that contains most of the world's population still unreached by the gospel.<sup>3</sup> In this context, balancing fidelity to our fundamental principles with accommodating the demands of a growing diversity of students and families, and meeting the needs of communities in different realities—cultural, religious, and socioeconomic—present major challenges. Navigating a world marked by conflicts, polarization, and the disintegration of traditional values requires a firm commitment to Christian philosophy, creativity, innovation, and unwavering faith.

Northern Asia's cultural, religious, economic, and linguistic diversity means that administrators must engage in dialogue while respecting and valuing local traditions without renouncing the principles and

values underpinning Adventist education. In planning for meaningful and engaging learning, curricula and pedagogies must be contextualized, and students' varied cultural heritages must be recognized and celebrated. Also, economic diversity must be considered in educational strategies. The church attracts students from highly developed, technologically advanced, wealthy countries, as well as from areas of extreme poverty.

An analysis of the issues relating to social inequality and religious freedom in various countries reveals significant variations. To address this reality, a strategic plan well-grounded in the mission and purpose of Adventist education is needed. For example, ensuring educational excellence in places with abundant resources is crucial for the survival of any educational institution or network. This becomes even more essential in highly competitive and demanding societies. On the other hand, in deprived regions, maintaining a high standard of education is not only an academic goal but also a matter of survival for students and their families. Education represents the only viable means for them to improve their living conditions amidst overwhelming challenges.

By embracing the diversity of the 10/40 Window, Adventist education positions itself as a beacon of opportunity, hope, and transformation for future generations in Northern Asia. It is thus empowered to construct a more fair, peaceful, and prosperous world, and pave the way to Christ's eternal kingdom.

### CHALLENGES OF ADVENTIST EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

In the context of Adventist educational leadership, a crucial challenge is the harmonious integration of faith and learning. Leaders face the task of imparting

knowledge and cultivating solid and upright values grounded in biblical-Christian principles. They must prepare students to excel professionally and become conscientious, engaged citizens eager to serve God and humanity. It means going far beyond teaching and offering the best in educational facilities, curriculum, and instructional approaches. Ellen White<sup>4</sup> asserted that nothing is better to develop the mind and strengthen the intellect than the study of the Word of God.

The purpose of Adventist education transcends the simple transmission of knowledge; it seeks to shape agents of positive change, empowering students to live according to values such as love, compassion, and justice, thus contributing to the construction of a more harmonious and supportive society.

As Riggio and Newstead<sup>5</sup> state, challenges require planning and demand decisions and actions that impact reality. Often, the ramifications of the decisions made by leaders in times of challenge will not be known until long afterward, which means that leaders must make choices and decide on actions that will have consequences for both the present and the future.

As highlighted by Sleemat,<sup>6</sup> it is essential for leaders to deeply understand the context of the 21st century and constantly develop skills to address its many challenges. This is crucial for guiding educational institutions through the economic, technological, and cultural transformations that are affecting societies around the world. Additionally, leaders need to inspire positive change, be sensitive to cultural diversity, and be ready to adapt to the era of artificial intelligence (AI). They must also know their responsibility to represent the best in love and service to people.

Adventist educational leaders need to maintain fidelity to Christian values and principles. They must also address ideological polarizations, religious conflicts, and the high competitiveness of contemporary society with resilience and vision, in order to ensure the relevance and positive impact of Adventist education in the contemporary world.

Consequently, the three main challenges of Adventist educational leadership in Northern Asia-Pacific Division are (1) harmoniously integrating Christian values with academic teaching; (2) adapting and effectively responding to the economic, technological, and cultural transformations of the 21st century; and (3) inspiring positive change while confronting ideological polarizations and competition in contemporary society. However, we need to understand that these challenges also generate significant opportunities for Adventist education.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVENTIST EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Northern Asia-Pacific Division's rich cultural and linguistic diversity offers Adventist education a unique opportunity to create a meaningful and engaging learning environment and to become an agent of integration and social transformation through offering contextualized curricula and pedagogies.

Poverty and social inequality are realities in many regions of the 10/40 Window. Adventist education requires a commitment to ensuring access to quality education for all, regardless of students' social class or economic condition. Innovative initiatives will enable Adventist education to break barriers and democratize access to knowledge, thereby promoting development and social mobility.

The interconnectedness of the world requires educational leaders to navigate diverse cultural contexts, promote international collaborations, and contribute to mitigating global challenges.<sup>7</sup> Institutions like the Adventist School of Thatta, a small school with 79 students located in a city with more than 2,000 years of history in southern Pakistan, and the Dhaka Adventist Pre-Seminary and School in Bangladesh, serving more than 3,000 students, are notable examples at the forefront of Adventist education. These schools play a crucial role in fulfilling the church's mission within two majority-Muslim countries by providing quality education and contributing to these nations' development. When integrated with academic excellence, an educational approach centered on Christian values produces a transformative force, nurturing peace, justice, and love, and instilling hope within communities.

As the 21st century progresses, opportunities for Adventist education are expanding, especially in regions of Northern Asia-Pacific Division with high levels of technological advancement. Leadership in this new scenario requires a global mindset and the ability to cultivate a culture of innovation.<sup>8</sup> Similarly, leaders in Adventist education must operate within a broad context, demonstrating global thinking and encouraging interconnection and creativity to drive innovation within the church's educational institutions.

In countries like South Korea, Adventist education is at the forefront of integrating technologies into the educational field through establishing centers of excellence. Sahmyook University and Sahmyook Health University in Seoul exemplify this initiative.



Besides employing highly qualified professionals, these universities offer students and the entire academic community access to the latest advancements in new technologies. By embracing the integration of digital technologies in education and adopting planned and ethical use of AI, these institutions can further elevate the quality and excellence of the education they offer, thereby preparing students for future challenges.

By facing challenges with resilience and firm commitment, leaders have the opportunity to strengthen biblical values and principles, provide a wholistic education that transcends mere academic knowledge, and empower students to become agents of positive change in their communities as they prepare to take their place as citizens of the heavenly kingdom. This approach ensures Adventist education’s relevance and lasting impact on local societies and the world.

### PLANTING SEEDS OF ETERNAL TRANSFORMATION

Adventist education must commit to being an agency of social and spiritual transformation, with the mission of contributing to the construction of a fairer, more peaceful, prosperous world, planting seeds of hope in people’s hearts. And the 10/40 Window presents many opportunities.

To achieve our goals, it is crucial that we have adequately prepared leaders capable of advancing, overcoming obstacles, and seizing the opportunities that arise. Such leaders must demonstrate a solid commitment to the philosophy and mission of the institutions they represent and possess or develop the necessary competencies. Only then will they be able to guide their teams with discernment and conviction, always seeking progress and excellence in the face of current and upcoming challenges.

Given the importance of leadership for institutional success, it is essential to explore the different types of leadership that can successfully guide these organizations toward progress and excellence. It is also essential to know what kinds of leadership will not be effective. Leaders must be aware of the complex relationships between different combinations of leadership behaviors and their own well-being to balance the benefits and potential challenges associated with such behaviors.<sup>9</sup> Effective leadership can result from a combination of several approaches to leadership. Discussed here are three: transformational, intercultural, and servant leadership. By exploring these different types of leadership, and

identifying and incorporating the best qualities of each, leaders will be able to apply approaches and strategies that can contribute significantly to their personal growth and the success of their organization.

### TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Transformational leadership seeks to inspire and motivate collaborators to reach their full potential. The principles of this approach can function as a guide for organizations and collaborators, offering good direction in the face of constant changes and new opportunities. Transformational leadership provides conditions for achieving good organizational results concerning individual and team performance.<sup>10</sup> Ideally, it allows leaders to establish a shared vision that guides employees toward challenging goals, promoting a positive, meaningful, and innovative work environment.

Creativity and pursuing innovative solutions create an environment conducive to continuous learning and developing new skills. This wholistic approach, which values employees’ personal and professional growth, contributes to the formation of resilient teams ready to face the demands of a constantly changing society.

Transformational leaders act as compasses, guiding their teams through organizational change processes and fostering innovation at all levels. Their long-term vision and ability to anticipate trends and opportunities allow their organizations to position themselves strategically and competitively, even amid turbulent times.

Adventist education in Northern Asia must intensify its efforts to provide circumstances for continuous learning, development of new skills, creativity, and the pursuit of innovative solutions. Deng et al.<sup>11</sup> emphasize that initiatives based on transformational leadership can teach leaders positive and effective leadership behaviors, as well as provide opportunities for them to practice and improve these behaviors—and this includes the adoption of charismatic behaviors such as active communication and listening, positive self-confidence, and cultivation of trust in order to achieve higher levels of effectiveness.<sup>12</sup>

### INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP

In a globalized and diversified context, intercultural leadership emerges as an essential tool to promote understanding and collaboration among individuals from different backgrounds and cultures. Intercultural leaders take on the roles of explorers, diplomats, and bridge builders, weaving bonds between different cultures and driving growth in a globalized environment. This

is especially necessary for Adventist education, which functions in more than 150 countries<sup>13</sup> and plays a role in training leaders and citizens for a multitude of different cultures.

As pointed out by Sleemat,<sup>14</sup> effective leadership in the contemporary educational context requires an inclusive approach that values cultural diversity and promotes equity. This cultural sensitivity translates into empathy, allowing these leaders to put themselves in the shoes of others to better understand their values, beliefs, and motivations. These bridges of empathy pave the way for building relationships of trust and mutual respect.

In addition to promoting cultural understanding, intercultural leadership fosters innovation as a fruit of diversity. It seeks to bring together talents from different backgrounds and perspectives, and this multiplicity of thoughts and approaches drives brainstorming, generating new possibilities and propelling organizational growth.

Leaders capable of navigating cultural diversity and building international partnerships are in high demand. And this is exactly where Adventist education can play a significant role. Within our diverse network of institutions, opportunities to build bridges between cultures without compromising the philosophical foundations of the organization are plentiful. Investing in coaching and mentoring programs that can help train leaders to work cross-culturally, providing opportunities to collaborate and problem-solve, and engaging in conversation and dialogue are some ways Adventist education can support and help cultivate capable leaders.

### SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Servant leadership seeks to prioritize the well-being and development of team members, thus promoting a healthy and inspiring work environment. As a model, it stands out as one that transcends the boundaries of traditional leadership theories.<sup>15</sup> Based on the premise of serving others, this approach emphasizes the importance of creating a cohesive community and maintaining high ethical standards within organizations.<sup>16</sup>

Studies show servant leadership inspires creativity and innovation, promoting a culture of continuous improvement in the workplace.<sup>17</sup> At the same time, it builds trust in leadership and a perception that processes are fair and in the best interests of those being served.<sup>18</sup> When organizational leaders embrace servant leadership in their daily practices, it improves the collective commitment of all who work in the institution, promotes

a culture of gratitude and social intelligence, and drives organizational success.<sup>19</sup> To bring out the best in those they lead, leaders must engage in individual interaction to understand the skills, needs, desires, goals, and potential of those with whom they serve.<sup>20</sup>

In Adventist education, servant leadership assumes a crucial role. Leaders are tasked with guiding others according to biblical principles, aiming to meet their needs and the needs of the institution they represent. They lead by example, following the principles established by Jesus Christ. Therefore, servant leadership in Adventist education emerges as a source of inspiration and guidance, leading others toward divine purposes and the common good.

### LEADERSHIP IN THE ERA OF AI

Equally relevant is the impact of AI on leadership, exploring how this technology can be integrated ethically and effectively to optimize processes and help make informed decisions. In the uncharted territories of the AI revolution, leadership must position itself as a compass, guiding organizations and their leaders through a landscape of transformative possibilities. Adventist education leaders need to assume the roles of explorers, innovators, and strategists, seamlessly integrating emerging technologies into the framework of educational institutions and organizations. The ability to harness the power of AI while upholding ethical principles and human values will be a crucial strategy in shaping the path to success in the 21st century.

According to McCarthy, Sammon, and Alhassan,<sup>21</sup> despite various elements that can affect the successful execution of a digital transformation program (i.e., how to work with people, processes, and technology when building and planning to implement digital processes), none has as much influence as qualified and competent leadership. Leaders who have a clear vision of the current context and the future, along with a deep understanding of the capabilities and limitations of new technologies, can seek to use them as a catalyst for innovation and efficiency, developing, as Organa and Sus<sup>22</sup> put it, an innovative and creative mindset to lead the transformation.

However, it is important to remember that AI presents both challenges and opportunities, especially in education. Educational leaders must address the ethical implications of AI-based learning platforms and ensure that while using these tools to personalize education, they also safeguard the safety and privacy of students, faculty, and



staff. This well-planned integration of new technologies into education can foster more inclusive and equitable learning environments that meet the diverse needs of students and educators.

To achieve good results, digital transformation must be a strategic priority, argue McCarthy, Sammon, and Alhassan,<sup>23</sup> and organizational mindset must change and adapt accordingly. Organa and Sus<sup>24</sup> state that leaders who have embraced this vision should drive technological innovations, promote employee participation, and minimize resistance. AI-era leaders must commit to lifelong learning and adopt an innovation mindset as technology continues to reshape the world. They must actively seek knowledge about emerging AI trends and applications, ensuring their leadership strategies remain agile and adaptable.

Developing an organizational culture predisposed to integrating new digital technologies is a key aspect for institutions desiring to leverage the opportunities of this rapidly developing era.<sup>25</sup> According to Sleemat,<sup>26</sup> rapid technological advancements have the potential to transform education delivery and access. Educational leaders need to advocate for the integration of technology into teaching and learning processes.

CONCLUSION

Throughout this article, we have explored some of the challenges and opportunities faced by Adventist education in Northern Asia. From the challenges of educational leadership to the opportunities provided by cultural diversity and technological advancements, it is clear that Adventist education has a comprehensive mission: promoting the physical, mental, spiritual, and

social development of students,<sup>27</sup> shaping conscientious, engaged citizens empowered to face the challenges of the contemporary world, and simultaneously preparing them, by the grace of Christ, to receive heavenly citizenship.

Adventist educational leaders navigate a sea of constant change, which requires them to acquire a deep understanding of the 21st-century context and skills to lead authentically, transformationally, and interculturally. They are challenged to effectively integrate new technologies, such as AI while remaining faithful to Christian values and the Adventist educational mission.

Despite the challenges involving Adventist educational institutions in Northern Asia-Pacific Division, and the difficulties experienced by many who live within the 10/40 Window, opportunities abound. Cultural diversity provides room for pedagogical innovation and the creation of meaningful learning environments, the expansion of technological advancements, and more accessible and inclusive education.

Adventist leaders are called to serve. They are called to model their service after Jesus Christ, who led His followers with integrity, humility, and an unwavering commitment to mission. In this region of opportunities, Adventist education can be a beacon of hope for millions of people. It has the potential to be a transformative force not only today but also in preparing people for God’s eternal kingdom, where “every power will be developed, every capability increased. The grandest enterprises will be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations will be reached, the highest ambitions realized. And still, there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of body and mind and soul.”<sup>28</sup>

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3.The “10/40 Window” is commonly known as a rectangular area 10 degrees and 40 degrees north latitude; some also refer to it as the “Resistant Belt.” This area includes countries in North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. The gospel of Jesus Christ has yet to reach millions within this region of the world. Within the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, 8 percent are Christians, and the remaining 92 percent are Buddhists, Shintoists, Muslims, shamans, and atheists. For more, see <https://gm.adventistmission.org/the-1040-window> and [https://joshuaproject.net/resources/articles/10\\_40\\_window](https://joshuaproject.net/resources/articles/10_40_window).^

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# MISSION FIRST!

GET INVOLVED TO REACH THE WORLD

宣教第一 선교제일

You will be my witnesses...  
to the end of the earth

(Acts 1:8)



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

