

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

# NEWS&VIEWS



March / April 2025



# “Hamstring the Horses”

**Choi HoYoung**

Assistant to the President/NSD Youth Director

In ancient warfare, the most critical and strategic animal was the horse. Entire armies were often built around cavalry and chariots, and nations’ military might was measured by the number of horses and chariots they possessed. A well-trained warhorse took years to prepare—one year of basic training and three years of combat conditioning, costing approximately \$70,000 per horse. Chariots provided firepower and mobility, remaining central to military tactics for centuries. The Mongol Empire, led by Genghis Khan in the 13th century, established the largest empire in history largely through its unmatched cavalry strength.

Horses symbolized strength, speed, and power. But then comes a shocking command in the Bible. Joshua 11:6 says:

"The Lord said to Joshua, 'Do not be afraid of them, for by this time tomorrow I will hand all of them slain over to Israel. You are to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots.'"

Hamstring the horses? Burn the chariots? This wasn’t a suggestion—it was a direct command from God.

Joshua 11 tells of Israel's battle to conquer Canaan. Verse 4 describes the enemy:

"They came out with all their troops and a large number of horses and chariots—a huge army, as numerous as the sand on the seashore."

According to the Jewish historian Josephus, this coalition included 300,000 infantry, 10,000 cavalry, and 20,000 chariots. By contrast, Israel had no horses or chariots. They were a foot army. But they had one decisive advantage—God.

In verse 6, God promises, "Do not be afraid... I will give them over to Israel." God would fight for them. And the result? A resounding victory in which Israel captured countless horses and chariots.

Then came God’s strange command: "Hamstring the horses. Burn the chariots." No doubt, voices of protest arose that sounded something like this: *General Joshua, please*

*reconsider. These horses are worth \$70,000 each and took four years to train! The chariots are still usable! Why destroy them?*

But Joshua didn’t flinch. He commanded, "Cut the tendons. Burn the chariots." From a military standpoint, this was madness. But

from God’s perspective, this was the path to victory.

God was teaching Israel to trust not in horses, not in chariots, not in human strength—but in Him alone. As Psalm 20:7 declares:

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."

In ministry, too, we often trust in finances, strategies, or manpower. But now is the time to trust in God’s word alone. Like Joshua, cut the tendons. Like Joshua, set fire to the chariots. When we do, we will discover the power of God.

Deuteronomy 17:16–18 outlines three prohibitions for the kings of Israel: First, they must not accumulate large numbers of horses or return to Egypt to get more. Second, they must not take many wives. Third, they must not accumulate excessive wealth. Why did the prohibition against multiplying horses come first?

Because reliance on military power was the most tempting form of idolatry. The law explicitly forbade strengthening Israel’s military through horses and chariots. What kind of nation bans its own national defense? And yet, here is the irony: Israel reached its greatest territorial expansion precisely when it had the fewest horses.

In 2 Samuel 8:4, after David defeated the Philistines:

"David captured a thousand chariots, seven thousand charioteers, and twenty-thousand foot soldiers. He hamstrung all but a hundred of the chariot horses."

Assuming two horses per chariot, David had seized at least 2,000 horses, plus 7,000 more from the cavalry. Yet David disabled nearly all of them, leaving only 100 chariots.

Was Israel weakened as a result? No. 2 Samuel 8:6, 14 and 1 Chronicles 18:6, 13 all say:

"The Lord gave David victory wherever he went."

David became the strongest king in Israel’s history. Under his leadership, Israel reached its widest territorial expansion.

Only two people in Scripture are said to have hamstrung horses: Joshua and David. Joshua did it at the beginning of the conquest; David at its culmination—and through seemingly foolish obedience, they discovered God’s unstoppable power.

Today, will you cut the tendons of the horses? Will you burn the chariots? Will you stop trusting in your resources, and begin to trust in God alone? When you do, you too will discover the power of God.



# NEWS & VIEWS

MARCH/APRIL 2025



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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.



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church  
NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

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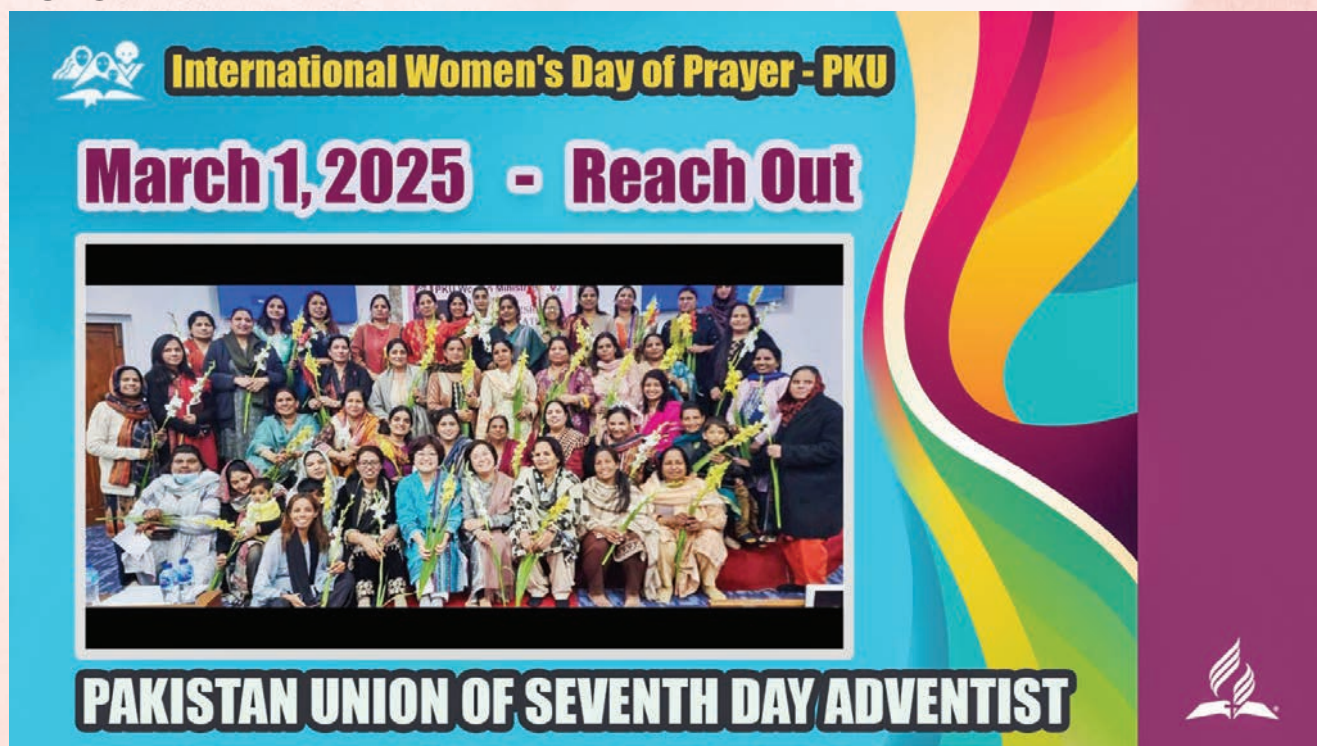
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# The Northern Asia-Pacific Division Celebrates Women's International Day of Prayer

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

On March 1, 2025, women across the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) gathered to celebrate the Women's International Day of Prayer, a day devoted to strengthening spiritual bonds and uplifting one another through prayer. Since 1990, the Women's Ministries department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has promoted this annual tradition, observed on the first Sabbath of March. The event invites women to unite in prayer, reflect on their faith, and encourage each other in Christ.

Under the theme "Reach Out," churches throughout NSD hosted vibrant and meaningful celebrations. Women led worship services, organized prayer sessions, shared heartfelt testimonies, inspiring messages, and powerful prayers. These programs offered spiritual and emotional nourishment, helping members deepen their commitment

to God and grow closer as a faith community.

Churches held various events such as prayer breakfasts, fasting and prayer gatherings, consecration services, and women-led sermons. "These programs allowed women to lead worship and provide spiritual guidance in their local congregations," said Raquel Arrais, NSD Women's Ministries director. Each event nurtured a spirit of sisterhood and encouraged spiritual growth as women uplifted one another in prayer and worship.

The Women's International Day of Prayer continues to impact churches across the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. It strengthens women's spiritual lives and fosters emotional support and fellowship. This annual observance powerfully reminds us of prayer's transformative nature and the importance of coming together in faith to build stronger, more united church communities.



Bangladesh



Bangladesh



Mongolia



Mongolia



Pakistan



Pakistan



Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka



## Nepal Churches Celebrate International Women's Day



On March 1, 2025, churches across the Nepal Section gathered to celebrate the International Women's Day of Prayer, a special occasion dedicated to spiritual renewal, unity, and the power of prayer. These women led various church programs, emphasizing their vital role in fostering faith within families and communities.

In an increasingly self-focused world, prayer remains essential for restoring faith and unity. As spiritual pillars, women are crucial in strengthening families and churches. Their prayers provide encouragement and

guidance, bringing comfort in times of hardship and fostering love and harmony in both homes and congregations. Through their deep compassion, they intercede for their loved ones and communities, shaping future generations with a strong foundation of faith. By uplifting church leaders and ministries, praying women create an environment of spiritual growth, healing, and resilience, leaving a legacy of faith and unity.

Women from Nepal churches actively participated in the celebrations, leading worship services and engaging in meaningful programs. Their dedication and contributions to the church were recognized, with gifts presented to women leaders as a token of appreciation. Special meals were served in all churches, fostering fellowship and gratitude among attendees. The event served as a time of spiritual enrichment, empowering women and strengthening their faith. As they continue their journey of prayer and service, they remain a guiding light for their families, churches, and communities.

“Women’s prayers are a powerful force that nurtures faith, brings comfort, and strengthens both families and churches,” said Shanti Pokharel, Women’s Ministries director of the Nepal Section. “By inviting God’s presence through prayer, women make a lasting impact on those around them, ensuring that faith continues to thrive for generations to come.”



# NSD Holds First In-Service Training of 2025

**Park GeonGyoo**  
NSD News Reporter



The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) held its first in-service training of this year on Feb. 25, 2025. This training was designed to help employees understand essential workplace policies, ethical guidelines, and social issues while reinforcing legal and ethical awareness.

The session covered various topics, including employment contracts, the code of ethics, sexual harassment prevention, and the church's stance on human sexuality. First, Kim CheonSu, a labor consultant from Gyomunri Church, explained the unique characteristics of religious institutions regarding employment contracts and the application of labor laws. He also provided education on the procedures for revising workplace regulations,

which require employee consent.

Next, Kim NaMi, a professor at Sahmyook University, led a session on sexual harassment prevention. She defined workplace sexual harassment, discussed preventive measures, and addressed how to protect victims and establish proper resolution methods within an organization. The session emphasized that sexual harassment involves unwelcome sexual conduct in hierarchical workplace relationships and highlighted the importance of mutual respect and consideration among employees to prevent such issues.

Raquel Arrais, NSD Women's Ministries director, lectured on human sexuality and the church's stance. This lecture aimed to establish a biblically sound value system and provide spiritual direction in line with the General Conference's guidelines. Arrais introduced official statements and ethical guidelines published by the General Conference, explaining the Seventh-day Adventist Church's position on human sexuality. She stressed that when addressing sensitive topics such as gender identity, leaders must adhere to the church's official stance.

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division expressed hope that this training provided valuable information for employees and extended gratitude to all participants. The division also announced plans to continue offering educational programs to foster a healthy and ethical organizational culture.



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



Kim CheonSu, a labor consultant.



Kim NaMi, a professor at Sahmyook University.

# First-Ever Youth Unification Vision Camp

This February, a special youth camp was hosted by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division(NSD), Korea Union Conference (KUC), and the North Korea Mission department on Feb. 17-18, 2025. It was the first-ever nationwide gathering for youth, from middle school to young adults and AY members, designed to raise awareness for the possibility of a united Korea in the future. These young people will grow to learn about the situation between North and South Korea, to better understand how to respond through evangelism to a unified peninsula.

The camp was held at Yeoncheon Unified Korea Future Center, a specialized reunification training center under the Ministry of Unification of the South Korean government. Opened in November 2014, it is located in Yeoncheon County, Gyeonggi-do, on the border between North and South Korea, where the 38th parallel symbolizes the division, passes, and the confluence of the Hantan and Imjin rivers. Participants came from all five Conferences, with age groups ranging from 1st-year middle school students to university students. (continued on pg 10)





The Center provided small group sessions to introduce the need and importance of unification through games and interactive lectures. The visit to the Unified Future Center also involved the VR experience of riding the Unified KTX train and driving through the Asian Highway that connects Korea from Busan to Paris.

Also present was Tim Ellis, an Adventist professor at a Korean university who had previously visited North Korea and joined the camp. A regular attendee of the weekly prayer meetings of the BukBukBuk (Buk meaning “North” in Korean), he shared his reflections on the program. “I was impressed with the creative and innovative ways the camp involved the students in the instruction using games and technology. The students had fun and learned much about Korean history and the advantages of reunifying the Korean peninsula.” He added, “It successfully stimulated their imaginations to think outside the box about possibilities for the future and to instill hope in their young minds about the potential of a better future for us all.”

On the second day, the campers were taken to the Odusan Unification Observatory, where they looked into the North Korean land over the Imjin River and also spent

some time trying to find the cross in the paintings the dislocated North Korean people drew of their hometowns. Surprisingly, There were quite a few church buildings in those paintings, and in the prayer meeting held outside later, the youth prayed for the re-establishment of the previous 108 Adventist churches in North Korea and that they would be ready when the doors to North Korea open.

Janice Kim, project assistant, NSD North Korea Mission, shared, “Students who had come from all four corners of Korea have mentioned they have gained more knowledge about both North Korea and the need for the unification as well as the motivation to join in the prayer movement for the North Korean mission.”

This summer, a follow-up second camp is planned to see the North more closely, pray for peace on the Korean Peninsula, and learn about North Korean missions. Leading up to the summer program, a Golden Bell Quiz Contest will take place at each Conference to raise awareness of the need and importance of both unification and the North Korea mission, with the winner receiving financial support to join the camp.



# NSD Week of Prayer Highlights Faith, Emotion, and Healing

**Park GeonGyoo**  
NSD News Reporter



The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) held a Week of Prayer March 17-21, 2025, to foster spiritual renewal. Under the theme “The Bible and Human Emotions,” the speaker, Julian Melgosa, who has served as dean at both AIIAS and Walla Walla University, led the congregation through a meaningful spiritual journey.

Dr. Melgosa addressed topics such as “*The Power of Thinking*,” “*Addictions among Christians*,” and “*Depression in the Bible*,” exploring the deep connections between human emotions, relationships, addiction, and faith. He began by examining how the power of thought influences behavior and moral decision-making and then delved into the complexities of emotions like joy, sorrow, love, and anger from a biblical perspective. Highlighting the experiences of biblical figures who struggled with depression, he emphasized that pain and healing are both part of the faith journey. He also challenged the faith community to confront the issue of addiction with honesty and compassion.

“Love is humility. It means following the attitude of Jesus Christ—considering others above yourself and speaking in loving and not hurtful ways,” Melgosa said.

He added, “I hope that what we’ve gained through this Week of Prayer will lead to better mental health and healthier relationships with both people and God.”

After each message, attendees prayed for the nine countries within the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. As

prayer topics for each nation were shared, the congregation united in intercession, lifting the specific needs of each region.

Through this Week of Prayer, participants experienced a time of reflection, personal healing, and spiritual growth. Many testified that it was a meaningful opportunity to renew their faith and strengthen their relationship with God.

Jonas Arrais, ministerial secretary for NSD, who helped organize the event, expressed his gratitude: “This Week of Prayer is a precious time for all of us to reflect on faith and emotions through God’s Word,” he said. “May we grow spiritually and emotionally through this special week.”



# Hope Channel Site and Hope Channel Bible School in Gunma

**Charles Kaweasaki**

Pastor of church planting in Gunma



Oizumi City in Gunma, Japan, known for its cultural diversity and vibrant community, has stood out as a hub for religious and social activities. Among the various ministries present in the region, Hope Channel Site and Hope Channel Bible School have played a crucial role in promoting spiritual values and religious education.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oizumi-Gunma has adapted to the needs of the local community by offering a variety of services and programs that cater to different age groups and interests. For example, Hope Channel Site is a community center that offers recreational activities, psychological and spiritual support, as well as events that promote integration among residents. Hope Channel Bible School, in turn, focuses on religious education, providing Bible classes, seminars, and workshops with certificates that help participants deepen their knowledge of God's word and faith.

The future vision for these ministries is promising. With the growth of the population and the gradual demand for community services, Hope Channel Site plans to expand its facilities and increase the range of activities. The implementation of a production center for recording and editing programs for radio, TV and social media as well as the introduction of projects aimed at youth, such as practical skills workshops and leadership courses through the Pathfinder Club are some of the goals for the coming years. In addition, partnering with other local organizations serves to strengthen support networks and expand the reach of the services offered.

Hope Channel Bible School also has ambitious plans. The implementation of online courses and the creation of an interactive digital platform are some of the initiatives that aim to make religious education more accessible and dynamic. The school also aims to develop cultural and spiritual exchange programs, allowing students to have enriching experiences in different religious and cultural contexts.

The current ministries in Oizumi-Gunma, represented by Hope Channel Site and Hope Channel Bible School, have played a key role in promoting spiritual values and religious education in the community. With a forward-looking vision for expansion and innovation, these ministries have the potential to continue positively impacting lives, meeting community needs, and fostering an environment of physical, mental, spiritual, and social growth.





# The Filipino Adventist Community in Japan: Current Ministries and Future Vision

**Yajiro Soejima**

President of the Seventh-day Adventist Filipino Association in Japan

The Filipino Adventist (SDAFAJ) community in Japan is deeply grateful for God's guidance in their ministry. As foreign residents, they rely on His strength to foster faith, resilience, and fellowship, contributing to the church's mission. Through various ministries, they provide spiritual support, cultural connection, and outreach to Filipinos and the broader international community.

## Current Ministries

Filipino-led Sabbath services across Japan offer members a familiar worship environment in their native language, fostering belonging. Many groups hold Bible studies, prayer meetings, and youth programs tailored to community needs. These activities help membership grow through baptisms, transfers, and professions of faith. To

strengthen unity and deepen spiritual experience, Filipino Adventists have formed an organization that fosters collaboration among congregations.

The Seventh-Day Adventist Filipino Association in Japan (SDAFAJ) was organized in 2019, uniting churches in Gifu, Kikugawa, Toyohashi, Kariya, Nagoya, and Mie Ken. This fellowship holds worships attended by congregations within and beyond its network. The most recent gathering on December 22, 2024, welcomed over 200 attendees and included a Master Guide investiture. Pastors from the Philippines were also invited to speak on stewardship, leadership, evangelism, and youth ministry. Additionally, it has coordinated with other SDA organizations and Adventist World Radio to support evangelistic efforts in Japan. (continued on pg 14)



To nurture faith among distant members, SDAFAJ has expanded its digital ministry through online worship services. It also holds annual youth camps to help young people develop leadership, teamwork, and a heart for service, praying they will use their God-given talents in ministry. The first youth camp was held in October 2022 in Shimada, Shizuoka, with the theme "Grounded." The second took place in August 2023 in Tahara, Aichi, and the third, themed "Jesus is Coming: Get Involved," was held in October 2024 in Aichi Prefectural Forest.

### **Future Vision and Potential**

The Filipino Association seeks to expand evangelism in Japan, reaching both Japanese and non-Japanese communities as they await Christ's return. Their mission is to encourage members to live as Jesus did, devoted to Bible study, engaged in ministry, and serving as living witnesses.

Mentorship and leadership development are key to sustainability. Strengthening discipleship programs, such as Adventist Youth Ministry, will ensure continuity and a strong foundation. Encouraging participation in church leadership and activities will further integrate Filipino members into the broader Adventist mission in Japan.

The Filipino Adventist community in Japan remains grateful for God's guidance. Trusting in His leading, they seek to grow in unity and spiritual strength, embracing collaboration as they serve Him. By His grace, they pray to remain a light of faith, bringing hope to future generations.



# Wildfires Impact 26 Adventist Families



**Kim BeomTae**  
KUC News Reporter

Simultaneous wildfires raged across the Gyeongsang region for 10 consecutive days, engulfing the area in flames and affecting 26 Seventh-day Adventist households from eight local churches in the Southeast Korean Conference (SEKC).

The fires destroyed 19 homes and 12 storage buildings. They also rendered 18 pieces of farming equipment unusable, including tractors and cultivators. Flames consumed approximately 17,500 square meters of farmland previously used to grow apples, peaches, and other crops.

The fires burned about 140 trees, including ornamental and fruit varieties, and damaged two livestock sheds. Fortunately, the disaster resulted in no Adventist casualties. These statistics came from a report titled “Damage Status of Adventist Church Members in SEKC Area,” which the SEKC Health department released on March 31, 2025. Although firefighters have extinguished the blazes, officials still struggle to assess the full extent of the property damage.

Jang DaeGi, director of the SEKC Health department, emphasized that damage reports continue to come in and that further updates are likely. He called on churches and members nationwide to show their concern and

offer support. “With the help of Sahmyook Foods, we’re donating 15 tons of soy milk to local government offices on behalf of the affected Adventist churches to support wildfire victims, firefighters, and volunteers,” he said. “We’re also planning to launch joint volunteer efforts in each affected region in partnership with the Women’s Association.”

Officials expressed concern over the enormous scale of destruction. “The affected area is so vast and the damage so severe that we can’t yet predict how many resources and how much relief work will be needed,” they said. “We sincerely urge churches and members to pray and lend a helping hand so that those who have lost their homes and livelihoods can return to normal life as soon as possible.”

The massive wildfire, which broke out on March 21, 2025, in Sancheong, South Gyeongsang Province, burned for 10 days before authorities fully extinguished it. According to the government, the fire scorched an estimated 48,000 hectares—making it the largest wildfire in Korea’s history. The blaze claimed 30 lives and left 75 people injured. It destroyed approximately 3,000 homes, damaged 30 national heritage sites, and had an impact on over 2,000 agricultural facilities.



# BAUM Holds Ministerial and Spouse Conference in Cox's Bazar



**Jonas Arrais**  
NSD Ministerial Secretary

The Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission (BAUM) Ministerial department held a Ministerial and Spouse Conference in Cox's Bazar March 2-5, 2025.

Under the theme "Ministry Refocused: Family, Leadership, Mission," Jonas Arrais, NSD Ministerial Association secretary, and Raquel Arrais, Spouse Association director, led this beautiful meeting.

Guided by the speakers' practical insights and extensive experience, participants explored the essence of pastoral ministry, the challenges and joys of being a good pastor and family, essential elements of church growth, refocusing pastoral work, effective strategies for church development, pastoral self-care, and strengthening church financial capacity. The conference also provided a spiritual time of prayer and reflection.

The key objective of this event was to encourage and uplift pastors serving in rural and remote areas who have remained dedicated to their mission despite challenging conditions and limited financial resources. The pastors and their families were deeply touched by the comfortable accommodations, delicious meals, and other bonuses provided during the conference. Many attendees were moved to tears during the dedication service, expressing their first time experiencing such appreciation in their ministry journey.

Kim WonSang, president of BAUM, shared his

reflections on the conference, saying, "As a result of this impactful gathering, we are now resolutely committed to our mission goal—saving 4,000 souls through two simultaneous evangelistic meetings in the first and second half of this year, in alignment with Loud Voice 2025. This conference has strengthened our determination and renewed our passion for ministry."

He continued, "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to NSD for their invaluable inspiration and financial support, which made this event possible. May the Holy Spirit be poured out abundantly on the families of these devoted servants of God as they continue their ministry with renewed strength and vision."





# Christian Home and Marriage Week Strengthens Families Across BAUM

**Mahuya Roy**  
BAUM Family Ministries Director

In February 2025, the Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission (BAUM) joyfully celebrated Christian Home and Marriage Week, working alongside each mission Family Ministry department in the four missions. This special event, lead by BAUM Family Ministries Director Mahuya Roy, brought together couples and families to focus on strengthening marriages, fostering Christ-centered homes, and deepening their commitment to one another.

Through sermons, workshops, and interactive activities, they emphasized the importance of faith in building strong and lasting marriages. The central theme, “Christian Marriage Must Represent Christ,” encouraged couples to model their relationships after biblical principles of love, sacrifice, and commitment.

One of the celebration’s highlights was a special wedding march, where couples symbolically reaffirmed their vows, reflecting their dedication to each other and God. The event also featured workshops on communication, conflict resolution, and parenting, providing practical guidance on nurturing healthy family relationships. Guest speakers and pastors shared inspirational messages on the biblical foundation of marriage, offering wisdom and encouragement to attendees.

The Christian Home and Marriage Week impacted all participants, inspiring them to build stronger, faith-filled families. May its lessons and blessings continue to strengthen homes within BAUM.



# Mission-Wide Women's Convention Empowers Women in Bangladesh

**Mahuya Roy**

BAUM Women's Ministreis Director



The Mission-Wide Women's Convention was held March 20-22, 2025, at the Seventh-day Adventist Maranatha Seminary (SAMS) in Bangladesh.

With the theme "Women... Glory to Him with a Loud Voice," the convention highlighted the significance of women boldly raising their voices in faith and worship. Approximately 120 women from various districts and local churches attended the three-day event, which served as a dynamic platform for spiritual enrichment, fellowship, and personal development.

The program featured various sessions centered on biblical teachings, women's roles in ministry, empowerment, and holistic growth. Keynote speaker Mahuya Roy, Women's Ministries director of Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission, delivered powerful messages, encouraging participants to deepen their spiritual walk and embrace their calling with courage and conviction. Suchitra Soren also led a session offering valuable insights into the responsibilities of women within their homes and communities.

In addition to the spiritual sessions, the convention included interactive activities, games, fun nights, and group discussions, fostering a vibrant unity and joy among the attendees.

The event concluded with a heartfelt prayer session, leaving the participants uplifted, inspired, and motivated to glorify God with a loud voice in their daily lives and ministries.



# Rangamati Couples Retreat: A Spiritually Enriching Experience

Held in Rangamati, Bangladesh, March 6-8, 2025, the couples retreat was a truly memorable and transformative experience for all participants. Mahuya Roy, Family Ministries director of the Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission (BAUM), and Dr. Reuel Bairagee, Family Ministries leader of Dhaka SDA Church, organized the retreat to help couples strengthen their relationships through faith, communication, and love.

Under the theme “Making Families Blessed Again,” the retreat emphasized the importance of nurturing relationships through understanding, commitment, and spiritual growth. The event encouraged couples to deepen their marital bonds by fostering effective communication, mutual respect, and trust in God’s guidance.

More than 34 couples, with 85 participants, attended the retreat, actively engaging in discussions and sharing their experiences, challenges, and solutions. One of the key highlights of the retreat was the interactive session time, where couples engaged in insightful discussions on various topics such as effective communication in marriage, learning how to express love, resolve conflicts, and build trust, overcoming challenges together with faith and resilience, and strengthening family bonds through practical ways to create a Christ-centered family and raise spiritually strong children. These sessions provided valuable insights and practical guidance, inspiring attendees to apply the lessons learned daily.

Many participants expressed their gratitude for the retreat and shared how it positively impacted their relationships. Some reflected that the retreat helped them learn how to communicate better and truly listen to each other, while others shared that spending time together in a Christ-centered environment had renewed their love and faith in each other.

The success of the Rangamati Couples Retreat has inspired the organizers to plan more similar events. The goal is to continue fostering love, faith, and family unity through enriching spiritual retreats. As future gatherings are planned, the organizers remain committed to helping families thrive through God’s love and guidance.



# Children's Sabbath School Training Empowers Leaders in Pakistan



In February, the Pakistan Union South Section conducted a Children's Sabbath School Teacher's Training in Karachi. This training aimed to equip new Sabbath School teachers with essential skills and knowledge. It focused on empowering leaders with practical teaching tools, enhancing their ability to nurture children in faith, and preparing them for baptism.

The first training phase occurred in the Hyderabad district of Karachi, where 43 young leaders from 11 churches participated and successfully received certification. These leaders were trained in effective teaching methodologies, storytelling techniques, and the importance of spiritual nurturing. Special emphasis was placed on guiding children toward a personal relationship with Jesus, preparing them for baptism, and helping them understand the fundamentals of faith.

Following the success of the Hyderabad training, the program expanded to a larger group, bringing together 50 Children's Ministries leaders from 18 churches for further training and seminars. This session reinforced the importance of intentional teaching, child-friendly lesson planning, and the vital role of Sabbath School teachers in shaping young hearts for Christ. Participants engaged in interactive workshops, discussions, and hands-on activities, preparing them to serve more effectively in their local churches.

Beyond providing essential tools, the training

strengthened these leaders' commitment to investing in the spiritual growth of children in their congregations. Many participants felt inspired, well-equipped, and eager to apply their newfound knowledge in their Sabbath Schools.

The Pakistan Union South Section remains dedicated to prioritizing the spiritual development of children by providing leaders with the skills needed to nurture the next generation of believers. Farzana Yaqub, Children's Ministries director of Pakistan Union Section, said, "The success of this training marks a significant step toward strengthening children's ministries across the region, ensuring that young hearts are guided in faith and prepared for a lifelong journey with Christ."



# Mongolia Mission Holds Pastoral Couples Retreat

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

Mongolia Mission hosted a three-day Pastoral Couples Retreat through its Ministerial department April 4-6, 2025. Special guest speakers included Jonas Arrais, Ministerial secretary of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), and Raquel Arrais, NSD director of Women's and Family Ministries. Held at a resort near Ulaanbaatar, the retreat welcomed pastoral couples from all 33 churches across Mongolia.

Jonas Arrais spoke on the theme "Renew, Revival, Lead," emphasizing that spiritual renewal and revival must begin with the pastor. He stressed that a pastor must first experience personal transformation to effectively lead his family and congregation as a spiritual shepherd.

Raquel Arrais underscored the importance of maintaining a healthy marriage and prioritizing intentional self-care, especially in the demanding roles of ministry life. She encouraged the couples to become spiritual partners—mutually supporting and strengthening one another in their faith journey.

The retreat was more than just a weekend event; it was a significant spiritual milestone. Through heartfelt messages, united prayer, and genuine fellowship, the couples experienced renewal and reaffirmed their call to ministry.

As they look ahead to Mongolia Mission's 2025 theme, "Loud Voice," the pastors pledged to boldly proclaim the Three Angels' Messages throughout Mongolia with renewed passion and unity.



# NSD Hosts Spirit of Prophecy Symposium in Korea and Mongolia

**Yang EuiSik**  
MM President

This March the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) hosted the Spirit of Prophecy Symposium in Korea and its first such meeting in Mongolia, marking a historical milestone for this region. The event brought together church leaders, theologians, pastors, students, and local church members, who gathered to reflect on the profound spiritual gift of prophecy. Mongolia Mission has translated 17 books by Ellen G. White so far; five newly translated books were formally dedicated during the symposium, making the event even more spiritually significant.

The program reminded attendees of God's constant presence, guidance, and care. It focused primarily on the writings of Ellen G. White, whose prophetic gift has offered invaluable counsel to the Seventh-day Adventist Church for many years. Her writings, deeply rooted in Scripture, continue to strengthen our spiritual lives and prepare us for the imminent return of Jesus Christ. The event emphasized that the Spirit of Prophecy is a historical gift and a living and active blessing that shapes our beliefs and actions today.

The symposium's theme, "Understanding and Living the Gift," encouraged participants to acknowledge the Spirit of Prophecy and apply its teachings daily. When we know the gift but fail to live in harmony with its principles, we miss the full blessing God intends for us. Truly valuing this gift transforms us—it deepens our relationship with Christ, strengthens our faith, and prepares us to meet Him at His Second Coming. The theme called on each attendee to respond with personal commitment and practical application.

Distinguished speakers played a central role in the symposium's success. Dr. Melin Burt, director of the Ellen G. White Estate at the General Conference (GC), Elder Darryl Thompson, associate director, and Dr. G. T. Ng, GC EGW liaison for Asia, each delivered powerful seminars. They offered unique insights and urged attendees to live harmoniously with biblical teachings and Ellen G. White's counsel. Their messages called participants to serve as faithful stewards of this divine gift and to live with purpose and anticipation as they await Christ's return.

Jonas Arrais, Spirit of Prophecy coordinator for NSD, said, "I am truly grateful for the opportunity to witness such a meaningful gathering. The event has undoubtedly strengthened our commitment to biblical truth and inspired us to live more faithfully according to God's will, as revealed through His Word and the inspired writings of Ellen G. White."



# Faith Programs Empower Mongolia's Youth



**Raquel Arrais**

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

God's love is blooming in the hearts of Mongolian children through new and meaningful programs. The Children's Ministries department of Mongolia Mission has taken an exciting new step in nurturing the spiritual growth of young believers by launching a Children's Baptism Class. The program began with 13 enthusiastic participants, with five children making the heartfelt decision to be baptized this spring. The remaining children, already baptized, joined the class voluntarily to deepen their faith and engage in more meaningful Bible study.

This initiative reflects a strong commitment to spiritual development and a desire among the children to grow closer to God. It also highlights the intentional efforts of the Children's Ministries department to provide opportunities for faith-building and discipleship from an early age.

In addition to the baptismal class, the department recently introduced a weekly youth club called "Go Get." This club is a safe and welcoming space where youth come together to pray, study the Bible, and support one another through life's challenges. It's become a meaningful community for young people, fostering spiritual growth and strong bonds of friendship and unity.

The department is also actively strengthening the faith of children and teens through interactive Bible games,

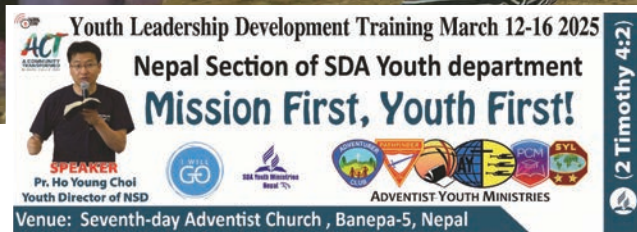
verse challenges, baptism preparation classes, and youth gatherings focused on self-esteem and identity in Christ.

"These initiatives are making a significant impact on the children of Mongolia as they embrace new experiences in their journey with Christ," said Raquel Arrais, Children's Ministries director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Through these creative and faith-centered programs, children and teens in Mongolia are learning what it means to follow Jesus, support one another, and be a light in their communities, clearly shaping the next generation of Christian leaders in Mongolia.



# Nepal's Youth Step Forward in 2025 Leadership Training

**Choi HoYoung**  
NSD Youth Director



The Nepal Section Youth Department held a successful Youth Leadership Training program March 12-16, 2025, bringing together 87 young leaders from 50 churches nationwide. The department designed this program to equip the next generation of leaders with a clear mission and strong spiritual foundation.

Choi HoYoung, Youth director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), led the training as the main speaker. He delivered inspiring and practical lectures grounded in biblical leadership principles, explored global trends in youth ministry, encouraged participants to impact their communities through initiatives like Global Youth Day, and motivated them to serve using their God-given talents. He also emphasized how a single transformed life can influence and uplift an entire community.

At the opening ceremony, Nepal Section President Umesh Pokharel, Secretary Kim HaeSeong, and other section leaders joined the program and expressed strong support for youth leadership development in the church.

Passionate and eager to learn, the youth leaders actively engaged in the training. Some traveled more than 10 hours to attend, showing remarkable dedication and hunger for growth. They listened intently, participated in discussions, and built unity through small group activities.

The Korea Union Conference (KUC) along with the NSD Youth Ministries department donated Pathfinder materials worth approximately 2 million KRW (\$1,400 US)—including pins, scarves, and other essential resources to support the event. These donations enriched the learning experience and strengthened the Pathfinder program in Nepal.

During the training, participants also celebrated Global Youth Day by stepping out into the community to collect trash and clean the streets, living out their faith through tangible acts of service.

This training marked a historic step in Nepal's youth ministry. Until recently, Nepal had no structured youth programs, and the Nepal Section only began taking steps in this direction last year. Therefore, this training did



not just build leaders—it launched a new era for youth ministry in Nepal.

With only 10 ordained pastors nationwide, the Nepal Section depends heavily on trained youth leaders to carry out church mission work. The Section plans to send these newly trained leaders to local churches to support and revitalize the ministry. Six young people have joined the mission field alongside two pastors through the 1000 Missionary Movement.

This launch marked the beginning of youth-led mission work in Nepal. Looking ahead, the Nepal Section aims to establish a branch of the 1000 Missionary Movement

within the country. This local training center would allow Nepal to recruit, train, and send out missionaries independently.

The Section hopes to establish a sustainable infrastructure for mission work by building a local system and deepening the church's gospel impact nationwide. The Nepal Section Youth department believes this training has empowered spiritually grounded, mission-driven leaders. They remain committed to continuous training and support so these young people can continue serving as light and salt—both in their churches and communities.



# 1000MM 62nd Batch Homecoming



**Han SukHee**  
Director of 1000MM



The 62nd Batch of the 1000 Missionary Movement celebrated their Homecoming Ceremony on Jan. 25, 2025, after 10 months of dedicated service in their mission fields—72 missionaries gathered under the theme “Mission Refocusing: I Will Go,” honoring their journeys and the collective mission to spread the faith across the globe.

Throughout their mission, they facilitated 1,153 baptisms, contributed to the completion of nine church building projects, and helped establish 32 new congregations. Additionally, they played a key role in leading 1,188 former members back to faith, guiding them toward renewed spiritual connections within the

Christian community.

The ceremony featured Dr. Nam DaeGeuk, former president of Sahmyook University in Korea. Dr. Nam spoke on the “Responsibility and Duty of the Priest,” reflecting on the sacred duty of those who commit their lives to spreading the gospel and serving others.

Cho KiHyung, Training Coordinator and associate director of 1000MM, formally introduced the 62nd Batch of missionaries to Han SukHee, director of 1000MM. Pastor Han inspired them to continue their missionary work with dedication, strength, and faith.

As the ceremony ended, the 62nd Batch missionaries were filled with gratitude and reflection, acknowledging



the challenges and triumphs they experienced throughout their mission. The theme “I Will Go” resonated deeply as a personal pledge to continue serving, regardless of the obstacles ahead.

As the 62nd Batch steps into the next chapter of their mission, the Homecoming Ceremony served not only as a celebration of their past achievements but also as a vision for the future—where faith and service continue to guide their work.



Dr. Nam DaeGeuk, former president of Sahmyook University.

# 62<sup>st</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

St. LOUIS 2025  
62<sup>nd</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

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