

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION www.nsdadventist.org

NEWS & VIEWS



January / February 2024



INSPIRATION

Chosen for Mission

Kim YoHan, President
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

“I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, ‘You are my servant; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand’” (Isaiah 41:9, 10).

God has called each of us to be His workers. Whether we were born and raised in an unknown rural village or a metropolitan city, God is carefully watching those who faithfully follow His word from all corners of the world. When we face hardships and go through various difficulties to uphold our faith, we are never alone. This is because God has given each of us a task for His sake. And God will protect us as we fulfill that mission.

At times, we encounter tests and trials, facing difficulties. In those moments, what we should remember is the promise that God has given us: “I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you.”

The territory of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division has expanded. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka have joined with Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Mongolia, making a total of eight countries. Under the name of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, God’s faithful people in these countries have become one. Each country has

different cultures, languages, and religions, creating challenges to find their commonalities.

But one thing we have in common—God has called us for a “missionary calling.”

Despite differences and diversity, we must unite as one within the calling

and missionary task that God has given us. Through this unity, we will successfully fulfill the mission of spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Ellen G White said, “They must not stand apart. A spirit to act independently and alone must not be cherished ... Union is strength. A few converted souls acting in harmony, acting for one grand purpose, under one head, will achieve victories at every encounter” (GCDB February 20, 1899, par. 8). Again, she said, “What is the secret of our prosperity? -We have moved under the order of the Captain of our salvation. God has blessed our united efforts. The truth has spread and flourished. Institutions have multiplied. The mustard-seed has grown to a great tree. The system of organization has proved a grand success” (GCDB February 20, 1899, par. 5).

At times, when our faith is shaken, and we don’t know which path to take, we must look to Jesus Christ. We should unite in Him, obey His words, and follow Him. Before His ascension, Jesus gave the Great Commission to His disciples. It was to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Our task is to fulfill this Great Commission. We need to rise with determination, preparing our hearts and minds to fulfill God’s given mission. With an idle mind and attitude, we cannot bear the mission God has given us. Additionally, we must repent of our sins and receive the full portion of the Holy Spirit just as the early church Christians did. Once we are prepared, we should go to people in the world, sharing the message of hope with them. We need to make disciples and teach them what Jesus has taught us. When we fulfill this mission the Lord has given us, before long, we will be able to joyfully welcome the coming King, Jesus Christ!



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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
GC and NSD Leaders pray for the newly dedicated PMM missionaries.



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1. Professor of Sahmyook University, Shin SungRae, delivers God's Word on the first day of the Yearend meeting.
 2. Kim YoungMoon speaks at a morning devotional about Pakistan Ministries.
 3. Artur Stele, GC Vice President, speaks for Thursday morning devotional.
 4. Petras Bahadur, GC Director of Global center for Adventist-Muslim Relations.
 5. Hensley Moorrooven, GC Undersecretary.
 6. Tim Aka, GC Associate Treasurer delivers God's Word on the last day of the Yearend Meeting.

The 2023 Northern Asia-Pacific Division Yearend Meetings Conclude Successfully

Byun SeongJun
 NSD Communication Director

Beginning with preliminary meetings on Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2023 departmental directors introduced their projects through interviews with their Unions/Conferences/Mission, alongside meetings of executive administrators and presidents.

The Yearend meeting commenced on November 2, under the theme 'Mission Refocus.' During this session, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka were welcomed into the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, alongside introductions and welcomes for the leaders of these Unions and Missions, as they presented the status of mission work in their respective countries, which was both moving and inspiring.

In the afternoon, the business session continued with reports on various projects carried out by NSD territories for the past year. Reports covered the "I Will Go" program, Taiwan Conference, Mongolia Mission, Mission Unusual Tokyo, North Korea Mission, Pioneer Mission Movement, 1000 Missionary Movement, Youth Ministry through the Camporee, GAIN Asia, Digital Evangelism, and institutional work.

NSD President Kim Yohan expressed gratitude for God's guidance and grace in leading NSD through the past year and thanked frontline workers and organization leaders for their dedication to mission. Later in the day, reports from organizations and departments such as 1000MM,

the Ministerial Department, Mongolia Mission, and AIIAS followed.

The second day of the Yearend Meetings continued with the committees and various reports, including a nominating committee report. Notably, Pastor Han SukHee, who had been serving as the Mongolia Mission president, was appointed as director of the 1000 Missionary Movement in the Philippines by the 1000MM board. Through the nominating committee, Pastor Yang EuiSik of West Central Korean Conference was elected as the new Mongolia president.

Reports for the day were presented by the departments and offices of Education, Japan Union Conference, ASI, Communication, Taiwan Conference, Health Ministry, Jeju LTC, Women's and Family Ministry, ADRA, and North Korean Mission.

General Conference Vice President Artur Stele, emphasized the importance of seeking the lost sheep by referencing three parables from Luke 15. He said, "In the parable of the lost sheep, it was one percent lost, and in the parable of the lost coin, it was 10 percent. But when the family lost their prodigal son, one out of two sons, they lost 50 percent, so, who should go and search for that son? The elder son, symbolized the Pharisees and did not go to look for his younger brother. If we don't seek the lost

sheep, we become like the elder son. Let's move forward together to find the lost sheep."

After Stele's message, the presidents of Unions, Conferences, and Mission shared their visions and dreams for their regions. The highlight of the gathering was the baptism at Paju International Church where Pastor Nam JinGu of Paju International Church led the baptism and sharing of the testimony of Sister Mo Jeong-ae, who came to learn English but found the Truth. Then, Pastor Oh BeomSeok presented touching testimony by two North Korean defectors who attended the event, baptizing one of them. All those in attendance were deeply moved as they witnessed these baptisms.

On the following Saturday, there was a special ceremony at Sahmyook Central Church to dedicate the new PMM missionaries. Three pastors were chosen to go to Taiwan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, and 12 university students were sent to Taiwan as PCM missionaries. President Kim Yohan encouraged the missionaries with a message from Psalm 46:1. At the dedication ceremony, many missionary-sending Conferences and leaders from organizations attended, offering words of support and blessings to the newly dedicated missionaries.

The last day of the Yearend Meetings concluded with departmental reports from Treasury, Sabbath School

(SSPM) and Publishing, Adventist Mission, Stewardship, Youth Ministry, Korean Union Conference and Taiwan Conference. During the SSPM department report, Pastor Kim Kwon asked all attendees to help share the digital version of the Great Controversy booklet with people through social media.

The Adventist Mission Ministries report featured an update on various mission activities in Vietnam by Pastor Kim JungTae, a current PMM missionary.

The response from the attending executive members reflected a well-prepared Yearend meeting. Through the business session, various agenda items were presented and resolved, and the reports from different administrative departments provided an opportunity to see how the missionary work of NSD has advanced in the past year. The inclusion of four new countries in this session expanded the region's missionary outreach, signifying a significant development.



The gatherings, including the special baptism ceremony on Friday evening and the commissioning of PMM and PCM missionaries at Sahmyook Central Church, were moments that reaffirmed how the Northern Asia-Pacific Division's slogan of "Mission First" is being put into practice. The meeting events were coordinated and presented with unity and organization by the Presidential, Secretary, and Treasury office, as well as various departmental directors and staff. Additionally, the delicious lunch was prepared by the wives of the NSD officers and directors. The well-prepared video reports from the NSD media center provided attendees with a model showcasing the Yearend Meetings.

When asked for feedback about the meetings, one attending ExCom member stated, "Fantastic, it was a good meeting. It was a great opportunity to hear reports on the mission work of NSD and to rethink how we do mission in our territory going forward."



Dedication of PMM and PCM Missionaries



Kim SunHwan
NSD AM Director



Kim YoHan, NSD President, encourages the missionaries.



Hensley Mooroooven, GC Undersecretary delivers God's message.



GC Vice President, Artur Stele gives the sermon.

On Nov. 4, 2023, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division held a dedication ceremony for the Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) and Public Campus Ministries (PCM) missionaries at Sahmyook Central Church, sending three pastoral families and 12 young adults to the global field.

The 22nd batch of PMM missionaries included Choi WonGoo (Sahmyook Seoul Hospital), Lee HyoShin (ADRA Cambodia), and Lee JungWon (Geumwang Church, MWKC). Pastor Lee HyoShin was unable to attend because he was serving in ADRA Cambodia, and two PCM

missionaries were still serving in Taiwan at the time of the dedication service because they have extended their terms.

Pastor Choi WonGoo will go to Taiwan; Pastor Lee HyoShin to Sri Lanka; and Pastor Lee JungWon will go to Nepal. All of the PCM 6th batch missionaries who will be conducting campus evangelism for the next year will be going to Taiwan.

The service began with praise from Golden Angels alumni. In attendance were the missionaries' original association officers, including Pastor Lee SangEui, president of the East Central Korean Conference and Pastor Kim SamBae of the Middle West Korean Conference, as well as family members and other church leaders and members who blessed them for their future endeavors.

Each leader at the podium called the missionaries one by one, and presented them with their letters of appointment, then knelt down to pray and lay hands on them.

In his sending off sermon, based on Acts 1, Artur Stele, vice president of the General Conference, said, "No matter how much we study or how many degrees we have, it doesn't matter if we become missionaries. Think about the disciples of Jesus. Jesus became their professor, and they studied with him for three and a half years. He spent another 40 days after his resurrection, and they still didn't understand the kingdom of God."



"Even when Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples still did not understand the kingdom of God and asked when Israel would be restored. Then Jesus said, 'You do not know the day or the hour...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:7,8). This means that the future of the church is in the hands of the Holy Spirit and not in the hands of men."

Northern Asia-Pacific Division President Kim YoHan quoted Psalm 46:1 in his encouraging words: "There will be many difficulties ahead of you. But you will never be



alone, and God will always be with you. No matter what kind of environment you are in, He will be your refuge, and He will give you great strength and help in times of trouble.”

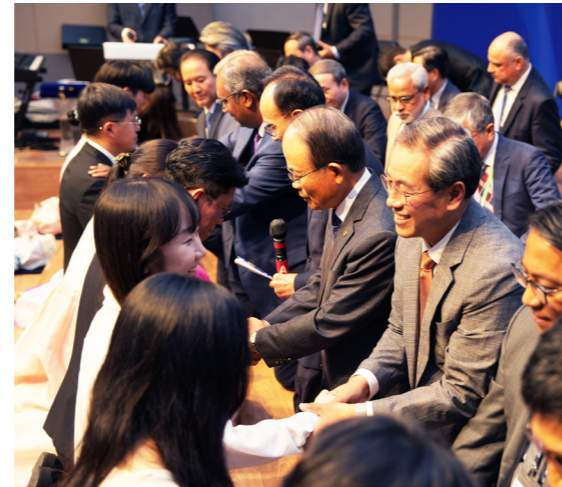
In his congratulatory remarks, Taiwan Conference (TWC) President Tom Sun said, “We thank God for sending new PMM missionary families and enthusiastic PCM missionaries to Taiwan. This is a wonderful blessing to TWC. I sincerely hope that the Holy Spirit will utilize your passion and talents to develop the gospel work day by day and bring many souls to the church.”

In his dedication, PMM missionary Choi WonGoo expressed his motivation: “I am a person who has no merit. I want to leave only God's name and His fragrance wherever I go, not my own. Please pray for the 22nd batch of PMM missionaries who are about to take their first steps.”

PCM missionary Jeon JoonHyuk said in his dedication, “We will pray and seek the Lord in anticipation of how He will use us. We will remember God's promises and go forward empty-handed. Since He has freely given us the light that comes from His infinite mercy and love, we will freely give it to college students as we scatter across campuses.”

In his dedication prayer, Kim SiYoung, former president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, prayed, “Please hold the hands of those who leave for the mission field in obedience and guide them every step of the way; please go to the lonely mission field where they are running and lead their way so that they can bless countless souls there to return to the Lord. Please pour out the power of the Holy Spirit on the missionaries and grant them strength and wisdom so that many people will rise up to the Lord whenever they proclaim the Word.”

The Pioneer Mission Movement is a global mission program promoted by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division to establish churches in unentered areas. It was launched to revitalize



overseas evangelism and to develop the mission in the Northeast Asia region. It is characterized by sending out current pastors. From 2003 to the present, 145 missionary pastors were dispatched, 34,624 people have been baptized, and 365 churches have been planted.

The PCM Campus Ministry, organized by the General Conference College Mission Board, encourages Adventist young adults to become disciples of Jesus and sends them to non-Adventist colleges and universities to share the eternal gospel on campus. There have been 48 young adults who have participated since 2019—nine missionaries are currently serving in Taiwan. Through those efforts, 55 students have been baptized and accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

Mongolia Mission President Han SukHee Takes New Assignment as 1000MM Director

On November 3, 2023, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division nominating committee approved the appointment of Pastor Han SukHee as the new 1000MM director headquartered in the Philippines. Pastor Han replaces Pastor Jeon JaeSong.

Pastor Han served as the Mongolia Mission president for about three years. He is a member of the first generation of 1000MM missionaries. His wife, Jeon EunKyung, also served in the Philippines, making them the first “husband and wife missionaries” to lead 1000MM.

His ministry journey includes roles at Geojin Church in the East Central Korean Conference, pastor of Yeongdong SDA Language Institute(SDALI) Church, SDALI senior pastor, director of SDALI Junior, Church compass magazine editor, and Associate director of the 1000MM Philippine Training Center. Before his presidency at Mongolia Mission, he held various positions, including Communication director of NSD, editor of News & Views, coordinator of Adventist World, Adventist World Radio, the His Hands Missionary Movement, and assistant to the president of NSD.

Following the Mongolia Mission session in 2021, he actively worked to reignite spiritual revival and soul-winning amid the COVID-19 pandemic. His initiatives included leading local evangelization through a nationwide crusade for the mission's 30th anniversary. Additionally, this year, he established a branch of the 1000MM Training Center to deploy missionaries to strategic mission sites from Mongolia.

In an interview with News&Views Pastor Han said, “Just as the

big picture of history is divided into BC and AD, it is no exaggeration to say that my life is divided into Before1000MM and After1000MM. The purpose, reason, and spirit of the movement, which I have repeatedly said in my heart, ‘Once a missionary, always a missionary,’ still runs through my veins.

“As I recall the determination and dedication I had as the first

missionary and the vision for world missions, especially for the 10/40 unreached, I am amazed and grateful for God's providence in entrusting the least of these servants. I will serve the mission field, missionaries, and training centers wholeheartedly with the attitude of ‘I will go wherever I am called,’ not ‘I will go according to the conditions.’ I will devote myself to spreading the Three Angels' Messages to the whole world and rely more on God.”

After graduating from Sungsil University with a degree in English, Pastor Han earned a Master's of Divinity (M.Div) from Sahmyook University Graduate School of Theology. Currently pursuing doctor of philosophy(Ph.D) program. He is married to Chun EunKyung, and they have two children, JungEun and JiEun.”



6th Batch of PCM



22nd Batch of PMM





Pastor Yang EuiSik Elected as President of Mongolia Mission



“Mongolia is a special land for me spiritually,” said Pastor Yang EuiSik, currently an associate chaplain at Sahmyook High School in Korea. He has been named the new president of Mongolia Mission, following the appointment of Pastor Han SukHee as director of the 1000MM Training Center in the Philippines.

Pastor Yang began his ministry in Mongolia as the 15th 1000MM missionary and has since served at the Wuxi Church of China, the director of the 1000MM Training Center in Peru, associate pastor of Gangnam Central Church, coordinator of the Compass Training Center, senior pastor of Bayangher Church in Mongolia, and director of the University Student Missionary Training Center in Mongolia.

In an interview with The Korean Adventist News, Yang said, “Mongolia is a special land for me spiritually. In 2000, I served as the first Korean Seventh-day Adventist missionary to Mongolia, the first mission field.

“From that experience, I decided to give the rest of my life to God and began my life as a lifelong missionary. I served as a missionary in the Philippines, China, Peru, and then again in Mongolia until 2022,” Yang said, adding that the call to Mongolia is symbolic of the same call Jesus made to Peter three times.

“I will accept the command of Jesus, who asked for Peter’s life the third time he was called, as the mission given to me, and I will go forward with full trust and reliance on God to fulfill the final mission,” he said.



Pastor Lee HyungJin Named Associate Secretary for Northern Asia-Pacific Division

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division has announced the appointment of Pastor HyungJin Lee, former president of SDA Education, as its new associate secretary.

NSD held a full-house executive committee meeting on Thursday, the December 14th, and decided on a recommendation from the Nominating Committee. His term begins on January 1, 2024.

Lee Hyungjin was born on January 28, 1972, and graduated from Sahmyook University and Andrews University Theological Seminary (M-Div) in the United States.

He began his ministry in 2001 at the SDA Seoul Junior Institute. Since

then, he has served as the associate director of SDALC Philippines, SDA Seoul Junior Institute, Director of Gwanak Camp, and Director of Gwangju Sangmoo Institute, striving to develop the institute. Since 2013, he has been the director of Yongin SDA Institute, where he has attracted the attention of parents and students with various specialized programs.

In January 2019, when SDA Education was facing its biggest crisis since its founding, he was called a “firefighter” to take charge of the management.

During his tenure, he emphasized, “The central mission of our academy is Life Change Education, or education that changes people,” and presented the ‘Global Mission’ as the mission. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, he stabilized the business of Kinderest, an English language school specializing in preschool.

He and his wife, Jin HyoSoon, have two sons, JaeYong and GwanYong.



Ministerial Spouses Association —Pastoral Families in JUC

From September to November 2023 meetings with pastoral families were held in various locations along with a monthly online fellowship and training.

Since the pandemic, pastoral families have not been able to gather at nearby churches and restaurants for times of prayer, encouragement, and information exchange. However, this year, many districts have resumed pastoral family retreats, and we are thankful to God for the family fellowship we have been able to have.

The West Japan Conference holds regular retreats, and this year, 10 spouses of pastors gathered in Osaka for the first time in many years on Sept. 11-12, 2023. The retreat was also attended by Mr. and Mrs. Tsutomu Inada, president of the Western Japan Conference, and Mie Morita, MSA assistant director for the Japan Union Conference, who shared the Word of God on how God gives hope and light when pastoral families face adversities.



The program provided discussion time, prayer sessions and fellowship. The participants were encouraged and strengthened in their roles as pastors' wives as they minister to people who have mental problems, financial matters, and personal life struggles.

May God's love and blessings be poured out to our pastoral families and may God's plan be fulfilled for them in Japan.

(Below) Mie Morita, MSA assistant director for the Japan Union Conference attended the retreat.



2023 SEKC Women's Spiritual Revival Retreat — “I Am a Woman God can Use”



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



Every November, women from the Yeongnam Conference (Southeast Korean Conference) come together. In the past two years, 2021 and 2022, they conducted COVID-19 tests and held distance meetings due to the covid pandemic. They are grateful to God once again to meet face to face, holding hands, and praying together after a long separation.

The 2023 Yeongnam Women's Spirituality Retreat was held at the Cheong-do Training Center, with a capacity registration of 151 women, five of them non-Adventists. One woman was delighted to be able to attend in a wheelchair.

The theme song, 'Bless you,' was sung every hour with women extending their hands to bless each other. The speaker for this year's spiritual retreat was Raquel Arrais, women's ministry director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

Pastor Yoon Cheongsil, Korean Union Conference

women's ministry director, served as interpreter. Through the lectures on the topic, 'I am a woman God can use,' many people's hearts were touched by the Spirit of God, and they shed tears of deep emotion. Like Paul in the book of Philippians, the women learned how to experience joy in the Lord even when they face difficulties in their lives.

On the second day, during the regional reporting session, representatives from five regions reported about 2023 and announced plans for 2024, specifically regional spiritual retreats, overseas evangelism, volunteer activities, and domestic evangelism activities. There were presentations on prayer meetings, women's groups, and small group activities at local churches such as side dish service, food service, and the service of sharing.

At the end, everyone held hands and gathered in a circle to pray. The women of Yeongnam Conference plan to continue to serve and carry out God's mission until the day the Lord comes.



Southwest Korean Conference Pathfinder Leaders' Night —New Digital Evangelism Ground with Innovative Heroes Competition

On Nov. 25, 2023, the Pathfinder leaders of Southwest Korean Conference (SWKC) held a 40-minute Heroes Competition. This unique event was exclusively designed for Pathfinder leaders, drawing the participation of nearly 200 leaders. From this pool, 10 outstanding leaders were selected, later reduced to three finalists. The matches of these top three contenders were broadcast live, captivating audiences.

The primary objective behind the Heroes Competition was to promote the widespread use of the Heroes App—a tool that seamlessly combines English language learning with Bible study, providing a familiar and enjoyable learning experience for Pathfinders. The competition itself featured an engaging format and enticing prizes, ensuring active participation and interest from contestants.

The event was meticulously organized by Cha SungMin, the SWKC Pathfinder association president, who was inspired by his experience at the Heroes Competition during GAI N ASIA, a global event held on Jeju Island. SWKC Executive Secretary Koo ChulNam, director of digital evangelism at SWKC, expressed enthusiasm for the proposal and pledged active cooperation. The Digital Evangelism Department aims to popularize digital evangelism by adopting a collaborative approach that extends beyond traditional methods, involving coordination with other departments and the youth department.



The guests and leaders in attendance at the conference responded positively to these innovative changes. They anticipate these new program formats will significantly contribute to the development of the Adventist Pathfinder culture.

Looking ahead, SWKC plans to host an even larger Heroes competition at the Pathfinder Camporee next year. The success of this event is viewed as a pioneering step toward integrating digital elements into Pathfinder activities, serving as an important example of a forward-thinking approach to blending technology and education.

One of the Participant wins the prize.



Participant competes in Heroes Competition.



Nearly 200 people participated the event.



KUC Pastors' Wives Continuing Education



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

The KUC Ministerial Spouses Association (MSA) is planning to hold the same meetings next year and maximize the reading of this book as a continuum education for pastors' wives. We praise God for learning and growing together.



The Korean Union Conference published "What No One Tells the Pastor's Wife" in June 2023 and distributed it to approximately 800 Korean Adventist pastors' wives who serve the Lord across the five Conferences and Mission. The book was introduced by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division's Shepherdess Office for the first time with NSD supporting the costs of translation into the Korean language.

Then, in September, five Shepherdess directors from each Conference gathered and decided to hold reading groups for the book this year and next year.

In the East Central Korean Conference 209 Shepherdess are divided by region and meet several times to hold meetings. Participants enjoy times of joy and growth through reading, conversation, and communication.

Book reviews, testimonials, and various photo reports are pouring in from region to region.



Taiwan Leader Training Activities on Jeju Island



Taiwan Conference held leader training activities July 16-23, 2023, at the Jeju Leadership Training Center. The training courses included leadership, pastoral care, missionary work, vision setting and implementation, team building strategies, community service, time and financial management, interpersonal relationships and health courses. Experienced pastors from various Korean organizations and churches taught the courses. After completing the courses, many said they benefited from them and received the best physical and mental nourishment during the activities. They said they plan to apply what they have learned to edify the church.

1. TWC leaders and NSD leaders attend training.
2. Yoon JaeSung, NSD leadership training center Director, and PMM Pastor Kwon SoonBum.
3. TWC leaders attend morning devotional.
4. Participants attend a field trip during the training activities.
5. Participants visit a forest in Jeju for the field trip.



“Kinmen Church” Plant and Development Vision

Origin:

According to the vision and mission of the Taiwan Conference: "Our mission is to preach biblical truths, including the eternal gospel of the Three Angels' Messages, to the residents of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, as well as lead people to the Lord, cultivate and equip them to become disciples, and prepare to welcome the return of Christ." Although there have been missionaries in Taiwan for 70 years, no church has been established in any of the islands off Taiwan. To effectively implement the mission in Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, a plan was made to start a church plant in Kinmen.

Plan:

Why did Kinmen become our first church to be established on an outer island? While evaluating various possibilities in Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu, we found that there are already three Adventist families working and living on Kinmen. They will be an important resource as seeds of the gospel. Therefore, the plan was submitted to the TWC president's office and the idea of establishing a Kinmen Church was proposed.

Instead of acting cautiously when starting a church, there needs to be more dependence on the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God, when the TWC president heard about this plan, he gave his full support. A preparatory committee was set up to discuss various possibilities for the implementation of the plan.

Implementation:

The only transportation between Taiwan and Kinmen are planes and ships. Therefore, most of the process was through online discussions with the church members in Kinmen to integrate the resources of Taiwan and Kinmen for promotion of the church plant. A spiritual prayer-line group was established on Feb. 22, 2023, to increase strength and cohesion among believers through spiritual practice and prayer.

Appreciation:

After four site surveys, seven months of online prayer and spiritual practice, countless online ministry discussions and physical meetings in Taiwan and Kinmen, there was an appreciation service on October 14, 2023. All of this is God's guidance and grace. Glory to God! Amen!

TWC leaders gather for the appreciation service.

Tom Sun, the former TWC President.



First Women’s Pastor Retreat: Called to Be in Mongolia Mission

On Dec. 1-3, 2023, the Mongolia Mission (MM) along with the ministerial secretary, Pastor Bold Batshuk, organized the first women’s pastor training in its territory. This first meeting was provided to revive the mission spirit, realign procedures and to reevaluate church administration strategies. Nine women pastors participated in this special event; they shared experiences and received training in effective pastoral care for their local churches.

Pastor Jonas Arrais, NSD ministerial secretary, highlighted the importance of “being called to be a pastor,” and reviewed Church Manual procedures as well as important chapters in the Minister’s Manual, allowing for discussion on pressing issues and ideas on how to lead as local churches face today’s challenges. Raquel Arrais, NSD ministerial associate presented the morning devotionals sharing key topics on spiritual growth and care. Pastor Bold offered important leadership insights for the daily work of a pastor.

The Mongolia Mission executive secretary, Adiyakhuu Oktiyabri, discussed strategies on church growth and reclaiming missing members, one of the biggest challenges the Mongolian church has faced after the pandemic. The treasury department shared guidelines, procedures and explanations on how the church operates financially.



Bold Batsukh
 MM Ministerial Secretary

Attendees left inspired and equipped with renewed energy to lead and nurture their congregations. This milestone gathering not only celebrated women in pastoral roles but also laid the foundation for future collaboration, fostering a supportive network that will undoubtedly help their ministries in their local churches.



Ten Thousand Steps For Christ



From February 2023, the Health Department of Mongolia Mission officially established a Facebook community to implement the "10K Steps for Christ" program. The goal of the program is to walk 10K steps a day for the glory of Christ and for your own health. Currently there are more than 100 participants.

Members read health related books that improve their health education. They work together to focus on simple habits to live a healthy life, and encourage each other by learning how many steps they have taken at the end of the day.

One participant said: When I started this program, I joined thinking that walking was easy because it has been difficult to exercise. I took advice from my leader, downloaded a pedometer on my phone and started my walk. It's been six months since I started walking. As a result, I have learned the following things:

- Motivation—we need to walk because our body is the temple of God. Christ gave the Holy Spirit and the energy to walk.

- Appreciation—the fact that walking has a positive effect on body health and blood circulation can make us feel grateful.

- Prayer time—when walking, look up to the sky, look around, and pray for those who pass by, for yourself, for your children, for the members of your church, for those who have not received the good news, and for your brothers and sisters in your country.

- Peace—for the sake of the gospel, walking shows vision and purpose, and directs the thinking mind.

- Better health—10K steps for Christ has been a step for me, keeping my weight in check and not using medicine and not seeing doctors.

- Education—reading together books on health, such as "Walking," and "Simple Ways to Live a Healthy Life," bring new thoughts to how we exercise.

- Application—I am grateful to be able to apply what I have learned in my life, share it with others, encourage others to do good, and draw closer to God and Jesus.

Let us walk together for the glory of Christ.



Pakistan Union Section Holds First Yearend Meeting as a Member of NSD



The Pakistan Union Mission (PKUM), newly included in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), held its first Yearend meeting under NSD on Nov. 30-Dec.1, 2023. The meeting was held under the theme “Mission First, Get Involved” at the conference hall in the Union Mission’s auditorium.

It was especially meaningful as it coincided with the 100th-anniversary week of the opening of Pakistan Adventist Seminary & College. NSD Executive Secretary Hiroshi Yamaji, NSD Youth Director Choi HoYoung, and Korean Union Conference President Kang SoonKi, were present to discuss ways to develop the Union Mission.

Pakistan Union Mission is led by President Lee MyunJu. In addition, Pastor Park N. G. has been called to serve as the head of PKUM’s Education and Mission department; Pastor Ji S. B. is the dean of Pakistan Adventist Seminary & College, and Pastor Nam K. W. is the director of the 1000MM Training Center.

At the Yearend meeting, the agenda centered on the development of Pakistan and ways to support missions since its inclusion into the NSD territory. Pakistan is going through economic difficulties. The entire annual budget of PKUM is \$230,360 (US), and the average budget for each department is less than \$7,000 (US). Salaries for pastors, teachers, and staff are also severely underfunded.

“Pakistan is a challenging mission field that is not financially independent at all,” said President Lee, “so it is highly dependent on the outside world. We have to provide a lot of grants every year. In the medium and long term, we



need special measures and strategies to become financially independent. The challenges are great, but we have to face this reality,” he said, emphasizing the urgent and practical need for sufficient finances.

The Executive board members expressed their deep gratitude to local communities and organizations such as unions and schools who have dispatched volunteer teams, and they were especially grateful for the establishment of the nursing school through the ‘10/40 Window Mission Project.’

Pakistan is geographically located in a very important place for Islamic missions. “Pakistan is like the ‘gateway to the east’ to Muslim countries,” Lee said, “and it is an outpost for missionary work in these countries.”

Education and Mission Director Park N. G. was sent to Pakistan in 2021, and has been conducting various missionary activities that combine education and relief, such as sponsoring the construction of local churches, remodeling Adventist School, and supporting flood victims.



1. Leaders of the Pakistan Union Section, NSD Officers, and KUC President.
2. Pakistan Union Section President, Lee MyunJu (right).
3. Volunteers arrived for Pakistan Adventist Seminary & College’s 100th anniversary.
4. Participants attend Pakistan Yearend meeting.
5. NSD Executive Secretary, Hiroshi Yamaji, delivers God’s Word.
6. Student of Lahore Adventist Secondary School.
7. Baptismal Ceremonies were given during the event.



Sri Lanka Mission Holds Yearend Meeting After Joining NSD



The first Yearend meeting of Sri Lanka Mission (SLM) since its inclusion in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) took place on Dec.14-15, 2023, at the Mandarina Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The meeting brought together Northern Asia-Pacific leaders and Southern Asia-Pacific (SSD) leaders, including NSD President Kim YoHan, NSD Executive Secretary Hiroshi Yamaji, NSD Treasurer Kim TaeSeung, Communication Director Byun SeongJun, SSD President Roger Caderma, and SSD Treasurer Jacinth Adap. In attendance were SLM President Jerry C. Patalinghug, Executive Secretary E.A.R.K. Emerson, and Treasurer Anthony Francis.

Sri Lanka is a country where 70% of the population is Buddhist, 12% Hindu, 9.7% Islam, and only 7.4% Christian. It is currently facing economic challenges exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. Nonetheless, the Mission, with 39 churches and 3,919 members, is navigating these challenging times with faith, and a purposeful focus on the return of Christ. In particular, SLM is actively involved in providing resources for the local community. It operates four schools, a hospital, and a publishing house under its umbrella, with the goal of encouraging members to be committed to missions and supporting the needs of more people in the community by 2024.

Before the start of the Yearend meeting, the officers



Kim MyeongSik
NSD Media Center Technician

of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) officially transferred its authority to the NSD officers in a meaningful ceremony. SSD President Roger Caderma presented to NSD's President Kim YoHan an oversized key signifying the passing of authority and emphasizing the hopeful future of the Seventh-day Adventist community in Sri Lanka.

After the ceremony, comprehensive reports on the state of Sri Lanka followed. They were from Kandana School, Adventist International School (AIS) in Negombo, AIS Vavuniya, Lakpahana School, Lakeside Adventist Hospital, Lakpahana Publishing House, and ADRA.

The SLM Education Department reported that school enrollment, which had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, is rebounding, and they anticipate a better outlook for 2024. The resilience shown by these institutions demonstrates their commitment to providing quality education despite adversity. They also commented



NSD officers visit Lake Side Hospital.

on the number of Adventist students within these institutions, noting that while the percentage of Adventists is still small, there is steady growth, indicating the potential for expansion in the Sri Lanka Mission educational institutions.

The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department reported on challenges facing the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sri Lanka due to national exams held on Saturdays. Denominational representatives are seeking prayers and attention as they continue discussions with the government on the issue of Sabbath keeping.

Reports from various departments, including the Communication department and Adventist Mission, followed. Each departmental director emphasized the role of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sri Lanka to continue serving the community and contributing to society through sacrifice.

During the Yearend meeting, NSD leaders proclaimed the Word of God every morning and evening. In his sermon, NSD President Kim YoHan said, "We are a specially chosen people for the mission. It is our mission to spread this good news." He

(Below) SSD President Roger Caderma presents oversized key to NSD President Kim YoHan.



(left) SLM Treasurer, Jeyaraman; (center) SLM President, Jerry Patalinghug; (right) SLM Exe. Secretary, E. A. R. K. Emerson.



emphasized "faith over human effort" and encouraged attendees to be leaders and people of faith who understand the times and respond to challenges.

Following the meeting, NSD leaders began their institutional visits. During the visit to Lakpahana College and Seminary, NSD Executive Secretary Hiroshi Yamaji said, "You are the hope and future of our Adventist church. Please continue to learn and to grow in the wisdom of Jesus Christ." He also gave an encouraging message to the staff and faculty members.

Despite economic challenges, Sri Lanka Mission is committed to serving and sacrificing for its community as part of the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Sri Lanka's inclusion in NSD brings many expectations and challenges, but with God's help, we will be able to fulfill the Great Commission that Jesus has given to us. More prayer support will be truly a blessing for our people in Sri Lanka to overcome various challenges.

Himalayan Section Holds First Yearend Meeting



Hong SeokKwon
 NSD Media Center Technician



After incorporating into the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, the Himalayan Section held its Yearend meeting for the first time, on Nov. 27, 2023, at the Baneepa Church located east of Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting reviewed the direction of missionary activities in that territory.

The Yearend meeting of the Himalayan Section was attended by NSD officers and numerous local pastors, including NSD President Kim YoHan, NSD Treasurer Kim TaeSeung, and NSD Adventist Mission Director Kim SunHwan. During the meeting, they confirmed NSD's keen interest in the Nepal assembly and its missionary significance.

The Himalayan Section officially comprises 41 churches and has more than 94,000 members, led by Pastor Umesh Pokharel as president and Pasotr Kim HaeSung, a PMM missionary from Korea, serving as the director of global missions.

While Nepal does not have an official state religion,

Hinduism functions as the de facto country religion, presenting practical challenges for organizing churches in the country. Since 2018, the Nepalese government has implemented the "Anti-Conversion Law," significantly complicating missionary activities. Foreign missionaries, including Koreans, have faced increased restrictions, exacerbated by the country's economic challenges. Nepal remains one of the world's poorest nations, with a per capita GDP of around \$1,300 in 2023, ranking 163rd globally, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Yearend meeting addressed various challenges confronting the organization, including a comprehensive reorganization of the Himalayan Section. This involves bringing numerous independent churches and mission agencies scattered throughout Nepal under the Section's umbrella, particularly addressing the treatment of non-denominational churches embracing the Seventh-day Adventist message.

Despite not having an official building, the Himalayan Section continues to carry on. Missionaries across the country face adversity, with several foreign missionaries, including Pastor Kim HaeSung, Pastor Kim JongHoon, and Pastor Song HaeSub, working in challenging circumstances to support members and churches.

The Yearend meeting focused on strengthening links between mission agencies in Hetauda, Darchha, Pokhara, and other areas, improving organizational management, and addressing the creation and staffing of new departments within the Section.

The committee also discussed the integration of reformed members from other denominations, particularly those who have accepted the message of the Second Coming of Jesus. Many of these individuals lack biblical knowledge, posing challenges for assimilation into the existing Adventist culture. The meeting emphasized the need for systematic education and nurturing for these new members.

Following the Yearend meeting, discussions took place between the NSD president, local pastors, and missionaries. Despite transportation challenges in Nepal, pastors from across the country came together, demonstrating their dedication to the first Yearend meeting.

NSD President Kim YoHan expressed hope for Nepal, citing the devotion of church members and missionaries working tirelessly despite numerous challenges. He emphasized the church members' commitment to supporting missions in various ways, calling for unity and close communication.



(Below) NSD President, Kim YoHan(center) speaks at the Year-end meeting in Nepal.



Even when Nepal was part of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, it faced missionary challenges. Since joining NSD, the reality has become clearer, revealing hidden potential. This underscores the necessity for systematic and comprehensive support.

"The Himalayan Section serves as a bridgehead for missionary work in Hindu countries," said NSD President Kim YoHan, as the meeting concluded. "The inclusion of Nepal into NSD at this critical time is a great work of God, and we will overcome challenges through unity," he said.

1000MM of Bangladesh Dispatch 45 Missionaries



1000 Missionary Movement of Bangladesh, led by Director Cho C. H., has dispatched 45 missionaries for the 26th batch to the mission field.

During the training held from November 10-16, 2023, the missionary candidates underwent various lectures and practical courses, aiming to approach seekers and convey the Three angels' messages effectively.

To facilitate this training, notable figures including Kim WonSang, President of the Bangladesh Union Mission, Cho C. H., Director of 1000MM Bangladesh, Park Y. K., Dean of Bangladesh Sahmyook University, Jeon JaeSong (Director of 1000 MM Training Center), Pastor Hong KwangEui, Pastor Park NakYong, and Min SeoJoon served as speakers.

Particularly, from Nov. 11-14, Elder Nam SeonKyu (Byeolnae Church), Elder Kim HaeDong (Byeolnae Church), and Pastor Seo CheongTae (Mt. Coke Church, Sydney, Australia) conducted training sessions on foot massage under the theme "Miracles Happen When We Touch the Feet of Souls with the Humility of Jesus." Foot massage has gained increased attention in Bangladesh, a predominantly Muslim country, as it is recognized as a useful missionary tool for breaking down barriers.

Indeed, cases continue to emerge where the seeds of

the Word, sown to souls softened by actual foot massages, bear fruit in baptisms. Missionary Subash S. is a prominent figure in this regard. Dedicating himself as a 1000 Missionary in the southern region of Bangladesh, where the majority are Muslim and Hindu, he provided foot massages to people he encountered. Through this open-hearted approach, he shared the gospel, leading over 1000 individuals to Christ in the past five years.

Pastor Cho C. H. shared an anecdote about Subash, stating, "Subash faced legal troubles due to his missionary activities and was once imprisoned. However, 150 people gathered at the police station, appealing, 'Subash is innocent and a good person, please release him.' He was released after a nine-hour ordeal." Cho added, "We hope that the 26th batch of missionaries will also bear wonderful fruits of the Holy Spirit in the mission field through this foot massage training."

Additionally, Cho appealed to church members for earnest prayers for those dedicated to spreading the gospel in Bangladesh, including the families of Bangladesh Union Mission President Kim WonSang, Dean Park Y. K., ADRA Country Director Pastor Shin S. H., Missionary Jo E. M., and all local missionaries.



Adventist Missionary Couple's Heartfelt Service to International Students at AIIAS

Sharnie Love Zamora-Belarmino



PMM 19th Batch Pastor Ko JongSik.

But during an interview for the 2021 ADRA internship program, Ko and Kim requested to continue their mission work back in the Philippines. Their ministry at AIIAS commenced in June 2021 as they settled into a campus apartment and joined in with AIIAS community and worship experiences for the first time. In getting to know the AIIAS community, they noticed that many international students at AIIAS were struggling due to the pandemic, unable to receive adequate assistance or return to their home countries. This revelation

In a heartwarming display of compassion and selflessness, Pastor Ko JongSik and Mrs. Kim Euna, a dedicated missionary couple living on the AIIAS campus, have been providing ongoing support to international students in need at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS) in Silang, Cavite, Philippines. Their extraordinary ministry, initiated because they noticed the challenges faced by self-sponsored students during the COVID-19 pandemic, has provided a beacon of hope for those in need. Pastor Ko JongSik, currently a trainee at ADRA Philippines specializing in Leadership, Development, and Planning, has shared their journey in an exclusive interview.

The couple's service is deeply rooted in faith and the command to help those in need. They believe that this work is essential until the Second Coming of Jesus. The mission projects they organized were driven by a personal initiative inspired by the Holy Spirit. Hailing from Korea, the couple's connection to the Philippines began during their years as senior missionaries of the 1000 Missionary Movement in Cavite. Most recently, Ko served as a Pioneer Mission Movement missionary in Taiwan for six years, ministering in a church for local missionaries. While in Taiwan, the couple gained a deeper understanding of the challenges foreigners face.



prompted them to take action.

The recipients of their ministry are primarily students with lesser means, and their network of support for the ministry comes from Korean church members, friends, and acquaintances back at home who have generously provided clothing for children and adults, school supplies, and scholarship funding. Friends also covered some of the shipping costs. Ko and Kim have also assisted with a medical-dental volunteer mission trip, and with procuring equipment for the Bethlehem Bakery project, a ministry which delivers fresh-baked bread to impoverished families living in communities outside of the AIIAS campus.

Over the past two years, Ko and Kim's ministry has touched more than 500 households. The couple is actively seeking to get more people involved in their



ministry. They believe that everyone can contribute something to provide for the less fortunate. Anyone who is interested in supporting this heartfelt ministry can contact Pastor Ko JongSik at kojongsik@aiaas.edu or robertko7878@gmail.com. As for their future plans, Ko initially aspired to train at ADRA for three years and become an ADRA country director. However, due to changes in General Conference regulations, he will be returning to Korea soon. Despite this change of plans, the couple remains steadfast in their belief that God has a bigger plan for them. Their mission is a testament to the power of compassion and the impact one dedicated couple can have on the lives of those in need. It serves as a reminder that we can all make a difference in the world, regardless of our circumstances. AIIAS is an institution of higher learning that offers master's and doctoral degrees in four main areas: Business, Education, Public Health, and Religion. It is operated by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



Pastor Ko JongSik and medical-dental volunteers.



Retreats for Multi-cultural & Foreign Families

Kim GeunSoo
Hope 365 Director

Koryo Community Child Center (an institution for children under HOPE 365) hosted a retreat on Aug. 26-27, 2023 at Tan-do Port camping site, a beautiful site in Daebu Island. Altogether 51 people, from more than 15 families participated. This retreat was planned to reinforce family relations. Each family cooked their own foods, including their traditional foods. After dinner, parents had a seminar on “How to raise your children wisely in Korea,” while the kids had some time to play together. Recreational games took place in the evening. One game the kids massaged all the parents in turn, and the parents had to guess their own children. Most of the parents failed at identifying their children since their eyes were covered with a sleep shade. As the parents guesses took more time, they could enjoy more massages, and when the parents figured out their children, the kids were

very happy.

The next day, after having an early breakfast, families had a nice walk to the nearby small islands where massive wind power generators and a light house were located. This was possible because of the low tide. In the high tide, the roads would disappear underwater. A grape vineyard experience followed. Kids enjoyed making ice creams using grapes, and everyone had a chance to actually harvest a cluster of grapes. When they were returning home, everyone was given a box of organic grapes.

Parents were very happy to spend time with their children in the retreat and appreciated the teachers and the Center for providing such activities. They said, “We will look forward to the next retreat!” Now the parents had a better understanding of how the Goryeo Community Child Center benefits their children's lives. The parents

who joined the retreat became good supporters of HOPE 365.

The next retreat followed soon after. This time, HOPE 365 hosted a much bigger camp retreat where 214 multi-cultural and foreign families and supporters gathered together on Oct. 7-8, 2023, in Cheon-an National Youth Training Center. This was the third year for this camp. It started in 2021 when the COVID-19 pandemic was still severe.

The National Youth Training Center is a huge place where more than a thousand people can camp, while keeping the COVID-19 regulations. But because of fear, many schools and institutions were cancelling their programs and camps. However, HOPE 365 took this as an opportunity and successfully had camps in 2021 and 2022.

For the third camp, HOPE 365 planned to enlarge the multi-cultural and foreign family supporters' group. HOPE 365 aligned with two other churches and applied for a "Mission community project" which the WCKC Mission department was suggesting. HOPE 365 church, Ansan church, and Siwha church applied for this project and had four joint programs together in Pathfinder activities. Each church hosted one Sabbath afternoon program for the three Pathfinder clubs. For the last joint program, HOPE 365 suggested to have the camp together. It aimed to enable the Pathfinders to become more friendly with immigrant children. In addition to these churches, two more churches were invited to this camp: Songsanjeonwon Church and Uiwang Church.

The camp lasted two days and one night, and participants were provided with three meals and good accommodations. On Sabbath afternoon, after a short welcome and instructions, all the Pathfinders were divided into three groups so they could take turns to experience Korean archery, a climbing wall, and a challenge tower. They enjoyed hammocks, discussed throwing, and swings as they were moving and waiting. Some of the kids were afraid of the climbing wall, but some brave kids were able to climb up to the top even though they were only in Grade 1 or 2 in elementary school.

The meals were cooked specially with "Halal Food" style to avoid pork or seafood. And campers could enjoy as much as they wanted while the cafeteria was open.

After the dinner, "Gym Night" took place, where everyone was divided into two teams and enjoyed playing games together. The kids were enjoying being together with their parents because most of the games had to be played in partnership with their own parents.

The next day after breakfast, Taekwondo classes took place, provided by Siwha church's Pathfinder club. The kids learned Taeguk 1 jang and practiced jumping ropes together. And Siwha church prepared special snacks: Patbingsu (shaved ice with red beans) and garlic baguettes.

The camp officially finished after lunch. But right next to the National Youth Training Center was the Korean Independence Hall, so HOPE 365 encouraged all the participants and churches to go to the Independence Hall and enjoy a tour there.

HOPE 365 planned these two retreats for the people to have time with their families, and for the multi-cultural and foreign families to mingle with Korean supporters. Two retreats cannot totally fulfil all these purposes, but it can become a good start. HOPE 365 will further study how to provide opportunities for families to become happier, and how to enable multi-cultural and foreign families to settle well in Korea as our neighbors.



Camp participants experienced Korean archery.

Through God's Love



Min ShiEun
1000MM 60th Batch



I'm Min ShiEun, a 60th missionary to Lakpahana Adventist School in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is a predominantly Buddhist country with over 70 percent Buddhists. Buddhist celebrations and events abound, and there are Buddhist statues, large and small, on every street corner. In this barren environment for the gospel, the students at Lakpahana Adventist School learn about God.

When I see them raise their voices in praise to God during worship service or hear them say with smiles on their faces, "I like Jesus," I know that this school is being used by God as an instrument of mission.

It's been three months since I came to Lakpahana, and I've met many of the students through my ministry in the school organization. It's been easy to get to know the students because of their interest in me, a foreigner. Once I got to know them a little better, they opened to me, as if they just needed someone to listen to them. The stories they told me were painful: many of them were not getting the love they deserved from their parents, and some of them had even been abused. There were deep scars on their young minds.

While here, I realized that I wanted to extend more love to the students I met, but there was a problem with that. I didn't have enough love in my heart. Students would come to my classroom during recess, and as much as I wanted to greet them with a bright, warm smile as they came to visit me during their only break in the school day, I found myself feeling overwhelmed as time went on. Sometimes, when I was tired after class, I wished they wouldn't come. I was more focused on myself than on the hearts of the children who needed love, and I wasn't truly welcoming them. My love felt like a shallow, narrow vessel that would quickly run dry after a few scoops. Then, while listening to a pastor's testimony, I read a passage of Scripture: "The king answered and said to him, "Truly I say to you, inasmuch as





I realized that I can only love with a sincere heart if I do it with the love that God imparts in me, not my own kind of love. For the rest of my ministry, I hope to be able to share God's love by asking daily the One who fully knows me yet fully loves me—Jesus Christ, who is the source of it.

I ask for your prayers that the students of Lakpahana School will grow in love and in faith with the God whose love is everlasting.



you did it to one of the least of these brothers of mine here, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

The moment I read these words, they hit my heart with a thud. It was as if God was saying to me, "You are a country where the children who come to you all come in the guise of the least of these."

The fact that they are all children who are hurting and in need of love was reawakened in my heart, and it made me pray even more to God for the love that I lacked: 'I am like the clanging copper and the ringing bell without the love You give me, I want to place my narrow vessel under the waterfall of Your love, help it to overflow!'



Min ShiEun (front right), 1000MM 60th Batch

The True Question



Jonas Arrais
NSD Ministerial Secretary

“My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say: ‘you sit here in a good place,’ while you say to the poor man, ‘you stand over there,’ or ‘sit down at my feet,’ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor into the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?” — James 2:1-7 (ESV).

James had some concerns about how the poor were being treated within the Christian community and how the community was failing to understand and practice true religion. The main concern was announced in the first line: “show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.” If Jesus is indeed Lord of life, there can be no space in life or in the community for partiality or favoritism. The words of James echo both the wisdom found in the Old Testament and in the teachings of Jesus. James uses the exact words found in Leviticus 19:15: “You shall not defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.”

Jesus also taught that we should show no partiality in our relations. We are to love our enemies and treat them as we would treat those who love us back, because the God of heaven is not a God of partiality. He sends the rain to both the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:43-48). And those who follow God are to live in the same way.

Why does the text in James refer to clothing and

where people are sitting or standing? Scholars have pointed out possibilities that range from political to social superiority. Some among the rich might have helped the Christian community financially which might encourage favoritism to the rich because of what they could give the community. This could represent a lack of trust in the God who generously gives good things to the community.

It is also interesting to notice that James depicts the disdain for the poor within the context of the community’s public meetings. The rich are given seats of honor while the poor are driven to the corners or asked to sit on the floor. The community has a choice, either to follow the practices of the kingdoms of men that include partiality, favoritism based on social and financial standing, and oppression, or follow the principles of the Kingdom of the Lord of Glory which include equality, justice, and love. The community cannot have both.

To choose the former means rejecting the call to live according to the word of Truth and blaspheming “the name by which” the community was called. To choose the latter means anticipating the future Kingdom now! The community was to be a sign of the possibility that people can live under the Lordship of Jesus as equals, as a people who see the world not through its present condition, but through its future reality! For whatever the community practices within the community, they will also practice outside of it.

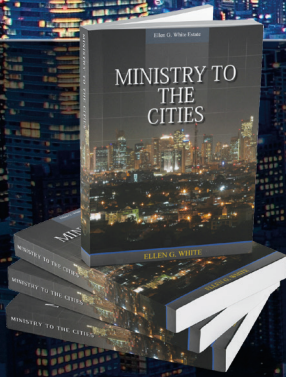
So why is all of this important? Partiality disrupts the very nature of the community as a sign of the coming Kingdom because it shows that we would rather live by the principles found in the kingdoms of men. As a community shows partiality, truthfulness and vision of the future dissipate. A community cannot lose its vision of the future they live by. Once that is lost, the principles of human kingdoms take over.

MISSION to the **CITIES**

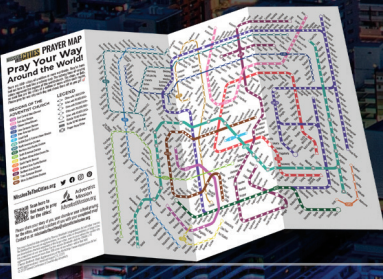


“WORK THE CITIES WITHOUT DELAY, FOR TIME IS SHORT.”

Ellen G. White, *Ministry to the Cities*, p. 26



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