

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION www.nsdadventist.org

NEWS&VIEWS



May / June 2024



10/40
Global Mission Congress

*From
the End
of the
World
To
the Ends
of the
Earth*



Korean Union Conference
Adventist Mission

Adventist
Mission



INSPIRATION

Why a 10/40 Mission?

Kim SunHwan
NSD, AM/PARL Director

Why are we talking about the 10/40 Window when we talk about world missions? What relevance does the 10/40 Window have from a missiological perspective and to the mission of our Adventist Church? The mission statement of our church says: “Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels’ Messages in preparation for His soon return (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Rev 14:6-12).” If there is one special factor that defines our mission, it is that we live in a time when Jesus’ coming is near. Therefore, the mission given to us can be considered more of an “urgent mission” than missions of any other era. Specifically, the mission statement of our church speaks about the scope of the church’s mission, which is to preach the gospel to “all people.”

The three Bible verses included in the mission statement of the Adventist Church and Matthew 24:14 give us a common message. Referring to the target and scope of mission, these verses command us to preach the gospel to “all nations” and to reach “all peoples” to the ends of the earth. So, who are the “peoples” that we must not overlook and finally reach? One Christian commentator evaluates it this way: “Numerous efforts are being attempted by churches worldwide to fulfill the earthly command of the Lord.

Among them, the unreached people group mission advocated by Ralph Winter at the Lausanne Congress in 1974 played a pioneering role in opening a new era of mission.

This was because it further subdivided and specified missions not on a national level, but on a people group level. Additionally, it

allowed for quantification of the remaining tasks.”

So, what is the relationship between the 10/40 Window and these unreached people groups? The comment continues: “Following the advocacy of this concept of unreached people groups, Louis Bush further strategized this concept, which became known as the 10/40 Window concept. Since more than 80 percent of the unreached people groups worldwide are located between the 10th and 40th parallels north, the focus of missions was directed to this area. If the concept of unreached people groups defined who the target of missions should be, the concept of the 10/40 Window defined where the unreached people groups are located. Since then, the global church has been making concerted efforts to evangelize the unreached people groups in the 10/40 Window region.” Therefore, for the Adventist Church, which has been given a special and urgent mission in world missions, the 10/40 Window holds great significance.

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division is in the midst of these challenges. Globally, 42 percent of the population are unreached people groups, and when looking at the entire Northern Asia-Pacific Division area, a total of 85.6 percent of its population live in unreached areas. This is more than double the global average. In this sense, it may be natural for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division to prioritize the 10/40 Window mission. In the face of these challenges, it is significant that the Korean Union Conference has initiated the 10/40 Mission Movement and held the 10/40 Global Mission Congress on March 14-16, 2024. We must pray and seek the Holy Spirit more fervently in the face of the greater challenges given to the Northern Asia-Pacific Division than ever before to finish the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

mentioned, we must “intentionally reduce and make room for meaningful, soul-invigorating quiet time with our Creator and Savior.” Then, God will come to meet us personally and direct our paths.



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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

During the 10/40 Global Mission Congress, presenters share heart touching stories from their respective fields.



Seventh-day
 Adventist Church
 NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

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10/40 Global Missions Congress Establishes Itself as Global Missions Festival

Kim SunHwan
NSD, AM/PARL Director



On March 14, 2024, the 10/40 Global Missions Congress hosted by the Korean Union Conference established itself as a global missions festival crossing ethnic and linguistic boundaries.

In addition to nearby areas like Seoul, Gyeonggi, and the regions surrounding Sahmyook University, church members gathered from around the nation. Some churches even made “group reservations.” Notably, over 40 employees of Sahmyook Food Chunan and Boryeong factories participated, led by its president, Jeon Kwangjin.

The event also captured the interest of the global church. Guests and missionaries worldwide, including the United States, Japan, Taiwan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Cambodia, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, and the United Arab Emirates participated. The General Conference dispatched key figures such as GC Executive Secretary Erton Köhler,

Adventist Mission Director Gary Krause, Associate Executive Secretary Samuel Saw, and Global Mission Centers Director Kleyton Feitosa to support the Korean Adventist Church world mission endeavors.

Leaders from the West-Central Africa Division (WAD), who were visiting Korea as part of an inter-divisional exchange initiative, received a warm welcome as well. This group included Division President Robert Osei-Bonsu and over 40 representatives from 10 different unions within WAD. They were deeply moved after hearing the inspiring testimonies of global evangelism shared by Korean missionaries.

Initially, the on-site event was expected to draw around 500 attendees, including missionaries, mission organization members, global missions supporters, ambassadors, and local church members. However, the

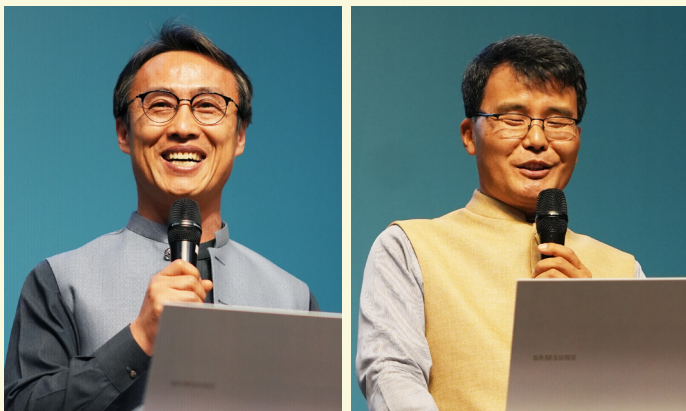
turnout surpassed 600 people. Consequently, the prepared meals and commemorative gifts fell short of meeting the demand from the larger-than-expected crowd. Even in the afternoon session, eating remained scarce as many attendees occupied the venue. Throughout the dedication service until the closing declaration, the congregation focused on the reports and appeals, reflecting their profound interest in the grace and deeply moving experiences. The strong attendance of youth groups and student fellowships from local churches was particularly encouraging, representing the future generation. These young attendees listened to the vivid frontline accounts of evangelism, nurturing their aspirations for missionary service.

The offering collected during the worship service at Sahmyook University Church was dedicated to the “10/40 Window project.” Separate envelopes labeled “World Missions Offering” were prepared for this purpose. After the worship session, attendees continued to contribute heartfelt gratitude through offerings as they attended seminars and mission reports.

Various praise and worship groups made the stage more abundant, offering musical tributes of thanksgiving and glory to God. These included: The Divine Quartet composed of pastors from the East-Central Korean Conference, the Glanz Ensemble, the Adventist Women’s Choir, and the Sulammi Musical Company with an encore performance of their original musical, “Acts.”

Global Mission Report Highlights: Expanding Adventist Mission in New Territories

Park GeonGyoo
NSD News Reporter



On March 14, 2024, during the 10/40 World Adventist Mission Conference, H.S. Kim, missionary in Nepal, and S. B. Ji, missionary in Pakistan reported on the mission work in those countries.

“Nepal is a country with a population of 30 million, bordered by China to the north and India to the south. The

religious composition in Nepal is 82% Hinduism, 8% Buddhism, 6% Islam, and Christianity, a minority religion, at 1.5%,” said Kim HaeSung. “The Seventh-day Adventist Church officially has 41 churches here. The number of attending members is about 2,000, while registered members are about 10,000, served by 11 pastors. Among the four countries newly joined with the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, Nepal is the poorest,” Kim said. However, he shared some positive news, “Over the last ten years, the Christian population has exploded. According to our own statistics, about 1.5 million people, or 5%, are Christians.”

He added, “Nepal is the only country in the world where Saturday is a public holiday. Government offices, banks, and schools operate on Sundays. Therefore, all religions in Nepal worship on Saturdays. This provides a very favorable environment for missionary work.” However, he warned, “It’s uncertain how long this will last. There’s a growing trend towards making Sunday

a holiday, so we must act quickly on missionary work.”

He then reported on missionary activities, stating, “There are three missionaries in Nepal. Among them, Missionary Song H. S. has worked hard on church construction for 14 years, building 15 of the 41 churches. Missionary Kim J. H. has been a missionary for 10 years and has planted about 80 churches.” However, “These churches are not yet affiliated with the Himalayan Section. Efforts are being made to affiliate these 80 churches with the Himalayan Section. If successful, there will be about 120 churches.”

Kim H. S. is the third missionary and explained his own work there. “I am working on constructing two churches, Bible distribution, and evangelism. I run a youth job center, support children’s schooling, and care for orphans. Most of the members in Nepal attend church without a Bible due to poverty. So far, we have distributed 1,350 Bibles and aim to distribute 2,000 by the end of this year.”

He also mentioned, “Public schools in Nepal are free, but many children cannot afford the books and materials needed for school.” After surveying the children in the 41 churches, “58 children were not attending school. Of these, 42 are now attending school thanks to people’s help.”

He detailed his mission work, saying, “The job training center operates in six-month cycles. Training includes knitting, sewing, alterations, running a clothing store, making handmade soap, baking, poultry farming, and motorcycle taxi training. The most focused project is teaching Korean. Passing the EPS test after learning Korean can qualify one to work in South Korea. This presents a great opportunity and dream for Nepali youth, and upon returning, they contribute significantly to the church.”

Concluding his report, Kim H. S. appealed, “A significant number of Protestant churches are preparing to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This process requires much prayer and attention.”

Subsequently, Missionary Ji S. B. presented his report on the missionary work in P country. He suggested, “Rather than calling us missionaries, it would be better to call us onlookers of God’s work, as we witness what God accomplishes through your prayers.”

He continued, “P country has the world’s second-largest M population, with a diaspora of 11 million. There are about 18,200 Adventist members, and last year, we had the highest number of baptisms in history—2,000 new members.”

Ji emphasized the importance of medical missions in this country saying, “Here Christians are known as the ‘ignorant and poor.’ They are symbols of negativity and

curses. Even if young Christian people graduate from college, they struggle to find jobs or start businesses. Medical missions are the only hope for these young people. If they receive proper training, they can find good jobs and support pastors through their tithes. Medical missions can become a gateway for high-ranking officials and play a significant role in spreading the gospel in Pakistan.”

He continued, “The nursing college is fully equipped, and we are just waiting for the final approval process. We have remodeled a 1st floor of the building and a building previously used for a food business into practice and classroom spaces. God has miraculously made this project possible,” he reported, adding, “God gave us the confidence to start the nursing college, so we demolished the building and applied for the 10/40 Window project. Although we haven’t received official approval yet and cannot conduct classes, that day will come soon,” he said, asking for prayers for the approval process to be completed quickly.

He also described other missionary activities happening in P country. “In February last year, we opened the Missionary Spirituality Training Center within the Adventist University, which has 34 prayer rooms,” he reported. “Due to financial difficulties, pastors who could not be hired are being trained and sent for church planting. Through them, the Kanawal Church and the Mriduke Daap Inae Church were built.” He added, “Because direct missionary work is challenging, there is the Pakistan ABN, which records sermons and broadcasts them. Through YouTube and broadcasting, they are reaching an unspecified number of people with the gospel. They are also translating and publishing the ‘Spirit of Prophecy.’ We are preparing to distribute 3,000 copies of The Desire of Ages, 20,000 copies of Step to Jesus, and a Bible study series titled ‘It Is Written.’”

Ji shared moments of God’s miraculous works in the field and appealed to the attendees. “Many missionaries are prepared for martyrdom as they spread the Lord’s gospel. In areas we cannot reach and among people we cannot meet, local missionaries are risking their lives to do missionary work. Many are working for God in unseen places, unable to show their faces or reveal their names. Please pray for their safety and for God’s great works to accompany their missionary efforts,” he earnestly requested.

Finally, he requested prayer for several pressing needs: “For the approval of the nursing college at Adventist University in P country, for the faith and safety of M people who have converted to Christianity, and for the reconstruction of the Adventist Hospital.”



WAD's Memorable Visit to NSD

Park GeonGyoo
NSD News Reporter



From March 14-21, 2024, the West-Central Africa Division (WAD) visited the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) for a time of mission interaction and cultural experiences in Korea. A total of 51 individuals including the West-Central Africa Division president, union presidents, department directors, and officers participated in the 10/40 Mission Congress held at Sahmyook University, listened to the word of God, missionaries' reports, and engaged in praise and prayer. Through this, they experienced the challenges faced by the 10/40 Window region and witnessed God's workings, awakening a renewed sense of missionary spirit. Additionally, during their visit, they participated in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division's Week of Prayer.

On the 19th, under the guidance of the North Korea Mission Department, they visited the Odusan Unification Observatory to understand the reality of national division and observe the North Korean territory from afar. They also had meaningful moments of prayer in small groups

for the churches in North Korea, the defectors, and the North Korean people. The following day, they visited Gyeongbokgung Palace, Insadong, and Myeongdong, enjoying Korea's traditional culture and various sights despite the cool weather due to Korea's late spring cold snap.

The president of WAD, Robert Osei-Bonsu, said, "I am glad to visit Korea," and expressed his gratitude, saying, "Thanks to the warm hospitality and well-planned schedule of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, we spent a pleasant and meaningful time." Furthermore, Lee JuEun, an NSD staff member who guided and led the tour, said, "I remember them smiling big, saying 'Your country is truly beautiful,' despite the cold weather that has yet to leave." She added, "Although it was a short time for interaction, it became more meaningful as we shared our cultures and life stories, allowing us to pray more specifically for each other."



Alive in Jesus New Sabbath School Curriculum Training



On March 27-28, 2024, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division and the Korean Union Conference collaborated to train and review the “Alive in Jesus” Sabbath School curriculum produced by the General Conference.

Children’s Ministries directors from NSD and KUC along with teachers and translators spent two days receiving training and direction from Nina Atcheson, curriculum manager and senior editor of the new “Alive in Jesus” curriculum. Part of the two-day training sessions included presentations on advanced training in teaching religious education, character development in children, teaching and learning methods in different age groups, teaching children with special needs, the art of storytelling, as well as group interaction sessions and moments of prayer.

“Our goal is to provide a smooth transition between ‘Grace Link’ and ‘Alive in Jesus’ giving to the teachers and parents the necessary tools to make this new Sabbath School curriculum a blessing for parents and their children as they study the Bible together at home. It is important to be intentional, engaging with children and

their parents in this new way of teaching and learning,” said Raquel Arrais, Children’s Ministries director for NSD and the main organizer of the training event.

Nina Atcheson, curriculum manager and senior editor of the new “Alive in Jesus” curriculum, spoke to the leaders gathered in Seoul, Korea, on the philosophy and pillars of the curriculum and the role of Sabbath School teachers:

“We have been given a high calling not only to grow little ones but to equip many teachers and parents throughout the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. The calling includes teaching children with different needs about today’s reality factors affecting the home, including anxiety, depression, divorce, the impact of screen time, gender dysphoria, nature deficit disorder and more. Pillars



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

of the curriculum include the grace that Jesus offers, character development, and mission.

“Alive in Jesus’ seeks to equip and empower parents, caregivers, Sabbath School teachers, Sabbath School leaders and others to model and foster a thriving relationship with Jesus and the children in the spheres of influence.”

The General Conference plans to launch the “Alive in Jesus” curriculum starting with the Baby and Beginner levels in 2025, Kindergarten and Primary in 2026, Junior and Teen in 2027, and Youth in 2028. Translation of the Baby Steps and Beginner levels into various languages is already in progress at NSD.

Pastor Kim Kwon, NSD Sabbath School director said, “Alive in Jesus’ will allow children to study in a way that aligns with the current educational methods at

school, making it more effective for them to embrace spiritual truths as their own. It is designed so that even newborns can impact spiritual lessons with their parents, necessitating parental involvement and promoting their spiritual growth. This is the best preparation for families awaiting the Second Coming.”

Kim emphasized, “Just as Jochebed did her utmost to raise her son Moses for 12 years to establish him as an heir of salvation, we also need such a spirit. A child who faithfully experiences the children’s Sabbath School curriculum will grow up to understand and assimilate the teachings of the Bible as an adult, naturally participating in adult discussion-based classes. As revising the children’s Sabbath School curriculum requires considerable financial resources, we ask for the cooperation and prayers of the faithful.”



2024 Youth Ministry Advisory in Okinawa



1. NSD, JUC, KUC, MM, TWC and PKU directors of Youth Ministries.
2. GC Youth Ministries Director, Busi Khumalo (front row, center) with other directors.
3. The directors capture a memorable photo in front of the Desmond Doss monument.
4. Picture of people moving a monument of Desmond Doss.

From April 15-18, 2024, the Youth Department of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division held a Youth Ministry Advisory in Okinawa, Japan. The advisory commenced with an opening sermon by NSD Youth Director Choi HoYoung, followed by a three-hour presentation by the General Conference Youth Director Busi Khumalo, on the direction and focus of the General Conference Youth Ministries, including detailed plans for future initiatives.

This event marked the first in-person meeting of the NSD Youth Department since the COVID-19 pandemic. It began with reports from the four existing countries, Japan, Taiwan, Mongolia and Korea, followed by a series of meetings, which included reports from the four newest countries Pakistan (participating in person), Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal (participating via Zoom).

Additionally, the directors discussed the past, present, and future blueprints of the 1000 Missionaries Movement (1000MM). Han SukHee, president of 1000MM, expressed

gratitude to each Union and Conference for their support in helping “more young people dream together and serve in the mission field” and solicited their continued support and dedication. In the final dedication service, he urged participants to collaborate toward a higher and better standard to prepare for the future and to prepare generations to come through present ministry efforts.

This advisory made the participants feel poignant as they reflected on Desmond Doss, the renowned Seventh-day Adventist and conscientious objector who served as a medic during World War II. Despite his refusal to take up arms, Doss saved 75 soldiers during the Battle of Okinawa and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary courage and faith. A monument in his honor stands at the Okinawa Mission headquarters. The youth directors visited the cliff site where Doss heroically saved wounded soldiers from both sides of the war.

NSD celebrates Global Youth Day

Park GeonGyoo
NSD News Reporter



Students unite and form a heart shape to celebrate the spirit of Global Youth Day.

On March 16, 2024, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division celebrated Global Youth Day (GYD). Back in March of 2013 the General Conference initiated this event with a vision to recapture the reality of Adventist youth as a global movement mobilized for service, contributing to the proclamation of the everlasting gospel and hastening the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. In NSD, many churches participated in this special Sabbath. The theme this year was “Show up in the cities.”

In Korea, the South-West Korean Conference participated in GYD through the Academy Missionary Movement. Students visited Davao, Philippines where they operated evangelistic meetings, led Bible studies, did face painting, taught Korean culture handcrafts, and made Korean food, among other activities. After the service, four individuals decided to be baptized and become children of Jesus.

The South-East Korean Conference, with 18 participants, went to Turkiye. Participants visited elementary schools and taught students Korean and arts & crafts. They also distributed supplies such as food, water, and bedding to those who lost their houses in the February 2023 earthquake.

At the West-Central Korean Conference, Paju International Church members participated in the GYD through food distribution. They have

provided food and support to those in need for over ten years. Instead of delivering food on-site, they prepared pre-packed food.

In the Middle-West Korean Conference, New Cheonan Church students visited Sammin Church in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Members began their mission service activities with a prayer meeting. They then performed traditional Korean games, organized mini Olympics, conducted handcraft sessions, offered Korean food experiences, and showcased Hanbok.

In Mongolia, the Tusgal School and youth department of Mongolia Mission helped needy families. They visited cities where people needed help and food supplies. One Mongolian participant expressed her experience: “We did good deeds and helped many people. It was freezing, but it was inspiring that the people were friendly and kind.”



Participants embark on a mission of compassion and service as they visit Turkiye.

120th anniversary of the Kobe Church



Toshio Shibata
JUC Communication Director

The Adventist mission to Japan was started by missionaries in 1896. Although the first base was in Tokyo, the oldest surviving church is the Kobe Church.

On January 6, 2024, a special divine worship was held to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the church's foundation, with Japan Union Conference President Yutaka Inada as the guest speaker. In the afternoon, a slide show traced the history of the church, giving thanks for the 120 years of God's work carried on by the fervent prayers and devotion of missionaries and church members, with a renewed commitment to continuing to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.



JUC President, Yutaka Inada (center of front row) with members of Kobe church.

Mission Team Walks Miles to Spread Literature in Japan

Yasunari Urashima
JUC Literature Evangelism Director



GLOW Mission team.

GLOW (Giving Light to Our World; <https://www.glowonline.org>) is the literature ministry which was established by the Central California Conference in 2007. This ministry aims for the spiritual growth of Adventist youth through mission trips. The young people who register can be dispatched to mission fields either in the U.S., or other countries, joining to distribute the GLOW tracts mainly on the streets for one week. The mission team usually consists of 30-50 people with a goal of one million tracts distributed in a week.

In March 2024, 56 missionaries arrived in Tokyo for their mission trip. Based in the Tachikawa office of Japan Union Conference, the missionaries traveled around the Tokyo metro areas by train and posted tracts to mailboxes at residential areas. This method was done because it is more difficult to hand the tracts on the street in Japan since many people don't want to take handbills while they are walking. So, the missionaries needed to keep moving

to find new places to be posted. Many of them walked more than 10 miles a day.

The mission team distributed 741,000 tracts March 23-30, 2024, which included the Voice of Prophecy online address where the Digital Evangelism Center of JUC offers Bible studies. With the activities of the missionary team, there have been 4-5 times more access to the VOP online web sites. Also, there have been 4-5 times more membership signups for online Bible study.

The mission team has demonstrated the importance of going out and sowing the seeds of God's word. We would like to pray the Lord will help the seeds to be grown under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Reflect Beauty: We are Daughters of God

Raquel Arrais

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

Sometimes we need to be reminded how much our heavenly Father loves and treasures us, and what great rewards are included with the privilege to reflect His beauty to the world around us.

On April 26-28, 2024, 130 women from local churches throughout Japan met together in Kyoto for a congress on revival, spiritual growth and service organized by Mie Morita, Japan Union Conference Women's Ministries director. This was the first major convention after the Covid-19 pandemic.



Participants take a group photo after the meeting.

The theme “Reflect Beauty: We are Daughters of God” was carefully chosen for that inspirational weekend. Everything from the decorations, setup, and gifts was tied to the theme. Pastor Yutaka Inada, JUC president, opened the congress inviting women to dedicate themselves to the Lord and to “reflect beauty” in their local churches.

Guest speakers included Willie and Elaine Oliver, General Conference Family Ministries directors, and Raquel Arrais, Northern Asia-Pacific Division Women’s Ministries director in shared topics reflecting beauty in the family, through prayer, service, and mission: to love the Lord (Nurture), live joyfully (Empower), and serve cheerfully (Outreach).

Galina Stele, General Conference WM director empowered women to reflect beauty serving Jesus where they are through a video message. Hearts were touched in the several sessions shared.

This congress gave opportunity for women to learn from

each other during the workshop—how to relate to themselves and others in their daily lives, in their churches, and in their communities. They learned different evangelism methods and how to connect with people around them. For 30 minutes women went to the streets and together in mission they distributed 3,200 pamphlets with prayers.

During these three days, they prayed together, studied the Word, celebrated fellowship, and encouraged one another to reflect beauty in their Christian life putting God first.

Indeed, it was a beautiful ending of the congress in Kyoto but just the beginning for the inspired women as they returned home to their local churches to share what they learned with the rest of their members in this beautiful territory. To God be the glory for the things He has done.



1. Participants hold the materials for the event.
2. From left, GC Family Ministries Directors Willie and Elaine Oliver, NSD WM/FM director Raquel Arrais, JUC WM Director Mie Morita.
3. One of the participants lead the workshop.
4. JUC WM Director Mie Morita.
5. NSD WM/FM Director Raquel Arrais with the participants.
6. GC Family Ministries Director, Elaine Oliver
7. Yutaka Inada, JUC President

South Korea's Supreme Court Upholds Religious Freedom in Landmark Law School Admissions Case

Kim BeomTae
 KUC News Reporter



The Supreme Court of South Korea has ruled that a law school's refusal to change an interview schedule based on religious beliefs was unlawful. This landmark decision accepted the Seventh-day Adventist's test schedule change request for the first time.

The First Division of the Supreme Court, led by Justice Kim SunSoo, confirmed the appellate court's ruling in favor of the plaintiff, a Seventh-day Adventist identified as Sister Im, against the president of C National University. The lawsuit contested the refusal to accommodate a request for an admission process exception and the subsequent denial of admission.

Sister Im Ijin applied to C National University's law school in October 2020 and passed the document screening phase. However, her interview was scheduled for Saturday morning, which conflicted with her religious observance. To accommodate her religious practices, she requested that her interview be rescheduled to the last slot on Saturday afternoon, after sunset.

The university denied Sister Im's request, citing its policy of randomly assigning interview times and groups. Consequently, Sister Im did not attend the interview and was not admitted.

The trial court initially ruled against Sister Im, but the appellate court overturned this decision, arguing that the

university's refusal to reschedule the interview infringed upon Sister Im's freedom of religion and mandated the cancellation of the admission denial.

The appellate court stated, "The defendant, being the president of a national university and exercising public authority, must consider ways to allow the plaintiff to participate in the interview by her conscience without compromising the fairness and equity of the student selection process. The refusal to accommodate the plaintiff's request violates the principle of minimal infringement and is unlawful due to the misuse of discretion."

The Supreme Court agreed with the appellate court, emphasizing that the defendant's status as a public authority bearer subjects him to a broader scope of legal scrutiny against discriminatory practices. It highlighted that if measures to alleviate disadvantages faced by Seventh-day Adventists due to their religious beliefs slightly limit public interest or third-party benefits, these measures are justified if they significantly outweigh the disadvantages faced by the religious adherents.

The court further elaborated that since interviews are conducted individually, rescheduling Sister Im's interview to after sunset on Saturday would not necessitate altering other candidates' schedules nor unfairly benefit Sister Im.

The Supreme Court's spokesperson stated, "This is the first decision by either the Constitutional Court or the Supreme Court to explicitly acknowledge a Seventh-day Adventist's request for a change in the test schedule. It clarifies the obligations of administrative authorities to prevent Seventh-day Adventists and other minorities from facing undue discrimination due to their religious beliefs."

Previously, Seventh-day Adventists had petitioned the Constitutional Court to change examination schedules that fell on Saturdays, but all requests were denied, including decisions in April and June 2010 regarding the legal aptitude test and the bar exam, as well as a 2023 decision regarding the national examination for nursing assistants scheduled before sunset on a Saturday.

Ceremony Marks Start of Urban Center of Influence in Bangladesh

Imran Mrong
BAUM Communication Secretary



On April 28, 2024, a groundbreaking ceremony for the Bangladesh Urban Center of Influence (UCI) was held on the Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission campus. Over 130 people attended this commemorative event, including officers from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission (BAUM), school representatives, lay association executives, and local church members.

The solemn ceremony began with an opening prayer by Lee HyungJin, associate secretary of NSD, and was presided over by Timothy Roy, executive secretary of BAUM. Kim WanSang, BAUM president, gave special remarks highlighting the critical priority of the UCI building. Kim YoHan, NSD president, speaking at the opening ceremony, said, "It's not our plan, but God's plan. God works miraculously and has given us more than we prayed for." Kim also urged all church leaders to

create a significant legacy through local contributions. Following these speeches, the ribbon-cutting ceremony and groundbreaking commenced, marking the start of construction for the Center of Influence.

Furthermore, the UCI building project plans to construct a 12-story building on the Union Mission campus, which will house a dental college and expand the existing Dhaka Adventist Pre-Seminary and School. This initiative aims to accommodate over 4,000 students and plans to utilize commercial spaces as outreach areas, among other changes. The goal is to provide a stronger financial capacity through new international schools in major cities. The dental program hopes to graduate 20 Adventist dentists annually who can then start practices fostering healthy church growth from the grassroots by enhancing local churches through tithes and offerings.



Challenges and Potential in Bangladesh's Adventist Schools



Park GeonGyoo
NSD News Reporter



Educational work is extremely important and actively pursued in Bangladesh. Currently, there are 147 schools in Bangladesh, home to approximately 30,000 students. Among these, 35 percent are adherents of the Adventist faith, with the remainder being Muslim and other Christian students.

Bangladesh Adventist Seminary School and College, the only Adventist college in Bangladesh, offers theology, business administration, English literature, education, and nursing. However, all departments except nursing have not yet received official accreditation from the government. President Park YunGown and the staff are working diligently to achieve this accreditation.

Additionally, there are seven boarding schools within BAUM. Students from these schools grow to serve as workers, ministers, and leaders in various churches across Bangladesh. While the number of students is increasing annually, the space available to accommodate them is severely lacking. As the student population grows, the burden on schools also increases, placing them in a difficult situation. These boarding schools are running at a deficit and cannot be self-sustaining without the support of the Bangladesh Children's Sponsorship Service

(BCSS).

The situation is slightly better at the 12 Adventist International Mission Schools (AIMS), which have been recording financial profits recently due to increasing student numbers, using these funds to support the church and other schools.

However, all schools face challenges with outdated buildings, unsanitary living conditions, and inadequate electrical facilities that frequently result in power outages. Generators are used, but the facilities are insufficient for a stable power supply. Moreover, the water facilities are outdated and deteriorated. In the dormitories, 18-20 students share a room, battling temperatures over 40 degrees Celsius. These children need more balanced meals and better dormitory conditions.

They hold the potential in becoming servants of God in the future Adventist Church of Bangladesh. Kim YoHan, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, said, "Your prayers and attention can bring happiness to these children, and I am confident that as they grow, they will become significant pillars of Bangladesh," and he appealed for "much interest and prayer for their future and well-being."

“One God, One Family, One Love”

Imran Mrong

BAUM Communication Secretary



Family Ministries of Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission (BAUM) organized and facilitated a Couples Retreat with the theme of “One God, One Family, One Love,” held on March 7-8, 2024, in the beautiful Bangladesh tourist center of Cox’s Bazar, a place known for its beaches.

The retreat addressed concerns and issues related to changing family life and values, strengthening family values, bonding and intimacy across generations, and exploring biblical methodologies of the church as God’s instrument to guide and support and equip the family with pastoral counselling and care. The program was full of enlightening activities such as songs, testimonies, thematic presentations, couple activities, cultural night, outings, and an overall reaffirming of the marriage vows and commitment for walking and serving together for the Lord. Mrs. Raquel Arrais, director of Women’s Ministries for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division was the keynote speaker along with other speakers.

In the first session on March 7, Arrais, gave her biblical reflections on the theme “One God, One Family, One Love.” She gave three important road maps for resolving problem such as casting aside pride and practicing humility, forgiving one another in love, and serving each other in love. In her second session on March 8, she reflected on “Keys for an unbreakable marriage.” She urged every couple to make a marriage umbrella to reaffirm their family life and commitment to a cooperative, lasting, faithful and Christ-centered relationship. In her message

on Sabbath, she said, “We must go with our families, and work together for the ministry of the Lord.” And she emphasized the vital role of the Holy Spirit in family ministry.

Pastor Kim WonSang, Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission president, talked on the importance of cherishing the pure love in the Christian life on March 8, and Mahuya Roy, BAUM Family Ministries director, reflected on “accountability and conflict resolution in marriage.” And Pastor Benjamin Mrong, North Bangladesh Mission president, reflected on the marriage life of Abraham and Sarah in the morning devotion.

A special message was given on “International Women’s Day, 2024” where Raquel Arrais and Mahuya Roy urged every participant to advocate for equal opportunities, individual rights, justice, and freedom for women both in church communities and societies. Age is just a number and does not confine the youthfulness that was shown during the cultural night where song, dance, comedy, romance, and games were performed by the participants.



Prepare for the Wedding Feast of Christ

Imran Mrong
BAUM Communication Secretary



NSD WM/FM director, Raquel Arrais (front right) with leaders of BAUM.



Members of Dhaka Adventist church

Dhaka Adventist Church celebrated a significant milestone on March 4, 2024, by preparing themselves for the “wedding feast” of the Lord Jesus, Christ. It was chaired by Mahuya Roy, Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission director of Women’s Ministries. It began with a prayer by Dorish Ritchil. Participants were charmed with a biblical drama based on the ten virgins. A special was performed by the Dhaka Adventist women.

Raquel Arrais, NSD director of Women’s Ministries defined the preparation for the wedding feast of Christ in five simple words. She urged the dedicated women to be PATIENT with hope and faith for the glorious return of Christ. She encouraged them to communicate with God

through LISTENING AND PRAYER. She compelled them to be content with what they have and keep SERVING for the Lord and mankind.

She reminded them of their purpose for coexisting in this world. She told them, “Every woman is CHOSEN, BEAUTIFUL AND BLESSED, because God has an amazing PURPOSE for us to be moved by the Holy Spirit toward the heavenly Jerusalem.” Arrias created an emotional moment by sharing a story in light of the movie “The Long Walk Home.”

All participants from different churches were deeply inspired to walk together to achieve their goals. This program ended with a prayer by Elizabeth Panday.



Women's International Day of Prayer in Pakistan

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

On March 2, 2024, the Women's International Day of Prayer was observed in the Pakistan Union Section with increased participation. Under the theme "Prayer Ignites: Change, Hope, Unity," churches across Pakistan joined in celebrating and inviting the community to partake in this special event dedicated to prayer and fellowship.

The International Day of Prayer provides a platform for women to understand and pray for one another. It is a day marked globally in the Adventist Church calendar dedicated to encouraging prayer in every church, promoting unity among women as they reconnect with God and reinforcing their spiritual bonds within the community.

During the event, women from the Pakistan Union Section came together, reaffirming their commitment to a life of prayer and their dedication to supporting the surrounding communities through intercession. A notable aspect of this year's gathering was the increased participation of women, surpassing that of the previous year. Raquel Arrais, NSD's Women's Ministries director, said, "Pakistani Adventist women are remarkably active. They relish the opportunity to pray and socialize with their neighbors and are enthusiastically involved in community events. Despite their own needs, these women find joy in sharing with one another and are deeply committed to their families."



From Digital to Divine: Over 50 New Faithful in PKU's Sheikhupura

Ashir Khan
PKU Communication Director

From Feb. 26-March 2, 2024, under the guidance of the Pakistan Union Section's Communication Department and in collaboration with Final Days International, a digital evangelism event recently concluded in Sheikhupura, PKU.

The event featured key speakers Timothy Saxton and Pastor Ashir Khan with a team that conducted health activities along with various other methods of evangelism in Sheikhupura which included pastors from other denominations.

Among these, small group evangelism proved to be one of the best ways for non-Adventist pastors and church

leaders to integrate community outreach into their congregations. Before every meeting, the departmental team went early to conduct training sessions with non-Adventist pastors. As a result, one non-Adventist pastor received baptism.

Moreover, the evangelism meeting resulted in significant engagement with more than 50 individuals expressing their willingness to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior by the end of the fourth day. And over 50 non-Adventist participants, accepted baptism the following Sabbath, marking a notable conclusion to the evangelistic effort.



Pakistan Union Section Training and Revival



“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9).

On April 6-9, 2024, the PKU’s department of Family Ministries arranged two programs under the leadership of Raquel Arrais, Northern Asia-Pacific Division director of Family Ministries who visited Pakistan for the first time.

On the first day, a “Pre-Marriage” Seminar was held at Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College at Farooq Abad where 25 boys and 36 girls joined the seminar. Arrais spoke to the boys’ group and Kim MiHyang, professor and counselor at AIIAS in the Philippines, spoke to the girls’ group on topics relevant to the needs of Christian youth.

For the first time in history, the Adventist Church in Pakistan arranged this wonderful program. The students learned how to have healthy relationships, make the family a center for evangelism, and marriage as the divine design.



Ruth Ashir

PKU FM/APM Director

On the second and third days, PKU provided a local “Family Ministry Leadership Certification Level 1” based on the local church needs. Family Ministries coordinators from different local churches participated and completed FMLC Level 1 with the commitment to teach the local church families how they can have healthy homes, family worship, health communication and prepare their families for Jesus Second Coming.

Our prayer is that God will bless the efforts employed to develop this leadership training in Pakistan Union Section by adding to its territory trained family ministries workers who will join those already committed to the task of stronger and healthier families in the local churches. With more trained family ministries coordinators, the work of making a difference will be visible and we can see Jesus coming soon, said NSD Family Ministries Director Raquel Arrais.

By the grace of God, the overall program was excellent. These programs are the foundation of spiritual revival in Pakistan and a platform for our members to grow spiritually, emotionally, and physically.



Renewing Faith and Fellowship in Taiwan

Radney Remo
 Taoyuan International Fellowship
 Church Pastor



On March 23, 2024, in the heart of Taichung, among the busy streets and lively culture, a group of believers from Taipei, Taoyuan, Hsinchu, Taichung, Tainan, Kaohsiung, and Taiwan Adventist College met on the first floor of the Taichung Seventh-day Adventist Church for a meaningful Sabbath.

Focused on the Great Commission put forth in Matthew, everyone set out on a journey to remember the heart of their shared mission. Led by Pastor Philip Ko, Taiwan Conference executive secretary, the group was reminded of their important role in the big picture of faith. Pastor Ko emphasized that actions matter more than words, encouraging everyone to accept their calling with passion: “We are here to be involved—let’s just do it.”

The Sabbath School highlights included the lesson study done in a panel discussion. Taichung Church Pastor Mark Tseng, welcomed

the participants while Elder Daniel Shen, TWC treasurer, gave encouraging words of steward faithfulness. In between, there was a delightful lunchtime filled with delicious food and shared laughter, strengthening the bonds of friendship. In the afternoon, Charlene Luekes delivered a message of hope, inspiring and renewing everyone’s spirits. Through singing praises and hymns, voices united in affirming the Great Commission by declaring: “I Will Go.” The impact of this gathering extended beyond the church walls, shining as a light in a challenging world.



Adventist Education Seminar in Taiwan

The Taiwan Conference (TWC) hosted the Adventist Education Seminar on May 4-5, 2024. The conference's department of Education organized this event, which served as a crucial tool in the shared mission of nurturing the spiritual growth of parents. TWC Education Director Jones Du provided training and guidance during a lecture titled "Why Adventist Education and the Purpose of Adventist Education."

At this seminar, 45 individuals participated, with the majority being parents who are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They emphasized the value of children's education and sought to gain a deeper understanding of Adventist education. Additionally, they aimed to collaborate in safeguarding the spiritual lives of children as they grow and learn. They proclaimed the significance of allowing God's school and His words to educate children rather than letting the world educate them.

During the lecture, Pastor Du, reiterated the importance of Adventist education, stating, "The mission of Adventist Education is to save. It is of utmost importance to proclaim this to all corners of the Earth. Adventist education prepares

individuals for the Second Advent."

Furthermore, Pastor Ko, president of TWC, encouraged everyone by stating that the Adventist Church exists to prepare individuals for the kingdom of God. He emphasized, "Adventist education is an important part of this preparation. May all parents affirm and encourage the continuation of our church's youth and spiritual education at this stage. This will ensure that the mission of Adventist education is deeply rooted in every corner of Taiwan and achieves the greatest impact needed for our church's missions."



Pastor Ko, president of TWC, delivers the message to participants.

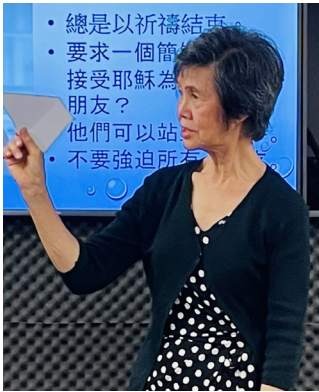


Participants attend the Adventist Education Seminar.

Taiwan Conference Introduces “Alive in Jesus” Sabbath School Curriculum Training



Participants of the event take a group photo.



Linda Koh, retired GC CHM Director



Joyce Chen, TWC CHM Director

On April 19-21, 2024, Taiwan Conference Children’s Ministries Director Joyce Chen organized a training on the new children’s Sabbath School curriculum “Alive in Jesus” for local coordinators of TWC Children’s Ministries providing an overview and the tools that teachers will need to implement this new curriculum.

It was a wonderful gathering of about 20 children’s leaders from the local church districts for the weekend training. This batch of leaders were young, energetic, and passionate about children and their spiritual growth. Raquel Arrais, NSD CHM director conducted training in the new curriculum, and Linda Koh, retired GC CHM

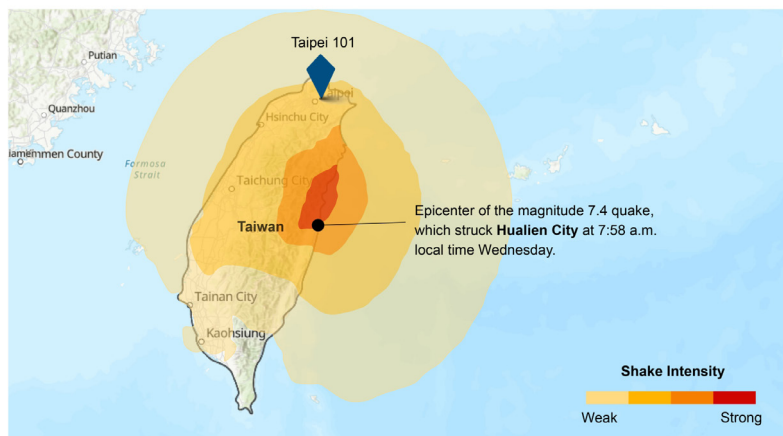
director presented several topics on the mission of CHM, teaching Bible story strategies, and mental health for children. The leaders left with a greater commitment to strengthen children’s ministries in their local churches, said Koh.

The “Alive in Jesus” curriculum incorporates expert educational practices and a deep understanding of faith development to enable parents and Sabbath School teachers to lead children into dynamic, mission-focused, lifelong relationships with Jesus. The Bible is the foundation of the new curriculum, with three key pillars of grace, character development and mission.



Magnitude 7.4 Earthquake Shakes Taiwan

Taiwan's Strongest Earthquake in 25 Years



An earthquake in Taiwan, occurred around 8 a.m., local time on April 5, 2024, causing minor damage to three churches where Korean missionaries are serving. Fortunately, there were no casualties reported. However, aftershocks continue, and the full extent of the damage has not yet been determined, indicating that the overall impact may grow.

Kwon SoonBum, Taiwan Conference youth director, described the situation as it was happening. “There were about four long aftershocks lasting about two hours from 7:58 a.m. this morning.” He also mentioned that the eastern region of Hualien was hit by the magnitude 7.4 earthquake, causing the collapse of old buildings and slightly affecting local churches.

Kim SunHwan, Northern Asia-Pacific Division director of Adventist Missions, said, “So far, no significant damage has been reported to the churches and their congregations. However, buildings that have been shaken may develop cracks over time, and with ongoing aftershocks, we need to continue monitoring the situation.” He requested prayers concerning any further damage.

Most churches with Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) pastors are in western urban areas and were less affected by the recent earthquake. However, exceptions included the Xintian Church, where ceiling finishes and tiles fell, and the Beitun Church, which experienced minor wall cracks and ceiling warping. Additionally, some church

members are facing difficulties due to the earthquake. Severe damage rendered the home of Elder Lin and his family from the Hualien Church uninhabitable. Furthermore, the De-An and Yue-Mei Churches have sustained damage that will require a significant amount of time for reconstruction. Nevertheless, all the church members are safe, and there have been no casualties.

This earthquake, which occurred southeast of Hualien, a city on the eastern coast of Taiwan, was the strongest in the region in the past 25 years, with a depth of 20 km. So far, the quake has resulted in the collapse of two buildings, power outages, and widespread damage in the Hualien area. Tsunami warnings were also issued for Japan’s Okinawa, coastal areas of China, and the Philippines.



A Light in the City

Raquel Arrais

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

The Mongolia Mission Women's Ministries department has been actively engaging women from local churches to reach out and serve their communities, reflecting a powerful commitment to service and faith. In a vast and challenging territory, these women are making significant strides in spreading the message of hope and compassion.

From March 11 to 16, 2024, a group of women from churches in Ulaanbaatar embarked on a mission to Uvurkhangai, a place rich in history and culture located 430 kilometers from the Mongolian capital. This region, known for being the cradle of ancient Mongolian civilization, provided a unique backdrop for these women to share the love of Jesus.

During their journey, the group visited schools and government institutions that offered health assistance and conducted health seminars. Their outreach was not limited to health education; they distributed 140 copies of "The Great Controversy." Oyuntuya Batsukh, the Mongolia Mission WM Director, said, "The response was great, and we are immensely blessed by our sisters' support, dedication, and commitment as they respond to God's call to 'Go and Reach the World.'" Raquel Arrais, the director of the NSD WM department, comments, "In many cultures, including Mongolia, women are the primary caregivers within families and communities, making them

well-positioned to understand and address the unique challenges faced by different groups. They possess a deep sense of compassion and a willingness to listen and act, which fosters trust and connection within communities as they share the gospel with others."

The efforts of the Mongolia Mission WM Department exemplify the biblical principles of service, love, and compassion. By addressing social issues such as violence against women and promoting healthy living, these women contribute to the well-being of their communities and inspire others to join their mission. Their work is a testament to the vital role of women in community service and the spread of Christian values.

As they continue to "Go and Reach the World for Jesus," the women of Mongolia are setting a powerful example of how faith and action can transform lives and create a more compassionate and understanding world. Their dedication serves as a beacon of hope and an invitation for others to join in their mission of love and service.



Sri Lanka Mission Organizes Evangelism and Ministry Event in Kottagala

Park GeonGyoo
NSD News Reporter



100 Children participated ministry event.



Seven people received baptism during the ministry event.

The Sri Lanka Mission hosted an evangelism and ministry event in Kottagala, March 2-30, 2024, drawing about 70 adults and 100 children. The event occurred each evening from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, focusing on evangelism, family ministry, children's ministry, and stewardship.

This year's program was especially poignant following the recent political turmoil in the region. Participants sought solace and stability, and the event catered to these needs by emphasizing hope in Christ, family stability, and financial management. Key speeches by Edwin Emerson, Sri Lanka Mission executive secretary, underscored these themes, resonating deeply with the audience. Alice Emerson, Children's Ministries director, shared the gospel with the children.

The program included various activities designed to educate and evangelize the community. Each session featured songs, prayers, and presentations on educational topics, providing a holistic approach to the community. This year's notable addition was the initiative to feed the poor and hungry, adding a practical service component to the event's spiritual focus.

Recipients responded enthusiastically to the program, with many wanting personal prayers. This reflected the community's engagement and the event's emotional impact. The feedback highlighted a widespread appreciation for the

thoughtful integration of spiritual guidance and practical help.

Looking forward, the Sri Lanka Mission anticipates that the seeds sown during these sessions will lead to substantial spiritual growth within the community. Seven people received baptism and many others enrolled for Bible studies.

This event addressed the immediate spiritual and physical needs of the Kottagala community and laid the foundation for ongoing spiritual renewal and community development. The Sri Lanka Mission is unwavering in its commitment to outreach and support and is already planning to build on this success in future engagements.

Global Children’s Day 2024 celebrated in Nepal

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



The Himalayan Section of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nepal recently celebrated Global Children’s Day 2024 across various churches with a series of programs aimed at providing children with a safe and conducive environment to explore their inner abilities. The event, which concluded on March 16, 2024, carried the theme “A Light in the City,” highlighting the importance of empowering children to contribute positively to their society and country.

To mark the occasion, the Himalayan Section conducted a Children’s Week of Prayer over the internet from March 10-15, during which children from various churches actively participated in cleaning the surrounding villages and cities, visiting sick people, and providing food to the poor. The event aimed to instill a sense of community and inclusiveness among children, regardless of their religious backgrounds.

On Sabbath, March 16, the children took center stage and led the entire church program, showcasing their talents and contributions to the community. The event was a great success and is a testament to the commitment of the Himalayan Section of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nepal to empower children and promote inclusiveness and kindness throughout their communities.



Children clean the surrounding villages and cities.

Pastor Han SukHee, New Director of 1000MM, Talks about its Mission and its Movement

Interviewer: Park GeonGyoo, NSD News Reporter



In a recent interview, 1000MM Director Han SukHee outlined the long-term direction of the mission program: “The direction of the 1000 Missionary Movement (1000MM) naturally aligns with this movement’s philosophy, identity, and purpose, and has already been

properly established from the beginning. Under the leadership of past directors, we have been running toward that direction.”

He continued, “The experience of one year as a missionary does not simply end after one year. After returning to their homes, I will continue to emphasize to them the direction of training so that they can live the life of a missionary for their entire lives, whether in the church, school, workplace or anywhere else. The slogan “Once a missionary, always a missionary” will be embodied into their faith and beliefs, allowing missionary work to encompass their entire lives.”

Drawing an analogy, he expressed his hope that just as an athlete builds the necessary muscles for discipline and specialty through training, thereby maintaining physical fitness and developing endurance, the experience of one year as a missionary catalyzes the creation of the most valuable “spiritual muscles” in life.

He further explained, “Now, given the rapidly changing times, I plan to redeem and supplement the areas needing change, focusing on the field as befitting the status of a globally

recognized missionary training center.”

He outlined plans for various aspects such as recruitment methods, diversification of recruitment targets, diversification of missionary destinations, training content and curriculum, training methods, the missionary dispatch and management system, financial stability, promotion system, sponsorship management, the establishment of a rational system for operating the training institute including personnel and facilities, and structural adjustments.

The Gospel Frontline—Feeling the Missionary Tension

Han reflected, “Having worked on the administrative front lines at the Conference level and Mongolia Mission for a long time, coming to the 1000MM Training Institute, which is like being deployed from the rear to the frontline bunker, I feel a sense of missionary tension and urgency.”

Furthermore, he resolved, “Rather than simply training missionaries, I consider myself one of the missionaries, ready to humbly serve, learn, and faithfully handle each task step by step.”

He said, “Memories of working with young people from various countries during my time as part of the first batch of missionaries, as well as my experiences in Mongolia, where everyday life was a continuous challenge environmentally, I believe these experiences will serve as constructive, productive, and desirable guidance and direction here.”

Moreover, he admitted, “The weight of the directorship feels even greater and heavier than when I served as associate director during the previous administration.” He added, “I need to



seek God’s guidance more frequently than ever before. Primarily, I will serve this movement seeking the rich experiences, wisdom, and advice of past directors. “

He also expressed his respect and gratitude toward the previous director, saying, “Former Director Jeon JaeSong took on some of the greatest challenges of this era, such as the eruption of Mt. Taal and the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the uninterrupted progress and growth of this movement amidst the recruitment, training, dispatch, safety, and support of missionaries, as well as the protection and management of facilities of the headquarters, tirelessly day and night.”

“Young People Aren’t Afraid of Challenges and Responsibilities.”

Han extended a message to young people considering missionary support, stating, “The youth have a golden opportunity and prime time to challenge themselves as overseas missionaries.” He mentioned the “Human Development and Achievement according to Each Life Cycle Stage” theory, which suggests an appropriate time to plan and achieve goals. He positively affirmed that this

theory fits young people perfectly.

Quoting Ecclesiastes 12:1, “Remember your Creator in the days of your youth,” Han encouraged young people aspiring to become 1000MM missionaries, stating, “Leaving behind the familiar environment, stepping out of the comfort of daily life, and awakening their faith and beliefs by venturing into challenges, perseverance, and unfamiliar environments is indeed a great privilege and an enormous opportunity for spiritual blessings for young people.”

He noted, “In fact, the mission itself is the greatest challenge,” adding, “Perhaps they may have to endure experiences akin to those in the wilderness. There is also the burden of living a sacrificial life instead of a selfish one. However, the era of easy missions has never existed in history and never will. The advantage of youth lies in having strong faith as the foundation and possessing passion, sincerity, purity, spontaneity, recklessness, audacity, and practicality. Young people aren’t afraid of challenges and responsibilities.”

He further said, “If they apply for the 1000 Missionary Movement, all these challenges and responsibilities will become blessings and gratitude.” He emphasized, “The number of young people participating in this movement is minimal. The time they dedicate to missions is just a short period in their lifetime. However, reaching out to souls who are more precious than the whole world, sharing the Word, praying for them, and ultimately baptizing them after tireless efforts are precious experiences, regardless of whether they are domestic or international.”

Lastly, he invited, “I earnestly hope that young people in churches will take more interest in this movement, participate more actively, live their own lives, revitalize the church, and contribute to the global evangelization movement, bringing joy to the Lord.”



Han SukHee (left), the Director of 1000MM, his wife, Jeon JaeSong (right), former Director of 1000MM and his wife.



Han SukHee, the Director of 1000MM, attends his inauguration ceremony.

The Remaining 96

Cho KiHyeong
1000MM Associate Director



Korea 14, Laos 9, Cambodia 2, Canada 1, Mongolia 1, China 1, Northern Philippines 8, Central Philippines 42, Southern Philippines 18. All these numbers complete the figure of 96. To achieve this number, young people from seven countries volunteered as the 62nd batch of 1000MM missionaries. Before the missionary training began, they were separate entities from each country, but after the training, they became one. If someone asks how many people applied for the 62nd batch of missionaries, we can confidently say one.

I would like to introduce why they inevitably became one. On January 1, 2024, when everyone started the new year with hope, 96 missionaries began their training with a greater mission. Their first task was to learn English to communicate with people in the mission fields. However, what they learned was not English, but understanding people. The missionaries from different countries, cultures, ages, races, and personalities learned to communicate not through language but through hearts. This learning became a means to understand and communicate with everyone they will meet in their mission fields. Although the missionaries were divided into groups based on their level of English, the love and determination for God could not divide them.

The missionary training that followed developed them

into professional missionaries. They received training in evangelism, visitation, preaching, Bible teaching, and medical mission from professional instructors. Most importantly, the missionaries needed to recognize their own weaknesses and shortcomings, the gravity of the mission they must carry, and the preciousness of the souls they would meet in the mission fields.

Thus, the missionaries were reborn through rigorous physical training. If missionary training were to be divided into two parts, it could be divided into before and after Super Training. The extreme physical demands of Super Training are important in the training of 1000MM missionaries. A 21-year-old female missionary from Korea cried out to God every time she reached her limits: "God, please help me overcome this training not by my strength but by faith." She successfully passed the training and is now in the mission field.

This training is not to fight visible enemies like ordinary soldiers, but to fight against the unseen forces of Satan. Therefore, when missionaries received this training, they had a higher pride and self-esteem than soldiers as the moment of dispatch approached. After living together for three months, partners and mission fields for the next 10 months were announced. Through the dedication service, their eyes were also reddened



like the flickering red candles. And finally, the moment of dispatch arrived. The voices of those leaving with the shout of the thousand missionaries trembled, and the voices of those still singing the theme song of the thousand missionaries also trembled.

Now everyone has left for the mission fields, and the training center is empty. However, their voices are still here and will not disappear. And before long, they will return to the training center with the news of victory.

“Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him” (1 Kings 19:18).

During Elijah’s journey, he said that he was the only one left. God replied that there were still 7,000 in Israel who had not bowed their knees to Baal nor kissed him. Seven thousand does not just represent a number of people, but a number of hopes. Many people are leaving the church and criticizing the church’s members and leaders. Yet, we have a hopeful number like the 7,000, which is 96. More “96” people will appear in the 1000MM missionaries training center in the future. We are included in that number and let us not forget that we are also among the “7,000” left by God.

MISSION FIRST!

GET INVOLVED TO REACH THE WORLD

宣教第一 선교제일

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

(Acts 1:8)



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

