

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION www.nsdadventist.org

NEWS&VIEWS



January / February 2023



Mission Refocus

Hiroshi Yamaji

Executive Secretary,
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

There are three roles of the Secretariat: administrative, executive, and missional. While some may think the first two functions to be of primary importance, the task of mission is equally vital. The role of mission focuses on areas and people groups who have not yet been reached or where the Adventist Church is not well-established. Therefore, extreme care should be given to avoid “mission drift”—when focus is placed more on the maintenance of church structures, policies, and programs.

The first program of 2022 for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Yearend Meeting was titled “Mission Refocus.” Wonderful mission stories and testimonies were presented in the program. And the General Conference has started using this phrase “Mission Refocus” recently. The Adventist Church has always been mission-focused. So, what does it mean to refocus on mission now?

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division is within the region called the 10/40 Window. The proportion of Adventists in each country in NSD’s territory is less than 1%. In Japan, that proportion is only about 0.01%. Furthermore, in North Korea, we cannot even grasp what the situation is. And if you see the church statistics report, you may understand the challenging situation of our church. We have been facing the COVID-19 pandemic, an aging society, secularism, materialism, and many other challenges. But our mission never changes.

Still, there are Adventists in each country, other than North Korea, each with our own churches and institutions, which we maintain by the grace of God. However, our focus must be on Mission, not on maintaining existing churches and institutions.

There are critical people groups and locations that have not been reached with the gospel. Over the past 50 years, many missionaries have

come to our area to work. Many of us have been exposed to the Adventist message through them and our church membership has increased.

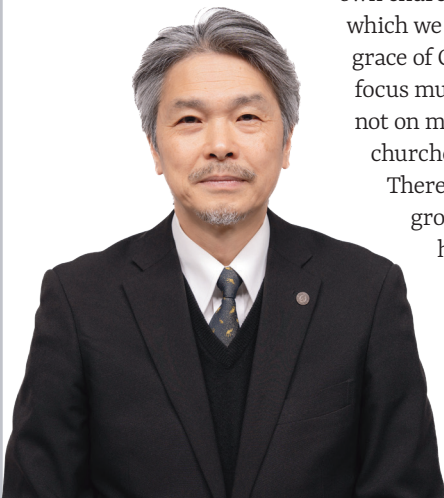
Now is the time for us to focus on the many people outside the church who have not yet heard the Adventist message. And that includes going outside our region and even our own country. Because in doing so, we are promised to receive more blessings.

Ellen White said, “To show a liberal self-denying spirit for the success of foreign missions is a sure way to advance home missionary work; for the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the work done in countries afar off” (*Gospel Workers*, 465).

The more we support mission outside of our local area, the more prosperous will be our mission inside our local area.

Of course, evangelism in a country needs to be done by the people of that country. However, looking at past experiences, it is also true that missionaries from foreign countries have achieved many results. In that sense, it may be necessary to actively accept missionaries from foreign countries. NSD has sent many missionaries over the past decades and by doing so we have been blessed. As we refocus on mission, we would like to be proactive in sending out missionaries and accepting missionaries. This is because missionaries cannot be sent out without a place to accept them.

According to the Great Commission in Mark 16, Jesus’ disciples are commanded to “go into all the world” and preach the gospel. In other words, the disciples were sent out by Jesus as missionaries. Mission Refocus emphasizes the attitude of going out as missionaries not only to where we are, but also to areas where the gospel has not yet been reached. In a sense, Christianity was spread by missionaries. The disciples in Mark chapter 16 were sent out by Jesus as the first missionaries. The Adventist Church has also spread throughout the world through the work of missionaries. Let us follow the Great Commission of Jesus and be proactive in sending and accepting missionaries.



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NSD's three officers talk to each other. From the left, Yo Han Kim (president), Tae Seung Kim (treasurer), and Hiroshi Yamaji (Executive Secretary).

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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.



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I Will Go: Be His Witness

Report on NSD 2022 Yearend Meeting

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division yearend meeting took place on Nov. 3-7, 2022, at the NSD headquarters located in Paju, South Korea—the first yearend meeting to be held onsite at the new office location. Leaders from the division and the General Conference gathered and enjoyed fellowship, worship, reports from organizations, and business sessions.

Pre-meetings were held for two days on Nov. 1-2. During this time, officers' councils and department and institution interviews were conducted with leaders from Japan Union Conference (JUC), Korean Union Conference (KUC), Taiwan Conference (TWC), and Mongolia Mission (MM). It was a great opportunity for the department directors to meet face to face with the officers of four organizations.

There were 42 delegates, and 25 invitees present as well as GC Vice President Audrey Andersson and GC Assistant to the Treasurer, Brent Burdick.



1. NSD President Kim YoHan gives presidential report.
2. GC Vice President Audrey Andersson shares a morning devotional message.

Directors from KUC and theology students from Sahmyook University participated as observers. Despite the COVID-19 situation, God worked many miracles to allow almost all those who were invited to join the 2022 NSD Yearend meeting.

Mission Refocus

“Mission Refocus” was the theme throughout the meetings. From beginning to end, all programs and testimonies were geared toward *Mission Refocus*. The whole morning of the first day of meetings was designated for this theme with testimonies and music from JUC, KUC, TWC, and MM. A special prayer meeting was also held for North Korea which reminded the participants that representation was missing from one of the flags hanging in the auditorium. *Mission Refocus* brought together a sense of urgency and importance in carrying out NSD’s mission: “Evangelism, the very heart of Christianity, is the theme of primary importance. The Advent message must swell to a loud cry reaching the uttermost parts of the earth” (*Evangelism*, 5).

Morning Worship

It was a blessing every morning to begin the day with worship. Special items from JUC, KUC, TWC, and MM brought joy and thankfulness to all. The messages were prepared by Kim SunHwan, Hiroshi Yamaji, Kim YoHan, Ginger Ketting-Weller, Audrey Andersson, and Brent Burdick, with each message connecting and challenging the participants to be as one in carrying out God’s work, leading others to the love of Christ.

Business Session

In addition to the reports, there were some agendas that were voted by the GC in its Session in June 2022, and during the Annual Council in October 2022. Among them were: Resolution on the Holy Bible; Statement of



1. Pastor Oh BeomSeok reports on North Korea Mission.
2. JUC president Yutaka Inada gives the JUC annual report.

Confidence in the Writings of Ellen G White; and God’s Promised Gift: An Urgent Appeal for Revival, Reformation, Discipleship, and Evangelism. These statements were voted to accept and share with Unions, Conference/ Missions, and institutions. Also, amendments of the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws were introduced by Hiroshi Yamaji, NSD Executive Secretary, and amendments of the Church Manual were presented by Kim HyunMin, NSD Associate Secretary.

Nominating Committee

There were some nominations during the yearend meeting as well. The nominating committee voted to recommend Kim TaeSeung to the GC Executive Committee to serve as NSD treasurer, and Edgard Leonel Luz to serve as NSD Education director. Officers of Mongolia Mission who were voted to serve for the next 3 years were: Han SukHee for president, Adiyakhuu Oktyabri for secretary, and Kim YoungShik for Treasurer.



NSD Yearend Meeting delegates pray for the Great Controversy Project.



1. Audrey Andersson (left) commends NSD for the well-prepared yearend meeting.
 2. Sunplus Director Brent Burdick delivers a devotional message.
 3. Delegates participating in the meeting.

Special Events

On top of hosting the first yearend meeting at the Paju NSD headquarters, various special activities and events were prepared for the delegates. A prayer room was set up just outside the auditorium and open to anyone at any time to pray for three specific areas: Healing Prayer, Salt and Light Prayer, and Seed Prayer. Also, a profile picture booth was set up in the media center and a health checkup station in the library. On Sabbath morning a dedication service for five Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) missionaries and a Public Campus Ministries missionary was held. It was a momentous time since PMM commemorated its 20th anniversary in 2022. On Sabbath afternoon, the delegates visited institutions such as the Adventist Language School, Sahmyook Seoul Hospital, and Sahmyook Health University. They spent time listening to mission reports and dedicating a special prayer time for each respective Institution.

NK Mission

There were five flags printed on the huge banner at the yearend meeting. Sadly, representation from one flag could not be present onsite. We all knew which country it was—our brothers and sisters from North Korea. So, on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 6, EXCOM members and invitees had a unique opportunity to glimpse into the special mission field of NSD’s territory. A river and more than half a century-long ceasefire separates South and North Korea. At the narrowest point, less than a 500m (around 0.3 miles) gap stands between the two countries. Yet, the longing for the reunion with loved ones and a yearning to visit their hometown continues. There were quite a few paintings of churches in North Korea in the Odusan Observatory, which leads us to hope that despite the long period of darkness, the flame of the gospel has survived. It is our hope and prayer that the doors will open soon and when they do, we will be ready to share the Eternal Hope with our brethren in the north.

Missio Dei

Often times we think that mission is an activity to revive the church. However, mission is the result of God’s love for humanity and His desire for restoration. It is God’s mission and He has chosen us to join Him in this journey. Through the seven days of meetings, Northern Asia-Pacific Division has made a resolution to put God’s mission first and to refocus on that mission. Of course, we cannot do it alone. We praise the Lord for providing wisdom and guidance from the General Conference leadership. We are excited to move forward in partnering with JUC, KUC, TWC, MM, and the many institutions in the NSD territory. Most of all, NSD’s officers, directors, and supporting staff are “Together in Mission.” May God receive all the glory as we thrive to finish the work!



Kim HyunMin
 NSD Associate Secretary



Interviews with New NSD Leaders

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) recently welcomed two new leaders—executive secretary, Pastor Hiroshi Yamaji, who previously served at Japan Union Conference before joining NSD, and Elder Kim TaeSeung, formerly senior auditor for the Trans-Pacific region of the General Conference, who was elected as NSD treasurer at the Executive Committee of the General Conference in November 2022. Pastor Byun SeongJun, editor of *News & Views*, interviewed with these new leaders to learn about their plans, top priorities, and thoughts on mission work in the NSD territory. The following is the full content of these two interviews.



From left, NSD President Kim YoHan, Treasurer Kim TaeSeung (Ted), and Executive Secretary Hiroshi Yamaji.

Interviewer: Byun SeongJun, Editor of *News & Views*



Hiroshi Yamaji

NSD Executive Secretary

Pastor Hiroshi Yamaji was elected as the NSD executive secretary during the General Conference business session on June 8, 2022. He has various experience as a pastor and an administrator. He served as president for the East Japan Conference, and before that, he was assistant to the president for evangelism at Japan Union Conference (JUC). From 2006-2022, he served as departmental director for Sabbath School and Personal Ministries, Health Ministries, and Adventist Mission at JUC.

He began his pastoral work as a local church pastor in 1994. His pastoral ministry includes serving at the college church in Japan and the Loma Linda Japanese Church in the United States. He worked as a registered nurse for five years before earning a bachelor's degree in theology. His wife, Sakiko Yamaji, is also a registered nurse. Pastor Yamaji and his wife have five adult children and a history of pastors in the family—his father is a retired pastor, and his older brother is a pastor currently serving as JUC treasurer. The following is an interview with Pastor Hiroshi Yamaji.

► **You were called as the executive secretary of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division during the last General Conference session at St. Louis in 2022. How did you feel about it?**

I felt overwhelmed, and I also found myself insufficient for such a significant role.

► **Leaving your country and family to take on a missionary status as the executive secretary of NSD must not have been an easy decision. What motivated and helped you make this choice?**



NSD Executive Secretary Hiroshi Yamaji works in his office.

In the spring of 2022, as the president of East Japan Conference, I asked many pastors to move and serve in new places. I remember how they were happy to accept the call, even though they had their own concerns. I felt that it was my turn to respond to God’s call. I trust that if this is from God, He will guide and help me and my family, so I decided to obey.

► **You have been working as the executive secretary of NSD for several months now. What were your expectations before coming, and what have you discovered since your arrival?**

Before coming to NSD, I mainly focused on evangelism in Japan and to the Japanese people. However, my role as the executive secretary at NSD has given me a broader perspective on evangelism. One of my friends told me before I came, “Go to NSD and see the world.” I feel like I’ve started to see a bigger picture since coming here.

► **The role of the executive secretary is vital in our organization. What are your wishes and plans for successfully leading NSD during your term.**

The church belongs to God, and our plans will only be successful if they align with His will. My plan is to seek and obey God’s guidance and to carry out the plans made by the leaders of the General Conference. I believe that God will always provide the best plan.

► **What are the most important and urgent issues in NSD at the moment?**

The most important and urgent issue in NSD is to spread the gospel to everyone within the NSD territory. We should also send evangelists and missionaries to other areas beyond NSD to preach the gospel to people and prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus.

► **The secretariat office plays a very important role in surveying and reporting the current status of Adventist churches in our territory. What are your suggestions for our church for developing mission works and growth?**

First, it’s important to take a close look at past

statistical reports and acknowledge the reality. Recent statistics indicate that many churches in our territory are not doing well in terms of church growth, but this also means that there is great potential. It means that there are still many people around us who need to be saved. Let us pray for the salvation of such people and think about what we and our churches can do to lead our neighbors and local communities to Jesus.

► **Lastly, what would you like to say to the Adventist church members in our territory as a leader and administrator of our church?**

This is the Bible verse I want to share with Adventists in the NSD territory: “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Mathew 5:16). Thank you for your daily devotion and dedication to the Lord. Let us unite and move forward together for the advancement of the mission work.



Kim TaeSeung
NSD Treasurer

On Nov. 8, 2022, during Annual Council in Maryland, USA, the General Conference Executive Committee elected Elder Kim TaeSeung to be the new NSD treasurer as of Jan. 1, 2023, as requested by NSD. He is the first Korean and native treasurer of NSD territory.

Elder (Ted) Kim holds a B.A. degree in business administration from Sahmyook University in Korea. He started his ministry on the treasury staff at Sijosa, the Korean Adventist Publishing House, in 1985. After working at Sijosa for six years, he served as an auditor for the Korean Union Conference and a senior auditor for the Trans-Pacific Region of the General Conference for 30 years and ten months. During this period, he established the foundation for auditing and trained several

accountants in the field through a quality improvement program. His contributions include establishing a professional audit system within the Church and improving the quality and capabilities of the auditing staff.

Elder Kim is married to Park KyungRan and has two grown daughters, JiHyang and JiHyun, as well as grandchildren.

► **First of all, congratulations on your election as the new treasurer of NSD. As the first treasurer from the NSD territory, how do you feel about your new role?**

This is the first time a native person of NSD has been elected as a division treasurer since the division placed its headquarters in Korea 25 years ago. I feel a great deal of responsibility since it holds a lot of symbolic significance.

I am aware that there is much to learn and many challenges ahead of me, but I am committed to being a faithful steward of God's storehouse and to manage it in a transparent manner, always guided by God's will.

► **Please tell me about your faith and your treasury-related ministry. Also, please tell us the most memorable and rewarding episode in the treasury and General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS) office where you have worked so far.**

I was born and grew up as a third-generation Adventist, inheriting the faith of my grandmother and my mother in a typical Adventist family. During my childhood in the countryside, my biggest hope was to get an Adventist education. Finally, I entered Hankook Sahmyook High School in Seoul. When it came time to choose a university, I was recommended to the business administration department at Sahmyook University which trains treasury workers for the Church. After graduation, I started working as a treasury staff member.

Pastor Jung YongGeun, who was the treasurer of the Korean Union Conference at the time, shared some wise words with me. He said, "The salary given by the church is not a payment received from work, but a living allowance given by God. Be grateful, not complaining, and live according to the scale given by God. Therefore, instead of being a worker who only serves eight hours a day, you should be a true steward who fully devotes 24 hours a day for God. And when dealing with finances, treat everyone with a mother's heart. Then God will even give you blessings in ways you never expected." These words are why I am here today to become God's faithful steward.

I have served as an auditor most of my past career, and I have had many memorable experiences in this job. Especially when I had difficulties due to financial

incidents, I was often able to experience God's hand guiding me, and this has become a testimony of my faith.

► **What are your plans or goals for your term as the chief financial officer of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division?**

The most urgent issues for NSD today are "change for revival, reformation, and trust." With this mission as our priority, I will cooperate with Elder Hiroshi Yamaji, NSD executive secretary, to support President Kim YoHan, to secure sufficient funds, and lay the foundation for transparent financial management. In addition, we want to offer to God and the Church quality service by continuously improving our financial expertise through education and training.

► **In your view, what are the most important and urgent issues within NSD, either financially or in terms of the Treasury?**

The world is changing rapidly, and it is essential that we keep up with these changes. This means moving away from analog thinking and embracing digital thinking. Rather than working individually, we will maximize efficiency by switching to a teamwork system. We will achieve greater efficiency by working as a team and training professional accounting managers. Our goal is to convert to an enterprise-wide management system in cooperation with the IT field, to automate our manual tasks and maximize efficiency.

► **Lastly, is there anything you would like to say to the church members and leaders in the NSD territory?**

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division has many mission challenges and we need to focus on securing sufficient finances to support our core missionary operations, particularly in North Korea, as well as new challenges in Muslim and Hindu communities. To carry this out, I will do my best to fulfill the great mission statement God gave through the prayer of Jabez and with the heart of Joshua. I need your prayers. Please pray for the NSD headquarters to make this a reality.



NSD Treasurer Kim TaeSeung (Ted) busy at work in his office.



2022 Japan Union Conference Yearend Meeting

Toshio Shibata
JUC Executive Secretary

The Japan Union Conference (JUC) Yearend meeting were held on Nov. 20-22, 2022, in person for the first time in three years. There was eight officers and directors who attended, including NSD President Kim YoHan. The meetings were held at the new JUC headquarters in Yokohama, which was completed in 2021—it was the first time for many board members to visit the new office.

During the meeting, leaders of JUC, its local conferences, and institutions presented their mission reports for the year 2022. Due to the ongoing pandemic and the country’s aging population among Adventist Church members in Japan, the number of deaths (149) was higher than the number of baptisms (100) up to the 3rd quarter of 2022. Each report showed that despite this



JUC Yearend Meeting Delegates.

challenging situation, all church workers in JUC worked hard to fulfill God’s mission. Also, Mission Unusual Tokyo, a church-planting project collaborating with the General Conference and NSD, has decided to launch an Urban Center of Influence, which will serve as a base for the evangelism project. The

center will open in the spring of 2023 and aim to serve the local community. Started in 2022, the Digital Evangelism department reported on the progress of online Voice of Prophecy Bible lessons. The website is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2023 and will allow anyone to study the Bible online at anytime and anywhere. Please join us in praying for the evangelistic efforts of JUC as these projects are underway.

2022 Korean Union Conference Yearend Meeting

The Korean Union Conference (KUC) held its yearend meeting on Nov. 14-16, 2022, at the KUC headquarters in Seoul, Korea. Administrators and department directors of KUC, representatives from local conferences, institutions and organizations affiliated with KUC, and delegates from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) attended to share mission reports and discuss the agenda.

In his opening remarks, NSD's President Kim YoHan emphasized the need to adapt to the rapidly changing mission environment in the aftermath of the pandemic. "The church must change to survive. We need to analyze why our mission force has been weakened and innovate our mission strategies. So far, the Korean Adventist Church has centered on 50 and 60-year-olds. Now the church should try to

reach younger generations in their 20s and 30s. More studies on these generations are necessary, and results should be applied to mission strategies. The NSD will support these innovations," said President Kim.

KUC's President Kang SoonKi reported specifically on the following subjects: the status of mission and tithe, spiritual growth, leadership development, and key projects from departments and institutions. He thanked God for the blessings on the Korean Adventist Church in these challenging times. "No matter how strong the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, and no matter how strong the global economic crisis, God has kept and supported the Korean Adventist Church with unchanging love. The greater the challenges, the stronger God's protective power becomes," said President Kang.



KUC President Kang SoonKi gives a report on the works of Korean Union Conference.

Lim SangWoo, KUC associate treasurer, reported there was a 2.6 percent tithe increase compared to the previous year. He added, "In 2022, the KUC treasury continued to put our priorities on mission." Following Pastor Lim's report, the KUC Adventist Mission director and associate director gave presentations on how KUC's two major initiatives, I Will Go and the 10/40 Mission Project, have been implemented for the past year as well as future plans.

Every evening during the meetings, retired pastor Lee HakBong delivered sermons on the theme of "Revival and Reformation." Lay members also shared their testimonies on how God has blessed their efforts in leading people to Him, igniting a mission spirit among the attendees.

During prayer sessions, attendees prayed together for the following topics: Praise for God's blessings on KUC and all Adventist institutions in Korea; Korean missionaries spreading the gospel abroad; God's guidance during the yearend meeting of KUC's five local conferences, Jeju Region, and institutions.



KUC Yearend Meeting delegates.

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2022 Taiwan Conference Yearend Meeting

Jack Chen
TWC Executive Secretary

On Dec. 6, 2022, the Taiwan Conference (TWC) held its yearend meetings in person for the first time in three years. A total of 55 attendees, including the TWC administrative team, department directors, district leaders and leaders from institutions under TWC, as well as the Northern Asia-Pacific Division leaders, gathered to give thanks to God's grace on their mission work.

In the meetings, leaders representing their organizations or institutions gave their business reports. The TWC president, Tom Sun, shared areas of focus for 2023: 1) Church transformation program, 2) Church evaluation system, 3) Evaluation system of administrative officers, departmental directors, office staff, local church pastors, and interns. Jack Chen, TWC executive secretary, reported on the statistics of the Taiwan Adventist Church—church member numbers, baptisms, attendance, new comers as well as those no longer attending, pastors, and other indicators. The TWC treasurer, Daniel Shen, presented the report on TWC's financial status and its business plan for the future.

Department directors shared their reports on the past year, with most projects conducted online due to the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic. But they also supported local churches by providing subsidy to help churches run their mission projects. Even during this difficult period, department directors prepared for expanding their



President of Taiwan Conference Tom Sun prays for the yearend meetings.

ministries while waiting for the Taiwan government to allow onsite church activities. In mid-August 2022, the Taiwan government lifted restrictions on the use of public spaces, and local churches have gradually resumed face-to-face meetings.

There are ten church districts in Taiwan and each one has its own distinct background and characteristics—three are in the cities and the others are in aboriginal areas. Therefore, it was a meaningful time for attendees to learn how each district reached out to others with the gospel and how they tried to make their churches become centers of influence for the community. Churches in the cities must respond to the rapid pace of change. On the other hand, churches in aboriginal areas are concerned about losing young people who tend to move to the city. Church pastors, district leaders, and TWC will keep trying their best to meet the needs of local communities while sharing the love of God.

During COVID-19, TWC's traditional ways of ministry were not useful in many cases, but God helped us to find new, and more modern ways to preach the gospel. It is by God's grace that TWC's online ministries allowed us to keep sharing Jesus with people and to learn that God can do His work anytime and anywhere.



TWC Yearend Meeting delegates chant "I Will Go"



2022 Mongolia Mission Yearend Meeting

On Nov. 24, 2022, Mongolia Mission (MM) held its year-end and constituency meetings at Suut Resort. Seventy-two attendees arrived, with delegates from the rural churches as well as representatives from Ulaanbaatar. Morning devotion was given by Executive Secretary Hiroshi Yamaji, of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD). His inspiring message opened the meetings on a strong spiritual note.

Before starting the meeting, MM president Han SukHee shared the seven biblical meanings of the constituency meeting based on Acts 15, and talked about the purpose of the constituency meeting and what the mindset should be for the meeting. The following is a summary of the seven meanings of the meeting: 1) Togetherness of pastors and lay members, 2) Topics and conversation focusing on soul-winning, 3) Reporting of God's work, 4) Choosing leaders, 5) Spirit of agreement and support in unity, 6) Teaching and preaching God's word, 7) Encouraging and strengthening the believers and the churches.

The morning business session began with the MM president's report given by Pastor Han SukHee and the executive secretary's report given by Pastor Nyamdavaa Dovchinsuren. Attendees were then divided into two groups to select the members of the nominating committee, who then separated from the main body. Department reports were presented by each department director, with some reports generating active discussion from attendees. In the afternoon session, the remaining department and institution reports were presented.

Before the evening devotion, shared by NSD Treasurer Joel Tompkins, the nominating committee returned to share the names of the newly appointed department leaders. Adiyakhuu Oktiyabri, the new MM executive secretary, and Kim, YoungShik, treasurer, were selected at the NSD yearend meeting on Nov. 3, 2022.



1. Mongolia Mission officers. From the left Treasurer Kim YoungShik, President Han SukHee, Former Executive secretary Nyamdavaa Dovchinsuren.
2. MM Yearend Meeting delegates.

The following are incoming Mongolia Mission leaders:

- President: Han SukHee
- Executive Secretary: Adiyakhuu Oktiyabri
- Treasurer: Kim YoungShik
- Ministerial/Adventist Mission/Chaplaincy: Bold Batsukh
- Sabbath School and Personal Ministries/Theology School: Nyamka
- Education: Joanne Kim
- Publishing/ Public Affairs and Religious Liberty/ Spirit of Prophecy: Adiyakhuu Oktiyabri
- Women/Family/Children: Oyuntuya Batsukh
- Youth/Public Campus Ministries/HisHands Mission Movement: Od
- Communication/IT/Media Center: Gan-Erdene Ganbaatar
- Health/Shepherdess/Adventist Possibility Ministries/Community · Service: Chun EunKyung
- Stewardship: Kim YoungShik

Mongolia Mission Workers' Meeting

Han SukHee
President, Mongolia Mission



After constituency meeting in November 2022, Mongolia Mission held a workers' meeting at Suut Resort Dec. 4-5, 2022. All 30 ministerial workers in Mongolia gathered for this meeting.

In his opening sermon, MM President Han SukHee emphasized faith from God's word and a mission spirit, which are the basic qualities that church workers must possess, focusing on the words of Mark 16:9-20. He said "Jesus' disciples did not believe in His resurrection at first, but Jesus encouraged those who didn't believe, reminding them of His word while enlightening those who lacked faith in the word, entrusting the Great Commission to them."

The purpose of the meeting was to conclude the yearly work of MM and its churches, then introduce plans for 2023. In addition, it gave an opportunity for the newly appointed departmental directors to greet all local church pastors and leaders.

During the meeting, each local church leader gave a report on how God has blessed their ministries for the

past year. Overall, most of the churches showed growth in their membership, tithe and offerings. After reports, the leaders of Mongolia Mission expressed their feedback and shared ideas on how to improve pastoral ministry in a wider capacity. A dedicatory prayer was offered for the newly elected departmental leaders for the upcoming three years' service.

At the end of the meeting, a New Year's celebration program was organized. Some of the workers received yearly service awards and plaques—those who have given five years of service all the way up to the highest award for 25 years. A farewell was also given for a retiring pastor. Pastor Nyamdavaa Dovchinsuren, who was serving as the MM executive secretary, is the first Mongolian pastor to retire. New things are happening in the history of Mongolia Mission, and we believe that much more will be coming. May God bless Mongolia in 2023!

Autumn Love Sharing Week at Sahmyook University



1. Attendees of Week of Autumn Love Share.
2. Pastor Lee SangSoo delivers a message to all students.

From Nov. 7 -11, 2022, Sahmyook University held its “Autumn Love Sharing Week,” to encourage students to practice the core Christian values of love and sharing. This event takes place twice a year, in the spring and autumn.

A series of lectures were presented to students every day at 6 p.m. at the Hong MyungKi Hall. Pastor Lee SangSoo from Yeonsoodong Church delivered lectures under the theme of “Between the Flower Path and the Dirt Road,” touching the hearts of students with the love of Jesus. The lectures were also livestreamed on the university’s YouTube channel.

Various events were organized to promote love and sharing on campus. A blood donation event was

held Nov. 1- 9, with 310 people, including students, professors, and staff participating at a blood donation bus from the Korean Red Cross.

“Love Sharing Expo” booths were set up at Solomon Square on campus. Also hosting booths were: Sahmyook University Students’ Association, 36 Habitat (a construction volunteer group), SAY (Sahmyook Adventist Youth club), Crew Church (a church for non-believers), and the Student Counseling Center.

A Pine Forest Concert was held at Solomon Square during lunchtime throughout the week. A total of four teams, Yehyang, Hansol, HAVEN, and sophomores in theology, were on stage to bring a refreshing break to their fellow students.

Japan Union Conference Offers an Interactive Seminar on Marriage & Relationships

Mie Morita
JUC Family Ministries Director

On Dec. 3, 2022, the Family Ministries department of Japan Union Conference, in collaboration with the Youth Ministries department, provided an online training on marriage and relationships for the Adventist church in Japan. The meeting aimed to introduce the process of marriage and how to protect families while facing daily challenges by applying Christian principles and biblical insights.

During the program, participants were encouraged to actively engage by chatting and completing questionnaires on each topic. At the end of the seminar, participants were given a questionnaire for individual consultation, and were matched individually based on the information provided. The organizers provided a QR code for a private chat group for participants to discuss the topics openly and authentically, without showing their faces.

Japan is experiencing a super-aging society and a declining birthrate, which has led to fewer and fewer children gathering at churches. The goal of the training and individual counseling is to help as many as possible who are realistically considering marriage to build Christian homes.





Evangelism for University Students by CARE

Kai Nakagawa

Bible Worker in Newcastle University Church, Australia

“If you don’t mind, would you like to come to CARE on Friday night?” I heard this invitation from Narshen, an accountant from China and a member of the church I attended while studying abroad at the University of Sydney. Born and raised in Japan, I was not very good at declining invitations. One Friday night, I attended CARE for the first time, hosted by a church member. CARE stands for “Christ Attitude Reflected in Everyone.” It is a Friday night gathering open to both Christians and non-Christians to learn about Jesus Christ. There was a vegetarian meal served at the gathering, which I enjoyed with about 10 business people and university students. I was initially skeptical about the food, but ended up being surprised by how delicious it was. After dinner, there was time for praise and worship, followed by a 30-minute Bible study for seekers. We were then divided into small groups of two or three for prayer. This was a special time for me as I had few acquaintances in Australia. After that, I started attending CARE every week.

A few months after I was invited to CARE, Narshen had to move to Newcastle, a city three hours north of Sydney for work. I was disappointed at the time. But the Lord’s plans are often unimaginable. I was baptized

in December 2017 and attended a disciple training school called ARISE for three and a half months from February 2018. After graduation, the school dispatches students to various regions as Bible worker interns. I was assigned to Newcastle Church where Narshen had just moved six months ago, and she had already started a CARE program there. The Adventist Student Club (ASOC) had also just started at Newcastle University, but there were only two young people in the church at the time, a medical student and her boyfriend who was a seeker.

There were six Bible workers, including myself, who were sent to Newcastle Church. For the first few months, we visited each area separately, but later we went to Newcastle University and began mission activities by going around the campus and surveying students on questions such as, “Do you think God exists?” and “Would you like to learn more about the Bible?” Most of the students we spoke to were willing to answer our surveys. Before going out, we Bible workers prayed and asked God to lead us to seekers. Whenever we met students who were interested in Jesus and Christianity, we invited them to CARE, church, or our Bible study group. CARE in Newcastle, which started



With Newcastle University Students

at the beginning of 2018, saw a doubling of participants from the first week of preaching on campus. Eventually, there were so many participants that one house could no longer accommodate all of them. So, after a few months, CARE was held at two houses. By 2022, it was held at three locations, including the university chaplain's office.

About 80 percent of CARE participants are international students from countries including Japan, China, and Vietnam. They say, "I've never read the Bible before, so I want to read it," or "I found it interesting to join CARE because I went to a mission high school," or "I'm not particularly interested in the Bible, but I want to eat free food." Some say, "Can I bring my friends?" and in this way, they often become evangelists. Encounters with God can greatly change a person's life. A student from Vietnam who used to be a Buddhist and was not good at talking

to people started serving at CARE every week. A former Catholic student began teaching the Bible after being baptized. A Japanese student who grew up in a non-Christian family accepted Jesus and was baptized. There are countless testimonies of God's miracles in CARE. Also, with the goal of the church's motto, "Experience what God can do through us," we aim to become disciples and spread the gospel after being baptized. At the Sabbath School, as part of discipleship training, students can take classes to learn how to operate CARE, as well as training classes for participating in evangelism, including Bible study. We are also focusing on cultivating the next generation of leaders.

In March 2020, the University Church of Newcastle was officially launched, originating from the original church. We had difficult times as the impact of COVID-19 caused a transition to online services just a week after the church's launch. However, since the beginning of 2022, as borders have reopened and it has become easier for international students to attend, participation has increased. Newcastle University already has a diverse student body, allowing for the fulfillment of mission from the Three Angels' Messages, "Preaching to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people" without the need for travel. The goal is to spread the Three Angels' Messages to the world through the university. In 2023, plans are in place to expand evangelism efforts to other campuses.



Healthy Garden Party on Christmas

Celeste Sha
Pastor at Pingtung Church



Leading the baking class for healthy dessert.

The Pingtung Church board in Taiwan wanted to make our year-end evangelistic meeting something special that would help the people in the community feel more comfortable and welcome to visit our church. After some discussion, the board members decided to have the meeting on the Sabbath of Christmas Eve because Christmas is considered a day for sharing love with one another.

We tried to figure out the most appropriate programs and activities for the community—how can they come to church without being hindered? We conducted a community survey to understand the needs and concerns of the community. According to the survey results, health issues were their biggest concerns, so a healthy garden party was welcomed by the community.



Based on the findings, our church decided to have our health evangelism event on the Sabbath morning and afternoon of Christmas Eve. We planned to give attendees a health lecture and sermon in the morning and to have a Healthy Garden Party in the afternoon.

When we began preparing for the event, we first needed to find those eligible to carry out health evangelism. Fortunately, in our church, there are several people who majored in health promotion at Taiwan Adventist College. God prepared what we needed before we realized it. We praised the Lord, our wonderful God.

Our Healthy Garden Party provided two major sessions for guests. The first session included health education and promotion such as dental checkups, hydrotherapy, massage, blood pressure measurement, healthy dessert baking, healthy salad preparation, health Q&A, physical games, and Chinese medicine service. In the second session, invitees enjoyed a parent-child workshop, haircut service, and a lucky draw.

During the party, participants and guests experienced the love and care of the church and enjoyed warm fellowship. Our church members were blessed by serving people in the community and sharing God's love. We surely believe that health evangelism is one of the effective ways of mission in local churches.

I praise and thank our God who has infinite wisdom. He gives His instruction through Ellen G. White in the book of *Evangelism*, "Opening Doors for Evangelism—Nothing will open doors for the truth like evangelistic medical missionary work. This will find access to hearts and minds and will be a means of converting many to the truth."

Healthy Lifestyle Program at Saniku Foods Company

Morita Eisaku
JUC Health Ministries Director

In late August, 2022, the Health Ministries department of Japan Union Conference conducted a five-day healthy lifestyle program for eight employees of Saniku foods, Adventist Church's healthy food factory in Chiba, Japan. While participating in the program, they worked as usual but kept focusing on the healthy lifestyle.

For the participants' meals, we prepared a plant-based whole food breakfast and lunch to be closer to God's original diet that was likely to be given to human beings in the Garden of Eden. And in place of the third meal of the day, we served fresh-squeezed vegetable juice to give their stomachs a rest and promote restoration and healing of the body. All the meals were provided, but the other aspects of a healthy lifestyle were done individually with our instruction.

Each participant tried their best to follow God's health principles. They were encouraged to walk for exercise, drink plenty of water, sunbathe, stop snacking, take deep breaths, relax at night with the goal of going to bed by 10:00 p.m., and spend time connecting with God through devotions.

Some participants were skeptical and anxious before joining the program, but after five days, all participants had good results and all their faces were glowing.

On the first day and the last day of the program, we used a scale for body composition to measure the numbers, and the results were much better than expected. Even though their weight did not change, most of them lost fat and gained muscle mass. Not only were the body composition scores improved, but the overall physical condition of the participants also improved.

It was a real pleasure to hear the participants make the following comments: "I felt less tired," "I woke up refreshed in the morning," "I had fewer emotional ups and downs," "No more headaches," and "I felt lighter." Just a little change in mindset, some encouragement,



and some simple lifestyle modifications can have such a positive effect even in the midst of the busy daily work, because it is God's method.

"Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies" (*The Ministry of Healing*, 127).

Changing one's lifestyle is never easy, but it is a great blessing to experience the positive changes that can result from encouraging one another in the workplace, church and community. Why don't you try this kind of program at your church? May this health message, which is the "right arm of the gospel" given by God for our benefit, go into homes, communities, and societies as an "opening wedge" to improve people's mental and physical health, and lead them to the Savior! We are sincerely praying that this blessing will be contagious.

"There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. . . . The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit." (*The Ministry of Healing*, 143).

Sahmyook University Dispatches a Large Number of Volunteers Overseas



2022 Global Mission Volunteer Corps Launching Ceremony at Sahmyook University.



Representatives of the volunteer group take the oath of pledge.

During the winter vacation of 2022, which started in the middle of December, Sahmyook University dispatched 259 volunteers from 20 teams to nine countries, including Nepal, Mongolia, Bangladesh, India, and Cambodia. It is the first time in three and a half years since COVID-19 that the university has sent such a large number of overseas volunteers. The dispatching ceremony was held on Dec. 5 at Hong MyungKi Hall. All volunteers pledged to serve at the ceremony. Shin JaeYoon and Jeong ChaeYoung, juniors in the department of theology, read the oath stating, “We will faithfully engage in volunteer activities, properly practice Sahmyook education, and enhance the honor of the

school and the nation.” Kim IlMok, president of Sahmyook University, and Yoon JaeYoung, head of the university’s Social Volunteer Service Group, presented flags and dispatch certificates to the team advisors and student representatives. President Kim delivered an encouraging speech, saying, “The world needs you. I hope you will find true purpose and meaning of life through serving others.”

Alumni Couple Donates 100 Million Won to Foster Theologians in Africa and Asia

An alumni couple of Sahmyook University, Ahn JaeWan and Cho EunHo, donated 100 million won (about \$80,000 USD) to the theology department for the project of training overseas master’s and doctoral students. It is a scholarship project to support pastors who work in parts of Asia and Africa and hope to be leaders in theology in their home countries. Full scholarships will be provided for master’s courses for two years and doctoral courses for three years.

The couple studied theology at Sahmyook University in 1984. After graduating in the late 1980s, they moved to the U.S. and continued to minister there. Currently, they serve at Hilltop Church in Ontario, Calif., U.S. The couple, who has done meaningful projects every ten years, decided to donate funds to their alma mater ahead of their 60th birthdays.

They said, “We hope that international students studying at Sahmyook University will return to their countries and stand as competent theologians and spiritual leaders to work for the gospel of the world.”



Pastor Ahn JaeWan (left) and Jo EunHo (wife, center) donated 100 million Korean won to the Theology department of Sahmyook University.

Korean Adventist Women’s Association (KAWA) Dedication Service Sets the Beginning of the New Year Focus on Mission

Nam SangSook
KAWA President



minister more effectively. Raquel Arrais, NSD Women’s Ministries director, affirmed the attendees in their calling and thanked God for fulfilling His work through women today.

During the dedication service, attendees had an opportunity to engrave KAWA’s three mottoes in their hearts: 1) Vision: Women to participate actively in spreading the Gospel; 2) Mission: Women to participate enthusiastically in the Mission of the Church; 3) Passion: Women to reach out to the local communities with passion.

At the end of the program, attendees prayed for the following subjects together with one heart: for the projects and many ministries KAWA conducts; for the revival and mission revitalization of the Korean Adventist Church; for the I Will Go initiative; for the peace and safety of Korea; and for the revitalization of the North Korean mission.

NSD Women’s Ministries department offered a special lunch to all the attendees to thank everyone for KAWA’s dedication and service to the church. The joy in fellowship of the women working and serving together kept the vision, mission and passion alive.

On Jan. 18, 2023, the Korean Adventist Women’s Association (KAWA) of the Korean Union Conference (KUC) held a dedication service at the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Headquarters in Paju, Korea. There were approximately 50 attendees—advisors, pastors, women’s association executives, and women’s ministries directors. The attendees were grateful to come together at the beginning of 2023 to recommit themselves to serve Jesus.

Nam SangSook, KAWA’s president, delivered a welcoming speech and presented the 2023 plans for various ministries, including evangelism, leadership training, educational opportunities for women, cooking classes, and asking the women to focus on mission and outreach. Kim YoHan, NSD president, stressed the importance of women’s service and delivered a speech of encouragement, while Yun ChungSil, KUC Women’s Ministries director, inspired the women to trust in God’s strength as He blesses and empowers their spiritual gifts to



1. Participants of Korea Adventist Women’s Association(KAWA)’s dedication service.
2. A Special Song for the meeting.



1. Director of NSD Children's Ministries, Raquel Arrais(left), and Director of KUC Children's Ministries Kim YoungUn (right).
 2. A teacher and children hold the "Alive in Jesus" textbook at one of the pilot churches.

KUC Pilots "Alive in Jesus," New Curriculum for Children's Sabbath School

Raquel Arrais
 NSD Children's Ministries Director

Three churches in the Korean Union—Wolgok, Daegu International and Wonsarang—became part of the 80 churches around the globe piloting the new "Alive in Jesus" Sabbath School curriculum for the first quarter of 2023.

Under the leadership of Pastor Kim YoungUn, Children's Ministries director of Korean Union Conference, these three churches are leading the pilot study, fully implementing the primary level curriculum, working with parents and the volunteer team as they provide research feedback and data.

On November 27, 2022, the Children's Ministries of Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) provided an introductory training for all the Children's Ministries directors of Unions, Conferences and Mission, as well as teachers, volunteers and parents who are participating in the "Alive in Jesus" pilot study. The training was led by Raquel Arrais, NSD Children's Ministries director, along with two guest speakers—Dr. Orathai Chureson, General Conference Children's Ministries director, and Dr. Nina Atcheson, "Alive in Jesus" curriculum manager and senior editor. Dr. Chureson gave a message of encouragement to all the participants as they committed themselves to the task, and Dr. Nina Atcheson introduced the philosophy and general



guidelines of the curriculum. The participants were blessed by the information received and more equipped to lead the curriculum in their local churches.

The Gracelink curriculum, developed 25 years ago, will be replaced with new lessons for 0 to 18 years old by 2025. This new curriculum is being developed to better assist families in discipling children and youth in this 21st century to deeply love and fully live for Jesus. We invite our members from the NSD territory to pray for the parents and volunteers as they reflect on this pilot experience to provide rich data to improve the lessons for global use.

For more information, please go to <https://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/aliveinjesus> and watch the introductory video and explore the online materials available.

ADRA Mongolia Conducts Its 2022 Yearend Meeting



1. ADRA Mongolia Board members.
2. Mongolia Mission president HanSuk Hee (left) and ADRA Mongolia director Windell Maranan (right).

The ADRA Mongolia Board conducted its year-end meeting on Nov. 25, 2022, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia with its regular members from the Northern Asia Pacific Division (NSD) and Mongolia Mission (MM) together with lay members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mongolia. The meeting was presided by its board chairman, MM president Han SukHee, with a quorum of members: Joel Tompkins (NSD treasurer), Pastors Nyamdavaa Dovchuren (outgoing executive secretary of MM), Adiyakhuu Oktyabri (incoming executive secretary of MM), Nyamsuren Myagmar (MM ministerial secretary), Kim YoungShik (MM Treasurer) with Bayarmaa Sengedash (lay member), and Windell Maranan, secretary/country director of ADRA Mongolia.

In his devotional message, Pastor Han emphasized the importance of obedience in doing God’s work as it will be followed by promised blessings. Highlighting the intentional partnership between ADRA Mongolia and the Adventist Church, Han reiterated on guaranteed blessings for the agency and the Church. Currently, ADRA Mongolia and the MM leadership are strengthening the partnership through a signed Memorandum of Understanding in serving communities as well as strengthening the Church’s *Total Membership Involvement* initiative by working together through humanitarian and development projects to fulfill God’s mission.

The meeting highlighted the current programs of ADRA Mongolia that focus on food security and health,

economic development and livelihood, climate change adaptation for pastureland management and animal science breeding and development as well as other small projects that equally impact the community people in most need.

Furthermore, much emphasis was given from the country director’s report highlighting a space for board members’ education and training on understanding development practice while connecting with beneficiary partners and other stakeholders on the ground, hence assisting them to give informed decisions on how the agency operates.

Strengthening key focus areas such as partnership and church relations, developing new partnerships (inside and outside of the network), securing sustained funding opportunities, broadening of communications and marketing opportunities and further developing new and relevant thematic areas of concentration are a number of things that ADRA Mongolia will continue to pursue.

In addition, the five-year strategic plan (2022–2027) document has been shared to introduce ADRA Mongolia’s strategy and how it envisions a future for the agency including ways on how to achieve three core areas of concentration labeled as the Wildly Important Goals (WIGs): 1) Program Impact and Focus, 2) People and Systems and 3) Communications and Marketing. A High-Level Action Plan was created to track the progress of the strategic plan in the next five years.

ASi Mongolia Chapter is Ready to Make the Leap with New Leaders

Adiyakhuu Oktyabri
MM Executive Secretary



The Mongolia chapter of Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries (ASi) held a meeting on Dec. 10, 2022, at the Suut Resort of the Adventist Church where Adventist business members and CEOs of Adventist institutions in Mongolia gathered. Officers and board members were elected and will serve for the next three years. Pastor Adiyakhuu Oktyabri and Pastor Bold Batsukh, MM executive secretary and ministerial secretary, were invited to share opinions. Also, for the first time, ADRA Mongolia sent a representative to the meeting.

Through the election, three officers and four board members were chosen. Munksaikhan, a church elder and businessman, was re-elected as president of ASi Mongolia, Bolor-Erdene, a stock investor, was elected as secretary, and Nyamkhuu, who runs her business online, was elected as treasurer. Board members typically consist of one businessperson, one representative for church institutions, one representative for pastors, and one representative for countryside business individuals.

At the second session, each participant had a chance to share their experience in running their businesses. A heart-to-heart talk followed with attendees encouraged by one other's

testimonies. They showed their willingness to cooperate for improving their businesses and the support of the Mongolian Adventist Church.

Pastor Adiyakhuu delivered an encouraging message for MM president and ASi coordinator, Han SukHee, who could not be present for the meeting. Pastor Han's message urged attendees to expand the organization and to dedicate themselves to God's work. "The Mongolian Adventist Church now has 30 years of history, and it is time for us to break away from the gospel work in Mongolia through external aid and to drive the work by resources from Mongolians. I want you to try to increase the members who want to contribute to a good cause and meaningful business in terms of mission. Like ASi organizations in other countries, please raise funds on your own to help the church through with more activities. Please remember that basically, ASi is not the organization that receives help, but the organization that gives help," Han said.

During the meeting, attendees were reminded of God's promise in Psalms 81:10, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it." This meeting of the ASi Mongolia Chapter was a blessed time for all ASi members to share experiences, build friendships, and encourage each other from God's word. May they open wide their vision and plans, holding onto the promise of God to bring fulfillment.



Members of the Mongolia chapter of ASi.

Sahmyook Charity Shop Supports International Students

Sahmyook Charity Shop, operated by a group of volunteer women connected to Sahmyook University, donated 30 million KRW (\$24,000 USD) in scholarship funds to help international students. The shop sells donated goods from various places and uses the entire profit as scholarship funds for international students who are not eligible for Korean government scholarships. In 2022, there were 60 international students who benefitted from the charity shop.

Dr. Eliazar Alumbro Peniton Jr., who received the Sahmyook Charity Shop scholarship while studying at the department of convergence science at Sahmyook University Graduate School, was appointed as an assistant professor in the department of biology at Mountain View College in his home country, the



Members of Sahmyook Charity Shop.

Philippines in August 2022.

Another scholarship recipient, Dr. Enkhtaivan Tsolmonbayar from the Graduate School of Theology, became the first Mongolian to earn a Doctorate in Theology (Ph.D.) from the Adventist Church and now serves as a pastor in Mongolia.

Recently, a Mongolian student who had saved for his tuition had to use the funds for his father's surgery. When the student faced some trouble in having his visa canceled, Sahmyook Charity Shop provided emergency tuition support.

"Reading the thank-you letters from scholarship recipients motivated us to keep this volunteer work," said Kwon YoungSoon, president of the Sahmyook Charity Shop. "It is rewarding and grateful to be able to help students during their difficult times."

Ph.D. Alumnus of Sahmyook University Elected President of Uganda Union Mission



Pastor Moses Maka Ndimukika, who received a doctorate from Sahmyook University, has been elected as the union president to lead the Uganda Adventist Church. Uganda Union Mission is an

Adventist organization affiliated with the East Central African Division and has eight local conferences and fields throughout Uganda. As of June 2021, it is an organization with 440,000 members and 1,278 churches.

Pastor Moses Maka, born in Uganda, majored in theology at Spicer Adventist University in India and received an MA in Theology from Newbold College in England. At the end of February 2012, he entered the Graduate School of Theology at Sahmyook University and obtained a Ph.D. in biblical theology in 2015.

Pastor Moses Maka has served the Ugandan Church as an ordained minister for the past 27 years and teaches theology to students at Bugema University, an Adventist university in Uganda. He served as president

and director of the Kampala Campus of Bugema University, oversaw general affairs as secretary of the Uganda Union Mission, and has now been elected as its president.

In an e-mail interview with the public relations team of Sahmyook University, Pastor Moses Maka said, "I feel infinite gratitude and a heavy sense of responsibility while I have been given a noble duty. We plan to train 1,000 pastors in line with the rapidly growing number of baptisms and to build a church headquarters in 2027 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Uganda mission."

In addition, he conveyed memories of his life on the Sahmyook campus. He expressed his special gratitude to his alma mater, which "made me who I am today," and also said, "I look forward to revisiting my alma mater soon. We also look forward to a close cooperation with Bugema University, a higher education institution affiliated with the Uganda Union Mission," in reference to relations between Sahmyook University and Bugema University.

Theology Students Dispatched to Departments for Campus Mission

Sahmyook University's Department of Theology dispatched student pastors to each department of the university for on-campus missionary work for the year 2023. As a part of their theological education, second-year theology students are required to serve students in their designated departments.

The worship service for dispatching was held at the theology hall on Oct. 13, 2022. About 200 people attended the dispatching service, including President Kim IlMok, faculty members of the theology department, heads of departments, pastors, and 33 new student pastors.

The 33 student pastors pledged their dedication, saying, "As we have been set apart for departments in which many students do not know Jesus Christ, following the Lord's command to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we will obey with all our hearts."

President Kim IlMok said in his congratulatory speech, "Now you will be assigned to each department to serve many young people who have been sent to this university. I hope that all of you will share the gospel you have received and the blessings of deep fellowship with God you have experienced through studying theology."



Ten Thousand “Book Missionaries” Dispatched to Mongolia

Han SukHee
MM President

Ten thousand copies of *The Desire of Ages*, sponsored by the Korean Union Conference (KUC) and Sijosa, the Adventist publishing house in Korea, were delivered to Mongolia on Nov. 20, 2022, through a blizzard and in freezing temperatures of -20°C (-4°F).

Since Mongolia is a country where missionaries are earnestly needed, Mongolia Mission (MM) has asked the Northern Asia-Pacific Division and KUC to dispatch missionaries. Unfortunately, there has been no applicants for the past five years, so it has been difficult in many ways to carry out mission activities in Mongolia. However, our God sent 10,000 “book missionaries” named *The Desire of Ages* instead of human missionaries. Fortunately, all of these 10,000 book missionaries know how to speak Mongolian (excellently translated into Mongolian), so they can be immediately put into the mission field without receiving local language training.

At the service for welcoming missionaries, MM president Han SukHee quoted Matthew 9:35-38 and said, “In the world of missionaries, there are not only human missionaries, but also book missionaries. I am sure that after the missionaries of *The Desire of Ages*, in which the life and teachings of Jesus and the Good News of salvation are written, spread to all cities and towns in Mongolia, they will convert souls and a great work of soul-harvesting will happen everywhere.”

On the front and back page of this book, stickers containing the contact information of Mongolia Mission and local churches are attached so that

everyone who finds this book interesting can connect to the Adventist Church.

Mongolia Mission plans to send 3,500 book missionaries to all Adventists recorded on the church member list in Mongolia, and the remaining 6,500 book missionaries will be sent to pastors and members of other Christian denominations, public libraries, schools, hospitals, correctional institutions, nursing homes, social community centers, and others as necessary.

In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” I give thanks and praise to God for sending 10,000 precious book missionaries to Mongolia, where the harvest is plentiful, but there are few workers, few pastors, and few missionaries.

This project of sending book missionaries is owed to the support from Kang SoonGi, KUC president, Park ChungTaik, KUC secretary, Nam SooMyeong, president of Sijosa, and Kim JongGeun, KUC director of Adventist Mission. It is expected that the word of God below will be realized sooner through these 10,000 book missionaries.

“But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region” (Matthew 9:31).

“The 10,000 copies of book missionaries went out all over Mongolia and spread the news about Jesus over the land.”



MISSION PROJECT

I am Choi Esel, a 59th batch missionary of the 1000 missionary movement (1000MM). After my missionary training at the 1000MM campus, I was sent to Kalimpong, India, and stayed three months there. In Kalimpong, I experienced what it was like to live in a foreign country where everything was new to me—the food, the culture, and the language. I was sent to a language institute to teach Korean. Even though I didn't really get the opportunity to teach in the Korean class, I did work on promoting the classes so that students could come and study at the institute. India gave me a fulfilling experience and helped me reflect on my spiritual journey while drawing closer to Christ.

However, as we all know, life is full of uncertainty and surprises. Things didn't turn out the way I expected but it was decided that I would go back to the Philippines and finish my term in a different mission field.

Now, I've been in my new mission field for about a month. I was dispatched to Hinunangan, Southern Leyte, Visayas, in the Philippines. So far it has been a great experience for me.

Our district here has 21 Seventh-day Adventist churches. My partners and I have been invited to a different church every Sabbath. Usually, I am the divine service speaker and my



Missionary Choi Esel and her partners with Southern Leyte State University students.

A Deeper Connection with Christ

Choi Esel
1000MM 59th Batch

partners prepare promotional talks and the Adventist Youth program. The members of the churches have been very supportive of our ministry.

Every day, one of my partners and I go on home visitations. But since there are many devoted Catholics here, my partners decided that we should make a survey platform so that we can use that to reach the people. So every time we visit a family, we ask them survey questions and then offer them a prayer. If possible, we also ask if we can visit more often and have worship together. So far, most of them have said yes!

Since the children are busy during the weekdays, we meet up with them by the seashore for Vacation Bible School on Sundays. We teach them action songs, help them memorize

Bible verses, and tell them Bible stories.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, my partners and I join a lay member to give Bible studies to a non-Adventist family. After that, we meet up with teenagers by the seashore for a short worship and to hang out with them. (We have been focusing more on friendship ministry.)

Last week, we visited Southern Leyte State University. Although it is not an Adventist University, there is a group of young Adventists studying there. They are planning to hold evangelistic meetings in the second week of March. They have requested me to be the lecturer for their "Learn Korean Language with Us" program, which is held twice a week at the university. Since K-pop is popular in the Philippines, this will help them



attract other students to join Bible studies and ultimately help them accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

When I was given the opportunity, I grabbed it right away and it made me think how amazing our God is. I remembered all those times when I made lesson plans for the Korean class in India. Although I'll be using those in a different place, it made me think that God works in mysterious ways. He always has the best plan for us. All we need to do is be faithful servants of Christ, do our best in our work and leave the rest to Him.

Being able to preach the word of God and encourage people to have a deeper connection with Christ has definitely made my relationship with God more personal and special. I realized that being a follower of Christ doesn't mean that life will be easy. But it always helps me run to God first and that has made my faith and love for Him grow stronger.

"For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth'" (Acts 13:47).



A missionary's joy in serving children

In 2022, the Multi-cultural Family Service Center (MFSC) made a major change by rebranding its name to HOPE 365. The name change was officially approved at the yearend annual conference of HOPE 365 on Dec. 24, 2022. The new name reflects the institution's goal of giving hope to people 365 days a year.

While MFSC primarily served those arriving from other countries and in need of help, HOPE 365 now extends their services to Koreans as well. The main areas of their services include: 1) Shelter (emergency support shelter, self-support shelter, single parent support shelter), 2) Free meals, 3) Korean language classes, 4) Early settlement program for foreigners, 5) Cultural and sports events, and 6) Counseling and case management.

HOPE 365 also operates two institutions: Korea Community Child Center (KCCC) and Korean-Russian School Academy (KRSA). KCCC is for the students who attend regular school curriculums. It has 33 children from elementary school to middle school. During their vacation, KCCC takes care of the children



Pastor Kim GeunSoo (center left) and NSD President Kim YoHan (center right) together with the HOPE 365 church members.

MFSC Changes Institution Name to HOPE 365

Kim GeunSoo
Director of HOPE 365

from 9 a.m.-10 p.m., and during the semester, it opens after school until 10 p.m.

KRSA is a special school for Russian speaking children who do

not attend regular Korean Schools. It provides educational programs in the Russian language and curriculum to 55 children in elementary and middle schools.



A Broken and Empty Vessel of Hope

Jemar Jesulga
1000MM 58th Batch

My name is Jemar Jesulga and I joined the 1000 Missionary Movement in 2022. God had impressed upon me that the year would be a journey into the unknown, but with the ultimate Known—Jesus Christ. In this journey, I was constantly reminded of my identity, purpose, and future in Christ.

I was born and raised as an Adventist and baptized at the age of 12. I served as a youth leader from 13 to 17. However, I did not have a genuine relationship with Jesus—I went to church and was active in the church because my parents, especially my father, made me. But a year before I turned 18, my father, who was an elder, a pillar of my faith, and an active member of the church, committed suicide. After that, I made choices that were

always the opposite of what God wanted for me.

I became the family's main wage earner at the age of 18 and worked in a call center industry for over 11 years. I lived a lifestyle that was destroying God's temple and the source of my intellect. I lived a very dark life full of depression because of guilt. In 2017, I was diagnosed with thyroid cancer, I continued living my life on my own terms.

However, despite my wrong decisions, God said to me through the 1000 Missionary Movement, "My child, some of the bad things that happened to you may have been the responsibility of your own choice, but I have used your bad choices to draw you to me so I can work everything for good in your life. I was there with you in every moment of your life. I was there to persuade you to give your life to me so you could live with me forever."

I have no other words but gratitude. God saved me from myself, teaching me to die to myself and start living for Him and for others who are broken like I was. God's hands were constantly shaping me into the person He wanted me to become. God's grace sculpted me into his masterpiece.

I was daily broken by God so that I could learn to depend only on Him and never on myself. He showed me my inadequacy to remind me that I am no better than anyone else and that I should see others with love and compassion, as God would want. All throughout this journey, God made me realize that my mission field is myself. I've been brought to many places and met different people that I thought were my mission fields, but he reminded me that my everlasting mission field is myself.

I often rushed things and wanted to say, "mission accomplished," but God reminded me that He is in control and His grace is sufficient to fully cultivate my mission field. He wanted nothing from me but my emptiness, so He could fill me with everything.

I have no plans other than to fulfill the greatest desire God has placed in my heart—to be His everlasting missionary, praying that His will be done as His vessel of hope until I hear Him say, "Well

done, good and faithful child." I'll go and follow Him, not speaking the language of this world, but in His word, the language of love, until the grandest homecoming when I can see my Jesus face to face, having my name written not just on the plaque of the dispatching arch of our campus, but in the book of life in heaven.



Missionary leads the Bible study.

Not everyone who is born into an Adventist home or claims to be an Adventist, has a complete understanding of God. Some may have been raised in a Christian environment but have not actively practiced their faith. This was the case for me as well. Growing up, I was a shy and insecure child. I was shorter, thinner, and weaker than others, which led to bullying from classmates. I struggled with academics, sports, and music and felt like I didn't have any talents. When I stood in front of many people, I felt like I was so small. I didn't get along with friends well. I became a negative person and unable to mingle with everyone around me.

I didn't know the purpose of my existence. Why am I here? I didn't know what to do or where to go. I was lost about my life. I had few friends due to my shy and negative nature. Even though I tried to put a smile on my face, I was unhappy inside. My mother would often remind me of God's love, but I couldn't understand or feel it. I was unaware that my words, "Nobody loves me," was hurting my mother and leaving wounds in her heart.

Eventually I lost all hope of finding the meaning of my life. I cried out to God, "Why did you create me? Why did you let me live like this? I have no talent and no purpose." At that critical moment, a Bible verse came to mind. That was Ezekiel 16:6: "I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!'" I surrendered and let God save my life.

At that time, I didn't fully understand God's love, but it came to me through my mother. Her tears as she prayed for me showed me how much she loved and cared for me. Her unchanging love gradually softened my heart. She has been the biggest influence in my desire to know more about God. I wanted to feel the joy my mother felt as she read the Bible. God also moved me during a worship service in which a speaker talked about Jesus' love for people. The Holy Spirit touched my heart and helped me realize how precious and important I am in God's eyes. The experience of God saving my life, my mother's enduring love, and the sermon in the church led me to accept Jesus as my personal Savior. In 2018, I got baptized, and my willingness to know Jesus better made me pursue



A Miracle in Prayer

1000MM 60th Batch

(The author's name is withheld at his request.)

theology. I'm now a theology student, and in 2022, I chose to join the 1000 Missionary Movement to experience God more.

God saved me from ending my life, so I owe my life to God. By His grace, I have found purpose. Now I know I am worthy in this world because Jesus saved me by His blood. Also, I've learned that prayer has the power to transform a person and I have witnessed the incredible impact of prayer in my own life. My mother prayed for nearly 20 years for my transformation. So, I encourage you not to give up on prayer, even when it seems like God is not listening. Kneel down, close your eyes, talk to God, and have faith in God's power to work in your life and the life of the person you are praying for. Our God is powerful and almighty. Praise the Lord!



HOPE 365 Bears Fruits of Souls

Kim GeunSoo
Director of HOPE 365

Director Kim GeunSoo with
12 baptized people.



In 2022, HOPE 365 in Ansan, Korea, was richly blessed with the baptism of 37 people. The baptismal services were three months in a row: Aug. 27 (12 people), Sept. 24 (13 people), and Oct. 29 (12 people). The pastors, elders and all members of the HOPE 365 Church attended the ceremonies and celebrated the salvation of these souls. Of these 37 newly baptized members, two were Korean, six were from the Russian group, and 29 people were from the Chinese group. Their religious backgrounds were also diverse including previous Christian denominations and Islamic backgrounds, with most of the Russian group being former atheists.

One of the newly baptized members was a Ukrainian refugee named Zhanna. Since the war between Ukraine and Russia broke out in February 2022, Zhanna and her two children had experienced the horrible circumstances in Ukraine. Zhanna was from Russia, and her husband was from Ukraine, and they were both third-generation Korean-Russians, descended from grandparents who were forced to migrate from Korea to the Soviet Union during the time of Stalin.

Because of heavy bombings, the destruction of war, as well as Zhanna's nationality, Zhanna's family decided to leave Ukraine. However, after the Ukrainian government

forbid the males from leaving the country—Zhanna and her children had to leave without her husband.

Zhanna and her two children traveled to Poland in April 2022. They stayed there four months, with the hope that the war would come to an end soon. However, as the war continued, Zhanna and her husband decided to move their family to Korea, the homeland of their ancestors, hoping that her husband could join them soon.

Zhanna's family came to HOPE 365 in July 2022. HOPE 365 has provided them an emergency shelter room and free meals with ADRA Korea giving support for this work. Also, the Russian group in HOPE 365 has given them help and comfort.

Zhanna struggled in the beginning as she had to face the challenges of a different language and culture. She was heartbroken about the tragedy of her family and missed her husband terribly, often shedding tears at night. However, the HOPE 365 staff encouraged her to have Bible studies and tried to provide basic needs. On Sept. 24, 2022, Zhanna was baptized and accepted Jesus as her Saviour. Although she still struggles to understand the reason for all the sorrows she is going through, she says, "Now I believe I can overcome the hardships with Jesus, and I am more hopeful about the future because He will lead us."

Public Campus Ministries Missionary Training



Choi HoYoung
NSD PCM Coordinator

The 5th Public Campus Ministries (PCM) Missionary Training was held on Jan. 11-15, 2023, at the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) Mission Leadership Training Center in Jeju, Korea. Under the motto of PCM, which is "Follow Jesus, Embrace His Mission, Change the World," six young missionaries received basic training, which helps the missionaries to understand the culture of the mission fields they will enter, the identities of the Adventist Church, the Adventist Youth Ministries, the history, the manual of PCM, and other topics.

During the opening and closing worships, NSD President Kim YoHan gave encouraging messages to the missionaries, instilling a spirit of mission. Pastor Lee JinHyeon, who is a former PCM coordinator and now



5th PCM Missionary Training at the Jeju NSD Leadership Training Center.

Children’s Ministries director of Middlewest Korean Conference, was the main speaker. His lectures included practical lessons on Bible study methods, meditating on God’s word, writing prayer journals and practical demonstrations to help missionaries shape a spiritual life in the mission field. Additionally, Pioneer Mission Movement pastors who have been working with PCM missionaries in their churches and senior PCM missionaries vividly shared their experiences in the mission field through an online meeting.

All six missionaries will be dispatched to Taiwan in Feb. 2023, to serve for one year in their assigned non-Adventist universities with the goal of sharing the love of Jesus with young Taiwanese who do not know Him.

Beitun Church Reaches Out to Young People on Campus

Kwon SoonBum
PMM Pastor at Beitun Church

My name is Kwon SoonBum, a Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) missionary preaching the gospel at Beitun Church in Taichung, one of the five cities in Central Taiwan. For the past seven years, I have experienced God’s grace every day here in Taiwan. If someone were to ask me what is your wish, I would say that in 10 years, Taiwan will no longer need to receive missionaries. This may seem like an absurd answer coming from a missionary in Taiwan, but my hope is that the Adventist Church in Taiwan will be prosperous and strong, so that it can send missionaries to other countries, rather than just receiving them.

Missionaries are privileged to have special opportunities to experience God. When entering a mission field where language, culture, and environment are all unfamiliar, it is a chance to realize that God is the only One to rely on. A foreigner who can’t do the basics easily, must ask God for His help and wait for His answers. When one feels small in the presence of God, there is an acceptance that all power comes from Him. Here in Taiwan, as a foreign missionary, I experience God every day and seek His guidance.

I don’t think a missionary is the one who manages his or her mission field best. If God needs a manager, the local residents who speak the language and understand the culture and people, could do this better. Then why would God call me as a missionary in Taiwan? I have come to



MISSION PROJECT

believe that missionaries are people who have a mission to find what is not there and try to fill in the gap. So, what are the gaps here in Taiwan?

Mission in the large cities, where 95 percent of the population lives, has lagged over the past 75 years, and the Church has faced regional imbalanced growth in terms of mission. In addition, the problem of a rapidly aging population combined with low birth rates has affected the Church's ministries. My answer for these concerns has been urban and youth ministry.

Beitun Church has a very small chapel hall in an apartment building. By the grace of God, I began offering a free Korean language class for the community. As more and more people, mostly young, were gathering at the class, I expanded it into the nearby college campus. Isn't it amazing that a small church like ours is preaching the gospel of Jesus at the National Taichung University of Science and Technology, where 16,000 people are studying? God has made it possible to share the gospel, to praise Him, to pray together, and share meals together on such a large university campus. This campus mission would have been impossible without the young members of Beitun Church. Additionally, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division has supported us by sending Public Campus Ministries missionaries.

It has been five years since the Beitun church began ministry for college students. As a result, 42 people have been baptized in Taiwan, including nine people in their 30s and older and 33 people ages 10-20. I am grateful to see them grow in faith and enrich our church. Currently, about 40 members attend the worship regularly in our

small chapel hall, and the church is dreaming of becoming an organized church in the near future. Moreover, our church has shared our knowledge and understanding about campus mission with other Adventist churches in Taiwan, helping them to launch campus mission programs in nearby colleges. As a result, five other churches have been able to enter the university to share Jesus. Praise God for allowing this small church to conduct campus ministry, reaching out to young people, and making them His disciples.

In August 2022, Beitun Church launched an Urban Center of Influence, called "Come N See," named after the story in the first chapter of John when Philip invites his friend Nathanael to meet Jesus, saying "come and see."

I am grateful to young members in our church who put a great effort into preparing for this project. Beitun Church plans to meet various people in this space and share not only Korean food and drinks but the gospel of God. I hope that the first Urban Center of Influence will become a model for urban ministry in Taiwan, and more branches of "Come N See" will open in other major cities.

The Beitun Church is now preparing for an even bigger leap forward, which is establishing a "University Student Mission Center." The center will serve as a hub for cultivating student missionaries. Through the center, the Adventist Church in Taiwan is expected to gain momentum in campus ministries. While the goal may seem out of reach, I am praying with faith and working toward it, trusting in God's power. Above all, my hope is that through this project, God's name will be glorified.



1. Beitun Church Youth members together with College students at "Come n See" cafe.
2. A group of Beitun church youth holds a meeting for campus mission.

I Will Go

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’
And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” (Isaiah 6:8)

This is such a familiar Bible verse for most Christians. Church leaders pull out this text when they are trying to encourage people to sign up for responsibilities at church. Pastors sometimes use it during ordination services for pastors, elders, deacons, or deaconesses.

There is nothing more exciting and motivating than the words “Here I am!” or the request to “send me!” These words are meant to fire up the people of God for service. These words are meant to stir up the people to go out to *Reach the World*. These words are meant to inspire the people to embrace their call to discipleship. Here I am! Send me! I Will Go, Lord! The result will be *Total Member Involvement*.

In other words, the Lord has a ministry for everyone to do. He asks even today, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” Throughout history, the Lord has chosen to use men and women in His service. There is a lot of work to do, and He needs many workers to do the job. Isaiah responded to the Lord’s call by saying, “Here am I; send me.” He wanted to be used by God; he was willing to work for the Lord.

Even today we need people who are willing to get involved in serving God to do His work! We have a mission to fulfill as a church. We have an everlasting message to share. Are you as a church pastor or administrator or member willing to get involved in this endeavor with your congregation? I urge you to answer Him, like Isaiah, “Here am I, Lord! I will go, Lord, and lead Your people. I will go and hold Your people in my heart. I will go and show Your love to Your people. I will go and work to bring about the kingdom of God here on earth!”

The work of the Lord still demands a vision, a vessel, a life of vitality, and a willing volunteer. What will be your answer, I Will Go? If so, *Jesus is Coming Soon – Get Involved!*

Jonas Arrais

NSD Ministerial Secretary

The 6th North Korea Mission Conference

North Korea Mission,

Unrelinquishable **DESIRE!**

Unstoppable **MISSION!**

Time	2023. 3. 24. (Friday) --26. (Sunday)	
Venue	Sahmyook University (University Church / Main Auditorium)	
Speaker	Erton Köhler	GC Executive Secretary
	Kim YoHan	NSD President
	Gary Krause	GC Adventist Mission Director
	Lee GwanSe	Former Undersecretary of Reunification Ministry / Current Director of the Institute for Far-Easter Studies
	Timothy Saxton	AWR Asia Director
	Oh BeomSeok	NSD North Korea Mission Director

Organizers NSD North Korea Mission, KUC North Korea Mission,
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