

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

# NEWS & VIEWS



March/April 2023



INSPIRATION

# 10 Reasons to Pray for North Korea

**Oh BeomSeok**

North Korea Mission Director,  
Northern Asia-Pacific Division

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

God promised that He would give to us if we asked and that the door would open if we knocked. We must believe and pray that God, who opened the door to missionary work in other parts of the world, will now open the door to North Korea. Therefore, I would like to introduce 10 reasons why we should pray for North Korea:

1. *For the souls in North Korea that God values.* God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach the gospel. But Jonah didn't want to go because the Assyrians were so wicked. But God said to Jonah, “In this great city of Nineveh, there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell the difference between right and left” (Jonah 4:11). There are 26 million people living in North Korea. Because God cares about the North Koreans, shouldn't we pray for their salvation?
2. *For North Korea because it is still a frontier land for the gospel.* A missionary group called “Open Doors” surveys and reports countries that persecute Christians every year, with North Korea topping its list for 20 years through 2021. Therefore, we should pray for North Korea because spreading the gospel to this country is one of the last missions of Jesus.
3. *To promote the Second Coming of Christ.* Preaching the gospel to North Korea, where it has not yet been heard, is the mission of Adventists who are awaiting the Second Coming of the Lord.
4. *To rebuild the churches in North Korea.* Before 1945, there were at least 98 Adventist churches in North Korea. But in 1958, Kim IlSung declared that all

- churches in North Korea had disappeared. Therefore, we need to pray for the rebuilding of these churches.
5. *For the underground believers in North Korea.* Recent defectors from North Korea have reported that they have been hiding and worshiping with their parents since they were young. We must pray so that they can worship God freely.
  6. *For humanitarian reasons.* According to the joint report “2022 World Food Security and Nutrition Status,” North Korea has the highest figures of malnutrition in the world, at 41.6%. The World Tuberculosis Report 2021 published by WHO states that North Korea is one of 30 countries with the highest incidence of tuberculosis. Additionally, agricultural production declined in 2022 causing rice shortages. We should pray for a way to help the people of North Korea thrive.
  7. *For separated families.* Since the end of the Korean War, many families have been separated. We should pray that they can meet their loved ones before they die.
  8. *For the 10/40 Window Mission.* If North Korea's doors open, South Korea can more easily connect to all Asian countries in the 10/40 window. We should pray for a domino phenomenon that can spread the gospel to other regions through the North Korea mission work.
  9. *Because we owe North Korea.* The Adventist message was first transmitted through North Korea in 1904. Currently, there are more than 260,000 Seventh-day Adventists in South Korea, but there are zero in North Korea. We should pray for North Korea because it was responsible for spreading the gospel to South Korea.
  10. *Because Koreans are one people.* North Korea is our kinsmen, and we should love and evangelize them.
- At the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, we stop our work every day at 11:45 a.m. to pray for North Korea. We encourage you to join us in praying for this closed country, and may God's love and mercy reach them through our prayers.





### On the Cover

The light from the cross of Jesus shine upon the North Korea and a missionary is waiting to enter.

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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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# First North Korea Mission Conference in Korea



On March 24-26, 2023, Adventist groups and institutions gathered for an important conference: The Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), the North Korea Mission Department of the Korean Union Conference (KUC), Sahmyook University, and the Korean American Seventh-day Adventist Church of North America (KASDA) co-hosted the 6th North Korea Mission Conference at Sahmyook University.

The event, themed “North Korea Mission, Unrelinquishable DESIRE, Unstoppable MISSION,” was significant because the sixth conference was held face to face in Korea for the first time (since 2015 all other conferences had been held in the U.S).

More than 800 people, including North Korean missionary organizations such as North Korean Pioneer Missionaries (NKPM), Priscilla and Aquila Missionaries, and Bukbukbuk, Pastor Kim DongJun, chairman of the North Korean Mission Committee in North America,

members, seminarians, and others, all joined to pray for the unification of the gospel on the Korean Peninsula. Overseas Koreans were also in attendance, expressing interest in the status and possibilities of North Korean missions.

“The conference is an invaluable opportunity for many of us to share the burden of missions, and it will be a time of zeal for the spreading of the gospel,” said Pastor Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference, in a video. “I hope this special mission conference will help us focus on how we can fulfill God’s will to reach the precious people of North Korea,” he said.

In his welcoming remarks, NSD’s President Kim YoHan said, “The period before dawn is the darkest, but we can look forward to a new day, so we must prepare for the new day with faith even in the dark. NSD is also actively preparing for the mission to North Korea with the conviction that ‘God will open the door when we are



1. Gary Krause (right), GC Adventist Mission director, preaches a sermon titled, “Push Out Into Deep Waters.”  
 2. Timothy Saxton , AWR Asia director shares about AWR and North Korea in his lecture.  
 3. Erton Köhler (left), GC Executive Secretary gives a message, titled “Mission is a Miracle.”

ready,’ instead of the passive attitude of spreading the gospel when the door opens one day.” He hoped that the conference would be a place to restore the passion for the mission to North Korea.

“When I am ready, God opens the door.”  
 “The gospel mission to North Korea is an irresistible destiny given to the Korean people,” said KUC President Kang SoonKi in his encouraging remarks: “Through this gathering, we will be reminded of the holy mission of national evangelization. We will also explore how we should take on this mission and how to accomplish it.”  
 In his welcoming remarks, Kim Ilmok, President of Sahmyook University, said, “The gospel has no boundaries of resentment or hostility. The miracle of Samaria will happen in the land of North Korea when we break down the barriers that the world has built with the Holy Spirit. The testimonies of North Korean defectors show that the streams of the gospel, which have dried up in the 70 years since the division of Korea, still moisten the land of North Korea.”

“North Korea has yet to experience the blessings of the gospel,” said Kim SungSik, president of the North American Association of Korean Churches, representing more than 140 Korean churches and 14,000 Korean believers in North America. “North Korea, which was once the most active Adventist mission field, has been shut down. We must do our best to ensure that the dream of

unification is fulfilled through Seventh-day Adventists. May the work of the Holy Spirit of latter rain take place through this opportunity.”

In his opening sermon, Gary Krause, director of the General Conference Adventist Mission department quoted Luke 5:1-6, the principle of salvation by comparing North Korea to a lake in Galilee where no fish were caught. In his sermon, titled “Push Out Into Deep Waters,” he presented statistics on the ratio of churches to the population in the world’s major metropolitan areas and exhorted, “We need to get in the boat of missions and cast the net of salvation, believing that ‘one day we will catch fish. Jesus wasn’t just talking to his disciples that day about catching fish; he was talking about catching people for the kingdom of heaven.” He added, “Today he is asking us to push out into deep missionary waters for North Korea. We must prepare for this mission through prayer, humility, and creativity, looking forward to the day when the nets are torn apart by so many fish.”

The Sabbath School featured testimonies from volunteers from the Priscilla and Aquila Mission.  
 Deaconess Lee ChunOk (Chuncheon Central Church in Korea), who has been working as a North Korean resettlement helper through the Hana Center for 10 years, shared stories of North Koreans she has met and explained how to help them. “I am deeply moved when I see North Koreans who have accepted the faith say, ‘When

unification comes, I will return to my hometown, build a church, and preach the gospel,” she said. “I want to play a role in easing the preconceived notions and prejudices that South Koreans have about North Koreans and guide them to live in good relationships with each other.”

Elder Kim JaeShin (Gapyeong Church in Korea) shared his experience of volunteering to dig wells in the early 2000s when the opening of Mount Kumgang to tourism spurred inter-Korean exchanges. “The North Koreans didn’t seem distant. There are no other people on earth who would treat them with as much affection as we do,” he said, adding, “Missionary work is something that even angels cannot do. May there be a renewal of determination and commitment to evangelize North Korea after reunification.”

Erton Köhler, Executive Secretary of the General Conference, delivered a sermon on Acts 19:8, highlighting it as a key verse. In his message titled “Mission is a Miracle,” he emphasized that the Bible indicates our mission is to reach every nation, tribe, tongue, and people worldwide, including difficult areas like North Korea. He posed the question, “How can we spread the gospel to people with different languages and cultures?” and affirmed that the mission belongs to the Lord, who will perform miracles to open closed doors and reach seemingly impossible hearts and inaccessible areas. Köhler stressed that we are merely instruments for the Master of the Church and the mission of the Church, and God will work through us to perform remarkable miracles.

Timothy Saxton, the Director of Adventist World Radio (AWR) Asia, shared about AWR and North Korea in his lecture. He spoke about AWR’s more than 50-year history of preaching the Three Angels’ Messages in hard-to-reach areas and highlighted its potential as the spearhead of North Korean missions. Saxton urged his listeners

to move forward in faith, saying that the promise had already been given to them.

Dr. Lee KwanSe, director of the Institute of Far Eastern Affairs at Kyungnam University (former vice minister of unification), said in his lecture, “Relief is neither a policy nor a strategy. We need to think about what the church can do for North Korea at this time,” he said. “The era of dialog and exchange between North and South Korea has passed. Even inside North Korea, there is much more information circulating than in the past. These are the forces that will change North Korea, and at the same time, they are the points to target for North Korean missions. Missions must also reflect reality.”

Pastor Oh BeomSeok, director of the NSD North Korea mission, reported on the mission’s progress. During his report, he introduced key initiatives that have been carried out in collaboration with KUC and the Korean American Church Association of North America. These initiatives include a prayer movement, training programs for North Korean missionaries, mission work among North Korean defectors, and the rebuilding of the North Korean church. Pastor Oh emphasized that North Korea is the most persecuted country for Christianity and called for active participation and interest from members in the mission to North Korea.

At a prayer meeting, the congregation joined hands and prayed for various causes, including the rebuilding of the 98 Seventh-day Adventist churches in North Korea, the successful settlement of 34,000 North Korean refugees in South Korean society with love and faith, leaders of North and South Korea to collaborate to create an atmosphere of peace that will open doors for mission work in North Korea, and for the leaders of the General Conference, branches, associations, and unions involved in mission work in North Korea to be given vision and guidance.



Erton Köhler and 10 leaders of NSD, KUC, KASDA and Sahmyook University pray for North Korea mission.



# Interviews with Erton Köhler and Gary D. Krause

**Erton Köhler** (GC Executive Secretary)  
**Gary Krause** (GC Adventist Mission Director)



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

## I. From Pandemic to Endemic

With the visit of Erton Köhler, General Conference Executive Secretary and Gary Krause, Adventist Mission Director, we will hear what the General Conference’s world mission direction is and how Korean Adventists and believers should respond to it.

In particular, during the three-year period of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Church sought ways to overcome the crisis of stagnant mission fields and solutions to “what path the Adventist Church should go” and “what our choices should be” in the era of new change.

### ► First, please share your greetings to the Adventists in Korea.

**Köhler:** Greetings from our worldwide family, our 22 million brothers and sisters gathered in 212 countries of the world. It’s a real pleasure for me to visit NSD especially for the Mission Conference focused on North Korea, one of our greatest missionary challenges.

**Krause:** It’s hard to believe that it has been almost five years since I had the pleasure of last visiting Korea—for the NSD International Mission Conference. On behalf of the Office of Adventist Mission, greetings and thank you for your continuing passion for mission that is not only blessing the church in Korea, but around the world.

### ► Coexistence with the COVID-19 virus is becoming more common, with mandatory wearing of masks being lifted in countries around the world. However, new variations are still appearing all over the place, and big and small trends are repeating themselves. Many experts now predict that the COVID-19 virus will continue to coexist with mankind. How is the General Conference analyzing and responding to the globally historic transition period of the COVID-19 pandemic and endemic?

**Köhler:** The consequences of the pandemic aren’t totally clear for everybody. In different organizations people are trying to anticipate the direction the world will follow since the pandemic. At the General Conference we are working on some initiatives to adapt or take advantage of this “new normal” situation. We have a discussion in place currently about how we can integrate some of our services and optimize the materials produced by our departments in order to be more efficient and reduce some internal costs to invest strongly in mission. We are also working on a movement called Mission Refocus to reorganize the sending of our missionaries and be more efficient to reach non-entered and low entered areas of the world with the biblical message of hope. At the same time, we are calling our organization to work in an integrated way to adopt challenging areas out of their territories to help in the



advancement of the mission. It is creating a great impact and expediting our worldwide mission, a result of the sense of urgency raised during the pandemic. And the last initiative I can highlight is the use of technology. We are investing strongly in new systems to help to improve the management of the technical aspects of the Church in different areas of communication and specifically in digital evangelism, while exploring more virtual meetings, saving time and money, but reaching more people and places.

**Krause:** At a public health level, Adventist Health Ministries at the GC continue to give guidance about appropriate health practices and procedures in dealing with Covid. The GC also continues to encourage church members to abide by government regulations designed to safeguard public health. From a mission perspective, we see that in some parts of the world the church has actually flourished during this time. Difficult times such as this force the church to think creatively and to increasingly rely on Jesus.

► **What do you think the meaning and lessons are that the COVID-19 pandemic has left with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its members?**

**Köhler:** The first lesson we learned more clearly was the importance of people. During the pandemic our church was made literally by people. We were not able to meet in person, operate our offices, manage our meetings and many other things. But our members were there, keeping the faith alive and sharing the message in the most creative ways possible. It shows us that we need to invest less in structures and more in people. More disciple-making, total member involvement, and relevant missionary projects to reach the most challenging areas of the world where people need the Lord.

**Krause:** It taught us how quickly society can change, and that we need to be prepared. Our structures, and organizations, and institutions are a blessing, but they are not necessarily permanent, and they can change or even cease functioning. Their only purpose is to support our mission. Our trust is not in them, but in God and in people. The early church grew rapidly without the benefit of physical churches. We are thankful today for church buildings, but we cannot rely on them and they are only one tool for fellowship and worship.

► **In the beginning of the pandemic, there were many views that interpreted COVID-19 infectious diseases as apocalyptic signs. In South Korea, in particular, public worship was banned for a while due to the government’s strong ‘social distancing’ policy, and there was confusion, with the number of infected people continuing to rise in churches,**



**and social antipathy against Christianity. If a situation like this happens again in the future, how do you think we should balance our faith and how should we respond missionally?**

**Köhler:** As Seventh-day Adventists we are balanced people. Our objective is to respect and not fight against the official orientation in situations like this. When the authorities are not in conflict with the clear Word of God and when we face an unknown situation like the pandemic, the best is to be prudent and follow the authority’s orientation. When we act respectfully, in a balanced way, we are not only protecting ourselves but also witnessing to those that are desperate how we can trust in the Lord and face these situations with hope and confidence. Another aspect is the mission impact of a balanced behavior in times of crises. It is a precious tool to witness to people. When we spend our time in criticism, polemics and negative reactions we show a lack of Christ’s spirit and lose the confidence of people that we are supposed to reach with a message of hope.

**Krause:** We should respond humbly, being respectful to political and health authorities, and do everything we can to be a blessing to the community.

► **Now the topic is ‘Restoration & Recovery.’ It is time to restore faith in all directions, such as worship and mission activities that were reduced during the pandemic. Just looking at the numbers of evangelism and baptisms right now, they have plummeted since the outbreak of COVID-19. As a leader of the world church, what is your advice**

## on how the Korean church should overcome this crisis?

**Köhler:** Nothing is totally clear in terms of the best strategies to reach people and grow again. In some areas of the world, our church re-encountered the way and is back to the same level of growth before the pandemic. In 2022 we baptized 1.23 million people worldwide and it is almost the same number we had in the last three years before the pandemic. It means the church is finding the way to reach people and grow again. In the areas where we are growing again, the church is more involved in direct contact with people through Bible studies, small groups, and prayer groups—small communities where they can feel involved and loved. On the other hand, we increased the use of communication to overcome all barriers and reach people where they are. Many more people are involved in this area, especially volunteers, with more creativity and relevant projects that can communicate with the current reality. We are reaching a great number of people. The best ways to re-encounter the growth after the pandemic is to strengthen the spiritual life of our members and prepare them to share their faith with others, using the best connections they have. Love and friendship, through the power of the Holy Spirit will open many closed hearts.

**Krause:** The Covid Pandemic reminded us of a biblical truth—the church is not a building. Many Adventists got caught in the mindset that church is a place you go on Sabbath mornings to worship—and when those buildings closed, they struggled to deal with the situation. It's important to have systems in place for small groups to connect physically where possible, but via phone or internet when needed, to keep fellowship and mission alive. Rather than limit our outreach and mission, Covid provided opportunities for us to serve and bless our communities—helping the vulnerable, providing assistance to the elderly, ministering to the needs of the isolated, the sick, and the poor. It also presents an opportunity to reach the wealthier communities who may be feeling isolated, anxious, or lonely.

### ► Korean society is experiencing a doughnut pattern due to a declining birth rate, rapid aging, and urbanization. Experts are concerned that we will enter a super-aged society soon. However, even if the population decreases, our mission must continue. Could you recommend an example of a region in the world that is achieving mission fruits and revival despite aging and urbanization, especially among developed countries?

**Köhler:** Well, let me use the example of the country where I came from: Brazil. The populational growth

is facing a strong change in the birth rates, but the church is growing. The Adventist membership in the country is now 1.7 million. They are working strongly with communication, involving technology and printed books. They are investing strongly in projects for the new generations, to keep them faithful while the society in general is losing relevance in this area. And they are also investing in different initiatives to have members involved in Bible studies. If you are proactive, creative, and keep the focus clear on mission, the power of the Holy spirit will open doors and make the church strong despite the population decrease and other challenges. We need to think big, innovate, but remember that mission is miracle. If our hands are in the Lord's hands, He will open doors in unexpected ways.

**Krause:** Elder Köhler has shared one encouraging example. And we're in the early stages of addressing this challenge in Japan with the Mission Unusual Tokyo initiative—focusing on starting new groups of believers in that huge city. But I urge you to be of good courage. God has asked us to be faithful in our lives and mission—but converting people is His responsibility. We may not see the baptismal numbers that we would hope for, but the mission is God's. He is in control.

### ► Lastly, please give a request or a word of emphasis to churches and believers of the NSD living in the age of infectious disease endemic. Thank you.

**Köhler:** The pandemic isolated us. We became much more individualistic, and it affected our emotional health, our spiritual health, and the commitment to our mission. I have two words to share with a church that faced this situation: intentionality and integration. Intentionality to organize movements to increase the relationships again. People taking care of people. Intentionality to focus all the initiatives on mission avoiding distraction with other issues that can be nice but are not relevant. And integration is a call to organize projects to have everybody working together. It creates stronger satisfaction and makes us more relevant to the community we want to reach. Many times, we have had hundreds of good independent mission projects happening, but they are irrelevant to our goal to reach the world to Jesus. The only way to do great things for the Lord is through working together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit

**Krause:** This is a time for the church to be the church! One of the main reasons the early church grew so rapidly is that in times of sickness and pandemic, Christians would stay in the cities to care for the sick. They modeled the love and compassion of Jesus. I would urge all Adventists in NSD to continue putting Christ's method of ministry into practice in their daily lives—mingling with

people (physically where possible), showing sympathy, ministering to needs, winning confidence, and bidding them to follow Jesus. How we live is just as important as what we teach.

## II. North Korean Mission

► **What is the meaning of North Korean mission in respect to world mission, and why is it important? Please speak with the perspective of the General Conference on the reunification of the Korean Peninsula and evangelization in North Korea.**

**Köhler:** At the General Conference we consider North Korea one of our main challenges. This mission conference is a symbol of faith and courage. Your initiative to strategize, prepare financial resources, train people, and start the work by faith is inspiring other areas of the world to also move by faith even if they are in seemingly impossible situations. North Korea is an example of what is starting to happen in many other challenging areas of the world. The movement called Mission Refocus, coordinated by the General Conference, is raising an army of new missionaries to go to forgotten or impossible areas of the world, like North Korea. We are preparing all resources that are in our hands, expecting God’s miracles to open the doors or borders. We are living in the very end of time and I’m sure that the next days, months or years will surprise us with unexpected opportunities.

**Krause:** Every year the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research publishes the Annual Statistical Report. And every year we see the same listing for North Korea: “no churches.” So, we continue to pray and plan, knowing that God has His own timing and has plans that we don’t know about. But He has invited us to participate with Him in His much larger plan.

It’s so encouraging to see how NSD and KUC have kept this as such a high priority. Blessings upon the North Korea mission department, the Bukbukbuk young people, the North Korea Pioneer Mission Movement, the Priscilla and Aquila missionaries, and so many church members who keep praying and giving.

I encourage you to keep preparing. Keep praying, keep training, keep giving, keep staying ready. I would also encourage you to consider who else you can enlist in this preparation. We have many Adventists in places such as Cuba that have strong relations and connections to North



Gary Krause holds North Korea Mission banner.

Korea, and may be well-placed to join this initiative.

► **What kind of support does the General Conference have for North Korean missions?**

**Köhler:** We are together with the Northern Asia-Pacific Division on this project. The division is an extension of the General Conference for this area of the world. We work through it. The how and when God will open the doors or the borders of North Korea we don’t know, but we are preparing ourselves to take

advantage of this moment. It can’t take us by surprise. We are preparing finances, personnel, and initiatives to be implemented as soon we can be in touch with North Korea.

**Krause:** The Office of Adventist Mission supervises the Global Mission initiative of the church to start new groups of believers in unreached areas and unreached people groups. We stand ready to support!

► **If you have any words of encouragement or emphasis to the Korean churches and members, please do so. Thank you.**

**Köhler:** The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Korea has many challenges to face in these very last days of our history—unpredictable times full of difficulties and opportunities. The only way to face these realities is to follow Christ’s recommendation: “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33, ESV). Walking with the Lord every day, “making Christ the first, the last and the best,” we will be able to face all difficulties, receive opportunities and especially fulfill the great mission God entrusted to us.

**Krause:** First, I want to again thank Korea for being such a blessing to the world church. I’ve had the privilege of meeting PMM pastors working in various parts of the world. I’ve seen them in action, starting new groups of believers. I’ve seen other Korean missionaries serving in some of the most challenging parts of the world. And I’m astounded by the generosity of KUC and its members with the 10/40 Window Mission project. I know that God will bless you for your care and compassion.

# My Commitment to Serve Until Death as a North Korea Missionary

## Priscilla and Aquila Missionary Reflections on the Third Field Training

Cho BoHyung Priscilla and Aquila Missionary

From a remote village in Bonghwa, Gyeongbuk, South Korea, I woke up before dawn, feeling a mix of excitement and nervousness. I packed a bundle of kimbap and set off for Incheon International Airport to participate in the third on-site training for “Priscilla and Aquila Missionaries,” which I had applied for in November of last year.

As I watched my husband’s back, who had driven me all the way to the airport because of the inconvenience of transportation in our village, I felt a sense of gratitude and also a feeling of solitude, as if the sun was setting on his face, which had been tanned by years of hard labor. But my thoughts were soon replaced by a feeling of joy and love as I met dedicated missionaries from all over the country who had diligently come. Their eyes were full of warmth and eagerness to meet me, and I felt welcomed and encouraged.

Due to the situation in China, the seminar had to be held in Vladivostok, Russia. During this time, I had the pleasure of discovering that the owner of the travel agency was a deacon in the Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church. This realization filled me with immense delight and gave rise to the thought that the joy of meeting fellow Seventh-day Adventists in a foreign land could be a glimpse of the happiness that awaits us when we meet our brothers and sisters in faith in heaven.

During our hour-long ride from the airport, the Korean

deacon explained about Russian history in an easy and fun way. His words made the journey more engaging and exciting. He told us that Russia spans approximately 17 million square kilometers, which is slightly less than the combined area of the United States and China. I was astounded to realize that Russia is the world’s largest country by landmass, and the deacon’s explanation made it clear why. Furthermore, he informed us that Russia is a capitalist country with no limitations on religious practices. This new knowledge filled me with hope and excitement about the future of religion and freedom in Russia.

It is said that Vladivostok means to rule the East. When Korea’s sovereignty was taken by the Japanese in 1910, local and foreign branches gathered in Vladivostok’s “Shinhan Village” to fight to restore it.

In 1919, they established a provisional government however, in 1937, the Korean people were unfortunately scattered in Central Asia by Stalin, and Shinhan Village was destroyed. This information was meaningful in the context of the mission to North Korea, a place with such a sad history.

On the first day, though it was a bit late, I visited the Vladivostok Revival Church. While looking forward to the upcoming seminar, my heart was saddened by the need for the gospel in this place, and I made a commitment to pray for



Priscilla and Aquila missionaries attend eighth training.

the heavenly blessings to be firmly and deeply established in this place.

Through the seminar, I came to realize the compassion of Jesus, from Gethsemane to the cross. Those who believe in Jesus look to God and glorify Him. I felt happy to learn about the missionaries who do not fear the judgment of God. They must know how to witness the pitifulness of Jesus.

We took an evening flight to China where we climbed to the top of Baekdu Mountain, but the clouds covered the mountains, so we couldn't see the northern land of North Korea clearly, but the Changbai Waterfall greeted us in the bright sunshine. The sulfurous hot springs that bubbled up here and there gave off a peculiar smell and created a sense of mystery, and the magnificent Changbai Falls reminded us of the greatness of the Lord.

Descending to the Domun and Duman River, I listened to the painful history of our nation, one that has been scattered in every corner. North Korea, our brothers across the Duman River, was bleak beyond imagination. The blue water of the Duman River seemed to disappear somewhere, and only the dry riverbed was visible. The ruins of buildings across the river seemed to be eternally sorrowful in our hearts.

I saw the sight of brothers who shared the blood of one nation living there. Suppressing my beating heart, I cried out towards the sky. I prayed with a fervent heart, begging for the bright light of heaven to shine upon them, and for them to open their spiritual eyes and see that light. And I made a promise to my beating heart. I will become a loyal missionary to North Korea, with unwavering devotion to the Lord until the day I die.

## North Korea Missionaries “BukBukBuk”

Joo HyangKi BukBukBuk Missionary



**M**y name is Joo HyangKi and I am the leader of Bukbukbuk (Buk means north in Korean language). Although I'm currently leading the group, I wasn't always interested in missions or North Korea. By chance, I had the opportunity to go on the Bukbukbuk Vision Trip to Mount Baekdu, which changed everything. I was excited to explore different cultures and cuisines during the trip, but the most profound experience happened when we gazed upon North Korea as a group. Standing just a few steps away, I felt overwhelmed that it was right in front of us, yet we couldn't go any further. As I looked at the country with mixed emotions, a North Korean soldier who was keeping watch greeted us with a wave and hello. That was the moment I realized what I had known only intellectually before. I had heard so much about North Koreans being our fellow countrymen, but it was only then that I truly felt it. My heart was moved, and I wanted them to find happiness, serve the Lord, and have peace in their hearts. That pivotal experience led me to where I am now, leading Bukbukbuk.

Bukbukbuk is a missionary team operated by a youth club. As the youth are scattered around, it is not easy to gather, but we still hold vision trips, seminars, and operate

a prayer meeting for North Korea every Wednesday. The group think about how we can carry out activities, albeit on a small scale, with both advantages and difficulties. However, we believe that God will use us as tools and prepare ourselves accordingly. Although we sometimes question the significance of our actions, we regain courage and hope through prayer meetings and Bukbukbuk gatherings.

What about you? Do you think there is a need for missions to North Korea? If so, why do you think it's needed, and is it possible? Those in North Korea are people just like us, and they certainly need the Lord, but it seems as if the task is beyond our little power, and that nothing will happen. But the Lord says, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." That's right. Our strength is not enough, we can't do it, but the Lord says that when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we will receive power and be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. We must trust in the power of the Lord, not in our words or our abilities. For that to happen, all we need is a little attention, and most of all, prayer. I invite you to join me in praying for North Korea.

# Northern Asia-Pacific Division 2023 Week of Prayer

**Jonas Arrais**  
NSD Ministerial Secretary  
Week of Prayer Coordinator



Every year, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) promotes a special week to come together as a family to study, pray, and fellowship. This year, after three years of the Covid-19 pandemic, NSD was able to hold the first Week of Prayer face to face. Dr. Gebre Worancha Dimma was invited to be the guest speaker. He was born in Ethiopia, but currently he is serving as a professor in the School of Theology at Bugema University, Kampala, Uganda. The theme for the week was “Spiritual Growth and Commitment to Mission.” The daily topics were relevant and reminded us why we are here as disciples of Jesus.

Dr Gebre brought his passion to every message. His enthusiasm and great love for the gospel story inspired the NSD family to delve deeper into the Word of God. As an evangelist his motto is, “Let the Bible Speak.”

During this week of spiritual emphasis, we had the opportunity to be spiritually revived, to strengthen our relationship with God, and to be more committed to the church mission. The results of such a spiritual revival week produced joy, encouragement, unity, hope, and commitment to the workers at NSD.

## GAIN Asia Preparation Meeting



Eleven directors from NSD, KUC, five local conferences, MM and TWC attend GAIN Asia preparation meeting at Jeju Island.

The communication department of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division held a meeting in February 2023 at the NSD Leadership Training Center on Jeju Island to discuss the upcoming GAIN Asia conference and digital evangelism ministry.

Eleven directors from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, Korean Union Conference, five Korean local conferences, Mongolia Mission and Taiwan Conference gathered to discuss the most effective strategies to quickly spread the gospel message in these last days when signs of the Lord’s Second Coming are increasing.

During the morning worship on February 20, Pas-

tor Shin Kwangchul, KUC’s SS/PM director, emphasized that “rather than trying to carry out the work that the Lord has entrusted to us on our strength, we should believe that the gospel work is what the Lord directly leads, and if we rely on God’s power and follow His guidance, God will give us a great victory.”

Byun SeongJun, NSD Communication director, talked about the direction of digital evangelism in the world church and the Northern Asia-Pacific Division “The General Conference is applying digital technology to many departmental activities to spread the gospel most effectively. At this time, our unions, conferences, and local churches should utilize various digital technologies to help lead more people to the Lord” said Byun.

The directors discussed various topics to prepare for the GAIN Asia conference, which will be held at the Jeju Leadership Training Center from September 13-16, 2023. The conference is expected to be attended by leaders, directors, pastors, and members interested or responsible for internet and digital media evangelism from the General Conference, Northern Asia-Pacific Division, Southern Asia-Pacific Division, South Asia Division, and Chinese Union Mission.

# Project 2.0: The Great Controversy of Each Age—Five Conferences of KUC

**Kim Kwon** NSD director of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries

At the request of the Korean Union Conference (KUC), the Northern Asia-Pacific Division departments of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries conducted special training sessions on March 7-8 and 13-15, 2023, for the Great Controversy Project 2.0 at the annual pastors' meetings of KUC's five local conferences. The 600 Korean pastors in attendance had a valuable opportunity to understand and commit to this global project.

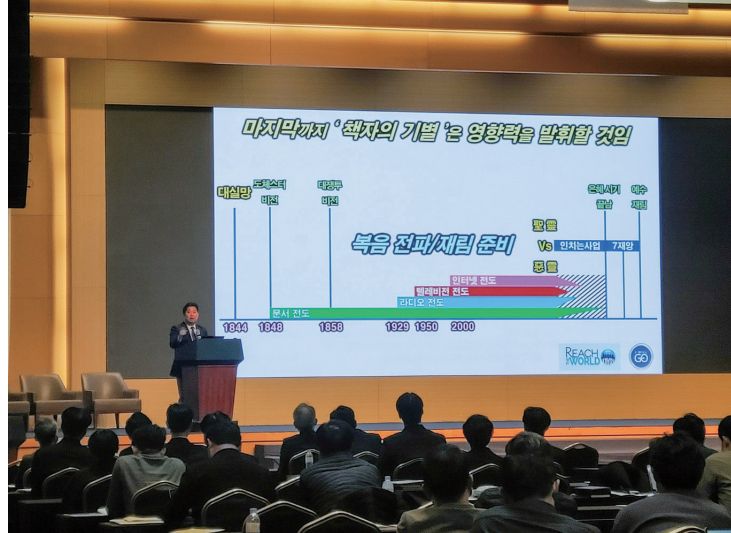
These are the details of Project 2.0:

The Great Controversy of Each Age 2.0 Project is a global effort by Seventh-day Adventist churches, organizations, and believers around the world to deliver a copy of The Great Controversy to every home in their community. In 2012, The Great Controversy 1.0 project enabled Seventh-day Adventists around the world to deliver one million printed copies of The Great Controversy. Now, in 2023 and 2024, when the impact of the pandemic has caused many in the world to think about the end of the world, our global church will distribute one billion copies of The Great Controversy, a precious gospel message for the last days, in both printed and digital forms.

On April 15, 2023, each person will make a “book dedication” as a commitment to this project. Then, for 20 months, from May 2023 to December 2024, we will spend every day sharing the message of mercy for the end of the world.

This precious project will involve all Seventh-day Adventist churches, organizations, and members living around the world. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a great mission to “TELL THE WORLD”. The response of “TMI” (TOTAL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT) is to expand on that and participate in this great mission with “I WILL GO!” Everyone, no exceptions.

We can start by reaching out to those who are geographically near to us, such as our local church community. And we can share the message with those who are emotionally close to us, such as our families, relatives, friends, coworkers, and those with whom we share similar interests. Make a list of their names and adjust your outreach accordingly. Printed and digital books will be our most powerful missionary tools, so let's pray and pass them on.



We are privileged to be part of this valuable 20-month project. The recommended method is as follows: first, we will share one printed copy of the Great Controversy per person per month—20 people in 20 months. Additionally, we can share a digital copy with four people we know per month—80 people over the course of 20 months. Therefore, one person can reach 100 people in person and digitally. In summary, if 10,000 members participate in this project, the Korean Union Conference will have 200,000 printed books and 800,000 digital books distributed. Overall, 1 million copies of The Great Controversy will be available online and offline.

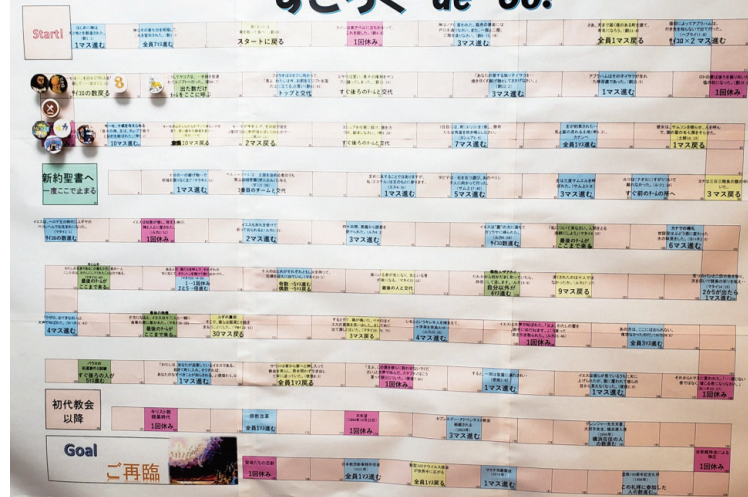
Ellen White has written why it is so important to share this book with those around us: “The Great Controversy for each age should be widely distributed. This book contains the whole story, past, present, and future. In describing the final scenes of this earth’s history, it bears a powerful testimony for truth. I am very anxious to see it more widely circulated than any other book I have ever written, for in the great struggles of each age the last message to the world is more clearly revealed than in any other book I have ever written” (*Christian Writings* 358).

The world speaks of despair, but the Bible speaks of the hope of the Second Coming. And we have detailed a time navigation toward that hope. We have a golden opportunity to share that truth that the world does not yet know.

And the Apostle Paul says: “Let men rightly regard us as ministers of Christ, and as entrusted with the mysteries of God. And what is required of those who have been entrusted with them is loyalty” (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

We are “laborers” of Christ. The Greek word translated “laborer” here is “huperetai,” which “originally described an oarsman on a warship” (SDABC Commentary on 1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

The idea of laborers working together as a community of like-minded people for like purposes is at the heart of this work. The Lord has given marching orders for the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide. Let us do our best to keep our battleship of faith moving forward in unity toward the one goal of world missions.



# Health Program: SUGOROKU de Go!

Chizu Takahashi

At Japan Union Conference, we have had several health programs to promote workers' health. In the past, we held a campaign to rejuvenate blood vascular age using healthy eating and exercise habits. Another time, we walked two miles a day according to the Bible verse in Matthew 5:41, "And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two."

So, at the beginning of July 2022, a seven-month health program named "Sugoroku de GO!" was started for all employees of JUC and any pastors who wanted to participate. We had not been able to do this kind of health program since 2020 due to COVID-19, but finally, we were able to resume the program. Since many of the employees work at a desk with little exercise in their daily lives, this program was planned to help them be more active. \*SUGOROKU is a Japanese board game played with dice similar to the "Game of Life".

The participants were divided into nine teams of six members per team. On Mondays each team reported the number of steps they walked from Sunday to Saturday. Then we rolled the dice according to the total number of steps by the team. For example, if the total steps of a team were more than 120,000 steps a week, they could roll the dice once. If the number was more than 300,000 steps, they could roll twice.

The program was fun and exciting; some of the squares contained directions to be followed, like

moving forward or backward, missing a turn, or trading places with the team in the last place. There were

200 grids in total, and the first part of the game was designed based on the Old Testament, and the second part was based on the New Testament, with the Second Coming as the final goal.

Many workers normally commute and go shopping by car, but this program motivated them to try walking instead of using a car. Some tried to get off from the bus two or three stops early and walk. Some used the stairs instead of using the elevator or escalator. Because the program was a team competition, each person reported how much they were walking, so they were able to encourage each other, which may have contributed to team building. The winner in the individual category walked every day with a goal of 10,000 steps a day. He said that he developed an even deeper relationship with God by memorizing Bible verses and praying during the walk every morning. In addition to the habit of walking, he also adopted the habit of eating two meals a day, which led to significant weight loss and made him lighter and happier both mentally, physically, and spiritually. It was truly a NEWSTART!

A morning walk is a great way to get sunshine, fresh air, and a better quality of sleep at night, all of which work in synergy to promote good health. We trust that our health will be sustained by the true remedies that God has given us that will be a light to the world around us. And we are praying that this work as the right arm of the Gospel will spread and lead to the salvation of many people in this world.

Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies. Every person should have a knowledge of nature's remedial agencies and how to apply them. It is essential both to understand the principles involved in the treatment of the sick and to have a practical training that will enable one to rightly use this knowledge (*Ministry of Healing*, 127.2).





# “North Korea Missionary Prayer Meeting” Reaffirms Mission to Evangelize the Nation

On February 25, 2023, a prayer meeting to open North Korea for the gospel was held in Gwangju Central Church. The Southwest Korean Conference (SWKC) Priscilla and Aquila Missionary group, with the North Korea Mission Department of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division and Korean Union Conference, and the SWKC Foreign Missions Department, organized the event, which drew more than 10 people from Gwangju and nearby areas. The aim of the rally was to gather hearts for national evangelization and to promote peaceful reunification through prayer for North Korea.

Pastor Kim JaeShin, the director of the Adventist Mission Department of SWKC, welcomed the attendees and praised the growing desire for peaceful reunification, which he said has been observed across generations. Elder Lee JaeYul president of the Priscilla and Aquila Missionary program expressed his hope for mission work in North Korea once the country opens. He said that while the ‘iron curtain’ separating North and South Korea seems impenetrable, constant prayer can open the doors to North Korea. He urged attendees to have a missionary passion for North Korea, which he called the last landmass of this age, and to take steps toward the evangelization of the Korean Peninsula.

Pastor Oh BeomSeok, the director of the North Korea Mission said, “The relationship between South and North Korea is like Jacob and Esau.” He said that while North Korea is currently hostile towards South Korea, it should be embraced and loved through prayer, and he emphasized the importance of prayer as a source of power, saying that one person who prays is stronger than a nation of nations. He urged attendees to become

the “spiritual Jacobs” of their time and to wrestle in prayer for the evangelization of North Korea.

Elder Park SungSoo spoke on “How to Prepare for Mission to North Korea? - Focusing on North Korean Missionary Education,” sharing his experience of missionary work in North Korea and supporting North Korean defectors. He pointed out that the fundamental problem facing missionaries is the separation that has arisen between North and South Korea over 70 years of division. He urged attendees to take an active interest in North Korea and to attend relevant rallies, get educated, and use all kinds of media and information to learn about the situation and activities there.

Elder Park said that when missionaries are prepared, the doors will open for them to enter North Korea and that the Lord is looking for them now.

Through individual prayers, attendees asked for repentance and humility from selfishness and laziness, and for a revival of the Holy Spirit on the Korean Peninsula. They prayed for continued financial commitment and interest in North Korean missions. In group prayer, they joined hands to ask for the rebuilding of churches that had been established in Hamgyong South and for laborers to serve in the SWKC mission, especially in the most populous province in North Korea. In the representative prayer, Elders Kwak JunChul, Lee KwangHee, Kim JaeShin, and Oh BeomSeok interceded for the North Korean missionaries and workers.

The meeting, which lasted about two hours in a calm and solemn atmosphere, concluded with a chorus of “Our Wish.”





## Christian Living Leadership School Brings Revival and Joy Among Church Members

On February 15-16, 2023, the Korean Union Conference Women's Ministries Department held the Christian Living Leadership School Workshop for women leaders from five conferences in Korea.

The Christian Living Leadership School is composed of Bible-based practical lessons for adults and serves as the core project for women's outreach activities in their local communities across Korea. Women learn the lessons together and when they return to their local congregations, teach the lessons in small groups in their churches. The theme for the 2023 Christian Living Leadership School was "God With Us" and consisted of a total of five lessons. Each lesson talked about the God who visits us, the God who is with us when we need Him the most, the God who laughs and cries with us, the God who guides us, and the God who is our example for mission service.

Women's Ministries directors from the five conferences in KUC completed the material with prayer, Bible study and books on the topics. The women who participated cried together, laughed together, and share the love of God through Bible stories. The 55 leaders who participated in the leadership workshops serve as instructors for leadership classes in their conferences, training other leaders, and serving as leaders in small groups.

In 2022, there were 267 small groups in 84 churches conducting the Christian Living Leadership

School and 1,633 people completed the lessons. As a result, a revival took place and members restored the joy as followers of Jesus. The Women's leaders expect that in 2023, more people and church members will meet God in their journey through this program with the news of salvation shared to many.



# Global Youth Day

On March 18, 2023, the General Conference hosted “Global Youth Day,” an international event held on the third Sabbath of March every year. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the event, which aims to encourage the eight million Adventist youth worldwide to participate in community service on the Sabbath when the Spring Week of Prayer begins and to share God’s love and gospel mission with the world.

The theme this year was “LOVE IS A VERB,” emphasizing the active practice of love and encouraging participants to spread neighborly love in their own communities.

Each division broadcast their own service projects through YouTube. The Korean Union Conference was responsible for live broadcasting for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Four churches participated for a total of 30 minutes of live broadcasting.

Guri church in the East Central Korean Conference showed 16 youth and young adults making side dishes and visiting neighbors. At Young Nam SahmYook Academy in South East Korean Conference 30 students were shown picking up trash in the area. Middle West Korean Conference had 20 young people from the Domadong Church distributing water to hikers and tourists at the Jangtaesan Natural Recreation Forest. On the water bottle, they put a sticker that said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28), with the contact information of the church. Finally, the Morning Dew church in South West Korean Conference were shown delivering food and spending time with the elderly in their neighborhood. Each church’s live broadcast was viewed by hundreds of people.

Pastor Oh HyoSeok, from Guri church expressed gratitude for the opportunity to broadcast their service project to the world, saying that every step of their journey was accompanied by God. He also said, “This event aimed to inspire young Adventists to actively participate in their communities and spread love and compassion wherever they go.”

The head of the youth department in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, Pastor Choi HoYoung, emphasized that “The spirit of Global Youth Day is to remember every year during the Spring Week of Prayer, that we should love and serve our neighbors, not just dedicate ourselves to loving devotion to God.”



Domadong church’s youth group put stickers on water bottles.



Youth group from Guri church visit the elderly.



Morning Dew church youth members.

# Christmas Back Home - Manage Your Health

**Jacob Ko**  
NSD Health Ministries Director



Mrs. Wang teaches stretching and massage.

December is the time to celebrate Christmas and hold various activities. We named our activity “Back to NEWSTART Home.” This event is a cooperative program of the NEWSTART Association and the Taipei Adventist Church. In this event, we planned a series of cooking lessons, massage, and stretching lessons, watched cancer prevention videos, and ate while learning about spiritually healthy food. While participants enjoyed a healthy meal and fellowship, we introduced the importance of a healthy diet and regular exercise— a great preparation and encouragement for participants to have good physical health, a joyful spirit, and a correct healthy attitude to face the new year.

Before the event, we asked some “NEWSTART Association” members to come to the church for food preparation and event decorations. Two church pastors’ wives, Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Wang, worked as the coordinators for this event. Both graduated from the Health Promotion Department of Taiwan Adventist College. Mrs. Lee gave a warm welcome and introduction. Mrs. Wang presented a healthy cooking class. She prepared some healthy and easy hands-on recipes. Everybody enjoyed the cooking class and received the recipes.

After our healthy lunch, Pastor Kang led in spiritual sharing. He asked, “What is the most important thing in our life? What should be our priority in life?” Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). Pastor Kang encouraged the participants to make the T for “Trust in God” in “NEWSTART” the first priority for their health and lives. God has promised to add all other things to the one who puts Him first.

In the Afternoon, Mrs. Wang taught stretching and massage. She explained the body structure and the importance of stretching daily. Moreover, she demonstrated the basic massage strokes that are easy to learn and practice. She emphasized the benefits of daily stretching and good massage strokes which enhance blood circulation, strengthen muscles, prevent falls, and reduce muscle soreness and pain.

Before ending the meeting, we shared a cancer prevention video produced by Dr. Fan who is a faithful medical missionary in Africa. This program succeeded in bringing people to the church even in the chilly season. We give thanks to those who helped with the event and give all the glory and thanks to our heavenly God who cares about every person’s health and life. We all expect to meet again soon in 2023.





# Taiwan City Simultaneous Evangelistic Meetings 2023 Preparation Seminar

**Kim SunHwan**  
NSD AM / PARL Director

One of the main purposes of the Adventist Mission department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to oversee and strengthen the Global Mission initiative by focusing attention on areas and people groups where there are few, or no, Seventh-day Adventists. In this respect, Taiwan can be the place where our priorities should lie since the Adventist ratio among the Han Chinese people in Taiwan is less than one to ten thousand. For this specific purpose, NSD has tentatively planned to conduct the Taiwan City Simultaneous Evangelistic Meetings 2023 from July 3 to 8, 2023.

Twenty churches applied to this Evangelistic Initiative and 20 speakers have been assigned to all sites. Most of the NSD officers and directors are involved as speakers for the meetings and some presidents of the Unions and institution directors are joining in this movement.

On March 6, 2023, we held the first onsite preparation meeting for TCSEM at the headquarters office of Taiwan Conference. The purpose of this meeting was to help the pastors of the churches to know how to prepare the evangelistic meetings efficiently. Pastor Kim Kwon, NSD SSPM director gave a two hour lecture explaining the process. This lecture gave the participants a clear idea about what and how to do evangelistic meetings. Pastor Kim emphasized one thing: If we fail to prepare, we are preparing the failure. Pastor Kim SunHwan, NSD Adventist Mission director, emphasized Christ's method in mission. He shared some illustrations from Jesus' stories and showed how Jesus approached people and took steps to reach them. Dr. Kim Yohan joined and delivered an encouraging message to the pastors.

A second preparation meeting is also scheduled in May. This meeting will be held in three areas in Taiwan respectively. We believe that the Holy Spirit will be with all church pastors, church members, and all speakers, so that this movement will lead the Taiwan Adventist Church into revival and will expand with the Three Angels' Messages.



Pastor Kim Kwon talks about what and how to do evangelistic meetings.



# Taiwan ExCOM and Institution Board Meetings



**Choi HoYoung**  
NSD Youth Ministries Director

On March 5, 2023, the NSD officers arrived in Taiwan for the Taiwan Conference Executive Committee and various institution board meetings. Although it has been just a few months since COVID-19 quarantines, the laughter of tourists could be heard everywhere. The Taiwan Conference is located in Taichung, a two-hour drive from the airport.

Monday, March 6, the Taiwan Conference met with NSD officers for its board meeting, addressing important issues with lively discussion. Pioneer Mission Movement pastors in Taiwan also gathered at that time for a briefing session. It was dark by the end of the meeting, but the officers still had to drive to Taiwan Adventist College near Sun Moon Lake.

The campus of Taiwan Adventist College is in a beautiful setting with mountains in the distance and colorful birds in the trees, a truly idyllic spot in the countryside. But even though it is set in a lovely spot, the college is facing many challenges financially and old dormitories and facilities urgently need improvements. The group toured the women's dormitory to see the remodeling needs.

By Wednesday, March 8, NSD officers attended the board meeting at Taiwan Adventist Hospital back in Taipei. There was a time for key personnel of the hospital to introduce and greet the doctors and management. Everyone enjoyed a delicious and healthy vegetarian lunch box. That afternoon the NSD Taiwan Branch Office meeting was held. The role of the branch office is to manage the tithes and offerings from the Taiwan Conference and institutions.

The Taiwan Adventist Church and Institutions continue to serve those living in Taiwan spiritually, physically, and academically. Please pray that Taiwan can meet the needs of the many people in this country who are waiting to know Jesus.





# Taiwan Aboriginal Churches Celebrate Women's International Day of Prayer: Transforming Prayer

**Raquel Arrais**  
NSD Women's Ministries Director

Every year on the first Sabbath of March, the Women's International Day of Prayer is set on the church calendar. It is also the most important spiritual feast for women's ministry in the Taiwan Conference.

Local women's ministry church coordinators provide an opportunity for women to learn about each other and pray for one another. It is a time to reunite with God and one another, and to strengthen spiritual bonds. During the Sabbath, women worship together, preach, share testimonies, sing special songs, and participate in dramas to present the Sabbath theme in a powerful way. On Sunday, women provide community service, cleaning up the streets and making friends in the community.

This year, on the Women's International Day of Prayer, women worshiped and praised the Lord, but they also demonstrated Jesus' love in serving others, reaching the world around them.

These are women who diligently take care of their families, and who desire to serve the Lord. They are God-fearing women; they are an example of what it means to love the Lord in the church and in the family. On that day they prayed for their families with tears. God sees their loyalty, just as the Bible in Proverbs 31:30-31 declares: "...but a woman who fears the Lord will be praised. May she enjoy what she has worked; may her work glorify her at the gate of the city."

Although the essential purpose of the day is prayer, the time also provides women with the opportunity to strengthen their ties with other Christian women as they pray and serve together.



A local women's ministry group cleans up the streets.

# Ministerial Visitation to Japan and Taiwan



**Jonas Arrais**  
NSD Ministerial Secretary

The church will move in the right direction and grow with servant-leaders totally committed to God and His mission as we visit, motivate, affirm, train, and equip our church administrators, pastors and local leaders.

During the months of January and February 2023, I had the opportunity to visit Japan Union Conference and Taiwan Conference. The goal was to foster relationships, improve communication, and provide training for them as they care for the church in different contexts.

Pastoral visitation is an integral part of the ministerial association activities. It includes nurturing, caring, continuing education, follow-up, and evaluation.

In Japan, Pastor Morita, the JUC ministerial secretary, provided special opportunities to visit many local church pastors and leaders of institutions, including our professors from the Religion School and students. As one leader said, "Listening to each other helps to get strength and to face the local challenges with more possibilities." In the Tokyo International Church, we had an inspiring English training meeting for all local church leaders living in Japan challenging them to get involved in mission according to their spiritual gifts, under the initiative, "Total Member Involvement."

In Taiwan, Pastor Clark, the TWC ministerial secretary led a special visitation to the aboriginal villages where we have many Seventh-day Adventist

churches. It was a great privilege to visit pastoral families, local leaders, and members. Special training was provided for them to be more committed to church mission. It was a joy to see their passion for God and dedication to the church. Valuable time was also dedicated to visiting the leaders of our institutions, including the Taiwan Adventist Hospital, Publishing House, Hope Channel, and the NSD Branch Office.

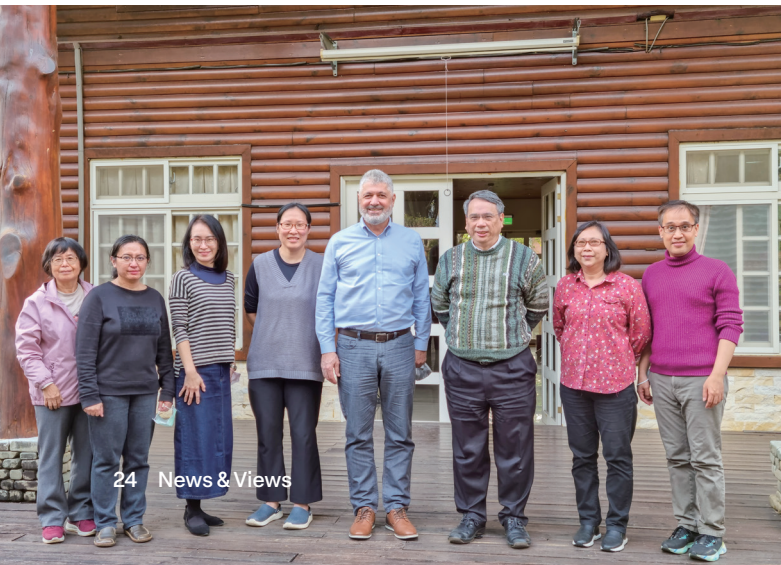
The challenges each country faces are similar. We all know that we live in a different world today after Covid-19. But I can affirm to you that the pandemic had some positive effects in the midst of much suffering and disgrace. I could see how God has sustained His church and opened doors for new possibilities and opportunities for personal and corporate spiritual growth.

Ministering is always a privilege and at the same time a challenging task, but with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it is possible to fulfill the mission that God has entrusted to our church.



Taiwan aboriginal church.

Terry Tsui, TAC President and faculty members.



Tony Chou, TPA Manger and his publishing team.





# Christian Home & Marriage Week

**Family Celebration brings all the Churches Together in Ulaanbaatar**

**Raquel Arrais**

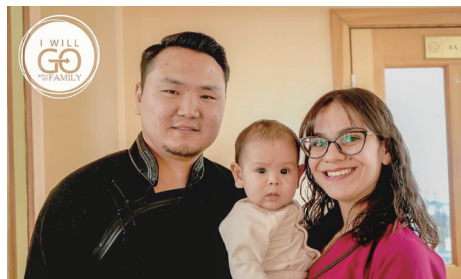
NSD Women's Ministries Director

In February of 2023, the Mongolia Mission Family Ministries department director, Oyuntuya Batsukh organized a dynamic program addressing marriage relationships, mental health, parenting and communication for families and couples for the churches in Mongolia. The program was shared on Facebook from the Mission Church in Ulaanbaatar allowing more families to participate and lasted one week, encompassing two Sabbaths.

NSD Family Ministries director, Raquel Arrais, was the guest speaker during the evening programs and for the Christian Home Day Sabbath Celebration at Ulaanbaatar Central Church. Pastor Bold Batsukh translated the messages.

About 250 people attended the Christian Home Day service on Sabbath morning. Families participated with their children, enriching the service with music, stories, testimonies, and prayers. "We are grateful to God for this week where we experienced many blessings, miracles and healing" said Pastor Oyuntuya.

These special gatherings always provide tools to build up resilient marriages, stronger families, and stronger churches affirming and strengthening every Seventh-day Adventist family—they are able to draw nearer to each other, in love, forgiveness, reconciliation, restoration, and renewal.



# Women Together in Mission in Mongolia



**Raquel Arrais**  
NSD WM Director

Part of the outreach strategy for the Women’s Ministries department in the Mongolia Mission is to mobilize women to leave their comfort zone and be part of the “I Will GO, Reach My World” movement where sisters from different churches in Mongolia come together as a group for an evangelism campaign in a target city.

On January 22-28, 2023, nine women from different churches in Mongolia led by Oyuntuya Batsukh, Mongolia Mission Women’s Ministries director, traveled together to Hutul, a city in the Selenge province, where you can observe the Orkhon and Selenge river basin from the top of a high mountain.

Together they held a daily program addressing the needs of the communities around the church. Together they visited prisons, delivered messages to the inmates, offered health talks and brought hope and healing for those who attended the meetings. The Hutul Church was opened every morning for a seminar and prayer. The women also prepared a special program for children who during the wintertime don’t have many outdoor activities.

The feedback from those who attended the meetings showed how much they enjoyed participating, serving, and ministering together in an integrative form. “This initiative has been a blessing for our sisters as they GO and share the love of Jesus though their spiritual gifts” said Oyuntuya Batsukh, (MM WM director).

The joy of this special outreach program will inspire many more initiatives in the future as women GO and reach their world in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.



Oyuntuya Batsukh, MM WM director (left) provides materials to a woman from Hutul.



# The Mongolia Mission Holds Successful Stewardship Seminar

**Kim NakHyung**  
NSD Stewardship Director

The Mongolia Mission successfully held the 2023 Stewardship Seminar at Bayangher Church in the Mongolian Mission headquarters building, March 24-26, 2023. The Stewardship Seminar, one of the important annual events of Mongolia Mission, has been held only online for the past three years due to the influence of Covid-19, but this year, it was designed with two tracks, online and onsite, and it attracted wide interest, hot enthusiasm, and high participation from church members.



President Han SukHee, who attended the first day's plenary session, said in his opening speech, "The two pillars that must be established in the personal faith and life as a Seventh-day Adventist church member are spiritual revival and a soul-winning mission spirit."

In other words, spiritual revival must include a spirit of stewardship and soul-winning as its mission spirit. In fact, these two are not only the pillars that support personal faith and church, but also the driving force behind growth like two wings promoting the gospel work to balance a healthy faithful life.

Pastor Kim NakHyung, who was invited as a speaker, firmly armed the hearts of participants with a total of four lively lectures throughout the weekend under the general theme of "God First!" Pastor Kim appealed to

the attendees for four meanings of the word Steward: "It is a man who manages, represents, works, and serves what the owner has entrusted," exhorting those present to be good servants and stewards who faithfully manage their lives, health, time, talent, wealth, gospel, home and environment as God's representatives.

He explained in detail the types and kinds of offerings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the principles of offering and donation life, and the meaning and differences between tithe and integrated offering systems, and emphasized the importance of tithe, a modern version of the fruit of good and evil in the garden of Eden. In his series, he emphasized "God is stronger than Corona virus." Tithe is holy, distinguished by God as belonging to God. Therefore, the faithful steward must set aside tithe from the income and give it to God honestly.

Elder Kim YoungSik, the Mongolia Mission's Stewardship director, said, "Through this seminar held under the theme of 'God First!' participants realized that the plus commitment from church members brings God's abundant multiplication blessing." He added, "The biggest fruit of this seminar is that Mongolian church members have two wings, a steward wing and mission wing, and they are determined to live as good and faithful servants according to the will of the Lord."

The Mongolia Mission's Stewardship department will invite Pr. Kim NakHyung once again as a speaker during the summer Revival Camp Meeting on July 20-23, 2023, this year to continue to emphasize the hands-on stewardship ministry and activity through the second stewardship rally and Golden Bell event.

In Matthew 25:23, the master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"



## Vision and Dedication of 21st batch of PMM Missionaries

“This is the most meaningful beginning of my life.”

The 21st batch of the Pioneer Mission Movement (PMM) missionaries shared their vision and hope that God will guide them in their mission fields during their final dedication worship service before their departure to Japan, Philippines, Indonesia and Ethiopia.

Kim SunHwan, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division Adventist Mission Director and PMM Coordinator, reminded the missionaries of Moses' words to the Israelites when they faced the Red Sea: “Do not be afraid. Stand firm, and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today” (Ex. 14:13). He urged the missionaries to focus on God, even when they cannot see the way ahead or find a way out.

The missionaries sought God's guidance as they contemplated their mission of spreading the gospel throughout the world. They shared their aspirations as they prepare to embark on their missions.

Below are the missionaries' responses to their calls to serve.

**Kim Sun, new 1000 Missionary Movement Associate Director, Philippines:** “As a missionary called by God, I will go to the mission field not as an administrator but as a missionary. I was concerned about how I will go and train the 1000MM missionaries. My role is to wake up early every morning, pray, and receive spiritual nourishment from heaven and pass it on to the missionaries so that they can fulfill



Kim SunHwan, NSD AM director greets a family of PMM missionaries.

their mission of spreading the gospel with determination. Living as a young foreign missionary is a great privilege and blessing, and I will work hard wherever I am placed. I will pray for all of you and for our churches in Korea.”

**Missionary Lee Ari (Wife of Kim Sun):** “I joined the 1000 Missionary Movement when I was 23 years old. Now, I am a mother of two children and a pastor's wife. When I joined the 1000MM years ago, I prepared many things to use in the mission field. However, everything I planned was useless because I was called to serve on the campus. As I recalled this memory while packing my bags, I decided to give up human-centered plans and put everything in God's hands. I still feel nervous and

worried, but I believe that if I trust in God, He will guide me and my family. I want to be a missionary who only focuses on the Lord.”

**Missionary Jeong SungYong (Director, East Indonesia 1000MM Training Center):** “In January, I visited Indonesia with the confidence that I would do much better than the time when I was a 1,000MM missionary 20 years ago. However, I found myself weaker than I thought. Now my concerns and worries are bigger than before, and I am wondering if I can fulfill my duties well enough. Through this training, I have resolved to fulfill God's vision with my best effort, looking only to God as my guide. I may be inadequate to handle the given tasks, but I will work hard and strive to fulfill the

mission that God gave, so that I will not be ashamed before the Lord.”

**Missionary Jang YooJin (Jeong SungYong’s wife):** “From the beginning, I experienced God’s presence even at the airport. I had packed too much luggage and exceeded the weight limit, but someone came and vouched for us, and we were allowed to proceed without additional payment. At that moment, those words sounded like the voice of Jesus, and I felt empowered knowing that the Lord is with us.

Although I am anxious about the unfamiliar surroundings, I have decided to focus on Jesus, who slept peacefully amid the storm. Even though we will face new experiences, we will look only to the Lord and live each day with gratitude and grace. I believe that there is a purpose for us, just like in the praise lyrics that say, “I have a lot to do in this sad world, so you send me.” I am convinced that the One who created the whole universe will manage our lives and ministries. Honestly, if you ask me if I can do well, there is no answer because I cannot do anything on my own. If God does not help me, I can do nothing. I will simply rely on God’s Word and look to Him as I go to the mission field. We are weak, yet God called us and is with us, and for that, we are grateful. Now, we will boldly go to the mission field.”

**Missionary Lee SeungJin (Chiba International Church pastor in Japan):** “I received a pastoral assignment to serve both the Chiba International church and a local Japanese church. I gathered various information and made plans to try this and that. But in the end, I decided on “Zero Base” that I just go and experience everything there one by one. I will never rush. I will not go ahead of God. In that sense, my vision is to ‘start from zero.’

I will take one step at a time as an internship pastor stepping into the ministry. I will go like a child who knows nothing. I will be a humble minded person and lay down completely for God to use me. I will follow the Lord’s guidance. I will engrave the saying in my heart, ‘I would rather wear out than rust out.’ Even though I may not know everything now, I will do my best with what I have.”

**Missionary Maeng SunOk (Lee SeungJin’s wife):** “While packing our suitcases, this thought came into my mind, ‘I am going there because I received a call. Why should I make a plan?’ I am considering what type of ministry I can contribute to the local community with my talents and various certificates.

Our family is inevitably in a situation where we must leave our children at a boarding

school. I am worried about how our youngest child will endure it. At the same time, I am looking forward to seeing how God will help them to grow and lead our family in His guidance. In conclusion, since we all know that God always leads us to the best path, we will go in faith. I hope that my family will remain in love and sharing God’s blessings together.”

**Missionary Choi BongGil (Ethiopia):** “I visited my mission field last January. Although the mission field is in Ethiopia, the assigned work is to support Yemeni refugees. However, I hardly saw any Yemeni refugees there. Moreover, I cannot communicate with them as I do not speak Arabic. I was frustrated during my few days of stay there, thinking, ‘What can I do here?’ I have nothing to boast about my plans or confidence. I can only rely on God who opens the way to invisible places. I decided to follow Him with a pure heart like a child. When He opens the path of power and history, I hope to witness the glory of everything and experience His grace as well.”

**Missionary Choi K. M. (wife of Choi BongGil):** “I received many questions like ‘How did you think of going to Africa?’ It was the same when I went to the Philippines three years ago, but it was not my will but entirely the heart that God gave me. It is a ‘participation’. I just participate in the gospel ministry rather than trying to do something. We can only be effective in the gospel ministry when we respond to God’s call.

Even if the reality is so different from what I thought, even if I cannot do anything, even if I hesitate without courage, He will come to us through angels, comfort us, and give us peace. We all know that we are happiest when we walk with the Lord. The mission fields are different, but I hope we can give and receive courage by praying whenever we think of each other.”



21st batch PMM missionary families and NSD leaders.



## Returning of the 4th Batch of PCM and Dispatching of the 5th Batch

On February 11, 2023, the Youth Ministries Department of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (Director Choi HoYung) held a commencement ceremony of the 4th Batch of Public Campus Ministries (PCM) missionaries and a dispatching service for the 5th Batch missionaries at the NSD auditorium. The meeting was attended by Kim Yohan, president of NSD, Jacob Ko, director of Health Ministries, and Raquel Arrais, director of Women's and Children's Ministries. Korean Union Conference youth director Kim HyunTae and associate youth director Kim HyungJoon, along with 50 other people, including local church pastors and the families and friends of the missionaries were present to encourage the missionaries.

Pastor Choi HoYoung, director of the Youth Ministries Department of NSD, said in his welcome address, "Today is a historic day. This is

because the 5th batch of PCM missionaries are being dispatched, and for the first time, a separate dispatching ceremony is held for them. Before, we were not able to hold a commencement ceremony due to Covid-19, but we are witnessing one today. I am very happy and grateful to God for having the dispatching ceremony and the return meeting at the same time."

Dr. Jacob Ko, director of the Health Ministries Department for NSD expressed his gratitude in these words: "I hope you remember to always share God's love. I would like to thank the PCM missionaries who have devoted themselves to Taiwan."

Afterwards, there was a report given from the 4th batch PCM missionaries, who dedicated their past year for service. Through the report, Missionary Lee JiHyun said, "I couldn't find my peace of mind with the goal I have set as a missionary. I didn't like the situation

I was placed in. I blamed God and complained a lot. But God prepared many things for me. I got to learn more about my God when everything I complained about turned into an irreproachable grace. There were also many answered prayers from Taiwan. Among them, the most memorable answered prayer was the gift of a foreign language. Once, there was a situation where I had to translate at an evangelistic meeting. In a situation where I was not good at Chinese, I prayed for God to give me the gift of language. Contrary to what I was worried about, the translation went well. Although it was not perfect Chinese, I was able to talk to the locals who attended the meeting. I was even praised for being very good at Chinese. I am very grateful to God for responding to my prayers."

While conveying messages to the 5th batch missionaries, 4th batch missionary Jang SeongMin and



NSD President, Kim YoHan encourages the 5th batch of PCM missionaries.

Lee YeonJeong read their messages. Missionary Jang mentioned, “But the LORD said to me, ‘Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.’ Just like this message, Jesus will accompany all the 5th batch missionaries, wherever they will go. I wish you to love, weep, and enjoy as much as you can for the next year.”

Missionary Lee said, “I wish you can stay healthy, spend this year without any regrets, and return back safely. It is my hope that you will experience the love of God and depend on Him through constant meditation of His Word.”

Pastor Kim YoHan, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, strengthened those returning in his sermon. He said, “You all have returned from doing a valuable work. God’s praise and reward will be given to you. I hope that you all will continually be missionaries with the missionary spirit. If so, you can be blessed by inheriting the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, as stated in Matthew 25:34.”

And to the 5th batch missionaries, who are to be dispatched to Taiwan, he counseled, “It seems that you have chosen this path of a missionary, but as stated in John 15:16, the Lord has chosen you. I wish you can live a life that begins and ends with prayer. If so, God will take care of everything for you.”

There was a special part of the program called “A Letter to Parents” and “A Letter to my Daughter.” Fifth batch missionary Choi EunSeo and her father, Elder Choi HyungJin were the center of this program. First, in her letter to her parents, missionary Choi said, “If it were not for you dad, I would not get to know about the PCM and I would never become a missionary. You sent my application to the Division, and if I had declined it, I would never become a missionary. However,

I have decided to become a missionary, and I have received adequate training. Throughout the training period, I was anxious if I could do well. While I was continuously praying for it, I started to have the assurance and certainty that it was definitely God’s will to send me as a missionary.”

In his letter to his daughter, Elder Choi HyungJin said, “My dear EunSeo, I hope you remember that you were born through God’s grace, and you have grown up under His care. Whenever you encounter difficult moments, I hope that you will fall to your knees and pray. Just like in 2 Corinthians 4:18, it is important to do well in places where you can be seen, but I hope you do your best even in places where you cannot be seen. I will pray that God will always be with you and watch over you in your plans.” As her father read his letter, tears fell from the eyes of missionary Choi.

In the pinning ceremony afterward, many leaders from different churches handed out the pins to the missionaries. While the pinning ceremony was carried on, Pastor Choi HoYoung said, “As you serve as a missionary, always have the missionary spirit within you along with this pin on your chest.”

The ceremony was concluded with a benediction offered by Raquel Arrais, director of the Women’s and Children’s Ministries Department. Six PCM missionaries who were present at the dispatching ceremony will be dispatched to Taiwan, to serve as campus missionaries for a year. In order for the missionaries to finish their mission and return back safely, we ask for the prayers of the church members.



(Front row) Fifth bath of PCM missionaries. (Second row) NSD and KUC leaders.

# 1000MM Training Program



During this week the missionaries learned the necessity of prayer in winning souls for Christ. They were taught to spend more time and discipline in prayer to draw nearer to God. This emphasis on prayer strengthens their faith and leads to confidence in their mission work.

## WEEK OF MISSION EMPHASIS

The life of Jesus demonstrated to them once again that missionaries are called to be God's witnesses. He also tells them to never be discouraged, that He is still in the business of changing lives. God is in the process of changing their lives, now and for the future.

## WEEK OF CHURCH AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Throughout this week the missionaries were reminded of their mission and duty which is to prepare the people for the soon coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that the driving force should be "the love of Christ ..." (2 Corinthians 5:14). Training continued and spiritual growth and revival was observed among the missionaries. We are living in the most solemn period of this world's history. The destiny of earth's teeming multitudes is about to be decided. Our own future wellbeing, and the salvation of other souls, depends upon the course which we now pursue. Every follower of Christ should earnestly inquire, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have

not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan's enchanted ground" — (*The Great Controversy*, 601).

## COTTAGE MEETINGS

During the day, the missionaries visited homes and held cottage meetings at night. Many of them testified at the end of the week of God's blessings, and how they were sustained with food when they thought they had none left. God sent someone to provide for their needs until the end of the week.

Even though there was a limited budget, some groups were even able to provide food for attendees during the nightly meetings. And there were testimonies of God's Holy Spirit working in the lives of the people they visited. They have learned how effective serving in Christ is when working unitedly. If the spirit of self-sacrificing love abides in the missionaries, they will not reap in vain. The training served as their practicum and partial exposure of the scenarios that they will encounter in their future mission fields.

## SUPER TRAINING

Physical training conquered fears and rejuvenated spirits during this time called the SUPER Training (Spiritual Unity and Physical Endurance Reinforcement). Their patience and strength was tested beyond limits yet the lessons they learned helped them realize their limitations and the need to be united

in serving the Lord. They acquired fresh perspectives in life, while building rapport among their fellow missionaries. They conquered their fears and weaknesses, while drawing into a closer relationship with God.

After the training ended, with a full surrender of their lives to the all-powerful God, kneeling on the coarse sand, facing the setting sun, their soul-swelling experiences reminded them that all they had been through was worth nothing compared to the glory that will be revealed by God to us at the end of time (Romans 8:18).

## SURVIVAL AND REVIVAL

This training exposed them to practical ways and strategies on how to survive in a place where convenience is sometimes impossible to obtain. It made them realize how important it is to fully surrender all our problems, fears, and weaknesses to the Almighty One.

The missionaries were put into groups where each team participated in fun team building activities and games. In one activity, they were given a certain budget for their food which needed to last for three days. Thus, they learned practical ways of surviving as they encounter difficulties on their missionary journeys along with cooperation and unity. Above all, their spirits were renewed as they prepare themselves to be sent off to their future mission fields.





## Ever Forward, We're Almost Home!

**Lear Anne Fillarca**  
1000MM 58th Batch

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD” (Isaiah 55:8).

A little over a year ago on January 28, 2022, I arrived here at the campus of 1000MM. I cannot forget that instance when I felt a strange peace within me. All my burdens, all my worries, all my doubts and fears for the future vanished immediately that very moment. In an instant my soul became still knowing that God was with me.

Prior to the training and my assigned mission field, I did not set any expectations. I just wanted to fulfill my promise to dedicate one year to the Lord. But what I did expect was that I would become more Christ-like, and that I would attain spiritual maturity and see how God would answer my prayers.

I prayed for patience, then God sent us people and situations to really test our patience.

My partner and I, Rainy Jane Tulawi, were assigned to an area in Bulacan. Hog farming is the livelihood of most of the people there. The neighborhood we were staying in was surrounded with pigsties. Even beside the church there was a piggery. So, after spending the whole Sabbath in the church, we felt dizzy because we were holding our breath so not to smell the foul odor of the piggery. But after months of prayer and petition to

the local government, the piggery beside the church was pulled out.

We were transferred from different houses and places three times. The second place we moved to had no

signal, no source of water, no source of food, nor vegetables and no public transportation. Most of the houses there had no toilets. The residents chose any spot to relieve themselves, sometimes they put it in a plastic bag and threw it on the mountain side. So, when the wind blew from either side of the mountain, you could smell the human waste. Sanitation there was very poor due to the scarcity of water. For many days we held off going to the bathroom because we didn't have water to use.

My partner and I murmured; we complained a lot. We even cursed the church leaders for not taking care of us. But God permitted us to experience those situations to teach us humility and lowliness.

I prayed for contentment and gratefulness despite our poor conditions. Then God took us out of that area perhaps because we had learned our lesson. In Sitio Bukol, the third and last house we sheltered was the opposite of the latter. The first thing I noticed when we transferred was the good soil (without human waste), and I saw the vegetables planted around the house. With that I praised God for we wouldn't have problems with food. God developed my creative mind to make 'pacham ulams' (experimental recipes) every day.

From different recipes I used papaya, mango, sprouted beans, squash tops, spinach and other veggies, boiled egg, boiled egg again plus appetizer chili flakes made by my partner.

God taught us to put our trust in Him daily and He never failed to sustain us, not just our needs but also our wants. He taught us to count our blessings and to appreciate every little thing. To appreciate every drop of rain, to appreciate the heat of the sun, the fresh air we breathed, and the food on our table day by day. God sent good people to meet our needs, to comfort us, motivate us, and give us joy.

In the mission field we were paying for everything. A few days before we came back, our electric bill arrived for the month of November to December. Our last stipend was almost out and we were worried how to pay our utility bill. Then to our surprise, as we opened the Meralco envelope our total amount due was 0.00 peso written in bold letters. God is indeed a God of miracles! He knows our needs even before we ask Him.

I prayed for wisdom, then God told me to search the Scriptures. God made me realize that I may attain the education I have dreamed of yet still unfulfilled. I was obsessed with "self-fulfillment" yet was so empty. I have been an Adventist since 2008 but it was just last year 2022 that I experienced a total conversion. It's when I entered the 1000MM that God and I walked together, God and I talked together and lived together. In the past years what I did was all about me. My heart's desire and wants focused on me. God taught me to seek

## MISSION PROJECT

and know His will by studying the Scriptures. The more I seek His words, the more I get to know Him and recognize His will.

Before, I used to worry about many things in my life and for what my future would be, but now I don't have specific future plans. I even had this

10-year plan that by this year or that age I should attain this and that. I did a list of goals for my career, money, relationships and family. Now I leave it all to God.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD" (Isaiah 55:8).

I pray that by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we will continue doing good works and remain steadfast until Jesus comes.

Ever Forward, We're almost Home!

# Insilico Company Participating in Volunteer Service at HOPE 365

**Kim GeunSoo**  
Hope 365 Director

Among more than 8,000 companies in the city of Ansan, South Korea, Insilico is a mid-size company with 67 workers. In year 2022, Insilico's total revenues were around 12 billion KRW (around \$9.5 million USD). This company uses combined IT technologies in chemistry, bio, materials science and engineering industries. Up to now this company doesn't seem so special. So why am I writing about it?

This company (unrelated to the Adventist church) is special because of their social volunteer services. The CEO (Choi Sueng Hoon) of Insilico, has a unique mindset and leadership standard. Mr. Choi encourages all workers in the company to participate in volunteer services. For those who participate, they receive special incentives from the company.

Insilico and Hope 365 started to communicate at the end of 2019. The two parties wanted to start volunteer services right away. To set a firm relationship of patronage there was an MOU agreement by Jan. 4, 2020. But sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic broke out and the plans had to be stopped.

From the beginning, Insilico started sending donations to HOPE 365. It was in the amount of 500,000 KRW (\$384 USD) for the center and 300,000 KRW (\$230 USD) for the children's activities every month at a time when many companies or individuals started cutting donations due to COVID-19 and the economic recession. Insilico continued their donations throughout the entire COVID-19 period even until now. Furthermore, their donations have now

increased to 1 million KRW (\$760 USD) monthly.

For the last few years, Insilico and HOPE 365 have tried to initiate volunteer services, but because of the pandemic, their attempts stalled. But as COVID-19 sanctions started lifting, both parties carefully began to plan for the year 2023. Starting from Dec. 3, 2022, more than 30 children from HOPE 365 toured Insilico and enjoyed snacks and fun games using the company's gym.

This year, Insilico and HOPE 365 have decided to organize combined activities every month, including ideas of what the children would like, as well as activities the teachers think necessary. Through that annual plan workers from Insilico have chosen dates they can participate. Every month up to eight people from Insilico come to HOPE 365 on Saturday afternoons they eat lunch together and participate in volunteer services from 1-4 p.m.

Through Insilico and its workers, HOPE 365 is able to provide for those who come to its shelters, as well as special activities for the children. Insilico's donations and volunteer services have become precious examples of how companies can return their time, money and efforts to local societies.

We would like to express our special thanks to the CEO of Insilico, Mr. Choi SeungHoon for his outstanding leadership and the workers who cheerfully participate! We can see that even the darkest and the most difficult times can be spent helping others and sharing what we have with others.



## Discipleship

As church leaders, we like to talk about discipleship. We say we need to make disciples, and we quote Matthew 28:18-20. But, what does that really mean? What is a disciple? In Greek, the word disciple literally means “a learner.” Learning always has a practical component. Faith itself may come by hearing, but learning and being a disciple come from hearing and doing the Word of God. Living out what we hear and study is essential for the truth to become real in our lives.

Another way to define a disciple is to look at his or her relationships. Michael C. Mack wrote, “A disciple has a dependent relationship with Jesus, an interdependent relationship with other believers, and a redemptive relationship with the world.” Perhaps Jesus gave the best definition: “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples” (John 8:31).

So, being a disciple or a Christian isn’t something you do one time and then give half-hearted allegiance to afterward. Being a Christian is a journey. It is a lifestyle. And we must remember that Jesus established principles of discipleship to help us on that journey. It is important to know those principles well.

When Jesus walked this earth, He expected every person who followed Him to take discipleship seriously. He made it clear that He wasn’t interested in attracting a big crowd. Jesus wanted to transform individuals into radically-committed disciples.

The blessings of discipleship are readily available to all who are willing to pay the price. Discipleship brings purpose to our lives so that, rather than wandering aimlessly, we walk steadily on the straight and narrow way that leads us back to our heavenly Father. Discipleship brings us comfort in sorrow, peace and joy in service, all of which help us to be more like Jesus.

It is my desire that you become more familiar with this topic to help others in your congregation fulfill its mission. As John Page says, “Missions and discipleship are two sides of the same spiritual coin, to be invested and spent in the economy of God’s Kingdom.”

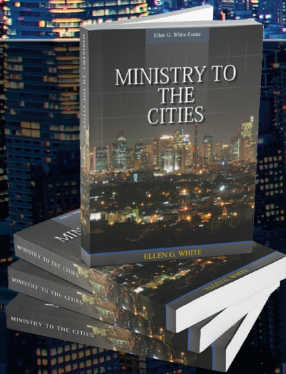
**Jonas Arrais**  
NSD Ministerial Secretary

# MISSION to the **CITIES**

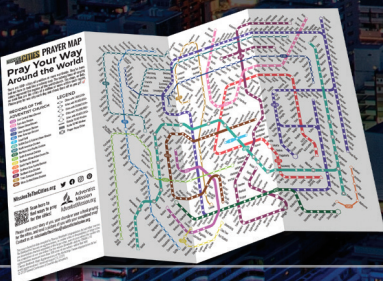


# “WORK THE CITIES WITHOUT DELAY, FOR TIME IS SHORT.”

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



Go to the website to get your copy of the book *Ministry to the Cities* in English or Korean



Download a map to help you pray for the cities of the world!

[MissionToTheCities.org](http://MissionToTheCities.org)