NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

THE MOST CHALLENGING FIELD

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NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

of Seventh-day Adventists

July 1, 2011. Ilsan, Korea

Thanksgiving Celebration

CHINESE HOPE TV LAUNCHING DAY
It was about 10 years ago, on September 11, 2001. At 8:45 in the morning, the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City were attacked by terrorists. Both towers erupted in flames, and in less than two hours these huge buildings collapsed to the ground.

New York City is recognized as the center of world economy, amusement, fine arts and music, communication, and many other industries. The city is famous for many tall buildings. It is literally a concrete jungle. The twin towers of the World Trade Center were built in 1973. Both of them were 110 stories high. About 100,000 people headed in and out of the buildings everyday for business. The building itself was like a small city and had its own zip code.

The United States, the most powerful nation in the world was attacked by a diminutive group of terrorists. It was an indescribable shock to the American people because it was the first time in the history of the United States that the mainland was attacked by a foreign power. Both towers collapsed and nearly 3,000 people lost their lives.

But there was a man whose life was saved in the incident. Michael Hingson, a 53-year old blind man, was on the 78th floor of the building when it was hit by the hijacked plane. Although the building was in flames and covered with dark smoke, Michael came all the way down from the 78th floor to the street and safely returned his home. How was this possible?

Michael had a guide dog, Roselle. He told the dog to go down one step do a time and he carefully followed his dog. The building was already on fire and filled with smoke. Hundreds of people were screaming in fear. He didn’t pay any attention to the noise, the smoke, the fire or anything else surrounding him. Instead he held tightly onto the leash that connected him to Roselle, and totally depended on her guidance. Roselle helped lead Hingson down all those stairs to the street through the flying debris and dense smoke. More than 1,500 steps Michael walked down together with Roselle, his faithful guide dog. He successfully came down to the ground and safely went back to his home. Later, he gave a testimony in the newspaper, “I and my dog were one all the way.”

Safety is an important issue in today’s world. That is why security checks at airports have been greatly strengthened. Airplane crashes, train derailments and automobile accidents are threatening the lives of passengers, and thrusting people into a great concern of safety. There are innumerable other troubles. Where can we find true safety in the world?

Satan knows his time is short and therefore he is trying to bring all kinds of temptations, difficulties and troubles to God’s people. In fact, “the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Pet 5:8). In this time of uncertainty and danger, how can we have a successful, victorious and safe Christian life?

Ellen White gives a succinct answer, “Christ in the heart, Christ in the life, this is our safety” (MH, 511). There is true safety when we are one with Jesus all the way. “We know not that is before us, and our only safety is in walking with Christ, our hand in His, our hearts filled with perfect trust.” (ISM, 79)

Let us hold fast to our Lord and walk with Him step by step until we reach our heavenly home.
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News & Views is published bi-monthly by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Its mission is to share the news of mission activities and views of mission of the NSD with the world church so that the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be hastened.
On July 1, 2011, Hope Channel’s thirteenth (13th) satellite-based Hope Channel began broadcasting on the satellite Telstar 18. Hope Channel China is actually called Chinese Hope TV (CHTV), a name that is inclusive of those inside and outside the borders of that massive country.

CHTV is broadcasting full time, 24/7, primarily in Mandarin Chinese but also with some Cantonese dialect programming.

It is into China’s complex society that CHTV brings carefully-nuanced (contextualized) biblical teaching through a strong line-up of Bible study, Sabbath School, family, health, nature, and other educational programs—programs into which CHTV carefully and respectfully weaves the gospel of Christ.

How can all this happen in China? Well, that is a story for another time, but this much can be said at this moment...

In recent years the government has recognized that Christianity can make better citizens. For sure, there is high interest in good health, happy families, and education—all hallmarks of CHTV’s programming.

The Telstar 18 (Ku band, small dish) satellite has a footprint covering all of China and carries a number of official Chinese government channels, entertainment and other religious channels. CHTV will be available as an open unencrypted channel to anyone in the footprint.

Internet use is also very popular even in China. CHTV’s “Chinese only” website [http://chinesehope.tv] will live-stream the satellite broadcasts 24/7 and also provide video-on-demand programming, as well as other resources.

CHTV will also be available worldwide via streaming video from Hope Channel’s website, www.HopeTV.org.

For more updated information, please visit CHTV news site: http://news.chinesehope.tv

The NSD also held a commemorative worship service for this historical Chinese Hope TV launch on the same day.

The MSRC director and CHTV coordinator of NSD, Pastor Stanley Ng, gave a report of the history of CHTV; and the president of NSD, Dr. Jairyong Lee gave a message to celebrate this important event. Dr Lee said, “This CHTV will be like an explosion to the entire world, and through this CHTV channel, the gospel message will be scattered everywhere like the leaves of autumn, and the good news of Jesus Christ has the power to quickly reach more than 1.5 billion Chinese people in the world.”

Dr Lee gave thanks to all the CHTV staff, for their endless effort and hard work to make this happen. He also encouraged NSD staff to watch CHTV and to continually pray, that CHTV will be strengthened as more programs are produced.
Brief History of Chinese Hope TV

2007: NSD, CHUM and TWC jointly fund the “Adventist Chinese Hope Channel”. First studio built in the basement of Taiwan Adventist Hospital with 6 staff. CHUM appoints John Ash as the chairman of the team and Robert Christensen, the Executive Director.

2008: GC and NSD appropriate Extraordinary Tithe for the 5-year project and set up a website using Youtube.

2009: Cooperation with Hope Channel begins, in March the whole operation renamed “Chinese Hope TV” (CHTV). In May, Yuchih studio is built and begins production.

2010: Production units worldwide launched, and an exclusive website developed to provide VOP programming.

2011: On July 1, satellite broadcasting and an internet website launched.

What is Chinese Hope TV?

1. CHTV has established operations in Taipei and Hong Kong media studios since 2007; and actual satellite broadcasting begun on July 1, 2011.

2. CHTV is one of the NSD Extraordinary Mission Projects; targeting a potential audience of 1.5 billion Chinese around the world.

3. Pastor Stanley Ng from NSD MSRC serves as coordinator for this project.

CHTV Network Philosophy

1. Each production unit takes responsibility for the follow-up of the locally produced and aired programming.

2. Top priority: Setting up production units in UT mother churches (big churches which are capable financially and have human resources).

3. Each local production unit is to enhance their own local ministry with the videos they produce.

About the CHTV Program

1. CHTV utilizing website, satellite and television, offers programs dealing with issues of family, children, teenagers, education, health, life, soul, music, gospel, theology and other diverse programs.

2. The objective is to develop a wholistic person lifestyle, to promote the importance and value of the family, and to engender positive influences for our society.

3. Tell the gospel to the world to enhance the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.
Dr Jairyong Lee, NSD President visited three countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan - in the Euro-Asia Division (ESD) accompanied by Pastor Kwon JohngHaeng, NSD Adventist Mission Director, from July 1 to 11, 2011. Vladimir Krupsky, ESD Secretary and three officers from the Southern Union Mission warmly welcomed Dr. Lee and Pastor Kwon at the Almaty airport. On July 2, Dr Lee delivered his sermon at Central Almaty Church which is the biggest church in Kazakhstan and Pastor Kwon spoke at Omskaya Almaty Church which is in the union compound. Saturday and Sunday evening, Almaty citywide revival meetings were held by Dr Lee and Pastor Kwon. In the revival meetings, Dr Lee introduced vision and mission projects of NSD and encouraged attendees to finish the gospel work through the Holy Spirit in the ESD, the largest division in terms of territory and NSD, the largest division in population.

There was an ordination service for Pastor JeongWook Song, a PMM missionary in Taraz, Kazakhstan on July 4. In attendance with local leaders and church members as well as Dr Lee and Pastor Kwon, Pastor Song was ordained. Congratulating his ordination, Dr Lee asked him to be a servant who considers his life worth nothing, if only to complete the task the Lord Jesus has given him. He also encouraged his wife, JeongYeon for her privilege to
support her husband as a pastor’s wife. Pastor and Mrs. Song expressed their appreciation and indicated their resolution for the ministry before attendees.

The next morning, the group went to Bishkek, the capital city of Kyrgyzstan. The first place they visited was the Media Center of the Southern Union Mission where Pastor Alexander Ott, Media Center director and Pastor YongWoo Chung, a PMM missionary were waiting for them. They also visited Adventist schools and the Global Mission training center in Tokmok. Returning to Bishkek, Dr. Lee led out in revival meetings and spoke on the upcoming Advent and preparation. About 80 people were in attendance.

On July 6, they went to Samarkand which is a three millennial city of Uzbekistan. Due to the government’s restraint against Christianity, Samarkand church was closed several years ago and church members are keeping Sabbath in the homes of 10 families. They eagerly prayed for the church that all church members can worship God and preach the gospel in this church again.

On the following day, they visited Navoiy and Bukhara. The beautiful church in Navoiy was built by Adventist members who moved to Germany and Russia due to nationalism among Central Asian countries. It was originally dedicated as a missionary training center, but Sabbath worship is only allowed by the government.

The visit was concluded by another weekend revival meeting before their return for the churches in Tashkent.

— Kwon JohngHaeng,
NSD Adventist Mission Director
Pastor John Rathinaraj, President of the Southern Asia Division (SUD) which is the second largest division in terms of population arrived at the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), accompanied by Pastor Mukunda Narashimhaia on July 11, 2011. Pastor Rathinaraj has been interested in various and dynamic mission activities in the NSD, so he came to look at some of the successful mission projects of the NSD including the 1000MM, PMM, and HHMM and also visited KUC and its institutions. Dr. Jairyong Lee, NSD President, welcomed the guests, saying “as NSD includes China, the most challenging field in terms of gospel work, SUD has India. When these two Divisions work together by sharing experiences and exchanging information, global evangelism work will be hastened. They visited NSD headquarters, Korean Union Conference (KUC) headquarters, the Korean Publishing House, Seoul Sahmyook Elementary School, Seoul Adventist Hospital, Sahmyook Language School, the Adventist Training Center, and Sahmyook Foods during their stay at NSD.

— SukHee Han, NSD Communication Director
President Visits NSD & KUC

Northern Asia-Pacific Division

Korean Union Conference

Seoul Sahmyook Elementary School

Sahmyook Medical Center

Adventist Training Center

SDA Language School

Sahmyook University

Korean Publishing House
From July 12-14, 2011 the NSD Secretariat Advisory meetings were held at the NSD offices with assistance from three associate secretaries of the GC. Thirteen individuals attended the meetings from NSD’s unions, missions and local conferences.

We were reminded by Agustin Galicia, an Associate Secretary of the GC for the past 11 years, of core leadership responsibilities and the need for a commitment to Christian integrity and how this must be translated into our work. John Thomas, head of Adventist Volunteers Services (AVS), spoke of the need for church membership auditing because church membership records have become bloated through the years and there is great disparity between membership and attendance. Myron Iseminger, who is the GC Secretary assigned to work with NSD, helped to explain organizational changes at the GC level and ended the advisories with the challenge for each leader to assimilate Christian ethics into their leadership. Leadership in the church is a call to service as modeled in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

While the Secretariat Advisory meetings were being held, eleven AVS workers participated in an AVS Advisory led by Candace Renk, the GC Volunteer Appointees Coordinator. Renk focused in particular on updates to the AVS website and how to better use the website.

Dr Suzuki, NSD Secretary, stated in his welcome letter to the attendees, “I believe that now is the best time for all of us to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Secretariat in its support of Adventist Mission for the quinquennium 2011-2015”.

− Akeri Suzuki,
NSD Executive Secretary

Taiwan Youth Guide Training

NSD Youth Ministries Department devoted this year to train and raise youth guides and decided on training programs in cooperation with Union and conference youth directors. The first training program entitled “Lord! I offer my life to you” was held in Taiwan from May 27 to 29, 2011. About 130 youth guides and youth pastors gathered together to dedicate themselves for youth ministries at GuGuan Gospel Center. Pastor NakHyung Kim, NSD Youth Ministries Director emphasized that the rise and fall of the youth ministries depends on prepared youth guides. Pastor Steven Wu, Taiwan Conference President, asked the delegates to evangelize many young people to the aging Taiwan Adventist church, so that the church can be vibrant again. Participants also had a meaningful time to prepare for the future of youth ministries in Taiwan through small group activities led by Pastor Tom Huang, TWC Youth Ministries Director.

− NakHyung Kim,
NSD Youth Ministries Director
The 2011 NSD Communication Department Advisory was held at the NSD office in Ilsan from June 20 to 22, 2011. Sixteen participants including Pastor Williams Costa Jr, GC Communication Director, and communication directors from each Union and local conference attended the Advisory. Pastor Costa reminded attendees of the potential of media evangelism and a need for concrete action plans. He emphasized various mission programs of the GC such as the GIEN (Global Internet Evangelism Network) which hosts a yearly forum, CCP (Communication Certification Program), the Great Controversy Project and ANN (Adventist News Network). The visit to KUC institutions included the KUC Media Center, Sahmyook University, the SDA Language School, and Sahmyook Foods. The tour was beneficial for participants to share public relations know-how of well-known Adventist institutions in Korea. The advisory was an opportunity to set up goals and the direction of Communication ministries in each union/field for the next five years.

— SukHee Han, NSD Communication Director

Hong Kong

Kids in Discipleship School in Hong Kong

An introduction to Kids in Discipleship (KID) School was held in Hong Kong from June 29-July 1, together with the Kids in Discipleship (KID)—Inside Out following immediately from July 2 to 3. KID School is a school-based program; while KID is church-based for families to make disciples of their children.

However, it involves more than school personnel; the home and the church are called in to be effective partners in this discipleship process. About 40 participants made up of principals, educators and children’s ministries directors from Unions and Conferences, teachers and parent-teacher association representatives from KUC, JUC, MMF and CHUM gathered at the campus of Hong Kong Adventist College for this introductory program.

Elder Don MacLafferty, the founder and presenter of the Kids in Discipleship and KID School, was the main presenter of the program. His two children, Jason (18 years old) and Julie (15 years old) gave their testimonies as to how their school and class were impacted. The program is totally interactive with full participation from all present.

The delegates felt that the program is excellent and would like to see that their schools will be involved with the full program when it can be arranged in the near future.

— Sally Lam-Phoon, NSD Children’s Ministries Director
Forging a Strong Spiritual Foundation

The Department of Children’s & Family Ministries of the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM) joined hands with the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) to bring the gospel of Kids in Discipleship to 280 leaders, elders, and parents in UT and Hong Kong. Training was planned for three locations between June 16 and July 3. All benefitted from the highly interactive sessions of how to disciple our children, impressing upon them Biblical truths not only in their minds but to fan them to life in their hearts. These discipleship methods have their origin in our Lord Jesus Christ when He mentored the 12 special men who would take the world by storm once they had been filled with the Holy Spirit.

Everyday, the training began with first learning how to seek the power of the Holy Spirit in prayer. At 6 a.m., trainers and participants gathered to praise, confess, ask and thank the Lord for the grand opportunity of sharing in His vision of being disciple makers. Time was spent listening to God as He spoke to all gathered in His name.

In order to be a disciple maker, however, one must first be a disciple. Connection to the Vine through His Word and much prayer brought the Holy Spirit in our midst to be our principal teacher. Mindsets had to be changed as fresh methods that would appeal to the E-generation were introduced. Praise God that through practice sessions, the leaders were able to demonstrate effective use of the new approaches found in the curriculum, Footprints for Parents & Mentors as well as Footprints for Kids.

The CHUM Children’s/Family Ministries director will be following up closely how this training will be brought home to more than a hundred churches in UT. Small groups have already been formed for this purpose; we are praying that the Lord will multiply these groups and raise leaders who will continue to spread the good news of Kids in Discipleship all over the unorganized territories.

KAPA Hosts Summer Classes with Students from Taiwan, China

The Korean Adventist Preparatory Academy (KAPA) which is the international high school established in Gyeonggi English Village - Yangpyeong Camp held a summer class with 26 students from Taiwan Adventist International School (TAIS) and Kunshan International School (KSIS) from July 3 to 28, 2011. Participants completed English I, World Literature, and ELS courses respectively and other credits. They enjoyed a joint worship on Sabbath. During their time in Korea participants were given the opportunity to better understand Korean culture. They visited the Military Demarcation Line and various palaces. One Taiwanese participant said “I am so glad to make friends from other countries and to study together with them at this beautiful campus.”

KAPA was founded on March 14, 2011 and the credits received in KAPA are accepted by each school based on their affiliation with Griggs International Academy, so that KAPA graduates can go on to any university in the world.
The Korean Union Conference broadcast a series of satellite seminars from June 12 to 18, 2011. The seminar which was held at KBS Hall in Busan, Korea was sent to 500 local sites. In this way, numerous people got to hear of the future of the earth from the Bible. Other seminars included the health message with a particular emphasis on genes.

Pastor DaeSung Kim, KUC President and main speaker for the event, illuminated the identity of the Adventist Church and the mission given to the remnant of God’s people. He emphasized “that this is the right time to be redeemed through the integration of the commandments and faith and this is the last chance to stand on God’s side.”

Those who listened to his message could see the fulfillment of prophecy in every age, so that they reconfirmed their mission as Adventists. About 1,800 people attended the main site in Busan and half of these people presented seekers of truth.

Dr. SangGu Lee presented health seminars at the same venue every morning from June 12 to 16, 2011. His lectures on interesting topics included ‘what is the causes of disease?’, ‘natural healing for atop disease and asthma’, ‘spontaneous cure of cancer and diabetes’. They were broadcast through satellite and suggested the best way for restoration of health and life. Using various audio-visual materials, he demystified the immune system of human body, genes, and natural healing. “Health is to turn on the extinct gene, only when we realize the love of God, can this happen,” Dr. Lee encouraged people to come before the cross, saying “true natural healing is to recreate and restore ourselves through the life God has given. He is still waiting to help you.”

As the satellite seminars drew to a successful close, the KUC plans to continue developing various programs to support spiritual revival and reformation of the Korean church. This way the church can accomplish its mission in these last days and hasten the second coming of Jesus Christ.

A portable urine collector, developed by Taiwan Adventist Hospital’s cardiovascular surgeon Yuan Ming-chi, will help the elderly and those suffering from urinary incontinence shed their dependence on adult diapers. For inventing something so practical, Yuan won a gold medal at the 39th International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva.

Surgeon Yuan understands deeply the pain that a patient suffers when having urinary incontinence as his father dealt with this malady. He understands the inconvenience and so he devoted himself to invent something to ease their pain. The first demo was hand-made by one of his patients, Miss Wang. It took 4 days to make the sample and she was delighted that she could contribute to help the elderly however she passed away the next day. Dr Yuan would like to dedicate this award to her for the efforts she made.
The meeting of the Chinese Ministerial and Theological Education Committee (CM-TEC) appointed by the Board of Ministerial and Theological Education of NSD (NSD BMTE), convened in Xiamen, Fujian Province, for the first time on August 17, 2011. The full day meeting generated 7 important actions to follow through on the important work of ministerial and theological education in UT. Further, how the work by other interested parties providing such education could be coordinated for more effective delivery was also discussed.

A few key elements dominated the discussions— one is the preparation of future leaders and trainers for churches in UT; secondly, how current resources within and without can be fully utilized for greater good of the current training programs; and lastly how to involve expertise within UT to provide input and leadership into the development of training programs without losing the global perspective of our Church.

The members left with a revived and renewed commitment to better utilize their resources and influence to meet the greatest need of our UT leaders—the need for ministerial and theological education, putting in place local leadership for the immediate and distant future.

− Chek Yat Phoon, NSD Education Director

Tsuen Wan Adventist Hospital, the only private non-profit hospital in Tsuen Wan and New Territories West, has been serving its community since 1964. It is one of the one hundred sixty hospitals in the world established by the Seventh-day Adventist church.

“Extending the healing ministry of Christ—Professionally we serve, personally we care” is the motto and mission of the hospital, it is dedicated to promote a total healing environment and lifestyle for Hong Kong, China and Asia with values consistent with the philosophy, teachings and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

With the increasing demand of better service for private hospitals, a decision was made to erect a new building. The ground breaking ceremony was held on June 25, 2011 and the theme was named as “Building for the future”. The new building is expected to be completed in 2014, and will have 23 floors, with more space; it will be able to increase the number of beds from the current 138 to 450 which will allow us to meet the growing healthcare needs of the community. The ceremony was attended by Honorable guests such as the Secretary for Food and Health from Hong Kong SAR Government, the Honorable York CHOW, GBS, JP.
The first ever Children’s Camp for 7-12 year olds in Mongolia was a breath of fresh air! The green of summer was splendid. City kids accustomed to being hemmed in by the building boom in Ulaanbaatar, which has deleted many a square meter of play space, ran freely in the open outdoors. For them it was a welcome relief from the confines of indoors and the build-up of tensions in growing muscles in urgent need of activity.

Our group of 40 children were accommodated in a Summer Camp where other children also shared the facilities with us although our Children’s ministries department organized our own activities and let them know they were welcome to join us in listening to the Bible stories and health segments as well as in the crafts. Not only did these children join us but so did some of their teachers. Purev was delighted with how this turned into real child evangelism outreach.

It was her desire during this time to establish with our children, habits that would train them to walk with Jesus. This included their own personal early morning devotions as well as an attempt to get them to encourage their parents to have family worship in their homes.

Coral Camps led out in the morning and evening worship times and Kimberly Coast – a visitor from California with her team, took charge of the other indoor activities.

The camp personnel were so impressed with our program they sat in and took note so they could use our ideas for their own camps. One of their teachers – a backslidden Christian of another church wanted to know more about how he could revive his walk with God. He wanted to come to our church.
In the beginning there was only one surgeon in the entire country of Nepal who could perform a cleft lip and palate operation. The facility was insufficient to work on a multitude of people so the patients would come for the cleft lip but were not able to finish the palate operation. Until 2002 the majority of patients were around 10 years old or older. Now we find younger ages account for almost 50 percent of the patients coming for treatment.

Presently there are 10 surgeons who come to perform surgery making a great difference compared to 15 years ago. The opportunity to have a complete surgery increased because people began to trust the visiting doctors and the ADRA team. At one time, when the patients’ villages were being visited the villager’s thought the visitors were slave hunters but as they began to see the healing of the people and the healing as a result of the surgeries their fears began to decrease and trust led more people to want to receive corrective surgery. Severe cases had to come back a second time to finish the palate surgery the following year. They would wait for the ADRA medical team to arrive again the following year. Each year these patients are shining lights in their neighborhoods as they are healed and given a new start in life.
As Pastor NamWoong Jeong, PMM missionary at Maranatha church in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia finished his language training course in 2011; he set an ambitious plan to win 100 souls for the Lord. As a part of his plan, he invited Pastor NakHyung Kim, NSD Youth Director and the Golden Angels for evangelistic meetings from July 14 to 18, 2011. He contacts young people who attend Ulaanbaatar SDA Language School and provides various youth programs.

About 60-70 young people attended the evangelistic meeting and 24 of them decided to be baptized, but those who are under 13 years old require parents’ permission, so finally 18 young people joined the heavenly family through baptism.

On the last day of the meetings, the Golden Angels held a special concert congratulating those who were baptized and Mongolian church members held a social night introducing Mongolian traditional culture.

One important lesson from the meeting was that although many PMM churches are in planting lever or too weak to pursue evangelistic work, Maranatha Church prepared for soul-winning through Bible study by trained youth leaders and proper programs.

To continue this evangelistic atmosphere, Maranatha Church invited the newly baptized members to attend MMF camp meeting. The church also plans to hold an international camp meeting together with Cheongju Central Church in the Middle West Korean Conference for nurturing the new members and soul-winning. We hope Maranatha Church can be a good example for youth ministries in Mongolia and to all PMM missionaries.

− NakHyung Kim, NSD Youth Ministries Director

June 18, 2011 was a very special day for the Hong Kong and Macao Conference; it was the ordination of four pastors to the gospel ministry, namely Pastor Matthew Chak, Pastor Jeffery Chan, Pastor Danny Chow and Pastor Alphon Fung.

The four newly ordained pastors have been faithfully serving in different local churches as well as Conference departments between 8 to 19 years. During the ceremony, each of them took 5 to 10 minutes to share their testimonies in Christ and expressed appreciation to people for their support.

They came from different backgrounds and walked diverse roads to get to know Christ, but what they share in common is that all, four of them are willing to serve and honor God throughout their life and humbly ask their fellow brothers and sisters to support them and their families through prayer.
Mongolia Mission Field embraces the commitment to bring people to Christ through literature ministry. During the Sabbath afternoon of June 4, 2011, a launch was held at Ulaanbaatar Central Church for the newly translated Ellen White books printed in the Mongolian language—The Story of Jesus (Desire of Ages), The Successful Family (Adventist Home) and Child Guidance. In addition the End-Time Countdown by Alejandro Bullon, and a republished copy of Newstart by Vernon Foster. Dr Fred Hardinge from the GC Health Department represented the General Conference who funded the entire project. The program was led by the MMF Publishing director, Pastor Bold Batsukh and MMF director, Pastor Paul Kotanko. Among the highlights was the giving of due recognition to the translators, editors and proofreaders whose concerted efforts made an affirmative response to the call of Ellen White in Testimonies for the Church 9:34 and 7:150, “These publications are to be translated into every language, for to all the world the gospel is to be preached...The great object of our publication is to exalt God, to call men’s attention to the living truths of His word”.

Indeed, the church members are delighted with the advocacy of our leaders, and brethren alike, to promote the printed pages as part and parcel of our spiritual nurturing and for reaching those beyond our borders. Yes, the resources are at hand, but the manpower is to be augmented and so an appeal was made to those in attendance to get involved in spreading the newly translated books. It is a collective prayer that everyone will be zealous with the drive of our Church to make the populace grow in Christ through publishing.

After serving eleven years in the Mongolia Mission Field (MMF), Youngsik Kim, together with his family, moved back to Seoul, Korea on June 30, 2011. The departure was filled with nostalgia as the MMF director and all staff, along with some church members and friends joined the family at the airport to send them off.

Mongolia has been the home of Youngsik Kim for the longest time and his eloquence in speaking the local language is a testament. He served as missionary of the 7th Trumpet Church for more than a year helping in pastoral service. Thereafter, he was called to join the accounting team of MMF. Eleven years, in total, of being away from home is indeed a marvelous display of commitment that is worthy to be emulated. He left Mongolia to follow another calling; yet he will be fondly remembered in the same way that he will continually hold the memories embedded both on his professional and spiritual journey at the Mongolia Mission Field.

NSD also held a welcome ceremony at the NSD office on July 1, 2011. “I give thanks to God who sent me to Mongolia alone, but brought me back to Korea with a wife and daughter. I also appreciate the NSD officers who helped me accomplish my dream of doing mission work in Mongolia,” said YoungSik Kim. Dr Jaeryong Lee, NSD President welcomed him and presented an award of appreciation for his sincere service at MMF. Mr Kim has permanently returned to the Korean Union Conference where he takes up his new responsibilities in the Treasury office at Eden Adventist Hospital.

MMF Bids Farewell to YoungSik Kim and Family

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A summer doesn’t pass by without camp meeting for all ages in the countryside of Mongolia. A total of 445 people comprising 345 adults and 96 children attended this special event. Camp meeting kicked off on the afternoon of July 21, 2011 with a sports fest that was truly a hit among the young people. The day closed with an acknowledgment of those in attendance to the 11th summer camp right after MMF director, Pastor Paul Kotanko gave his message during the official opening of the religious meetings.

The camp meeting theme of Revival and Reformation mirrored our world church this year. This was the keynote address of all the speakers during the morning and evening worships. On the 2nd day of the camp, delegates distributed themselves among different groups according to their preferred lectures conducted by 9 speakers. The topics discussed in the seminars include counsel on good parenting, dating, teaching children, theology, art work, vegetarian cooking, photography, good skin care, advice for health and information on ASI.

One of the highlights of the program was the presence of both the Golden Angels and the Descendants who gave equally applauded song numbers that delighted the crowd. Each part of the 4-day camp was welcomed and delivered with much enthusiasm and fervour, and all the unforgettable moments were captured by the NSD Media Centre team who graced the occasion. The NSD Youth director, Pastor NakHyung Kim, was the speaker during the Sabbath worship followed by the meaningful baptism of 19 precious souls.

Everyone left the place socially enriched, physically recharged and spiritually revived. Above all else, it is fervently hoped and prayed for that everyone takes to heart the call for revival and reformation from our World Church leader Elder Ted Wilson. We are to ‘walk our talk’, and live a new life truly anchored with Christ.
KUC Holds Summer Camp Meetings for Children, Youth, and Adults

Each local conference and district in Korea held summer camp meetings for children, youth, and adult members in July and August 2011.

The camp meeting entitled “Obedience” of the South East Korean Conference (SEKC) was held with about 600 members in attendance at Youngnam Sahmyook High School from July 19 to 22, 2011. It was also the celebration of the centennial anniversary of mission work in this area. Attendees gave thanks to God who has guided them and gained a new vision for the next centennial.

The East Central Korean Conference (ECKC) held its camp meeting with 1,300 participants from July 25 to 28, 2011. As a main speaker, Pastor ChunKwang Hwang, KUC Ministerial Association Secretary, emphasized “the secret of Jesus’ spirituality is prayer and the Holy Spirit.”

The West Central Korean Conference (WCKC) held camp meetings divided into four districts. With the theme “Burning spirit, intolerable spirit,” Pastor GwangEui Hong, Pastor MyungHo Kim, Dr SangRae Kim, and Dr HwiCheon Choi preached God’s messages respectively. This kind of small camp meeting enabled effective communication and vision-sharing among participants.

In addition, each conference opened meetings for children and young people. The pathfinder camporee of the Middle West Korean Conference (MWKC) was successfully done under the theme “The Power of One” with 600 participants at the MWKC Training Center from July 22 to 24, 2011. The camporee focused on booth activities such as flowers, constellations, fire-making, first aid, and CPR.

The South West Korean Conference held a camp meeting for children, teens, and youth at the Mitspah Training Center from July 22 to 24, 2011. It also had a camp meeting for adults at Madalpy Training Center from July 30 to August 1, 2011. Pastor GwangEui Hong was the main speaker and shared messages on the “Everlasting nation.”

Camp meetings were organized and prepared for by local districts. It also helped Korean Adventist members experience spiritual revival and be more faithful to accomplish our mission.
The CEO of SDA Education KwangJei Lee opened a Bible Camp from July 28 through 31, 2011 at English Village. The 800 participants were students, teachers, staff members, and pastors.

This year's theme was “The Joy of ‘Together’” and the word of God was presented by Pastor Justin Kim, who is the leader of GYC (The Generation of Youth for Christ). Pastor Justin Kim is a Korean-American and he delivered ideal messages about the Ten Commandments, Sabbath, and Mary Magdalene, which were fitting for the young people in the Korea of today.

The first day of the camp was held at individual institutes and the remaining days were spent at the YangPyong English Village. On Friday afternoon, various English seminars were held. These seminars include pronunciation, storytelling and writing, the origin of English words, grammar class, Konglish clinic, how to build healthy relationships, and why there are so many denominations. During Sabbath school, many skits were presented to teach what true Sabbath observance was all about. On Sabbath afternoon, a baptimonal ceremony was held for those students who have been taught about Jesus, and 52 precious souls were welcomed into the family of God. One catholic student MinJi Kim discovered the truth during this camp and wanted to live according to the truth, so she got baptized. Another student and all day club member from Seoul Main institute, SeungHyuk Han, said that “Because of many teachers’ kind instructions and through Bible studies, I have learned the precious truth, so I have decided to get baptized.”

This year’s camp was a bit different from previous years where one day camps were held at individual institutes. The messages focused on the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s core beliefs such as the Ten Commandments and Sabbath keeping.

SDA Education’s camp is a unique camp within the denomination’s camp program where participants pay to attend the evangelistic meetings. We spent this precious time teaching our students from the word of God and sharing love and joy in the Lord with praise and worship.
Church Planting in Unreached Areas

Sahmyook Health College dispatched five volunteer overseas missionary teams to the Philippines, Cambodia, Russia and Mongolia. The college students serve as missionaries. One student was sent to Nalaikh, Mongolia from June 21 to 30, 2011, where Ms. SeongEun Shin, a 1000MM missionary is based. Nalaikh is 25km from the capital city Ulaanbaatar. Nearly one tenth of Mongolians live in this 30,000 strong city. It is conveniently located on the road that leads to China, and passes by the popular Chinggis Khan Statue and the Terelji National Park. The missionary team began their work, and hoped a new Adventist church would be planted there soon.

Sixty Baptized

Missionaries provided community services. A dental clinic provided tooth scaling services. Massage, haircuts and coloring, remedial treatment, and Korean language classes were part of the program. The Descendants, a Mongolian HisHands singing missionary group performed at a school from morning to afternoon every day. In the evening, Pastor JeongSu Kang preached the gracious gospel at a theater downtown, so that the words of divine truth were conveyed in the primarily non-Adventist area. About 600 people attended the evangelistic meetings and on the last day 60 people decided to accept Jesus Christ into their lives as their personal Savior.

Groundwork for Church Plant

Since the volunteer team left, the aforementioned 1000MM missionary to Mongolia, Ms. Shin started a Sabbath worship program along with Korean language classes. Sahmyook Health College supports the rental of the worship place and the missionary’s accommodation. Her work is the groundwork for church planting in the area. The goal is to purchase land and to build a church. Although the financial situation is not very good, we hope a new Adventist church will soon be dedicated in Nalaikh.
The 2nd Creationism, Faith and Science Conference was held at Sahmyook University, Korea, from August 7 to 10, 2011. Over 70 representatives made of teachers from elementary to tertiary institutions and pastors from all unions/mission field participated in this Conference. The Conference was opened with an address from Dr Chek Yat Phoon, NSD Education Director, who spelt out the scope of challenges in the dialogue of Creationism and Evolution for education and ministry: (1) Goal of Education and Ministry in Relation to the Responsibility to the Child and Who the Child Is; (2) The Christian Worldview; and (3) The Approaches for Dialogue and Assessment.

Four experts were invited to make presentations that aptly answered the scope of the challenges: Dr Jim Gibson, the GeoScience Research Institute Director of the GC spoke on “the Nature of Science”, “Creation, Science and Time”, and “A Creationist Approach to Biogeography”; Dr John T. Baldwin, Professor of Theology of Andrews University, spoke on “Revelation 14:7: An Angel’s Worldview”, “The Geologic Column and Calvary”, and “The Earth as the Wreckage of a Drowned Planet”; Dr Leonard Brand, Professor of Biology and Paleontology of Loma Linda University spoke on “The Scope and Limits of the Evolutionary Process”, and “Insights from Hindsight”. Dr ChongGeol Choi, Professor of Earth Science at Sahmyook University, Director of NSD GeoScience Research Institute and Director of Nowon English Edu-Science Center, spoke on “An Introduction to Dinosaurs”. The lectures were insightful because they were dotted with practical experiences. For example, Dr John Choi, was the discoverer of the dinosaurs’ footprints in South Korea; participants enjoyed a first-hand experience with these very footprints on a planned field trip.

The spiritual tone of the Conference was also high because of the devotionals presented by Dr Ki-Kon Kim, President of Sahmyook University, Pastor Dae-Sung Kim, President of Korean Union Conference. The conference closed with a spiritual call by the NSD president, Dr Jairyong Lee, who challenged all participants to be concerned with urgency of the Advent message to the world and to assist in the revival of all under their care in pointing them towards the Creator God, who will soon be recreating a brand new earth for us.

The participants left the Conference with great confidence and commitment to share the Gospel of the Creator God to the world and to be engaged in dialogue with the scientific community.

- Chek Yat Phoon, NSD Education Director
Korean and Taiwanese Laypeople Join Forces, Distribute 200,000 Gospel Tracts

60,000 Tracts Distributed in Taichung and Taidong

21 laypeople from the Middle West Korean Conference distributed gospel tracts and held an evangelistic meeting at two PMM churches – Doliu and Taidong from July 4 to 9, 2011. The volunteer team divided into two groups to support each church and handed out 60,000 leaflets which the NSD provided. Through their service, about 400 people expressed an interest. They also invited the people who joined the morning and afternoon programs to evangelistic meetings in the evening. As a result, about 40 people requested in-depth Bible study and two people were baptized. Elder Michael was a speaker for the meeting at Doliu, and Elder SeongRo Joo preached at Taidong. Ms. SeongJeong Kim also served as a Korean food instructor.

They said “it was a burden because we came here on our own expense, but we hope our service will be of some help in the evangelization of this area. We want to thank NSD for publishing and providing the distribution materials.” Based on this mission experience, they plan to participate in domestic and international mission activities at least once a year.

140,000 Tracts Distributed in Taipei Area

Other 31 laypeople made up of church elders and deacons and deaconesses from Korea also distributed gospel tracts in Taipei, Taiwan from August 7 to 14, 2011. They do self-supporting mission work and organized the ‘One million tract distribution project’. As a part of the project, they already distributed 160,000 tracts in Tokyo, Japan in October, 2010.

In cooperation with SungShan Adventist church members, the project was a success enriched through a friendly atmosphere. Many people called the church and requested other books on Adventist beliefs. It also contributed in building a more intimate relationship between church members in Taiwan and Korea as well as enriching participants’ faith. Elder KyungShin Cho, leader of the group said “as Jesus’ coming draws near, we should swiftly convey the message as far as our energy lasts.” The group also gave thanks to NSD which sponsored about USD 6,500 to the project and Pastor Raymond Ke, Songshan Church and Pastor KiHwang Kim, Xindian Church for coordinating schedules including board, lodging, and translation for the group.
The Golden Angels 8th group experienced a wonderful time in reaching out to people through their music and friendship and with the help of pastors and church members in Mongolia.

They served at Maranatha church under the service of Pastor NamWoon Cheong. Pastor NakHyung Kim conducted an evangelistic crusade every evening. The youth in this church were always willing to sacrifice their time to work for the Lord. They worked hand in hand with the Golden Angels to distribute invitations; even the children were so eager to be a part of this work. Through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit 18 young, precious souls accepted our Savior God as their Father.

They also attended camp meeting held in Khairt Khaan. The place was beautiful place, and so peaceful, like heaven. All church members from Ulaanbaatar city and from the country side gathered together. That’s how active Mongolian Adventists are. There were a couple of activities held during the day and meetings in the evenings. The servants of God delivered His message to his loving people. Praise be to God as 19 souls accepted our Father as their own Personal Savior.

Our last week of mission was spent at the Hangol Church where Pastor Kwon JohngHaeng conducted evangelistic meetings. For a couple of months only 3 members attend this church, namely Pastor Park, Mrs. Park and their only child. But God blessed them and now there are several active members in attendance. We enjoyed a wonderful time with the youth, helping each other in spreading the invitations on the roads, across the streets, at the bus stop or even in the apartments.

Aside from that there was a medical outreach that had started from Wednesday afternoon until Friday. Dr. Cheong, a dentist and his family volunteered to come to Mongolia to serve people with love. They shared their God-given talents with the people in Mongolia. In the evenings the room was almost full with non-Christians attending evangelistic meetings. They were so eager to discover the mysteries of God’s love and how powerful God is. By the power of prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit 5 souls decided to be baptized and become God’s children. Let us keep them in our prayers that they will grow faithfully in the Lord and become a witness to the rest of the people in Mongolia.

We experienced the kindest hospitality of the people here in Mongolia. Let’s continue to pray for them not only for our brothers and sisters in Christ but also those who are still in darkness. That someday they would have the chance to know the God that we are serving and accept Him as their own Father.
August 5, 2011 a Women Association Evangelistic team and a local women’s service team in the South East Korean Conference visited Uganda where a PMM pastor, YoungSik Ham, is working. On their way to the Congo, they visited PMM pastor, HyoSu Jung at Mbarara. While they spent one Sabbath at the place, they were invited to the home of the executive secretary of a local Conference for lunch. It is very rare occasion for Africans in general to eat lunch at home. They usually eat two meals a day, sometimes only one meal. When they have special guests at home, they can enjoy eating a special lunch. After sunset, the team had an occasion to give haircuts to the people in the area including Pastor Ham and his family. One interesting thing in the culture grasped our attention. The wife of the pastor who invited the team washed the hands of the guests before eating. It touched the hearts and minds of the guests deeply.

July 11 to 16, 2011, a young crusade team from Korea came to Nakayot, a small village in the East Uganda Field. The team was composed of junior high school students, Hankook Sahmyook in Seoul. On their way to the place, a group of soldiers escorted them, as security was not enough for them to pass. Some student’s noses bled in the bus because of the long trip, dehydration and fatigue. According to plan, the students began to serve, especially the children. They took part in four areas: fine arts, music, physical training, and the Bible. The children were so excited to see a flying airplane made of a piece of paper. The serving students found happiness and worthiness brought by serving others.

− HongPal Ha, NSD PMM Coordinator
The 1000MM hosted a graduation service for the 36th batch of missionaries who dedicated a year for the Lord and completed their service in the mission field on July 20, 2011. 85 missionaries – 14 from South Korea, 14 from China, 1 from India, and 56 from the Philippines – attended the graduation and met their friends with joyful heart. It is amazing that 766 people were baptized, 1,891 lost sheep were found, 10 companies were organized, and 6 churches were built through their one-year service, and they all gave the glory to God. Pastor Nepthali Manez, North Philippine Union Mission President, gave a blessed message to them. Shouting the chanting “Once a Missionary, Always a Missionary”, missionaries dedicated their life as life-time missionaries and decided to continue working for the Lord where they are.

Missionary Training for 38th Batch 1000MM Missionary

From August 1, 2011, the missionary training session for the 38th batch of 1000MM missionaries commenced. 96 missionaries – 12 from South Korea, 1 from China, 1 from Taiwan, 4 from the USA, 2 from Kenya, 4 from Mongolia, and 72 from the Philippines began training. During the six-week session, they prepared themselves for mission work through various training programs such as the study of the 28 Adventist fundamental beliefs, sermon preaching, health, massage, natural remedies, survival in the wild and group prayer. This time, a 54-year-old housewife, Ms. MyungSoon Kim also joined the 1000MM missionary group. She took the lead by sincerely taking all training courses and missionary colleagues nicknamed her Mama, because she emotionally took care of them and showed her passion of mission to others. Following their training, missionaries will be sent to their fields respectively and work for ten months. We pray that they can accomplish the mission that God has given them.
The HisHands Mission Movement (HHMM) took its root into mainland China. The Council of Korean-Chinese Adventist Churches in Yanbien, China invited Pastor SukHee Han, NSD HisHands Coordinator to present a HisHands training workshop from June 30 to July 3, 2011. About 60 delegates from seven Korean-Chinese churches - Yanji, Hunchun, Helong, Longling, Tumen, Jilin, Chaoyangchuan – attended the meetings, showing great interest in the HisHands Mission Movement. They agreed that this is urgently needed in the area and voted to join the movement. As HHMM is a domestic mission movement by its people, it is the most suitable movement for China where foreign missionaries cannot work in public.

Pastor Han said “I believe that the HHMM is well suited to the Adventist church in China and will spark off church growth not only for the Korean-Chinese churches, but also for Chinese churches.

Finally, the Council of Korean-Chinese Adventist Churches held the first dedication service for HisHands missionaries on August 9, 2011. 100 missionaries were chosen as members of the HisHands Mission Commandos of the Korean-Chinese Adventist Church. They were filled with passion for mission and prayed together with their partner and made a pledge to fully devote themselves to the Lord. Missionaries from seven churches are going to do their best to distributed materials containing Adventist messages and to find seekers in their assigned field.

Pastor JeongSu Lee, President of the Council said “this is a historical mission project that members willingly joined to work for. We plan to baptize 200 people by this coming October through HisHands activities.” He also expressed his appreciation for the support from NSD and said “as the movement has now been initiated in China for the first time, we will manage our missionaries in a systematic way, so that our labors will bear the fruits of salvation.”

Ms. SeolMae Hwang testified “I was so touched that a person like me can be called and used as a missionary. Thanks be to God who has given me such a privilege and I will accomplish my goal to lead 100 people to Him.” Participants shared their feelings and pledged to have good results by the end of this year through the systematic management and coordination of their efforts.

Next year, they will dedicate the second group of HisHands missionaries and continue working towards visible growth and revival of the church. We pray that the HisHands Mission Movement which is getting started in Yanji set fire to mission work in China, so that the gospel can be swiftly delivered to the 1.5 billion Chinese people there.
Thirteen HisHands missionaries from Korea went to Banqiao Church in Taiwan for evangelistic meetings and missionary work from July 24 to 21, 2011. Pastor JaeHyung Lee, a PMM missionary is serving Banqiao Church located at the center of the town, targeting busy downtowners. As soon as the HisHands missionaries arrived at the church, they started their mission work including tract distribution and house visitation in order to meet people and invite them to the church. Unbelievably, they distributed 8,000 tracts within two days and invited people to various programs such as Korean cooking class, Korean culture class, and Korean language class. Pastor SukHee Han, NSD Communication director preached the gospel through messages entitled “The Way of Everlasting Happiness and Healthy Life” twice a day for the week. Through the enthusiastic work of the missionaries, about 116 interests were registered and about 30-40 of them attended the meetings every day. On the last day, 30 people decided to study the Bible and 3 were baptized. Pastor JaeHyung Lee said “I was deeply touched by the HisHands missionaries who prayed hard for their evangelistic work and the new interests every morning. I really want to give thanks to God for sending them here and to the NSD for its support.”

Recently, Banqiao Church moved to a new place and it is devoting all its power to evangelism in order to fill the church up with new people.
The Biggest Miracle — “I Became an Adventist”

Just before Ms. SeungOk Han was born, her father suddenly declared that he would attend a church. His neighbors and family were very surprised at his change, because he became a genuine Christian in a day. In this situation, Ms. Han has grown up in the faith. When she was a high school student, her two friends told her about their plans to become female soldiers. After graduation, she applied to the Women’s Army Corps with her two friends, but she only passed through the documentation and physical. “While my friends were crying, because their future plan was thwarted, I was crying, too because I didn’t want to do this. But at the final test, I thought that my prayer from childhood to save many people would be fulfilled. So, an unexpected new life began.”

After military training, she was assigned to Daegu and kept her faith. She used to lead the song service for children Saturday afternoons. “There was a soldier who gave me whole-wheat crackers every Saturday. He made me curious, so I started watching him carefully. He was not a Theology student, but looked very innocent. One day, a chaplain hosted a pork barbecue party for soldiers, but I did not see him there. It turned out he was an Adventist. I was so shocked and sorry that such a good man believed in heresy. So, I decided to make it my mission to save him and said ‘I will help you!’” But the Adventist soldier just gave her crackers and one book called the Great Controversy. At first, she was hostile toward the book, because it described what things she could not find in the Bible as if the author had seen the scenes. The Adventist soldier continued to send her letters preaching God’s message. “I felt like there is something and I needed to study when I found that Sabbath-keeping was written in the Scriptures. During Bible study, my mind cleared and I decided to keep the Sabbath as the Bible says.” So, Ms. Han began to attend the Adventist church.

But this was not the end. She was discharged upon completing her military service and went back home. “On the first weekend after my discharge I told my family that I had become an Adventist. My mother was so disappointed and my older brothers were angry. I suffered tremendously at the hand of my brothers. But she firmly stood up for her belief. Finally, they gave up and allowed her faith.

“It is the greatest miracle that I became an Adventist. I am so grateful and happy. My mother was baptized, but I am still praying for my siblings. I hope all Adventists can win a victory in Christ.”

It’s time for Spiritual Revival & Reformation to fall on individual life at NSD office.

The Holy Spirit awakened the elected GC president, Elder Ted Wilson that he emphasized church must be revived and reformed spiritually, otherwise the Three Angels’ messages will be conveyed to other people who seek to truth of Jesus Christ.

The Great Controversy Reading Project which started from June 1, 2011 at NSD office has made a positive impact on people who want to embody everlasting gospel message into their own lives. Reading it at daily basis and having Revival & Reformation (R&R) Wednesday Devotional every other week has been nurturing NSD staff’s spirituality.

The whole 42 chapters will be read completely by the end of December, 2011. The exciting progress on GC reading has been stickered by each name on the GC Reading Chart at the door of the NSD worship room.

This is not propaganda but a great blessing endowed to us. We just knocked on the door of the heavenly treasury but our Father in Heaven has already been waiting for us there. He is willing to give everything to us as He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ for our ransom. Jesus has risen from the dead, which conquered Satan’s kingdom. The Great Controversy ends. We have the victory.

— Lily Cho, NSD R&R Secretary
Reflections on the Great Controversy

August 10, 2011 represents an important date for my life given the fact that it marks the first passage of another year while I work and serve in the Northern Asia-Pacific portion of the world. I’m told that I should be “wiser” for my life experience of living in the “east.” Today has also represented another opportunity to meet with fellow NSD workers (six in my designated group) to reflect upon what we have learned as we have individually read from the Great Controversy over the course of the last two weeks.

While only three questions have been prepared for each of the six groups which meet separately to discuss, we find that it’s hard to close our discussions within the allotted 45 minute worship period. When a group of Seventh-day Adventists enters into dialogue regarding their personal experience with this important piece of literature, responses can vary.

I shared this morning my experience of taking history courses at Newbold College in England. The most inspiring academic course I have ever taken was that of 16th Century (Reformation Era) European History. Our professor, who at the time was earning his doctorate in reformation era history from London University, brought to life the various elements creating the climate in which the reformation for the church emerged. History in his classroom came alive involving far more than just names, dates, and places. When testing, his assumption was that his students knew the facts by the mere fact that we were his students. Testing did not revolve around encyclopedic knowledge but rather was an effort for students to take the facts and use them – to establish the why’s and how’s behind historical events.

My study group today discussed the contributions of Charles Wesley as presented in Chapter 15 of the Great Controversy considering the human tendency to swing from one end of the spectrum to the other - in this case from legalism to antinomianism (living without the law). We reflected on the meaning of “grace” which at times is a concept for debate even in our own church setting. Perhaps one of Ellen G. White’s greatest contributions was her ability to present a balanced view on issues of salvation – not veering from one extreme to another. This was on display through her handling of Wesley’s story.

We were reminded again that in all of the history reflected in the Great Controversy our God is in control. Reformation did not occur so much on a corporate basis as much as in God working in the individual lives of those who were open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. While our study is a joint effort encouraged by the church’s leadership, we recognize that for true reformation to occur it will be as we individually respond to the same Spirit who guided the reformers of the past.

– Kenneth Osborn, NSD Treasurer