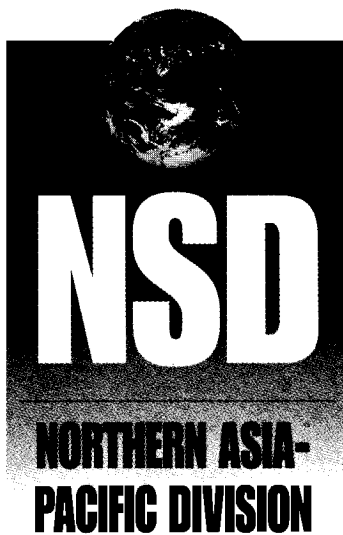


REACHING THE SOUL, DEVELOPING THE MIND 1995-2000 REPORT



With more than 5,400 students, Sahmyook University in Seoul, Korea, is the largest Adventist institution of higher learning in the world. Known throughout South Korea and other parts of the world as a premier university, it is lauded for its excellence in academic studies, research, and community service. Its graduates have spanned the globe, serving with distinction in government, business, and various professions.

Assume you are visiting this institution for the first time. You have heard of the academic excellence and the professional heights of Sahmyook University. You were told about the unforgettable hallmarks of the university—the immortal, the invisible, and the glorious moments that bring glory to the gospel of Jesus Christ. But, having arrived on the final admissions day at the opening of the school year, you are shocked to discover that non-Adventists make up about 70 percent of the enrollment of about 5,000 students! What in the world is an Adventist institution doing with such a lopsided enrollment trend? Aren't the university officials aware of the denominational policy that our schools should restrict non-Adventist enrollment to about 30 percent?

"Yes, we are aware of the policy," says a smiling university president, Dr. Shin Kei Hoon. "But you must wait to see the end of the school year, when the statistics make a turnaround, with 70 percent of the students being Adventists." Between the shock of the opening report and the joy of the closing one is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon a dedicated faculty and Adventist student core, who spend the year reaching out to the non-Adventist students with the good news of redemptive joy. In 1999 alone, the university baptized 894 students.

Sahmyook is a sample of what Christian

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Students at Sahmyook University, Seoul, Korea.

education can do. Integration of faith and learning transmits not only the finest in academics, but also the very reason for human existence.

Reaching Out

Reaching out with the Good News remains the fervent hope and the fondest aspiration of everyone in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division's six colleges and universities, 17 secondary schools, 21 elementary and primary schools, and five kindergartens. Although the task is not always easy, our 1,021 teachers daily seek to influence their more than 19,800 students. Consider Japan Missionary College, near Tokyo. A college with a rich history and a highly respected tradition, it had its ebb and flow through tumultuous eras of internal turmoil, anti-Christian moments, war, and finally a long period of peace and prosperity. But prosperity itself is a peril to the philosophy of Christian education. Does one need God when everything can seemingly be obtained without supernatural help? Yet, Japan Missionary College continues to serve the community with a mission and an unsurpassed vision. In 1999, it baptized only five students, but its graduates have taken the Adventist value system throughout the communities they serve: Nurses convey the divine healing touch to needy patients, teachers convey the meaning of life to children, and pastors touch many souls in a society that embraces electronics, technology, and humanistic postmodernism.

The college campus marked the centennial of the Adventist Church in Japan by dedicating a new building. "To make people whole" is really their aim, says Yoshibumi Takashi, president of Japan Missionary College.

A New Division, a Challenging Task

One reason for organizing the Northern Asia-Pacific Division in 1997 out of the previous Far Eastern Division and the Asia-Pacific Division was the challenging tasks that face the church in the new millennium. The vast country of China, with more than a billion population, the increasingly secularized societies in almost every country of the new division, the growing challenges and opportunities for evangelism make it necessary for the church to be prepared when the doors swing open. This means having ready a core of trained, committed workers to meet the spiritual needs of billions of people. Here's where the mission of Hong Kong Adventist College (HKAC) and Taiwan Adventist College (TAC) come in. HKAC has had some difficult times in recent years and only this past year obtained affiliation with Walla Walla College in the U.S.A. With new facilities and an energetic staff and faculty, the college is taking seriously its responsibility to train the future ministerial and teacher force for the Chinese work.

Taiwan Adventist College faced its greatest challenge this past year from one of the century's worst earthquakes. The administration building was seriously damaged, and the NewStart Health program's facility and the new

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A science class at Sahmyook University, Seoul, Korea.

academy building were destroyed. Heavy losses indeed, but this did not discourage the students or staff. The educational program is proceeding without interruption, and the new construction and repair will soon make the campus ready to continue its mission.

The enrollment in both the academy and the college has steadily increased over the past five years to the point where they have had difficulty finding Adventist Chinese faculty and staff members to meet the demand. Of the 90 faculty and staff members, 58 are Seventh-day Adventists. Yet despite the difficulties, they are offering a quality Adventist program in seven major fields.

Taiwan Adventist College and Academy sustained serious damage as a result of a 1999 earthquake.

Taiwan Adventist College students.

Spiritual Development

The 1996 Annual Council's spiritual-development focus has affected education in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. With the help of faculty and student groups, each school and college has developed a measurable master plan for spiritual development on its campus. The renewed emphasis on outreach has resulted in students taking part in community-service activities, volunteer mission projects in other countries, and sharing their faith and values within the academic community.

For example, Japan Missionary College shares the Christian values of compassion and caring for the poor through ATI (Japanese acronym for Asia

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Students at Hiroshima Academy, Japan.

Living Together). Students and faculty have worked among the lepers in Nepal and street children in Mongolia, and have carried out other projects in the Philippines and Indonesia. Although such ministries may not immediately produce baptisms, they transmit Christian values and create an enormous interest in Adventism. What's more, the Adventist students who participate in such mission outreach programs emerge with a new vision of "proclaiming the acceptable year of the Lord."

So what is Christian education accomplishing in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division? It is climbing the heights of academic excellence in education, reaching the unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and transmitting Adventist values to a world that is indifferent to Christianity or immersed in technology and humanism. It is giving new life and hope to thousands of children who come to the safe haven and the perpetually flowing fountain of eternal wisdom at our schools. ☞

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Students at Hiroshima Academy, Japan, enjoy time outdoors in the sunshine.

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Sahmyook Middle School building, Seoul, Korea.

Taiwan Adventist College and Academy band.

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Students at Yungnam Academy, Kyungnam-city, Kyungbuk, Korea.