



Something new, something challenging, something transformational. That sums up the educational ministry of the Adventist Church in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

Consider the new. Not quite new, but an old emphasis brought back to life in Hiroshima. Much like the city itself, which arose from the aftermath of the world's first atomic destruction. Just outside the city is Hiroshima Saniku Gakuin—our Adventist secondary boarding school. The school currently serves 300 students and has 44 teachers, all Adventists. Only 36 percent of this past year's student body was Adventist, but when each school year begins, the board and the faculty of the institution are determined to make the school Adventist in every sense of the word. Every student, regardless of his or her financial status or religious orientation, is expected to participate in all activities of the school: spiritual, academic, and physical.

In addition to the traditional curriculum, which follows the government syllabi, the school has a comprehensive religious component, which all students are required to take. This component focuses on Bible teaching and integration of faith and learning in all classes. But what is unique for most students is work education. Every student is expected to put in eight hours per week of manual labor. The policy is announced publicly in advertisements, the school bulletin, and the application procedure. All parents and students are expected to

sign the work agreement for students to be eligible to enroll. And they do. No wages are paid for this minimum work requirement; students who want to earn part of their expenses must work beyond the eight hours. All teachers are expected to join in actual labor—not just supervision. The religious, academic, and work education create a dynamic Adventist emphasis that has made the Hiroshima school one of the most sought after in the country. “We learn,” said one of the outgoing students, “not only what is good for our professional future, but also for our interpersonal re-

lationship in the community.” Hiroshima Saniku Gakuin has revived something old and turned itself into a vibrant, wholistic, and dynamic part of education in that city.

Education Is Evangelism

Consider the challenge. Mongolia—that distant, mysterious land, almost unknown to the rest of the world—is our mission field. The Japan Union wanted to do something special for the country, so they threw out the challenge to the 10 Adventist elementary schools in their country. The technologically and eco-

Toward the University of the Redeemed

BY MASAJI UYEDA



Outdoor art class at Hancock Academy in South Korea.



Interview with the Minister of Education, Mongolia.

nomically most advanced country in Asia on the one hand, and perhaps the most challenging country on the other, joined together on the Adventist platform of education. Teachers and students of Ad-

ventist elementary schools in Japan pooled their human and financial resources to help establish the first Adventist kindergarten and elementary school in Mongolia. The initial donation

in 2005 amounted to \$13,500. Just a mustard seed! But by God's grace, who knows what that small seed will do for God's glory and the service of the community in Mongolia? After all, Adventist education is evangelism.

An Act of Faith

Consider the transformational. When Sahmyook Nursing and Health College was opened and accredited by the church in the late 1990s in Seoul, South Korea, it was an act of faith. Already, Sahmyook University, the largest Adventist university in the world in terms of enrollment and campus baptisms, just down the road was offering a nursing program, and the city has several non-Adventist nursing schools. But this one began with a vision—to be a teaching institution not only in nursing, but also in teaching the concepts of wholesome health and beauty. Today, the college is one of the top institutions in the country, with the 2000 application-to-acceptance ratio being 30 to 1, the second largest in the country. In



Year-end musical performance at Donghao Adventist Primary School in South Korea.

2005, the college received a government grant equivalent to U.S.\$700,000 to develop educational-industrial collaboration. The cosmetic and beauty department of the college is known throughout the country for producing a range of products from plants and grains. The department's graduates are able to set up independent businesses, and its lifelong education center has more than 240 students. Graduates from the departments of nursing, dental hygiene, cosmetology, health and social welfare, and medical-information systems have easy access to work opportunities.

Academic Excellence, Spiritual Growth

South Korea's Sahmyook University and College continue to dominate the educational map of the country. Enrollment for 2004 numbered about 6,200 in 35 departments. The university and college's 155 full-time professors, assisted by 180 staff members and 400 part-time faculty, are committed to imparting an education that excels in academics and integrates learning with faith. A common feature of the university is the high intake of non-Adventist students at the beginning of the school year. Last year, 1,700 of the 2,000 freshmen were non-Adventists. But the university faculty and Adventist students are committed to turning every dorm room and every

class appointment into a mission field. Witnessing, sharing, just being friendly, bringing a friend to Sabbath school—and every other conceivable approach—led to 900 baptisms at the end of the 2003-2004 school year. The commission of Matthew 28:18 is the focus of the university's existence.

But Sahmyook University, in empha-

sizing the spiritual, does not neglect the academic. Take, for example, the agriculture program. Last year, the department solicited a government grant for a research project on the embryo-transfer technique to mass produce Korean native cattle. Submitting a research project is a highly competitive business, but thanks to God and the prayers of the



Student volunteers from the Adventist academy in Hiroshima, Japan, participate in a beautification program by picking up garbage along a nearby road.



Week of Prayer at Hahnkook Senior Academy in Seoul, South Korea.



Hiroshima secondary-level students perform a minimum of eight hours of manual labor each week.

faculty and students, Sahmyook University was awarded a grant equivalent to U.S.\$1.8 million for the next three years.

The same commitment to excellence is seen in other departments of the university, especially in arts, science, and music. The university keeps the flag of Adventist education flying high.

The Threefold Education

Chinese Union Mission operates two colleges—one in Taiwan, one in Hong Kong. Although small, they serve an important role in preparing teachers and other workers for the Adventist Chinese

communities throughout the world, as well as supportive lay members for the church. Hong Kong has four secondary schools, and each is named Sam Yuk, which literally means threefold education (spiritual, social, and mental). The Hong Kong schools excel in their academic achievements, and their students have opportunities to enroll in exchange programs in universities and colleges in Australia, England, and the United States. The Chinese Union Mission developed its own Bible textbooks, which are used throughout the high schools in the union.

Two years ago, Taiwan Adventist



Cheerful students pose for a brochure describing the Sahmyook Nursing and Health College in Seoul, South Korea.



Graduate students from Sahmyook University in Seoul, South Korea, meet for a small-group discussion.



Students from Taiwan Adventist College in Nantou County, Taiwan, Republic of China, participate in a group jump rope performance.

College introduced a new program, known as San Yu Adventure Education, which combines adventure and instruction to produce wholistic development in students. Field trips, cliff scaling, boating, mountain-climbing, and other outdoor activities are combined with spiritual life and academics to ensure all-round development. The activities are designed to encourage physical development, communication skills, and interaction among students, innovations in solving social problems, and, of course, to encourage students to know and love the Creator. This adventure in education brings a new vibrancy and challenge to classroom teaching: Education takes place not simply with books, but also in God's great book of nature.

What is the future of Adventist education in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division? From Mongolia to Japan, we have only one answer: Every Adventist child in an Adventist school, and every Adventist school a medium of transmitting God's love and power in the community. To minister, to spread God's good news, and to hasten the coming of the University of the Redeemed is the ultimate purpose of Adventist education in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. //



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