

REACH THE WORLD:

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



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The first-ever International Leadership Conference was held in Budapest, Hungary, May 10 to 13, 2017. The theme for the conference was “Reach the World.” Three closely related departments—children’s, women’s, and family ministries—collaborated to organize this conference, which brought around 400 leaders representing more than 60 countries from around the world, to focus on current issues facing children, women, and families today. The Northern Asia-Pacific Division was represented by 15 ministry leaders who traveled from Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Mongolia to attend and take part in this event.

The conference provided opportunities to listen and learn firsthand through plenary sessions from well-known researchers, authors, and leaders, such as Dr. George Barna (world-renowned researcher and statistician

from Barna Research Group), Dr. Kiti Freier Randall (pediatric neurodevelopmental psychologist from Loma Linda University Health), and Dr. Ella Simmons and Dr. Geoffrey Mbwana (leaders from the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church). A highlight of the conference was the Sabbath sermon presented by Pastor Mark Finley (well-known evangelist).

The various messages presented throughout the conference sought to bring about a deeper awareness of current issues. Barna warned that “we are in a crisis” because families are not intentionally passing on a biblical worldview to their children. According to his latest research, it is culture that is forming children’s worldview today. The presenters not only focused on the challenges, but also called on the church as a community to take advantage of this opportunity to address these



15 representatives of children's, women's, and family ministries from NSD at the International Leadership Conference



Dr. George Barna from Barna Research Group led a plenary session lecture.



Women's Ministries delegates have a break-out session, titled "Building bridges: woman to woman."



issues. Randall called for the church to support families and equip parents to spend "time-in" with their children to make a change in their lives and effectively "reach the world." She also suggested that the church consider spending more on children and family outreach.

Breakout sessions during the conference gave the opportunity to deal with particular issues faced by each group. The challenges of reaching at-risk children of affluent families, drug-addicted and HIV-infected parents, were presented at the children's ministries breakout sessions. Women's ministries discussed the challenges of reaching out to women of other faiths. Family ministries touched the topics of sexual identity struggles, the connection between the church and LGBT communities, and the need to genuinely love and respect all people.

Conference attendees were encouraged to work together to reach and welcome those facing challenges and issues inside and outside the church. They were also invited to commit to, develop and promote personal and healthy relationships, and focus on people's needs to make a difference in the world.

SEASON OF REVIVAL AND EVANGELISTIC FERVOR: NEWS FOCUS II

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN JAPAN

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Japan has about 16,000 members on the books. About one-third of that number actively attend church worship services. Seventy percent of that number is made up of women. That means that out of 5,000 active church members in Japan, about 3,500 are women. Thus, we can safely say that the future of Adventist mission in Japan depends, to a large degree, on women being actively engaged in outreach evangelism in all its phases.

These are the facts behind the purpose, the goals, the seminars and training programs of the women's ministries department of Japan Union Conference (JUC) and its ministry in general.

Akemi Duarte, director of women's ministries, believes it is important for every church member and pastor to understand that women's ministries is not about promoting any kind of political feminist agenda, nor is it about women hijacking the role of men in the church or causing division among church members. Women's ministries is about ministering to women, nurturing



Akemi Duarte from JUC women's ministries and Pastor Mark Duarte of Tokyo Central International Church