

Fast Facts and Mission Posts
Northern Asia-Pacific Division
Fourth Quarter 2021

Japan

1. The Japan Union Conference has 97 churches, 48 companies, and a membership of 14,978. In a population of 126,180,000, that's one member for every 8,424 people.
2. The first Seventh-day Adventist to visit Japan was Abram La Rue, a self-supporting American missionary working in China. As early as 1889, La Rue made a number of trips to Japan, distributing Adventist publications in Yokahama and Kobe. Stephen (S. N.) Haskell (1833–1922) visited in 1890 and reported in the *Review and Herald* (August 26, 1890) that there had been a baptism and several people were interested in keeping the Sabbath.
3. The first official Seventh-day Adventist workers sent to Japan were W. C. Grainger (1844–1899), former president of Healdsburg College (later Pacific Union College) in California, and T. H. Okohira, a Japanese-born, former Healdsburg student. They arrived in Tokyo on November 19, 1896, and began the Shiba Bible School, which soon had 60 young men attending.
4. Teruhiko H. Okohira (1865–1939) was born into an influential family in Satsuma Province, Japan. While attending business school in the United States he was converted first to Methodism and then, in San Francisco, he became a Seventh-day Adventist. He began to attend Healdsburg College and, in 1894, at the end of the school year, he made an appeal for someone to go back to Japan with him to spread the Adventist message. The president of the college, W. C. Grainger, responded and, in 1896, they were sent by the General Conference to Tokyo in Japan. In 1907, Okohira and another man, H. Kuniya, were ordained as the first Japanese Seventh-day Adventist ministers.
5. Japan's most common religion is the indigenous Shinto, with up to 95 percent at least nominally religious. Practice of Shinto is often combined with the practice of Buddhism. There is a substantial Muslim community, mainly made up of immigrants. Christians make up only 1–2 percent of the population.
6. Japan is an archipelago made up of 6,852 islands. The five main islands are Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu, Okinawa, and Shikoku. Tokyo, located on Honshu, is the capital of Japan and its largest city. It is also the most populous city in the world, with more than 37 million residents.
7. The Japanese names for Japan are Nippon and Nihon, which mean “where the sun rises” or “the origin of the sun.” The sun is represented on the Japanese flag as a red disk on a white background. In the West, Japan is often referred to as “The Land of the Rising Sun.”
8. The Japanese writing system uses Chinese characters, or *kanji*, as well as two syllabic scripts, *hiragana* and *katakana*. Although people from China and Japan could not understand each other's speech, they might be able to make out some writing, as many of the kanji have the same meanings.
9. Japan is part of the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” with more than 100 active volcanos, making it prone to earthquakes and tsunami.
10. Bunraku is a traditional form of Japanese theater using large puppets, often around 3 feet (one meter) tall. Three puppeteers, dressed in black, are needed to make the puppet move: one controls the head and right hand, a second controls the left hand, and a third the feet. The

other performers are a chanter (*tayu*), who narrates and provides the voices for the puppets, and a *shamisen* (a Japanese stringed instrument) player, who provides the traditional music.

11. The national sport of Japan is *sumo*, a type of wrestling where the two competitors try to push each other out of the ring (the *dohyō* is 15 ft [4.5 m] across) or force the other to touch the ground with any part of the body other than the soles of the feet.
12. *Sakura* is the Japanese word for ornamental cherry trees and their blossoms. In the spring, when the flowers are at their peak, the Japanese have outdoors blossom-viewing parties.
13. Seafood and rice or noodles make up the traditional Japanese cuisine. One variation that has become most popular around the world is sushi: rice seasoned with vinegar and served with a variety of seafood and/or vegetables.
14. A popular Japanese cultural phenomenon that has spread across the world is karaoke. Often performed in restaurants or parties, amateur singers perform well-known songs to recorded accompaniment.

Mongolia

1. The Mongolia Mission has six churches and five companies. With 3,061 members in a population of 3,269,000, Seventh-day Adventists make up less than one-tenth of a percentage of the population of Mongolia.
2. The first Adventist work in Mongolia was carried out by Russian missionaries, in 1926, operating out of Hailar in Manchuria, China. They issued the first Seventh-day Adventist publications in Mongolian: a printed hymn and four small tracts. Political changes made it impossible to work directly in the country, so work was started in 1930 for Mongols in Inner Mongolia (in northern China). In 1931, Otto Christensen established mission headquarters and a hospital in Kalgan. War and further political changes prevented work in Mongolia until the 1990s when Adventist Frontier Missions began work in the region.
3. The majority of Mongolians are Buddhist, although there is a significant percentage of people who claim no religion. Among the ethnic Kazakhs, Islam is dominant. Most of the population are of Mongol ethnicity (about 95%), with minorities such as Kazakhs and Tuvans.
4. About 45 percent of the population of Mongolia lives in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city, and about 30 percent of the population is nomadic or semi-nomadic. Horses play an integral part in the Mongol nomadic life and there are more than 3 million horses in Mongolia, or at least one horse for each person.
5. The national drink of Mongolia is *airag*, fermented mare's milk. The climate and traditionally nomadic lifestyle have influenced the cuisine of Mongolia; meat and dairy products are staples, and there are few fruits and vegetables.
6. *Khoomei* is a variant of "throat singing" traditional in Mongolia, originating among herders. Throat singing can produce more than one tone at a time from the vocal cords.
7. A traditional festival in Mongolia, Naadam, is known as "the three games of men," and includes archery, horse racing, and Mongolian wrestling, *bökh*, which is similar to the *sumo* of Japan.
8. Hunting from horseback with golden eagles is a traditional Mongolian sport and is celebrated at an annual festival.
9. While northern Mongolia is very mountainous, and the middle is mostly grassland steppes, the southern part is covered by the Gobi Desert — a cold desert, where temperatures in summer reach a maximum of 81°F (27 °C) and winters get down to minus 6°F (minus 21°C).
10. Mongolia is home to the Bactrian camel. Smaller than Arabian camels, their double hump is distinctive.

South Korea

1. The Korean Union Conference has 700 churches and 132 companies, with 260,901 members in a population of 77,512,000. That's one church member for every 297 people.
2. The headquarters of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division is located in Goyang, a city in the metropolitan area of Seoul, the capital of South Korea.
3. The first Koreans to become Seventh-day Adventists, Lee Eung Hyun and Son Heung Cho, were converted in 1904, in Kobe, Japan, where Lee Eung Hyun saw a signboard in Chinese (which uses common ideographs with Japanese and Korean) on the street, which read "The Seventh-day Sabbath Jesus Second Coming Church." He was already a Christian and was intrigued by the sign. After investigating, and speaking to evangelist Hide Kuniya, he invited Son Heung Cho to visit the church with him and the two men were soon baptized. Son Heung Cho then returned to Korea, where he began to spread the message. Later that year he invited Hide Kuniya to Korea to come and teach the converts.
4. In February 1943, during World War II, the leaders of the church in Korea were arrested by the Japanese police and held in prison until the end of the year. One died as a result of torture inflicted on him in prison, two others died soon after being released, and another later on. Altogether, about 40 Seventh-day Adventists were imprisoned for their faith. Many others fled to the mountainous regions of Korea and only returned to their homes once the war was over.
5. Korea is located on a peninsula, separated from mainland China and Russia by rivers.
6. Since 1945, Korea has been divided into North Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and South Korea (the Republic of Korea).
7. South Korea was once home to numerous Siberian tigers but, as populations grew, they were hunted nearly to extinction and are now only found in North Korea.
8. Korean is the official language of both North and South Korea. It is written in the Korean alphabet, which was invented in the fifteenth century.
9. The most popular and well-known element of Korean cuisine is kimchi: a dish made of various fermented vegetables and seasonings, including chili powder.

Taiwan

1. The Taiwan Conference has 58 churches, 28 companies, and a membership of 6,956. In a population of 23,593,000, that is only one church member for every 3,392 people.
2. The first Seventh-day Adventist known to enter Taiwan was T. S. Wang, a colporteur from South Fujian, China in 1907. Despite persecution and imprisonment, he carried on his work and, by the time he left, in 1912, he had ten converts. Work was difficult in the area and, when work came to a standstill in 1942, during World War II, the membership was only 14. In 1948, after the war, the Taiwan Mission was established, and the first Seventh-day Adventist church on the island was organized in early 1949.
3. According to the Pew Research Center, in 2020 the religious makeup of Taiwan is estimated to be: indigenous religions, 43.8 percent; Buddhist, 21.2 percent; unaffiliated, 13.7 percent; Christian, 5.8 percent; and other religions, 15.5 percent.
4. Although Taiwan is the Chinese name for the island, it was popularly known as Formosa since the sixteenth century, when Portuguese sailors glimpsed it from the sea and marked it on their maps as Ilha Formosa (beautiful island).
5. The largest percentage of Taiwan's population (95 percent), according to the government, is made up of Han Chinese, mostly the descendants of waves of migration from the mainland beginning in the eighteenth century. Mandarin is the most common language used in Taiwan.
6. Baseball is Taiwan's national sport. Other popular sports include basketball, tennis, table tennis, badminton, taekwondo, and golf.

Recipe: Mongolia

Boortsog: Mongolian Butter Cookies

Ingredients

Around 1/2 cup (120 ml) warm water
pinch of salt
1/2 cup (100 grams) sugar
1/4 cup (56 grams) butter
2 cups (240 grams) white flour
Vegetable oil for deep frying

Instructions

Dissolve the salt and sugar in warm water.
Mix the water, butter, and flour together, and knead until the dough is firm and elastic.
Let it rest for half an hour, and then knead again to knock out any air bubbles.
Roll the dough to a thickness of about ½ inch (1 cm).
Cut into rectangles about 1x2 inches (2x5 cm) and fry in the hot oil until they are golden brown.
Let cookies cool.
Serve with melted butter or honey.

Game: Japan

Origami

Origami is the Japanese word for making 3-D sculptures from flat pieces of paper, just by folding them. Origami can range from a simple paper airplane to intricate flowers and animals.

How to Make a Paper Boat

Materials: 1 sheet of letter or A4 paper

Fold the piece of paper in half lengthwise, open it up, turn it a quarter turn, and then fold it widthwise, with the fold on top.

Fold the top corners down so the top edges meet up in the middle, and line up with the center fold. Press the folds down with your fingers so they stay creased.

Take the bottom flaps and fold each one upwards. Fold over the little flaps peeking over the edges of the triangle.

Pick up the folded paper with your thumbs in the opening at the bottom. Pull outward gently until the ends come towards each other and meet. You will now have a flat diamond shape.

Press all the folds with your fingers to make it completely flat.

Fold up the top layer of the bottom point to meet the top point, and make sure all of the edges line up. Press the new fold with your fingers.

Turn the paper over and do the same on the other side. You will have another triangle, but smaller this time.

Again, pick up the folded paper with your thumbs in the opening at the bottom. Pull outward gently until the ends come towards each other and meet. You will now have another, smaller diamond shape.

Press all the folds again with your fingers.

Now, pick up the folded paper and, from the top point, gently pull apart the sides of the folded paper and it should open up into a boat shape. Gently adjust the folds so that it will stand upright on the bottom.

Song: Taiwan (Mandarin)

In this issue we have “This Little Light of Mine” in the Mandarin language, which is spoken in Taiwan, as well as in China. Each line is shown first in English, then the phonetic pronunciation of the Mandarin (in bold), then in Pinyin, the transliteration of the Chinese characters, which are at the bottom.

《我那微小的光》 This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

wah nah way she-ow duh gwong, wah yow rong tah fong gwong

wǒ nà wēi xiǎo de guāng, wǒ yào ràng tā fàng guāng

我 那 微 小 的 光, 我 要 让 它 放 光

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

wah nah way she-ow duh gwong, wah yow rong tah fong gwong

wǒ nà wēi xiǎo de guāng, wǒ yào ràng tā fàng guāng

我 那 微 小 的 光, 我 要 让 它 放 光

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

wah nah way she-ow duh gwong, wah yow rong tah fong gwong

wǒ nà wēi xiǎo de guāng, wǒ yào ràng tā fàng guāng

我 那 微 小 的 光, 我 要 让 它 放 光

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

rong tah fong, fong gwong meung, fong guong meung

ràng tā fàng, fàng guāng míng, fàng guāng míng

让 它 放, 放 光 明, 放 光 明