

ASIAN-AMERICAN PASTORAL MINISTRY (AAPM)
CRCNA/Lilly Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Program

REPORT: AAPM Meeting and Preaching Seminar
July 5-8, 2004 in Aurora, CO

We had a very productive and highly encouraging meeting in Aurora, CO. Eight of ten AAPM pastors and six wives attended. Pastor Albert Sideco cancelled his trip at the last minute because her mother suffered a serious stroke in Florida while Pastor Abraham Lee went on a mission trip to Alaska during the same week (his trip was scheduled long before our meeting was finalized). Rev. Mike Vander Pol (CRWM, retired), with his wife Lois, and Rev. Tong Park (CRHM, Korean and Intercultural Ministries Director) also attended.

Here is a summary of what we accomplished:

1. Adopted to use a "living binder" in which each AAPM member will compile all correspondence, organizational documents, project reports, index of resource materials, key handouts and articles, etc. I will bring a copy of this binder at the November conference.
2. Compiled personal bio/info as a way for us to get to know each other closely because of the geographical distance between us.
3. Summarized pertinent decisions and plans made by our predecessor organizations, namely the Asian Ministries Consultation and Asian Planning Group, which were both initiatives of CRHM for the Asian CRCs from 1999 to 2003.
4. Actively participated in a whole day Preaching Enhancement Seminar (Tuesday, July 6) led by Rev. Howard Vanderwell of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. CRC pastors from Seattle, WA and Denver, all established Anglo churches, also attended. That same evening, our wives joined us in a worship experience and discussion led by Howard and Norma Malefyte.
5. Our spouses had a separate "pastors' wives-only" seminar led by Lois Vander Pol on Tuesday. Their session was focused on sharing and understanding common concerns faced by Asian CRC pastors.
6. We devoted Wednesday morning to assess where we are - in terms of joys, needs, challenges, and opportunities - as pastors, as ethnic churches, and as a network of Asian churches in the CRCNA. Over coffee break, we also had an informal talk with Sally Morgenthaler, resource person with the COLAM program, focusing on the need to

study and develop reformed worship liturgy and approaches appropriate to Asian CRCs in the USA.

7. For the rest of Wednesday, we discussed how we could organize and develop action plans/activities to pursue our priority concerns as a group. The following were the decisions we made:
 - a. To distribute tasks and assure collaborative efforts, we divided ourselves into three regional committees -
 - **East Coast:** Phohn Sinbondit, Albert Sideco, Socheth Na (chairman)
 - **North CA:** Nam Kieu, Fernando del Rosario, Abraham Lee, John Kim (chairman) [NOTE: North CA temporarily includes John Kim since he is alone in the Midwest. Later on, we will form another regional committee when more members are recruited from that area.]
 - **South CA:** Ji Jun, Matthew Le, Elmer Tandayu (chairman)
 - b. We set deadlines when our regional committees' reports on above topics are due –
Sep. 15, 2004: first draft of action plans
Nov. 15, 2004: final draft & commencement of implementation
NOTE: During the intervening periods, the regional committees will 'meet' via conference calls if physical/face-to-face meetings are not geographically and financially feasible.
 - c. Aside from the overriding need to determine pastoral leadership and ministry styles/models that are appropriate and effective in Asian-American churches, these are the topics/issues each regional committee will work on –
 - **East Coast:** the integration of ethnic Asian leaders in the CRCNA and maintenance of church health among Asian CRCs. This committee will especially focus on the translation of CRCs' doctrinal, worship, and other teaching resource materials to Asian languages. They will work to ensure that AAPM will be an active member of the review process of CRC-produced Asian language materials.
 - **North CA:** the strengthening of Asian churches' denominational affinity and development of 2nd generation/English ministry. This committee will also work on raising awareness about AAPM in the CRCNA through the SPE program, Banner, CRHM links, etc.
 - **South CA:** leadership development, ministry resources, church multiplication; this committee will also adopt or modify a CRHM ministry assessment questionnaire for AAPM pastors.

- d. Our second face-to-face meeting will be on March 7-9, 2005 in southern California (specific venue to be arranged).
8. Other organizational decisions:
 - a. The position of AAPM Coordinator will have a term of one year. We decided to elect annually so everyone can experience this unique learning and leadership development opportunity.
 - b. For 2004-2005, the group confirmed Fernando del Rosario to serve as Coordinator and Nam Kieu as Treasurer. They were charged to comply with all the reporting responsibilities as required by the Lilly-SPE grant.
 - c. AAPM delegated Socheth Na (who is from Holland, MI) and Fernando del Rosario to represent the group at the SPE coordinators' conference to be held November 17, 2004 at the Prince Conference Center, Grand Rapids.
9. AAPM acknowledged the valuable assistance by Lis Van Harten and the entire CRCNA/Lilly Endowment SPE Program.
10. AAPM thanked Brothers Mike, Tong, and sister Lois for their support, guidance, encouragement, and prayers during and beyond AAPM's meeting in Aurora.
11. Before taking their return flights home on Thursday, July 8th, AAPM members visited the Garden of the gods park and the USAF Academy Chapel in Colorado Springs. That last activity was a valuable opportunity for bonding and fellowship.
12. Finally, we give praise, glory, and honor to God who blessed all of us with one mind and one spirit, and kept us safe and healthy all throughout this activity.

Reported by:

Fernando del Rosario
AAPM Coordinator, 2004-05

NOTE: An original hard copy of this report will be mailed separately to Lis Van Harten.