

**FIRST ASIA MISSIONARY COURSE  
COMMENCEMENT  
February 25, 2007, Pendleton Hall, Bryn Athyn**

The Philadelphia Korean New Church, under the leadership of the Rev. Yong (John) Jin, hosted an historic and inspiring event Sunday, February 25, 2007, in Pendleton Hall at Bryn Athyn College. It was the first Asia Missionary Course commencement. Seven Korean students, four men and three women, received certificates recognizing their completion of a series of twelve courses in the Heavenly Doctrine comprising 360 hours of class instruction.

The courses, essentially taught by the Rev. Yong Jin in the Korean language, are intended to prepare lay men and women to live a New Church life and be able to share the truths of the church with others. As Mr. Young K. Bang said in his valedictory remarks, “we believe the fruits of this labor and our collective efforts will result in the permanent dedication to the direction and teaching of the New Church, especially the growth plans for extending our Asia mission and local church in America.”

The graduating class of 2007 met regularly on Sunday evenings for a period of three years beginning in December 2003. Receiving the certificates were: John Lee, Young K. Bang, On J. Tang, Wan S. Kim, Jong R. Park, Duk I. Lee, and Young K. Lee. Special awards were given to John Lee, the oldest of the students, who missed just one of the 120 weekly sessions, and to Jong R. Park who never missed a class session throughout the entire three years of study. Certificates were presented by the Rev. Eric Carswell, Dean of the Academy Theological School, following a service in which Bishop Tom Kline preached on the spiritual meaning of the pearl of great price (Matt. 13:45-46). He said:

“Today we are celebrating the graduation of men and women who have prepared themselves to spread the truths of the New Church. Let us remember that the Holy City New Jerusalem has twelve gates.... And let us remember that each gate is a single pearl—it is our worship of the Lord Jesus Christ that is the heart and center of His Church.”

### **Recognition of Wan S. Kim as a Missionary**

Following the graduation ceremony, Bishop Kline conducted a special service of recognition for one of the graduates, Wan S. Kim. Mr. Kim had accompanied Yong Jin to China on special missionary visits to do seminars in New Church doctrine for Chinese underground church leaders, and he also spent a year there. It is Mr. Kim’s intention to begin a three-year course of study at the Academy’s Theological School next fall, looking to graduation and ordination in 2010. He plans to serve the church in China beginning in July 2010. After a moving confession of faith by Mr. Kim and his presentation of the vision of the Asian mission, Bishop Kline formally recognized Wan Kim as a missionary of the Lord’s New Church and presented him with a volume of the Heavenly Doctrine, the symbol of his chosen work.

When the services were over, the congregation and friends of the Philadelphia Korean New Church gathered in the Pendleton Hall commons for a celebration of this moving historic event. Congratulatory speeches were addressed to the graduates by The Rt. Rev. Louis King, the Rev. Erik Sandstrom, and the Rev. Eric Carswell. During the ceremonies, special thanks and recognition were given to the Rev. John Jin for his vision and tireless work in the development and execution of the Asia Missionary Course.