



Morning Calm

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JO ROBERTS, M.B.E. 1914-1998

Agnes Josephine Roberts was a Cornish Roberts. Her father was in the Navy. She was born in South Africa, but went to school with the Sisters of All Hallows, Ditchingham.

On leaving school she went to Australia, becoming a nurse, and later a parish worker in New Zealand. After World War II she returned to England to work in a London Diocesan Moral Welfare Home and as Housekeeper to the clergy of Holy Redeemer, Clerkenwell, before going to Germany to work in British soldiers' Clubs. She then offered herself to the Mothers' Union and was sent out to Korea. Jo arrived in Seoul in 1958 and worked for the Mothers' Union in Korea from 1959-1976. Following her retirement from this work, she then worked for some time as Overseas Secretary to Bishop Mark Pae.

Bishop Daly insisted that Jo should learn Korean properly. She quickly mastered a cute pidgin-Korean of her own: the Bishop gave in and her language study was cut short. She had already organised winter shelter for beggar boys in the Cathedral crypt.

She never had any money of her own, but she found gifts to pay for many very expensive operations, saving sight, restoring mobility, saving lives. She would tour refugee shanty camps, often emerging with a sick or injured child. If she heard of a woman having a difficult labour she would set off in the landrover she had been given by Oxford Diocesan Mothers' Union, even at dead of night. She would then climb the mountainside to find the miserable cottage where the woman was. She held mother-and-baby clinics all over the land, and was always ready to drive a priest out to the leper colony for a dawn Mass. She was for ever making things, from Christmas decorations to visual aids for village Sunday Schools. The secret of her work was Chestertonian: she knew that anything worth doing was worth doing badly.

Her nickname was Granny of the Great White Mountains. 'Granny' was an affectionate word for any senior lady, and the Great White Mountains are the backbone of Korea. She often drove through them alone. When asked what precaution she took against bandits, she said, 'I lock the doors of the landrover before I start, and when they come out of the trees and jump on the bonnet, I just drive on till they fall off'.

Jo was awarded the M.B.E. in 1982. In 1983 she retired to Leicester, where, in spite of hip replacements, she became active in Leicester Royal Infirmary's chaplaincy, working to within a few weeks of her death.

She was sure God loved everyone except her; but she took comfort in the doctrine of Purgatory. The ill-concealed love she gave to people will surely earn its reward when the trumpets sound for her on the other side.

RICHARD RUTT

Jo Roberts died in Leicester Royal Infirmary on Friday, 30th October 1998. Her funeral took place on Friday, 6th November in Gilroes Cemetery Chapel, Leicester. The Korean Mission Partnership Committee was represented by Frs. Davenport and Lee, and Miss Eilene Hassall, Secretary of K.M.P.

A REQUIEM for Jo will be celebrated in the Chapel at Partnership House, 157 Waterloo Road, London, on TUESDAY, 9th FEBRUARY 1999 at 11.30 a.m. Friends wishing to attend should notify the Secretary of K.M.P., Lewis Cottage, The Palace, Hereford, HR4 9BJ (Tel: 01432-274238) by the **1st February**. Light Refreshments will be served after the Service.



성공회 프란시스 수도회 Korean Franciscan Brotherhood



*l to r Brothers Christopher John, SSF, Lawrence KFB & Stephen KFB
outside the Friary surrounded by the recently fallen snow and ginkgo leaves*

Brother Christopher writes:-

We've remained much the same group in our community except that Brother Paul (Ha Jai-min) left us last May to go to Australia to join the Little Brothers of Francis at Tabulam. We continue to wish him well in his new life there as he seeks to follow God's call to a different style of Franciscan community. Brother Stephen (Choi Min-ho) was received as a novice and Brother Lawrence (Ham Hyuk) as a postulant last May.

So - what are we doing? Well of course the "big" answer to that is that we are trying to be a community of brothers energised by the gospel, and working for God's kingdom in the world around us. The "small" answer is the usual mixture of daily prayer and meditation, study, housework, offering hospitality, going out to the poor and homeless in our neighbourhood, meeting young people and of course, recreation.

As for our daily prayer for a long time we've felt the inadequacy of the Korean Book of Common Prayer (based on 1549 BCP) which is the official form of the church here. The Korean brothers want to use something they feel is more modern, international and Franciscan so we are, bit by bit, translating parts of the SSF Daily Office. It's a useful exercise for all of us as Chris tries to explain in his faltering Korean what he thinks a particular prayer or phrase means and as the Korean brothers try to understand him and rephrase it suitably. We hope that soon we will be able to find some way of chanting parts of the office in a style based on Korean musical tradition rather than the Gregorian chant or Anglican cathedral chant which is in general use.

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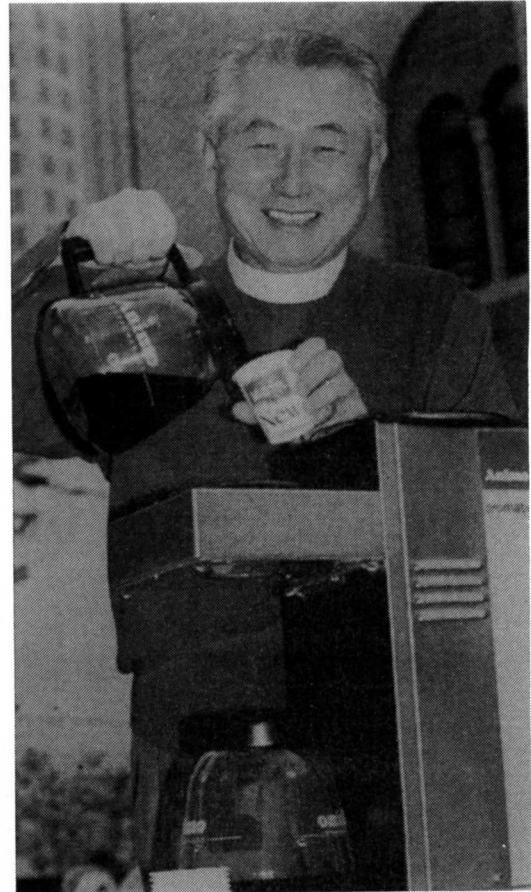
KOREA UNDER I.M.F.

Bishop's Coffee is worth a brick for the home of Handicapped.

Bishop Simon Kim, (68yrs) former Primate of Korea and Bishop of Seoul has sold 12,000 cups of Coffee in the Cathedral garden during the summer of 1998 and raised \$46,000 for a home for the handicapped to be built in his home town, Kangwha Island

Bishop Simon said 'I was very touched by the warm heart of the people in this difficult time. It is a sort of miracle.

Earlier Bishop Simon donated land (worth 1,538.000) to the Church. The estimated cost of the building (2,307,000) is to be met by the money donated by this warm hearted people and a government grant for this valuable work. The building will consist of accommodation for the handicapped, professional training centre, etc.



Fr. Leonardo Song's Letter

(Priest in Charge of Bongcheon Dond House of Sharing, Seoul)

I pray that the grace of God be upon you and your church. Bongcheondong house of Sharing has now truly become the centre for the poor and needy people, even more so since I.M.F crisis.

We are extremely busy in looking after those children who are suffering from shortage of food and those who are unemployed and those who are sleeping rough on the streets of Seoul. There are almost 200,000 children who have to satisfy themselves with one meal a day. It is difficult to describe the situation as it is really unprecedented.

Government is doing its best. The Rev Dr John Lee, President of Sungkonghoe University is the chairman of the City's committee for this emergency and the churches are doing their best.

I thank God for the support we had from the government and many generous people and organisations for enabling us to start 15 centres of Houses of Rest throughout the country where beds, food and counselling

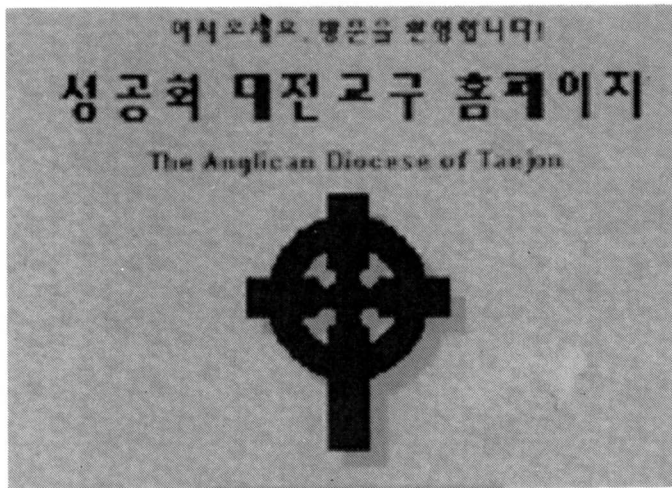
services are provided for the protection of their rights.

Providing food for these needy people is a very difficult task. We have collected food from the hotels and the super stores and various charity organisations, with the help of government which provides transport for us and distributes to various food centres.

The number of children who really need our support has grown seven times. Social work for these children is urgently needed. I feel very sorry that our hands are tied and resources are very limited.

In our area we have 3,300 registered handicapped people among 600,000 population. Their welfare needs urgent attention in this difficult time of ours.

As you know, the Anglican Church in Korea is not a big denomination. Our resources and man power are very limited. Please pray for us.



Consecration of two churches



St Nicholas Church in Cheonju, was consecrated by Bishop Paul on 1st October 1998. This is one of two churches in south west of Korea which covers nearly a quarter of South Korea. The mission centre was started in the provincial capital 25 years ago in a rented office. And they have moved 9 times before they finally built this simple church.

Bishop Paul consecrated Taebak (formerly known as Hwangji) Church on 15th October 1998. The mission to Hwangji was started by Bishop John Daly in 1962 for coal miners and served this area until the church was burnt down in September 1996. Unfortunately the church was not insured for fire. An anonymous donor, who is not a member of the Anglican Church met most of the rebuilding cost.

Bishop Paul of Taejon writes

"Last year we faced the most difficult year in the history of diocese. Because many people have lost their jobs, we have collected only 50% of the missionary funds from the parishes and consequently we've incurred much debt and were forced to cut the budget by 10%

The economic crisis in Korea has brought about an acute need for social welfare services. To help meet the need, we opened four new Houses of Sharing in Chonan, Onyang, Taejon and Chonju. To provide shelter and food for the many jobless and homeless has not been easy. Providing meals for more than a hundred people a day is especially difficult. Appeals for funds among the parishioners have not been very fruitful. People are unsure of the future and therefore are reluctant to give. Also, it is very difficult to create a social consciousness in a society that has traditionally seen the family as the answer to social problems. Many experts are now saying that the worst of the economic crisis is over and things should start turning around. That is good news but it will still be several years before the average people feel it,

In October we ordained one priest and two deacons thus bringing the number of diocesan clergy to 35. Despite the economic problems we've been fortunate to secure funds from overseas partners to allow several of our clergy to study abroad. Thanks to God's blessings and many prayers, we are steadily growing.

Please continue to pray for us as we also pray for you."

Diocese of Pusan

Election of Bishop

We were all delighted to hear of the election of Fr. Joseph Dae Yong Lee as the new Bishop of Pusan. Fr. Lee is at present on the Staff of Sungkumghoe University, serving as Dean of the Seminary. We offer him our congratulations, good wishes and prayers. Further details in the June issue of MORNING CALM.