



Morning Calm

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IN THE GARDEN OF ST. COLUMBA'S HOUSE



*l to r. Fr. Luke Lee; Sister Joyce, CSP; Fr. M. Davenport; Bp. of Seoul;
The Primate of Korea & Bp. of Taejon; Eilene Hassall; William Say;
Mother Margaret Paul, CSP; Bp. of Pusan; Fr. Sam Davies*

On September 13th last year the Korean Mission Partnership Committee met at St. Columba's House, Community of St. Peter, Woking, under the chairmanship of Fr. Sam Davies who had the great pleasure of welcoming the three Korean Diocesan Bishops to this meeting, namely, the Primate of Korea, the Most Reverend Paul Yoon, also Bishop of Taejon; the Bishop of Seoul, the Rt. Reverend Matthew Chung and the Bishop of Pusan, the Rt. Reverend Joseph Lee.

At a Roundtable meeting held at Partnership House, London, the previous day, attended by representatives from other Mission agencies, the Bishops had given full Reports on the work and development of the Church in their dioceses. We now print some of the main items from these Reports which were received at the K.M.P. meeting.

The Diocese of Seoul includes not only Seoul but also Kyunggi province that surrounds Seoul. Almost half of South Koreans live in this political, economic, and cultural centre of Korea. The Diocese has 42 parishes and 12 mission churches. There are approximately 12,000 registered members in this Diocese. Last May, 7 new priests and 8 new deacons were ordained. The clergy body of Seoul now has 77 priests and 13 deacons, 90 members altogether.

This year has seen one new church planted so far. In order for a new church to be planted, not only a worship space and a living place for clergy but also a fund for the clergy's living are to be found. As Korea's living costs, expenditure, and land prices, etc. have been rising, church planting is becoming more challenging. The process of heavy urbanization in Korea for the past few decades has caused several urban problems. In response to that, the mission focus of Seoul Diocese has gradually been switched to the aspects of social ministry. It was 15 years ago when the Diocese began an Anglican social mission named House of Sharing in Seoul's urban poor areas. Since then, 5 House of Sharing communities and 2 mission centres for migration workers in Korea have been built. Last March, we Korean Anglicans celebrated the birth of a new centre for the disabled in Kangwha Island. The centre, Uri-Maeul ("Our Village" in Korean) where the disabled live and learn job skills in a community setting. This was achieved by my predecessor Simon Kim's land donation (6,600 square metres) and financial support from the government.

Speaking a little about Seoul's relation with other sister churches in the Anglican Communion, first, the Diocese has enjoyed a close relationship with Japan Anglican Church. Seoul has a partnership with Tokyo and Choobu Diocese in Japan. A Korean priest from Seoul has been sent to the Diocese of Osaka. We are sending a young priest to Choobu Diocese. Japan Anglican Church doesn't have enough number of clergy.

Seoul Diocese has a partnership relation with the Diocese of New York. Last May, our delegations visited some of New York's ministry sites and discussed the mission cooperation between the two Dioceses. 20 New York teens and youth leaders came to Seoul to have a work camp with Seoul teens in August. Seoul Mother's Union held a hymn contest in June, where more than 500 members gathered, and in August, 400 members joined the Union's Summer Retreat.

St. Peter's Convent has continually supported the Convent of Holy Cross in our Diocese and is now offering us a very good accommodation for which I thank the Convent. I am deeply grateful to the Korean Mission Partnership for their sincere prayer and care for the Anglican Church of Korea.

Rev. Kim Ki-Suk of Seoul Diocese is taking his Th.D program at Selly Oak. After completing his study he will teach the undergraduate students at Sungkonghoe University. I wish you to remember him in your prayer that he may find enough financial support until the end of his study.

Three projects the Diocese of Seoul is planning to achieve:

1. Building a Retreat House. Our Diocese has no

retreat house for the clergy and the laity. Some years ago, a member donated to the Diocese his land located in a rural mountain area. We have sent a priest there in that area. He and his family live in a small house there, it is our goal to fund the building of a retreat house accommodating 50 guests.

2. Expanding Migration Workers Mission and Establishing Youth Ministry Centre. We have a special centre named House of Shalom for migration workers in Korea, and another centre for the same purpose is sprouting out in another area. Developing ministries for migration workers in Korea is very urgent, and more churches need to be involved in that issue. However, it's been rather slow for churches can hardly change their traditional focuses. Juvenile delinquency is a growing problem in our society. We are trying to obtain the right to run a youth centre formerly managed by the government rather than build our own centre. If you have any good suggestion or comment to make, please do so.
3. Establishing a Korean Anglican Centre in London. This topic has been discussed twice at the Round Table Meetings, and Fr. Luke Lee has done much in making it come true. A Korean chaplain has been appointed, and both Seoul and London Diocese agreed to support financially the centre's establishment. This is the matter of not only Seoul Diocese but of the whole Anglican Church of Korea also, for we expect the centre to make a great contribution to the relation between the Church of England and the Anglican Church of Korea. Your prayer and support for establishing the centre in London will be appreciated very much.

Sungkonghoe University:

A very encouraging Report was received on this Anglican University whose President is now Bishop Simon Kim who was the first Primate of the Anglican Church of Korea.

The number of registered Students now stands at 2,415: Teaching Staff 65. At present there are 30 seminarians in the Master of Divinity Course for ordination. Twenty-one of them from the Diocese of Seoul; 4 from Taejon and 5 from Pusan. The fully computerized seminary library now owns 12,000 books and other materials. The new Millenium Hall was completed last year.

More details on the development of the University will appear in our next Newsheet.

The Diocese of Taejon:

The Diocese is predominantly rural and increasingly the youth forsake their hometowns and move to the urban areas to study, work and live. Consequently, Church membership has been

dropping steadily. There is a real need for evangelism and improved stewardship. Financially, because of the gaining of Provincial status, the Korean Church no longer receives substantial PIM funding. This loss has had a severe impact on the Diocese of Taejon. Also the aftermath of IMF still remains.

We are part of the National Council of Churches in Korea and are very active in its programmes and activities.

Christian education is promoted by the Mothers' Union; Church Youth Groups, Parish Sunday Schools, Lay Reader/Leader Training, and Alpha Course programmes.

All the diocesan clergy and some laity receive continuing theological education either through quarterly extension programmes or attendance at renewal seminars sponsored by the Diocese. In considering plans for the future, the primary task is that of evangelization.

The Diocese of Pusan seems to be still at the beginning of its mission in the region. In 1974, when the Diocese was established, having been separated from the Diocese of Taejon, it was the aspiration of all Anglican members in Korea to see the day when the Diocese would grow up quickly

and be independent. It is, however, still weak, especially as regard the number of Church members as well as finance. Most of the mission activities of the Diocese, therefore, must be newly devised and newly set up.

- A. Christian Education - discipleship training: 'cell' group Bible study: educational associations.
- B. Stewardship - some 15-20% of all church members are tithing.
- C. Theological Education - The Department of Theology and the theological Seminary, Sunkonghoe University.
- D. Evangelism - 'person to person discipleship training' : youth mission : testimony and praise programmes, etc.

Action Groups in the Diocese : Mothers' Union, Church School Association : Pusan Youth Forum (diocesan) and Teachers' Association of the 'Teen Agers' Church School.

The Bishop John Daly Mission Centre at Kumi is doing splendid work, with a very committed staff; also the House of Sharing in Bansong.

Plans for the future: The Diocese is now planning to establish 20 new Churches in the period from 2000 through to 2007.

SOCIETY OF THE HOLY CROSS SEOUL

Sister Catherine, S.H.C. wrote last October to tell us about the Associates' Meeting held at Holy Cross Convent on the 16th October. We quote from her letter and also print two photographs



taken on that occasion - one in the Chapel and the other in the Convent grounds.

"It was a brilliant and sunny day so that we could have the occasion in the garden. Of course Holy Communion took place in the Chapel. The Rt. Reverend Matthew Chung, the Visitor of the

Community, celebrated and preached and spoke of the mission carried out by the English Sisters who endured many difficulties. He emphasized making the Convent a centre for prayer.

The Reverend Jeremiah Yang lectured afterwards. The lecture was on the essence of Christianity and reminded us to discern the command of Jesus from the secular demand. He suggested that we



decrease our social charity work and do more on proclaiming the Gospel instead. I always think we

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should balance the two sides of spirituality and practical service. Being a good Christian does not involve thinking only but also includes practising His Words.

Over 100 came for the day. Everyone enjoyed the lunch and discussion in the garden which was full of Autumn beauty: persimmons, quinces and

colourful leaves. At the Business meeting after the lunch, Mr Matthias Choi was re-elected Chairperson. Some guests stayed on longer, chatting and singing!

What a lovely day it must have been, remarks the Editor, who has stayed at the Convent - a lovely peaceful place, close to the Cathedral in Seoul.

KOREAN FRANCISCAN BROTHERHOOD

It is always a pleasure to receive the K.F.B. Newsletter. Here are some 'quotes' from the Autumn 2000 issue.

Brother Christopher, S.S.F. writes:-

Our community life develops out of our prayer together and I can report how faithful the brothers have been in keeping the times of prayer and in developing their spiritual life. We also have several times each week for community activities such as Bible study, Franciscan study and recreation. Even doing the housework together helps us in building up our community life.

Quite often we have guests staying with us for retreat or rest.

We continue to lead various programmes such as retreats, Bible studies and youth programmes. Over the summer vacation we led spirituality programmes for several Church Groups; Sharing House Groups; the Sharing House Conference and the Korean/Japanese Youth Camp.

Brother Lawrence has a busy ministry at Anson Church leading the students' group and assisting the priest. Brother Stephen leads a weekly Bible

study and worship for some students at the Suwan Campus of Sungkonghoe University. He has been translating several spirituality and Franciscan books. Brother Christopher has conducted weekly English Bible study programmes at Seoul Cathedral and now at Incheon Nedong Church.

We enjoy regular contact with the students and staff at Sungkonghoe University. Brother Lawrence will graduate this Winter from the Graduate School of Theology; Brother Stephen hopes to enter that School in 2001. Brother Christopher teaches English Conversation two days each week.

Although our present situation is very suitable for our life and for offering hospitality we know that sometime in the future we will have to move. Our buildings are getting old and with increasing structural problems. Each time something goes wrong we hope it can be repaired easily but often now repairs are not easy because of the age of the buildings. We continue to pray and wait for the day when we can move to Onsuri and establish our friary there as a centre for our life and as a base for prayer, hospitality and ministry.

MEETING OF SEPARATED FAMILIES

This meeting took place after the last issue of MORNING CALM. Sister Catherine, S.H.C., Holy Cross Convent, Seoul wrote last August to share with us their joy and sorrow which they had experienced that month when separated families in the North and South Korea met each other on August 15th. The first step a few months before that date was to find out whether their families were still living or dead.

On the 15th August one hundred flew to Pyongyang, the Capital of the North, and another 100 to Seoul from North Korea to meet their families in Koryo (Korea) Hotel, Pyongyang and Walker Hill Hotel, Seoul. It was very moving and dramatic. Over 50 years were too long for them to wait to be united. Of course, some of them had got married

again and had new families. Generally, fathers in their twenties or thirties came to the South, or went to the North for some business, and sons - rarely daughters - in their teens, came for further studies to Seoul. Many of the families had been separated since the Korean War which was in 1950.

However, on the whole, Korea was in tears of joy and sorrow even watching the separated families meeting each other on 15th-16th and their farewell on the 17th August. It was amazing to see them recognizing each other after having no communication for over half a century.

We hope and pray that people could travel freely and meet their families, relatives and friends, with no limit in the near future. Please pray for a peaceful unification between the South and North Korea.
