



Morning Calm

NEWSHEET OF
THE KOREAN MISSION
PARTNERSHIP

AUTUMN/WINTER 2005

No 34

Published by the Trustees of the Korean Mission Partnership (formerly the Church of England Mission to Korea), Lewis Cottage, The Palace, Hereford HR4 9BJ

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS: DIOCESE OF PUSAN



*The Pusan ministry team, from left, Monica Park, Simon Ro and Marianna Kim
(Photo: Bill Christianson)*



Development of the new port at Gadeokdo is proceeding apace.

The Mission to Seafarers, Pusan

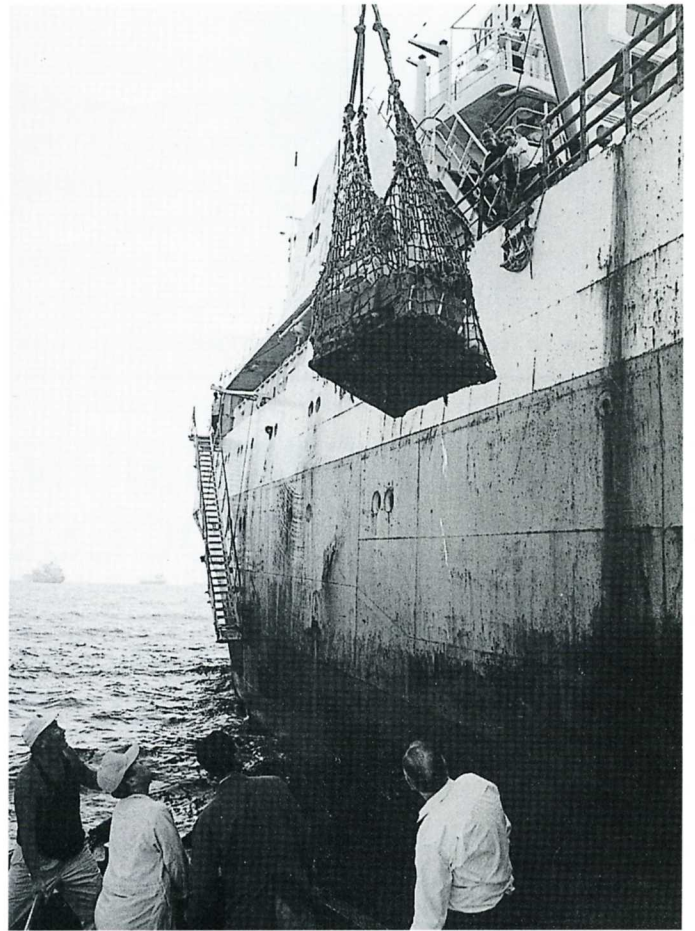
It had long been the dream, both of the Bishops of Pusan and the Mission to Seafarers, that a Korean priest would be appointed as port chaplain in Pusan. Bishop William Choi, the first bishop and Bishop Bundo Kim, the second bishop, both attempted to make such an appointment. When Bishop Joseph Lee was appointed the third bishop in 1999, he discovered that one of his ordinands, Simon Ro, felt a strong calling to serve the many seafarers of many races who visited Pusan. Bishop Joseph decided to test this man's vocation and after Simon had graduated from the seminary in 2001, the Bishop sent him to work with Fr Vic Vivian, the Mission to Seafarers chaplain, as a catechist. Theological students in Korea always work for at least a year as a catechist before their ordination. Simon was ordained in 2002 and stayed on at the Mission. He took over from Fr Vic in 2003 and for the first time since the Mission established a ministry to seafarers in Pusan in 1971, there was an all-Korean ministry team.

Monica Park joined the Mission in 1993 and since then she has done sterling work, particularly in 1988/89 after the sudden death of Mike Parker, the newly appointed chaplain who died just a few weeks after his arrival in Korea. Mariana Kim had been working at the Roman Catholic Apostleship of the Sea Centre until its closure in 1996, when she joined the Mission to Seafarers team. Fr Simon is now in

the UK studying at Cardiff University and he has been replaced by Fr Benedict Kim. The team carry out a comprehensive programme of ship visiting, as well as providing a warm welcome to seafarers and a regular eucharist in the chapel at the Mission Centre at Pusan East Container Terminal at Shinsundae and at the ecumenically-run centre in downtown Pusan.

Pusan is one of the world's biggest ports, Rotterdam being the only port in Europe of comparable size. When I worked as Pusan's port chaplain between 1994 and 1997, my wife and I often used to go along the coast on our day off to see the preparatory work being done for the extension of the port, to take the huge new ships which were then in the design stage. During that time we saw a 2,000 feet high mountain bulldozed into the sea and what was a seaside fishing village finish up more than a mile from the shoreline. This was the start of Port Gadeok and work has proceeded at an astonishing rate over the past four or five years with the fishing village now sitting alongside a large new town built on land reclaimed from the sea. Very soon this port, with deeper docks and larger cranes, will be ready to receive the newest super huge container ships. This will mean the chaplaincy team having to cover a twenty five mile stretch of coastline, travelling along some very congested roads with very slow moving traffic.

The Pusan chaplaincy is very fortunate in that it enjoys a lot of good solid support from the Diocese of Pusan, the port authority and the Mission to Seafarers Central Office in London.



Edwin putting food on board a Russian ship from a small launch.

This ship had 72 people on board and they had no food or fuel. They were stranded in Pusan for many weeks and Mission to Seafarers looked after them.

Edwin Ward

Commissary for the Bishop of Pusan and a former Chaplain in Pusan

The Round-Table Meeting of 11 June 2004

Chaired by Fr Luke Lee, the long-planned Round-Table meeting of the Korean Bishops and many others with a concern for Korea took place at Partnership House, London.

It was a most important and enjoyable occasion when many friendships were strengthened and new ones created.

MISSION PARTNERS IN KOREA

The Bishop of Seoul spoke first with a report about the Province, and gave news of the Diocese, of the vision for mission and the growth of social ministry. Fr Nicholas Deane further enlightened us on the economic background to some of this work, especially the Houses of Sharing.

The Bishop of Taejon and Fr Gregory Yoon up-dated us on the work of the Diocese, the largest, geographically, and were followed by the Bishop of Pusan (interpreted by Fr Deane). Bishop Simon Kim (interpreted, amusingly, by his wife Freda) spoke of the work of Sung Kong Hae University.

Many other contributions were given, illuminating other aspects of work in South Korea: Fr Nicholas-Alan of the Franciscan Order; Fr Luke Lee on the situation in North Korea after his recent visit to the area, of the dire living conditions of the population and the work of a doctor who gives help to North Korean exiles. The doctor also spoke movingly, and answered many questions, about the work, interpreted by Fr Luke.

A buffet lunch was followed by a sharing of information from:

MISSION PARTNERS IN ENGLAND

Bishop David Urquhart and Canon Chye Ann Soh gave a visual presentation of CMS work in Asia, admitting that work in NE Asia is in need of development.

USPG was represented by Bishop Michel Doe and Rachel Parry who again offered a new video of their work.

Fr Tom Heffer and Mr Edwin Ward spoke of the Mission to Seafarers, especially in the Diocese of Pusan where there are large container ports.

Finally Fr Paul Hang Sik Cho outlined the work of the Korean Anglican Church Centre (KACC) at St Mary Magdalene, Munster Square, London, the Korean language services, community centre, pastoral work and emphasis on cultural understanding.

AREAS OF MUTUAL CONCERN

Fr Luke identified three areas of concern: training for Korean missionaries in other countries; the need for support for KACC; and the situation in North Korea. These concerns were then addressed by lively and constructive discussion.

Those present learned a lot, and a number of them greatly enjoyed Fr Luke and Lucy's hospitality at a barbecue in their Vicarage garden at Croxley Green.

Our sincere thanks go to all who helped to organise such a valuable day.

*Canon John Brown
Member of K.M.P. Committee*

THE PWM CONFERENCE

The 2004 World Mission Conference, which was organised by the Partnership for World Mission, brought together more than 180 people who are involved in global mission within the Church of England. One of the keynote speakers was the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose profound address contained some deceptively simple statements such as - 'Justice and celebration belong together, in the prophets and in the Gospels' 'God's plan is one in which all human beings are called to be both givers and receivers.' There is nothing new in these statements but they do need to be said again and again. The Archbishop also spoke about the need to allow others to help us discover more of the face of Christ, more of the gospel through our encounter with them, 'Finding Christ in the really different.'

The other speakers were Christopher Duraisingh from India, Gottfried Osei-Mensah from Ghana and Graham Kings, formerly a CMS missionary in Kenya and now Vicar of St Mary's Islington in London. something which surfaced again and again from all of the speakers was the importance of allowing space for difference.

It was said that if the Church is to be truly catholic, there needs to be space for difference. Christopher Duraisingh dug deep into the meaning of the word 'catholicity', and challenged us to realise that if the church is to be truly catholic, there needs to be both an honouring of local contexts, allowing them to interweave with each other, set alongside a vision of people from 'all tribes and languages' worshipping God together.

One session was given over to the Windsor Report, which had been published just a month before the conference. This report will be discussed by the Primates of the Anglican Communion at their meeting in Belfast in February and this will be their first opportunity to discuss it together. A number of participants shared their views as to how the Church of England mission agencies might respond to the report.

As is usual at such a conference, a lot of useful contacts were made and much good work was done informally outside the formal sessions. Several people wanted to talk about the Korean Church and KMP's task regarding relationships between the Anglican Church in Korea and the UK.

Graham Kings was the last speaker and he concluded his summing up of the conference with the following poem:-

I leave aside my shoes, my ambitions;
undo my watch, my timetable;
take off my glasses, my views;
unclip my pen, my work;
put down my keys, my security;
to be alone with you,
the only true God.

After being with you,
I take up my shoes to walk in your ways;
strap on my watch to live in your time;
put on my glasses to look at your world;
clip on my pen to write your thoughts;
pick up my keys to open your doors.

Edwin Ward
