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LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER IN HARMONY – A LINK BETWEEN THE ANGLICAN DIOCESES OF SEOUL AND PETERBOROUGH

At Petertide in 2011 Bishop Paul Kim of the Diocese of Seoul, and Primate of the Anglican Church in South Korea, and Bishop Donald Allister, Diocesan Bishop of Peterborough in the United Kingdom committed themselves to a link for their dioceses to work together more closely, and to develop their understanding of the roles that each plays in their different countries.

Four people from Peterborough, Bishop Donald Allister, The Dean Charles Taylor, Danii Cook a young lay chaplain from Moulton College and Revd Liz Cowley, a Team Vicar from the Daventry Team Ministry had visited Seoul at the end of April 2011 to begin to discuss the ways forward. Their aim was to begin the development of the relationship which had started a few years earlier in 2006, when a young priest from Seoul Diocese, the Revd Simon Ryu, came to the UK for a year to live and learn within the Daventry Team Ministry. In itself, that was a development from the Mothers Union links between the dioceses which had been set up some 50 years earlier.

So on several levels, this new commitment is a cementing of long standing relationships, and we hope that it will also be an opportunity to learn from each other, to offer each other support in developing our ministries in this ever-changing world and to bring new challenges which will help us to be creative in the ways in which we respond in our differing cultural settings.

Bishop Paul brought five other people from his diocese with him to Peterborough in June 2011, which gave them a few days to get a feel of the breadth of Peterborough diocese and for the formal signing of the commitment.

Since that signing, which took place in the setting of the Petertide service in Peterborough Cathedral, the background work has been following on and the two dioceses Link Officers – Ms Bona Kang in Seoul and Revd Liz Cowley in Peterborough, have been working to set up further platforms for learning and for developing prayer support for each other.

In April 2012 Revd Liz Cowley will be going back to Seoul, and on this occasion will be accompanied by Mrs Liz Holdsworth who is the Co-ordinator for Adult Education and Training in Peterborough Diocese, and Revd Robert Hill who is the Social Responsibility Adviser.

Liz Holdsworth will be working with Korean colleagues on a specific task requested by Bishop Paul in relation to the development of Reader and other Lay Minister training. Currently there are no Lay Ministers formally trained in Seoul Diocese, this is a new venture and they wish to learn from the training which takes place in Peterborough.

Robert Hill will be spending some time visiting and talking with those who work in the various settings provided and managed by the Anglican Church. In particular, he hopes to spend some time learning from the various dimensions of the House of Sharing, as well as the homes which are provided for the elderly and the disabled in Seoul diocese.

Following on from these, Liz Cowley will be discussing the ways in which we might offer opportunities for clergy to spend short sabbaticals or clergy exchanges, though of course, this needs to be within the constraints of the short visa opportunities which the UK currently offers; the opportunities to learn from Seoul for what might be termed our 'Big Society' agenda in the UK; and the roles that the laity play within the local church in the UK, for example, are there opportunities for Seoul diocese to learn from what happens on the ground?

These are our starting points, and the Korean Diocesan Link Committee in Peterborough which meets for the first time on February 23, will be beginning to tie together the requests from Seoul and the aims and desires of Peterborough itself.

No doubt there will be occasional hiccups on the way for we all have much to learn, but we are looking forward to developing a very creative and supportive link programme from these very early stages, and a link which will give benefit to both Seoul and Peterborough dioceses.

Revd Liz Cowley



BISHOP OF DAEJON 1968-1974 BISHOP OF LEICESTER 1979-1990 LATELY THE REVD MONSIGNOR CANON OF R.C. Died 27th July 2011, aged 85 years.

I would like to thank the Dean of Leicester Cathedral and organiser of this memorial service for the opportunity for me to say a few words. I was one of the students of St Michael's Theological Seminary when Bishop Rutt was principal, and a priest in the Diocese of Taejon when he was the Diocesan Bishop. He was the one who arranged a scholarship for me to come to England and study at Architectural Association School of Architecture in London. I am very much indebted to him for his love, support and care. This honour and privilege for me to speak at his memorial service for whom I have a high respect and love.

Bishop Rutt came to Korea in 1954 at the age of 29 after his training at Kelham Theological College and Pembroke College, Cambridge. Korea was then a very poor country and suffered from the aftermath of the Korean War (1951-1953). The country was torn apart. Korea needed the love of Christ more than anywhere else. His ministry was like the missionaries of the early church with sacrificial love.

Bishop Rutt was a gifted linguist. After two years of language study he was sent to Anjung, a rural country parish 20 miles South of Seoul. He loved the people in the parish and wrote a series of articles under the title of "Diary of a country priest" for the Korean Times. These articles formed the basis of his later Book, "Korean works and days", which was awarded a prestigious Tasan Prize for foreign writings in Korea 1964. On leaving Korea he was awarded the Order of Merit, Peony Class from the Government and an honorary DLt of the Confucian University in Seoul.

His literary contribution to Korea is very much appreciated. The books and articles he wrote includes The Bamboo Grove (an introduction of Korean poetry), P'ungnyu Han'guk (A collection of Korean life style) and James Scarth Gale and his History of the Korean People.

Bishop Rutt had a strong feeling that the training of Korean leadership was very important for the Anglican Church in Korea and the Country. He came to Seoul 1959 and built St Bede's House in front of the Seoul National University campus for the ministry among youngsters. He was the first warden until he became the principal of St Michael's Theological Seminary 1964. While he was at St Bede's House he made an outstanding contribution for editing first ever Korean Hymn Book with music which had 415 hymns and canticles. Also he was main editor of compiling Korea Anglican Book of Common Prayer.

At St Michael's I learned something of monastic tradition of Kelham, and deeply appreciated of his high Anglican tradition and of his spirituality. He was a good priest. When he realised the need of Korean Bishop for the Korean People he divided the Diocese of Taejon and created Diocese of Busan. This formed later the basis of Korean Church becoming a Province of the Anglican Communion.

Bishop Rutt has gone, and resting in peace but he is still in the minds of many Koreans. May I take this opportunity to give my sincere thanks to many missionaries who came to Korea from England, especially, Bishop John Daly, Bishop Paul Burrough, and Fr Tennant and to those who gave their lives during the Korean War which helped South Korea to become a prosperous country.

Finally, may I also give my condolences to the family, especially, Philip, Peter and Caroline. Thank you.

The Most Revd Paul Yoon, Former Primate of Anglican Church in Korea



THE CHAIRMAN WRITES...

When Bishop Corfe landed at Inchon, Korea, on St Michael's Day in 1890 with two laymen there was no Korean Anglican Church. It was an extremely difficult mission because the Bishop at the age of 47 had to learn the Korean language which is one of the most difficult languages in the world. There were no dictionaries to use and no trained teachers to teach Korean to westerners. Besides having to learn the unique Korean alphabet, Chinese characters were used amongst the learned people of Korea. There was no Prayer Book either. Fr Davis, who was one of the early missionaries to Korea, said, "the Koreans are not savages, but a highly civilized nation and that this civilization increases the difficulty of our work tenfold." They would have to start from scratch.

Bishop Corfe ordered to his staff to refrain from teaching the Gospel to begin with as he did not want to misrepresent the Gospel to a civilized people. He wanted them to concentrate on studying the language and the culture before they attempted to preach the Gospel.

To an Admiral friend of his who suggested he was going on a forlorn hope Bishop Corfe retorted, "If you had an order to attack a battleship with a dingy you would obey." In the early days it must have seemed like that to those hardy pioneers.

Although it may have seemed that the seed was sown in a hostile thistly ground, God alone knew his purpose in using this retired robust naval chaplain to be his missionary in Korea.

Now the small seed planted by Bishop Corfe and his team has grown immensely. In 1992 the Anglican Church in Korea became an autonomous province of the Anglican Communion. There are 3 dioceses and 222 active priests working in parishes and various institutions (150 in Seoul, 43 in Daejon and 29 in Pusan). In addition there are 14 priests working in the USA, 14 Korean priests in Japan, 1 in the Philippines and 1 in London. There are also 5 religious communities (2 in Seoul, 1 in Daejon and 2 in Busan).

The old St Michael's Theological Seminary started with a handful of students in 1914 and has become a full blown University. Its name is Sungkonghae (which means Holy Catholic Church) University with 11 departments including a Theology department and 6 graduate schools. The Central library houses the Archives of the Anglican Church in Korea. There are 2,700 students and 157 professors, lecturers and staff. The University attracts students from China and East and South Asia. They are now looking forward to their centenary celebrations in 2014.

Another feature of the Anglican Church in Korea is that they are very sensitive to the needs of the society. In 1986 a small group of theological students started the House of Sharing movement for the poor and needy. This movement grew very rapidly and has even influenced Government policy which built many large social welfare complexes up and down the country and then asked Anglican Church priests to run many of them on their behalf. There are also many Houses of Sharing and centres for the welfare of various needy people started by Anglican Dioceses and parishes. The total number of these are well over 160 including small institutions covering runaway children, immigrants, food-banks and helping unemployed people, night schools for the poor, self-help clubs, and homeless shelters.

As many of you know, the unification between North and South Korea which were divided by the super powers in 1945 is always on the mind of many Koreans. Topic (Towards Peace in Korea) was born in 2007 for the peaceful reunification of the country and to promote peace in the Far East. They seek to do this by prayer, education within South Korea and providing humanitarian aid such as rice, milk and coal briquettes for vulnerable North Korean brothers and sisters. When the country was divided there were 50 Anglican Churches and 9 Parishes in North Korea. They are still being prayed for by Anglicans in the South. The communication between the North and South has been completely blocked so there is no information about the Anglicans in North Korea.

In all of this we thank God for the Anglican Church in Korea which has grown out of that small seed sown by Bishop Corfe and his team nearly 123 years ago. The Church is very active and is still growing rapidly thanks to your prayers and the grace of God.



MEMORIES OF TIMES PAST

In 1963 Jean Wiblin and I (Fannie Storr) went to Hwangchi in Kangwondo at Bishop John Daly's request. He asked us to help some of the refugees from the Korean War who were working in the coal mines being developed there. Korea was still struggling with the devastation left by the war.

We started a clinic for the children. Tuberculosis, malnutrition, a myriad of common children's diseases and many accidents, especially burns soon saw us seeing 100-150 children each morning. In the afternoon we visited the very ill children in their homes to advise on their care especially how to ensure that the dried milk we had supplied was given to them as hygienically as possible so that diarrhoea was not added to their suffering. Most of our children lived in a

one roomed thatched house with an ondol floor and a tiny kitchen.

Everywhere there was coal dust from the anthracite being moved from the mines to the railhead near which we lived. We started the clinics in the front room of the priest's house, in the back room of which we also lived with our two cats that protected our store of dried milk from the ever present rats. Eventually we planned and had built our own house, half Korean, half western style because ondol floors were the best to sleep on in the bitter winters

Finally a large but very simple building in which we could hold those clinics for the hundreds who came and on Sunday we had the services for the growing congregation. The first thing we had to organise there were indoor shoe racks because the custom of leaving shoes outside resulted in chaos and often the best kumushin (rubber shoes) being taken first to the dismay of their true owners!

We quickly learnt how to organise supplies of medicines, dried milk and vitamins as people came first in their tens and then in their hundreds. We also cared for four people with burnt out leprosy who lived in an isolated valley. They came down for their supplies of drugs and dressings at the end of one clinic each month.

We only had to leave the clinic after four years because the government was already making laws to bring Korea into full recovery. They required the clinic to have a doctor, a path lab and X-ray facilities but the church did not have the funds for the expense that would entail.

However for four years we did save lives and relieve children's suffering with basic simple care and lots of milk, vitamins and love. As one mother said to a visiting official "we come here because our children get better." That was not always so I know but hundreds of children did get better in those difficult years as Korea began to recover from the effects of the war.

We loved our four years in the beautiful mountains of Kangwondo in spite of the coal dust. We met many brave and wonderful children who wanted to get better so that they could go to school even before they really should have done. I know that determination is why Korea stands so firmly on its own feet today.

RESIGNATION OF MR EDWIN WARD AND FR. RODERIC LEECE

With regret we have accepted the resignation of Mr E Ward who made a positive contribution to the KMP and the Korean Church for more than 20 years.

His hard work as an editor of Morning Calm, honorary treasurer, Commissary for the Bishop of Busan and a faithful trustee was very much appreciated. Also Fr Roderic Leece who made a positive contribution to the KMP and Diocese of Daejon as Bishop's Commissary for 10 years.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Vice Presidents	The Rt Revd Christopher Hill The Rt Revd Robert Ladds
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