

Morning Calm

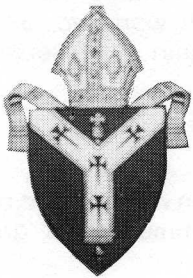
NEWSHEET OF THE KOREAN MISSION

JULY 1989
NEW SERIES No. 3.

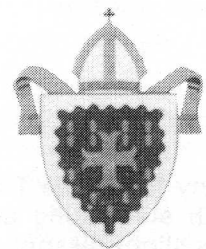
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CENTENARY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MISSION TO KOREA

Arms of the See
of Canterbury



Coat of Arms of
the Bishop in Korea
in 1889.



ON ALL SAINTS DAY, NOVEMBER 1st, 1889, CHARLES JOHN CORFE WAS CONSECRATED AS THE FIRST BISHOP IN KOREA BY EDWARD WHITE BENSON, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AND FOUNDER OF THE KOREAN MISSION, IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

To commemorate this event the President, Vice Presidents, The Commissaries, Officers and members of the Committee of the Korean Mission will attend the Abbey Eucharist at 5 p.m. on November 1st 1989. It is hoped that supporters and friends of the Korean Mission who are able to attend will do so.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS AND PLANS

The Korean Ambassador has accepted an invitation to attend on November 1st. The three Korean Bishops and, it is hoped, a number of Korean priests and laity will also be present.

A reception will be held in the Bishop Partridge Hall at 3 p.m. in Church House, Westminster. Friends and supporters who wish to attend are asked to send £1.50 and a stamped, addressed envelope to the Office, 3 Castle Street, Hereford HR1 2NL, and they will be supplied with a ticket.

The church in Korea is basing its centenary celebrations on Bishop Corfe's arrival in Inchon on Michaelmas Day 1890. In addition to various centenary celebrations some parishes have set targets to mark the occasion:-

Yongdungpo are preparing for the creation of a new church in the Kwangmyong area.

Suwan are beginning new work and are raising money for a building in the new area.

Inchon have already begun a "House of Sharing" for the underprivileged as an archdeaconary project and next year they hope to begin a new congregation in the Kachwadang area of the city.

Chonhodong, Seoul, area is also planning new work in the redevelopment areas of their parish.

BUILDING IN THE PUSAN DIOCESE

On 19th February 1989 the ground-breaking ceremony for a new church building took place in Sangju.

On the 5th May (the anniversary of Bishop Bundo's consecration) the building of extensions to the building of Ulsan were ceremonially inaugurated. The existing ground floor church will be converted into a rectory and parish room with the new first floor serving as the church. The total cost will be 51million won. The U.S. Episcopalian Women's Thank Offering has given 23million, the Diocese of Tokyo 8million, and most of the remainder has been raised locally.



RECONSTRUCTION ON KANGWHA ISLAND

Kangwha Island was one of the early and important centres of Anglican work in Korea. Over the years in Kwangwha town, Naeri and Onsuri work has progressed, but at times their daughter churches have not kept pace. However recently things have been developing. The Church at Samhungri, a daughter church of Onsuri, has been completely rebuilt and was consecrated in November. Andrew Lee is serving there. Changwari, a daughter church of Naeri, has also been rebuilt and was consecrated in December - Samuel Kim serves there as Deacon. In May these two churches were raised to parish status with the rectors of Onsuri and Naeri still acting as priests-in-charge.

Another of Naeri's daughter churches, Sonsuri, has been closed for the last twenty years due to the building's dilapidated condition. With the help of the Yongdungpo parish the building has been renovated at a cost of 2million won and on 19th March public worship began again with a service of Evensong.

SWORD & SPIRIT

Many found the T.V. Lent series "Sword & Spirit" both stimulating and informative although there was slight disappointment that in the programme featuring Korea no reference was made to the Anglican Church.

Obviously not everything can be featured in a single programme and the items represented only a tiny fraction of the total Korean religious scene. Statistically, there was little chance of the Anglican Church appearing as we are a tiny minority among the various churches. However that does not mean that we are insignificant! Nor that the programme could not help us understand something about our Anglican Church in Korea.

The Anglican Church is involved in the struggle for social justice and in solidarity with the poor, and has been for many years. We have long leased rooms in secular buildings, at times being in the same buildings as coffee-bars, beer halls and Chinese restaurants. The works featured by Charles Elliott in the programme can be duplicated in the Anglican Church including work with squatters. However, because of our lack of

resources we have not often been able to fund rural or urban development programmes on a grand scale.

We do not have a Yoido Church, but then no-one else has as it is unique in being the largest congregation in the world, but we do have rich Anglicans including, in one place, a millionaire who built a chapel in his factory grounds.

The Anglican Church in Korea is not monochrome, having only one strand of politics or opinion as to Christian priorities - there are all sorts of opinions struggling for expression.

As in England there is no single Christian opinion on the details of social, economic or political life. "Sword & Spirit" gave some insight into the tensions and even contradictions of the churches in Korea; although we were not mentioned, the Anglican Church was represented by those images of life in the other Korean Churches.

If you did not see the series, ask around your friends - someone may have videoed it.



NEWS OF THE HOLY CROSS SISTERS

The sisters are intending building an additional floor on to the Seoul Convent. The extra space will be used as a conference and retreat centre and the existing second floor will be converted into a chapel. The centre will be able to sleep 50 and have facilities to cater for 100 for day conferences.

It was also reported in the Monthly Church Newspaper that Sister Veronica has been awarded a Master's Degree from Koryo University.

FRANCISCAN ASPIRANTS

Barnabas Lee (Deacon) and Andrew Pak (Catechist) of the Seoul Diocese have left Korea for St. Francis' Friary, Parnell, New Zealand to test their vocations and to learn about the religious life. It is expected that they will be at the Friary for three years.

PERSONALIA

Fr. Matthew Chong (St. Bede's, Seoul) has been awarded a Doctorate under a joint programme run by the San Francisco School of Divinity and the Presbyterian Seminary of Korea.

Fr. Timothy Kim, formerly non-stipendiary priest at Mukbangni, died on 15th January 1989. Fr. Timothy was ordained in 1977 when he was in his seventies. We thank God for his ministry and commend him to God's love and mercy.

Sadly, several priests are no longer active in the ministry. Some have resigned and others have been suspended, most of the latter as the result of a dispute in the Taejon Diocese.

Bishop Choe, after finishing his nine month training at the Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey has been appointed to chaplaincy work at the port of San Pedro with Long Beach, Los Angeles. He was associated with the Mission to Seamen's work in Pusan and prior to that had experience with working among seafarers when he was studying in Australia.

Fr. Wolff has returned to the USA on retiring from the Mission to Seamen's chaplaincy at Pusan. In 1987 he was able to rent premises for use as a seamen's club. Fr. Wolff is being succeeded by Fr. Colin Harrison, formerly chaplain in Durban.

TO THE PARTNERSHIP FOR WORLD MISSION

(Extracts from a Report)

In 1987 the Anglican Church in Korea formed a Council of Advice to advise the church on the possibility of forming an autonomous Province. At present the three Korean dioceses are extra-provincial dioceses in the care of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The membership of the council is drawn from the three dioceses plus External Partners from Australia, Canada, England, Japan and the U.S.A., together with the chairman of the council of the church in East Asia.

There are numerous problems in the church. One of the major problems being the inequality which exists between the dioceses. Seoul Dioceses has the most clergy, most members, a membership which is much more affluent (the city of Seoul has 25% South Korea's population and they possess more than 75% of the national wealth), the dioceses also enjoys a sizable income from land in the city centre which has been developed commercially. Because Seoul has the wealth it is able to equip the laity for effective witness and service to the whole community in a way which the other two dioceses find impossible to emulate.

A significant part of Seoul's income from property development goes outside the dioceses in support of the National Seminary (St. Michael's) and the other two dioceses. St. Michael's annual running costs are almost twice that of the Pusan Diocesan Budget and more or less equal to Taejon's. The inequality between the dioceses and the enormous expense of running the seminary means that there is a history of tension in the Korean church. My fellow External Partners, some of whom have personal experience of visits to Korea over several years, all assured me that relationships are much warmer now than they were up until a year ago.

In all three dioceses I was made aware of how they feel the poor relation among sister churches in East Asia-both Anglican and other denominations. Also their feeling of isolation within the Anglican Communion. The partner churches - particularly the church of England - need to consider ways of establishing more effective fellowship which will, hopefully, make them feel less isolated. I hope that the P.W.M., possibly through USPG and the Korean Mission, will seek out opportunities for increased contact by such things as exchange visits, bursaries, etc.

Edwin Ward,

Partnership Adviser for East Asia, USPG.



Korean Churches call for Reunification

The Bishop of Seoul, the Rt Rev Simon S. Kim, is calling on all Anglicans to support Church initiatives in Korea for reunification. The Bishop was one of eleven delegates from the National Council of Churches in Korea (South Korea) who met with seven delegates from the Korean Christian Federation (North Korea) at a special consultation on Korea, in Glion, Switzerland, in November 1988. The consultation was sponsored by the World Council of Churches on the subject of the Biblical Foundation for Peace-Making and dealt with peace and reunification in Korea.

At the end of the consultation a joint declaration was made. This states that Korea's 43 years of division have been "characterised by attitudes opposing peace and reunification. In reflecting on this history, we confess before God and humanity our past errors." But the declaration denies that "the suffering of the Korean people comes from their own fault" or that the military build-up is necessary for peace in an uncertain world. Foreign powers, it says, have imposed division against the will of the Korean people.

Among the recommendations by the Consultation were that:

- Support be given to the decision of the churches in both North and South Korea to observe 1995 as a Year of Jubilee for Unification.
 - To observe the Sunday before August 15th each year as a Common Day of Prayer for Peace. A common prayer text for the day was adopted by the consultation and the WCC will ask its member churches to join in prayer with Korean Christians by observing this Sunday.
 - A reaffirmation of the three guiding principles for "unification of the motherland", agreed between the North and South Korean governments in 1972, namely independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.
 - The reunification process "must honour and guarantee two existing systems in the spirit of peaceful coexistence, with the objective of building up one reunified country."
- ‡ There should be a radical reduction of military forces,

BISHOP SIMON BLESSES WORKSHOP AT SONSAENGWON

On 14th May 1989 Bishop Simon opened a Workshop at Sonsaengwon. The village is poor and it is hoped that the furniture workshop will help local people improve their standard of living and also that through serving the community others might be brought to Christ and his Church. For a few months Andrew So ministered part-time at St. Francis' until being transferred to Ch'onhodong.

NEW CHURCH IN SEOUL

On 9th October 1988 Bishop Simon dedicated St. Anthony's Church, Songpa, in the Kangnam parish of Seoul. It is on the third floor of a secular building and comprises the workshop area, vestry and creche, the whole approximately 70 pyong in area. House groups began meeting in the area at Easter 1987 and now the congregation has grown to a regular forty. The Church is linked to St. Francis, Sonsaengwon and is pledged to evangelism through love of one's neighbour.

BISHOP CYRIL EASTHAUGH, the Senior Vice President of the Korean Mission died shortly before Christmas. He was Bishop of Peterborough from 1961 to 1972. He was born in 1897. Canon Davison represented the Korean Mission at his funeral.

ANOTHER "House of Sharing" IN SAMYANGDON, SEOUL

Last July work of ministering to the poor and underprivileged began in Miadong, Seoul, in a small rented house. In December part of the house began to be used as a study room for middle and high-school pupils. In February 1989 they moved to larger premises and also opened a Study Room for primary school pupils. A small library has been set up for the neighbourhood; night classes for young people who have left school have also been started, and simple clinic facilities are available. A catechist, Kisok Kim, helps there as well as helping at the Sangyedong House of Sharing.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Bishop Paul has appointed Bishop Rutt and Fr. Luke Lee as his commissaries. Fr. Luke was also appointed commissary by Bishop Bundo. He also appointed Fr. Michael Pratt commissary, but he has resigned on his appointment as Warden of Lee Abbey. Bishop Simon has reappointed Canon Bear and Fr. Davies, who has been elected to replace Canon Masters as Chairman.

Retiring Commissaries. Canon Masters has accepted the position of Secretary and Canons Thomas and Davison have agreed to continue as members of the committee.

The English Church Mission to Korea.

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Vice Presidents

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The Bishop of Ripon

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The Reverend S. J. Davies, Q.H.C.
(Chairman).

Commissaries for the Bishop of Taejon

The Bishop of Leicester
The Reverend Luke Lee

Commissary Bishop of Pusan

The Reverend Luke Lee

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