

Morning Calm

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INAUGURATION OF THE PROVINCE OF KOREA



Fr. Davies greets the new Primate of Korea, the Most Reverend Simon Kim on 16th April in Seoul.

On Friday, 16 April 1993 Bishop Simon Kim of Seoul was installed as the first Primate and Metropolitan of the new Province of Korea which was inaugurated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend George Carey, in Seoul Cathedral.

On Sunday, 18 April, the Archbishop preached at the Cathedral Eucharist.

The Korean Mission was represented by the Chairman, the Reverend S.J. Davies, MBE, QHC, and Mr Edwin Ward, a member of the K.M. Committee, who was specially invited by Bishop Kim. He was the recipient of an illuminated plaque to mark his contribution to the setting up of the Province. He has subsequently been appointed a Commissary by the Bishop of Pusan, in succession to Father Lee.

SEOUL - APRIL 1993 - REFLECTIONS



The highlight was, of course, the great inaugural Service on Friday, April 16th in Seoul Cathedral, which lasted nearly three hours! 18 mitred Bishops were in the Sanctuary, from all over the world, plus 4 other Bishops, and Cardinal Kim of Seoul. Apart from the messages of greeting, and other speeches, there were two sermons (one in English, one in Korean, each having to be cross-translated verbally), and the whole setting was a Solemn High Mass with a very great number of communicants, with magnificent vibrant Korean singing and several anthems and motets by the Cathedral choir. Archbishop Carey moved in clouds of fragrant incense - smokeHe did formally "relinquish all our Metropolitan Jurisdiction" over the Korean Church, and then after the singing of the Korean National Anthem, he invested Bishop Simon Soung-Soo kim with the Primatial cross, as the first Primate of the Korean Province. He was attended by Bishop Paul of Taejon and Bishop Bundo of Pusan.



As Chairman of the Korean Mission I had the honour to present to Bishop Kim, in the Cathedral Sanctuary at the close of the Solemn Mass, two gifts; the first one being the original matrix, made in London in 1889, of Bishop Corfe's episcopal seal which had rested all these years in England with the Korean Mission. Now it

will remain in Korea, in the Church Museum, for ever. Everyone saw this as an historic gesture, and fervent hand-clapping resounded throughout the Cathedral. I was requested to speak and said: "From supporters in Great Britain and from the Korean Mission I bring greetings and congratulations to you all on this historic day, as I now hand to your first Primate the original matrix, made in 1889, of your first Bishop's episcopal seal - Carolus Johannis Corfe. It is a symbolic gesture of continuity, and of faith in the future, under God's guidance. Bishop Charles John Corfe set foot on Korean soil at Michaelmas 1890. He faced a daunting task. As I gaze out now at this huge congregation I cannot help recalling that by the year 1900 he had only baptised and confirmed 14 people. How he must rejoice in the Heavenly realm with all saints at this wonderful day in Korea in this year of our Lord 1993. Bishop Simon, please accept this with our love and respect, our congratulations and our prayers."

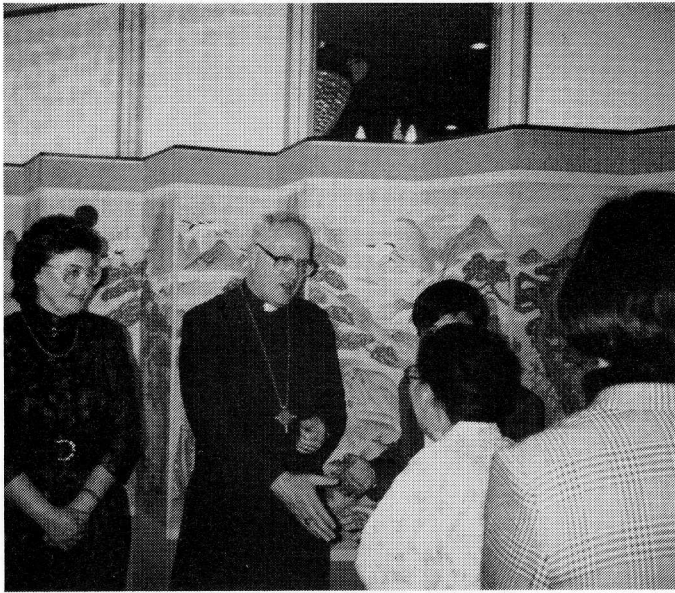
I presented a further gift from Reverend Mother and the Sisters of St. Peter's Convent, Woking, near London. It was a small silver chalice and ciborium for ministering at house or hospital Communion for the sick and dying. The Sisters of St. Peter's from the earliest days have given much sacrifice, help and guidance in Korea, and indeed the history and development of the Society of the Holy Cross Convent here in Seoul is inextricably connected with the Community of St. Peter in England.

There were visits to St. Michael's Theological College, where Dr Joung-Jae Lee's visionary and far-sighted project for not only a Department of Theology but Departments of Social Welfare; Religion and Society; Pastoral Ministry and of Professional English are now visibly taking shape with great building progress. But, of course, some U\$2,000,000 is still needed. Can the Anglican Communion globally raise say U\$500,000? Eventually a student body of some 700-800 may be expected in a Government-accredited degree granting College.

Another challenge facing the new Province is the now necessary completion and thus extension in size of Bishop Trollope's splendid Romanesque Cathedral of Seoul (Korean National Monument No.35). At Easter, many communicants had to stand outside in sleet and snow in the Cathedral courtyard. Here again, something approaching £2,000,000 will be needed in this present decade.

I found it moving to stand before the exact replica of the Korean War Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, now set in the wall of the South Nave, which the Prince of Wales (accompanied by the Princess) unveiled during his Korean State Visit in the autumn of 1992, at a Service of dedication conducted by Bishop Kim.

Archbishop Carey gave several lectures, and Mrs (Eileen) Carey gave a very helpful talk to a gathering of clergy wives (Among other things - "Don't force yourself to be a stereotyped 'clergy wife'. As for me, my husband happens to be Archbishop of Canterbury, but I am simply a Christian woman, a wife and Mother, on my own spiritual pilgrimage. think of your own Christian pilgrimage too").

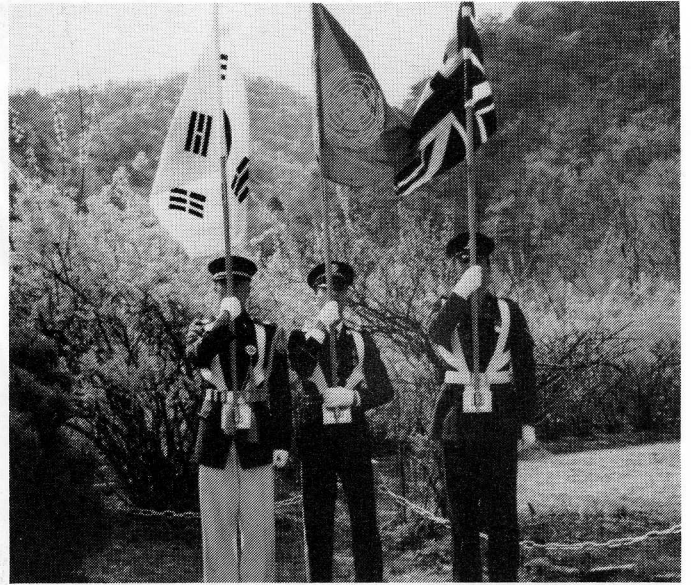


The Archbishop on Evangelism in today's world, said "We mustn't be naive and simplistic: remember you are addressing a responsible society who think things out". (Another well-known archbishop present said to me "Well, I'm not sure. As far as I'm concerned it's a somewhat irresponsible society....").

The Archbishop preached at the Solemn Eucharist on Sunday morning, April 18th. He had quite a strenuous four day tour in Korea, and everywhere his pleasant, relaxedly informal and approachable style made a very good impression.

Our Ambassador to Korea gave a splendid dinner at the Embassy on the Friday evening, to which I had the honour to be invited. After several days at the central Plaza Hotel, I moved to a guest-room at Holy Cross Convent, where Mother Catherine and the Sisters made me very welcome and at-home. What a lovely haven of Godly peace its little garden and Calvary is, in the midst of this great, hurtling capital city of 11,000,000 people. Each morning I attended the 6.30 a.m. Korean Mass which Father Clifford celebrated, then silent breakfast at 7.30. On Friday, April 23rd, Mother invited me to say Mass in English and give a short homily (which she translated). This was for me a great privilege. Later I gave a talk on my time as a p.o.w. Chaplain in North Korea, 1951-53. This, all the Sisters seemed to appreciate greatly: my theme was "God's strange Providence". I was also asked to lecture in the Cathedral crypt to a large audience - again a real sense of privilege for me. It was a full and fruitful time of meetings and interviews, and a visit to the British Council, and also to Dr Freda Kim's "Lekotek Korea" for disabled children, in Seoul. Much information concerning the affairs and projects of the Korean Church was gleaned.

Finally, on Saturday, April 24th, the British Military Attaché, Brigadier Morgan, took me up to "Gloster Valley" on the Imjin River to assist (with the British Army Chaplain from Hong Kong, David Heaver) in officiating at the annual Memorial Service at the impressive War Memorial to the men of the Glosters and R.A. mortar Battery, who fought and died there in defence of Seoul, April 1951. As usual there was a large gathering of British and European diplomatic and business people, and many Koreans, including the Korean Army Band. A detachment of British troops had been flown in from



Münster B.A.O.R. - they formed an immaculate, well-drilled Honour Guard. I had the very moving privilege and honour to lay the wreath from The Gloucestershire Regiment after the Ambassador had laid a wreath, the first of many others. After there was a picnic lunch (believe it! at the very spot where I was taken prisoner-of-war 42 years ago.....). I must say I enjoyed my lunch in the bright sunshine and cooling breeze. Before leaving, many climbed the steep tall hill-side to one of the old 1951 defence battle positions (where the Prince and Princess of Wales had stood in October 1992) where I was asked to give a talk on my experience of the great battle, and first impressions as a prisoner-of-War.

On Sunday, April 25th, after early Mass at the Convent, Mother Catherine and two Sisters drove me (and how very good the nuns are in Seoul's horrendous traffic - London is child's-play!) to the Kimpo Airport for the KLM Amsterdam/London flight. I must add that as we neared Amsterdam, the Chief Stewardess and two charming Air Hostesses came to me and smilingly said "You know, we have a little custom of selecting the best-mannered and most appreciative male passenger aboard, at the end of these long flights. We have chosen You". Embarrassed but, of course, rather chuffed I accepted from them a delightful little fluffy winged duck with a medal "Junior KLM air pilot". So your Chairman of K.M. is not such a bad chap.....

I found Seoul's hotel prices soaringly high since 1989 (a small Heinercken beer was Won. 6,000 + 10% service V.A.T. Ruinous!). A French business-man in Seoul told me a number of firms from Europe are in Consortium going to approach the Government and ask for restraint on the very high hotel prices and charges. New President Kim Young-Sam is pledged to "cleansing corruption". While I was there, 3 Presidents of Seoul's big Banks were under surveillance for fraud, and 4 Army Generals were convicted of corrupt mis-use of Army funds and suspected of pay and allowance wangles! Original sin works in Seoul too!!

Finally, let me express deep appreciation of the generous kindness and unfailing hospitality of Bishop Simon, his Church general Secretary, and Staff and Clergy, and of course, of Mother Catherine of the Holy Cross, Sisters and Novices.

S.J. DAVIES, MBE, QHC.
Chairman of the Korean Mission

