



125 Years of Partnership in the Gospel



Canon Mark Williams
Chairman of the Korean Mission Partnership

I was more than slightly daunted when asked to become the chairman of the KMP in 2014, especially being the newest member of the board of trustees, and having never visited

Korea. My relationship with Korea comes about because I am vicar of St John the Divine, Kennington in south London, a parish long-associated with the Church in Korea. Bishop Charles Corfe, before he was ordained to be the first missionary bishop to Korea, was a frequent visitor to St John's and was supported by the then vicar and his great friend, Canon Charles Edward Brooke. Canon Brooke became the first chairman of the Korean Mission.

The 125th Anniversary celebrations this year were a very appropriate time for a first visit to Korea, and I travelled with Father Robert Stretton SSM, who has also written in this edition. The Church in South Korea is clearly in good heart today. The 125th anniversary eucharist in Seoul Cathedral was a stately affair presided over by Archbishop Paul Kim, and was prefaced by the unveiling of a bust in the cathedral precincts of the first Korean priest, Father Mark Hei Jun Kim. This was a very moving event in the presence of two of his descendants who are themselves priests, Father Aeduk Kim and Mother Aida Kim. The greatest privilege however was to travel around the south and meet Anglicans getting on with mission and ministry in their own areas.

At a packed church in Jincheon we joined Sunday mass with young and old, and met Ban Ki-moon's brother Moses who worships there. In Daejeon we saw incredibly impressive work with disaffected young people, with the homeless and those affected by drug and alcohol addiction. The church is reaching out to all corners of the community, trusted and funded by government to deliver social welfare projects. Much of this work was negotiated over many years by the pioneer priest, Moses Yoo, who was ordained on the Feast of St Nicholas last year to become Bishop of Daejeon.

Busan's Bishop Onesimus has less clergy and smaller congregations than the other two dioceses, but is focused on developing the capacity of the clergy and laying strong foundations, in order that mission can flourish in the future. His strategy of regular gatherings of all the clergy to develop vision and leadership, supported by the KMP, should make a serious impact on the life of the church in Busan into the future. Father Simon Ro writes later about his excellent work in the port with the Mission to Seafarers.

My visit to South Korea afforded the opportunity to discuss with lay and ordained their relationship with the KMP, and where meaning might lie in this relationship between the Church in the UK and Korea today. Clearly the relationship is very different now from the days when donations in England paid the stipends of the clergy and built churches – at least South Korea is a very different place – the contrast to the desperate plight of those in the north remains shocking. But the days of well-intentioned Victorian mission and philanthropy are over, and the Korean Mission Partnership's financial capital is much diminished. However our human capital is still very strong.



Conversations with Anglicans in the south made it abundantly clear that the relationship with the UK is extremely important, and that the exchange of people, ideas, experiences and prayer is highly valued. Facilitating this exchange will be the principal work of the KMP for the time being. We envisage it focusing around both offering hospitality and providing opportunities for visitors to come for a month to three months, spending time in parishes or



other institutions, offering modest study opportunities and experiential placements. Each diocese in Korea has also appointed a KMP link officer to facilitate our exchange – Father Titus Kim for Daejeon, Father Simon Ro for Busan and Father James Park for Seoul. We need also to think further about how our partnership might help support ministry amongst Koreans in the UK, and particularly in the New Malden area.

125 years on it was a privilege for me to see the blossoming of seeds planted by mission-minded catholic clergy who have gone before us, who had a zeal for

the Gospel, and made real personal commitment to and sacrifice for Korea. But the pain of the separation of the country is something we still carry, so let us continue to work and pray for peaceful reunification.

As anyone who has visited Korea will know, the hospitality is superlative, and the generosity of people immense. Particular thanks to Father Titus Kim for organizing so much of our visit at Michaelmas. My grateful thanks also to Bishop Christopher Hill and Bishop Robert Ladds, who are standing down, for their excellent work as vice-presidents, and Father Luke Lee for his, as chairman of the KMP.

The 125th Anniversary Celebrations

“Here am I; send me!” (Isaiah 6:8)



Father Titus Ho Wook Kim
Chairman of 125th Anniversary Celebrations

In this Jubilee year we celebrate not only the 125th anniversary of the Anglican Church in Korea but also the 100th anniversary of the ordination of first native Korean priest, the 50th anniversary of the first Korean bishop, and the 70th anniversary of liberation from Japan.

The main event was the celebration of the Festival Eucharist at the Cathedral of Ss. Mary and Nicholas in Seoul on 3rd October, 2015. I am delighted to have this opportunity to express our gratitude for the presence and support of the Korean Mission Partnership,

and your participation in this significant ceremony. Particularly, I would like to tell you again how much we appreciate the friendship and love, which has been continued over the past 125 years. Canon Mark Williams, KMP Chairman and Father Robert SSM graced the occasion with their presence. With 2,000 guests from home and abroad including bishops, priests, religious and laity from England, America, Australia, Japan, Myanmar, and Ghana we held a magnificent festival.

As we stand on this threshold of history and reflect and look back on the past 125 years, walking as the Church of God in Korea, we also set out on a new journey looking forward, reconciling

with nature, with humanity, walking with God. In particular, we have passed a resolution to use offerings from our 125th anniversary ceremony for three purposes: establishing a memorial church for 125th anniversary on Jeju Island; restoring the church in Pyongyang, North Korea; and setting up a relief fund for Syrian refugees.

May the KMP and the Anglican Church of Korea long continue in love and fellowship as we explore new horizons and look to the future. With much gratitude for the last 125 years, and warmest greetings. Much love to the clergy, religious and laity, and all our supporters in England.



New Joint President for the Korean Mission Partnership

On the retirement of our Vice-Presidents Bishop Christopher Hill and Bishop Robert Ladds, and in the spirit of partnership, KMP trustees decided to approach the Bishop of Southwark to take on a new role of Joint President with the Primate of Korea. Bishop Christopher Chessun writes:

I was delighted to be approached by Canon Mark Williams to become Joint President of the Korean Mission Partnership earlier this year. Our Diocese of Southwark is home to at least

20,000 Koreans in New Malden and its environs, so it is very good to be able to support the Korean Anglican mission in this way. I pay tribute to the contribution of Bishop Christopher Hill and Bishop Robert Ladds as Vice-Presidents of the KMP over many years, and thank them for their commitment and distinguished service.

The Church in Korea has been very much in my prayers, and particularly at the time of the 125th Anniversary celebrations at Michaelmas. I look

forward to working with Archbishop Paul Kim, to seeing the development of the work of the KMP, and the flourishing of the relationship between England and Korea. May God long continue to bless our work.



Flying Angels in Busan : the Mission to Seafarers

Father Simon Ro

Chaplain, The Mission to Seafarers Busan

The Mission to Seafarers is a worldwide Anglican mission agency, founded in 1856 and supporting the 1.5 million men and women who face danger every day literally keeping the global economy afloat. The Mission in Busan is one of over 260 missions working in ports around the world.



Our aim is to live in communion with seafarers, developing a ministry of practical and spiritual care, centering on three main elements: 1) Administration – practical needs such as communication (e.g. telephones and Wi-Fi internet for email and Skype calls), transport, foreign exchanges, postal service; 2) Mission – social welfare and justice, in cooperation with people and organisations linked to the welfare of seafarers; 3) Ministry – celebration of Holy Communion and other services, counseling on personal matters and faith. We visit ships every day providing welcome and offers of help, support and advice.

The forty-two-year-old Mission to Seafarers in Busan has

long experience of caring for foreign seafarers, but we have to be flexible in our context. The maritime scene is changing and developing quickly, as are needs of seafarers, and we have to be alert to the place of the Mission amid radical changes in situations in ports.

In March 2013, we established the Friends of the Flying Angel, which provides the Mission with practical and financial assistance, and currently has 63 members. Last May we also established an official ship-visiting group, called 'Flying Angels', comprising 7 students from the Korea Maritime and Ocean University who will be seafarers after their graduation. In addition, we have recently made a big contribution to the establishment of Busan Port Seafarers Welfare Committee, which aims to bring the maritime community together in partnership to improve the provision of welfare facilities and services for seafarers in ports. We also plan to establish a national council, cooperating closely with the Anglican Church of Korea, the East Asia Region and London International Headquarters of The Mission to Seafarers.

The Mission to Seafarers Busan is blessed with a richness of experience and a passion to serve seafarers, with the help of God. My wish is to see every church community realize that caring for seafarers is not the work of a few, but the work of churches throughout the world. Then we will not only maintain the work of the Mission but achieve our plans for the future.

Life in Little Seoul



Father Lorenzo Fernandez-Vicente
Vicar of St James' Church in New Malden

Few Londoners have heard of New Malden; I certainly had not before applying for the position of vicar of St James' in this sleepy suburb. Rather surprisingly however, this neighbourhood has become home to one of the world's largest community of Korean expatriates after China and Japan. A Korean population of roughly 20,000 souls has brought with itself dozens of authentic restaurants (eat your heart out British-owned Soho bars), cafes, karaoke bars, supermarkets, a Buddhist centre and even a couple of newspapers. The rather smaller North Korean community, which numbers barely a

thousand, has its own publication: the FreeNK, one of the few reliable sources of news on the so-called Democratic People's Republic. There are as many Korean house churches as there are varieties of kimchi on sale at the market, that is to say, an awful lot. Most of them are either free evangelical house churches or rather conservative Presbyterian congregations. The local Methodist minister is Korean, so is the assistant United Reformed minister, and our parish has a couple –literally, a husband and wife, TaeSeok and YungHee—of Korean Readers.

TaeSeok has initiated a Sunday afternoon Korean-language service, followed by a meal and social

events, and four of its members will be confirmed and received into the Church of England in the new year. YungHee is currently training for the ordained ministry in the parish of St Leonard, Streatham; our congregation prays every week for her return in this corner of the woods in the near future.

The Korean community in New Malden is not without its internal problems. A few help groups discuss practical ways to help North Koreans integrate into local society - and the UK Border Agency have struggled to tell apart asylum applications from genuine North Korean defectors and a huge amount of false applications from Chinese immigrants trying to pose as North Korean refugees. Furthermore, because South Korea recognises any North Korean defector as a citizen, the UK Border Agency tends to reject asylum bids from North Koreans who have already received South Korean citizenship, which proves trying for Christian congregations.

In spite of this, Malden is now a rather more exciting place to live. Few other suburbs can boast such an eat-out culture, and with an equally large South Asian community, nowhere else can you buy cheap, terribly outlandish ingredients at your corner-shop. Fernbrake, dried persimmons, dropwort or gochujang, anyone? Gochujang's fantastic on fried chicken wings.

Please pray for

- The peaceful reunification of Korea
- The Dioceses of Seoul, Daejeon and Busan
- Bishops Paul, Moses and Onesimus
- Clergy and People
- Religious men and women
- The people in North Korea
- The Seoul-Peterborough Link
- Ministry among Koreans in the UK
- The work of the Korean Mission Partnership

The Companion Link between the Dioceses of Peterborough and Seoul

Mother Liz Cowley
Peterborough Link Officer

Links between the Diocese of Peterborough and Korea have existed since the 1950s through the auspices of the Mothers' Union.

Bishop Ian Cundy, knowing I had spent time in South Korea, opened up a conversation with me about developing a diocesan link with Seoul, which came to fruition in 2010 with Bishop Donald Allister and Archbishop Paul Kim signing a document linking the dioceses for an initial period of 5 years.

Since that time, a group from each of the dioceses has visited the other every year. Initially there was a focus on getting to know each other, but gradually there have been opportunities to learn from each other in more specific ways. For Seoul Diocese there has been a desire to develop a Lay Ministry College, learning from the Lay Training Programme which has been a part of Peterborough's ministry for a considerable time. Interested lay people have come over from Seoul and those who lead the Lay Ministry training in Peterborough have visited and presented training materials in Seoul. The Diocese of Seoul now has Cecil College and this autumn has seen the first lay ministers finishing their courses. Peterborough has sought to learn from the Koreans about their social action programmes with the elderly, the disabled, the homeless and immigrants, as well as the development of their Sharing Houses which came out of the Anglican Church's commitment to work for



the poor and needy in their communities. We have also spent time focussing on the work and support of women priests in both countries together with possibilities for sabbaticals and opportunities for placements for priests and ordinands. As well as celebrating the 125th Anniversary in Seoul this autumn, the Peterborough group focussed on learning more about TOPIK (Towards Peace In Korea) and work with children and young people - not least thinking how we both might reduce the terrific pressure on our youngsters and allow them the opportunities to develop to their fullest potential happily and with less stress.

2014 saw the two dioceses formalising a Companion Diocesan Link for a further period of 7 years. We look forward to building on what we have already done together, and continuing to develop relationships between individuals and groups in our churches, praying for each other, by sharing God's mission with one another and supporting each other in promoting God's Kingdom of justice and peace.

New Commissary to the Bishop of Daejeon appointed - Father Taemin Oh

Father Taemin was born in Korea and came to the UK in 2001. Prior to his ordination, he served the Korean Community in London for 8 years as a music director, choir master and warden. Following training at St Stephen's House, Oxford he served his Title in St James the Great, Colchester. In 2014 Father Taemin was made parish priest of St George, Enfield - the first Korean to become a parish priest in the Diocese of London. He is interested

in developing the Sacramental Life and Devotions, Church Growth and Mission, and in particular encouraging Vocations to the Ordained Ministry. He is married to Helene, whom he met in the Korean Community in 2002, and they have a four year old son, Stephen.

Father Taemin looks forward to working closely with Bishop Moses, and as commissary also becomes a trustee of the KMP.



From Kennington to Korea



Father Robert SSM
The Society of the Sacred Mission

I am a member of the Society of the Sacred Mission (SSM) – a religious community in the Anglican Church – founded by Father Herbert Kelly in the Parish of St John the Divine, Kennington, London. When we were founded in the early 1890’s, however, we had another name: The Korean Missionary Brotherhood (CMB). We were to go to Korea with the first missionary bishop, Bishop Corfe and assist him (Bishop Corfe knew St John’s, and was a dear friend of its Vicar, Canon Charles Edward Brooke). Alas! It didn’t work out that way. I think only two young brothers went with the new bishop – because we changed – from CMB to SSM, and went to Africa not Korea.

So – it was a great thrill for me to accompany the current Vicar of St John’s and KMP chairman, Canon Mark Williams, for the Jubilee Celebrations in Korea this year. And may I say at once how grateful I am for the kindness and hospitality given to me (and Father Mark) by Archbishop Paul, Bishop Moses, Bishop Onesimus, their families, their clergy and laity. It was quite overwhelming. I came away with so many memories and impressions. These are just a few of them:



1. The Jubilee Mass in Seoul Cathedral on 3rd October, the thrilling singing, the vast number of worshippers, the whole atmosphere and worship and thanksgiving.
2. Our Time in Daejeon. Both Father Mark and I were deeply impressed with the social outreach there. With alcoholics, with troubled young girls, boys and pregnant girls. I will always remember the work with girls being described as a ‘school of listening and hospitality.’ Very Moving. Many thanks to Bishop Moses and all the wonderful men and women staffing these places. Especially Dorothea, our translator. She must have been exhausted at the end of the day.



3. Our time in Busan. At a conference for all the clergy of the diocese Bishop Cyril of Asante Mampong, Ghana (one our party) gave a talk about his diocese. Father Mark talked about St John the Divine, and I did a short Ignatian exercise with the clergy. Our visit with Father Simon Ro to the Mission to Seafarers was very moving. What splendid work.
4. Our visits to two Buddhist Temples and meeting and talking to monks and nuns there – and to be told how much they enjoyed Thomas Merton and John Main!
5. I found it deeply moving that the wounds carried by The Korean war and the division of the peninsula were still so raw. We pray for a peaceful reunification. And the Sewol ferry disaster – both Father Mark and I have a yellow ribbon to remind us to keep this in prayer. I promise this.

All in all it was a wonderful time. Sorry it has taken all this time for the SSM to get to Korea! And last, but by no means least... Thank you to the lovely Sisters of the Holy Cross, and to Bishop Onesimus and Veronica for giving me the opportunity to fly a kite! I haven’t done that since I was a child! Thank you.

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and any kind donations to the Treasurer. Many thanks.

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