



KOREAN REPORT

by Pastor J. McCabe

MANY of you will remember meeting Mr. San Chul Kim, who studied at Swansea University as a United Nations student, and attended the Ammanford Assembly of the Church, later coming to the Penygroes Convention in August 1955. He sent an invitation for a representative of the Church to go and visit the group of Christians to whom he was attached and the invitation was passed on to the Australian Missionary Advisory Board. At our Quadrennial Council at Easter I was chosen to make the journey of 8,000 miles from Headquarters in Melbourne, Australia, to Seoul in Korea.

I arrived here on June 22nd after a three days journey by air. As there had been an accident on the runway our plane was redirected to a U.S.A. military drome near Seoul, the capital. A tropical rain storm that beggars description made it impossible for the welcome planned to take place. However, a number of friends with Mr. San Chul Kim came to the plane and met me. On the following Tuesday I was warmly welcomed at a representative party, when the leaders of the group, Mr. Moon and Mr. Yoo, together with others arranged a Korean welcome and meal in honour of their Western visitor. Among the members who attended were two college professors, two doctors of medicine, several teachers and lecturers, an ex-Minister of Labour, a colonel of the Korean

Air Force, and a number of business men who are all members of the group. Speeches of welcome from various members were delivered, and Mr. Kim made the speech of the evening in English. Others welcomed me in Korean, and I spoke on behalf of the Apostolic Church in the Motherland and Australia.

The group of Christians to whom I have come are not Pentecostal or Apostolic as we know it, and yet the Spirit of the Lord is manifest among them, as some have visions, others have tongues and interpretations, while a spirit of prophecy is exercised by others in private. So far I have seen no manifestation of the Gifts of the Spirit in the gatherings. The fervour and sincerity of the worship, the soul stirring preaching of Mr. Moon, a born orator who stirs his congregation to response both in praying and preaching is wonderful. Almost without exception the members are there because they longed for something deeper. The meeting place is an old hall in an out of the way spot. I remember going to the old hall at 104, Renfrew Street, Glasgow, in the early days; I recollect halls that were out of the way in Musselburgh, Porth and Ebbw Vale, but I reckon the Seoul hall is the most inaccessible I have been in. To this hall come between 300 and 400 people. There are no seats as in other churches; everyone sits on the floor. Half an hour before the service is due to begin we have a time of singing, and the place

is packed. Many parts of Seoul are bomb damaged and there is not sufficient money to repair the city. The result is that accommodation is at a premium, and the group here is glad to have their hall. It is a hive of spiritual activity. Mr. Yoo, the lecturer, gives lectures on the "Principles," as they term their beliefs, for four to five hours each day. He covers their doctrine in two lectures, and this he does three times a week to enquirers who number as many as thirty to forty, and sometimes as few as five or six. At the end of each half year an examination is held. One hundred and thirteen from four different centres sat the examination on Sunday, 1st July. Of these twenty-eight passed with 80% or more marks. Seventeen diplomas and eleven certificates were presented to successful students who ranged from High School students to older people about fifty years of age, and including a professor from a college and a medical doctor. This week a lady doctor and a Congressman (British equal is an M.P.) attended the lectures.

There are eight centres stretching over the three hundred miles from Seoul to Pusan in the south, and the total membership is variously quoted at 600 to 1,200. There are always about 300 at the Seoul service on Wednesday, and between 300 and

400 on Sundays. Their doctrines are divergent from ours on several points. I am studying their principles, and though I have been here for eighteen days I have only given one address, due to having met with a slight accident when returning from the welcome party. I have now recovered and hope to give other talks on our teaching. One thing is evident—the condition for salvation is receiving Christ through faith in Him. Satan is a real foe who has to be fought and overcome. They do not baptise in water or break Bread on the Lord's Day as we do. I solicit the prayers of all your readers and the Apostolic friends in Great Britain that the Lord's purpose may be wrought out between our groups in Australia, Great Britain and Korea.

The people here are very kind and gracious and the personal stories of how they were led to come to the church are wonderful. Like the Apostolic Church in Great Britain they are sacrificing to make the building of a meeting place possible. There are difficulties, but God specialises in the impossible, so remember to pray. Korea is a land of inflation and is in the dollar area. It will be costly to support workers but surely our God is able to provide the necessary means when he has opened the door to us.

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