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THE FOURTH RIVER PROJECT REPORT—March 2006

www.thefourthriver.org

Preparing for the opening of North Korea

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Dear Friends,

So much has happened since I sent out a general newsletter last September! Liz and I are now living permanently at the Three Seas Center, our herd of beef cattle continues to grow, we launched the Prepared People, had an excellent NK school in New Jersey, participated in a very special conference in January and have exciting plans developing for the summer.

Liz and I want to express our deep appreciation to all of you for your prayers for this work and for us personally. Thank you!

Life at the “Mokjang” (the Ranch)



The Steel House



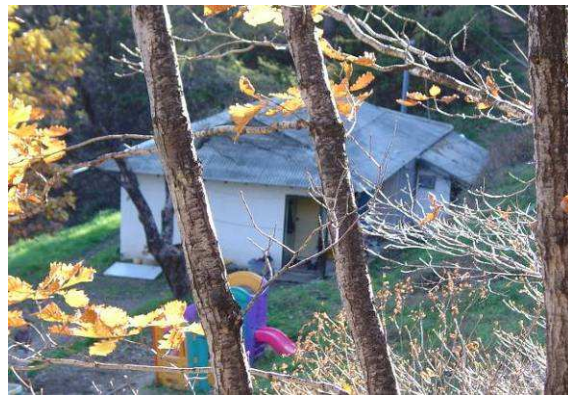
One of Our Views (See the ocean!)

We moved into our “Steel House” built of two shipping containers bolted together side by side. It has oil-supplemented coal (Korean “yontan”) heated floors and just enough room for us to relax, almost like a honeymoon cottage. It’s been almost thirty years since it was just the two of us and, while we love all our kids and extended family dearly, we are truly enjoying being alone in our new home.

In addition to our cozy little house, there are four other homes here at the ranch. Here is a couple of them.



The White House



Siloam

At present, our community includes three other families, a single sister and a single brother. However, John Choi and his wife, Jecoliah, with their son and daughter, are taking a well-earned sabbatical. They will be spending a number of months at the Bruderhoff community in England. John has been working tirelessly both running the ranch and working on the seemingly never-ending red tape related to the Three

Seas Center. I have grown to appreciate his hard work, his insight and his faithfulness these past three years. We love the whole family very much and will miss them.

Taking up the baton from John on the center work is Nathan Ahn who has joined us here with his wife, Columba and their three great kids. He has already proven himself invaluable in dealing with the red tape and development strategies. Here is his family in front of their new home, "Hosannah."



John pulling daughter, Yehyun, and son Euigon on a sled.



Being part of Jesus Abbey, we maintain a routine of prayer similar to that of the "Mother House." Morning Prayer is at 6:00 in the Three Seas office. Here is a shot (taken through the window) of the group huddled in prayer and Bible study on a cold morning. We all have our snow boots and, of course they come off when you go inside.

January—We were back in the States.

We had a good NK school from January 3-6 at the New Jersey Christian Academy, Cream Ridge, NJ., with 79 people in attendance including participants from as far away as Korea and Wales. There were excellent talks, opportunities for getting to know each other as well as worship and prayer. On the back of this was the first annual meeting of the new board of the Fourth River Project, Inc.

Liz and I attended the Empower2006 conference (successor to last year's LoveNK) in Twin Peaks, California where over 200 people came together for the weekend to pray for North Korea and prepare to go there as missionaries. I was deeply honored to celebrate Communion on Sunday morning and preach on healing the Body of Christ. Christian unity is the major theme that God has placed on my heart in recent months. We were aware of the Holy Spirit at work in making us one as we shared Communion together.

I had also received an invitation to speak at the New York Korean Episcopal Church, Church of the Holy Spirit in Flushing, NY. Liz and I enjoyed the warm hospitality of Fr. Ninian Kim and his parish who were extremely generous to us.

We returned to Korea the last day of the month and are now back here working hard preparing for...

Summer North Korea Work-Camp School

We are anticipating a very special program here at the Three Seas Ranch for the months of July and August—a series of schools running from Monday to Friday, each week geared towards a different group. Participants will sleep in tents. Mornings will be taken up with labor on the ranch with lectures and group sessions in the afternoons and evenings. This picture is the team working hard at one of our Saturday afternoon summer program planning sessions.



→FYI

Keep these dates in mind and start saving your pennies so you can come. We have a hard limit of 48 participants each week and expect to fill up fast once we announce the official start of registration.

July 3-7: Staff Orientation (If you are interested in being a volunteer staff-member, let us know.)

July 10-14: College Students

July 17-21: Church and Mission Leaders

July 24-28: General Public

July 31-Aug. 4: High School Students (We anticipate a group of North Korean refugee students coming.)

Aug. 7-11: English Speakers (This week will all be in English whereas the rest will be Korean.)

Aug. 14-18: General Public

We'll publish all the details in April.

The Prepared People

The Prepared People are those who anticipate being prepared to go into North Korea when the doors are open. Starting with a series of monthly prayer meetings in Seoul, we are building this organization to be a network of groups who are actively strategizing and preparing to go. The Fourth River Project supports them through administration and communications. Groups will come to the Three Seas Center for further training and preparation.

We started off with a bang on December 6 and have continued the first Monday of each month since. We are very grateful to the Sarang Community Church for so graciously allowing us to take over one of their chapels each month for the meetings.



Progress on the Center

Well, we keep plugging along working on getting the permits to take a portion of our Three Seas Ranch (leased from the Korean government) to build the Three Seas Training Center. As hard as it is to believe after five years of effort, it is almost here! Now we are beginning the process of reaching out for major partners to come on board and make this massive project a reality. Believe it or not, it's starting to get exciting. Please join us in prayer for wisdom and direction as we move forward.

Needs

People have asked us to share our current needs are and how to contribute to them. Here's your info.

The Torreys

The most pressing thing for us right now is our own support. We do not want to be burden on the Abbey and do have considerable expenses with travel and living in Korea while maintaining a home

base in the US. The best way to contribute to these needs is by making tax-deductible contributions to the Fourth River Project, Inc.

Summer Program

We need to raise money for the summer program of work-camp schools at the Three Seas Ranch. This can also be done through the Fourth River Project, Inc.

Three Seas Ranch and Center

Both the work on the Center (permits, etc.) and our cattle ranch are great places for you to help out as well. Ongoing operations and care for the cattle are steady expenses. We are looking to the ranch to be a source of income to us but that won't happen for two more years while we build our herd—16 head and still growing...

In Korea

Contributions in Korea may be deposited to one of the following accounts:

For the Three Seas Center and the Ranch:

Kookmin Bank 308-01-0329-028 (Yesu Won)
Nonghyup Bank 271-01-484970 (Yesu Won)
Post Office 201103-01-002331 (Yesu Won)

For the Fourth River Project expenses, school preparation and operations (including support for the Torreys):

Kookmin Bank 308301-04-092720 (REUB)

Please let us know of your gift so it is not confused with other funds.

In the US and elsewhere

Send checks payable to the Fourth River Project, Inc. to:
39 Chestnut St., Ellington, CT 06029 USA.

PayPal account or credit card payments may be made through the "Make a Donation" button at bottom of page, www.thefourthriver.org.

Mail can be sent to us at
Jesus Abbey (Three Seas)
PO Box 44, Taebaek, Kangwon Do 235-600.

Torreys' phones:
Home 033-552-7824, Mobile 016-572-7303

Thank you, everyone, for your continued prayers and gifts. Each one is a great blessing. Do continue to keep this work in your prayers.

And, don't forget, pray for North Korea!

On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; All day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; And give Him no rest until He establishes And makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isaiah 62:6-7)

Give Him no rest!

Yours, in Him,
Ben Torrey
Director
The Three Seas Center and The Fourth River Project, Inc.
www.thefourthriver.org