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THE FOURTH RIVER PROJECT REPORT—September 2005

www.thefourthriver.org

Preparing for the opening of North Korea

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Dear Friends,

Well, once again it has been a number of months since I last sent out a general newsletter and, as before, a lot has been happening. The biggest thing for us is that my wife, Liz, and I will be moving to the Three Seas Farm in a couple of weeks. We leave Connecticut on October 2nd arriving in Korea on the 3rd. As you can imagine things are pretty busy for us right now but we are excited to be going. We also thank the Lord for the provision of a house through the generosity and efforts of members of the community at the farm. This is *koinonia* at work as the community adjusts to our coming. Praise the Lord.

North Korea Schools

We have been continuing to provide education on North Korea as we have had opportunities.

New Awakening 2005

A very special opportunity was at the JAMA Global New Awakening 2005 conference in Dallas, Texas the end of June. Prof. Hyun-Sik Kim and I were invited to provide a day of talks. Together with NK Missions (www.nkmissions.com), we were able to put together a good “mini-school” of talks, prayer time and information on how people can get involved with NK now. This was a special pre-conference program. Prof. Kim and I also had an opportunity to address a plenary session before an audience of over 5,000. We were also able to speak to many people individually.

Jesus Abbey NK School 3



Praying at the watershed

From August 8 to 12, we had our third NK school at Jesus Abbey with 70 in attendance. This included a workday at the Farm. We spent the morning weeding fields, had a big outdoor lunch. After lunch, we all gathered at the three-way watershed divide point for intercessory prayer then separated into groups to pray at the various parts of the land. In each location we had posted information on the buildings that are planned (training center, community village, etc.) for that spot along with what they will be used for. Each group spent about an hour praying at their location. The Lord blessed us with perfect weather. Everyone had such a good time that when I asked what they thought of having a work camp/school next summer everyone responded with great enthusiasm.

In addition to lectures and small group sessions, we saw a selection of North Korean movies and cartoons accompanied by an excellent lecture on NK art and perspectives. The school ended with a powerful time of intercessory prayer Thursday night and a wonderful communion service Friday morning. We were convicted to pray for the unity of the Church as we pray for Korean re-unification.

To cap it all off, the Lord sent us a special blessing. The first calf of our new herd at the Farm was born on Thursday during the school—a month early. He is a sturdy little bull. Here's a picture.



Prepare the Way—The Next Step

Next January we will have our second NK School North East at New Jersey Christian Academy, Cream Ridge, NJ. It will run from January 3 to 6 and will focus on practical opportunities for ministry in North Korea. Professor Kim will once again be speaking from his four decades of experience teaching in North Korea and twenty years as tutor to Kim Il Sung's family. We also have joining us Thomas Belke, the author of Juche: A Christian Study of North Korea's State Religion. We will also have some papers on church and missions history in North Korea. Our focus on practical opportunities will come through three individuals currently involved in endeavors in North Korea. They will speak from a very practical perspective about working and witnessing in NK. They will also help small groups put together realistic plans for work in NK now. Anyone interested can register at www.thefourthriver.org. More information is available on the site.

Work/Study Camp

Next summer, during July and August, we are planning to have an extended period of special work and study camps at the Three Seas Farm. This will be offered as a series of five-day camps. Individuals will be able to participate for one or more as they like. This will be an opportunity to learn about North Korea as well as help with the development of the Three Seas Farm and Center—a real chance to help in the work of preparing. It will also deepen understanding of the Biblical perspective on manual labor and the importance of this for ministry in North Korea. As plans develop, we will be sending out more information and announcements. For now, we have a concept paper which accompanies this newsletter. Don't worry, we'll let you know specific dates, costs, and other details as soon as we work out the details.

Progress on the Center

You may remember from my April newsletter that we had thought we had finally completed the process of applying for permits to build the Center last December only to find that the width of the Paektu Trail buffer zone had been increased between the time we started the engineering and planning process and our final submission of the application. This change meant that the edge of the buffer zone went right through one of the buildings we had planned. So, we had to put the process on hold once again while we worked out that issue. Well, praise God, we believe it is all worked out now with our pledge to hold some land out of development (which was our intent all along) and the Forestry Dept. granting us a waiver. We made some minor adjustments to plans and now we are waiting for the final permits to be issued, hopefully, this month. We won't know for sure until we actually have them in our possession but it really does feel like we are almost there! Do keep praying with us for this.

Board of Directors

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, we are working on incorporating the Fourth River Project as a US non-profit corporation. This process is moving along. I am extremely pleased with the people that have agreed to serve on the board of directors. I will introduce them after we have completed the work incorporation and have had our initial meeting. In the meantime, join me in thanking the Lord for the individuals that He has brought to us and their sense of calling to serve in this way.

Needs

Many people have asked me to describe what our current needs are and how people can contribute to them.

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Well, 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 various travel and moving to Korea while still maintaining a needed home base in the US. We also hope to be able to buy a used four-wheel drive vehicle in Korea (a pretty serious need for us and the farm) and for Liz to attend language school in Seoul. The best way to contribute to these needs is by making tax-deductible contributions to the Fourth River Project at the US address below. We would be very grateful for monthly commitments from individuals and churches.

Schools

We need to raise several thousand dollars for both the NK school in New Jersey next January and the work camp at Three Seas next summer. We are also looking for contribution of surplus tents,

cots, etc. This can also be done through the Fourth River Project in the US or directly to the Three Seas in Korea.

Three Seas Center

Once we actually have the permits to build in our possession and are permitted to buy the land, we will launch a capital campaign for that purpose; however, we do have preliminary expenses still to pay including large final payments for the engineering work and the funds to buy the land itself.

Anyone wishing to contribute to any of these needs may send checks payable to the Fourth River Project to: The Fourth River Project, 39 Chestnut St., Ellington, CT 06029.

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

Kookmin Bank 308-01-0329-028 (Yesu Won)

Nonghyup Bank 271-01-484970 (Yesu Won)

Post Office 201103-01-002331 (Yesu Won)

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

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

www.thefourthriver.org

Be sure to check the web site from time to time for new postings to the library and other information.

Yours, in Him,
Ben Torrey