



# Christian Friends of Korea

Activity Report

Vol. 8

November 2002

## CFK's Work Expands in North Korea

As the Lord continues to develop His work through CFK in North Korea, we are grateful for His faithful provision of opportunities, people and means to minister and bring hope to the people of North Korea in Christ's name. In the past year, our teams have visited the people and places we serve multiple times. On these visits new opportunities have opened to us in addition to our ongoing work among the TB facilities of North/South Hwanghae and Kaesong. Among others, it includes providing assistance to the Kaesong Provincial Pediatric Hospital (please see more about this project inside) and expanding our technical and agricultural projects. We have begun responding to these needs, and continue to seek partners interested in working with us.

We have received great encouragement this year, often from unlikely places. Each visit we are grateful for the warm welcome given to our delegations by the staff and patients at these facilities. Many express to us their thanks for what we send, for coming to see them and for responding to their needs.

*In September, it was wonderful and humbling to hear our North Korean friends describe our shipments simply as "Christ's contributions".*

We continue to be openly introduced as Christian Friends of Korea, and give updated donor lists on each visit explaining that these are people who love them, pray for them, and give to help them. We are grateful for the open doors God has provided, and we covet your continued prayers and support as we seek to serve and honor Him among the people of North Korea.

## 2002—A year of Change

This year has seen many changes, not only in the macro political situation impacting our work overall, but also in specific developments within the tuberculosis treatment system that directly and positively impact our programs.



*Guide explaining doctor's kit at Changpoong TB Rest Home*

On a macro level, there have been positive steps both within North Korea and in the exterior political environment. Internally, the North Koreans announced several unexpected changes to their economy that have been viewed by many as the first steps towards fundamental economic reforms, including revaluing their currency, raising wages, and increasing prices of basic goods such as

rice. In the past year, the North Korean government has reached out to Russia, Japan, China and South Korea, among others, and ground has been broken on both sides of the border to re-link the railroad between North and South. A very recent visit by the US Assistant Secretary of State has reopened dialogue between Pyongyang and Washington that was static for many months.

There is also good news regarding the treatment of tuberculosis. North Korea was recently accepted into two large grant-funded programs, the *Global Drug Facility*, and the *Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria*. These international programs, in addition to training provided by the World Health Organization (WHO), will support the annual provision of up to 64,000 patients worth of tuberculosis medicine, together with needed laboratory supplies. When the whole of North Korea is included in the scope of these grants, expected by the end of next year, the need for the specific TB medicines for our entire area will be met through these grants. This is very good news for patients suffering from tuberculosis and for CFK. The TB drug regimen is expensive, and must be purchased outright and shipped to North Korea from Europe. Now we can redirect funds we would likely have spent on TB medicine and instead apply them to other great needs within the TB treatment system.

---

But in counterpoint to this development, the World Food Program recently announced that due to aid reductions from donor countries, they have been forced to substantially reduce feeding programs provided until recently to the most vulnerable third of the population – children, infants, nursing mothers, and the elderly. This leaves millions of small children at risk to famine or the irreversible mental and physical effects of malnutrition just as winter approaches with its cold and other hardships. North Korea remains heavily reliant upon outside aid to provide food and other essentials to its population and even small cutbacks can have devastating consequences on many young lives.

While it is hard to understand how a crisis of these proportions can continue for so long, North Korea remains in a very fragile state. There is little cushion in any area, and the hardships of the people are severe, even under the best of circumstances. Into this place, the help we bring in Christ's name makes a very large impact and will be remembered. May we be found faithful to do all that God enables us to do.

## Donations in 2002

Our donors, of both cash and in-kind, made possible five shipments to North Korea during the past fiscal year valued at just over \$2 million dollars. Listed below are some of the items your gifts made possible:

TB medicine for 2000 patients  
2,580 cans of salmon  
3,600 bottles of liquid nutrition  
4,032 bottles of vitamins  
12,720 cans of chicken  
829 basic hygiene kits  
3,377 bars of soap  
1,872 IV sets  
2,075 tree seedlings  
33,122 oral re-hydration treatments

In addition to the items above, we also sent blankets, medical equipment and general medical supplies, large quantities of general medicines and antibiotics, vegetable and tree seeds.

We made technical and monitoring visits to North Korea in September 2001, April 2002 and May 2002, sending a total of 4 delegations. Technical projects completed during the year included installation of 3 generators, an x-ray machine, medical equipment assessments at several hospitals, assessment and preparations for a water well drilling project, and repairs to equipment sent previously.

## 2003 Shipments and Catalog

Already this fiscal year (beginning in July) we have sent two teams to North Korea and shipped seven containers of goods, including general medicines, supplies for a new water distribution system for one of our hospitals, new greenhouse plastic, blankets, and bedding sets for 500 beds. In spite of financial difficulties in the world economy, we trust that God will continue to provide for His work in North Korea through His People.



*CFK goods at rest home*

To help you better understand the current needs, we have enclosed a catalog of opportunities for the coming year that identifies real and pressing needs confirmed on the August and September visits to North Korea. As the holiday season approaches, please consider sending a tangible expression of the love and mercy of our Savior to the people of North Korea who are in desperate physical and spiritual need. You can send your gift in the name of a loved one, and we will send them a card thanking them for their gift of love.

## Alternative Gifts International

Again this year our tuberculosis (TB) work is featured as a gift opportunity in the Alternative Gifts International (AGI) Christmas Catalog. Last year the catalog raised over \$25,000 for CFK's TB work that was used towards a shipment of 2000 patients worth of life-saving TB medicine. This year, funds raised will be used towards general medicines and vitamins also needed by these patients. AGI raises funds through international gift markets for many needy projects in various areas of the world. Their website is [www.altgifts.org](http://www.altgifts.org)



*TB medicine from AGI and CFK at Kaesong TB Hospital*

---

## Kaesong Provincial Pediatric Hospital— An Opportunity to Effect Lasting Change

Twice in recent months we have visited the Kaesong Provincial Pediatric Hospital. On the last visit, one of our guides noticed and remarked upon the unique architecture and the quality of construction of this hospital built of stone, in contrast to the concrete or mud-brick structures found at most places. Local staff are aware of its mission history (see below), but our guide from Pyongyang expressed surprise to learn of this fact.



*September 2002 Team at the  
Pediatric Hospital*

This hospital is the acute health care facility for the children of Kaesong – who number about 140,000. It has 202 beds, and a staff of 80s. Parents bring their children here to be treated for a number of conditions most commonly including gastritis, pneumonia, bronchitis, renal disease, and other problems. The facility has a number of departments including an operating room, laboratory, x-ray room, emergency, ear/nose/throat, intensive care, and internal medicine. Sadly, the equipment in each of these departments is very old, and often broken or lacking critical parts or supplies. Here, like most places, electricity is irregular and scarce.

This facility has many great needs, and they asked for our help. In May our delegation included an experienced medical equipment engineer who was able to do a full assessment on the equipment needs of this hospital. Over the coming months and years, with your help, we hope to improve the level of care provided to the children of this region by upgrading the infrastructure and meeting the equipment needs of this hospital, while also responding to critical and ongoing needs for medicine, food and supplies. We covet your prayers and partnership with us in this effort to restart mission work in this place interrupted for over 50 years.



*The operating table*



*A young girl with her doctor a day after surgery*

### *Stones of Remembrance*

#### **The Ivey Hospital (Now the Kaesong Provincial Pediatric Hospital)**

*Voices from the past...*

*Concerning the construction of the Ivey Hospital...*

*"...the stone work is practically completed, the roof is on the larger part of the hospital, the lathing is nearly all finished, the flooring is being put down, and preparations are being made to begin the plastering."*

*Number of treatments in the dispensary - 2,434; Number of calls on Koreans and missionaries - 400 plus; number of in-patients (not exactly recorded) – 50 plus; number of major operations – 10. Total 2,886.*

*"During the last four months we have had a regularly appointed dispensary preacher, who preaches to the waiting patients and their friends, sells Gospels, distributes tracts, and then between times he preaches to the in-patients and goes out into the city following up those who have received treatments at the dispensary. In this way, since the first of January 1908, the preacher reports that in the last four months, fifteen have become believers and thirty more seemed interested, saying that they would believe, though not taking a definite stand." W.T. Reid, MD*



*Excerpted from the 1909 Annual Report of the Mission Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South*



September 2002 confirming delegation at Songnim TB Rest Home

## The People behind CFK

CFK is blessed to have gifted men and women guiding our work. Many have served as missionaries or had connections to Korea for much of their lives. They all share a deep love for Christ and the people of Korea.

### Board of Directors

Dr. John Akers  
 Rev. Dwight Linton  
 Alex Miller  
 Eileen Moffett  
 Dr. Dick Nieuwma  
 Kay Rader  
 Dr. Sissel Topple  
 Silas Vaughn

### Advisory Board

Dr. James Crane  
 Dr. and Mrs. Paul Crane  
 Dr. Heon Chul Lee  
 Dr. Eugene Bell Linton  
 Dr. Samuel Moffett  
 Sally Voelkel Morrison  
 Rev. John Neville  
 Dr. Roberta Rice  
 Dr. Ken Scott  
 Rev. H. Cloyes Starnes  
 Dr. and Mrs. John Wilson

### Technical Consultant

James Linton

### Staff

Heidi Linton  
 Jenny Schermerhorn

*He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.*  
*Psalm 102:17*

## Invite CFK to Speak at Your Church

God has been faithful to provide CFK with people and churches who pray, encourage and give to this work. We would be delighted to report to your group or church in person, and share some of our stories, pictures and opportunities for continued ministry. We will be happy to arrange for someone to come and speak in either Korean or English, depending on your needs. Our written materials are also available in the Korean language.

If you are interested in inviting someone to speak or just want more information, please let us know. Our contact information is listed below.



Sarah Barry at the Chilgol Church in May 2002

### Christian Friends of Korea

Christian Friends of Korea is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization founded in 1995 to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through humanitarian, educational, and religious programs.

Contributions to CFK are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. CFK also accepts stock or in-kind donations. Please make all checks payable to "Christian Friends of Korea."

If you are interested in supporting the work of CFK or have questions, please contact us at the following address.

(Please note our new mailing address.)

### Christian Friends of Korea

PO Box 936  
 Black Mountain, NC 28711-0936

Tel: (828) 669-2355  
 Fax: (828) 669-2357  
 E-mail: [cfk@cfk.org](mailto:cfk@cfk.org)  
 Website: [www.cfk.org](http://www.cfk.org)

