



Christian Friends of Korea

Activity Report

Vol. 7

November 2001

Overview of 2001

This past year has been one of the busiest and most rewarding since Christian Friends of Korea began its work in North Korea. Despite continued need and hardship, there have been many positive developments and new opportunities to meet needs and share the Gospel. God has blessed the work of Christian Friends of Korea in ways we never could have imagined, and has allowed us to minister to thousands of people in His name.

North Korea has had another year of great difficulty. After experiencing record cold and snowfall this past winter, the country was hit by a three-month spring drought as well as summer and fall flooding. These ongoing problems continue to affect food production and add to the many existing challenges of the people.

Our work at the tuberculosis facilities in North and South Hwanghae Do and Kaesong continues to go very well. Our assistance to these facilities has made a real difference, and our repeat visits have encouraged deeper relationships. TB medicine and food have brought hope and healing. Our recent donation of generators to three TB hospitals has provided essential power for equipment and lights. Whatever we have sent, we believe God has used it to bring hope to the people and honor to His name.



Dr. Sissel Topples with doctor in Songnim



Newly installed generator at the Haeju TB Hospital

During the past year we have presented you with the needs we have seen and asked for your help. The response has been overwhelming, and we have been able to respond to each of the critical needs we have identified. Your gifts have nourished sick and hungry children, put warm blankets on hospital beds, and provided electrical power and life-saving medicine, all in the name of Christ.

After six years of working in North Korea, we do see the fruit of our labor. While we have tried hard to respond to as many physical needs as possible, relationships continue to be the main focus of our work. We count it a privilege to work closely with so many men and women in North Korea. In response to our assistance, our visits, and our sincerity, we have been welcomed, thanked, and asked to return.

As we look ahead to next year, we see many of the same needs continuing. But we also see new opportunities. We are more hopeful and optimistic than ever about what the future holds. Please continue to pray – for CFK and its financial needs, for our friends and colleagues in North Korea, and for the many people whom we serve. And as God leads you, we would ask for your continued financial support.

We long to continue bringing life and hope in Jesus' name to those in North Korea. With your help and God's grace, we will.

Donations in 2001

Through the generosity of our donors and partners, CFK was able to send eleven shipments to North Korea this past year. Below is a list of some of the items you made possible.

- 4000 patients' worth of TB medicine
- 180 tons of soybeans
- 23,760 cans of chicken
- 1920 cans of baby formula
- 2 Mitsubishi 4-wheel drive vehicles
- 22 microscopes
- 250 sets of dentures
- 50 large greenhouses
- 35 ambulance kits
- 1285 blankets
- 12 suction units
- 3 diesel generators
- 1 x-ray unit

In addition, CFK provided TB lab supplies, dental equipment and supplies, lead x-ray aprons and collars, nutritional supplements, general medicines, and vitamins.



New CFK vehicle

Opportunities Catalog

Last year we introduced our opportunities catalog, a listing of some of the most important needs and opportunities we had identified. We were humbled by the response, and by year's end were able to meet each of the needs we listed.

This year we have a new list that reflects the opportunities we have most recently identified. Please take a look at it and consider how you can help. You may also wish to give a donation as an alternative to traditional holiday gift giving. We will be happy to send a card to your loved one letting them know that such a gift has been made on their behalf.

Relationships – a Solid Foundation

Among the greatest joys of our work in North Korea are the relationships with people that continue to develop. Our closest relationships come with our guides and drivers. These men spend the entire week with us, giving us the chance to really become friends. While they usually change with each trip, the time is so concentrated that when we are able to see them again on later visits, the greetings are warm and heartfelt.



Wiring a panel box in Haeju

On each visit we also meet with doctors and staff at the facilities where we work. It is a blessing to experience growing trust and greater transparency in each of these relationships. We are humbled by the warmth of their welcome and encouraged by their genuine appreciation for our willingness to keep returning.

There are also many local officials we have seen repeatedly over the past several years who join us in meetings in their areas. While we meet with them only briefly, we see them on almost every visit. With repeated contact these relationships have become more relaxed and friendly.

The relationships that we have developed across the whole spectrum of North Korean administration, from the highest officials in Pyongyang to the staff laboring in the farthest facilities in the countryside, are remarkable. We strive to listen carefully, respond appropriately, and demonstrate kindness, respect, and humility. And we are grateful for the increasing opportunities growing out of these relationships for scattering the seeds of the Gospel – both in word and deed.



Building relationships

September Visits

While the world watched the tragic events of September 11th unfold, a CFK technical team was just arriving in Pyongyang, unaware of what was going on here at home. It was not until two days later that we were able to tell them what had happened.

The team went to North Korea to install three generators at tuberculosis hospitals in Haeju, Kaesong, and Sariwon. Despite the tragedy back home, they focused on the work and took the opportunity to serve Christ. In less than six days they and the North Korean technicians working with them had successfully installed all three units.

A second CFK team arrived in Pyongyang two weeks later. Despite flight cancellations and many uncertainties, the North Koreans worked hard with us to rearrange schedules so our team could still visit. It was a good week and accomplished many things. Perhaps most meaningful were the many expressions of sympathy for the September 11th attacks and gratitude for our willingness to come at such a difficult time in our nation's history.

Speaking Opportunities

Are you interested in learning more about the work of Christian Friends of Korea and hearing first hand what is going on in North Korea? As the needs continue and the opportunities grow, we would love to share what God is doing. We will be happy to arrange to have someone come and speak in English or Korean to your church or community.

If you are interested or just want more information, please let us know. Contact information can be found on the following page.



John Somerville speaking at church in Pyongyang

Stones of Remembrance

John Dinsmore Bigger
1880 - 1959

It was in August 1911 that Dr. John D. Bigger arrived in Korea to begin his missionary service as a physician with the Northern Presbyterian Mission. He was sent to the city of Kangkei to direct the work of the hospital and remained there for the next nine years, assisted by his wife Norma.

In 1920, Dr. Bigger was reassigned to the mission hospital in Pyongyang. One of the medical conditions that greatly concerned him was tuberculosis, which was very prevalent, especially among the young. In 1925, on his own initiative, he built a Korean-style house on Moran Bong (Peony Point) where TB patients could receive rest and treatment.

From his first days in Korea, Dr. Bigger urged talented and caring young Korean men and women to get medical training to help their own people. Many of the doctors and nurses in the mission hospitals owed their education to his encouragement and assistance.

Dr. Bigger was a dedicated surgeon, a skilled organizer, a mechanic and architect, and also a landscape gardener. Quiet and self-effacing, his primary concern was in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those he came to serve. He worked faithfully among the Korean people until forced to leave by the Japanese in 1941.



Dr. John Bigger

Contributed by Virginia Somerville



September technical delegation in Sariwon

1000 Kilometer Prayer Walk

On a quiet August morning in Black Mountain, NC, Andrew Linton began a prayer walk for North Korea. Six weeks and 1000 kilometers later, he completed his journey on the steps of the US Capitol building in Washington, DC with prayer.



Andrew Linton walking

The purpose of the walk was to remind people of the continuing needs of those in North Korea, to better identify with their hardships, and to spend time in prayer on their behalf. It was also

Andrew's desire to encourage positive developments and dialogue between the US and North Korean governments.

During the walk, Andrew was joined by many people and was able to speak before the media and in a number of churches, raising support for the work of Christian Friends of Korea.

The People Behind CFK

Christian Friends of Korea is blessed with a remarkable group of dedicated men and women. Whether as missionaries or the children of missionaries, most have been connected to Korea for much of their lives and share a deep love and concern for the people of North Korea.

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Staff Walter Somerville
Heidi Linton

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.

Christian Friends of Korea
PO Box 396
Montreat, NC 28757

Tel: (828) 669-2355
Fax: (828) 669-2357
E-mail: cfk@cfk.org

