

# Christian Friends of Korea

## 조선의 그리스도인 벗들

Activity Report

Volume 16

November 2010

*"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility." Ephesians 2: 13 – 16*



National lab donation ceremony October 18, 2010

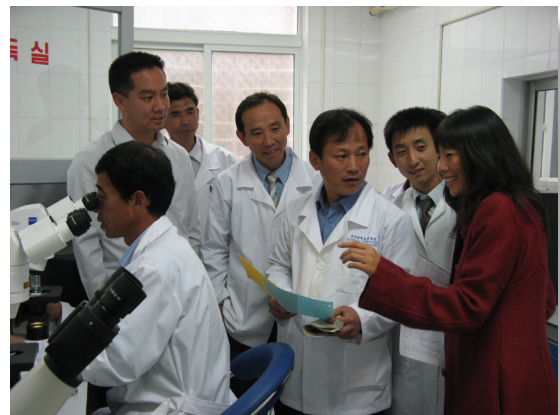
### Opening of the National Lab Celebrated

On a perfect mid-October afternoon, we celebrated with our North Korean counterparts the culmination of two years of hard work, and the realization of a long-held dream and urgent priority for comprehensive TB control efforts in the DPRK: the opening of the National TB Reference Laboratory. This modern new laboratory was accomplished in full partnership with the DPRK's Ministry of Public Health, Stanford University School of Medicine and the Bay Area TB Consortium (BATC), NTP's Global Health and Security Initiative and multiple donors. Present with us to mark the occasion was the Vice Minister of Public Health, and several directors and officers from the Ministry, as well as members of the resident international community including the World Health Organization, the Global Fund for TB, and UNICEF.



Local and international guests visiting the entrance to the newly renovated lab

Our CFK delegation of 17 people included major donors to the project, representatives from Stanford University and the BATC, and CFK board members and staff. In his opening remarks, the External Affairs Director of the Ministry of Public Health said, **"The technical renovation of the National TB Reference Lab was a project of critical importance that attracted highlighted attention from not only the Ministry of Public Health, but many international organizations and groups...now that the National TB Reference Lab is technically renovated, a reliable material foundation for scientifically diagnosing multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB), as well as for ordinary TB, and correctly orientating treatment regimen and service has been laid, and a great prospect for more independently and scientifically waging war against TB in the country is open."**



Stanford/ BATC team conducting training with the lab staff

Heidi Linton, Executive Director of CFK, also spoke publicly on behalf of CFK and the partnership effort. The hospital director gave further remarks and was presented with the Certificate of Donation from our joint team, and then honored guests and attendees were invited to take a full tour of the lab and the hospital to view all the work completed there. It was a joyous and memorable occasion, followed by a dinner shared with over fifty guests, including the Vice Minister and Directors from the Ministry of Public Health, hospital and lab staff members, and many long-time colleagues from the Korean America Private Exchange Society and other local and international colleagues.



The lab infrastructure and outfitting is now completely finished and the lab is fully operational, with reliable electrical power, hot and cold running water, heating/AC, refurbished space, lighting, new furnishings, and state-of-the-art equipment. A joint CFK/Stanford/BATC team also completed a second round of both clinical and TB lab training at the National TB Reference lab, and further training is being planned to help build capacity and technical skill towards full international recognition and certification for this lab. Once this process is complete – hopefully within the next two years – the certified lab will be the centerpiece of national TB control and prevention efforts. During this visit, we were also able to complete repairs on an ultrasound machine installed last year at this facility, and our oxygen bottling machine was relocated and reinstalled at this same complex. This will help to consolidate critical elements of health support at one central place and help build this facility into a center of excellence for the whole country.



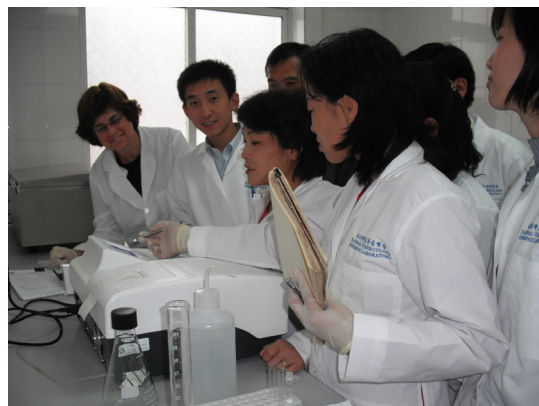
Biomedical engineer in front of the new home for the CFK oxygen bottling machine

As we reflect on this extraordinary effort, we are amazed at how such a complex and difficult project came together in less than two years – from initial introduction to final completion. Not only were we working with our partners at Stanford University and BATC for the first time, but significant fundraising, planning, delivery, and implementation of this \$500,000+ project all occurred nearly simultaneously. Over a two year period we made eight visits to the DPRK for this project, three of which required lengthy working periods in the country and large teams of highly skilled volunteers in order to plan and accomplish the work – and all were fully supported and facilitated by the DPRK side. Most remarkably, the project coincided with a period of extreme challenge and heightened sensitivity in the overall political relationship



Vice Minister Kang and Director Pak reviewing the lab photo book

between the DPRK and her neighbors. To memorialize this remarkable partnership we compiled a 238 page book of photos that documents the project from start to finish.



Clinical trainer Dr. Marcia Kilsby and National Lab staff

We provided copies of this book to officials at the Ministry of Public Health and to the hospital and lab staff with whom we worked so closely to accomplish this project. We are humbled by the opportunity to lead such an extraordinary effort, grateful for God's provision and guidance that met us at countless points of need along the way, and deeply thankful for the joy, unity and depth of relationship shared with our US colleagues and with our North Korean counterparts as a result of such an intense and productive joint effort. To all of you who have prayed for this effort over the past two years, or supported this with your contributions, we are deeply grateful. It is our hope and belief that in years to come we will look back on this project and say that it marked a major turning point in TB eradication efforts for the DPRK.

## Water and Greenhouse Projects Completed

While the national lab opening celebration and lab training workshop was certainly a great highlight of the October visit, other significant projects were accomplished in October as well. Prior to the arrival of the lab related teams, a joint delegation of 9 people, including technical water and greenhouse teams, were in country from October 5-14 working on 4 different projects. During this part of the visit, the greenhouse team was able to do nearly a week of training with representatives from several of our supported hospitals and rest homes on topics that included critical aspects of greenhouse design and construction, composting for good plant nutrition, water and the use of drip irrigation inside the greenhouse, temperature management including ventilation in summer and winter, prevention of pests and diseases, and crop rotation as a management tool. A team of skilled hand water well drillers from Water4 Foundation (a US non-

(continued on page 5)



Greenhouse training workshop at Hwangju TB Rest Home



profit, and partner to CFK) conducted a week-long training exercise in hand water well drilling techniques, and successfully drilled a well that now produces clean water for Hwangju TB Rest Home. In addition to both of these workshops, other team members worked to install large water storage and distribution systems at both Hwangju TB Rest Home and at Unpa TB Rest Home. In one case, solar panels and a solar powered pump were installed; in the other case a natural spring source was cleaned and protected. An added bonus was the opportunity to work with local women to bring clean water to the village of Mokne, located closely proximate to



The villagers at Mokne with the CFK team and their new water outlet

the Unpa TB Rest Home – a village of over 50 households that had been without a completed and protected water system for 30 years. For a more detailed first-hand account of this part of the visit, please see the article contributed by Rick Armstrong on page 3.

### Summary of 2010 and Outlook for 2011

We reflect with thankful hearts on all that has been accomplished this year. So far for 2010, we have delivered 7 – 40' containers, and 1 – 20' container filled with food, medicine, blankets, and construction, medical and lab supplies all coming from North America, and 13 10-ton truckloads of materials from China, including 6 large greenhouses, 11 tractor sets, electrical cable, and construction, water, and lab supplies, together valued at over \$6.6 Million USD. We are amazed at what God has done through CFK this year especially, and we thank you for your partnership that has made it all possible.

Looking ahead to 2011, several new projects have been identified as high priorities for our attention. To further build upon the goal of making the National #3 Prevention (TB) Hospital (where the national lab is located) into a center of



The OR at the national TB Hospital in need of full renovation

excellence for the country, the operating room of the hospital desperately needs renovation and refurbishing. **We are urgently trying to raise \$100,000 towards this effort (by January, if possible)** so that we can work with local staff in the spring of 2011 to complete the project. We were able to

complete a technical assessment during the recent visit, and are prepared to move quickly once funding is secured.

**Also, three treatment facilities in the Kaesong area are lacking adequate water and water distribution systems.** We have learned a lot through providing clean water to 5 facilities so far, and hope to address the significant needs identified at Kaesong TB Hospital, Kaesong Hepatitis Hospital and Kaesong TB Rest Home in the Fall of 2011, assuming that we are able to raise the estimated **\$75,000 needed to finish all three of these projects.**

Meanwhile, the need for supplemental food, general medicines and vitamins, facilities upgrades (such as windows and doors, to keep out the cold of winter), patient toiletry kits and blankets, doctors kits, and many other very basic needs continues as new patients are identified and begin treatment. For now at least, it appears that the need for basic TB medicine will be met through international funding mechanisms, but we will continue to closely monitor the situation.

The overall situation for many North Koreans remains exceedingly difficult and tenuous. A cold spring, combined with floods in some parts and droughts in other parts of the country this summer affected food production; early estimates are that the harvest will again fall significantly short of national needs, and the outlook for significant food contributions coming from international sources is bleak in the current difficult political environment. In many areas a third of all children regularly suffer from chronic malnutrition. The food support that we are sending, through local food production made possible by the provision of CFK-supplied on-site greenhouses, and through humanitarian deliveries of containers filled with canned meat, vegetable soup mix, and other



This 3 year old (with her mother) has TB of the larynx

partner donations, continues to supply on average 30-70% of the food needs at our 28 supported facilities. General fund gifts help to pay for the procurement and shipping of these containers, and our regular and ongoing activities. With the recent completion of the national lab project, **our general fund balance is now perilously low.** We covet your prayers and your generous financial support to replenish our general and project funds as we close out this remarkable year, and prepare for a new year of love and service in the name of Christ among the people of the DPRK.

Thank you for being such a critical part of this ministry through your prayers, encouragement and faithful support!



## How Great Is Our God!

*Contributed by: Rick Armstrong, Electrical Engineer, Consultant, and CFK Volunteer*



As I reflect on our time, I'm once again amazed at how great our God is to provide for all our needs and beyond our expectations. From all of us, thank you for your prayers and support! Miracle after miracle occurred. Although much was accomplished by hands, more importantly, relationships grew and hearts were touched.

### Week 1

We arrive in Pyongyang on Tuesday evening and begin work on Wednesday. Before leaving the warehouse in Pyongyang where we have retrieved our supplies for the work ahead, we learn that over 2000' of poly water pipe along with a few other items shipped from the US cannot be found. Perhaps the rolls of pipe are still in customs or have been delivered to the work sites? Only time will tell.

Thursday we divide and travel to job sites where well drilling begins at Hwangju TB Rest Home along with work to insulate the greenhouse. Meanwhile, at Unpa TB Rest Home (an hour's drive from Hwangju) unearthing the Unpa spring begins for the gravity system we hope to install here. There are few workers to dig the 1200' long pipe trench there. No poly pipe is found at either site. We return to the hotel that night to learn that Pyongyang will essentially be shut down Friday through Sunday due to the national holiday celebrations for the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK). We're told we can't travel out of the city during that time. Heidi and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) team scramble to find the US pipes that were supposedly shipped, or an in country alternative. The MoPH team understands our resource and time dilemma. The thought hits us that we'll likely not be able to finish. We're not happy about it but all we can do is pray and do what we can.

To our surprise on Friday, MoPH gives us permission to travel to Hwangju only, but we must return early to Pyongyang. Well drilling continues there but progress is slow. The Water4 team decides before we leave that the well location will be adequate, so trenching for pipes can be started by local volunteers over the weekend. We'll return Monday.

Saturday we can't leave the city but are allowed to work at



The newly drilled water well, trenching, and tank on the hillside at Hwangju TB Rest Home

the National TB Reference Lab for a few hours. That turned out to be an important visit, finding and fixing a few problems and discovering one that required parts from the US that the next team could bring a few days later. We learn that the pipe from the US never shipped due to a supplier error, how-



Transporting Unpa's new water tank on a CFK tractor

ever the MoPH staff find similar pipe through a local source that will work with our US pipe fittings. Praise God!

Saturday night and Sunday we're given the rare privilege of witnessing the truly remarkable WPK anniversary celebrations, including the impressive military parade, all the while we're thinking about the tasks ahead. There will only be 3 days to complete the work; it seems an impossible task.

### Week 2

We discover on Monday that work has continued slowly at Unpa. The workers have completed less than 1/2 of the trenching for the 1200' pipeline to an insufficient depth to prevent freezing. It's not for lack of effort, however; the terrain is rocky and workers are few. We push ahead with what we can do. Meanwhile at Hwangju, a decision by the director is made to move the solar panel frame (already installed and concreted in) closer to the facility for fear of theft or vandalism, and now 100' further from the pump. Pipe trenches have only been started. The good news is that the greenhouse team has nearly completed insulating the greenhouse.

It's now Tuesday with only two working days left. We're discussing compromised plans at both sites as we travel to begin work. The team nearing Unpa rest home passes a regiment of army soldiers carrying picks and shovels. To our surprise, minutes later they come marching up the single lane dirt road to the rest home. Everyone is excited. By the end of a long day the 1200' trench



Solar panels to power the new water pump at Hwangju

is done, pipe is laid, water tank and most outlets installed, and final connections are made. The water begins to charge the 1200' of distribution lines and begins to fill the tank from the spring. We hope (estimate) that the output of the





Local villagers and a military regiment digging trenches to lay the water line at Unpa

work begins.

Wednesday is our last work day at both sites. Arriving at Hwangju we find more workers with shovels already making good progress. Before lunch, the pump is lowered into the well and water begins to flow as we test the solar system. The greenhouse crew successfully completes training in the afternoon. Meanwhile, on the way to Unpa, our MoPH colleague receives a phone call on his cell phone from the director of Unpa who tells him that the 2200 gallon tank was filled to overflowing at 1AM, and the local residents are **“mad with joy”** at the volume and pressure of the water in their new system. Upon arrival at Unpa, the water team is greeted by excited rest home attendants and local residents. The Unpa team completes the work, enjoys a quick celebratory lunch hosted by Unpa Rest Home, and heads for Sariwon TB Rest Home to complete an assessment for a possible future water project there. Then it's on to Hwangju to assist. It's all hands on deck as everyone participates in the completion of the Hwangju water project. By 7 PM (and in the gathering darkness) the job is done except for back-filling the trenches. As we return to the hotel in Pyongyang and prepare to leave for home, we each have a story to tell of how God worked out the details of our day to a successful ending. Simply amazing. How great is our God!



Hwangju staff and the CFK technical team upon completion of the water project

***“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”*** Ephesians 5: 1-2

spring will bring the tank to about 2/3 full by the time we expect to return at mid-day tomorrow. Meanwhile at Hwangju the greenhouse classroom training begins while the well drilling stops. The 12 foot deep well through stony terrain yields nearly 3 gal/min which should be adequate for solar pumping to provide over 1000 gallons/day. Progress on trenches at Hwangju is slow, but steady. The solar panel frame is moved and reinstalled and electrical

## 2011 CFK Calendar and Gift Cards Available

For the first time ever, CFK has put together a full-color desk calendar for 2011 that features people and projects related to our ongoing work in the DPRK. Each page features a calendar month and a famous North Korean proverb in both Korean and English related to one of our projects; on the back of each calendar page is a related Bible verse. We printed 500 calendars, and they are available for purchase through our website, and through the mail for \$6.50 each, including postage (to any US address.) We hope you will enjoy the calendar and remember to pray for the North Korean people and for CFK's work throughout 2011.



With the Christmas gift giving season soon upon us, why not remember a loved one by reaching out with the loving hands of Christ to someone in need in the DPRK? You could send a doctor's kit, a gift towards clean water or towards an operating room renovation - or an undesignated gift and we will be happy to send an appropriate gift card to the recipient to let them know of the gift you have given in their name. (Please see the “Gifts of Hope” catalog for specific ideas.) Please have your gifts reach us by December 15th so that we will have enough time to process these requests.

## The Blessing of Christian Friends...

We are so thankful for the contributions of many people and partner organizations who truly make Christian Friends of Korea who we are. Like the miracle of the 5 loaves and 2 fish, the gifts of time and talent, skills and training, packaged into the lives of people who share above all a common faith and love in Christ Jesus, are being multiplied in the hands of our loving God to accomplish extraordinary things. Some of you share your talents in construction skills - electrical, plumbing, cabinetry, carpentry; others share specialized medical training and experience; others help paint or do landscaping, or tear up floors that need to be replaced; and others share their knowledge of the law, economics and diplomacy to help guide our work. Some of you help fix or find medical equipment; or use your language skills; others lovingly knit hats and scarves for doctor's kits and for children who suffer from the cold; still others share of their agricultural knowledge or water well drilling skills that will bring about real change in countless lives. We offer our praise to God for each one of you, and for the ways that He knits us together as one body - His body - in love and service. It is a true privilege to share in the joy and hope made possible by your willingness to be used of Him to share His love in the lives of others.



Part of the village of Mokne is visible on the left, and below in the distance (center right) is the Unpa TB Rest Home. The whole community was overjoyed at the provision of clean water to the village and the rest home.

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CFK/Stanford/BATC National Lab Donation Team with MoPH Colleagues



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## A New Home for CFK

In addition to all that has been done in the DPRK this year, we are also grateful for a new development on our home front. For nearly 16 years, CFK has operated from borrowed or rented space, and endured 5 moves and 2 floods. With property prices and interest rates falling, our Board asked us to look for a more permanent home for CFK where we can more efficiently and effectively carry out the work that God has opened to us in the DPRK. At the end of October, we purchased  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres of land and a small house in Black Mountain that with minor remodeling will serve well as the CFK office. Our down payment and closing costs came to \$22,952 and we plan to move in by the first of December. **We hope with your help that we can fully pay off the note of \$125,332 within the next five years. We also hope to raise an additional \$50,000 for the construction of a small warehouse as soon as possible** so that we can receive goods on site and expand our ability to prepare shipments. Please pray with us about this need, and help as you are able.



CFK's new home - 129 Center Ave., Black Mountain, NC

## 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 to request information or materials, please contact us.

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