



CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF KOREA

조선의 그리스도인 벗들

June 2013

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 5: 3-11

CFK Technical Team Visits May 16-30

Against a backdrop of slightly lessened tensions between North Korea and her neighbors, we



The CFK technical team and North Korean Central TB Prevention Hospital professionals work together to build training center walls and trusses

returned to the DPRK for our second visit this year. Our team of ten included seven construction team members who began construction of the training center, and two lab trainers (from Stanford University and Andrews University) who continued training activities towards accreditation of the National TB Reference Laboratory. (The lab project was recently featured in the April 25, 2013 issue of *Science* magazine – please see our website for a link to this article. <http://cfk.org/about-cfk/cfk-in-the-news/>)

Like most of our visits,

this trip held both significant challenges and progress. Nearly all of us suffered this time from GI sickness at some point during the visit, despite our best efforts to stay healthy – and we had steady rain on several working days, so this impacted what construction work could be completed during the visit. Even so, working alongside our North Korean counterparts, our construction team was able to finish most of what we had hoped to complete – including erection of the framing for the walls and assembling and setting of all the roof trusses



The team worked well together to prepare wall frames.



The team carefully braced walls and trusses into place.



Assembly of roof trusses continued despite the rain.

and bracing prior to our departure. As is customary in the DPRK, the North Korean team working with our construction team were professional staff, and for our visit they exchanged their professional clothes for working clothes. Among them were 3 doctors, a treatment section supervisor, an environmental staff person, an electrician, an x-ray technician, and an equipment custodian. They worked hard together with our team, quickly learning to use the hand and power tools needed to put the roofing structure and walls together. There were many moments of shared joy and camaraderie as the building began to take shape. We were grateful for answers to

prayer as none of the team members required more than a band-aid despite spending a lot of time on ladders and



Completed wall framing and roof trusses.

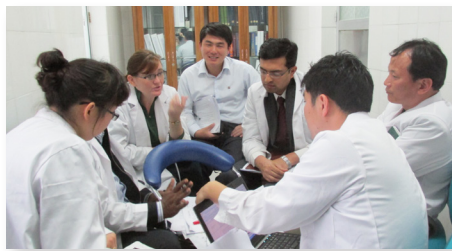
construction platforms, and working with sharp metal.

We are looking forward to returning in the Fall to complete the roof, partitions, installation of the

utilities, and interior finish work so the Training Center can be used for its intended purpose. The team was also able to complete some needed equipment repairs of the lab facilities, reorganize our storage containers, have discussions about future water well drilling activities, visit our logistics warehouse to plan for future incoming shipments, and assess other issues.

Training Continues Inside National TB Reference Laboratory

Meanwhile, progress in training continued in both TB and clinical diagnostics inside the lab. UNICEF/WHO, funded by Global Fund have been working with the Ministry of Public Health to develop a second regional lab (in Hamhung), so members of our joint CFK/Stanford team were called upon to provide technical advice and recommendations several times during the recent visit as these plans move forward. With a population of over 24 million people, North Korea eventually will need to have at least 4 regional labs – so these are



Dr. Kathleen England of Stanford University provides technical advice to officials planning for development of a second lab.



Dr. Marcia Kilsby of Andrews University working with clinical lab doctors.

positive steps towards building critical diagnostic and treatment capacity. Before long, the staff at the National TB Reference Lab will be called upon to train those who will staff these future labs.

CFK Volunteer Team Worship

Chilgol Church, where we usually worship when we are in country, was undergoing renovations, so a brief service was hastily arranged for our team the first Sunday we were there. The second Sunday we worshipped at the Bongsu Church, and met a large contingency from the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, a Canadian delegation (First Steps), and others. It is always encouraging to worship with North Korean believers as well as fellow colleagues. With the challenges of sickness, weather and other issues, the central text on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5: 2-12) fit well with our study of the book of Mark this time during our team devotions, and was a source of encouragement and needed perspective.

Contrast Between Pyongyang and the Countryside

During our visit, Pyongyang was bustling with activity – in many places, scores/hundreds of people were working on beautification projects – planting grass, planting trees, being bussed to the countryside to help the farmers plant rice. We went out for a long walk one Sunday afternoon and found the Potonggang Riverside crowded with grandfathers playing chess, couples having a picnic, children rollerblading in the new parks while parents or grandparents kept watch, families renting small rowboats for an afternoon on the river, and teenagers playing basketball on the new outdoor basketball courts. Despite the external tensions, people would nearly always return a smile or a wave.



Pyongyang beautification projects are evident all over the city.

Meanwhile, out in the countryside, there are far fewer visible changes. While we did not plan to travel widely on this trip, I did make a 12-hour round trip to the Sepho area south of Wonsan – a very large area of gently sloping land in Kangwon Province that the government has ambitious plans to redevelop into an animal production area to supply the whole country with milk and meat. There, locals and 'volunteers' from Pyongyang and elsewhere were laboring by hand in vast areas to remove the existing sod, reshape the land, and

replant it with grazing crops such as alfalfa. The day we visited, hundreds of people were gathered on a hillside to enjoy a visiting entertainment troupe that had come from Pyongyang to encourage the workers. Red banners on poles snapped in the breeze and the wind carried the music across the landscape. We had a brief meeting with one of the local supervisors, saw the fields that had been recently planted with the seed that we had sent, and delivered some point-of-use ceramic water filters. In areas such as this one, daily life is still very hard, and hasn't changed much over the years. We hope to supply some greenhouses to health care facilities in the Sepho region to help them grow more food, especially during the winter months.



Delivery of ceramic water filters to Sepho area south of Wonsan.

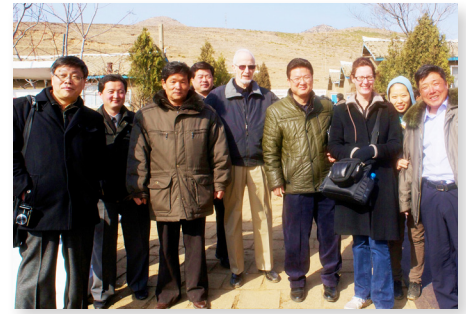
Returning to Pyongyang after a long day on very rough roads, the stark and ever-widening contrast between Pyongyang and the rest of the country, despite the real challenges still faced there by many citizens, was really noticeable. Its brighter lights, traffic, grand boulevards, landmarks and new buildings make it a beacon of relative prosperity when returning from many grindingly poor rural cities and villages.

July Marks 60 Years Since Armistice Signing

This summer – July 27th, will mark the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice agreement that brought the Korean War to a close. Who could have imagined then that hostilities would persist even until now - with people on both sides living under perpetual anxiety and fear? We seem even further removed than ever before from true reconciliation and peace. The contrast today between North and South could not be starker in countless ways. Sadly, we cannot unwind the clock and try again – but have we learned the lessons of history? Should not all sides reflect more deeply on the root causes of division and mistrust and look for new ways forward?

The political and security issues are real and complex. It is not our place to second guess the difficult choices that governments must make – however, in 18 years of work in the DPRK, we are seeing that it is possible for

genuine change and understanding to develop on many levels when a different model is followed. The equations of this world are coercive in nature - they seek power, authority, domination and control. Sadly, even among Christian churches, these patterns are often visible. But when we follow a different path – seeking shared objectives and loving people where they are with genuine respect and humility, we are finding that



CFK Volunteers on March 2013 confirming trip gather with the staff of a hospital in the North Hwanghae Province, where residents and staff express gratitude for provisions supplied through the help of CFK.

progress can be made that brings about not only real improvements in people's daily lives, but also changed hearts and changed perspectives that forge new paths to real hope. For too long, all sides have pointed accusing fingers at the other – without really listening or responding to genuine concerns. In order for true reconciliation to take place, all sides must genuinely reflect, must listen, and must be willing to change. This is never easy work – but we believe that as Christians we are called to take the lead in this because of the grace that Christ already has shown to us. We are called to engage our broken world in faith, trusting in God's guidance while recognizing that the Holy Spirit is at work to sustain and breathe real life into our feeble efforts. We know that He rejoices in making Himself known as we trust Him and seek to obey his commands to love and reflect through our lives the grace, truth and mercy of our Savior, Jesus Christ, in their fullest measures.

Looking ahead to the Fall, we are planning to bring a technical team back to DPRK to hopefully complete the Training Center and continue lab training activities, and then return a final time in the late Fall to confirm the arrival of various shipments including more greenhouses that we plan to send over the summer, and to check on several new water wells that are being drilled soon. We also hope to finish our Shipping Center in North Carolina over this summer. None of this would be possible without your prayers, encouragement and generous support.

We don't know what the future holds, and to be sure, North Korea and the region is undergoing many rapid and significant changes. But we ask and hope that you will faithfully join with us to pray, love, and engage the North Korean people for the sake of Christ, who alone brings true reconciliation and peace.

Charitable Deductions Survive US "Fiscal Cliff" Negotiations

Late on the first day of 2013, the Senate and House of Representatives joined together in passing the American Taxpayer Relief Act to avoid what had become known as the "fiscal cliff." For the most part, charitable giving incentives were not directly impacted by the legislation. The bill also extended the IRA charitable "rollover" provision through December 31, 2013, allowing taxpayers who are age 70.5 or older to give up to \$100,000 from their IRAs and Roth IRAs to qualifying charities without having to pay income tax on the withdrawn amount. (Adapted with permission from ECFA Focus on Nonprofit Accountability, First Quarter 2013, page 7.) If you would like more information on giving to CFK through an IRA contribution, please contact your plan administrator or CFK for more information.

AGI Raising Funds on Behalf of CFK

After a year's hiatus, we will again be featured in the Alternative Gifts International (AGI) Catalog for 2013-2014 (see www.alternativegifts.org). The Project featured this time will be mats for patients' rooms. AGI will be raising funds on our behalf from July 2013 - June 2014 through their alternative gift markets for the purpose of sending high-density foam mats and a warm blanket to cushion, insulate and provide warmth for patients who sleep on the floor. The funds will be available to us July 2014. Previous grants from AGI have helped to fund doctor's kits, bicycles, TB medicine,

blankets, hospital beds, greenhouses and other goods. We are deeply grateful for AGI's compassion and care for the people of North Korea and for their strong and enduring partnership with us in these efforts.

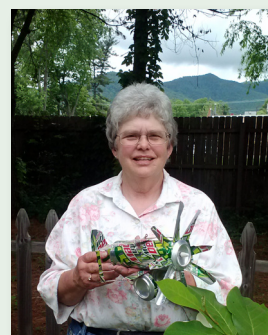


AGI will be raising funds to assist CFK in providing mats for more rooms like this one located in a rest home in Kumchon.

CFK Featured Volunteer

CFK would like to thank **Mrs. Nancy Boyce** for her generous contributions to our organization. Nancy is a retired math teacher, who taught in South Korea from 1977 to 1980. She has lived in Black Mountain for the past three years taking care of her father, and actively serving her community.

Nancy shows her support for CFK in many different ways. By selling her soda can mobiles to raise money for doctor's kits, collecting empty buckets from local restaurants and bakeries to be used for our water filter project, sharing plants from her garden to beautify the CFK office, collecting medical and warehouse supplies, or providing beautiful knitted goods made by herself and her church group, "Sew-in-love Quilters", Nancy teaches us all what service in the name of Christ really looks like.



Mrs. Nancy Boyce with one of her handcrafted soda-can airplanes.



Water buckets donated to help provide clean water to TB patients

Thank you Nancy for all that you do!

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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