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THE FOURTH RIVER PROJECT REPORT--April, 2004

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Preparing for the opening of North Korea

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Dear Friends,

God is good!

Thank you all for supporting my March trip to Korea with your prayers! He continues to go before me and clearly to guide this whole endeavor.

On my way to Korea, I stopped off in Tokyo and met with Professor Lee, Dae Sung, Deputy Director of the Institute for Contemporary Korean Studies at Waseda University. He was very interested in our vision for North Korea and confirmed its importance. I look forward to working with him and, through him, developing contacts in Japan. My cousin, Arlo Johnson, who lives in Tokyo provided a place to stay and took me around for which I am most grateful!

The time in Korea was the busiest yet. In addition to a number of meetings with various individuals, we also prepared for our first trustees meeting since the original trustees for the Three Seas Center met with my father several years ago. In addition to those who were involved then, we have added a number of people who have a lot to contribute to our work. Our meeting on Saturday, March 20th was more successful than we had hoped. My mother, Jane Torrey, as the Chair of the Jesus Abbey trustees (under whose authority we are operating) opened the meeting with prayer and appreciation to all for participating. By the end of the meeting, we had a finance committee who are shouldering the great task of raising the funds we need to carry us through the purchase of the land this fall--a total of about \$800,000 to cover land purchase, final payments on all the engineering and architectural work and operating expenses. We also had a committee beginning preparations for a series of lectures on North Korea, the first of which we plan to put on at Jesus Abbey in July. Others will follow at various sites around the country. This is to actually begin the work of preparing Christians for the opening of North Korea by imparting important knowledge concerning the land, its people, culture, history and government. Please keep both of these efforts in your prayers.

Our trustees currently are the following (in alphabetical order). We expect to be adding a few more individuals over the months ahead.

- Byun, Yong, Partner, Wondoshi Architects Group
- Cho, Yong Kwan, Ph.D, Research Fellow, Korea National Police University, specializing in North Korea
- Chun, Gang Soo, Ph.D, Professor of Economics, Daegu Catholic University
- Chung, Mongkook, Chairman, Modern Technology Industries, Ltd.
- Kim, Chun Ok, CPA
- Kim, Sung Young, Ph.D, President, Sungkyul University
- Kim, Young Gil, Ph.D, President, Handong Global University
- Kwon, Hyuk Jung (Titus Kwon), formerly Chairman, Hanwha Corp (retired).
- Rev. Oh, Jung Hyun, Pastor of Sarang Community Church
- Oh, Sung Yon, formerly Principal, Handong Global Academy
- Yoo, Jae Gun (David Yoo), President, Dileka International

I want to express my deep appreciation to Mr. Byun, Yong for providing the facilities of his firm for our trustees meeting.

Mr. Choi, Young-woo, President of Doum & Nanum, gave a presentation on development and fund raising. He and his firm will be working with us going forward for which we are also very

grateful.

In addition to the trustees, we have added a volunteer staff member who is able to provide her services for the coming months, Miss Sunny Kim. She has a degree in public health and an invitation to teach at a university in South Africa. We are grateful that she will be helping us until she goes there.

One thing that became abundantly clear during this trip is the amount of time that I need to spend in Korea as we continue to move forward! I will be spending two to three weeks in Korea about every other month for the rest of this year. Please keep me in your prayers for this and especially for my wife, Liz, and daughter, Joanna. They have to take up the slack when I am not home. Praise the Lord! He has called both Liz and me to this work and we share the vision. If this were not so, I could never do it. As it is, her support is vital.

Back in the U.S.

In response to my call for help in the February newsletter, a number of you offered to help with translation work and coordinating intercessory prayer. Thank you, very much! I will be making good use of everyone as we continue forward. I want to thank two people in particular who are working together to produce a Fourth River Prayer Calendar every month. They are Gabrielle Lee and Ted Rohe. Their first effort will follow in a separate email. I am excited about this and look forward to sending it out to all of you each month. Please print it out and use it to guide your prayers. It is in Adobe .pdf format. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat reader, you can download it from this site: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Central Connecticut Prayer Rally for North Korea

Plans for our April 17th prayer rally are going along smoothly thanks to a number of people who are helping with this.

It is from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at Trinity Covenant Church, 302 Hackmatack St., Manchester, CT. We are excited to have Prof. Kim, Hyun Sik speak at the rally. Professor Kim is currently a visiting professor at Yale University where he lectures on North Korea. He and his wife are refugees from the North. I am deeply grateful for the participation and support of both lay people and clergy from a number of churches in this area--Korean and non-Korean. We anticipate a few hundred in attendance and from this, the launching of North Korea prayer groups and prayer times. The theme is taken from Isaiah 62: 6-7, "Give Him no rest!" If you are anywhere nearby on that day, please come! I hope to follow this rally up with others in southern Connecticut, Massachusetts and elsewhere as we expand the North Korea prayer network--the strong vision of Pastor David of NK Missions (www.nkmissions.com).

Trip to Southern California

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, I am going to be in Los Angeles from April 22 to 28 to attend the "No Limits" conference.

OMF International and NK Missions are collaborating to present "No Limits" New Frontiers in East Asia in Fullerton, CA. This conference begins with a prayer rally for North Korea on Friday the 23rd from 7:30 to 9:30 in the evening. On Saturday, Dr. David Harley, OMF General Director will speak. There will be a number of workshops on missions in North Korea and elsewhere. For more information and registration information, go to <http://www.us.omf.org/southwest>.

Following the conference on Sunday, I have speaking engagements at the Onnuri Church and Journey Fellowship. On Monday, I will be participating in a meeting of church, university and mission leaders to exploring strategic ways of collaborating for ministry in and for North Korea. My hope and prayer is that this will be only the beginning of a new level of cooperation among the many organizations that God has called as instruments of His love for North Korea. At the present there are humanitarian, human rights, educational and evangelistic organizations all focusing on North Korea. Unfortunately, we are not all collaborating as we could be to strengthen

and support one another. God has called us to do different aspects of the great work that He has in mind. All too often, I feel, we get so focused on the piece of the picture that has been given to us that we look on our brothers and sisters who have a different piece as competitors or, worse, pursuing the wrong strategy. Pray for unity, not only in the Church of Jesus Christ, but also among all who labor out of love for North Korea and its suffering people. The Lord is bigger than all of us together. All our works fit together in His great plan.

Prayers Needed!

Join us in prayer! Please lift up the various events mentioned here as well as my next trip to Korea which is in May. Thank the Lord for all that He has done and will do! Keep the Fourth River Project and the Three Seas Training Center in your prayers as well.

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!

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Be sure to check the web site from time to time for new postings to the library and other information. We are working on a major update to the site.

Thank you, all, for your ongoing prayers and support for the Fourth River Project and the preparation for the opening of North Korea. Do keep praying.

Yours, in Him,
Ben Torrey