

=====

THE FOURTH RIVER PROJECT REPORT—June, 2004

www.thefourthriver.org

Preparing for the opening of North Korea

=====

Dear Friends,

His mercies are new every morning!

As I write this, I have just had a major change of plans but I know that God will use it to His glory and that the Enemy will NOT have his way. We are truly engaged in a spiritual battle but I am confident of God's victory and His mercies to us daily! For the sake of confidentiality I cannot go into detail but an important appointment was just cancelled because of unavoidable circumstances that could be seen as an attempt to derail our plans. But it will NOT! God is good and He is victorious, so rejoice with me in ALL his provisions.

I am in Seoul at the moment, to return to the US in a couple of days. By the time you read this, I will be back in Connecticut and getting ready to attend our second son's wedding! Our son, Thomas, is getting married in Charlotte, NC on June 27th to a wonderful young lady named Amanda Brinkley whom he met when he was attending the Morning Star School of Ministry there. Shortly after that, I will be coming back to Korea for another three weeks in July. All of you who received the May prayer calendar also know the wonderful news that Liz and I are proud grandparents of Reuben Peter Torrey, born to Reuben Edward and Rosaleen Torrey on April 22. God is truly good and we rejoice in the family that He is extending to and for us!

Not against flesh and blood...

When I arrived in Korea on May 18th, I was not really sure what this trip would be about, only that it was important. Our efforts to gain support to underwrite our immediate startup needs (to pay for permit-process work, some operating expenses and then to purchase the land for the center before the end of the year) seemed stalled and I wasn't sure how the Lord wanted me to proceed. During the first week, I started to get quite discouraged. At a particularly dark moment, I realized that we are in the midst of a major spiritual battle. Our work is a direct assault on one of the Enemy's greatest strongholds. Paul's words in Ephesians six came home to me:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Eph. 6:12)

With that sense, I recruited a few trusted intercessors to join me in prayer and began to take authority over the discord and confusion that the Enemy seeks to sow—his weapons of mass destruction. As many were praying I felt a breakthrough! Since then, I have rejoiced in renewed confidence and joy. We are engaged in a major endeavor that Satan does not want to see go forward! As confident and as joyful as I am, I must not lose sight of this. I urge all of you to take up the weapons of our warfare and pray against all that the Enemy would do to confound us.

New Contacts

Over the past couple of weeks, I have had a number of excellent meetings with new friends and supporters. Just after arriving in Korea, we went down to Pushing for meetings with several people there, including the dean and faculty of the School of International Law who were all very enthusiastic in their desire to cooperate closely with the Fourth River Project. We have a North Korea school scheduled for July 26-28 (more below) but that is the week when their special summer program students will be in Kirghizstan. They asked if there was any way that we could provide them some insights while they are in Seoul the week before. Accordingly, we are arranging two lectures for them and I will share my vision to prepare for the opening of North Korea. Dr. Sang-Ki Lee, who pioneered the school, retired the day I was there, but that didn't slow him down one bit. He started firing emails to a number of friends setting up meetings for me. One of these was at an English language Bible study in Seoul for lawyers. The person who invited me is a senior prosecutor for the Ministry of Justice, heavily involved in efforts to weed out

corruption in government and business.

Through a contact made earlier with a young man spending a couple of months studying in Korea, I was introduced to the Catacombs prayer group led by Tim Peters who is heavily involved in humanitarian aid to North Korea. I had a wonderful time and made a number of new friends there as well.

Preparing the way...

Go through, go through the gates, Prepare the way for the people; Build up, build up the highway, Remove the stones, lift up a standard over the peoples. (Isaiah 62:10)

To give a brief recap, especially for new readers, in the fall of 2002, the Lord started to lay on my heart a heavy burden for North Korea. At the time, I was very cautious, not wanting to say that the strange things happening to me were from the Lord, but now I am confident that they were. With this strong burden—more like a fire burning in my soul than a weight—came the absolute knowledge that North Korea would open wide to the Gospel in the foreseeable future and that we **are not ready!** If it were to happen now, thousands of people would rush north, Bibles in hand, to preach the Gospel and could well end up doing more harm than good out of ignorance of the culture and situation in NK. Blinded by the assumption that we are one people, one nation, one culture and one language, South Koreans would find themselves in an alien land among an alien people (even though, in many cases, blood relatives) and be at a loss as to how to communicate the great hope that is within them. There is much more to my concern about all this (for more info see the Fourth River Documents in the Library section of www.thefourthriver.org), but one major response is education.

As I began to share my vision with others, I found many with a similar sense and that God is stirring up many people in North America and Korean, ethnic Koreans and Westerners alike, with compassion for NK and its people and to pray. I soon found Isaiah chapter 62 and became convinced that this passage, especially verses 1-10 is given once again for Jerusalem, but this time for the “Jerusalem of the East”, Pyongyang. In 1907 a great revival broke out there and evangelists traveled all throughout Korea and into China carrying the news and starting churches; hence Pyongyang's new name. We look forward to the restoration of Jerusalem and a new outpouring of God's Spirit leading to remarkable and wonderful results. Among the promises of Chapter 62 are two commands: to pray (vs. 6-7) and to prepare the way in verse 10, to clear away the stones of misunderstanding, ignorance and arrogance.

We are very excited to announce the first tangible step in this process with the first North Korea school sponsored by the Fourth River Project.

Located at Jesus Abbey, the school will run from Monday, July 26 through lunch on Wednesday, the 28th. After the morning session on Wednesday, we will all go to the Jesus Abbey Watershed Grange (farm) for prayers, music and a picnic lunch at the location where we will build the Three Seas Training Center. It is a lovely place that includes the three-way watershed point for all of South Korea (the three rivers flowing to the three seas around the country) and where we will start the Fourth River, the River of Life flowing to North Korea.

I am very excited about the program we have lined up and urge anyone who is in Korea at that time to attend. While the lectures are in Korean, I believe some English speakers are planning on coming and will bring a simultaneous translation setup with them. We only have space for seventy and expect that to go quickly so register early! I am sending all the information in an accompanying document. Be sure to check it out. Information will also be posted at www.thefourthriver.org (English) and www.jabbey.org (Korean).

We also rejoice in a very generous gift of about \$8,000 to underwrite the costs of this school as well as sponsorship from Sungkyul University and Handong Global University. Thank the Lord for His blessings and for the warm support of those whom He is calling to share in this work!

The Summer Ahead

You already have a taste of what is happening over the coming months. In addition to the NK school the end of July, I will be involved in a number of other key meetings during the month and hope to share my vision with some churches in Korea. In August, I will be sharing with a group of young Korean-Americans in Massachusetts and participating once again in the annual JAMA conference in Anaheim, CA where 4,000 are expected, www.newawakening2004.com. OMF (www.us.omf.org), NK Missions (www.nkmissions.com) and the Fourth River Project will be collaborating to present several workshops on North Korea.

After that, I return to Korea the last day of August to attend the second annual memorial concert by the Seoul Motet Choir in honor of my father on September 1 and 2 in Seoul and Taebaek. This will be a special opportunity for us to present to a large receptive audience our vision and show how it is the direct result of my father's vision and work. Perhaps the last thing that my father hoped to do—an emphasis of his after turning eighty—was to work for the reunification of North and South Korea. It looks like the vision that I have received from the Lord, may well have been my father's for this work passed on to me at his death. He certainly had a strong vision for the Three Seas Center to be a place to prepare missionaries to go out and proclaim the Gospel in its most complete application.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued prayers and the many gifts that we have received. Each one is a great blessing. Do keep this work in your prayers.

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!

www.thefourthriver.org

Be sure to check the web site from time to time for new postings to the library and other information.

Yours, in Him,
Ben Torrey