

## Profile

### *The Work – The Fourth River Project*

#### **The Need**

As North Korea allows Christians increasingly to work in the country and in anticipation of a major opening in the near future, it is imperative that those who go are prepared with a deep understanding of the culture, society, psychology, history and even language of North Korea. Without such understanding, attempts to share the love of Jesus Christ and work to rebuild North Korea are quite likely to do more harm than good.

#### **Mission**

The mission of The Fourth River Project is to prepare for the opening of North Korea to the Gospel by equipping servant workers in all walks of life for the rebuilding of North Korea on the foundation of Jesus Christ. To this end, we encourage research into North Korea and seek to share the results of research and experience through knowledge exchange, education and training.

#### **Vision**

The vision of The Fourth River Project is that there be teams of men and women from all walks of life prepared to enter North Korea, express the love of Christ, seek reconciliation, proclaim the whole Gospel, build the Church of Jesus Christ and, with a deep understanding of the value of Biblical principles, assist in rebuilding North Korean society.

#### **The Ultimate Objectives**

Our ultimate objectives are that there be

- A self-replicating North Korean church movement with sound theology and ecclesiology
- A new nation that is built on Christian principles
- A new society with a culture based on and expressing a Christian world view
- A North Korean people carrying the Gospel onward to the most dangerous parts of the world

### *The Place--The Three Seas Center, Taebaek, Kangwon Do, Korea*

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Three Seas Center is to provide a place, strategically located, to equip members of the Body of Christ for service to God in South Korea, North Korea and the ends of the earth through study, training, labor, prayer and a common life.

#### **Location**

The location of the Three Seas Center is both symbolic and strategic:

##### *Symbolic*

- At the apex of the three-way watershed, where the three major river systems of South Korea have their sources, it is the “source” as Christ is our source from which wells up the River of Life.
- It is on the Paektu Trail running the length of the Korean peninsula, symbolizing both the River of Life flowing to North Korea and the call to God’s people to go north with the Gospel. This is the Fourth River.

##### *Strategic*

- Near Jesus Abbey. Why is this important?
  - Jesus Abbey is a community dedicated to:
    - Intercessory prayer – vitally important for the success of all endeavors.
    - Communal life – sharing with one another, submitting to one another in the power of the Holy Spirit; demonstrates a theoretical value of Communism yet without oppression and in love; successful. This is important for engaging those with Communist worldview.

- The value of labor – another theoretical ideal of Communism demonstrated as being a Biblical and Christian value. This is also important for engaging those with Communist worldview
- The community will provide staff and program components.
- Jesus Abbey leases from the Ministry of Forests the land on which the Three Seas Center is being built.
- Removed from urban centers and so providing opportunity to separate from the noise and pressure of the City, jobs, etc. and come away to pray, think, study with others.
- Mountain vistas and a natural environment to stretch a person’s vision and excite him or her about the possibilities.

The Three Seas Center will be a residential community, conference and training center. In addition to permanent residents who will provide staff for the center and the Fourth River Project, there will be temporary residents participating in research and program development as well as training and equipping. It will also be a place for larger numbers of people to gather and participate in conferences and shorter training sessions.

***The Director – Ben Torrey***

Ben Torrey grew up in Korea where he joined with his parents, Jane and Archer Torrey, in pioneering Jesus Abbey, a community of prayer, high in the Taebaek Mountains in Kangwon Do. Participating in the original construction work at Jesus Abbey, he also designed and worked on some of the original buildings at the Three Seas location.

He is a priest of the Evangelical Apostolic Church of North America (Syro-Chaldean) , [www.eacna.org](http://www.eacna.org)

1975	Graduated from Sarah Lawrence College
1979-2001	Systems design and development, knowledge management
2002-2003	Administrator, The King’s School, Bolton, CT
2003	Appointed director of the Three Seas Center, launched the Fourth River Project

Ben and his wife Liz are members of Jesus Abbey and live at the Three Seas Center. They also maintain an office and residence in the US.

**Contact Information**

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