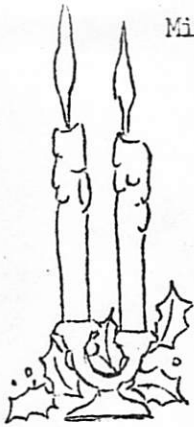


Chonju, North Chulla Province
Korea, Asia
October 12, 1948



Dear Friends:

The purpose of this letter may be expressed by three English words which the U.S. Army has left on the tongues of many Koreans: "Hello!" "O.K.!" "Goodbye!" After months of having people ask when we were going to Korea, it is good to report that we are here; we are well, and we are well-cared for.

An Army transport ship (able to sail in spite of the dock strike) brought us from San Francisco to Inchon, Korea, where we were met by my parents, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Hopper of Mokpo. How good it was to see them waiting at the landing. It was their first glimpse of little Alice who also enjoys the distinction of being the first child back on our Mission since the war. After two days in Seoul, we came by train to Chonju. We rode in the military coach (U.S. Army) with all our trunks and suitcases piled in the aisle of the same coach. At Chon-ju, we were welcomed by Dr. and Miss Winn, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Crane and Miss Pritchard. Although we new missionaries may feel utterly helpless when it comes to contributing to the work, it means more than can be put into words as the older missionaries see new forces coming from the homeland.

Temporarily, we are comfortably located in the Linton home with Miss Pritchard. The Lintons are expected in a few weeks from America where they have been in order for Mr. Linton to undergo an operation. As yet our home has not been repaired, but when labor and materials are secured, we hope to move in shortly.

It has been good to get back to the familiar faces and scenes of Korea. While there are some significant changes (for instance the total absence of any Japanese, and the new spirit of independence which permeates every area of Korean life today), Korea and the Koreans are much the same as they ever were. The churches which I have visited here in the city are moving along with every evidence of active and growing life. Poverty, disease and shortages are felt everywhere, but the Koreans seem as well or better fed and clothed than before the war.

In closing, may we correct one false and misleading impression many of our American friends have expressed and create a new one. It is now possible for a missionary family WITH CHILDREN to come to Korea. I say this by way of encouraging other young workers to volunteer for missionary service. The missionaries now on the field have been doing a valiant job of reconstruction and evangelization. But they are doing so in the face of failing health, and for most, of approaching old age. Two new missionaries arrived last year; six this year; five (I think) plan to come next year, but many more are needed right now. The Koreans want you to come; the missionaries need your help; God is calling for you. Times out here are exceedingly trying - often difficult; it is not going to be easy, but the challenge is here, and we long for our young friends and former classmates to join us in this great work.

Please remember us in your prayers. Best wishes to you all.

Joe, Dot, and Alice Hopper

Rec'd at Nashville, Tenn., November 1948

Address: Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper, Chon-ju, North Chulla Province, Korea, Asia

Postage: Letters 5¢, post cards 3¢ (regular mail)

Air mail: Letters 25¢ per each one-half ounce - The air mail folders at P.O. 10¢

(Air mail folders may be purchased at
the Post Office for 10¢)

Chon-ju, North Chulla Province
Korea, Asia
May 19, 1949

Dear Friends:

Waiting five months to tell you of our son, Barron, in no way means we are ashamed of him. Certainly not here in Korea, where merely having a son gives prestige! He was born two days before Christmas and weighed eight and one-half pounds. He has grey eyes and a suggestion of hair, and is now crawling. Dr. Paul Crane and Misses Pritchard and Talmage gave us excellent medical attention in the only hospital our Mission has re-opened since the war.

Joe and I feel we are just getting a foothold in the work out here. Joe still puts in the bulk of his time at language study. If you think it is easy to preach and get across abstract ideas in Korean, just come out and try it. He has one sermon he can preach in Korean and a number of different prayers, if they suit the occasion. He is getting rather famed as a soloist at country churches round-about, a fact he realizes would cause Seminary classmates no little amusement. Presbytery assigned Joe a large country field of approximately thirty-five churches to visit, and in which to organize new Christian work. He certainly enjoyed his four-day itinerary, with headquarters in a village where no missionary had been before. Nearly every Sunday he makes all-day trips out into his field. The past couple of days he has attended student rallies, as Presbytery put him into an advisory capacity to the student work of Chonju. Joe has had to put in all too much time getting freight through customs, on and off freight cars, etc., but that seems to be a part of a missionary's life nowadays. He also supervised the repair work on our home. We've been living here since November, but work on it has just recently been completed.

Since Barron was a month old, I have been putting in two hours each morning with Pak Son-seng, who comes to tutor me in Korean. She was recently elected President of the Presbyterial here. One afternoon a week she takes me visiting in the Korean homes, which I thoroughly enjoy except for the getting in and out of my shoes - you see in Korea it is rude to wear your shoes into a Korean home. Yesterday, a fine old Korean elder and a deacon's wife went with us visiting. We chat, sing, and perhaps read some Scripture and we always pray together. Thus far, we have only been in Christian homes, but I hope to be able soon to do personal work with non-Christians.

A couple of weeks ago our whole family finally got to make a visit to Joe's home in Mokpo. Needless to say, it was a joy to be with the grandparents and see the work being done on another of our Mission stations.

If you were expecting a personal letter from us and didn't receive it, it was probably lost in the mails. We understand that a lot of mail sent from Korea soon after Christmas was lost.

Our daughter, Alice, is picking up Korean like a native and constantly amuses us with her new words.

Although one doesn't know what a day or a month will bring, we feel definitely encouraged about the over-all situation in Korea. Yet there is an unusual sense of urgency about the work and the need for more missionaries. Pray that Christ's Kingdom may come and His will be done in Korea.

Love,

Dorothy L. Hopper

Rec'd at Nashville, Tennessee, June 11, 1949

Address: Mrs. Joe B. Hopper, Chon-ju, North Chulla Province, Korea, Asia

Postage: Letters 5¢, post cards 3¢ - Air mail 25¢ per each one-half ounce

Chunju, North Chulla Province
Korea, Asia
November 7, 1949

Dear Friends:

Since writing you a year ago, too much has happened to describe in detail. For those of you we know personally, let me say that all four of us are healthy and happy. In spite of dire predictions from some quarters, the communists haven't shot us yet, and our work is advancing at an amazing pace.

"Getting acquainted" is the best phrase to characterize my activities during this year. Getting better acquainted with the Korean language has been tedious and time-consuming. Getting acquainted with the problems and duties and opportunities of a missionary was more a matter of absorbing the atmosphere in which we life and work than any overt activity. Getting acquainted with the "field" assigned me last spring has been the most enjoyable of all, and I am glad to say has already resulted in the ingathering of some of the abundant harvest here in Korea.

Since country evangelistic work is my calling and my assignment, I am spending more and more time visiting outlying churches, and in the future that will be my entire work. Early in the spring, I began this work by accompanying Dr. Winn or Mr. Linton as they went to country churches on Sunday. After observing their methods (and preparing a simple sermon in Korean) I began going out on my own, sometimes staying several days, sleeping in Korean houses. During the past year, I have visited some 50 or more churches. I have visited about 35 of the 75 existing churches in the area assigned to me for work.

My special emphasis has been upon laying plans for starting churches in unevangelized areas. The preparation of a detailed map has helped to spot neglected areas. In one territory, we have started two churches in un-churched "sub-counties," and plans are ready for starting three others within the next few weeks. In another territory, two new churches have been started with the aid of Pioneer Evangelism funds. I cannot claim credit for starting these churches - consecrated Christians who find themselves living in a town without a church do the starting. But it is a privilege to do my bit to aid such projects. The total population in the area where Miss Greene and I are the only missionary evangelists is over 700,000, averaging over 800 to the square mile in spite of many mountains. As yet less than 1 per cent (in one large territory less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent) is Christian.

Some brief glimpses: At Tu-am and Chul-ung-ni (where I am moderator) we baptized 7, and received 38 as catechumens (one of the latter was 84 years old); both these churches were started this spring. At Teh-chung-ni, a "sub-county" where 25,000 people live in a farming area of some 15 square miles (no church), we met outdoors one evening in October; after the song leader from a nearby church taught the children "Jesus Loves Me" and "When He Cometh" we held a brief service with the 80 or more villagers; here we must get a church started at once. Last Saturday night we met in a large country school with nearly 300 in attendance most of them non-Christians; altho there is no church here the leaders of the village and seven of the school teachers are Christians; with nearly 1,000 children in that school we cannot overlook the opportunity.

Please pray for us in the work here; it is more than we can do without help from Above. And send us eight young preachers right away - that would be the finest Christmas present imaginable. Since the war - rather since the early 1930's - we have received only four new male evangelists here. And Merry Christmas to all from the four Hoppers!

Joe B. Hopper

Received at Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 14, 1949

Address: Rev. Joe B. Hopper, Chunju, North Chulla Province, Korea, Asia

Postage: Letters 5¢ (regular mail) Air mail 25¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz - Air folders 10¢

1108 E. Screven Street
Quitman, Georgia
September 3, 1951

Dear Friends:

I have put off writing this letter for many weeks as I thought each day's mail would bring word that my permits for returning to Korea had been issued from Washington. After this long delay, my passport and permits have finally arrived. This means that I will sail from San Francisco on September 30, on the SS "Philippine Transport" for Yokohama, Japan, and thence by boat or plane to Korea.

After finishing my studies at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond last spring, our family enjoyed brief visits at Callaway, Virginia, Montreat and Gastonia, North Carolina, Rock Hill and Eastover, South Carolina, before arriving here in Quitman, Georgia, where Dot's father, Rev. J. H. Longenecker, is pastor of the Presbyterian Church. We have a small apartment here where Dot and the children will stay while I go on to Korea. Aside from the warm weather, we have had a most delightful summer here. Our three children, Alice, Barron, and David, have not been sick at all and show every sign of normal and healthy growth for which we are most thankful. Little David is almost a year old, but he has been walking for several months and is now beginning to say a few words.

With the international situation so uncertain, we cannot make very definite plans for the future, but only commit them to Him who causes all things to work together for good to them who love Him. I plan to return to Chunju and hope to be of service in continuing the work of pioneer evangelism there, and in taking advantage of the unprecedented opportunities for preaching the Gospel among the thousands of refugees flooding our area of southwest Korea. In all our stations, the Mission personnel will be so small that there is little likelihood of being able to do a tenth of what needs to be done.

We hope that in some way peace will again return to troubled Korea, and that Dot and the children will soon be able to join me there. Until that time her address will be:

Mrs. Joe B. Hopper, 1108 E. Screven Street,
Quitman, Georgia

My address from September 27 to 30, will be:
Rev. Joe B. Hopper, Home of Peace,
4700 Daisy Street, Oakland 19, California

In Korea, my mailing address will be:
Rev. Joe B. Hopper, Care U.N.C.A.C.K.,
Chulla Pukdo Team, 820-1st Army Unit
APO #59, Care Postmaster, San Francisco, California

I suggest that you do not mail anything to this Korea address until after October 15, as I will not reach Korea until late in October.

We ask your prayers for us and for Korea in these troubled days.

With all best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Joe B. Hopper

Received at Nashville, Tennessee, September 5, 1951

Address: Rev. Joe B. Hopper

UNCAK, Chulla Pukdo Team

8201st Army Unit, APO 59, P.M.

San Francisco, Calif.) Postage: 6¢

Chunju, Korea (See address)

December 16, 1951

Dear Friends:

A quiet Sunday in Pusan, as I await the arrival of the ship bringing my father from America, is providing me an opportunity to write this long-delayed letter. It is difficult to realize that I landed here only eight weeks ago, and that so much activity has been crowded into so little time. Since our arrival on October 22, there has been scarcely a moment to call my own, so the tardy arrival of father's ship is giving me a much needed rest for a few days.

It was wonderful to get back to Chunju and greet old friends and take up my share of the work again. Except for a few burned out villages and sections of cities destroyed, there is little visible effect of the war as one travels from Pusan into the interior where our station is located. But the real impact of the misery occasioned by war began to dawn upon me as I saw the wretched condition of the refugee camps (700 people in one room!) and listened to the tales of suffering and tragedy related by the never-ending stream of visitors. It is heart-rending to realize that several of these visitors are now widows because their husbands had been working with American missionaries, of whom I was one. This suffering is prolonged by the terrorism of thousands of communist guerrillas operating in the mountainous sections of our province.

In regions where the churches are unmolested, congregations are bigger than ever and new churches continue to spring up. But in the mountain sections so many church members are being forced to flee, and the consequences of church attendance are so perilous for the new believers, that pastors and lay evangelists are suffering not only personal danger, but lack of support. In one place churches in out-lying sections have been forced to close but faithful Christians tramp ten miles to the county-seat, dressed and burdened as though going to market in order to disguise their real purpose. In recent months communist raiding in our area has destroyed several church buildings. Pray that current anti-guerrilla campaigns may be successful so that churches may be rebuilt and congregations reorganized in these needy areas!

My work falls mainly into three categories. One is assisting in the administration and a little teaching in the Boys' School and Bible School. Neither type of work is my profession, but I am trying to do what necessary missionary supervision is required until more missionaries arrive to help. The second category of work is that of handling relief and visiting the churches started under our Pioneer Evangelism program. This requires many long-winded palavers (a word learned from my Congo relatives) and trips into the country districts. Unfortunately the regions where both relief and pioneer evangelism are most urgently needed are too dangerous or too inaccessible for us to work right now. The third type of work is trying to help the numerous callers who come with an infinite variety of problems. I hope and pray for the time when missionary personnel will permit my full-time devotion to country and pioneer evangelism.

I am living with Dr. Ovid Bush since our own house is being used by U.N. personnel. While practically all the contents of these homes were looted during the three-month period of Communist control in the summer of 1950, the buildings themselves are in fairly good shape for which we are thankful. So far as living arrangements are concerned I do not hesitate to say that we are probably more comfortably situated than any missionaries in Korea at the present time. We are well supplied with food and fuel. Our main recreation is the Saturday afternoon hunt (for pheasant, duck and geese) and we have one or more game dinners a week (due to Ovid's marksmanship - not mine).

Dot and the children (Alice five, Barron, three, and David, one) are getting along nicely at Quitman, Georgia. They are living in a small apartment near Dot's parents. Such temporary separation is by no means easy, but the fact that both of us are so busy helps a lot. We trust conditions here in Korea will permit the return of families next summer. Surely the stalemate in this war cannot last forever! This will reach you too late, but here's wishing you a Merry Christmas anyway!

Rec'd at Nashville, Tenn., 26th) Sincerely yours,

Joe B. Hopper

Box 252
Montreat, North Carolina
June 10, 1952

Dear Friends:

For the summer the children and I are happy to be here in Montreat, near Joe's mother, but this fall we shall return to Quitman, Georgia. If any of you are at Montreat for conferences, try to look us up. We are in the tiny Gammon cottage off Louisiana Terrace.

The Board of World Missions recently decided to pay the way of families of Korea missionaries to Japan on request. However, Joe and I think it wise for me (with Alice 5, Barron 3, and David 1 1/2 years) to "stay put" until he comes for a brief furlough in March 1953.

God is blessing Joe's work in Korea, and we are so glad he can serve there at this time of marvelous opportunity. How we wish and pray that the Home Church and its consecrated young people could just wake up to the fact that with an original 4,000,000 people (not counting war-time influx) in North and South Chulla Provinces for which we Presbyterians, U.S. are responsible, only ten missionaries are at work. Where is the evangelistic zeal for those our Master loves?

Joe's June 1 letter told of how during the recent Mission meeting, "We had a most interesting time on Friday afternoon when Dr. Cumming arranged for us to visit the POW camp outside Kwangju. The entire Mission went out in three jeeps and spent the afternoon. This camp has about 11,000 North Korean prisoners who have refused to be repatriated to North Korea...At the first place an estimated 1,200 men (conservative estimate) gathered. Dr. Cumming presided and introduced all the missionaries. Most of the men had Bibles or Testaments and hymn books and took part in the service readily. There are many church officers among them, including elders...At this first service, both Mr. Boyer and John Talmage preached; at the second service Father and I preached. The second group was larger at least 2,000 being present...The training these POW'S are receiving will mean that when they are released, hundreds of trained Christian leaders will be turned loose on Korean society."

Joe's Father wrote of how on June 1, his sixtieth birthday, he had the privilege of hearing Joe preach to the Yang-nim Church in Kwangju (the town where Joe was born). After the sermon on Acts 2, quietly Korean elders and deacons took the names of ten new persons desiring to become Christians.

We trust that now with summer crops and barley coming in, the Koreans are having it easier, but recently Joe wrote of his relief man returning from Ko-chang and Choong-oo with the names of 2,000 persons really needing food. He said that conditions were so pitiful the people were literally eating grass. Food was scarce due to guerrilla raids, season of the year and outrageous inflation. In that instance, all Joe could send was a ton of rice to be given to widows and orphans.

Joe has been examined and officially passed his third year language tests so that now, as he writes "my assignment no longer has to read 'language study' when I do everything but that." Please pray earnestly with us that more missionaries, particularly evangelistic ones, may be raised up for Korea. Could you go? Do you know someone who could?

A fellow-worker in Christ's service,

Habakkuk 1:2-4 and 3:18

Rec'd at Nashville, Tennessee, June 1952

Bartholomew Hopper
(Mrs. Joe B. Hopper)

Postage: Letters by regular mail 5¢)
Air mail letters 25¢ per each $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.)
Air mail folders at P.O. are 10¢)

Presbyterian Mission
Chunju, North Chulla, Korea
November 3, 1952

Dear Friends:

Sixty years ago this month our first missionaries arrived in Korea. Sixty years of service has marvelously affected the two Chulla Provinces where there are now about 700 churches and thousands of Christians. The other day I was phoning from Taejon to Chunju. When I finished the Korea operator spoke to me saying, "Are you a moksa (minister)?" I replied, "Yes". He said, "I am a Christian too; annyunghi kapsita (let's depart in peace)!" I had a flat tire Saturday. I had hardly started work before two Christians came by, stopped, introduced themselves, and offered help. In spite of such incidents, we know our work is only barely begun, but I rejoice in having a small part in it.

New work is still most heart-warming. A few Sundays ago, I visited a new church about five miles away. The leader is a North Korean, who fled to Manchuria because of persecution under the Japanese. Later he fled a second time because of communist persecution. In his second exile he has started another church. We met to celebrate its first anniversary. There is no building yet, so we met under the big tree at the village entrance, sitting on the ground while curious villagers stood around watching. Another refugee, now a teacher in our boys' school in Chunju, preached. Still another, a doctor from the Mission medical center, led in prayer. Children from a nearby orphanage sang the special numbers. It was a striking example of how all branches of missionary service blend together in the common purpose of evangelism. The net result: the birth of a new church.

Last Sunday I preached at the Wunphung church. I had forgotten that exactly one year ago communist guerrillas had raided the town, burned down the church, and carried off the young evangelist as a hostage. The Christians were commemorating that day when I arrived unexpectedly. The evangelist had been held captive for three weeks, but was turned loose when one of the guerrillas (whose father was a Presbyterian elder!) took pity on him. Instead of deserting his post, this young man has satyed in the village, remodeled another building into a church, and is rapidly rebuilding his badly scattered congregation.

Several months ago, during one of the typhoons which hit Korea, I was visiting a POW camp, having been invited by Chaplain Cumming (one of our missionaries, temporarily engaged in this important ministry). We could not have the planned outdoor meeting with the hundreds of Christian POW's, but met in tents instead. At one service about 300 of these enthusiastic Christians were packed into two tents with adjacent ends open. I stood in one tent and spoke to both groups - with ten feet of wind and rain between the two. But this did not dampen their spirits. It was significant to hear their first hymn:

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations,
That shall turn their hearts to the right.
A story of truth and mercy,
A story of peace and light."

This in a prison camp from the lips of ex-communist soldiers! Maybe they belong at Pan-moon-jum, or the UN Assembly!

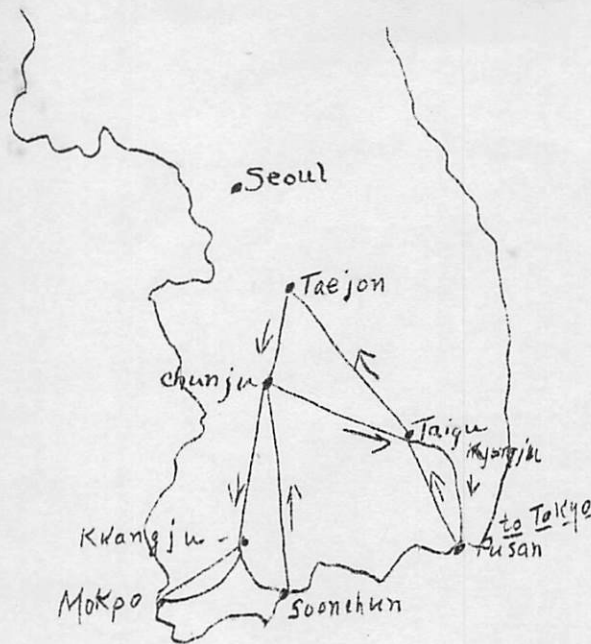
Keep on praying for us and contribute of your means to support the work through the Board of World Missions. I have been superintending the work of distributing Christian literature for which we feel the need to supply a rapidly growing Korean church. Thanks for your letters, used Christmas cards, and packages of relief, and keep on sending them. Dot and the children are getting along fine. Here's wishing you all a Merry Christmas! (even though a bit early).

Sincerely yours,

Rec'd at Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 12, 1952

Gae B. Hopper

205 Denenchofu 2 Chome
Ohta Ku, Tokyo, Japan
February 15, 1953



Dear Friends and loved Ones:

Having just returned from a three week tour of our Mission Stations in Korea, it seemed a good time to share with you some of the rich experiences which have been ours.

Keith Crim, Earnest Pettis, Don Powell and I made the three hour flight to Pusan, landing there on a bleak snowy afternoon in January. After many years of planning and preparation, hope and delay, it was good to see at first hand the work to which we have been called.

Our "grand tour" took us from Pusan to Taijon via army troop train; Taijon to Chunju by slow freight. There we were initiated into the thrills of jeep riding over Korean mountain roads in winter, following the route shown on the rough sketch. We chatted with GI's on the way to the front; enjoyed the fellowship of seeing all our missionaries now in Korea; slept for the first time on heated Korean floors; twice were stopped at sundown because the roads ahead were through mountains infested with Communist guerrillas; watched the sick and suffering enter the walls of our Mission hospitals, took time out for duck hunting (I got two!); picniced at desolate Buddhist temples which were deserted by priest and people alike; took pictures of the ancient ruins of the Silla capital (650 A.D) at Kyongju, and watched our nurses distribute milk to babies in one of the many orphanages. We carried the greetings of the home church in America to scattered bands of believers in our halting, newly won Korean, or through interpreters; and joined in the singing and worship with great city congregations. You may be interested in the following impressions:

(1) The Vitality of the Korean Church. We saw high schools and Bible institutes operating with maximum enrollment. We visited the Presbyterian Seminary in Taegu, with over 400 students - larger than any of our Church Seminaries in America! But we were told that the strength of the Korean Church does not lie in its institutions, but in the simple, rugged faith of its believers. The tiny congregation at the village of Chil Po, our host for a night, exemplified this spirit. They showed us a plowed field where their church had once stood before being burned by guerrillas, and they told us how their pastor had suffered martyrdom. But they also showed us where they planned to build a new church, and pointed to the timbers already cut for the new sanctuary.

(2) The intensity of missionary work. Wherever we went, your missionaries were carrying a load of work without precedent in the history of Korea Missions. Dr. Paul Crane has performed over one hundred major operations since he returned to the field less than three months ago. The day we left Chunju, he spent ten hours in the operating room. Rev. E. T. Boyer of Soerichun has the sole responsibility for a field which three full time mission evangelists once shared. And as a side line he has general supervision over a leper colony with 1,100 lepers and is constructing a Bible School two hundred miles away at the new Mission Station of Taejon (where General Dean was captured). Rev. Bruce Cumming of Kwangju, gives his full time (five days a week) to a ministry of crucial importance among North Korean prisoners-of-war in nearby POW camps; but since he is the only evangelistic missionary in Kwangju (which once had four) he finds plenty to keep life interesting the other two days and evenings during the week with mission matters.

(3) The variety of missionary activities. We were sometimes frightened, often bewildered, always impressed, but never bored by what we saw of the role of a modern missionary in Korea today. The every day work of Rev. Joe B. Hopper (Mardia's brother) this past year has included these activities: The distribution of relief clothing which the churches at home have so generously provided; the purchase of rice, barley and fertilizer for use during the lean famine months (Joe justified his role of grain distributor on Scriptural grounds, reminding us of his predecessor "Joe" in Egypt!); the sale of millions of Won worth of Christian literature through bookroom and salesmen; the setting up and operation of a printing press; the supervision and repair of Mission property; plus the "care of the churches". To us ignorant new-comers, the role of a missionary appears to be that of pastor, diplomat, statesman, financier, engineer, and scholar. But before us now is first the mastery of the Korean language. Thus our return to Tokyo.

Our three weeks' tour did not make us experts on Korea, but it did open our eyes to the poverty, ignorance, and chaos in which great masses of Korean humanity are living; to the glory of God manifested by the witness the Korean Christians are making to the world in this their darkest hour; and to the opportunities and responsibilities that we have to do the work of Him that sent us while it is yet day.

Now back in Tokyo with Mardia and the children, we are resuming our language instruction. Mary and George are being busily educated at the American School in Japan, while William has just discovered that walking is faster than crawling and is much more efficient in the exploring of all corners of our household.

We are always so glad to get a letter from you giving us news from Home.

Sincerely yours,

Tommy Brown

Received at Nashville, Tennessee, February 23, 1953

Address: Rev. G. Thompson Brown, 205 Denenchofu 2 Chome, Ohta Ku, Tokyo, Japan

Postage: Letters sent by regular mail 5¢ - postal cards 3¢

Air mail: Letters 25¢ per each one-half ounce -

Air mail folders may be obtained at the post office for 10¢

Box 252
Montreat, North Carolina
August 24, 1953

Dear Friends:

When I last wrote, I was in Korea. We had a busy winter and spring, during which we were able to do quite a bit of relief work and evangelistic work among the churches. The lessening of the guerrilla menace, and the return of Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Linton from furlough left me more time for this country work throughout the province.

On April 6, I sailed from Pusan on the "Flying Scud". This was the same ship on which I had sailed to Korea eighteen months before, and I occupied the same cabin and the same bunk. We docked at Yokohama for two nights and a day, most of which I was able to spend with my sister and family in Tokyo. They (the Tom Browns) and two other families (Pettis and Crim) have been in Tokyo nearly a year studying the Korean language and waiting for an opportunity to enter Korea.

Near the end of April, I reached home for a joyful reunion with Dot and the three children. The two older children (Alice and Barron) seemed to recognize and remember me, but little David had to look long and hard before receiving me into the family. We spent the month of May in Quitman, Georgia, where Dot had been staying during my absence in Korea, and where her father is pastor. Early in June we packed all our belongings into a "U-Haul" trailer and moved to Montreat where we have spent the summer.

It has been our privilege here in Montreat to meet many friends. Also I have traveled some to visit churches and speak on our work. My plans for this sort of thing in August were interrupted by an unexpected seventeen-day visit to the hospital. I am glad to report that after the removal of my appendix and several kidney stones, I am up and about and rapidly recovering strength.

Our plans for the future are still a bit vague, but that seems to be the lot of missionaries to Korea these days. Present plans call for sailing this fall (We hope about the middle of October) to Japan, where Dot and the children will stay until missionary families are allowed to enter Korea. I will go on to Korea and return occasionally for visits in Japan with the family. But a few days ago word came indicating that the ban of the 8th Army on missionary families entering Korea may be lifted soon. If this report is true, we will sail as a family direct to Korea. All this makes packing and planning difficult, but we trust the Lord will guide us to make the proper decisions.

All reports from Korea indicate that our mission work is progressing nicely, and we are eager to return to take up the work alongside our fellow missionaries and the fine group of new missionaries who expect to go out this year.

The military and political future of Korea is far from certain, but we ask your prayers for our missionaries and for the Korean Church as together they seek to proclaim the Gospel in that troubled land. Until further notice, our address will be Box 252, Montreat, North Carolina.

With all best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Joe B. Hopper

Received at Nashville, Tennessee, August 25, 1953
Address: Rev. Joe B. Hopper, Box 252, Montreat, North Carolina

Postage by air mail - Letters 25¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz) 5 - 1 Chome, Fukazawa
Air mail folders at P.O. are 10¢) Setagaya Ku
Tokyo, Japan
Sunday, November 15, 1953

Dear Friends:

We want you who are supporting us with your prayers, and have sent us out as representatives for Christ, to know we have safely reached Japan. We arrived in Yokohama at 4 p.m., three days ago. The first persons we could make out on the dock were Joe's sister, nephew and niece. She is in Japan with her three children and her husband is in Korea. Hugh Linton drove to the dock in a jeep, took Mardia and me, and the children to a train station to come on home, while he and Joe went through the red tape of customs.

Our trip aboard the freighter "Alawai" was a memorable two weeks, but passed without major incident - no child fell overboard, or smashed fingers in the slamming metal doors. We had but one day of truly bad weather. I'm an abominable sailor, but thanks to dramamine and smooth waters made out fairly well. Other passengers aboard were: three officers' wives joining their husbands in Japan, two business men (one a liquor salesman), and two missionary ladies. The one with a five-months-old baby is joining her husband in Tokyo; the other works under the Methodist Board in Seoul, Korea. We did enjoy our Christian fellowship with these missionaries, and most days they joined us in our cabin for a prayer circle for Christ's work, in Japan and Korea, and for fellow ship-mates. Sunday mornings, Joe held services in the dining room and about 20 came each time. (A minister has to be pretty sure of his subject and his footing to preach aboard a tossing freighter.)

Temporarily we are staying with Mardia in the duplex occupied by two missionary families. Before leaving San Francisco, we were told to board our ship in Los Angeles (several days late), our household effects to follow on a different ship. That ship will not arrive for several more days, so our hands are tied until later this week. With housing expensive and hard to find in Tokyo, we are pleased with the Japanese apartment which has been found for us, and think it has possibilities for being attractively fixed up. Nearly all the walls are of glass or paper so we may freeze. However, ceilings are low which should aid in heating.

The night after our arrival, the seven ladies and three men of our Korea-Mission-in-Japan met for prayer and business matters. As I looked around, I realized what a gallant, consecrated group I am joining. Four of the husbands are in Korea, and believe me, no motivation save obedience to Christ's command to "Go", and love for the Korean people, could induce any of them to be voluntarily separated from their husbands and deprive the eight children of their daddies. We wish it would burden the prayer lists of you at home that very soon the authorities will grant permission for missionary mothers with children to enter Korea. Meanwhile, these "missionaries in exile" put in hard hours at language study in school here.

The next weeks will be strenuous ones of setting up house-keeping, learning the intricacies of banking, grocery buying, transportation in Japan, and teaching my six-year-old Alice first grade. Joe will be with us through Christmas; our first together in three years! A happy one to you, too!

Our two oldest children are ill with some virus-upset, so I couldn't get to church today. Joe will write again after he reaches Korea. Pray that God's Holy Spirit may use our every act to His glory, and that we may walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40-31)

Sincerely,

Borothy Hopper

Rec'd at Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 24, 1953

Address: Mrs. Joe B. Hopper, 5 - 1 Chome, Fukazawa, Setagaya Ku, Tokyo, Japan

Address Rev. Joe B. Hopper (after Jan. 1) Chunju, North Chulla, Korea

Postage: Letters by regular mail 8¢ - postal cards 4¢

Chunju, North Chulla, Korea
Presbyterian Mission
January 23, 1954

Dear Friends:

The events of today will be history when my letter reaches you. Today, the much-discussed POW issue is presumably settled, though as of this morning, the situation continues ludicrous, with pro-communists left without anybody wanting them. But the towns of South Korea are decorated to celebrate the return of the prisoners, many of whom will be released at Kunsan, not far from here. As for us "bachelor" missionaries, the whole affair will have reached a satisfactory solution only when families of missionaries are allowed to re-enter Korea!

The Hopper family had a wonderful Christmas together in Tokyo, complete with Christmas dinner and all the trimmings. Our children are all old enough to get the most out of the occasion. During the holidays we enjoyed the fellowship of six other families of our Korea Mission who live in Tokyo. Of special interest was a social evening with a total of nearly 60 such missionaries under various boards - all waiting to enter this "promised land."

On December 30, I flew to Pusan and found myself in a completely different world. Pusan itself has vastly changed since I left last April. The recent fire has completely leveled the center of the city, but equally noticeable is the movement of about half the people and vehicles to Seoul, following the government, business and church agencies.

Since arriving in Chunju on New Year's Day, I have found myself back into the full swing of the work here. Through the visits of many Korean friends and a few trips into the country, I have grasped a new picture of the current situation. The rice crop last year was good, so the people are, in general, getting enough to eat. This gives the average Korean a far happier outlook on life - quite different from the dire tales of woe which confronted us on every hand two or three years ago, and which left us depressed ourselves because of our inability to meet the need. But while food is more plentiful, other prices are sky-high. In terms of dollars, this means we cannot stretch our budget as far as formerly.

A most encouraging feature is the spectacular growth of many churches, particularly in the country. War, guerrilla activity, near famine conditions, and other factors have often sapped the vitality of the church in recent years. But the Spirit of God is moving mightily in the churches these days, and there is an amazing growth in many places. Many churches have actually doubled in size during the past year, and reports of country churches with two or three hundred in attendance are not uncommon. It is impossible to find leaders to supply the weak churches which have revived, and the new churches which have been started.

It has long been customary for our Presbyteries to hold month-long Institutes of Bible Study in January, but this year these Institutes in our province have swelled to unprecedented numbers. There are 5 of these in North Chulla Province, with about 800 men and women total attendance - mostly young people between the ages of 17-23. Not only is the number a symptom of a deep yearning for knowledge of the Bible, and of the turning of the young people of Korea to Christ, but also individually they are a self-sacrificing and eager group. One young fellow, Lee Key-man, attends my class in Thessalonians. His home may be only 50 miles away as the crow flies, but it took him three days to reach our Institute - mostly by walking over high mountain passes where fresh snow prevented bus traffic. Sure God can do great things with 800 Bible students, fresh, young, eager, and dedicated!

Dot and the children are in Tokyo, and report they are getting along nicely. We pray that their permission to enter Korea will come soon.

"Brethren, pray for us."

Sincerely yours,

Joe B. Hopper

Rec'd at Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 1, 1954

Address: Rev. Joe B. Hopper, Chunju, North Chulla, Korea, Asia - Presbyterian Mis.

Mrs. Joe B. Hopper, 5-1 Chome, Fukazawa, Setagaya Ku, Tokyo, Japan

Postage: The best and easiest way to send mail is to use airmail folders which may be purchased at the Post Office for 10¢

Tokyo, Japan

March 21, 1954

Dear Friends:

At last our prayers have been answered, and the U.N. has granted permission for missionary families to enter Korea. This means that the seven families who have been living in Tokyo have begun to move to Korea. This is a great day for our Korea Mission and we trust opens a new era in her history.

The Hopper Family begins to pack tomorrow and expects to fly to Pusan on March 29. If all goes well, we will be in Chunju the following evening. Baggage and household effects will follow and should reach Chunju inside a month. We trust now that in the future there will be only one address for our family - as follows:

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
Chun-ju, North Chulla
KOREA, ASIA

Please continue to pray for our work. Our Mission feels the challenge of a great new day in Korea and is trying to adjust its program so as to best meet the new opportunities and demands about us. Such decisions may affect for years to come the mission work among more than five million Koreans for whom we are responsible. We need your prayers that the Holy Spirit may lead us in all the planning and work ahead of us.

Sincerely yours,

Joe B. Hopper

Received at Nashville, Tennessee, March 25, 1954

Address: Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper, Presbyterian Mission
Chunju, North Chulla, Korea, Asia

Postage: Letters sent by regular mail 8¢ per ounce - postal cards 4¢

Air mail letters are 25¢ per each one-half ounce - however, air mail folders may be obtained at the Post office for ten cents.

(Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper)
c/ KCAC Chulla Pukdo Team, APO 64, c/ P.M.)
San Francisco, Calif. (Personal letters
only)

Presbyterian Mission
Chunju, North Chulla, Korea
January 20, 1955

Dear Friends:

This will announce the arrival of Margaret Lois Hopper on January 16. She weighs 8 lbs, and (we think) is a beautiful baby. She and Dot are getting along nicely, and our other three (Alice, Barron, and David) are greatly elated over having a little sister. We thank God for His blessings during 1954, particularly for bringing our family together in Korea for the first time since 1950.

1954 was a year of progress and success. With the reuniting of families separated by the war, the arrival of many new missionaries, and an atmosphere of peace and security, progress could be measured all the way from new missionary babies to a new Mission College (in the planning stage). Practically every missionary residence is occupied. New missionaries are still busy with language study, but every phase of our program is revitalized as work long left unattended or managed in absentia receives personal attention. We are confident that the energies and talents of the new missionaries you have sent us will bring new life and new approaches to meet the challenge of new Korea.

The most amazing spectacle in our province is the rapid growth of churches. One seldom visits an empty church. Much of the increase is due to the interest of young people in the Gospel. At a recent Wednesday evening service in a city church about 80 per cent of those present were students. It was cold and raining, but the church was full. Christian groups flourish in most of the schools and colleges. In Iri, a railway center 17 miles from Chunju, we are trying to assist the local pastors to start a Christian student center near the railway depot (bombed by the U.S. Air force and not yet repaired) to provide shelter and a place of evangelistic witness to the thousands of commuting students. An imperative need is for a young missionary evangelist to devote himself to this local opportunity to bring Christ to Korean youth.

In the country districts of our province, a new church has been born on the average of at least one a week during 1954. Since such new places invariably send representatives to the missionaries asking for aid on their building, or for an evangelist, we usually know about them all, but sometimes the rate of growth is too rapid for us to give the supervision and help we would like to give. I have traveled among some 35 or 40 of these churches holding sacraments, examining new believers (1018 of them in 1954), and generally making a bishop of myself. We hope that with the arrival of new missionaries we can cut down on the volume and improve the quality of this long neglected work.

Another program initiated last summer was the use of Seminary students during their vacations (total about 4 months). This has proved helpful both to the weak churches served and to the students themselves, and we hope will result in their being called back into these undeveloped areas for extended service when they complete Seminary.

I look back on a year of preaching in all sorts of situations. At Kum-gee we preached to a crowd half of which was inside a building and half outside - now they have bought a house and remodeled it into a church building. At Choo-sang we held a night service in the railway depot (fortunately there is no Korean version of "Life is Like a Mountain Railroad" but with the improvised pulpit by the gate I could hardly resist shouting "tickets please!") and a new church stands in that village today. At Poon-san we preached outdoors by lamplight swatting mosquitoes and bugs and now they have a new church. At Sim-wun we preached in the school house while the half-drunk local band (one cymbal, one drum, a couple of flutes and assorted noises) paraded the village streets - now they have bought a building, converting it into a combination church and manse. Most of the work of starting and establishing these churches is done by Korean evangelists and we could continue describing their exploits, but will close for now by asking your constant prayer that the Holy Spirit may continue in 1955 this mighty working in Korea.

Sincerely yours,
Rec'd at Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 25, 1955

Joe & Dot Hopper

Chunju, North Chulla
Nov. 30, 1955

Dear Friends:

The six Hoppers report a busy and happy year in Chunju, the first of many years when we enjoyed normal and uninterrupted family life without moving about. Yet by no means was it an uneventful and hum-drum year.

Among other events have been many family jaunts in our faithful, but well-crowded, jeep. In May we attended Mission Meeting in Kwangju where we visited my sister's family, the George T. Browns, whose household expanded to care for 7 adults and 11 children for about 10 days. In late July we journeyed to Soonchun for a week while I attended a retreat for about 100 Korean ministers on a distant island. In August we spent a week at Taichun beach, enjoying not only the swimming but meeting members of many missions vacationing at this beautiful spot. In October we took a one-day trip to Taejon where Dot and the children had their first view of the site of our new Christian College. Recently we combined attendance at the Bible Institute Board meeting with a Thanksgiving Day visit with the Browns in Kwangju. When at home Alice and Barron go to school to their mother, David attends kindergarten taught by Mrs. Paul Crane, and Margaret gets in the way.

My work as an evangelist carries me over half the province. Among the approximately 150 churches of the area I have responsibility for 34. During the 12-month period ending Nov. 1st we held catechumen and baptism examinations for 1006 people (not counting those who "flunked") of whom 328 were baptized. The credit for this ingathering of souls should go to the faithful elders, deacons, and unordained evangelists who care for these little churches. Much of my time is taken up with the affairs of our churches and Presbyteries. The Korean Church has its growing pains, involving disputes of doctrine and polity and personality conflicts. These are a constant trial and we need your prayers that our judgement may be sound, our counsel wise, and our example above reproach. We praise God for the rapid growth of the church and for the many new young ministers and evangelists. But the Korean Church has never needed quite so badly to have high standards of Bible Study, church government, and Christian morality set before her as today, and it is increasingly evident that missionary leadership is demanded in these areas as well as in "preaching to the heathen" which he far prefers.

In the spring I negotiated a highly profitable "scrounging operation" at the Kunsan airbase. What started out as a quest for a half-dozen squad tents wound up as a bargain: i.e., a 40-ft railway gondolar car full to overflowing with 80 usable squad tents, about 30 enormous tarpaulins, and innumerable other canvas objects--all for \$60.00. A squad tent, properly erected, makes a fine temporary church seating about 150. These have been distributed over the Mission and are providing places of worship in scores of places. Other tents and tarps have provided cover for building materials for our new Girls' School here and the college in Taejon, and temporary wards for patients at the Kwangju T. B. Sanitorium. If you wonder what happens to the tax-payers' money, now you know!

A highlight of the year was the evangelistic campaign early in November. Dr. E. H. Hamilton of Formosa was here and made a great impression upon the 4000 (average) who attended the mass meetings held under the big tent on our Boys' School athletic field. A total of about 1000 decisions were registered as a result of house-to-house afternoon visitation and the night-meeting time of decision. "Uncle Ham" also endeared himself to our children who listen to the whoppers he calls bed-time stories.

Today I attended the dedication of our new leper colony church. I have associated with this group for 7 years and have seen it grow from a handful of beggars meeting in a tent to a congregation of over 300 now meeting in a beautiful brick building, the result of gifts by air-force boys as well as the work and sacrifice of the lepers themselves. A dignified service of dedication, with the choir singing "O Think of that Home over There" and the congregation closing with "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken" made it a never-to-be-forgotten occasion.

Merry Christmas to all from Dot, Alice, Barron, David, Margaret,

Air mail letters are 25¢ per one-half oz. Presbyterian Mission
Air mail folders at P.O. are 10¢ Chonju, Chulla Pukdo, Korea
April 2, 1956

Dear Friends:

With Alice (9 years old), Barron (7 years), David (5 years) and our curly-headed Margaret (1 1/2 years) to keep me busy at home, I rarely have the treat of going with Joe to his numerous preaching points. The last time I had been, we met in two rooms of a Korean home. Joe had to preach on his knees to keep his head from getting tangled with the clothesline under the low ceiling. But Easter Sunday was different!

We were to hold the morning worship service at the leper church in the colony about 12 1/2 miles from Chonju. Our Mission has for years maintained the Wilson Leper Colony on the beautiful Yesu Peninsula near Soonchun Station. This Chonju colony however, is a government colony. For seven years now Joe has helped the church and been its moderator. They have leper elders who live there and do all except examine the new believers and offer the sacraments. Easter Morning, Joe, Ei Chipsanim, a Korean pastor stopping elsewhere en route, Miss Greene and I set out in the trusty jeep. At first the road looked deceptively wide and comfortable, but the final side road led us through ground muddier than a pig-pen and bumpy enough to toss us as a small boat on a heavy sea. Safely there, Joe stood in the drizzle conferring with the elders back of the church while Miss Greene and I, in the jeep, filled the tiny glasses with communion grapejuice. Just last fall the large one-room brick church was completed, having been made possible by sacrificial giving on the part of the lepers themselves and by the generosity of G.I.'s. It dominates the landscape.

We entered one of the doors by the pulpit to find a sea of faces before us. Save for the pump-organist and those of us on the platform, all sat quietly on the floor. The whole service was conducted with reverence and dignity - from the leper choir jubilantly singing, "Up From the Grave He Arose!", to the introducing of the 69 new believers who had passed their preliminary examinations the day before, and to the baptizing of the 33 new church members.

Have you ever sat before a group of say 400 and had the strange experience of wishing you could know the life-stories and personalities of several faces in the group? There was the pitiful man who had leprosy so bad it looked like he had no nose. There was the serene-faced grandmother in the second row before the pulpit who didn't look like she had leprosy at all. There was the handsome teen-aged boy among the men baptized. But most of all, I wished I could know the sweet-faced young mother with a son about the age of my Margaret. Through part of the service she held the boy in her lap. Just before the baptismal service, she took him outside the church to someone. She wore the most expensive sort of silk-brocade chukoori (Korean blouse) and I wondered what her story was: Did she really have leprosy or had she merely accompanied her husband to this colony because he had it?... During that sacred service "in remembrance of Him", some who could not hold the communion elements for themselves were fed by someone sitting near them. As Joe preached on the resurrection chapter, I Cor. 15, the thought kept going through my mind, "Like unto His glorious body", and Easter meant more to me than ever as I realized what the resurrection hope must mean to those before me.

The other afternoon I was doing visitation evangelism with two women from the little Wha San Church which I usually attend. As we gave out tracts and walked along the rice-patties from one home to another, I was reminded of certain stories about Jesus. Christ talked to a woman at the well. More than once I have given out a tract and talked about Jesus to women out beside their wells. Zachaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus better. I led in prayer in the courtyard of a Korean home. Opening my eyes afterwards, I saw a boy perched in a tree in the next yard, staring over the fence with interest...Walking home we passed two young wives, now regular attendants of Wha San following such an afternoon visit last fall. "Some seed falls on good ground." Please pray for us and Korea.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Hopper

Rec'd at Nashville, Apr. 21

Address: Mrs. Joseph B. Hopper (as above indicated) Letters sent by regular mail 8¢

Chunju, North Chulla, Korea
Feb. 6, 1957

Dear Friends:

Don't ever think that all a missionary does is sit under a palm tree teaching the Bible to savages. In Korea, he works within a highly developed, independent Church and shares its complex affairs along with the responsibilities of the Mission organization. We are proud to share in the total effort and to see the rapid growth of the Church and its institutions.

Last year I did more regular work among the country churches than previously. This involved superintending the affairs of about 30 churches of which Presbytery but me in charge and visiting others in an unofficial capacity. It is gratifying to see the whole-hearted welcome these groups give us and how eagerly they await our visits. We visited 87 churches, baptized 292, and enrolled 368 catechumens--all after examination. Having worked this same "field" continuously for some years, the total figures are not so large but the proportion baptized is much larger, indicating a more solid gain in membership. For 6 months I also took my turn along with others in this station holding services for the U.S. Army advisors to the ROK army at Nonsan.

Our problem in country work is lack of qualified leaders. While it is a great source of amazement to us and a demonstration of their faith to see scores of untrained men volunteering to serve as lay evangelists on practically no salary, still the net effect is not always too constructive. As an independent organization, the Korean Church insists on setting the standards and training most of its own leaders, but often lacks the capacity to improve the situation. Pray for the training of Church leadership in Korea!

Just before Christmas we heard that we could "scrounge" several Quonsett Huts at a nearby airbase. When the sergeant took us to the abandoned Marine Camp saying to take all we wanted, we gasped and said, "That's a dangerous thing to tell missionaries," and proceeded to clean off the whole hill. Half the men of our Mission plus gangs of Korean workers and trucks, working in bitter cold weather, removed all but the concrete foundations, thus acquiring several dozen Quonsetts and other metal buildings. These will supply needed storage space, garages, and even temporary dormitories and missionary homes all over the mission. When I was a kid I always wanted a giant "Erector" set--this Christmas I got a man-sized one!

Through the efforts of Dr. (now U.S. Army major) Paul Crane, we have been receiving surplus equipment from an Army printing establishment in Japan. This promises to make our Mission press far more effective at virtually no capital outlay. There is a great dearth of Christian literature in Korea, and we feel we can contribute significantly to the life of the Church in this way. We have been publishing "Pok-twen Mal-sum" (Words of Blessing), a little magazine with sermon help and information about our mission program, and sending it to about 900 churches in our mission area. We thank the Lord for unexpectedly providing us with better equipment (and a Quonsett to put it in.).

Our Korean friends recently celebrated the 34 years of service rendered here by Miss Lena Fontaine, soon to retire. Their words and expressions of appreciation for her long service remind us how grateful we must be for such faithful servants of the Church. The Home Church can be proud of such missionaries. But replacements are few, so send us others to carry on this work among the women, the Sunday Schools, and the student groups where there is so much opportunity.

The Hoppers are all happy and healthy. Dot teaches Alice, Barron and David every day, and little Margaret learns plenty in less formal ways. Dot also assists as missionary advisor to the Korean Presbyterian leaders. Last summer we spent over two weeks camping in a tent in the Chidi mountains. The fine resort established there when I was a boy is all but gone, and the marks of savage guerilla warfare are everywhere to be seen, but the view is as magnificent as ways, and the air, water, and seclusion as refreshing as ever.

We ask your continued prayer for all our work, and your support through regular giving to the Board of World Missions.

Sincerely yours,

Address: 1st class letters: Joe B. Hopper, Presbyterian Mission, APO 64 % PM San Francisco.
All other mail: Joe B. Hopper, Presbyterian Mission, Chunju, North Chulla, Kor



Presbyterian Mission
Wha-san Dong, Chunju
North Chulla, Korea
December 6, 1957

Dear Friends:

Another year is drawing to a close, and the Hopper family wants all of you to know that God has prospered us as a family and as missionaries during the year. In every way we are thankful for His providence, and grateful for the prayers and generosity of our friends who make our presence and work in this land possible.

Dot keeps busy most of the time teaching the three older children (Alice, Barron, and David) while Margaret does her noisy best to interrupt. When time permits, she visits in the Korean homes of this part of the city, and has had the joy of seeing some who previously were not Christians attending church. During August we enjoyed a vacation in the mountains, living in a large tent, enjoying the fellowship of other missionaries, and the relaxation of change from the daily pressure of duties and responsibilities in the station.

During 1957 I have made about 75 visits to churches for observation of pioneer evangelistic projects, preaching, or other duties. Of these about two-thirds involved examining new believers and holding sacraments; 373 catechumens were received, and 184 adults (and 6 infants) were baptized, making a total of 555. While many candidates for examination are well prepared, many others are so ignorant that the examination is also a teaching session, and is quite strenuous. After getting some old toothless grandmother to understand that Jesus is the Son of God, I often reverse the question and ask, "Who is the Father of Jesus?" and get the answer, "I don't know!" - then we start all over again and I grow a few more gray hairs! Another, in response to the question, "Where was Jesus born?" replied, "Tomato!" After all, to a Korean, such foreign words as "Bethlehem" and "Tomato" don't sound too much different.

Last Sunday I visited the Soh-sang-wun leper church with which I have been associated from its start in 1948. They now have a fine brick building, 350 baptized members, and 500 in attendance, with a seminary graduate as evangelist. The size of the crowd last Sunday warranted the doubling of the size of the building as planned for early next year. This church is now fully self-supporting and self-governing within the Presbytery. It is also self-propagating, and assists with the starting of a church in another leper village about 10 miles away by lending an elder as evangelist for the new project. I am now in charge of this second place, and it promises to be quite successful. A third such church in a distant county is also getting started.

We never cease to wonder at the remarkable and strange ways in which the Lord works out His purposes. Last spring I baptized an old man who had been received as a catechumen by pioneer missionary, Dr. Tate, two years before I was born. I recently visited a place where early missionaries had established a church which had disappeared for 15 years, but where the church building survived - astonishing in this land of thieves and squatters. A former deacon who had moved away has now returned to this village. He is too old to read and so stooped that I am twice as tall as he, but he has gathered in a group of old ladies who used to attend church, started up the Sunday School, and probably will have the church going again soon. Another place we had to ford a river (almost deep enough to drown out the jeep) 19 times going in (and 19 times coming out) to get into a mountain village where a handful of Christians, sparked by a young man who had become a Christian in the ROK Army, are meeting, and where 9 were ready for examination for church membership. Amid such evidences of success and progress, there are also signs of weakness and deterioration, that often give us much worry. Divisiveness and factionalism scourge the Korean Church; compromising on ethical and moral issues under the pressure of an increasingly corrupt society threatens the integrity of the Church; the lure of materialism encouraged by years of "foreign aid" and relief programs has dulled the Christians' sense of stewardship and self-support; the growth of strange sects and movements that put Father Divine and Oral Roberts in the shade but which make heavy inroads on established church membership; and the gaining prestige and reaching out into the countryside of the Roman Catholic Church... we need your prayers. Seasons's Greetings,

Joe B. Hopper

Box 48, Montreat, North Carolina
June 12, 1959

Dear Friends:

During this furlough year in America, we have had the privilege of seeing many of you, and we are sorry it has not been possible to see all who will be receiving our letters. As we plan to return to Korea for another five-year term of service, we want you to know our plans in that regard.

We expect to sail from San Francisco during August by freighter to Korea and should arrive there early in September. Until the end of July our address is Box 48, Montreat, N.C. From August 1-20 it will be in care of the Home of Peace, 4700 Daisy Street, Oakland 19, California. After that first-class letter mail should be sent to us in care of the Presbyterian Mission, APO #64, 7 P.M., San Francisco, California, and all other mail and parcels should be sent by International Mail to us at Wha San Dong, Chulla Pukdo, Chunju, Korea.

We have made our home in Montreat during the year. Since my parents live here, and Dot's parents are a hundred miles away at Morristown, Tennessee, we have been able to see all the grandparents frequently. We have travelled all over this part of the South, and it has been a real privilege to visit many churches and homes and make new friends.

Next week we plan to leave the three youngest children in Morristown with their grandparents, while Dot, Alice, and I go to New York to meet Dot's sister (Miss Alice Longenecker, RN) who is arriving on furlough from the Belgian Congo where she is a missionary nurse. These sisters have not seen each other since shortly after our marriage 14 years ago because our respective furloughs have never found us in the U.S. at the same time. We are happy that they overlap for about six weeks this summer.

It is a busy time for us preparing to return. Official red tape, medical examinations, immunization shots, travel plans, purchasing of supplies, and so forth have to be sandwiched in between speaking appointments, visiting with friends and relatives, and normal housekeeping duties. However, we will not be too busy to see any of you who may come to Montreat during the next few weeks, and we hope to see many of you.

Pray for us as we return to our duties and responsibilities in Korea. There is always infinitely more to be done, especially in the program of country evangelism, than we have time and strength to accomplish. The uncertainties of the times, unlimited opportunities for witness and service, and rapid changes both inside and outside the Korean Church, keep your missionaries in a busy whirl most of the time. Dot will be teaching the two boys (Barron, 10, and David 8). Alice, 12, is to go away to the new boarding school for missionaries' children in Taejon which expects to open for business this fall. Little Margaret, 4, will have to get re-acquainted with all her Korean friends. In all these adjustments and resumption of work, we ask your continued prayers.

With every good wish to all of you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Joe B. Hopper

Received at Nashville, Tennessee, June 15, 1959
Address: Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper (as indicated in letter)

Presbyterian Mission
Chonju, Chulla Puk-do, Korea (Asia)
October 20, 1959

Dear Friends:

Two nights ago Joe commented, "Well, we've been back in Korea a month!" We remember with pleasure getting to see many of you friends and visiting our supporting churches while on furlough. The change of activity for a year, and sharing in television, good roads, fine groceries and public schools were all good for us and our morale. But truly, we are glad to be back, and we thank our Heavenly Father for a safe trip and the safe arrival of most of our baggage, just hours ahead of a typhoon that did tremendous damage. Our freighter by-passed one port in Formosa in order to speed to Korea ahead of the typhoon, so we landed a couple of days before anyone expected us.

The first few days back here were largely taken up with chatting with Korean friends who came to rejoice with us upon our return. Then Joe had to go off to a meeting of General Assembly, and we had to start the breaking of home ties by sending our sweet Alice off to Taejon to the 8th grade and boarding school. We thank God for the Groschelles who flew out this fall to teach in that school for missionaries' children of several denominations. Alice is living with them in the modern school building, nearing completion, thanks to painstaking work on the part of Mr. Bob Gould.

Before we went on furlough, the only school-age American children here at Chonju were our three. It was nice to get back and find there are now six missionary children in five grades here. We three mothers hold school in a missionary residence, vacant this year because we lack an evangelist to fill it.

Thus far, Joe's preaching has been in local churches, so I have gotten to go with him several Sundays: to the North Gate Church which has built a new building in the year we've been away; to the South Gate Church which used to meet under a tent for a roof; and to the Leper Church. We went out there unannounced, and my heart is still warmed by remembering the beaming smiles on the faces of that group of leper elders, and by the remembrance of the old leper lady, almost completely bald, who fell at Joe's feet after the service, and wept for joy. We went with the fine pastor to have a sight-see of the orphanage (or home) for the clean children of lepers where some 55 youngsters are. We were impressed with the care they get, for such an institution out here. Those of you who gave us relief clothes to bring out with us will be glad to know the blankets and other appropriate items have been sorted to go out there to help those bright-faced youngsters. Pastors of two of the churches where we have been live alone year after year, with no word of their wives detained above the 38th parallel. How many thousands of such unspoken heartaches there are in this land!

One day President and Mrs. Rhee of Korea paid our Medical Center the high tribute of coming there for a sight-see. Such security preparations and excitement as were enjoyed by the Korean staff you can hardly imagine. Joe was away, but Barron and David and I stood for a hour and a half in the hot sun in front of the hospital to watch.

This afternoon, I had the privilege of visiting a dear aged deaconess who is dying of cancer. It is an inspiration to chat, sing, pray and read Revelation 21 with such a person.

Joe and the Korean church leaders and the other evangelistic missionaries sorely need your prayers in the next few months. We came back to find very serious difficulties within our Korean General Assembly, of too involved a nature for me to discuss here. But please pray that with one mind the Korean Church may be striving together for the faith of the Gospel in this country of crying need on every side.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Hopper

Received at Nashville, Tenn., October 27, 1959

Address: Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper (as above indicated)

Air mail folders may be purchased at the Post Office for 10¢

Presbyterian Mission, Wha San Dong, Chulla Pukdo
Chunju, Korea, July 22, 1960

Dear Friends:

"Each breeze that sweeps the ocean brings tidings from afar of nations in commotion." These are well-known lines from the missionary hymn "The Morning Light is Breaking", but one wonders if modern nations are "prepared for Zion's war" (as in the hymn) or for something quite the opposite. As residents of one of the "nations in commotion" we can understand the plight of fellow missionaries in the Belgian Congo and elsewhere where violence, lawlessness, and revolution seem to be the order of the day.

Much has been said in recent days of "This Revolutionary Age" - almost making it appear to be glamorous and desirable, as, indeed, such change may well be when it represents reasonable strides toward attaining the legitimate needs and aspirations of suffering and downtrodden peoples. But all too often these upheavals seem to be the nefarious schemes of a few motivated by evil desires, and are fraught with ugliness and bitterness and terror for those who ostensibly are supposed to benefit from it all. Such days challenge Christian America to constant prayer and daily sacrifice that we may do our full share to bring to the nations the Saviour Who alone can bring salvation and resulting peace and rest.

After the overthrow of the former government of Korea by student demonstrations in April, sweeping political changes have taken place in Korea, and the transition is still going on. The national constitution has been amended, and a new government is to be elected next week. Pray that wise and able leaders will be selected, and that a stable government will be set up.

Most of you have heard of difficulties confronting the Korean Presbyterian Church since last fall when her Assembly split 50-50 into two Assemblies, each claiming legality. Our Mission felt that neither was legal, and recognized neither, but worked to restore unity. A call for a re-united assembly in February was successful in bringing together nearly two-thirds of the Church, but the remaining one-third has continued its agitation and has succeeded in splitting most Presbyteries and even some churches.

The causes of this distressing situation are obscure, and indeed almost non-existent. The issue of continued membership in the World Council of Churches seemed to have caused the split last fall, but even an agreement to withdraw from this council as demanded by the minority failed to restore unity. Financial assistance from Dr. Carl MacIntire has widened the rift and encouraged those who have failed to reunite. Fortunately our Mission has retained its own unity, and stands with our sister Presbyterian Missions in cooperation with the majority which was willing to reunite. Efforts by a small number of student demonstrators to forcibly pressure our Mission to change its position at its June Mission Meeting succeeded in making life hectic for three or four days. Although this disturbance did get out of hand one time, no serious harm resulted, and the net result was to discredit their own cause among some of their own people.

In all these months, our Board of World Missions has given us sympathetic leadership and assistance, particularly in the visits of Dr. Hugh Bradley and Dr. Nelson Bell, each of whom has made two visits during the past year. Again we request the prayers of American friends for the Korean Church, that peace and unity may prevail for the furtherance of the Gospel among these people.

This spring I did not get all my country work done because of conditions discussed above, but did manage to visit a good many churches. As in the days of our Lord the common people heard Him gladly, so in Korea the common people are glad to hear His Gospel despite revolutions and church splits. Last Sunday I visited my largest ^{leper} colony church and preached to nearly 500 in attendance there.

Aside from the heat, the Hopper Family is enjoying the summer. Alice is back home from Taejon for summer vacation. Following Mission Meeting, we visited Soonchun for a few days' rest. This week we spent two days in Kwangju, visiting my sister, Mrs. Tommy Brown. Tommy's father (now 84 years old) and aunt from the States were visiting there. We expect to go to Taichun Beach in August, before plunging into the duties of our fall work.

Sincerely yours,

Joe B. Hopper

Rec'd at Nashville, Tenn., July 27, 1960

Address: Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper (as above indicated) Air mail folders at P.O. are 10¢



Presbyterian Mission
Wha San Dong, Chulla Pukdo
Chunju, Korea
December 1, 1962

Dear Friends:

Christmas greetings from the Hopper family! May this be a time of deeper realization of the meaning of the coming of Christ into the world, and of overflowing joy and rededication to His service!

The most unusual event of the year was my visit to the United States

for several weeks in October, during which time it was my privilege to serve as one of the three representatives of the Korea Mission to the Montreat Consultation on World Missions. Since my parents live in Montreat, I am particularly grateful, as this gave me the opportunity for an unexpected visit with them. This was my first trip by jet, and I must say it has spoiled me forever for any other kind of transportation. We were less than 16 hours in the air from Seoul to Asheville, and made the trip with more convenience than some bus trips I have taken. I regret the "short furlough" did not permit me to see many of our friends, but it was surprising how many I met even in this brief period. It is always a great experience to visit our land, see its wonders and riches, and find out again that so many are sacrificing and praying for our work. My only personal fear during this time was that some international crisis might cause concern for the safety of Dot and the children in Korea. The Cuba crisis very nearly did so, but my return trip was made on schedule with no mishaps on either side of the ocean. After seeing some of the latest hairdos in the U.S., I was happy to return to civilization.

We left the Consultation feeling that it had been a most successful and profitable conference for all concerned. All of us were especially impressed with the careful preparations which had been made and the smoothness with which all arrangements were worked out, with the complete coverage of all subjects relating to the work of missions and the freedom allowed to all in expressing their opinions no matter how divergent. It was my feeling that many who had been apprehensive of the outcome were happy to discover a oneness of purpose in preaching the Gospel and a determination to work in close harmony with the churches of each land in which we are engaged in service. It is my prayer that this consultation will result not only in more effective service in the mission lands, but in wholehearted and sympathetic support of the mission program by our entire church.

I am glad to report that our routine work in Chunju is progressing normally. I am still busy visiting country churches, but will have been to all thirty of them within the next two weeks.

We are especially happy that the new press building has been completed. This building is of cement block construction and provides adequate space for our work without fear of fire or that the building would collapse as was the case previously. We hope this will result in more efficient work by our press in producing helpful Christian literature and material for our mission institutions.

Alice, Barron and David are in boarding school in Taejon, but return home for vacations. Margaret is at home with Dot and me. The picture reproduced here will give you some idea of how the four look.

Merry Christmas to all of you,

Joe B. Hopper
Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
Wha San Dong
Chulla Pukdo, Chunju, Korea
February 12, 1964

Dear Friends:

January and February are usually "slack" months, but this year even this has been a busy period. Besides Sunday preaching, teaching at the Month Bible Institute (a training program for laymen) kept me occupied most of January. Recently 2 trips to Seoul have been concerned with committee meetings in preparation for the "consultations" to be held in May between representatives of the Presbyterian Church of Korea and its 3 cooperating Mission Boards (Southern Presbyterian, United Presbyterian, Australian Presbyterian). Please remember in your prayers these deliberations which often deal with knotty problems about which good men of sincere faith often differ.

Last fall, as usual, I completed my regular round of itineration, visiting about 35 churches as "moderator" under direction of local Presbyteries, and many others unofficially. Times have been hard economically and these small country churches have difficulties paying evangelists, keeping property in repair, and erecting new churches and manses. Yet somehow the Lord always provides some energetic deacon or young person to direct the affairs of the church and carry on the services.

In September the missionary evangelists held a conference to discuss methods of evangelism. Part of the program was a study of large maps of our territory prepared in advance to indicate churches of all denominations and especially marked to show "gaps" where churches should be started. A number of these spots are in the territory I serve. I am happy to report that already several are being opened to the Gospel--not through my efforts but by the leadership of the Holy Spirit working through faithful Korean Christians. Note these:

(1) Soonchang County. A Christian barber has moved into a village of 300 homes. He has begun Sunday School and preaching services in his barbershop with 70 or 80 in attendance. I did not hold a regular service there last fall, but did examine and receive 4 boys as catechumens. This spring this place is scheduled for regular visitation, and presumably the services will be held in the barbershop---adding to the list of odd places we have started churches (a railway depot, a rice mill, a hospital clinic, school-rooms, town halls, tents, private homes, and out-of-doors).

(2) Imsil County. A large community has grown up around the railway station several miles from the county seat. We had long wanted to open a church there. Beginning about 6 months ago, the evangelistic team composed of employees of the Presbyterian Medical Center (Chunju) and led by the hospital evangelist has begun work in this place. By going out on Sundays in the hospital ambulance they are able to conduct services in the home of a Christian druggist. Soon, with assistance from the Korean hospital staff, a church will be built and a full-time evangelist employed.

(3) Namwun County. On a high upland plateau is a region of a half dozen or so villages of over 100 homes each where there has never been a church. Early in December we heard the astonishing news that a young man, baptized only a year ago, had moved to a land reclamation project in the middle of this area, begun to preach, and had 300 meeting (150 adults and 150 children in Sunday School). Taking a near-by pastor, I went to see this place not long before Christmas. It was cold and snowing, but in short order a crowd of more than 100 gathered in an open courtyard for a brief service, and later the leaders crowded into a little room with us to discuss ways and means of starting the church. Recently the young man came to see me, saying that he will enter the army soon, and asking that a trained evangelist be sent. With each of 6 villages taking responsibility for one "kahn" (section) of a six-kahn building this spring, they should soon have a meeting place.

While such stories encourage us, there is another side to consider. At the request

of the mission evangelists, I have just completed statistical studies of over 1600 Protestant Churches in our Mission area (North Chulla, South Chulla, and Cheju-do). They show these facts: 1.63% of the 6,372,921 people in the region studied are in church on Sunday morning. It is nice to think of over 100,000 Christians, until one remembers the other 6,272,000. There are $2\frac{1}{2}$ churches for every 10,000 people, but the average number in each church Sunday morning is 64. The baptized membership of each Presbyterian Church averages 37. There is still a lot to do!!

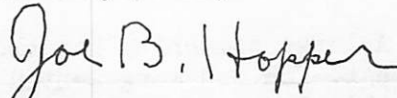
Our publication work continues to prosper. As I looked into the press room on the way to my office a few minutes ago, the press was turning out a new evangelistic tract written by my friend and close associate, the pastor of the Namwun church. Our press only turns out 1600 pages an hour, so will keep busy all week to turn out the 100,000 which we pray will go to as many homes and hearts with the Gospel. Our magazine for country church leaders has been sent only to churches in our Mission area heretofore, but beginning next month it will be sent to all churches of our assembly in Korea.

Several years ago, with the 1947 Birthday Offering Fund for Literature for the Christian Home, we published a new illustrated translation of Foster's Story of the Bible. Beginning last fall, a chapter of this has been read each week-day evening for about 10 minutes as a part of a children's program over Korea's Christian Radio network of 5 stations in key cities with a possible listening audience of some 8 million. Every 2 weeks a simple quiz is given, and winners answering by post card (they still cost a penny in Korea) are given copies of the book as a prize. Countless hear the Bible Story, and this valuable book is finding its way into scores of homes.

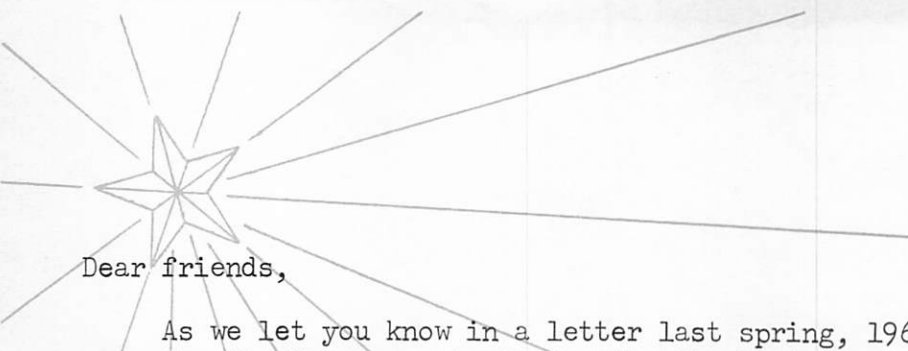
The Hoppers look forward to regular furlough this summer. After a two-week sight-seeing tour of Western National Parks en route, we expect to arrive in Montreat in mid-July, and will be there for the rest of the summer (Address: Box 48). We will spend the remainder of the furlough at Mission Haven (235 Inman Drive, Decatur, Ga.) Alice finishes High School in Taejon this spring, and will enter King College in Bristol, Tennessee this fall.

With all best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Joe B. Hopper



Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
211 Inman Drive
Decatur, Georgia
December 4, 1964

Dear friends,

As we let you know in a letter last spring, 1964-1965 is the red-letter furlough year for the Hoppers. As during the Thanksgiving season our hearts have so often been raised in spontaneous silent prayers, we have "thanked our God in all our remembrance of you, always in every prayer of ours for you all making our prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the Gospel...."

We left Korea about the end of June, flying by way of Alaska and various national parks in the West, to relatives in Missouri and then to Joe's parents' in Montreat. Due to special tourist rates to our-of-the-U.S. tourists, we were able to take this memorable family journey on only about \$50 above usual flight costs. We saw Joe's sister and family (the G.T. Browns of Kwangju, Korea) for all of one day before they set off to return to their field of work for the Lord.

Montreat during the summer renewed for us many old friendships, and brought new thoughts and inspiration during the many Bible hours we attended. Being next door to Joe's parents, and having my parents, and my sister's and brother's families with us part time helped renew brotherly and sisterly love after 5 years apart. We had two new nieces and one nephew to meet. George Hopper (student worker at Tulane University) was also in Montreat for a few days.

The end of August brought realities of school, so we hastened to Decatur where Margaret attends Winona Park (4th Grade), and Barron and David ride bikes to Decatur High (Soph. and Fresh.). A couple of weeks later we drove Alice up to King College in Bristol where she is a Freshman and which she already loves so much that she is urging her brother to enter there in another two years. Our children's first quarter grades show, we think, that the education they are receiving in Korea is adequate. (And how we thank God for it when, as recently, we meet a missionary couple of another denomination who are quitting the mission field for five years because of the ages of their children.)

The Apostle Paul made some statements which any missionary should learn to be able to make: "I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want." I just want to say in capital letters, THIS FURLOUGH IS FOR THE HOPPERS A TIME OF ABOUNDING, AND OF PLENTY, AND OF ABUNDANCE. We are living in the beautifully furnished house at Mission Haven, our every want supplied. We are warmer than any winter of our married life. And every day in our hearts we thank you, and our Heavenly Father for these blessings, and the clothes closet next door where ladies of three states send fine used clothes for missionaries. Yesterday, while there I met a grieving lady of another church, gathering clothes for her brother-in-law's family: the widow and five children had flown to New York, as the brother had passed through "gates of splendor" to his reward in the recent Congo atrocities. And yet, she knew that in Congo, he had been doing what he wanted to do and was now safe with His Lord.

What will 1965 bring to mission work the world around? As we look ahead and pray ahead and rejoice in celebrating the birth of our Lord, may a sense of the triumph of serving on the Lord's side in this uncertain world fill our hearts. May we remember that the glory of God is Heaven's light, and its lamp is the Lamb. And as we know that "only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life" shall be there, join with us in praying for more evangelistic missionaries to carry the good news to Korea. Our freighter leaves next July. Who will sail with us?

Sincerely,

Borothy Hopper

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Mission Haven
211 Inman Drive
Decatur, Ga. 30030
May 24, 1965

Dear Friends:

As we draw near the end of our furlough year, we want you to know something of our plans during the coming months, and also to thank many of you who have contributed to our happiness during the year.

During the fall of last year, it was my privilege to audit ten hours a week at Columbia Theological Seminary, and I found this study refreshing and rewarding. Since the first of this year, most of my time has been spent travelling to many churches and presbyteries speaking on our work in Korea. Most of this work was in the Synod of South Carolina which was my primary assignment, but other engagements took me to North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, as well as Georgia. Dot has also taken part in this work, and most of her assignments have been in Georgia.

For nearly three months during the winter, my parents (Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Hopper, retired missionaries to Korea, now living in Montreat) visited with us in Decatur. Dot's parents (Rev. and Mrs. J.H. Longenecker, retired missionaries to the Congo, and now living in Morristown, Tenn.) paid us a visit last fall, and we have made numerous visits in their home.

It has been a full and busy year, and we thank God for all His blessings during this time. As we return to Korea it is with the knowledge that we have many friends throughout the home church who remember us constantly in their prayers. The three younger children (Barron, David, and Margaret) will return to Korea with us, and Alice will remain in this country to continue her studies at King College.

We expect to spend the month of June in Montreat, and our address there will be:

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Box 57, Montreat, N.C. 28757

After driving across the continent during the first part of July, we plan to sail by freighter from San Francisco on July 20th. Since the ship will call at ports in Japan, Okinawa, and Taiwan, we will not arrive in Korea until about the middle of August.

Our address in Korea will be:

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
Whasan Dong, Chunju
Chulla Pukdo, Korea

Please continue to remember us and our work in Korea in your prayers.

Sincerely yours,

Joe B. Hopper

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
Wha San Dong, Chonju
Chulla Puk-do, Korea
October 11, 1965

Dear Friends,

About two months have sped happily and busily past since our return to Korea. Our trip by freighter was the smoothest we have experienced. There were eight passengers besides our family, and some 116 Korea-bound dairy cows in crates above the holds. Memorable was our captain, an earnest Christian -- one of whose sons is a missionary in the Philippines and another Bible professor in a large South African university. We had the honor of having Mrs. Montgomery, long-time China missionary, with us as she came to visit her daughter, Mrs. Paul Crane of the Medical Center.

Korean friends welcomed us with various social occasions and special "thank you" services to God for our return. In general, Joe is encouraged by the church-scene locally. It is a thrill to me to worship in the new church building constructed by the Zion Church I am attending. Before furlough we met in the auditorium of the elementary school. For several Sunday mornings now I've been teaching an English Bible class on the Gospel of Luke, mostly to high school boys. The women's work in my church has strengthened during the year; they now have five circles rather than three.

Please try to visualize the following experiences which we wish you might have shared: Sitting on the floor of her waxed-paper room with an 84-year Buddhist grandmother who was sewing on a quilt-cover. Her expression was often one of amused comprehension as my church's Bible woman (who also grew up in a Buddhist family) explained the Second Commandment. I told her of God's only Son Jesus who said, "No one cometh to the Father but by me." ...A party of more than fifty women, with a few children and one man, packed our living-dining room to see slides taken on our furlough and hear something of our experiences back in the States...Cute black-haired, black-eyed girls accompanying me along the rice-paddy dikes late one afternoon. They wanted to hold my hands and asked in Korean, "Do you speak English? Sing for us in English, 'Jesus Loves Me' and 'Silent Night.'" Joe and I had driven out in the station truck to bring these children of leper parents some clothing, pencils, and picture scrapbooks. The scrapbooks had been made by Juniors in Decatur First Presbyterian Church and the church in Blackstone, Virginia....

There was need for another missionary residence in Chonju, so before furlough Joe had volunteered to supervise its building. A Korean Christian contractor, Elder Kim, is in charge and the brick walls are now rapidly rising above the concrete slab. Our nearest neighbors will be two surgeons of the "Jesus Hospital" to which you gave your birthday offering this spring. Dr. Pak is a neurosurgeon, one of the humblest and most effective "fishers of men" we know. Dr. Lee and his wife have older children attending school in Seoul, but a precious preschool daughter is here with them. Their new homes, built in partly-Korean, partly foreign style, will share some of our lovely view from the hilltop. This large house we are vacating will be converted into apartments.

We have been saddened by the fact that my Mother suffered a stroke following which she has been hospitalized for the past month. She is 79, and they have been married 50 years. If any of you wish to let them know of your prayer-support in these difficult weeks the address is: Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Longenecker, 350 Hale Avenue, Oak Hills, Morristown, Tennessee. God is everywhere, in Morristown as well as Korea, yet it is not always easy for us to understand His providences.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Hopper

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
Wha San Dong,
Chunju, North Chulla, Korea
April 21, 1966

Dear Friends:

The birth and growth of young churches provides both pain and pleasure. Yesterday I had some of the latter at a new church 50 miles from Chunju. After grinding along in 4-wheel drive over a boulder strewn road through a wildly beautiful canyon where azalea grew profusely on the cliff walls, we wound into a bowl-shaped valley seemingly by-passed by the rest of the world. Certainly it was by-passed by the Gospel until last year when a nearby older church began work there. Our visit was unannounced, but soon about 20 young people gathered for a brief informal service and discussion. There was eagerness and receptivity in their welcome. They have bought a house to convert into a church, but lack even the barest essentials in the way of equipment. Their two requests were for a church bell and a "teacher" to hold Daily Vacation Bible School this summer. With this kind of start, I believe the Lord will soon establish a strong church in Mu-lyung-ni.

In distant Soon-chang our new church has an equally bright hope, but considerably more "pains." This county showed slightly over one-half of 1% Christian in a survey a few years ago. Because of past church splits there was no church of our denomination in the county seat to serve as a center from which rural churches could be developed among the 100,000 people of the county. Recently, a fine elder moved there as principal of the high school, and was anxious to start such a church. A young seminary graduate was secured to begin work just before Christmas. With the attraction of this exceptional Christian family and the energies of the young evangelist, a congregation of nearly 100 gathered in a few months, but as yet it has no place to meet except a borrowed upstairs photo studio in a shaky building we fear may collapse if the congregation grows. Since this must also serve as a central gathering point for a half dozen rural churches as well, the congregation, composed largely of new believers, is attempting to build an adequate church this spring. They will likely have to be content with mere walls and roof for the time being, leaving off floor, doors, and windows and other finishing touches.

Rev. John Folta and Rev. Robert Hoffman of this station both leave for furlough in June, so most rural church development responsibilities in this province will fall to me during the next year. Spring meetings of Presbyteries have assigned 35 churches to my care. This involves regular visitation to hold sacraments and attend to other matters such as building churches, providing evangelists, settling disputes, etc. Sometimes the latter can be quite violent, as was the case last Sunday afternoon. We spent 3 hours trying to unite factions in a church where one deacon wanted to rebuild the church immediately and the other wanted to delay. (If such a situation is discouraging, we try to remember the tiff Paul and Barnabas had over Mark!) So, each of these young churches presents its "pains and pleasures."

Our greatest need at the moment is for more ordained missionaries to carry the Gospel into every geographical and social area of the land. We have problems, to be sure, as I have tried to indicate above, but we are faced with a dwindling number of workers to participate in making South Korea the hoped for beachhead from which the Gospel can later be carried into the heartland of Asia. Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest!

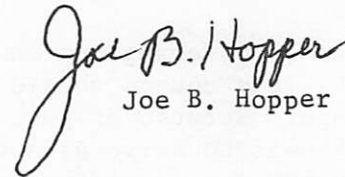
Aside from direct church work, much time is spent attending meetings. The most lengthy are those of the "Dept. of Cooperative Work." This group, composed of equal numbers of missionaries and Koreans attempts to carry out the programs of the mission

with varying success, but inevitably with plenty of talk and red-tape. This aspect of Korean Church life, and the unseemly "politic-ing" which dominates much of the Church Court system, is reason for the earnest prayers of American Christians. We realize that these are doubtless part of the "growing pains" of an emerging church, and that a part of the missionary's task is to try to help serve as guide and conscience, but in this, too, he needs the prayers of friends in the homeland.

The Hopper family has been blessed during the past winter with good health and plenty of activity. Alice at King College, Barron and David at Korea Christian Academy in Taejon, and Margaret in school here, are all doing well in their lessons. Dot is busy teaching school and with other activities such as the gathering of church ladies in the dining room now sewing for the Medical Center.

Please remember us in your prayers,

Sincerely yours,


Joe B. Hopper

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
Whasan Dong, Chunju
North Chulla, Korea
January 9, 1967

Dear Friends:

To the many friends who have remembered us with Christmas cards this year, let me extend our thanks and our best wishes for the New Year. We appreciate your remembering us in this way, and request your prayers as we begin a New Year of helping to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Korea.

All of us have been shocked and saddened by the sudden death by heart attack of Dr. Frank Keller of this station on January 3. Only those who have served together as missionaries can know how close we become to each other and how keenly we feel this loss.

Frank had attended his Korean church as usual on Sunday morning, participated in the English church service (communion) that afternoon, taken part in Station Meeting on Monday night, put in his normal full day attending to patients at the Medical Center on Tuesday, and returned home late in the afternoon. Taking his little dog for a stroll up the road behind his home, he was stricken down at the crest of the hill. Emergency efforts by Drs. Crane and Seel and almost the entire hospital staff failed to restore him.

Funeral services were held Thursday morning at the Medical Center Chapel, sponsored by the staff of the hospital, and presided over by the pastor of his church. The moderator of the Presbytery and I gave brief messages in Korean and in English respectively. Hundreds of local Korean friends, and about seventy Westerners, including most of our own missionaries and many from sister missions, were present. We have lost a beloved friend and co-worker, but we rejoice at his life of service and witness and his readiness to go to be with the Saviour.

Fall itineration involved steady travel to a total of 35 churches all over the province, and I am happy to report that the schedule planned in August was completed without interruption up through the last Sunday before Christmas.

At one of the last places visited, a candidate for the catechumen examination (prior to full membership) was an old woman, who was unusually responsive to our questions. Her story reminds us of something out of the Bible. We learned that she had formerly been completely crazy and had claimed to be possessed of a devil. In this condition she was sometimes able to act as a "moo-dang" (a sort of sorcerer or witch-doctor) and speak for this devil. Her family actually tried to kill her, by starving her to death, and by heating wires in the fire and pricking her. Most of the time she had to be kept tied up because of her violence.

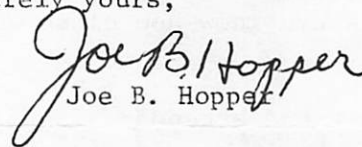
Later the family moved to Seoul and took her along. A neighbor in Seoul insisted that she could be cured if taken to a certain Christian woman who would pray for her. This was done, and the woman's mind was restored suddenly so that she exclaimed: "Why, I am in Seoul!" --something she had not previously realized.

Now back in her country village, she is a regular church attendant, although she has to walk an hour each way to church. When examining her I asked the usual question: "Why do you believe in Jesus?" I expected the usual answer, generally carefully memorized at the instruction of the local evangelist, i.e., "In order to have forgiveness of my sins and receive salvation." But her answer was: "Because the devil has gone out of me." No matter how I put the question this was the only answer I could get out of her: "Because the devil has gone out of me!" Changing my tactics a bit, I began to ask, "Well, now that the devil has left you, what do you have because you believe in Jesus?" Immediately her answer was: "I have a shin-sey-gye (new world)." Again, no matter how much I prodded

she would not answer in the usual manner that her sins were forgiven and she had salvation. To her, faith in Jesus meant that she had "got rid of the devil and lived in a new world."

This woman who had lived under the tyranny and terror of evil had found peace through faith in her Saviour who had brought her from darkness into light... into a new world. Jesus said: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God," and this ignorant country woman knows exactly what that means. May the New Year see many in this land born again, released from the power of Satan into the new world.

Sincerely yours,


Joe B. Hopper

P.S. If any of you have been using our APO address, please discontinue using it as we no longer have this privilege. Use only the International Mail (address at the head of this letter.)



Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
 Presbyterian Mission
 Whasan Dong, Chunju
 North Chulla, Korea
 October 27, 1967

Dear Friends:

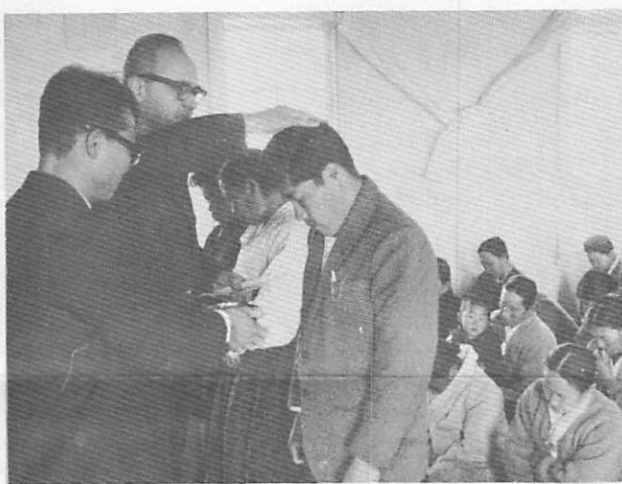
This is the harvest season in Korea, and everywhere we visit among country folks, we find piles of grain and heaps of straw. Roads are clogged with heavily laden oxcarts or men carrying "jiggies" piled high with harvested rice. Our mechanized American farms somehow miss the sheer joy of "bringing in the sheaves" which one cannot avoid in the more primitive Korean rural society. Similarly, in our work

as evangelistic missionaries, it is a privilege to share in a harvest of eternal proportions, and to know the joy that comes "when one sinner repents." Yet there are areas of Korea this fall where months of drought have caused almost total crop failure, notably in the province to the south (South Chulla), and massive relief measures are necessary this winter. Also, there are churches with spiritual famine, and we are saddened when even in a village with hundreds of non-believers, not a single person comes to be received into the church. Your prayers are needed that like life-giving rain, the Spirit may fall upon the hearts of many to bring the needed revival.

The Hoppers have had a happy year. The highlight in family affairs came with the arrival of Alice for a three-month summer visit, bringing the family together during most of the period. Alice visited widely over the Mission, and her spoken Korean was still fluent enough for her to renew many old acquaintances. Barron graduated from Korea Christian Academy in June, and returned with Alice to the States in August. He is a freshman at Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C., and she a senior at King College in Bristol, Tenn.



In September we took Margaret, our youngest, to Korea Christian Academy in Taejon where she is in the seventh grade and David is a senior in high school. Without children at home, we have embarked on a new venture. Whereas heretofore I have travelled to visit my country churches alone, we now go together and live in a small travel trailer provided with a gift from the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, N. C.



Seldom do Korean homes have guest rooms, and in this way it is not necessary to impose any hardship on our hosts, and we are more free to make longer and more meaningful visits. Hordes of village children testify that in Korea not all the "togetherness" of trailer living is on the inside! This fall our schedule has been to move in the morning, visit in homes all afternoon, have supper with Korean friends, and hold meetings in the evening. No record of homes visited has been kept, but there have been scores of them. In Christian homes we hold a devotional; to non-Christians we try to give a brief testimony and appeal to accept Christ, and leave Gospel tracts. Often such visits double the size of the night congregation, attracted by

the visit of Americans (especially the lady). Already we have had three "missionary journeys" and more are planned throughout the fall.

"Sowing in the morning, sowing deeds of kindness,
 Sowing in the noontide, and the dewy eve;
 Waiting for the harvest and the time of reaping,
 We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves."

Sincerely yours,

Joe and Dot Hopper

Joe & Dot Hopper



Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Box 64
Montreat, North Carolina 28757

December 6, 1968

Dear Friends:

Our six-month furlough is drawing to an end, and we pause to thank our many friends in the home-land for their hospitality and kindnesses during this period and ask your continued prayers for us and our work as we prepare to return to Korea.

We left Korea on July 4th and flew to the West Coast, stopping two days in Honolulu en route. Purchasing a used car in California we drove across the continent in one week, pausing to see the Grand Canyon and to visit Barron at work in an Explorer Camp in Missouri. The furlough has been spent with Montreat as our headquarters. From this place we have made numerous excursions throughout Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky to visit churches and to speak on the Lord's work in Korea.

The family was reunited briefly during the summer, again at Thanksgiving, and will be together during the Christmas season. As we return to Korea we leave Alice teaching school near Atlanta, Barron in his sophomore year at Presbyterian College (Clinton, S.C.) and David at King College (Bristol, Tenn.) and take with us only Margaret who will be 14 the day we arrive in Korea. It has been wonderful to have frequent visits with both sets of grandparents (Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Hopper, Presbyterian Home, Box 1110, High Point, N.C. and Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Longenecker, 350 Hale Avenue, Morristown, Tenn.)

Reports from the work we have left in Korea have been all too few during our absence, and we interpret this to mean that our fellow workers have been too busy carrying on to tell us about it. We thank God that missionaries and Korean pastors have cared for the twenty rural churches committed to our care by Chunpuk and Chunsuh Presbyteries this spring, and that Rev. Lee Kui-chul has continued the regular publication of our magazine "Words of Blessing" which this year for the first time is published in ten issues during the year, and which we hope to produce each of the twelve months next year.

It is our conviction that God is preparing the church in Korea and other fringe-lands of the Asiatic continent, so that when doors into the heartland of Asia open for proclaiming the Gospel, there will be a horde of Asiatic missionaries ready to enter. May God grant that the Church of America may not miss today's opportunity to create the next onward wave of missionaries, or mar the calibre of their faith by any departure from or dilution of the true content of the Gospel! What Christians say and do in America is almost instantly known by radio, television, and the press even in remote hamlets of Korea; hence every Christian is as responsible as the missionary abroad for the impact of his Christian life and witness.

We return to Korea leaving here January 13th and arriving in Chunju January 16th after spending two nights on the way.

May the Christmas season bring you true joy and happiness in the knowledge that "the Lord has Come."

Merry Christmas to all!

Joe + Dot Hopper
Joe and Dot Hopper

Address: Presbyterian Mission
149 Whasan Dong
Chunju, North Chulla
Korea

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
149 Wha San Dong
Chunju, Chulla Pukdo, Korea
June 23, 1969

Dear Friends:

We greet you from Chunju, to which we returned January 16. After a 6 month furlough we found it much easier to slip back into our work routine. Winter was long, with an abnormal snowfall, but spring finally came and we itinerated among 20 churches placed in our care by two presbyteries.

Each church is unique, bringing interesting variety. Evangelist Lee at Soo-dong failed to impress us at first, but after repeated visits we find him loved by his people, diligently visiting and preaching, and effective in starting new churches. On our spring visit, he took us after the Soo-dong morning service to another village 5 miles away where he began work a month before. The whole village turned out to welcome the first foreign VIPs. During dinner a dozen old ladies watched every bite to see what we did or didn't eat. Meanwhile a crowd gathered for service in an adjacent room. In the 10 by 15 foot space 45 people were seated, with uncounted others at the doors. As I preached, an old bearded patriarch came in, saw a few square inches of space near my feet and proceeded to stand there, while I politely discontinued preaching until he could displace others and sit down. Afterward while Sunday School was held, we moved to another room where the village head-men crowded in to urge us to start a church. Credit is due to the influence of Evangelist Lee. God is opening doors in rural Korea, and we thank Him for an opportunity to participate!

There is an exciting development in Chunju City where new industries spark rapid growth. It is estimated the city will double to 1/2 million in 10 years, an average of 25,000 per year. Existing churches cannot absorb the Christians among these, let alone witness to the non-Christians. We have just organized a City Church Development Committee to plan new churches. We hope to pool resources of churches and Christian institutions to "occupy" these strategic areas for Christ. A major problem is skyrocketing land prices. We must move fast, and think ahead, in order to secure promising locations before it is too late.

Let us summarize areas of concern needing your prayers and help:

1. Our rural churches are suffering from mass migration to the cities--sometimes 30% of the members (often the ablest) move in one year, making self-support difficult or impossible. And yet the rural population is not decreased, leaving as great a need as ever for the Gospel witness.
2. Trained leadership for country churches is almost non-obtainable. Young Christians are no longer interested in taking Bible Institute training and becoming lay-evangelists at rock-bottom salaries in rural churches. Those called to the ministry attend seminary and become ordained ministers. This is good, but few young ministers will make the financial sacrifices to serve rural churches when mushrooming city churches offer better opportunities.
3. Cities are booming and their churches are full to overflowing. Yet many lack vision and concern to colonize elsewhere in the city. As a result rural Christians are left to drift, tempted by the growing glamour of city life.
4. Korea is on a military footing and wary of renewed communist aggression. Constant infiltration probes by red agents are ample evidence that our northern neighbors have anything but peaceful intentions. Everywhere we toured this spring we saw virtually all young men in home guard training. Military supplies are distributed, helicopter pads built on mountain-tops, communications installed, and all is in readiness. Yet the threat becomes alarmingly real, when a week ago a 3-man infiltration team landed (and were killed) only a few hundred yards from a church where we paid a brief informal visit this spring.

Sincerely yours,

Joe and Dot Hopper
Joe and Dot Hopper

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
Whasan Dong, Chunju
North Chulla, Korea
February 9, 1970

Dear Friends:

The Lunar New Year holidays and consequent lull in normal work gives opportunity to report the work of the past year and the prospects of the new.

It was a good year for rural evangelism. Records of the number of examinations held for church membership since 1954 show that in 1969 we held more (total 368) than in any year since 1957, although we were in charge of fewer churches. Of these 132 were baptisms on profession of faith, and the rest largely catechumens. This indicates continued steady growth in rural churches, for which we are most grateful to the Lord of the Harvest. During the year five brand new rural churches were started in the same area.

The committee organized last year to start new churches in Chonju City has purchased one excellent piece of land with gifts from various sources, and will begin the church there next month. This movement has sparked an interest in starting city churches which already promises that two others will shortly be begun. Our interest in rural evangelism compels us to be concerned about urban church development in view of the rapid influx of country people into the cities. Industrial and housing areas are developing rapidly and centers for worship and evangelism are urgently needed. Land prices multiply so fast that the appeal is made to missionaries to secure the land and allow local Christians to start the churches, and we try to give as favorable response as financial resources will allow.

Our missionary task is lightened and our role shifted by increasing numbers of Korean ordained ministers in rural areas. In the local Presbytery the number of ministers has nearly doubled in the last few years. This provides far better leadership and is evidence of progress toward self-support. Yet scores of small village churches continue to suffer because of migration of the best young members to the cities and resulting famine of leadership.

Our magazine for church leaders, Pok-twen Malsum ("Words of blessing") was published monthly and sent to all our churches, where it is well received. My contribution was serving as business manager and general consultant to the editor, and continuing a series of articles in practical pastoral theology. Our editor, Rev. Ki-chul Lee, has received a Board of World Missions Scholarship for a year of study in America beginning in May, and we trust this will fit him even better for continuing his fine work.

After living next door to the Presbyterian Medical Center for over 20 years, I finally became a patient there in early December. A Korean and Missionary surgical team operated on my back to remove a ruptured disk and after a period of rest I have completely recovered. It is a blessing to have this experience in a Christian institution where all in attendance were first-rate professionally and gave active expression to their commitment to the Great Physician. Among innumerable kindnesses received was the visit of a pastor and two of his elders who made a three-hour bus trip from a distant church for this purpose. The high-point was Sunday, when all normal hospital work ceased, but there were visits by choirs: a group of nurses singing "Saviour Like a Shepherd Lead Me" early in the morning, young people from a city church at noon singing, "My Jesus As Thou Wilt," and a quartet of the hospital staff in the evening singing (among others) "O God the Rock of Ages." Surely such messages in song must deeply impress everyone, especially non-Christian patients, that there is something immeasurably "different" about the "Jesus Hospital" as it is known in Korean.

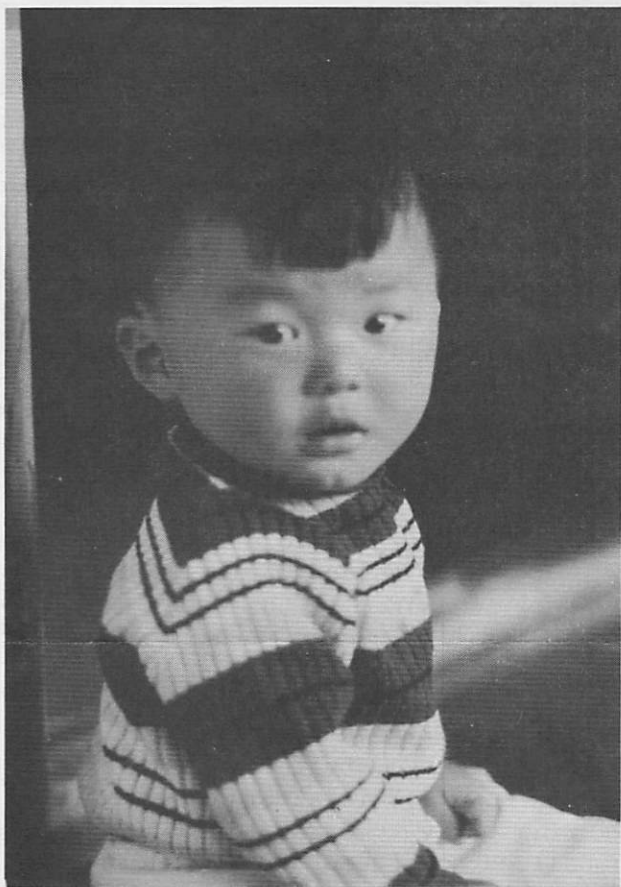
In addition to travelling to visit rural churches, Dot has been busy with other duties. These include regular visiting in the hospital and among women prisoners in the penitentiary, weekly visits at a local orphanage along with about a half-dozen church women, holding a class in Western cooking in our kitchen under auspices of the local YWCA, working with the Women of the Church organization, and teaching some private English lessons.

Daughter Alice teaches in Atlanta but wrote last week that she has been appointed by the Board of World Missions as a teacher of missionary children (located at Kwangju) beginning this fall. Barron is in the army and in training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. David is a sophomore at King College and Margaret in the 10th grade in Taejon. We are kept busy keeping up with their whereabouts and writing to them.

Please pray for Korea and the Lord's work in this land.

Sincerely yours,

Joe and Dot Hopper
Joe and Dot Hopper



A country deacon's son...

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
 Presbyterian Mission, 149 Wha San Dong
 Chonju, Chulla Puk-do, Korea, 520
 June 9, 1970

Dear friends-who-keep-us-out-here,

We continue to thank God for your faithful giving through our Board of World Missions, which though without fanfare supplies the budget for our work and the support for us individually. We trust that your realizing that you have a part in holding forth the Word of Life to those hungry for it and responsive to it will at times warm your heart. It does ours. And this month in this 20th year anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, again we thank God that South Korea still remains a free country. We go about our business week by week under the knowledge that this precarious situation may not always remain as peaceful, so we ask God to guide us in the use of our time and our presentation of the message that "lighteth every man that cometh into the world." We are grateful for the presence of the American military alongside of the Korean forces.

We constantly are amazed at the various economic improvements taking place in Korea: the new factories in our city, the network of super-highways projected for this country which still has so many ox-carts. We watch Koreans whiz by in the new taxis, see the better-dressed children even way out in the tiny villages, rejoice at each new rural school and cement bridge which is built. Pray with us for the Lord's leading by His Holy Spirit that the Korean Church may awake, be less ingrown and complacent in its local congregations, but ever reach outward in a widening circle of fellowship to bring lost sinners to Jesus Christ.

Weekend before last Joe and I with our trailer visited three churches. A little of the novelty of the trailer has worn off, and children do not pound on it or try shaking it as much. Yet still in some places I conduct the standard "tour," allowing 5 persons in at a time to punch the foam-rubber mattress, admire the sink with its running water, marvel at the 3 propane gas burners of the stove... This past Sunday, with 15-year old Margaret back from Korea Christian Academy for vacation, we drove an hour and a half to another church Joe oversees. While Joe examined the 3 catechumens and one young lady ready for baptism, I led a service with my flannelgraph pictures for the children and grandmothers. The only



Christian elder showing some of his silkworms



Making orphanage toys in Hopper dining room

stuffed animals which last Tuesday we gave to the little ones...This afternoon Margaret is making raised doughnuts for a goodbye picnic and swimming party tomorrow for our station's two high school graduates. One will enter Davidson College and the other St. Andrews in the fall.

Joe left by train for Seoul yesterday to take a flight to Cheju-do this morning. Cheju-do is the largest island off South Korea. Along with the couple of missionaries and committee members appointed by the Cheju Korean Presbytery Joe is helping make plans for future Christian work on that beautiful island, famous for its wild horses, winds, stone walls of volcanic rock, and diving girls who go down for pearls.

Rev. Lee Ki Chul, co-editor with Joe of the Pck-twen Malsum Magazine will be attending Columbia Seminary, Decatur, for a year to better prepare him for the work he does for Korean lay leadership. We thank you and the Board of World Missions for providing funds for his scholarship study.

Recently Joe spent Mon. to Wed. at our nearest American airbase, holding services for the men at the request of the dedicated chaplain. In spite of several alerts and drills, the last night 4 men came forward indicating they had come to Christ.

Sometime in August our Alice will come to Korea, having volunteered to teach missionary children in Kwangju for two years. Needless to say, it will be a great joy for us to have her just 70 miles away in distance (3 hrs. in time). North Avenue Presbyterian Church, Atlanta (which has been her church home for the past two years), will have part of her support. And it pleases us that the Decatur Presbyterian Church (one of our own supporting churches) has also requested part of her support. Her address, and our son David's for the summer will be: Box 64, Montreat, N.C., 28757. David has completed two years at King College and has a job at Assembly Inn, Montreat for the summer... Barron is at Ft. Carson, Colorado, in that beautiful state of high mountains. His address is: Pfc. Joseph Hopper, 546 -72 - 6245, 148th MP Co., Ft. Carson, Colorado, 80913.

leadership in that church consists of two deacons, one more talented than the other, and one young man who comes in to the men's Bible School here during the week. Joe says he is a bright boy. In thinking of our country churches I often remember, "he will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick." The fact remains, new souls are being constantly brought into Christ's Kingdom through these tiny churches with their often pitiful leadership.

Margaret went with me this morning out to a local orphanage where Korean Christian women, sponsored by the YWCA, have been going Tuesday mornings to play with the children and give them some of the tender-loving-care the staff cannot give. They helped sew and stuff more than 80 cute

Cordially,

Joe and Dot Hopper

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
149 Wha San Dong
Chunju, Chulla Pukdo, KOREA 520
November 19, 1970

Dear Friends:

Greetings from Chunju! The Hoppers are well, and as usual are scattered in many places. It is wonderful to have Alice back in Korea. She teaches missionary children in Kwangju and we have frequent visits and phone calls. Barron is in the U.S. Army at Fort Carson, Colo., and David is a junior at King College. Margaret is in 10th grade at Korea Christian Academy in Taejon. Dot and I continue our rural work as usual.

Missionaries are sometimes criticized for giving glowing reports of successes while omitting accounts of failures and discouragements. Admittedly some evangelistic efforts or Christian service projects simply fail outright or have to be sustained for years before fulfilling their initial promise of success. But the success stories are the encouraging "shot in the arm" to uphold and cheer our task and it is right that we share our happiness over them. "Church planting" is our calling, and harvest is a time of rejoicing. During the past year we have noted the following evidence of the successful impact of the Gospel upon this land.

1. Namwon county is beautiful for its rugged mountains and crystal streams. It abounds in pheasant and deer to attract missionary hunters like myself. The people are hospitable and warm-hearted, giving a generous welcome to the missionary and his message so that it is a relatively easy district in which to start churches. A large part of my time has been spent there during the past 20 years, and it is my favorite place to work. During most of this time we have had only one ordained Korean pastor in the county seat, while I had to take charge of a dozen or more rural churches in the area. Suddenly many of these have begun to blossom and almost overnight we find 8 ordained pastors serving the region as increasing numbers of churches come to full self-support. No longer is the missionary needed here as before, though he still helps a few isolated difficult points. This is what we have been working towards, i.e., a church and leadership strong enough to carry the ball while the missionary sits and cheers in the grandstand or turns his attentions elsewhere.

2. Chungooop county is the heaviest populated region I now serve. It has spacious rice lands with a brand new irrigation system guaranteeing sufficient water regardless of rainfall. Next year a paved expressway will slice through the middle of the county bringing it closer to major markets and changing the patterns of agriculture and society



Old friends of more than 20 years
I baptized young evangelist 21 years ago.



New friends in a rural village
Typical of a warm welcome



Mobile Rural Evangelism

drastically. Yet the churches have often discouraged us, and many still exist with little more than a name and a delapidated building. But the year has shown remarkable strides forward. At Ta'en a new congregation has erected a fine new church on a prominent park-like hill and gives promise of serving as a center to surrounding small rural churches. At Chun-won the old building put up during the Korean War collapsed this spring in a wind and rain storm. But a local elementary school teacher, an elder who formerly served in a Mission School in Chunju, has with almost no resources built a new church, completely finished, and adequate for the needs of the community. At Yew-jung-ni, the finest group of laymen in the Presbytery have built a church that stands guard over a vast expanse of fertile rice fields with a heavy concentration of population. The Church of God does not consist of buildings, but they are by no means non-essential in establishing a community of dedicated and trained citizens of the Kingdom.

3. One man may be God's key agent for a whole territory. This has been evident in Kochang county, most distant of the areas we serve. Here the level of development in every respect is comparatively low, and the churches poor and small. Last year God sent an energetic young minister to the county-seat church. As the only ordained minister among 18 churches, Mr. Ahn has his hands full. Yet he has nearly finished building a badly needed new sanctuary for his own congregation, and is actively engaged in nurturing all the others. He is particularly adept at gathering the unordained lay evangelists serving these rural churches for periods of fellowship, inspiration, study and training. Already the churches of Kochang have taken heart under the inspiration of a leader who is challenging them to more effective witness to Christ. Mr. Ahn was one of several young people I baptized in Namwon about 15 years ago.

The most discouraging feature of rural evangelism in Korea today is the rapid migration to the cities (particularly Seoul) of the young, the strong, and the talented from rural villages. Church after church suffers because as many as 1/3 of its members per year move away. This often makes self-support an illusive goal, and yet these churches are essential if 15 million rural people are to hear the Gospel.

The Korean Church looks forward to celebrating its 100th anniversary 15 years from now, and is planning a series of three 5-year plans in celebration. The major goal in the first plan is to double church membership throughout the land. Surely there could be no better way to celebrate an anniversary! Pray for the Korean Church and for us as we work toward this goal.

Thank you for your support of the Lord's work here in Korea.

Sincerely yours,

Joel B. Hopper

Rev. & Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
Whasan Dong, Chunju
North Chulla, Korea 520
May 1, 1971



Alice, Barron, Margaret

Dear Friends:

Some of you will want to know of several significant events in the Hopper family as they are matters on which our attention has been focused in recent months.

First of all, my father, Dr. Joseph Hopper; died at the Presbyterian Home in High Point on Feb. 20 at the age of 78. He had been in the infirmary for a year and a half. While this is a matter of personal sorrow at his loss, we all rejoice in his fruitful ministry here in Korea and in the United States. When news of his death came, we were greatly comforted by numerous Korean friends who came to express sympathy and gratitude for what he had done for them, particularly as a Bible teacher for which he was highly regarded. Mother was able to nurse him to the end and continues in good health, living in her apartment at the Presbyterian Home. Father's older sister, Miss Margaret Hopper, also a retired missionary to Korea, lives there too. We are thankful to those who have made this home available to these former missionaries.

Our son Barron, now in the U.S. army stationed at Ft. Carson, Colo., had a month leave and came to visit us in March for several weeks. It was wonderful to have him with us again for this long visit. We had some good pheasant hunts together, and he was able to meet many old friends both here and elsewhere in Korea. He expects to leave the army this summer and resume his college education in the fall term.

Alice, our oldest daughter, is to be married in June in Atlanta to Mr. Jack Dokter of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where they will make their home. She has been teaching children of missionaries in Kwangju this year, and met her fiance who was with the USAF there. She will conclude her year of teaching before returning to the States at the end of May. We are all highly pleased and look forward to the happy event.



Dot, Korean children, and Kimchi jars

The rest of us plan a short furlough this summer, flying to and from the United States by missionary charter flights on June 21 (going) and Aug. 31 (returning). We expect to be in Atlanta for Alice's wedding on June 26, making our home at Mission Haven (Address: 207 Inman Drive, Decatur, Ga. 30030) until July 15 after which we will be in Montreat. We hope to see many of you during our short time in the States.

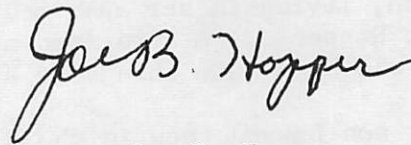
April 27 has seen another presidential election in Korea, with the

former president winning another four year term by a clear majority. One month later members of the national Assembly are to be elected. We pray that these events will bring continued peace and prosperity to this land as well as unhindered opportunities for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to these people.

Dot and I continue our work with rural churches, visiting them on scheduled itineraries every week-end. Many of them are extremely weak in numbers, leadership, and financial strength. In spite of these difficulties, we rejoice that the Lord does establish them one by one. Last Saturday we visited a little church begun about six years ago and which has always seemed to struggle merely to exist. We were pleased to find a new evangelist there, his wife helping prepare dinner for us (with her 4-day old baby asleep on the floor), an enthusiastic group of Christians, a neatly walled little church building of which they are proud, and signs of prosperity in the little village giving promise of a place of usefulness for the little church.

We thank God for your continued support, and ask your prayers for His work in Korea.

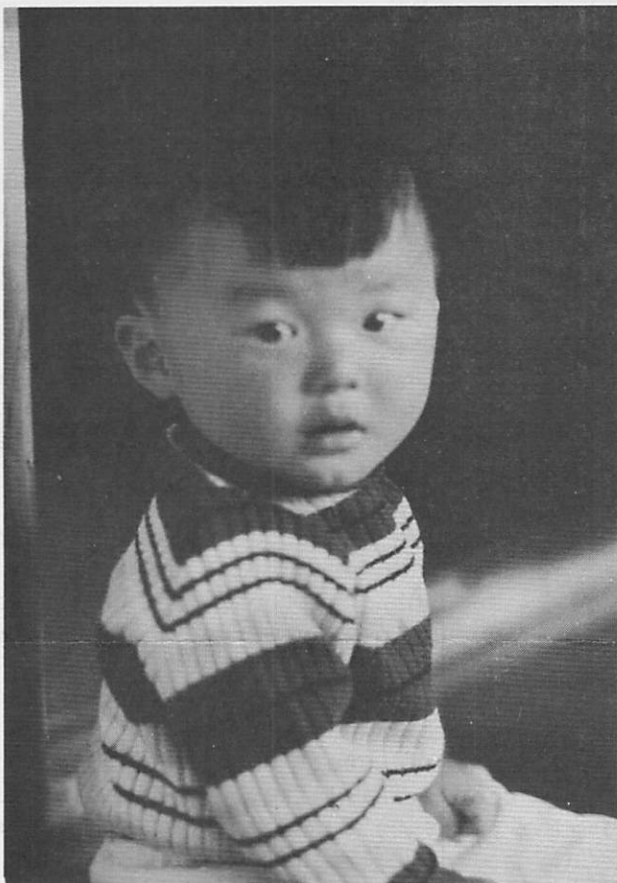
Sincerely yours,



Joe B. Hopper



Young blind man on day of baptism



A country deacon's son...

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
 Presbyterian Mission, 149 Wha San Dong
 Chonju, Chulla Puk-do, Korea, 520
 June 9, 1970

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We constantly are amazed at the various economic improvements taking place in Korea: the new factories in our city, the network of super-highways projected for this country which still has so many ox-carts. We watch Koreans whiz by in the new taxis, see the better-dressed children even way out in the tiny villages, rejoice at each new rural school and cement bridge which is built. Pray with us for the Lord's leading by His Holy Spirit that the Korean Church may awake, be less ingrown and complacent in its local congregations, but ever reach outward in a widening circle of fellowship to bring lost sinners to Jesus Christ.

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Christian elder showing some of his silkworms



Making orphanage toys in Hopper dining room

stuffed animals which last Tuesday we gave to the little ones...This afternoon Margaret is making raised doughnuts for a goodbye picnic and swimming party tomorrow for our station's two high school graduates. One will enter Davidson College and the other St. Andrews in the fall.

Joe left by train for Seoul yesterday to take a flight to Cheju-do this morning. Cheju-do is the largest island off South Korea. Along with the couple of missionaries and committee members appointed by the Cheju Korean Presbytery Joe is helping make plans for future Christian work on that beautiful island, famous for its wild horses, winds, stone walls of volcanic rock, and diving girls who go down for pearls.

Rev. Lee Ki Chul, co-editor with Joe of the Pck-twen Malsum Magazine will be attending Columbia Seminary, Decatur, for a year to better prepare him for the work he does for Korean lay leadership. We thank you and the Board of World Missions for providing funds for his scholarship study.

Recently Joe spent Mon. to Wed. at our nearest American airbase, holding services for the men at the request of the dedicated chaplain. In spite of several alerts and drills, the last night 4 men came forward indicating they had come to Christ.

Sometime in August our Alice will come to Korea, having volunteered to teach missionary children in Kwangju for two years. Needless to say, it will be a great joy for us to have her just 70 miles away in distance (3 hrs. in time). North Avenue Presbyterian Church, Atlanta (which has been her church home for the past two years), will have part of her support. And it pleases us that the Decatur Presbyterian Church (one of our own supporting churches) has also requested part of her support. Her address, and our son David's for the summer will be: Box 64, Montreat, N.C., 28757. David has completed two years at King College and has a job at Assembly Inn, Montreat for the summer... Barron is at Ft. Carson, Colorado, in that beautiful state of high mountains. His address is: Pfc. Joseph Hopper, 546 -72 - 6245, 148th MP Co., Ft. Carson, Colorado, 80913.

leadership in that church consists of two deacons, one more talented than the other, and one young man who comes in to the men's Bible School here during the week. Joe says he is a bright boy. In thinking of our country churches I often remember, "he will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick." The fact remains, new souls are being constantly brought into Christ's Kingdom through these tiny churches with their often pitiful leadership.

Margaret went with me this morning out to a local orphanage where Korean Christian women, sponsored by the YWCA, have been going Tuesday mornings to play with the children and give them some of the tender-loving-care the staff cannot give. They helped sew and stuff more than 80 cute

Cordially,

Joe and Bob Hopper

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
149 Wha San Dong
Chonju, Chulla Puk-do, Korea 520
September 17, 1971

Dear friends,

Chal kata-wa-sayo! We went and we came! We've safely been and returned from our summer furlough in the States, and our only regret is that we did not get to see more of you. We were away from Chonju a total of two months and ten days, riding both ways on chartered missionary flights which are cheaper for the Board.

The first big event on our agenda after reaching Mission Haven in Decatur, Georgia, was our daughter Alice's wedding. Thanks to gracious friends there was a tupperware shower for the bride, a bride's luncheon, a brunch on the wedding day, and a picnic time to "unwind" after the wedding and reception. Many out-of-town relatives and missionary friends by their presence added joy. Jack was able to be in Atlanta a week prior to the wedding and it was our special pleasure to get to know members of his family from Florida, Georgia and Michigan. We are grateful for the Christian heritage of the family into which Alice has married. At 4:00 P.M. June 26 Jack Dokter of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida took our Alice as his bride in holy marriage in the sanctuary of the North Avenue Presbyterian Church, Atlanta where she had been a member for two years prior to coming to Korea. Jack very much likes his job with Florida Electric and Power Company. Both he and Alice sing in the choir of Covenant Church, and have been asked to start and teach a couples' Sunday School Class. During the summer Alice found real satisfaction in teaching Bible to some of the young people at the Christian drug rehabilitation center run by members of her church. Alice's and Jack's address is: 890 N.W. 39th St., Apt. 2, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33309.

Barron was granted his "early out" from the army a couple of weeks after climbing Pike's Peak with a friend. He was able to join us for a few days in Montreat before we drove him to Chapel Hill where he entered the University of North Carolina as a junior. He is rooming in the home of an economics professor's widow, and letters indicate he is off to a good start there at Chapel Hill. Since we returned to Korea we were interested to learn from a Korean Ph.D. who once studied at U.N.C. that the Methodists sponsor a Korean worship service at least once monthly. Perhaps Barron will have an opportunity to go sometime and enjoy Korean fellowship as he did at a Korean Church service in Denver, Colo. during his army service near Colorado Springs. It pleases Koreans in the States no end to run across an American young man who can really communicate with them in their own tongue.

Following 2 1/2 weeks at Decatur, our headquarters was Montreat. Joe's Mother lived with us, as did David who was one of the bellhops at Assembly Inn. He is back for his senior year at King College, Bristol, Tenn. 37620. We were happy for the number of occasions we had of seeing my Daddy, now 82.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. Dokter

Among the various Korean friends who have come to our home to greet us since our return to Korea was the Rev. Lee Ki Chul, editor of the Pok-Twen Malsum

or Good News Magazine. He spent last year doing graduate work at Columbia Seminary, and had returned to Korea a week before we left for the States. It was heartening to hear his report of his summer activities, especially of the opportunities he had had for Bible preaching and teaching in two large summer retreats, one with over 350 persons present. The household of faith out here is strengthened as Korean Christian leaders, more adequately trained than before, pass on the Word of Life.

One Sunday Joe and I had the inspiration of Sunday School and church in beautiful stone Gaither Chapel, Montreat. The next Sunday -- thanks to travel in this jet age -- we were back here and at a Korean country church where morning worship involved our sitting on the wooden floor Korean style. At 4:30 P.M. that afternoon Joe preached at the English worship service to a small congregation of Americans, Canadians, Irish, Koreans, plus a guest from New Orleans.

We brought back with us much food for thought and various themes of inspiration from our summer in the States. During the World Mission Conference some of the key speakers were four Congolese nationals. As I listened to their addresses in French, Tshiluba or Lingala and then heard them smoothly translated into English, vocabulary which had lain dormant since I left Congo so long ago was revived! It is heartening to think of the strides forward that Christ's work has taken in Africa in spite of the problems there in the last years...A Korea retired missionary reminded me, "We serve a Sovereign God." She told me that a year ago, quite discouraged by currents of strife within our church, she was reassured when she remembered one day that God is King...And then Dr. Gutzski brought some powerful messages during the Bible Hour at the Presbyterian Evangelism Conference, and the one which meant most to me was his last on Ezekiel 37:1-14: how by the power of His Holy Spirit God can breathe life even into dead bones. Hence God's Spirit can breathe life even into our homes lives, or our local congregations, or the denomination of the Presbyterian Church, U.S....Dr. L. Nelson Bell's Sunday School teaching was, as always, lucid and helpful.

Among highlights since our return have been: the 60th birthday celebration for the minister of my Zion Church; the outdoor capping service of 29 more Christian nurses which took place in the yard of what was for 17 years our home; the long jeep-trip to Oombong to visit a little 89 year old Christian woman who wanted to see Joe ere she died. When Joe got the telegram on Sat. he rearranged his weekend schedule in order for us to go there Sunday. It is a bumpy 3 hr. ride each way; he preached at a church en route but was not told till after the service that his friend went to her Lord at 10 P.M. Sat. evening. She had for 40 years been a Christian and was a gay and zestful witness for her Lord. Whenever Joe was in the area at her church or even one several miles off she walked there to worship with him, and often to go along in the house-to-house visiting. Many were the simple gifts she had with ceremonious bow presented to him: once four roasted chestnuts; at other times a white hanky; at times 3 or four ten-won paper bills. Her home was a grass-roofed hut but we know she has treasure in heaven.

Two young ladies who are both new missionaries for Chonju were present at our first fall missionary prayer meeting, and how glad we are to have them here! Alma Grubbs reminded us that in the verse about Christ's "yoke" being easy it is because God's yoke for each of us is made individually to fit us. We feel that God's task for us in Korea fits us. May yours be as satisfying to you!

Your missionary,

Dot Hopper

Rev. and Mrs. Joe Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
149 Whasan Dong, Chunju
North Chulla, Korea 520
January 29, 1972

Dear Friends:

This young friend has acquired possession of Dot's handbag, but she reminds us of how the Lord is taking care right now of perhaps the weakest church in this Presbytery. The Paltuk Church has suffered many years from lack of adequate leadership and funds to provide an evangelist for this heavily populated area. But this child's father has just moved here to work in the post office. He and his wife are earnest Christians. Although they had just moved in their furniture when we visited last fall, we were entertained in their home for supper. A "pop" visit a few weeks ago revealed that the man is now holding the services regularly and has helped purchase a little "pump" organ. Attendance is improving. He may be the one man the Lord often uses to establish His church in such out-of-the-way places as Paltuk.



This group had lunch with us one day last fall. The two Korean ministers represent the rising leadership in the Korean Church. Rev. Lee Ki-chul (right) has been my associate for over ten years while serving as editor of the Pok-twen Malsum (Words of Blessing) Magazine. He had just returned from a year of graduate study at Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Ga. Rev. Yoon Yuh-kwon was his excellent "pinch-hitter" during that time. He had a five-year ministry in a large rural church prior to this, and now has returned to the pastorate in a neighboring city. Pictured here at our home (with their wives) was the occasion of a dinner of farewell for Mr. Yoon and of welcome for Mr. Lee. The magazine they have served goes to all our Presbyterian Churches to assist

pastors and other church leaders in their work. This ministry is highly appreciated by hundreds of these leaders but needs your prayerful support in the face of rising costs of such productions.

The ox may be dumb but he knows when his picture is being taken. A heathen funeral in the yard of the home next to the church indicated that out of courtesy we should postpone starting services an hour or so. Here Dot has gathered such children as happened to be around and is telling a Bible story in the yard of the home of the deacon where we were visiting.



Twenty-five years ago there was a fairly strong church here, but North Korean Communists killed practically every Christian in the village and the church has been slow in making a comeback. Yet there are now three strong Christian couples who are the nucleus of Christian witness at Tuk-am.

In addition to the routine work about which we have written you before, there are always unusual and special opportunities opening up. Here are a few of them:

Preaching a few Sundays ago at the ROK Army 35th Reserve Division outside Chunju to 250 soldiers packed into the little chapel. The commanding officer, a General and a Christian, was present.

Preaching to workers in a local cigarette factory during their lunch-hour... part of the work of the industrial evangelist, a young woman employed by local Christians.

Preaching a Christmas sermon to women prisoners at the local penitentiary where Dot and a Korean friend had been visiting and working once a week. Leading officials of the penitentiary are Christians and encourage this work.

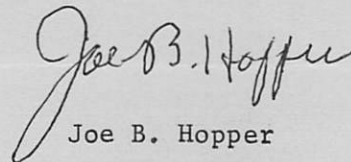
Preaching one night to a room full of teen-age girls organized into a "Bible Club" at a city-operated vocational school where such girls learn practical skills rather than drifting into less worthy pursuits.

Last, but not least! Remember that on February 20 you can make a special over-and-above, unequalized offering for World Missions. Here is the opportunity you have been waiting for! Now you can make possible the sending forth of new messengers of the Gospel, and undergird all the work of which I have described but a fraction in this letter.

We hear American dollars have been devalued. This means you ought to be able to afford to give more of them. That may be economic nonsense, but it means cents (and dollars) when offered for the most important work in the world!

Remember: February 20 is the day you can do your part in a big way for World Missions in order to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord.

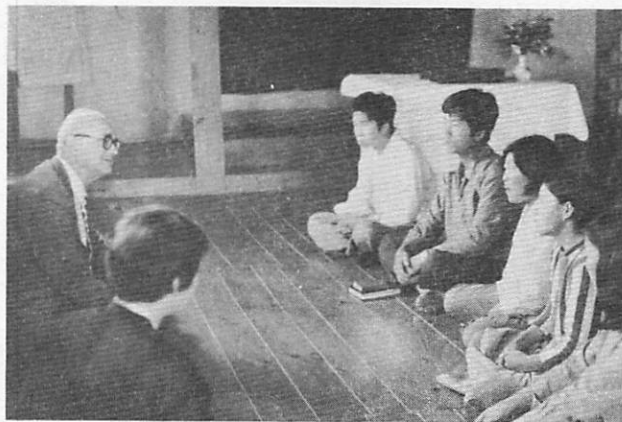
Cordially yours,


Joe B. Hopper

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
149 Wha San Dong
Chonju, Chulla Puk-do, Korea 520
May 29, 1972

Dear friends,

Last weekend a spring broke on the travel-trailer, and today a wheel came off. We had to park it beside the road in front of a grass-roofed hut and ask the mother living there to keep an eye on it. Joe has gone back with the spare tire and help to bring it slowly into Chonju. We thank God for safety and bright weather during all except one day of this spring itinera-tion season. We've visited 24 churches and have four more to go but they'll just be day trips. Sacraments were held and new Christians brought into the fellowship of Christ's body the Church "out of dark-ness into His marvelous light."



Joe, accompanied by Bible woman, holding examina-tions of new Christians in country church.

Mr. Wan Kyu Pak, Joe's current assistant, is a Vietnam veteran with five years experience as evangelist in a small coastal village. His ready laughter and quick grip of the situations in the little churches have been a real help. Both the children and I have learned from him in the children's services. For this go-round I had worked up pictures and talk on half-a-dozen of Jesus' parables plus a quick survey from the Last Supper to the Ascension. Mr. Pak and I team-taught, with him teaching part of the time, and I part. Obviously his Korean accent and language are better than mine, but my draw-ing power in getting new youngsters to the services (because I am an American and differ-ent) is greater than his.... The service at Sin-chon last evening was one I wish you could have shared: the silence prior to prayer; the upturned faces of the pretty little country girls and solemn boys as they raptly listened to Mr. Pak talking about the sower of the Word going out to sow His seed. Two wispy-bearded gentlemen sitting at the back of the boys' side seemed just as enthralled as the children by the stories of the Good Shepherd, the lost sheep, the prodigal son and Loving Father. I must admit that in Pak's enthusiastic telling the "far country" turned into the city of Seoul! Yet what is truer in Korea today than lost sons going to that big city.... How happy an occasion later when five catechumen teen-agers stood up to confess their faith in Christ, and then Joe baptized ten other teen-agers.

In the States last summer a Board member wanted to know why all correspondence letters were so full of gladness and light, never telling of missionary problems. For one thing, Korean problems are so complex you'd hardly know what we were talking about... but our problems more and more are getting to be the same as yours: in large Korean cities drug traffic is accelerating. I am distressed by the amount of drunkenness and alcholism among older men in the country. Villages have thatch-roofed wine houses from

which wine is dispensed. If we Christians would travel by bike spreading the Word of God as thor-oughly as the rice-wine salesmen do wine out here, things would be different. Other problems are: lack of mature Christian leaders on all levels of the church's life; trouble and quarreling that the Devil stirs up between Chris-tians which "turns off" non-be-lievers and the weak new Christians; rejection of Christ by those in-oculated against the church because of exposure to non-Christian actions of supposed Christians; getting Korean Christians to work for His glory in harmony.



Tribute to a Barber



Dot reading Gospel tract with girls while awaiting church-time.



Spinning away her existence -- let's tell her about the Savior, Jesus Christ!

You are as light,
You are as salt
To your isolated plateau mountain
village.
With its majestic peaks,
Its well-known waterfall.
The boys and girls look up to you,
Not just for the barbering you do,
Not only for the happy
Community-gathering place your barber-
shop
Has proved to be...
They admire you as their leader,
their teacher.
At this time, though only twenty-five
years old,
You are the rock upon which
Christ Jesus their Lord has founded
His Church, His Body
In this remote place.

In some places
"Like a mighty army moves the Church
of God,"
But not here, not in Chi-sang.
No, here is only a community of lost
sheep
And, oh how many lost lambs,
Living in their sturdy thatch-roofed
village
Near necessary rice-paddies.
You, young barber, are the young
Under Shepherd of Christ's sheep.
You are bringing them to His care,
Nourishing them for Him.

Your Heavenly Father knows and cares
About your up-hill-work,
Your teaching children,
Converting friends.
May He bless you. We do!

-- Dorothy Hopper

Our biggest personal news is that David graduated from King College, Bristol, Tenn. last weekend and hopes to visit us out here this summer. He has been accepted at Univ. of N.C. Med. School for this fall, and for that we praise the Lord...Barron is night desk clerk at Assembly Inn, Montreat this summer, so some of you may see him.... Alice and Jack Dokter plan to attend the PEF Conference at Montreat, all the way up from Ft. Lauderdale, so you who knew her watch for her.

Among some of the Lord's benefits that we forget not are: giving by Decatur Church and others through approved special askings to help subsidize the Good News Magazine (a real answer to prayer); and the travel-trailer from the Men's Bible Class of Covenant Church, Charlotte. I conduct tours of up to five persons at a time through it, usually at night following service so we are not mobbed. Wish you could have heard the unbelieving exclamations of five grannies the other day as they marvelled at our running water!

Your missionary,

Dot Hopper

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
Whasan Dong, Chunju
North Chulla, Korea 520
November 23, 1972

Dear Friends:

This is Thanksgiving Day, and again we give thanks for God's blessings to us personally and to His work here in Korea. Perhaps we may be most grateful of all for being permitted to bring the Gospel message to the people of this land, knowing that recent events cast a shadow over such future prospects.

Starting new churches is one of our greatest joys. This year one such church has been begun at Chong-sal-li, 25 miles away. In this village there is a small hydro-electric power station, and the manager has taken the lead in establishing the Church. He was raised by a Christian mother, attended Sunday School as a boy, but had never been baptized until this year when he has also built this church. He and several Christians employed in his plant have matched a memorial gift from America and have erected a beautiful little church on the side of a hill, with the stream of water which has just turned the turbines separating the church from the village. A Bible woman from Seoul has charged of the work, and a good attendance is building up from three or four villages in the vicinity.



Our Margaret and cousin
Charlotte Brown of Seoul

At Namwon, 40 miles to the south, we started a church 20 years ago which now serves not only that city but the whole surrounding area. It is known as the "East-north" church, but there is no church at all on the opposite end of the city. The gift of a business man friend has enabled us to purchase a plot where a sign-post proclaims that the "West-south" church will be built next spring. (Note: even naming the points of the compass are "backward" in the Orient!) The pastor of the older church is encouraging about 1/4 of his members to become charter members of the new church which his congregation expects to build next year. By colonizing in this way, we hope and pray that soon there will be another church in this growing city.



Dot and village friends



Joe and Evangelistic Committee

We have continued our usual program of itineration among rural churches this fall. Instead of employing a seminary graduate assistant, I have used an unordained evangelist already working in each area to work with us during the time we visit the churches of that area assigned to us. This has not only given us fresh help to work with, but also given these men an insight into needs of churches other than their own. Dot continues these itinerating trips with me, and also her work with children of a nearby orphanage, with the women prisoners of the penitentiary, visiting patients in our hospital, and working with the Presbyterian organization.

The two Presbyteries with which I work have reorganized their evangelistic committees this year and both are enthusiastically making new plans. In Chunsuh Presbytery I took the members of the committee in my Land Rover to visit all 55 churches, taking a strenuous 6 days to do so. Plans are in the works to get all on self-support as soon as possible in order to release funds to start new churches. Chunpuk Presbytery evangelistic committee is successfully raising funds to start new projects for which they formerly depended upon outside help. They have arranged for all 120 churches of the Presbytery to have evangelistic services this winter, led by pastors residing in the Presbytery.

For better or for worse this nation has just approved a new constitution greatly increasing the powers of the executive with the stated objective of unifying the country. The church and its leaders need your prayers especially in an era when some of its privileges may be curtailed and resistance may invite conditions demanding faith and courage in defense of their Christian commitment.

As Christmas approaches, we pray that it may be a season of great joy and happiness as we remember again how the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Since it will not be possible to send individual greetings to all our friends, we take this means to extend to you our Christmas greetings.

Sincerely yours,

Joe & Dot Hopper

At Home, April 13, 1973

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
149 Wha San Dong
Chunju, 520, Chulla Pukdo, Korea

Dear friends,

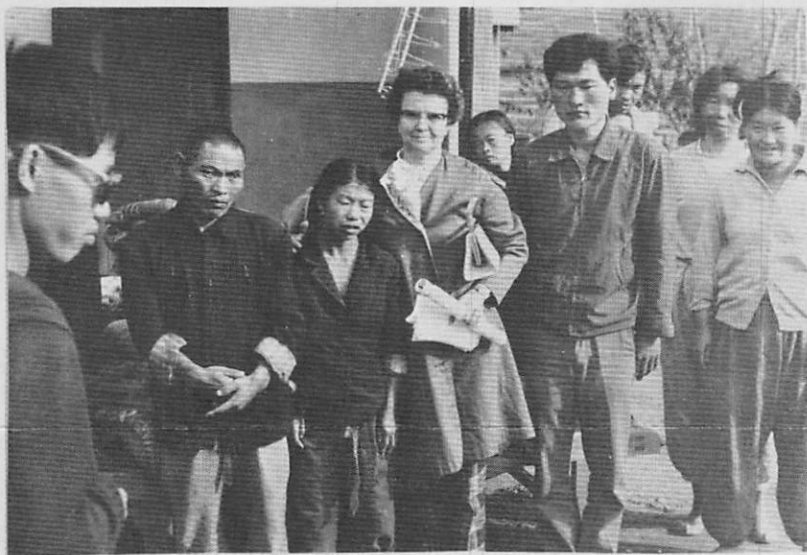
"She is 93 years old!" they proudly told me, as the deacon-barber led our visits through 3 villages among beautiful mountains... "93!" I thought, "that means she has been living here since before the first Protestant missionaries came to Korea in 1890.".... I tried to talk with her, but she was deaf and waved me away... How terrible to live for 93 years without the saviour Whom we need every hour. How pitiful to face eternity without His saving grace, His righteousness to clothe one....



Barber-deacon, 93 yr. lady and Dot visiting

Joe was asked to pray for a sick boy, and we found the lad of 12 in a coma with his distressed grandmother and mother sitting on the floor near him. The mother appeared to have a bad tumor on her neck. We prayed for the unconscious

student's healing, if it was God's will, and also gave money to have a taxi take him the bumpy hour and a half ride to the nearest hospital, if they thought he could stand the trip... Such heartbreaking situations make us very grateful indeed for the out-reach of our Jesus Hospital into the rural areas with their public health work and teaching. But they know and we know that all they can do is but a drop in the bucket against the needs of so many of these rural Koreans who are born, live, and die never having seen a doctor. Your gifts (as in the Easter offering) help reach out in compassion to do charity-healing.



With inmates of city indigent home to which missionaries sent 24 quilts

strumental in starting a new city church. We enjoy his keen mind and the questions he raises for discussion as we bounce out to our rural weekend appointments, usually at three churches. He leads the singing for the children and team-teaches with me. At one church (in a leper village) we only had 30 youngsters; but Saturday evening we had 250 elementary school children, and a near-riot, as we gave out the yellow printed sheets of Scripture to be pasted on their walls and memorized. My pictures and stories this spring are based on the life of Paul... Incidentally, any of you who care to mail me picture-rolls or Bible story pictures of 12 by 17 inches or larger can know they'll be put to good use.

Some of you realize that Dr. G.T. Brown who has been elected Director of the Division of International Mission in the new structure of the Presbyterian Church is our brother-in-law. (His pretty red-haired wife



Joe speaking about the Lord Jesus Christ during house-to-house visitation in the Oombong area.



Joe with new convert who believed after being witnessed to by a Korean elder.



First of only two baptized Christians in Puan fishing village.



Dot on her weekly visit to the orphanage

charter flights we hope to see Geneva, Switzerland; Edinburgh, Scotland, etc. before we arrive at Alice's and Jack's in Florida for our first visit to their home though they were married two years ago. Our summer address will be: Box 64, Montreat, N.C. 28757. We shall expect to contact those of you in supporting churches.

Two recent deaths have reminded me that "our times are in His hands." One weekend while we were away the 38-year-old head of the hospital lab. had a heart attack and went to be with the Lord...And my sister Alice Vail's husband went to heaven following years of suffering with Parkinson's disease; a broken and pinned hip, then pneumonia. I wished I could be with her. She has Stevie 12 yrs. old. Her address is: Mrs. John Vail, 325 Hale Ave., Morrison, Tenn. 37814.



Sharing portion of Gospel following visit and worship in a home along the coast.

Your missionaries, in Christ,
Joe and Dot Hopper

Hi Joe and Dot, Sorry that this is so late getting out. We hope soon to have the mailing system set up for the MCD. It has really been a state of confusion since moving from Nashville, but things are progressing. Hope you are well, and that things are moving with your work. Keep us posted on everything and take care. Joy and love to you, *Ann Broom*

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Presbyterian Mission
149 Whasun Dong, Chunju
North Chulla, Korea 520
November 16, 1973 M-120

Dear Friends:

Since last writing we have been around the world, touched down in 16 countries, seen many of you, and returned to plunge into our usual activities in Korea. We have battled traffic in Seoul, Zurich, Amsterdam, Los Angeles and Montreat. We have seen the reclining Buddha (quite dead) in Bangkok, heard the great organ thundering through the arches of Cologne Cathedral, and ridden the cable car to the top of the Schilthorn to view the splendors of the Alps and note the English-worded plaque there: "Fear God and give him glory for the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the fountains of water." (Rev. 14:7). We have worshipped with over one-half million people at the Billy Graham crusade in Seoul, with the English-speaking community of Geneva at the John Knox Chapel associated with John Calvin, with kilted Scotsmen at St. Giles in Edinburgh, with our own Alice and Jack in Ft. Lauderdale, with a huge Sunday evening congregation at a Congregational Church in Pasadena to hear the black Bishop of Uganda, and with small peasant groups in Korean rural churches.



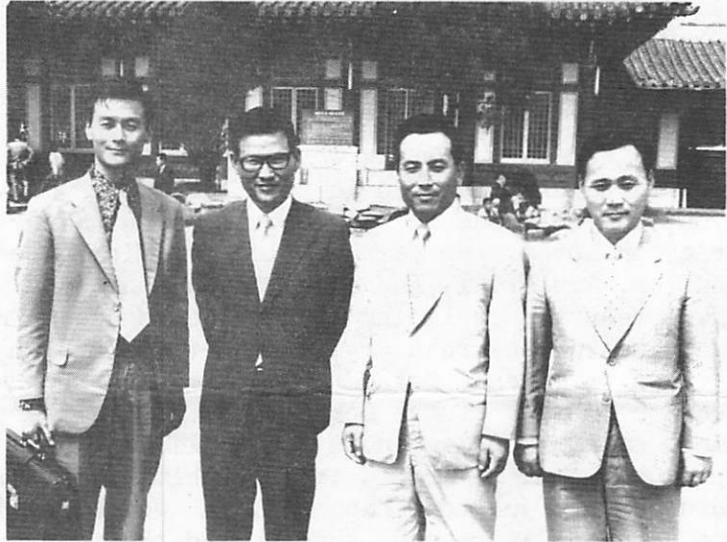
Rural Pastor
and family



Now she walks
(Because of your Easter
offering and missionary
orthopedist John Shaw)

The occasion of most of this was our furlough this summer, leaving in mid-June and returning in mid-October. Most of this was spent in Montreat with family and friends. During September we visited churches with direct part in our support. An unusual highlight was our two week study in October at the School of World Mission

and Church Growth of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Here we sat with nearly 100 other missionaries and nationals representing 42 different countries in classes taught by the finest experts in the theology, history, and practical aspects of missions we have ever heard. These included Dr. Donald McGavran, well-known for his books on Church Growth, whose theories pervade the whole teaching program. Here there is a conviction that all that has gone before in 150 years of modern missions is introduction, and a sense of urgency and excitement as we stand at the beginning of the missionary task. The school catalogue states: "The great populations of the earth have yet to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. God calls us today to vast, protracted and intelligent labor to make Jesus Christ known, loved and believed throughout the world. As evidence of his call, God grants us remarkable responsiveness in many populations. The main task in missions lies ahead. Christians correctly plan to give their lives to 'bring about obedience to the faith among all the Gentiles.'" This emphasis is upon church planting and church growth, in not only planting the seed of the Word, but gathering in the harvest of souls into the Kingdom.



Strong young pastors compose Evangelism Committee for Chunsuh Presbytery

All this challenged us to return to Korea to do more effectively what we have always tried to accomplish. Looking backwards since we began our work 25 years ago, we have seen the number of churches in North Chulla province double once, and then double again. But this rate has slowed down and must be resumed if we are to be good stewards of the God-given responsiveness to the Gospel evident in Korea today.

During 1973 we have seen two city church projects successfully developed. Believing that not only is it necessary to evangelize the 50% of the people in rural areas, but to plant churches in the rapidly developing urban centers as well, we have concentrated on a new church in the city of Namwon and a new church in our city of Chunju. The first was made possible with the help of a generous elder in the States and will proclaim the Gospel in the southern part of Namwon City where there are no churches at all. The starting of the second was with a memorial gift of an elect lady who tithed her husband's life insurance to remember him in this way. My assistant, Mr. Ahn Young-moke, is carrying the main responsibility for this church. Beginning with services in a tent this summer, he has built up a congregation of over 50 with twice that in the Sunday School. Walls of a fine brick church are complete and the roof

goes on next week. Some of the finishing up may have to wait a year or so, but during this time we expect a flourishing church to develop among the jam-packed thousands living in the area.

For the first time, Dot and I have returned to Korea with no children as they are all now in the States. Alice (Mrs. Jack Dokter) lives in Ft. Lauderdale; Barron is at the University of North Carolina in Asheville; David attends medical school in Chapel Hill; and Margaret is a freshman at King College in Bristol, Tenn. All seem to be busy and happy, and we are thankful that the younger three can occasionally get together at our home in Montreat.

Continue to pray for church growth in Korea, and for our part in it. Pray too that God will send new young ordained evangelists as life-time missionaries to speed the task!

Sincerely yours,

Joe & Dot Hopper
Joe and Dot Hopper



May the peace of God come to these mental patients at church service in their rest-home in Namwon!

Rev. & Mrs. Joe B. Hopper
Whasan Dong, Chunju
North Chulla, Korea 520
June 12, 1974
M-120

Dear Friends:

Spring rains have turned Korea into a lush green, and in some places have caused damage to the barley crop. Sky-high prices as a result of sudden inflation bring loud complaints but everyone seems to pursue an ever-rising living-scale anyhow. Despite restrictive measures both feared and actually enforced, the life and witness of the Church and of your missionaries is blessed of God with wide-open opportunities and excellent response.

For many years we have produced a magazine each month and sent it to all churches of our denomination in Korea. Our editor for 13 years, Rev. Ki-chul Lee, was called early this year to Honam Seminary in Kwangju as a professor. While we miss him here, we rejoice that he

is continuing the training of church leaders there and that his study and experience as an editor have prepared him for this new service. During the absence of Rev. Dwight Linton on furlough, Mr. Lee is also acting as president of the seminary. In the mean-time, another young minister, Rev. Young-gil Lee, has become our editor and is continuing to produce "Words of Blessing" magazine of pastoral theology and thus providing practical helps to church leaders all over Korea.

Our work in the city of Chunju shows one new church well established during the past year and another "in the works" now. The former is the Tong-in Church served by my assistant, Rev. Young-moke Ahn (pictures below). Begun in a tent in July last year, it now has nearly a hundred members worshipping in a beautiful new church building, plus over a hundred in Sunday School and sixty in the middle and high school student organization. Mr. Ahn was ordained this spring and still draws part of his salary as my assistant, but the church will be self-supporting at the end of this year. Meanwhile in another section of Chunju, the Sai-han church is meeting in a private home. About 40 adults are meeting, but the Sunday School is so large it is difficult to hold in a home. Plans are underway to secure either a piece of land and build a new church, or to buy a residence and convert into a church for this rapidly developing housing area of middle-class residents.

Dot's work in the city has had added to its other projects periodic trips to the government-operated correctional school for delinquent boys. The administration is happy to allow boys to gather for a period of worship and Bible study led by Dot and a Korean lady who has had seminary training. Recently, as a result of a special appeal, she was able to have two of these boys brought into the "half-way" house established in Chunju by Dr. John Talmage in the home of his Korean assistant. Here they not only live in a Christian home, but are sent to vocational schools and helped to secure jobs. She also continues to visit the women's section of the penitentiary, a local orphanage, and the women and children patients in our Presbyterian Medical Center.



Our primary work continues in the country where we have visited our churches nearly every week-end this spring. Although we have succeeded in having rainy weather practically every trip, along with accompanying muddy village paths and other inconveniences, we have noticed an all-round general improvement in the condition of these churches. In one village where there were no churches a year ago, there are now two, each with about 50 adults and about 100 children. Superficially it is regrettable that there are two



Dot and Presbyterian Officers

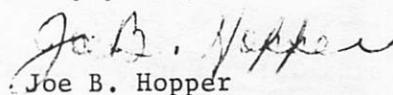


churches, but a closer look shows that the village has two cultural units... the "inlanders" who have farmed and fished the area for generations, and the "outlanders" who have moved in to work a huge land reclamation project developed by the government. The two groups will not mix, and the Lord has seen fit to establish two churches simultaneously to take care of the situation. Result: Out of 1500 people living in the village, 300 attend church...a jump from 0% to 20% in a year! In 17 churches already visited this year we received 91 catechumens and baptized 61 adults and 4 infants, representing about 10% growth of baptized membership in these small developing Christian cells. Right now we have four new rural churches just getting started within the last few months and one other relocating entirely to a more centrally located spot which is tantamount to a new church. Unfortunately inflation has caused church building costs to multiply by several times over a year or so ago.

Now for our family news: Alice and Jack (Dokter) continue their busy and happy lives in jobs and community and church activities in Ft. Lauderdale. Barron is working in Asheville, and he and Miss Martha Anita Mathes (of Huntersville, N. C.) have announced plans to be married on Aug. 17. Dot and I hope to attend, if we can secure flights as escorts for Korean orphans being adopted in the States, as we want to be present for this happy occasion. David has finished two years of medical school and is happily assisting to deliver the population explosion at Memorial Hospital in Charlotte. Margaret has had a year of college and has come to Korea to visit for the summer, and we are happy to have her after not having any children around for a year.

Pray that God will continue to bless the harvest of souls for His Kingdom here in Korea, and will give His servants the physical and spiritual strength and wisdom to adequately serve in this cause.

Sincerely yours,


Joe B. Hopper

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas 1974, and greetings from Korea! May peace and joy in Christ Jesus fill your hearts, and may the New Year bring better days for all nations with open doors for messengers of the Gospel that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son!

In the Hopper family the event of the year was the marriage of our Barron to Martha Mathes, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Frank A. Mathes D.D. of Huntersville, N. C. on August 17. With financial help from our families and after considerable anxiety as to whether it could be done or not, Dot and I boarded a Korean Air Lines 747 to the States in order to be present for this happy occasion. The welcome by the Mathes family and the church people of Huntersville was overwhelming, and the opportunity to meet old and new friends and to visit with our parents was worth all the effort. Barron and Martha now make their home in Asheville, N. C. We were away from Chunju for two weeks and three days.

Harvest season in Korea is also a time of "bringing in the sheaves" for our Lord. This year Korea celebrates 90 years of Protestant Mission work, and the Church in spite of faults and divisions is very much alive and on the move. The Presbyterian Church of Korea has had 72.8% growth in number of baptized members in the last 10 years. The two Presbyteries where we work had a growth of 60.3% and 72.7% during the same period in spite of being relatively backward and lacking in leadership. It is a pleasure to have a small part in this strong movement of Korea toward accepting Christ as Saviour.

This fall we have had two major concerns. One is the Honam Theological Seminary in Kwangju, and the other our regular rural church planting and development program. The seminary trains pastors primarily to serve in these rural areas. As chairman of the board and in the absence of the president of the seminary on furlough, it has been necessary to take responsibility in the projected move of the seminary to a new campus as necessitated by Kwangju city development plans. Drawing up blueprints for a new seminary plant, securing building permits, selection of a construction firm, and (by no means least) raising the necessary \$250,000 for such a major project requires considerable time and effort, and for this we request your special prayer for wisdom.

Week-end intinerating among rural churches (usually Saturday to Monday) is hard work but gratifying. One visit this fall was to an entirely new place (Suk-poh) on the seacoast of Puan. Here a cluster of villages with a population of over 2,000 nestles in a scenic valley between the sea and mountains with great cliffs and crags. All afternoon we walked from home to home, inviting people to accept Christ and distributing literature. That evening we met outdoors by lamp light in the yard of a man who is not yet a Christian but is donating a place for a new church as requested by written petition from the leading men of the area. An evangelist in a small church up the coast is holding services and right now a small chapel is being erected for the new group. This will be one of 300 new churches the General Assembly has as its goal this year.

Interesting people and events always add spice to our work. At the Sin-nam Church, in a village of people afflicted with leprosy, we were impressed with the work of Elder Kim Chung-gwan and his wife. He is a retired school principal who wanted to do something for the Lord while physically strong. His wife had difficulty in adjusting to the conditions of that type of village, and she openly



"Moses and John have just been baptized."

admits the prejudices and revulsion she first felt but rejoices that God has given her love for these people and satisfaction in this work. At Ton-jin, the young evangelist (a seminary student) and his wife had twin sons born last summer, and I have the honor to have baptized infants Moses and John. At the funeral of an old friend, Elder Kim Poh-oon, age 90, we learned of his record of 152 descendants (including in-laws), all Christian! His 8 daughters and 1 son were present with their spouses, and the 8 daughters and 1 daughter-in-law (all grandmothers) sang his favorite hymn as a special number: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing, My Great Redeemer's Praise!" An elder for 45 years, he established his church in a lonely village in a mountain valley, and as a result of flood and communist invasion rebuilt it three times.

Dot's work in prison, orphanage, boy's reformatory, and hospital continue to bear fruit. Recently a woman was released after 18 years in prison (for murder) and had dinner in our home. In prison she had become a firm Christian and a good friend of Dot's. Help has been secured to provide her a place to live and a sewing machine to provide a livelihood. A little girl adopted from the orphanage into the home of an American couple recently visited us with her mother, and it was a joy to see how happy and intelligent she is. Hospital visiting makes numerous contacts, some of whom we meet as we travel in the rural areas.

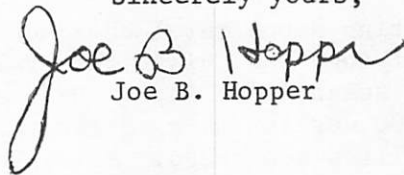
In closing let me remind you of two ways you may financially undergird the work of which we are a part of early 1975:

(1) The 1975 Witness Season Offering, February 16, 1975. One million dollars is the goal and is needed to keep our world-wide missionary team at work in these days of mounting costs but unlimited opportunity. Every cent of this goes to World Missions and is your chance to make a special contribution to this cause. Why not double your witness season offering and designate it for missionary support?

(2) The 1975 Birthday Offering. We have a particular interest in this because the Honam Seminary (mentioned above) is to receive one-fourth of this for its new building, and the Hanil Women's Seminary (here is Chunju) one-half for its endowment and building. Here, where the future church leaders of this area are trained, are important projects that need your help through this special offering.

With all best wishes, and request for your continual prayer support for all the Lord's work in this land, I am

Sincerely yours,


Joe B. Hopper

General Executive Board
Presbyterian Church, U.S.
341 Ponce de Leon Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

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Mail June 6 Airmail

Joe and Dot Hopper
13 Presbyterian Mission
149 Choong Whasan Dong
Jeonju, North Chulla 520
KOREA
June, 1975 M-120



Dot and friend

Dear Friends,

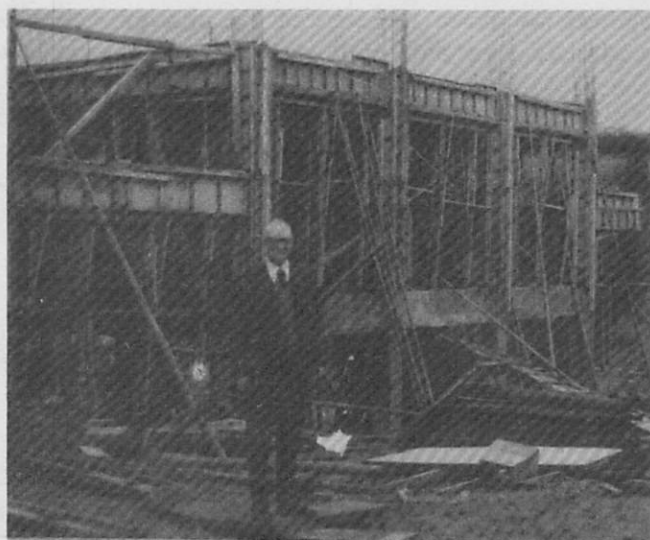
Last Sunday Dot and I concluded our regular spring visitation of churches assigned to me by two Presbyteries. Since January 1st these included six brand-new places started during the past year as well as many older ones. Sunday afternoon at Suk-poh we visited in village homes amid some of the most spectacular scenery of mountains and sea in this province, and that evening worshipped for the first time in the new chapel with about fifty new believers. Even such small rural evangelistic points contribute to the steady growth of the Korean

Church. The latest available figures show 8.8% growth in baptized membership in the last year in the whole Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Korea. We are happy to note that the two Presbyteries with which we work were even higher (10.8% and 11.7%).

Jeonju City has just begun an interdenominational evangelistic campaign with Dr. Han Kyung-jik, widely known pastor emeritus of the great Younknak Church in Seoul, as preacher. Last night the Provincial Governor officially greeted him at the opening service, held indoors because of rain. Several dozen, mostly young people, responded to Dr. Han's closing invitation to take a stand for Christ, and we pray that these fruits may continue through out the week. The objective of these campaigns around the country is to bring the entire nation to Christ and to extend the Christian witness to neighboring Asiatic countries.

I have spent considerable time this spring with the construction of the new building of Honam Seminary in Kwangju, traveling there almost weekly to check on its progress. Last Tuesday the final slab was poured and brickwork and carpentry are beginning. In connection with seminary business it was necessary to have an important interview that day with the mayor of Kwangju City (population 650,000). It turned out that the Lord used a chance remark, six months ago, to turn the visit to his office into a success. Last November at the ground-breaking ceremony, the mayor (who attends church) could not be present, I was told, because of a heart attack. I remarked that Dr. David Chu of the Jeonju Presbyterian Medical Center is a heart specialist.

Word got passed along with the result that Dr. Chu successfully treated the mayor. In the course of our interview this came out unexpectedly, and opened the way for a cordial atmosphere with the visit ending with by being asked to lead in prayer for the mayor. The building is scheduled for completion by the opening of the fall term, and we thank (in advance) the Women of the Church for the Birthday Offering for 1975 which makes this project possible.

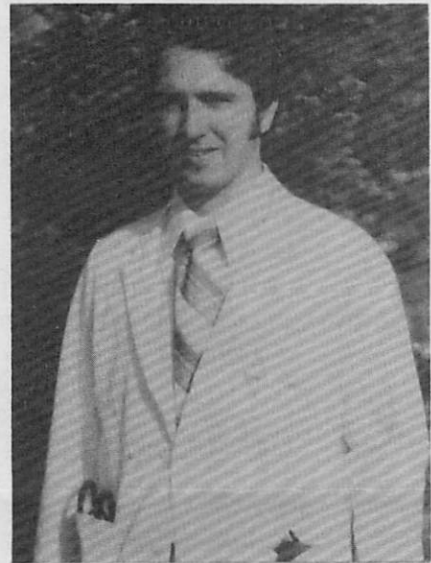


Joe and the new Seminary Building

In connection with numerous activities in the orphanage, prison, boys' reformatory, and hospital, Dot finds many avenues of service. Yesterday upon return from the prison she announced that she had been requested to name a

baby. Some months ago a woman prisoner had a baby girl who was about to die from lack of nourishment and proper care. Ways were found to provide powdered milk which Dot took or sent each week and now the baby is healthy and growing. What was the name? Mardia. We will leave it to friends to discover for whom she is named!

Early in April our son David arrived and is here for three months practicing what he has learned in three years at UNC medical school, and learning from the doctors here at Presbyterian Medical Center. His experiences have extended to the Wilson Leprosy Hospital at Soonchun, the Cheju Island clinic, and the Soh-yang Myun public health clinic outside of Jeonju. Of course, we are happy to have a resident "house doctor" during this period.



David

These are days when we ask all of you for understanding, sympathy and earnest prayer for this nation in these troubled times. From Bangladesh to Korea the Asian mainland with its teeming millions is a picture of famine, disease, oppression, injustice, war, and the tragic aftermaths thereof. By comparison Korea is a paradise, but a paradise whose tranquility, prosperity, and freedoms are threatened. Korean Christians or missionaries are often uncertain or divided as to what attitude our faith calls us to take, but we look beyond local or temporal situations in the belief that God has a purpose for our missionary presence here far greater than we can see and know. We ask your prayers for all who work here in the name of Christ, that they may be used in healing the wounds, in ushering in the freedoms, in creating the better world in which to live, and above all in bringing all who are lost and without eternal hope to saving faith in Jesus Christ and into the fellowship of His Church.

We plan a three month furlough this summer beginning August 1st and will be living in Montreat (Address: Box 64, Montreat, NC 28757, phone 704-669-7008). Especially during September and October we will be available to visit any churches interested in hearing of the Lord's work in Korea.

One last word. For the past six months we have experienced numerous instances of failure of our letters to reach their destinations. In case it appears we have neglected to answer your letters or otherwise communicate as we should, we ask your indulgence as we always try to answer correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

Joe and Dot Hopper
Joe and Dot Hopper

General Executive Board
Presbyterian Church, U.S.
341 Ponce de Leon Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

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Airmail
Mailed to list 2/19/76

Joe and Dot Hopper
13 Presbyterian Mission
159 Choong Whasan Dong
Chunju, North Chulla 520
KOREA
January, 1976 M-120



Christmas for the needy

Dear Friends:

We are aware that as this is written decisions are being made in Atlanta as to how to reduce the number of missionaries abroad because of lack of financial support. This could mean that tomorrow, someone who might have heard the Gospel of Salvation may not hear it, someone who should have been trained for Christian leadership will not be prepared for witness in his own land, someone in phy-

sical pain may not have relief in the name of Christ. Men and women whom you commissioned for lifetime service in a distant land will be withdrawn from people and work they love and for whom you have been praying. We are saddened to know that this will happen to five or six of our Korea Mission, in a land where God has done His part to open the hearts of people to His Word. How strange that other Protestant groups, or the Roman Catholics, or the Mormons, to say nothing of the mixed-up followers of Moon Sun Myung, are increasing their efforts and personnel, and in many cases are reaping harvests sown by decades of Presbyterian labor.

Is this what our church really wants? We don't believe so! We challenge our readers to pray and work to correct this situation. One strong and immediate step to reverse these trends is all-out support of the special Witness Season Offering on February 15. Every penny of this increases field program and missionary support abroad. None is diverted to other causes, needy as they too may be. A whopping offering could not only reverse plans for trimming missionary personnel, but also provide the extra needed to send out scores of eager young men and women to reinforce the world-wide witness to Christ. "How are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent?" (Rom. 10:14-15)



How will he hear?



Yea-jung has a plastic chapel

building. Like most of the world, Korea is rapidly becoming a nation of city dwellers, and Chunju is no exception. We quote from a recent Church Growth Bulletin: "The city has become the modern frontier of Christian mission...If we fail to win the cities, we shall have failed to bring a very large part of mankind into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. They who win the cities will win the world." Pray for our share in meeting this challenge.

As we write, we look out the window and less than a mile toward a new apartment complex, the first in Chunju. The last few nights more and more lights have glimmered from its windows. This morning a steady stream of trucks piled high with household goods is moving up the road bringing in the rest of the 320 families who will live there. This year another 360 apartments will be built nearby. Just below, and within walking distance of their 4,000 occupants, we made our first payment last Thursday on 560 square yards of what is now rice paddy for a new church. Even at \$3,000 this was a bargain. Our assistant, Rev. Ahn Chong-Chul, holds services for this infant church in rented quarters not far away, until (hopefully) we can raise money for a new church

Yesterday, we drove twenty-five miles into the rich plains area of Kimje County to worship. Last spring I had stood on that spot with members of our Presbytery Evangelism Committee and agreed to purchase that barley field. The church was started September 1, 1975, a small building and manse erected, and yesterday we worshipped with about seventy members of the new congregation. Only fifteen (who formerly attended churches some distance away) are baptized, and all the rest have accepted Christ because the Wol-sung Church is there! The new frontier may be in the cities, but in Korea the rural frontier is still here for us to conquer. It is hard to keep track of new churches in our province, since they are in various stages of getting started, but it is safe to say we are involved with at least a dozen a year. Tomorrow I attend the meeting of one of our smaller Presbyteries where I know in advance we will have to wrestle with the problem of how to provide funds to construct three new churches where people already meet, and to provide support for at least a dozen evangelists serving new and developing churches.



After service at the Wol-sung Church

Where a year ago was a small hill-top overgrown with weeds and shrubs, the Honam Seminary's new building now stands in Kwangju. A year ago we were worrying over blueprints and contracts, but now the plant is in active use by the student body. A few weeks ago we attended the commencement exercises and saw twenty-six young men sent forth into the Gospel ministry. From now on graduating classes will number forty or more. A large part of this was made possible by the generous 1975 WOC Birthday Offering, for which we express our gratitude. As new faculty members are selected, new students gather for the next term, and the total program is expanded, we ask your continued prayer and interest. Training of these leaders must go hand-in-hand with the planting of churches if we are to occupy the territory won for Christ.

These glimpses of some parts of the Lord's work here are to encourage your concern which we trust will be expressed in tangible form as urged in the first paragraphs of this letter.

Dot and I saw many of you on our three month furlough in 1975, and treasure our experiences during that time. Our four children, all in the States, are busy with study or work, and the two of us thank the Lord for the privilege of continuing our work in Korea where all doors are wide open for the Gospel ministry.

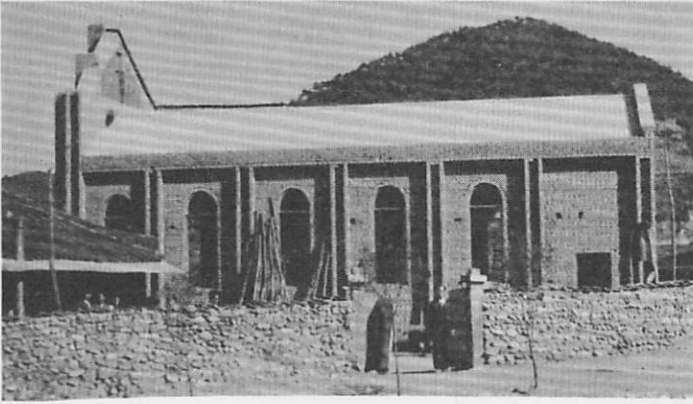
Sincerely yours,

Joe and Dot Hopper
Joe and Dot Hopper

General Executive Board
Presbyterian Church, U.S.
341 Ponce de Leon Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

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Airmail
Shaded to last 12/6/76
Joe and Dot Hopper
13 Presbyterian Mission
159 Choong Whasan Dong
Chunju, North Chulla, 520
KOREA
October, 1976 M-120



Sagok
Church

Dear Friends:

Greetings from "The Land of the Open Door for Evangelism!" God continues to provide "good soil" in Korea for the seed of the Gospel and causes His Church here to grow. Here are a few recent highlights to demonstrate this:

1. Last Sunday we visited the Sagok Church in Imsil County in a pleasant mountain valley. We found a fine congregation worshipping in a beautiful new church where three years ago there was no church whatsoever. Six visits over these three years have shown us growth from a small group crowded into an old house to the present well-established church. Sunday afternoon we visited from house to house in another village of 100 homes a mile or so away. We found some who had been to church elsewhere but are inactive now, others who showed interest in attending the Sagok Church, and many others who for the first time that afternoon received a Gospel and an invitation to accept Christ.
2. In Namwon County certain circumstances required the relocation of a congregation. Because some of the members lived in a village about an hour's walk away, the congregation has built two identical buildings, one near the former location and one serving this new village. Evangelist Whang has simultaneously built two churches, served two congregations, finished up his last year in seminary, and qualified for ordination.
3. Korean Army Chaplain Ahn, a member of our Presbytery, reports 228 baptisms in his unit during the first nine months of 1976. He says that 56% of his unit are Christians; the figure for the ROK armed forces is between 30 and 35%.
4. At its recent meeting, North Chulla Presbytery ordained five men to the Gospel ministry. Rural districts where once only one ordained man was at work now boast five or six.
5. On October 1, the Tongin Presbyterian Church of Chunju was dedicated and its first two elders ordained. Begun in August three years ago under the able leadership of Pastor Ahn Young-moke (at that time my assistant), the congregation now numbers 350, including Sunday School children. It is self-supporting and manages to give aid to two rural church evangelists.
6. In Kochang County, two new churches have been erected this year, three other churches have been rebuilt, and two more places have groups meeting and hope to put up buildings shortly. At another place in the same county, a village where there are no Christians has requested that a church be started and a non-Christian has offered to donate land for the project. In the U.S. "Housing starts" are a measure of the economy; we in Korea are interested in "church starts"...measuring a far more important "economy!"
7. On August 26 we entertained at a dinner fifteen men of this province for whom we are providing seminary scholarships. Most have served many years as unordained evangelists but are taking advantage of a special program allowing them to qualify for ordination. Their combined years of church work as evangelists already comes to 225 yrs.!



ABOVE: Volunteers-in-Mission this year in Chunju: Mardee Rightmyer, Barbara Green, and Cody Watson.



RIGHT: Senior seminary students.

8. In Kunsan City where Kunsan Presbytery began a small junior college only a year or so ago, I conducted chapel recently for about 200 students. I asked the president how many are Christian. He replied: "When they entered about 17% were Christian, but a recent survey shows that 42% now attend church."

9. The Laymen's Training Institute of North Chulla has this year initiated a series of monthly seminars which have attracted Christians from all over the province. For instance, the last one was for choir leaders and organists and attracted several hundred participants.

10. The Sinil Church of Chunju continues to meet in a tent. The congregation (led by my present assistant, Rev. Ahn Chong-sul) is located in an area where nearly 700 families are moving into new apartment housing. Some are active Christians, some are transplanted from elsewhere and need a new church home, but the vast majority are fertile soil for evangelism. We are looking for help to provide an adequate building in the next month or so.

We continue to thank God for the peace and prosperity He has given Korea in these days. Not long ago we enjoyed a weekend trip to extreme northeastern Korea, taking along our son and wife (Barron and Martha Hopper) who are serving for a year at Korea Christian Academy in Taejon. We were impressed by the grandeur of the mountain and ocean scenery of this region where we had never before visited, and by the thousands of healthy, well-dressed, reasonably affluent Korean tourists enjoying the same holiday at Sorak San National Park. All over Korea the farmers live under better conditions than ever before in history as a result of more land distribution, gradual eradication of the centuries-old system of usury which kept peasants in perpetual debt (virtual slavery), and universal application of modern scientific agricultural methods.

Along with a higher standard of living and wider opportunities for personal development at every level of society, Korea offers complete freedom to worship, preach, organize churches, train leadership and carry on every known form of Christian witness and service. We hope our readers will not be misled by the laments of some who mistake a few cobwebs in the corner of the door-frame for chains blocking our passage, whereas in fact the doors for the preaching of the Gospel are more open today in Korea than perhaps any country where the PCUS is at work. Your gifts through our Boards's "Special Opportunities for Support" (ask for the 1977 SOS booklet!) designated for our work (by name) will be forwarded to help establish these churches and train leadership for them. We urge your continued concern and interest and prayer support for all who are involved in the exciting business of bringing this entire nation to Christ.

"Behold, now is the acceptable time
behold, now is the day of salvation!" (II Cor. 6:2)

Sincerely yours,

Joe and Dot Hopper
Joe and Dot Hopper



General Assembly Mission Board
Presbyterian Church, U.S.
341 Ponce de Leon Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

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This one had
pictures which
to McD. lost

Original
Mailed & lost 9/4/77
Dot and Joe Hopper
13 Presbyterian Mission
159 (Choong) Wha San Dong
Jeonju (Chunju)
(North) Chulla Pukdo 520
KOREA
August, 1977 M-120

Dear Friends,

"Kim" sat in my platform rocker near our front livingroom window with its colored-glass mementoes on the sill. He had come for a goodbye visit with me before moving to another city to teach English. "My faith has been diluted the last two years!" he told me, and I could well understand why. We've been friends at least ten years; our acquaintance began when he attended an English Bible class on the Gospel of Luke which, for a number of months, I taught in Zion Church. At his request I later tried to help him and various other Korean friends he'd bring along to improve their English accents. I loaned him books, both religious ones and others. Life had been difficult for him, and often depressing -- his father died of TB and his mother took that time to desert her four children, of whom this boy was the oldest. At one time he was awarded a scholarship to law school because of his good mind, but a lengthy illness of pneumonia prevented his using it. I reminded Kim of the hymn, "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," and we thought back together of how he'd been able to get his brothers back from the orphanage, help pay their fees in school, arrange for his sister to marry happily and move to Seoul. We spoke of his Christian wife and precious daughter, now one and one-half years old, and he felt better. We prayed before he left. The Gospel does help believers to be strong and of good courage, knowing the Lord is at hand.

Recently, Joe got the chance to sight-see a tremendous industrial complex, within which the largest fertilizer factory in the world is being built. Please join us in praying for the Lord to send very special missionaries to help work with those highly skilled persons who will gravitate to it upon its completion. Jesus Christ shed His precious blood to wash away sins, and rose again that He might be Lord and Savior to all who will humbly put their trust in Him. That basic "Good News" has not changed. We do realize that our Mission needs to be sensitive to the direction in which the Holy Spirit in 1977 may be leading us in new methods of reaching out to the lost in an industrializing Korea.

Recently, out at the women's section of the penitentiary where Mrs. Lee and I go to lead worship, on Wednesday afternoons, we had the privilege of being part of the group present when ten more prisoners (women or girls in their late teens) received the sacrament of baptism. Mrs. Lee had brought a Korean minister along to administer the sacraments that day. Sharing the bread and wine, representing our Lord's broken body and shed blood, with that particular group of repentant ones and their Christian guards, reminded me again of how level it is at the foot of the cross. It was my privilege to give a Bible to each new Christian; they were purchased with money a circle in the U.S. sent. In prison the women are called by number, but "He calleth His own sheep by name." We told the women when they were released to take the Bibles with them.

The Lord has been teaching the Hoppers patience on both sides of the Pacific. Alice wrote that our son-in-law might lose his engineering job; later he did. We learned that it is easier to preach about Romans 8:28 than to live by it. Great is God's faithfulness, and with perfect timing so that there would only be a needed two-weeks break between jobs-- the Lord opened work for Jack in Atlanta. The heading of Alice's Mother's Day letter states: "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Psalm 34:3.

In June, Barron and Martha completed their school-year's work of teaching and being dorm parents at Korea Christian Academy seventy miles from us. Primarily this school provides a boarding department for missionary children from seventh grade through high school. Their contacts with the different denominations involved has been an education in itself. A sixth grade Korean violinist and two girls from Australia were among those taught or in the dorm. On July 1st, Martha and Barron started work under the auspices of Fayetteville Presbytery where they head up a home for eighteen-years-and-under young people needing such housing and help in times of emergency. We'll miss their presence in Korea but are sure the Lord guided them to that work.

According to Mission Board policies we are due a six-weeks vacation in the U.S. this year. We arrived in Montreat the last week of July. We plan to spend as much time as possible with my Dad (in his late eighties) and Joe's mother (having trouble with her eyesight).

The two big events are: David's wedding on August 6 and Margaret's graduation on August 20. David will marry Mill Liza Watters, who was a member of his church while he

was in medical school at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He will shortly complete his first year of internship in family practice at Moses Cone Hospital, Greensboro, N.C. Margaret has been going through deep waters lately. Her two closest classmates in nursing school, both Christians, died in the wreck of a four-passenger plane. Christian friends of the girls sang, "How Great Thou Art" at the memorial service. When such non-understandable tragedy takes place we again acknowledge that 'till we reach heaven there are events we cannot understand.

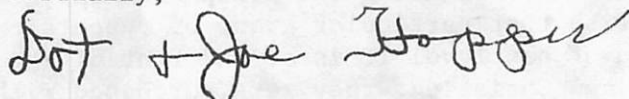
Please, each of you choose one of the Korean church-names listed below to pray for it. Copy it on a card and place it somewhere you'll see it frequently (such as over the kitchen sink!). Our local Presbyterial, as part of its benevolence giving, has pledged to help support a lay worker in each of these places. As elsewhere in the world the devil, like a roaring lion, goes about seeking whom he may devour. And he causes trouble in all sorts of ways among the immature Christians as one tries to plant the seed of the Word of God, and get a new part of the Body of Christ started in a village:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Chi-Sang Church | 6. Chu-chun Church |
| 2. Chang-duk Church | 7. Mool-kok Church |
| 3. Pal-duk Church | 8. Oon-san Church |
| 4. Pee-hong Church | 9. Kay-wul Church |
| 5. Young-pyung Church | 10. San-suh Church |

Some of you prayed with me about the Chi-Sang Church in the Oombong plateau. The Lord answered your intercessory prayers and things began to happen: a minister's wife in the township started going by bus and walking to teach Sunday school to the children on Sabbath afternoons. She importuned Presbyterian ladies to go see the place; they went, and some wept at the pitiful situation they found. (Joe has been attempting for years to get a really strong church begun there.) An elder's wife from a church twenty-five miles away prevailed upon her well-to-do husband to put up a decent little building for them, and fix up rented quarters for an evangelist to live in. Joe drove several of the Presbyterial officers to the ground-breaking ceremonies there. So, please don't let your faith be "diluted"! As through your prayers you help His Kingdom to come and God's will to be done remember us, too, that "with all boldness" we may be prepared to proclaim Him Lord of all.

Those wishing to contact us during our time in America (until mid-September) may address letters to: Box 64, Montreat, NC 28757. Often we will be away, but that will be our home-base. The phone is: 704/669-7208.

Cordially,



Dot and Joe Hopper

* IS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CORRECT? IF NOT, PLEASE CLIP OLD ADDRESS AND SEND WITH NEW ADDRESS AND MISSIONARY NAME TO: Missionary Correspondence Program, Room 203, 341 Ponce de Leon Ave., NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

General Assembly Mission Board
Presbyterian Church, U.S.
341 Ponce de Leon Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

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WELCOME TO CHUNJU!

and failed to reach you before we had left for Korea. During that time we were able to share in two happy family occasions: the wedding of son David to Liza Watters on August 6, and the graduation of daughter Margaret from Emory School of Nursing on August 20. We also worked in as many visits as possible with Joe's mother and Dot's parents, and with our other children and many friends.

The unusually fine weather this Fall (virtually no rain) has enabled us to take more than the normal number of trips into the country to visit and work with our churches.

Yesterday I was witness to the "birth" of a brand new church in an isolated mountain region. The village was the original home of a lady now living in Seoul. Orphaned when Communists killed her parents in an uprising before the Korean War, raised by foster parents in a Christian home in Seoul, and now married to a Christian photographer, she has



LINE UPON LINE, PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT

Chong-chul, continues to grow and we hope to have one hundred members by the end of the year. After worshipping since last Summer in a tent, the congregation now meets in our new brick church, built early this Summer. It still lacks a floor and other finishing touches which the congregation is completing as it is able. Meanwhile, besides the seven hundred(700) apartments already occupied in the vicinity, several hundred more apartment and housing units are under construction nearby, and we pray that this church will bring many of the newcomers to know Christ as Savior. This brings to seven the number of new Presbyterian churches started in Chunju in the last five years, but the population is growing so rapidly that we continue to see new opportunities. With land and building costs skyrocketing, such projects cost \$15,000 to \$20,000, but within a year or so are self-supporting and able to contribute to helping others.

We recently attended a twenty-four hour church growth seminar in Seoul, meeting with missionary evangelists of all denominations from all over Korea. Figures on church growth and development were presented. If you want to be "where the action is" in evangelism, Korea is the place! One speaker pointed out that the Korean Church, now less than a century old, is as large as the church of the entire Roman Empire after three centuries.

According to government statistics, about thirteen percent(13%) of the population is Christian (Protestant and Roman Catholic but not including the "Moonies" and similar sects). Protestant Church membership has more than

Airmail
Mailed & list 12/9/77

Dot and Joe Hopper
13 Presbyterian Mission
159 Choong Whasan Dong, Chunju
North Chulla, Korea 520
November, 1977 M-120

Dear Friends:

Since last writing we have been to the States for six weeks and returned in early September to resume our regular Fall work. We regret that our letter in late Spring was delayed in Atlanta

and failed to reach you before we had left for Korea. During that time we were able to share in two happy family occasions: the wedding of son David to Liza Watters on August 6, and the graduation of daughter Margaret from Emory School of Nursing on August 20. We also worked in as many visits as possible with Joe's mother and Dot's parents, and with our other children and many friends.

The unusually fine weather this Fall (virtually no rain) has enabled us to take more than the normal number of trips into the country to visit and work with our churches.

Yesterday I was witness to the "birth" of a brand new church in an isolated mountain region. The village was the original home of a lady now living in Seoul. Orphaned when Communists killed her parents in an uprising before the Korean War, raised by foster parents in a Christian home in Seoul, and now married to a Christian photographer, she has hoped and prayed for many years for the opportunity to start a church in her home village. She is now assuming major responsibility to do this, and is beginning by paying half the salary of an evangelist who began work yesterday with a ceremony attended by local Presbytery Evangelism Committee members, the General Secretary of the Assembly's Evangelism Department, and some seventy-five(75) villagers, none of them yet Christians. Near the end of the service, teachers from the nearby primary school came, marching their children in line to participate in this local event. Increasingly we see a pattern of Christians from such humble origins, now living in Seoul and prospering financially, assuming the responsibility for evangelizing their home villages, and we thank God!

Our new Sin-il Church here in Chunju, served by my assistant, Rev. Ahn



WITH NEW CHRISTIANS AT SAGOK

doubled in the past decade. Virtually every denomination reports over ten percent(10%) growth during the past year (and some considerably more than this!). Their leaders are "thinking big" too, laying plans in terms of hundreds of new churches and millions of new believers. The training of leaders is also of vital importance, and it was thrilling to participate in the ordination ceremony of twenty (yes, TWENTY) new ministers at a recent meeting of our Presbytery.

It is exciting to be a part of all these developments, but you must remember that every project involves "blood, sweat, and tears." Seldom are results instantaneous. There are intricate financial problems, difficult personnel matters, and often problems arising because of those with wrong motives or who simply can't get along with each other. Hence your prayers are needed that out of the ferment of these days in Korea a generation of Christians demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit may result, and that the Korean churches may develop into church planting institutions themselves.

Our Christian community suffered a major loss in the recent death of Elder Chang Pyung-Wha, for thirty(30) years principal of the large Christian School of boys in Chunju. Thousands of young men have been influenced by this Christian gentleman, and they have gone out to take places of leadership in church and society all over this province and beyond. We thank God for the privilege of working with such saints and rejoice in this man's contribution to the Lord's work in North Chulla.



THIS CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMAN AND HIS WIFE HAVE BUILT A
NEW CHURCH FOR CHISANG.

Sincerely yours,
Joe & Dot Hopper
Joe and Dot Hopper

* IS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CORRECT? IF NOT, PLEASE CLIP OLD ADDRESS AND SEND WITH NEW ADDRESS AND MISSIONARY NAME TO: Missionary Correspondence Program, Room 203, 341 Ponce de Leon Ave., NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

Airmail
Mailed & list 6/2/73

Joe and Dot Hopper
13 Presbyterian Mission
159 Choong Whasan Dong
Chunju, North Chulla, Korea 520
May, 1978 M-120



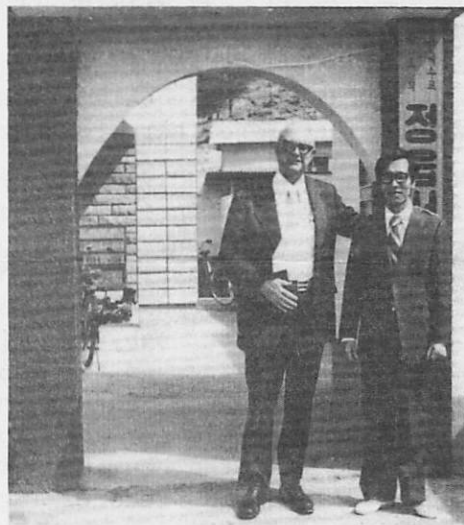
Dear Friends:

Our big family news is the recent arrival of our first two grandsons. Joseph Alfred was born to Barron and Martha Hopper (Winston-Salem) on December 7, and Justin was born to Alice and Jack Dokter (Stone Mountain) on April 7. Koreans take special pride in having sons, so Dot and I have reaped much credit from our local friends for this achievement! David and Liza continue their work as doctor and nurse in Greensboro. Margaret plans to go to Bangladesh as a Volunteer-in-Mission nurse for one year beginning this summer.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, it has been a great satisfaction to me to work among our rural churches more than usual during the first four months of this year, due to good weather and good health. Let me review some highlights.

Sin-il Church, here in Chunju (discussed in our last letter), at the first of this year at its own request took on full support of its pastor, Rev. Ahn, who had previously been employed as my assistant. On April 2, I preached at their second anniversary, and was pleased to find about one hundred members, mostly young couples, with about one hundred fifty Sunday school children. New housing and apartments under construction promise rapid growth for Sinil.

Suh-pu Church, in Chungoo, thirty miles away. Feeling the need for a new church in this rapidly growing center, we have secured a new assistant, Rev. Sam-suk Chang (right picture), with whom to start one. We have rented a brand-new house which has a large room for church services and where Mr. Chang and his family will live. With the new highways he can commute to my office by bus for less than a taxi ride across town. Last Sunday afternoon, April 30, we held the formal opening service attended by representatives of about thirty other churches in the presbytery. Also present were Dr. and Mrs. John W. Lancaster of the First Presbyterian Church of Houston. They had been with me all day, visiting a small rural church in the morning. Pray that many new believers will be led to this church, that Mr. Chang will be blessed in this work and that the Lord will provide funds for land and building when needed.



Sah-poh Church at Who-poh-li, forty miles to the southwest on the coast, was a surprise church! A Korean pastor telephoned long distance asking me to join him in a visit there. A day or so later we did so, and there I had a happy reunion with a Mr.

Suh, head teacher of the local grammar school and an elder, and his wife. They had pictures to prove that exactly twenty years ago in a church one hundred miles distant I had baptized them both, and we had not seen each other since. Now moved to this village, they had begun services, secured an excellent church site where for centuries heathen sacrifices had been held under an ancient tree, and started a church building with walls complete before they ran out of money (left picture). Several Sundays later Dot and I went for their morning service in the "church" (sans roof, floor, doors and windows) with a



raw wind whipping snowflakes in off the open sea. (Short sermon that morning!) Since then the church has been received into the Presbytery, I have been put in charge of it, and we have dug up money to get the roof on before rainy season.

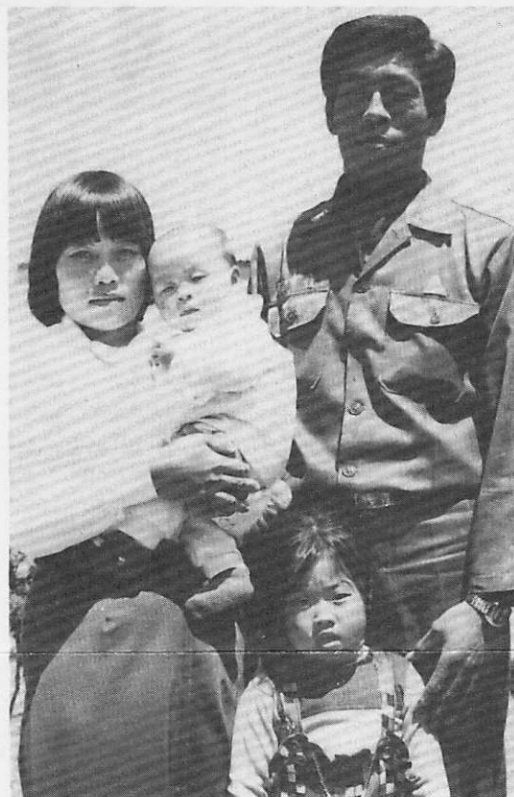
There are other matters of interest and concern for which we ask your prayers:

1. Yochon Industrial Evangelism project located near Yosu one hundred miles South of us. This is the "bedroom" city of a projected 100,000 population under construction adjacent to a multi-billion dollar petro-chemical industrial complex. During the winter I made a number of trips to confer with local Presbytery officials on the prospects for starting new churches in Yochon. The mission plans to sell some land to help provide loan funds for these projects, and adjacent Korean churches are volunteering their share. I have been asked to serve on the special committee for this project. Various legal problems are still holding us up.

2. Honam Theological Seminary in Kwangju. With the resignation of Rev. Dwight Linton as president, we are searching for a new president. Finding a qualified man agreeable to all the board members, and willing to come, is by no means easy. Pray that God will bring just the right man for this important task of training young men for the Gospel ministry in this part of Korea.

3. The Laymen's Training Institute building in Chunju is complete and will have its grand opening later this month. Its three stories and basement include offices, classrooms, a large auditorium, dormitory and dining facilities. Already worship services have begun for a church which will use this center at least temporarily. North Chulla University is only a few blocks away, and with many students boarding in homes in the neighborhood it should easily attract students. About one hundred yards away will be the largest traffic circle in Chunju City, and less than five minutes walk is the union bus terminal serving the province. Pray that a full and adequate leadership training program will be developed here for Christians of North Chulla.

4. Innumerable individuals we meet, befriend, or work with. Like this family to the right. This Christian is an officer of the coastal police guarding every foot of Korean coastline against infiltration or attack by North Korean communists. Two Sundays ago I baptized his wife, baby and little girl. We had visited them last year when the baby was a few days old. He is active in the Sang-ha Church, and with him that Sunday were four other young police guards...representative of the ordinary people of Korea who fill the churches are in their own way are witnesses to their neighbors that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation." II Cor. 5:19



Sincerely yours,

Joe and Dot Hopper
Joe and Dot Hopper

* IS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CORRECT? IF NOT, PLEASE CLIP OLD ADDRESS AND SEND WITH NEW ADDRESS AND MISSIONARY NAME TO: Missionary Correspondence Program, Room 203, 341 Ponce De Leon Avenue, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

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Airmail

Dorothy L. Hopper
 13 Presbyterian Mission
 159 Choong Whasan Dong
 Chunju, North Chulla, Korea 520
 November, 1978

Dear Friends:

This is a Thanksgiving letter, because often lately as I performed jobs involving my hands but not my thoughts, I've mentally been listing some of the many reasons Joe and I have for gratitude to our Heavenly Father, and to you friends in the States who uphold our part of Christ's work abroad.

October rounded out thirty(30) years since Joe, almost-two-year old Alice and I arrived in Korea, having traveled here by U.S. Army troop-ship, which was the only way to come in those days. Since our records were destroyed with other possessions during the Korean War, we are not quite sure what day we arrived, but do recall it was during the rice-harvest season, as now.

Two lines from Henry Alford's hymn, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," have been lingering in my mind recently:

"God, our Maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied" and "All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto His praise to yield."

A number of persons and situations which the Lord has thrust upon our attention have been reminding us of other parts of His vineyard than just our own.

The greatest reminders are daughter Margaret's letters from Bangladesh. For three months she is in language school studying Bengali. Then, with Julie Codington, she will aid Drs. Ted and Sharon Kuhn as they show the love of Jesus by using their medical skills in a Muslim village. The Kuhns are both doctors, and Julie and Margaret are nurses. When Margaret volunteered to serve abroad for a year she (and we) rather hoped she would be working in Korea. But the Lord led otherwise, so she is now stationed in what is in many ways one of the most difficult countries on earth. Her work in Haiti two summers ago under the Emory Nursing School "nurse-abroad" program was helpful training. The orientation program at Montreat this past summer meant a lot to her. She was part of a group of Christian friends who are now fanned out to serve Christ in lands around the world. The Lord made her arrival in Dacca easy for me when I learned that five friends who used to work in Korea met her plane: three Codingtons and two Petrie Mitchells!



Interlocked with Margaret and Bangladesh in our prayers and thoughts are six Koreans. For twenty years Elder Lee Young-choon was Joe's right-hand man as secretary and assistant in the rural church work of our province. Before the days of any paved roads in these parts they traveled by jeep, slept in the same tiny room in Korean homes, rejoiced together at souls saved and new Christians baptized. They also agonized together over the many uphill struggles of individuals or groups of Christians seeking to mature in their faith. As sometimes is still true in the States as well as

here, some "false teachers" like those mentioned in the New Testament Epistles can lead the Lord's sheep astray and cause endless trouble for church workers such as Joe and Elder Lee. Though I did not see as much of Elder Lee's wife as Joe did of him, we have been good friends in Presbyterian work, and on several occasions she was Presbyterian President. She's a petite, tiny person who was well instructed in the Scriptures by an early missionary lady.



"For some have never heard"

We rejoice with Elder and Mrs. Lee that their youngest son (a doctor of internal medicine in our Jesus Hospital) with his wife, live-wire kindergarten-aged son, and second grade daughter, hope shortly to be sent to Bangladesh as missionaries. The leader whom the Holy Spirit used as His instrument to bring into being the local "Korean Mission to Bangladesh" was Dr. David Seel, administrator of our Medical Center. The humble spirit of the Lees (and of his parents) as they volunteer for this missionary endeavor is most unusual and beautiful! Enroute to Bangladesh, Margaret spent a month here with us. The Lees had the three of us for supper in their home one

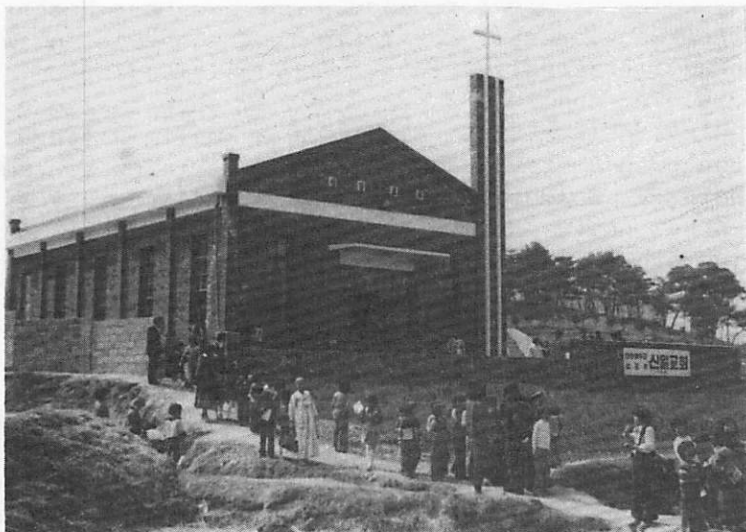
evening, and the fellowship shared will remain one of the special highlights of our lives. Dr. Lee awaits his passport, but has recently had some disc trouble which may require surgery. We believe, though, that if the Lord wants them abroad, not all the forces of the enemy can hinder indefinitely. (Phil. 6:12,18) Please pray for them.

Currently renting an apartment nearby is a French engineer, paving Korean highways. I visited his wife and five-year old daughter the other afternoon. My six-year study of French is rusty, but how fascinating to learn that the three of us was each born in a different African country! African lands with their current times of violence or bloodshed are also part of our Lord's vineyard, as is Lebanon, the home-country of that engineer's wife.

Dr. Arch Taylor, President of Shikoku Christian College in Japan was invited to Korea with two Japanese faculty members to cement closer ties between that college and Soongjun Christian University, started by our mission. Arch came two days early to visit Chunju and go with us to a rural church. We had not met for years, but in 1947-48 the Taylors and we (and a third mission-bound couple) shared a beach house as we tackled Oriental languages at Yale, so our friendship is deep. Arch rejoiced to watch Joe baptize five new Christians.

Another guest was an Australian minister whom we used to know when he worked in Korea. Now he heads the mission program of the Australian Church. He told us especially of his recent experiences on a trip to Bali. Haul out your encyclopedia and learn, as I did! God has a large vineyard, and His Kingdom is coming in many parts of the globe.

Following two weeks of hospitalization in August, the Lord called my dear daddy to his heavenly home. As over the past years his health has gone downhill, like Paul, he has been quite ready to go to be with Christ. Our gratitude for the happy eleven years my wonderful step-mother gave Daddy is boundless. Distance prevented my physical presence at the funeral, but I am grateful to live in this jet age when by satellite-telephone I could talk with my step-mother after daughter Alice phoned us the news of his death. My ten days with Daddy this spring were precious to us both. Barron wrote that it was the happiest funeral he had ever attended. How wonderful is the certainty of our Christian hope! "But thousands and thousands who wander and fall never heard of that Heavenly Home. I wish they could know there is room for them all, and that Jesus has bid them to come!"



"Sunday School is over" (New Sinil Church, Chunju)

May the Lord of the harvest continue to use you and us in His way to tell them about Jesus' life, death for them, resurrection and promise to come again.

Sincerely,

Dorothy L. Hopper

Dorothy L. Hopper

*IS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CORRECT? IF NOT, PLEASE CLIP OLD ADDRESS AND SEND WITH NEW ADDRESS AND MISSIONARY NAME TO: Missionary Correspondence Program, Room 230, 341 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

Joe B. Hopper
 13 Presbyterian Mission
 159 Choong Whasan Dong
 Chunju, North Chulla, Korea 520
 April 18, 1979



Dear Friends,

Three months from today we expect to arrive in the United States for a one-year "home assignment" ("furlough" to most of us old-timers), our first full year since 1964-65. We look forward to seeing many of you, visiting in churches to report on the Lord's work in Korea, and making many new friends. We will be living in Montreat and welcome your visiting us there (when you can catch us at home). Our address from July 23 will be: Box 64, Montreat, NC 28757 (Tele. 704-669-7008).

Our Easter began with the news late Saturday night that my mother had left us and was spending her first Easter Sunday with the Lord. She was nearly 86 and had been in poor health for some time and was ready to go, so we rejoice that she has entered her heavenly home. Mother was a remarkable person of great strength of character and determination and will, who kept her three children clothed and fed and educated during difficult days when she and father served as missionaries in Mokpo (Korea). We thank God for those who like our parents laid the solid foundations for the remarkable church growth so evident in Korea in our generation.

The pictures with our letter describe part of our lives here. To the right is Dot with young friends at an orphanage in Chunju where she visits as often as possible to play with the children, some of whom are shown here. Often her services involve assisting in getting medical attention for children when she notices they have special problems. Some months ago as a child sat on her lap (on right in picture), she happened to feel a severe back deformity. Dr. Robert Heimbarger from Indianapolis, visiting neuro-surgeon at the Presbyterian Medical Center (Chunju), drove to the orphanage one Saturday afternoon to see the child, who later had free surgery in this hospital, is now wearing a cast and is happily striding about playing with the other orphanage children.



At the top of this page one-half of a fifty-pound bomb hangs over my head at the Tuk-ji Church which did not exist one year ago. With Dot and me are Evangelist Kim Il-won and his wife. Tuk-ji is the central village of a township with about 200 families. A young pastor twenty miles away arranged last summer for the young peoples' evangelistic team of a large church in Seoul to use part of their vacation to spend several weeks here. They started a church and returned to Seoul to enlist aid. With additional help from a lady belonging to a church in Chunju City, land was purchased, a beautiful white church with living quarters for the evangelist constructed, and Evangelist Kim secured to carry on the work. When we worshipped there several months ago, we found a fine new congregation of happy Christians. Oh yes! the bomb? Back in 1954 a deacon had brought it to Chunju to divide in two and make church bells after it failed to explode when the USAF dropped it on a bridge near his home. This half is in its third "pastorate" having summoned worshippers when struck with a wooden mallet at Kaltam, Sah-gok, and now Tuk-ji!



Rev. Chang Sam-suk (left) is my assistant and currently we are building the Suh-boo church in Chung-oo, thirty miles to the south. This city of 65,000 is growing rapidly and we have secured land in a developing area of new housing and apartment buildings. Mr. Chang is standing on the site with a pile of bricks now being laid in the new structure which should seat up to 300 people. Already he is holding services in his rented home and last Sunday (Easter) baptized ten adults. Land and construction costs are extremely high but we are moving ahead on faith that the Lord will provide. Experience has proved that such urban churches are usually fully self-supporting within a year after construction.

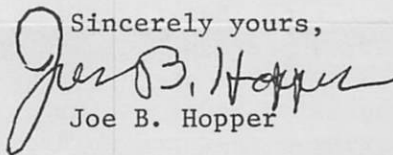
Rev. Choi Tong-ho and I are in the scaffolding (pictured on Page 2) of the new Chang-pook Church. Here we have been able to seize one of the remarkable opportunities that often

pop up around us here in Korea. The church was begun in 1973 in a large coastal village where there was no church previously. But the government was beginning to reclaim the off-shore tidal land by building dikes from two promontories to an island. This left Chang-puk in the center where the government has built a brand new modern town with wide streets, imposing public buildings and schools, and about a thousand new houses for people who will work the vast rice paddies in former sea-land. With a small but enthusiastic congregation to start with, and considerable outside help from interested wealthy Korean Christians, a fine new brick church has been erected in the center of the town, and an energetic young pastor secured to work. Mr. Choi has worked with me in three or four pastorates elsewhere, and has recently been ordained as a minister. We expect to see this place bring many hundreds into saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.



We hear regularly from our Margaret, who serves as a VIM nurse in Bangladesh with our mission. She has been extremely busy helping with the new clinic at Alhadipur, opened early in March. She writes of seeing many times as many people in need of medical help than the small missionary staff can possibly take care of, and this work needs the earnest prayers and support of all of you.

It is good to be a part of the ferment of activity in Korea today, particularly in Christian circles. None of these projects is without headaches, toil, and tears, so we ask that you continue to pray for all God's workers who labor to bring in the harvest God is granting here.

Sincerely yours,

Joe B. Hopper

*IS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CORRECT? IF NOT, PLEASE CLIP OLD ADDRESS AND SEND WITH NEW ADDRESS AND MISSIONARY NAME TO: Missionary Correspondence Program, Room 203, 341 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

Joe and Dot Hopper
Box 64
Montreat, NC 28757
November 29, 1979

Dear Friends:

The Hoppers arrived in the United States on July 17 and are spending this year in Montreat, North Carolina. Already, we have enjoyed numerous visits with our children and two grandsons, and have visited churches in several states. After leaving Korea, where gasoline was \$2.91 and beef \$5.00, we are not even complaining about prices here! Supermarkets and shopping malls look mighty good to us. We have appreciated the warm welcome of many friends throughout the church, fellowship with members of the church here in Montreat, and we thank God for their interest and concern for His work around the world.

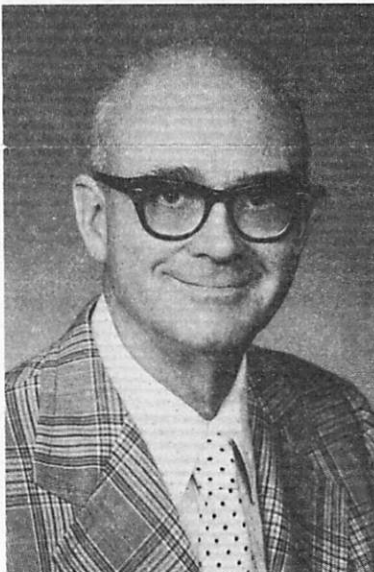
As far as we have been able to determine, the recent assassination of the president of Korea has not affected the work of our mission there or the life of the Korean Church. It is to be expected that politics will be "lively" and the whole country somewhat unsettled until new leadership is selected for the good of the country and the continued growth of the church in that land.

Christmas this year will bring together all our family for the first time since 1968 for the holiday season. The marriage of three of our children and the arrival of two grandsons enlarges the clan, and we look for an exciting time.

Someone recently asked us to write an account of Christmas in Korea. With the hope that this will interest our readers right now, we attach a copy at the end of this letter. May the Christmas season bring to all of you great joy as we remind ourselves again of God's love in sending our Saviour into the world.

Sincerely,

*Joe and Dot
Hopper*



CHRISTMAS IN KOREA

Christmas in Korea centers on the church and on Christmas music. This is because a church which is less than 100 years old does not have all the traditions we Westerners have come to associate with the day. Santa Claus, elaborate decorations, gift giving, family gatherings and roast turkey are so much a part of Christmas that we Americans cannot think how it could be celebrated otherwise. Only recently have some of these things, such as Santa Claus and Christmas trees, come to Korea. Gifts are exchanged, but not to the degree with which we are familiar. Most of the festivities we enjoy are observed by Koreans on the Lunar New Year's Day which often comes late in January or early February. On Christmas Day, for Christians, the activities center around their churches, and the season is highlighted with numerous programs of Christmas music.

Every Korean Church has a service on Christmas Day, and most church members are present. In many respects it is like a Sunday service, except that the sermon is shorter, and there is more music. Koreans love music, and some of them are attaining world recognition as professional musicians. Many of the latter, as well as stars of motion picture and TV fame, are Christians who learned their music in church choirs which, on the average (at least in the cities), probably excel those in America. They

especially enjoy the Christmas carols and Handel's Messiah which we think may be performed in its entirety by more churches and musical groups in Korea (on the average) than in any country in the world.

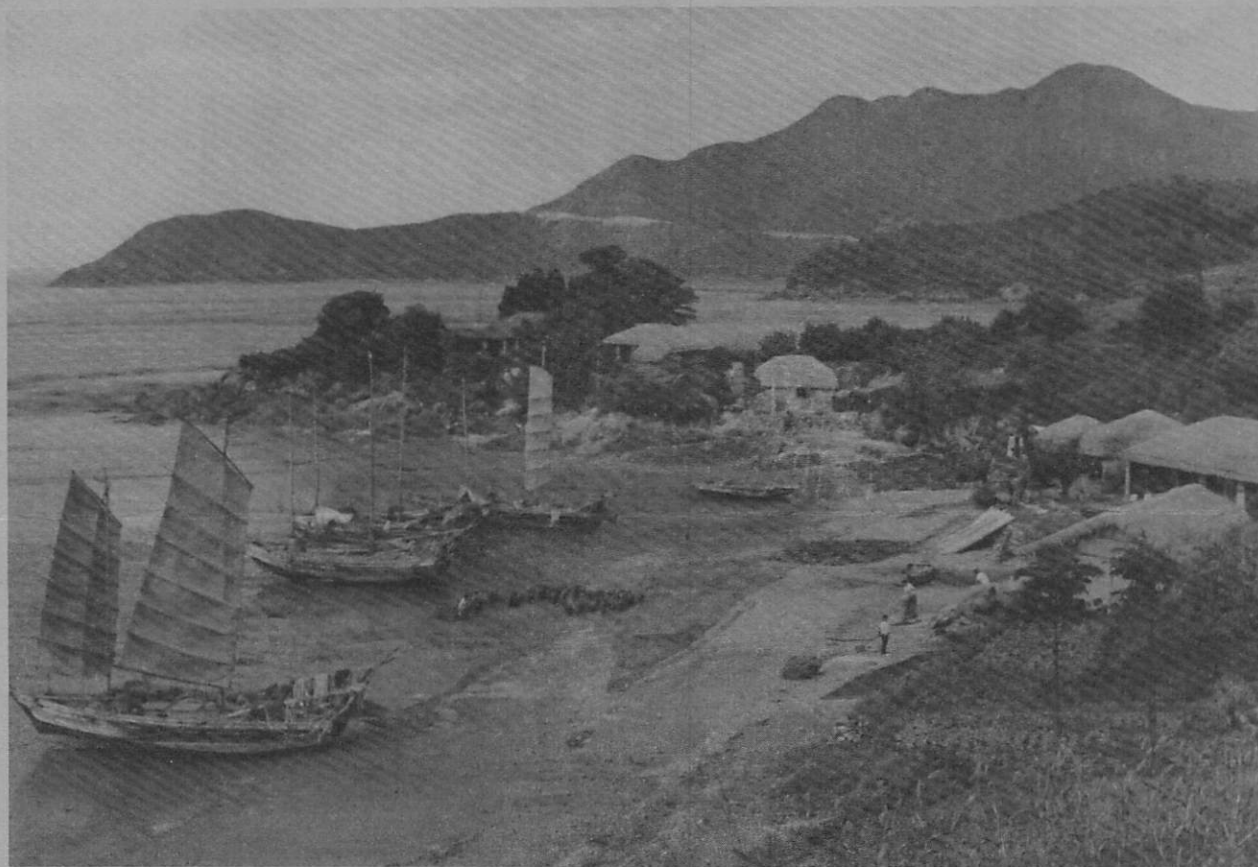
One custom, not now followed, was in effect when I was a boy in Korea in the home of my missionary parents. One of my earliest memories of Christmas was standing shivering at the window at 4:00 a.m. holding a candle (there was no electricity) while listening to Korean choirs sing their favorite carol below the window: "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" This, perhaps more than any other carol, carried a message which could be sung with "great joy" by those to whom salvation in His name was not only "good news" but "new news"!

It has been the practice of the Hoppers for a good many years to attend the Christmas morning service at the Soh-seng Church about 12 miles from Chunju. Most of the members of this church have had leprosy at one time or another, and many of them show the scars of that terrible disease on their faces or have lost fingers or toes as a result. Their service is always a festive occasion, with the church gaily decorated, the choir singing perhaps a half dozen musical numbers, and others (including children's groups) singing. Often awards for attendance at Sunday School, or faithfulness as choir members, are distributed on that day, and we come away feeling that the birth of the Saviour has been remembered as He would like for us to remember.

Magnificent Christmas television shows are a more modern part of Christmas in Korea. Though largely government controlled, our Korean networks provide some of the finest musical events to be seen anywhere. One Christmas morning some years ago, when I was sick and could not go out, I watched the Messiah with full choir and orchestra, other splendid musical shows, and an inspiring service from one of the great churches in Seoul. Knowing that many of the performers are Christians and sang from the heart made it all the more meaningful.

Christmas for Korean Christians is also a day to remember the unfortunate. Gifts of food and other necessities are taken to orphanages, homes for the aged, the prisons, and the sick. We are thankful that in this way, they remember the words of I John 4: 11: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

*IS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CORRECT? IF NOT, PLEASE CLIP OLD ADDRESS AND SEND WITH NEW ADDRESS AND MISSIONARY NAME TO: Missionary Correspondence Program, Room 203, 341 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.



BACK TO KOREA

M-120

Joe and Dot Hopper
Box 64
Montreat, NC 28757
June, 1980

Dear Friends:

As we return to Korea in a few weeks, we go with happy memories of a year of making new friends and renewing old friendships, of visits with children and grandchildren, and of "living-it-up" in America for a full year for the first time since 1964-65. While much could be said to the contrary, this is a great and good land, and we should all thank God for freedoms, privileges, opportunities and blessings for more than we deserve.

Although we have been missionaries since 1947, this was the first time Dot was free of home responsibilities and we could pursue itineration among the churches together. Between us, we were "on the program" in one way or another 215 times in 149 churches or groups, of which 22 involved more than one congregation. Despite threats of gas shortages, we travelled 15,582 miles by car to meet appointments in 8 states. We were 87 nights "on the road" and consumed at least 59 covered-dish or family-night suppers. We missed no appointments because of sickness or car trouble, but 13 appointments were cancelled... most of them in Albermarle Presbytery where we ran into the "blizzard of 1980."

We especially thank all those who were our hosts and in so many ways made our visits pleasant and profitable. We tried to thank all of you, but in the confusion of a heavy schedule and much travel, we may have failed to show our gratitude as we should have. If you visit our part of the world, be sure we will be happy to return your hospitality in Chunju!

We discovered great enthusiasm for World Missions among those who participated in our meetings, although frequently our hosts were disappointed at the attendance. We believe the potential for financial support for taking the Gospel to the unconverted in other lands is almost limitless in our church, but many church people are more concerned with local needs on the one hand, or "turned off" for various reasons by our denominational system of support for international missions on the other. Noting an apparent diminishing number of younger church members almost everywhere, we call for prayer and effort directed towards the youth of our land and their enlistment in the life and work of the church. This should include education in what the missionaries of our church are doing, why the Word of God requires missionary activity, and what the real needs of the world for Christ are.

More than any other single event, the plight of American hostages in Iran has dominated the American scene this past year. It is right that we be concerned, that we pray for their deliverance, and that we support every effort to secure their release. But let this remind us of the millions in our world held hostage by Satan, "bound in the prison-house of sin," separated from the Father's house where it is their right to live as His sons and daughters. The failure of the rescue attempt in Iran should remind us Christians that to "rescue the perishing" can be costly. It cost the life of God's only son; it continues to be costly in terms of life and money. Yet if there is for a shepherd great joy when the lost sheep is found, or for the angels of God rejoicing over one sinner who repents, how much more celebration should there be for those remaining millions who find salvation in the Name that is above every name.

Recent disturbances in Korea have caused some to ask how our return will be affected. We see no reason for interruption of our work, and trust the Lord will continue to give us the wide-open opportunities and freedom we have enjoyed all along...even through crises far worse than the present. Unquestionably there will be tensions and pressures, particularly among our Korean friends, but we ask your prayers for a just settlement of political problems, continued peace in a tense international climate, steady growth both in numbers and maturity of the Korean Church, and the preparation of that church as a missionary sending agency to carry the Gospel to yet unreached parts of the world...particularly among its near neighbors in Asia.

"I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men,
for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.
This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,
who desires all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

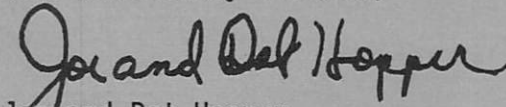
-- I Tim. 2:1-4

We fly from Atlanta July 16, arrive in Seoul before the sun sets again on July 17, and in Chunju July 18. Until July 10 we will receive mail at Box 64, Montreat, NC 28757 ...after that date at:

13 Presbyterian Mission
159 Choong Whasan Dong
Chunju, North Chulla, Korea 520.

With love and best wishes from,

Your missionary friends,


Joe and Dot Hopper

*IS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CORRECT? IF NOT, PLEASE CLIP OLD ADDRESS AND SEND WITH NEW ADDRESS AND MISSIONARY NAME TO: Missionary Correspondence Program, Room 203, 341 Ponce de Leon Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30365.

Joe and Dot Hopper
13 Presbyterian Mission
159 Choong Whasan Dong
Chunju, North Chulla, Korea 520
October 1980 M120

Dear Friends:

July 17 found us back in Korea as planned, after one of our best trips out from the States. We had dreaded the usual intense heat and humidity of Korean summers, but were pleasantly surprised to have one of the coolest summers on record, with not a single uncomfortable day, enabling a quick "re-entry" to our work.



GREETING NEW BELIEVERS, SIN-DUCK TENT CHURCH

Since return I have visited about 50 churches, some of them brief calls to check on conditions, others to preach. We have concentrated on new and weak churches, some started just before we left for the States a year ago, and six of them begun during the interval. At Sin-duck (above), we met in a tent in a district with no other nearby church. A seminary student began work here a year ago, and we found an enthusiastic congregation of new believers (only 3 baptized members), but the pastor in charge told me yesterday that he baptized 17 there last Sunday. He and the young evangelist were here to discuss plans and financing for purchasing land and building a church this fall.

Last Sunday (Sept. 28) Dot and I spent the day at a distant village (Kun-tong-ni) and worshipped in a converted chicken house on a farm (orchard) with adjacent village population of about 1500. The orchard owner is a deacon in Seoul, who has sent a fine young Christian couple here to manage his farm. They began holding regular services in June, and started a Sunday School with teachers who walk 3 miles from the nearest church. Word that missionaries would be present brought many curious visitors, a number of them for their first exposure to Christian worship. At the afternoon Sunday School about 60 children crowded in and were well led by the young farmer who had been superintendant of one near Seoul. Plans Seoul has promised to call for securing a regular worker soon, and the deacon in donate land and to help construct a church building.

In mid-October we expect to journey to Cheju Island to work for one month. Our object is to help Cheju Presbytery in its church planting program, and to encourage and strengthen the weaker churches. Early in September I made a quick trip, taking busses to the southwestern port of Mokpo (where I grew up) and then a 5½ hour ferry ride to Cheju (a total of about 200 miles as the crow flies). Sailing through the magnificently scenic islands and peninsulas of the Korean archipelago, I could not help but think of how and 60 years ago my father had pioneered in those regions when travel and living conditions were extremely difficult, primitive, and even dangerous, in order to establish churches among people for whom the Gospel was not only "good news" but was literally "new news."

The evangelism of Cheju was begun about 70 years ago by Korean "Home missionaries," but development has been slow because of isolation from the mainland and the difficulty of securing (and keeping) good leadership. This peanut-shaped island is about 50 miles long with a 6400-foot extinct volcano at the center. Most churches are located along the coastal highway encircling the island, but many inland villages have no churches. Of the 450,000 population, 30,000 are Christian (less than 7% and less than half the estimate for all Korea). Since Korean church statistics include Sunday School children and inquirers, the number of baptized members is only 1/3 of this figure, or about 2% of the total population!



WITH LAVA STONE IMAGE



CHEJU RHYMES WITH "HEY-YOU"



EX RADIO-TV ENTERTAINER
SINGS THE "NEW-SONG"
IN A RURAL CHURCH

Out of 110 churches on the island, 71 belong to Cheju Presbytery. Of these, 11 have over 100 members, 24 have between 50 and 100, and 36 are less than 50. The Presbytery development plan calls for establishing new churches in each of 20 villages with 300 or more homes which are presently without churches, and our primary objective is to help in this program.

We expect to take our car, using the ferry between Mokpo and Cheju, making the cost from Chunju to Cheju about \$100. This is expensive, but we feel it is worth it if we can contribute to the Lord's work for a full month's time. We will live in a small apartment in Cheju City and work out from there as decided in consultation with the Evangelistic Committee of the Presbytery. If this proves a practical system of work, we expect to continue with similar visits of a month each spring and a month each fall. This is a new project for us since we have always served in the one province of North Chulla since reaching Korea in 1948. So we ask for your prayers as we begin.

Sincerely,

Joe and Dot Hopper

Joe and Dot Hopper

A quotation for your Bulletin:

"When will we recognize the fact that the wrath of God spoken of in the Bible is far less directed at those who sit in darkness than it is against those who refuse to share what they have?"

"How hard have we tried to save others? The \$700 million per year Americans give to mission agencies is no more than they give for chewing gum. Americans pay more for pet food in two months than they spend annually for foreign missions.

"A person must overeat by at least \$1.50 worth of food per month to maintain one excess pound of flesh. Yet \$1.50 per month is more than what 90 percent of all Christians in America give to missions.

If the average mission supporter is only five pounds overweight, it means he spends (to his own hurt) at least five times as much as he gives for missions. If he were to choose simple food (as well as not overeat) he could give ten times as much as he does to mission and not modify his standard of living in any other way!"

--Dr. Ralph D. Winter in "Unreached Peoples '79"

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LEARNING THE GOSPEL CHORUSES

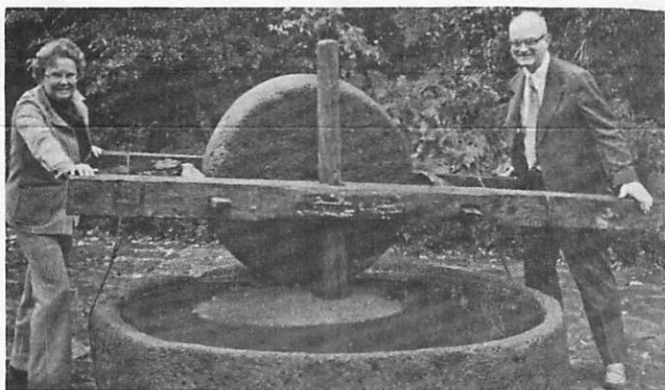
Joe and Dot Hopper
 13 Presbyterian Mission
 159 Choong Whasan Dong
 Chunju, North Chulla
 Korea 520
 January 12, 1981

Dear Friends:

May the New Year bring you much joy in the Lord and faithfulness in His service! As you prepare for the 1981 Witness Season, remember the goal of \$1,000,000 will be entirely over-and-above the regular budget. You may designate all or a portion of your offering to either overseas work or national mission work, and only the undesignated portion will be divided 80% and 20% respectively between these two. Here is your chance to make it possible to:

"Spread the tidings all around,
 Jesus saves, Jesus saves!"

When we last wrote, we anticipated a new work on Cheju Island, 100 miles south of mainland Korea. Our normal work continues in the province around Chunju, but this letter will concentrate on our month's mission to Cheju. On Oct. 17, with our 1974 Pinto Wagon full of clothing, bedding, kitchen supplies, parcels of Gospel tracts, etc., we drove 125 miles to Mokpo (where I lived as a boy) and sailed by car ferry 5½ hours to Cheju City, after a smooth voyage through the scenic archipelago of southwestern Korea. We set up housekeeping with a minimum of problem-solving in an apartment at the Cheju Christian Center, established some years ago by Rev. Kenneth Boyer and currently housing the Presbytery Bible Institute and offices, and plunged into learning about the island, its people and customs, and particularly the church situation and evangelism needs. One is tempted to digress and relate fascinating tidbits of history or exclaim over the exquisite natural beauty of Cheju which we tried to absorb and enjoy to the fullest. I know of no rule that says missionaries should not have a good time, which we certainly did!



Who says missionaries never work!

Beneath the veneer of semi-tropical beauty, the brisk tourist trade, the thriving economy based on tangerines, pineapples, vegetable crops and fish, we discovered some startling facts:

1. The strength of Shamanism, all kinds of superstition and Buddhism among Cheju-ites. Weird formations of rock, lava, caves, grottoes, gnarled trees, etc., are objects of worship. 18,000 spirits are said to inhabit these places. Hundreds of shamans (witch-doctors) act as intermediaries with this spirit world. In one inland village anyone seeing a snake in the road bows and worships it right there!

2. The dual nature of the population. Thousands of mainlanders have moved to this island and are concentrated in two large cities where the churches reflect this segment. The other group are the original islanders, with their own customs, dialect, and attitudes. The majority of churches are composed of them.

3. The comparative weakness of the church except in urban areas where mainlanders have strong congregations. Dozens of rural churches are extremely weak and need encouragement and leadership. Some towns of 1500-2000 people have only one small church of about 10 members and a handful in Sunday School. Strong superstitions create greater resistance to the Gospel than anywhere we have seen in Korea. Many weak churches were founded during the Korean War by North Korean Christian refugees who returned to the mainland after the war, leaving small groups of new Christians unable to support a leader.

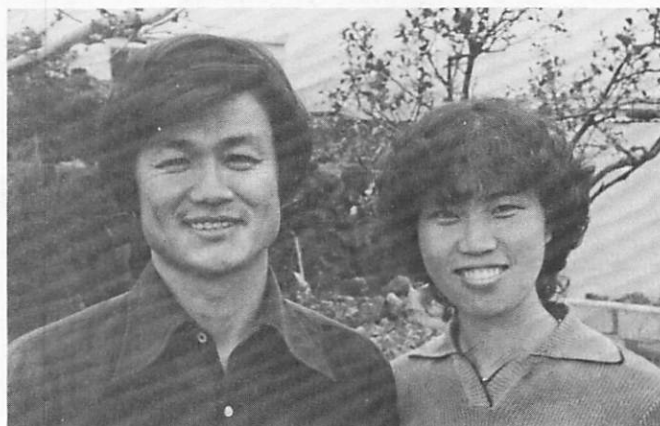
We visited 40 of the 71 churches and 5 outposts and preached in 15 of them. The chairman of the Presbytery Evangelism Committee spent 8 days with us visiting the weaker churches with which his committee is involved. Helpful contacts with the Presbytery Bible Institute revealed a fine work of training about 20 men and women as evangelists, most of whom already serve weaker churches (as does the young woman, picture to the right). It is almost impossible to obtain workers from the mainland, which highlights the importance of this training center.



Of most interest was an excursion to outlying Chu-ja Island, 2½ hours by boat from Cheju City. Blessed with smooth sailing and marvelous weather we found a beautiful isle in the middle of nowhere surrounded by rocky mini-islets resembling sea monsters cavorting in the waves. Apparently we were the only missionaries ever to visit, except when Rev. R. K. Robinson was forced by a storm to take shelter there 25 years ago. We found two vigorous churches, preached to a packed house at the Chu-kwang (= "Light of Chu-ja") Church on Wednesday night, and participated in the afternoon children's service with over 100 present. The two top men in the local government are church officers and there is evidence that the church is making strong local impact. Walking along the wharves after dark, we thought of the radar screen 500 feet above on a high hilltop scanning the horizon, while the piercing beam of a lighthouse swept through the darkness every few seconds...reminders of the protection and guidance of the Creator of the land and sea and sky so impressively displayed during the day just past. We were thankful too for the strength and vitality of these churches, founded, maintained, and led by her own leaders. We came away feeling that we who thought we had come to bless had been the ones who were blessed instead.

Contacts were made with several "para-church" missions. Mr. Pak Sikyung works with seamen along the Cheju City waterfront, a difficult yet surprisingly fruitful ministry among his countrymen and other nationalities. Similar work at mainland ports enables Christians to send Bibles to North Korea via crews of ships from Near East oil countries. He had also worked with the 40-nationality crew of the "Logos" which docked here a month, and whose teams fanned out for every kind of evangelism, including that among prisoners and students, and conducted courses aboard ship to train local leaders in evangelism. At the transmitting station of the Far East Broadcasting Co. we saw how the Gospel is beamed in Korean, Chinese, Japanese and Russian all over the Far East. Replies have come from as far away as Moscow and Sweden. One, a year ago, is from a Korean in Shanghai who reported that recently for the first time in 30 years the Korean congregation of that city met with great joy, and that many Chinese listen to the programs. Just because these ministries are not "ours" is no excuse to omit them from our prayers.

Not the least important was making many friends among the Presbytery leaders who have urged us to return and continue our work now that we have become acquainted, and it is our expectation to do so with our next tour during May. We hope to be a part of strengthening the church in a population where the percentage of Christians is perhaps only a third that of the mainland. We ask your prayers for us in this as well as our continued service in North Chulla. Such a ministry may even bear fruit beyond Korea. On Cheju, both Mr. Pak (referred to above) and Mr. and Mrs. Suh Sin-gil (pictured at right and serving a church on the eastern end of the island) hope to become missionaries abroad, with their eyes on Nepal and Africa respectively, should the Lord open the way.



Sincerely,

Joe and Dot Hopper
Joe and Dot Hopper

Joe and Dot Hopper
159 Choong Whasan Dong
Chunju, North Chulla, Korea
August 22, 1981



JESUS LOVES ME, THIS IS KNOW

in that difficult Moslem setting. For 20 years his father, Elder Lee, worked with Joe helping to plant rural churches in this province. Returning from our recent vacation, we learn that his wife has been hospitalized and is doing well following surgery for a malignancy. But when I went to see her, I also noticed how frail he looks. Our Heavenly Father has His plans which are higher than ours, but if that dear couple could tarry in this world at least until Dr. Lee's family comes on furlough next year, how happy parents, children and grandchildren would be! Our Margaret's having nursed awhile in Bangladesh too makes me emphathize especially in this situation.

I'm glad that our Lord took His disciples "apart to rest awhile." This summer Joe and I again spent time in one of the ten rustic summer cabins in the beautiful Chidi Mountain range. This camp might be termed a "descendant" of a larger better situated one begun by our mission some 50 years ago upon the urging of the doctors for health reasons. In that camp part of the Old Testament was translated by Dr. W.D. Reynolds working with a Korean scholar. We did not have to boil our drinking water (as here in Chunju) - and were refreshed by fellowship with other missionaries, tennis on two dirt courts, hiking along flowery trails, and swimming in a dammed-up mountain stream. A British doctor's family arrived a day after having viewed the royal wedding on the TV screen of an American military chaplain! A missionary who had just returned from 8 months of work-study assignment in India challenged us with the spiritual poverty and other needs of that populous country. For 4 mornings the camp adults listened to tapes of expositions of I Thessalonians by Dr. John Stott at a Keswick Conference in England. Take out your hymnal and be refreshed by the thoughts of our camp hymn: "I Sing the Almighty Power of God." Clouds, mountains, flowers, a ground-hog, a pale smooth caterpillar....reminded us of our Creator's handiwork.



I BAPTIZED THE BRIDE AS AN INFANT

Dear Friends & Prayer-partners:

First, from Dot: My incentive for writing you is that I covet your prayers for the health of two exceptionally frail, dedicated Korean Christians, Elder Lee Young-choon and his wife. Those of you who heard us speak on our last time State-side may recall our telling of Dr. Lee (internist from the "Jesus Hospital" here) who, with his lovely wife and elementary school aged daughter and son have gone to Bangladesh as missionaries. Under the Holy Spirit's leading through Dr. David Seel, personnel of the Presbyterian Medical Center and other Christians of Chunju City sent them to heal and to teach the Gospel



ABOARD CHRISTIAN FISHERMAN'S BOAT FOR WORSHIP SERVICE (SUH-GI-PO, CHEJU ISLAND).

ABOARD CHRISTIAN FISHERMAN'S BOAT FOR WORSHIP SERVICE (SUH-GI-PO, CHEJU ISLAND).

May you in our supporting churches, and our denomination at this particular time in her history and that of the world, listen to the still small voice of God's Holy Spirit as to where and how He wants us to fulfill Christ's great Commission. You and I cannot lead everyone to the Saviour from sin, nor heal every hurt we see....but we can do something. Uphold, please, Dr. and Mrs. Cliff Kirkpatrick and

their children in Atlanta as he spearheads the mission outreach of our church.

Daily we praise the Lord for His goodness to various members of our family.

In October we'll again spend a month working on Cheju Island. May our presence and Joe's counselling and preaching be a means of strengthening the rural work of that Presbytery!

Now, from Joe: Currently we are distributing scholarship aid to seminary students for the fall term. Korean schools begin early in the year so this is the second semester for these men. Because there are so many students, we restrict this program to seniors from the four Presbyteries of this province who are also serving rural churches on weekends and vacations. It appears that this fall we will be helping 15 such men with slightly over \$100 apiece and we thank those of our readers who make this program possible. Through this aid we not only help with their education, but indirectly help the small churches they serve and encourage these workers to continue their ministry in this province. Please pray for them and the churches they serve.



THESE YOUNG PEOPLE BEGAN THE NEW CHURCH AT TAP-DONG.

Honam Theological Seminary in Kwangju has at last found a new president! The one installed two years ago accepted a call to work in Seoul early this year and for six months we have been responsible for finding a new man. We are happy that Rev. Hee-chul Lee has accepted and is taking up his duties at the beginning of the fall term. In addition to the usual theological studies in Korea. He has nearly completed his doctorate at an American seminary and is a specialist in Bible Geography, having spent a year in special studies in the Holy Land. He, too, needs our prayers in the important responsibility for training hundreds of men for the Gospel ministry.

Since we returned from the States last summer a year ago, eight new churches have been started in our area of responsibility in North Chulla Province, not counting several here in the city of Chunju. Five of them have already built churches (or are in the process) and we trust the others will shortly. Last Sunday we met in a small brand-new brick church where a year ago worship was just beginning in a tattered old army tent. Often the evangelists in such places have a difficult time living on small inadequate salaries, overcoming the natural resistance of some elements in such places on the part of those who oppose the Christian Church, and trying to lead brand-new believers into a fuller understanding of the life in Christ. Taken separately, such small congregations may seem insignificant, but thousands of them collectively are the secret of the dramatic growth and strength of the Church of Korea. Pray that God will continue this growth like "wildfire" (as one missionary writer has expressed it.)

We treasure not only your prayers, but your letters, and thank you for them. We try to answer all personal letters, and if you fail to get an answer, please write again as sometimes there seems to be loss in the mail in one direction or the other.

May the Lord richly bless all of you!

Sincerely,

Joe and Bob

Joe and Dot Hopper
159 Choong Whasan Dong
Chunju, North Chulla, Korea 520

May 8, 1982

Dear Friends:

May 5 is "Children's Day" in Korea, a national holiday. As we sat eating noodles and rice in a small Chinese restaurant on Cheju Island (from which this is written), parents with their children filled adjoining tables to celebrate the day as family groups. The color TV above showed "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" with Tom and Huck speaking perfect Korean! (What wise-crack would Mark Twain have had about that?) Parks and amusement places all over Korea were thronged with noisy, happy children and their parents, making it a day every nation should imitate.

Christian churches also make the most of this holiday. Some have church family picnics (at least three here in Cheju City did so). Others use the day for church functions. We attended one at mid-day at the Oe-do Church. Their old building alongside a stream had been flooded by heavy rains last year, and this occasion was the official "first service" in a new building...a former day-care center purchased and remodelled. The place was filled with rejoicing church members and well-wishers from neighboring churches. Pastor Sohn of the largest church on the island preached, and a fine choir of young people sang. That night we worshipped 15 miles away at the Nahp-oop Church, a new project sponsored by another large congregation in Cheju City. This town is one of the ancient administrative centers of the island...yet only a handful of its people are Christians. We were pleased to find an experienced evangelist who, with his attractive wife, is beginning to win the villagers to Christ, starting with the little children, about 20 of whom were at this Wednesday evening service.



At Pi-sum outpost on Ha-wi-do Island we sat on the floor and preached to the new Christians. When funds can be raised, they plan a new church building.

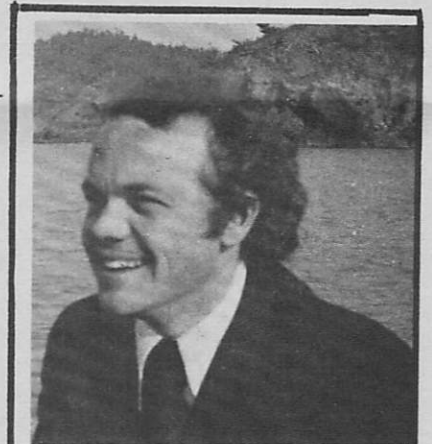
sorrows (from weddings to funerals) keep us busy. A few weeks ago we attended the funeral of the widow of long-time friend Elder Yoon Sung-man of Namwon City, 40 miles away. He had been a stalwart Christian and leading figure in founding the largest church of his city. She was the mother of a large family of children and grandchildren scattered to all parts of Korea, the United States, Canada, and Germany. A daughter is the busiest evangelist at the Presbyterian Medical Center in Chunju, a grandson is a pastor in Kwangju, another grandson pilots a 747 for Korean Airlines to the ends of the earth. After a thoroughly Christian service, the old lady was laid to rest beside her husband on a quiet hillside with a spectacular view of one of the most beautiful sections of Korea with the majestic Chidi mountain range as a backdrop.

An unusual experience this spring was to take a new missionary, Rev. Jeff Ritchie, to visit island churches two hours by boat from Mokpo in South Chulla Province. Jeff, Megan and children will move to Kwangju, capital of that province, this summer to begin work as an evangelist. I only wish we had the privilege more often of showing a brand new missionary the possibilities for this type of pioneer evangelism! The trip to Ha-wi-do was because of various contacts: my Korean assistant was born there; we had helped with a scholarship in seminary one of the evangelists on the island; and it was in this general region that my father had worked 50 years ago. The weather was excellent, the sea was smooth, the scenery magnificent, and our welcome overwhelming. I preached in one of the two churches, Jeff gave his testimony (in Korean!) in the other, and we visited two outposts where new churches are to be built but where funds are



Elder Hyun serves as evangelist for the Tuk-soo Church on Cheju Island. To serve community needs he has started a day-care nursery in the church for sixty children.

Unlike most of you in the States, we experienced mild weather in Korea this past winter, and thus had no interruption of normal work because of slippery or muddy roads. We travelled extensively among churches all across rural North Chulla Province. On the first Sunday of the year, I preached at the three successive morning services of the largest church in the province (total attendance about 1600) which was quite a contrast to our regular congregations in new and weak rural churches which seldom exceed 50. Dot visits the women's section of the local penitentiary, in a nearby orphanage, and in a home for people with various mental problems. Response to needs of those about us and participation in their joys and

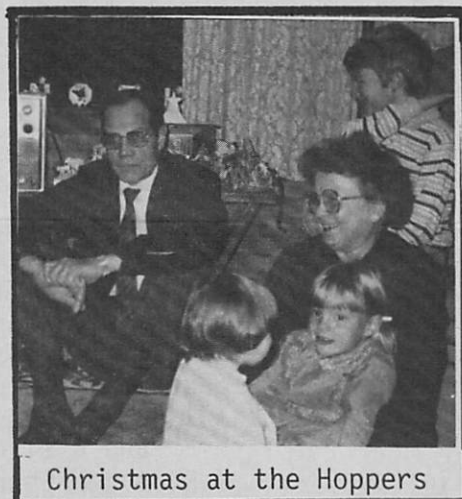


Rev. Jefferson Ritchie, after 2 years of language study is ready to begin evangelistic work in South Chulla Province.

still lacking. Here we saw the church in action on its frontiers and were impressed with the vigor of Christian witness and the wholesale response of these island villagers to the Gospel.

In previous letters we have mentioned Dr. U. Lee and his wife, Korean missionaries sent from Chunju under the sponsorship of the Presbyterian Medical Center to serve in Bangladesh, and asked your prayers for them. A few months ago they returned for their first furlough after 3 years' service. His parents, though very frail and in poor health, are still living, and we share in their joy in having Dr. and Mrs. Lee back home for a time. Pray that Korean Christians will continue to expand their missionary outreach to all corners of the world, not only through such church-appointed professional missionaries, but through other Christians now going out literally into every country on earth.

Missionaries do keep busy, and their work is never finished, but we do have times for relaxation. An evening of games, a party at Christmas or other times, a Saturday afternoon hike to enjoy Korea's natural beauty, or a hymn-sing may provide recreation. Our missionaries gather on Thursday evening for mid-week prayer meeting, and on Sunday afternoons for a worship service in English, shared with a score or more English-speaking Koreans. Letter writing to our families keeps the typewriters busy...in our case to 4 children and 5 grandchildren (soon to be 6). We thank you for your prayers for the latest of these, born with Downs' Syndrome, but growing healthily and loved by her family. This summer we plan to take a brief vacation in the States to see our expanding tribe.



Christmas at the Hoppers

This month Korea celebrates the 100th anniversary of the beginning of formal diplomatic relations between Korea and the United States. During this stormy century God has used (and continues to use) America and its resources in patterns of friendship for which the Koreans continually express their gratitude. As Christians we rejoice that this environment has also stimulated the people of this nation to open their hearts to Christ whose gospel has been brought by so many messengers from America. May God continue to bless this relationship for His glory. We are thankful to Him for the small part He has allowed us to have in this ministry.

Sincerely,

Joe and Dot

P.S.: We treasure not only your prayers, but your letters, and thank you for them. We try to answer all personal letters, but if you fail to receive an answer, please write again as sometimes there seems to be loss in the mail in one direction or the other.

*IS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CORRECT? IF NOT, PLEASE CLIP OLD ADDRESS AND SEND WITH NEW ADDRESS AND MISSIONARY NAME TO: Missionary Correspondence Program, Room 304, 341 Ponce de Leon Ave., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30365. ALSO, PLEASE NOTIFY THIS OFFICE IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THESE LETTERS.

Joe and Dot Hopper
159 Choong Whasan Dong
Chunju, North Chulla, Korea 520
October 18, 1982

Dear Friends:

Ninety years ago this fall (1892) the first Southern Presbyterian missionaries arrived in Korea. Of those 7 pioneers, the first to arrive was a lady. Landing in Inchon with a Korean lady companion, she made her way up-river by sampan, was carried in a sedan chair to Seoul, only to find the city gates closed for the night. Ropes were let down and the two ladies were drawn up to the top, thus reversing Paul's style of exit from Damascus! Ninety years have passed, and the Korean capital now boasts over nine million residents (23% of all Koreans), while the Korean nation has assumed a prominent position in the modern world.



Worship service on fishing boat off Cheju Island with Christian fishermen and wives

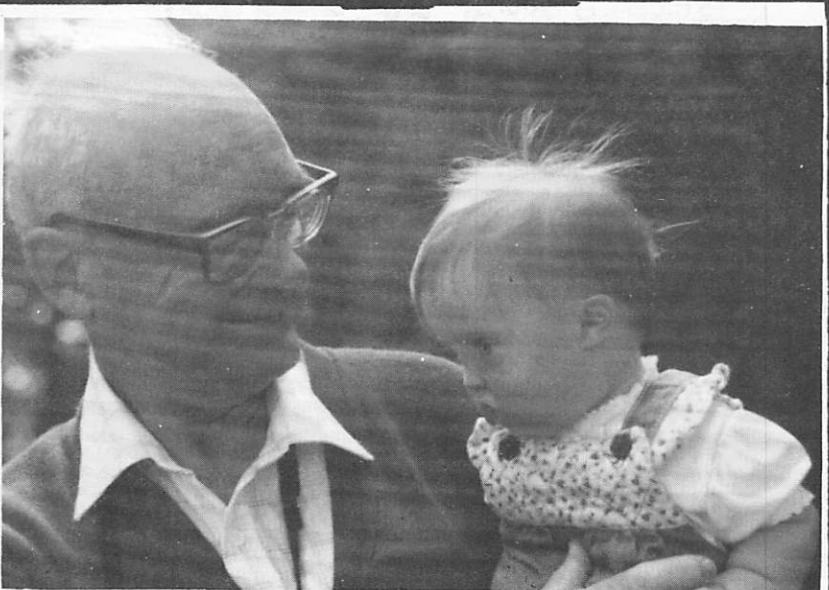
In 1984 the Korean Church celebrates its 100th anniversary and 2 years short of that already boasts millions of believers...somewhere between 15% and 20% of her people. For those interested in statistics of church growth, here are figures for the Presbyterian Church of Korea with which our mission is affiliated (only one of many denominations).

	<u>New adult baptisms</u>	<u>Total baptized membership</u>	<u>Total constituency</u>
Calendar year 1980	45,499 (up 24%)	356,579 (up 12%)	1,115,548 (up 15%)
Calendar year 1981	54,544 (up 20%)	403,923 (up 13%)	1,263,215 (up 12%)

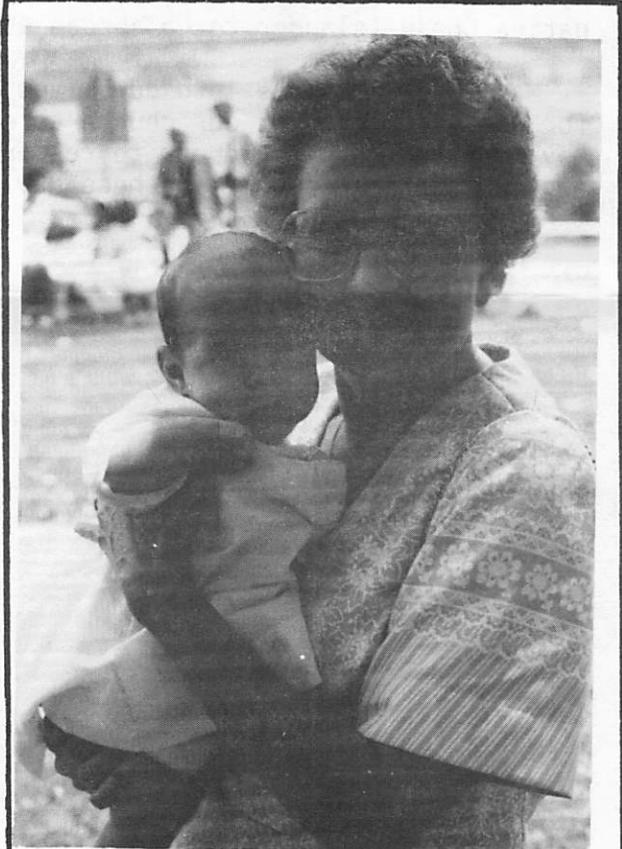
We no longer travel by sampan and sedan chair, but by jet plane and Pinto wagon, yet we do keep travelling and rejoicing that the Gospel preached 90 years ago is still relevant for 1982 and just as effective as "the power of God for salvation to every one who believes..." Sometimes we feel our part is insignificant, but as long as the Lord has need of us (as was once said of a certain donkey) we are happy to be here. After all, there are still more than 30 million non-Christians in Korea...about 15 million more than when we came to Korea in 1948.

Since last writing, we have spent one month in the States for a "family visit" this past summer. With 6 grandchildren (2 of whom we had never seen), almost every day was spent with various family members. After visiting our children in their homes briefly, they came to see us (in shifts) in our home in Montreat the rest of the time. The highlight was when all 15 were together at the wedding of Dot's niece in Piney Flats, Tennessee.

One of the joys of life, and particularly of Christian service, is meeting old friends after long separation. Such an occasion was the recent visit of Dr. Song-nai Rhee, now a professor at Northwest Christian College in Eugene, Oregon, and whom I had not seen in more than 25 years.



Joe with Lydia Hopper



Dot with Rachel Hopper

He was a country boy 40 miles from Chunju, who became a "houseboy" for some American army officers during the Korean War. One of these arranged with me for "Song" to attend our mission school in Chunju, where he became a Christian. After study in Seoul he went to college in Eugene and later earned a PhD. In addition to teaching Old Testament and archaeology, he has for 9 years headed a team excavating at Lachish (check your concordance) in Palestine. Now on sabbatical leave, he is working on a "dig" in Kochang County, an area where we have church work. A dam to provide water for a nearby nuclear power plant will submerge many ancient dolmen in the area and before that happens Dr. Rhee wants to study the culture of his homeland 2000 to 3000 years ago in villages he hopes to uncover near the dolmen. Still warm and friendly in personality, and a radiant Christian, God has used our friend over the years to inspire and train many young people in the U.S. for Christian service.

We continue to witness the birth of new churches. At Pahn-am (about 3 miles from the above archaeological dig) work has begun in a large village where I had long wanted to start a church but the Lord had not opened the way. But Christian school teachers in the local elementary school began work, our Presbytery sent a seminary student as evangelist about 6 months ago, and in recent months a brand new church building has been erected where we hope to worship in a few weeks. Early this spring I visited a place called Sallye (meaning "mountain and stream"...we have 3 places in this province with this name). There was no church at all, and only a handful of Christians. But the non-Christian village headmen were waiting for us to request that we build them a church and they showed us land they had chosen for a church building. Contact was made with the evangelistic society of the Chunju Presbyterian Medical Center which agreed to undertake support of an evangelist and to build a little church. In September we were present for the groundbreaking ceremony at this beautiful spot on the shores of the largest artificial lake in southwestern Korea amid surrounding hills and mountains.

This letter is written from Cheju Island where we are working during October, living in the apartment at the Presbytery Center. The clatter of construction goes on around us. Last year this land and buildings were donated by our Mission to Cheju Presbytery. We are happy to see that these church leaders have "grabbed the ball and are running with it" with plans for development of this property for greater usefulness. A large upstairs meeting room, a kitchen and dining room, and conversion of small clinic rooms into bedrooms will contribute to making this a suitable place for local leadership training and conference groups...some of them church groups from the mainland attracted by the beauties of this island. Several days ago we watched Cheju Presbytery meeting in session and rejoiced to see this part of the body of Christ functioning smoothly.

Tragedy sometimes strikes even in the homes of God's most faithful and effective servants. Rev. and Mrs. Sin-gil Suh serve a church at the east end of the island. Just two years ago we were present for the 1st birthday party of their little daughter, "Grace." About 3 weeks ago she climbed on top of an unused church bell, and when she slid down somehow it turned over and the axle on which the bell swings pinned her to the ground so that she died the next day from internal injuries. Her parents have taken this with wonderful spirit, and used the occasion to give a strong Christian witness to their hope in Christ for her eternal happiness with the Lord. Now the Lord who took away has given them a new blessing...last Wednesday at Presbytery meeting, Mr. Suh with great joy told of the birth of his son that morning. He and his wife have expressed the hope that someday the Lord will send them overseas as foreign missionaries. And speaking of such, at the Presbytery meeting, one of the two young men ordained as ministers was Rev. Kyung-ha Kim, who leaves shortly with his wife and son (born last week) to become missionaries in Columbia, South America...the first native Cheju Islander to go abroad as a missionary!

May these insights into our lives here help you to pray intelligently for Dot and me and for all who represent our church abroad. God is still very much at work in His world, and may He give all of us grace to respond to the challenges of open opportunities for witness and service in His name in these days.

Sincerely yours,

Joe and Dot

Box 77, Chonju
North Chulla, Korea 520
April 30, 1983
(delayed in Atlanta --
with apologies)

Dear Friends:

First the business, then the news: Please note our new simplified address above and use it when we are in Korea. However, after June 1 our address will be Box 64, Montreat, NC 28757 (Phone 704/669-7008). We expect to arrive there about July 1 for a one-year "home assignment" ("fur-tough" to oldtimers). This is a year earlier than normal in order to return to Korea in the summer of 1984 and serve a full 2 years before retiring as missionaries in 1986 when Joe will be 65. Hence this will be our last year of homeland church itineration, and we hope to visit many of you during that period.

Missionary life is often one of contrasting experiences. Six weeks ago within 45 minutes I received two invitations...one to speak at a local church kindergarten and the other at the Presbyterian Seminary in Seoul. My performance before 60 squirming noisy 6-year olds can only be described as a disaster and should be forgotten. I hope my seminary message was somewhat more helpful (assigned subject: "The missionary and rural evangelism.") With 1819 students in the seminary, chapel must be held in two sections and it was a thrill to have between 800 and 900 prospective church workers in the two successive services. Surely God can do great things with such a "mighty army"! (This is only one of many seminaries in Korea!)



At Pub-whan Church (Cheju Island). Dot is with Miss Chungi Moon, a recent Chonju Hanil Seminary graduate and local church worker, and Mrs. Soon-Ji Hong, early graduate of the same school and long-time Bible woman.



Rev. Kyung-ha Kim, first Cheju Island native to go as a missionary...now in Columbia, S.America

There is variety in our churches, too. Easter Sunday we visited a new church in Sallye Myun in Chongoo County on the shores of the largest lake in this part of Korea. The final 3 miles of road were awful, taking about 30 minutes to negotiate. This church was begun last fall, sponsored by the evangelistic society of the Presbyterian Medical Center staff in Chonju, which supports the evangelist and is also helping build a new church, now under construction. Temporarily worship is held in the local village meeting hall (less than the size of your living room). After the service, we came out to find the leading village men waiting to urge us to come to the 60th birthday dinner of a local citizen. Here we were accorded VIP welcome and cordially entertained by the honoree and his sons, daughters, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, etc., all dressed in traditional colorful Korean costumes. None of that family were Christian, but in their friendly reception we trust the Lord used our presence as a witness to the Saviour. Certainly the eagerness of all to have us was evidence that the evangelist had won local acceptance...always an important achievement in new church planting.

Another Sunday, we were invited to preach at the 9:30 service in the chapel of a military unit charged with guarding the entire western coastline of North Chulla Province. These soldiers man the trenches and dugouts along the coast 24 hours of the day in all kinds of weather, on the alert for North Korean communist infiltrators. The evangelist of a near-by church is their chaplain, and the little chapel was completely filled with about 100 men, of whom I judged about 2/3 were Christian. This was "rotation day" when the men would be trucked out to relieve others who had been on duty for several weeks, and even the commanding officer (not a Christian) was present. After I preached, the evangelist gave his men the Scripture verse to take with them: "Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." (Is. 41:10)

Last Sunday night we visited Kumsung (we are now on Cheju Island). A young woman evangelist struggles to bring revival to a very old church in an area of several thousand people and no other church. She has only about a dozen adult members, due to strong resistance to the Gospel. The Sunday School and young people's group are larger, but as soon as they finish hi-school the young people leave for the cities. Pray for Mrs. Choon-hi Yew, her non-Christian husband, and the Kumsung Church. Last Wednesday night we were at Sin-yea, where everything was in contrast to Kumsung. Sin-yea has an enthusiastic congregation (about 70 present for Wed. night prayer-meeting). The evangelist is a recent seminary graduate of pleasing personality and



Examinations for baptism at Suk-poh Church

unusual gifts, aggressive in his evangelistic efforts. We were impressed by the obvious "communion of the saints" evidenced by their friendliness to us and with each other, and their concern for the salvation of their village neighbors.

One bit of family news in closing: Our son Barron has been called of the Lord to enter the Gospel ministry. He and his wife Martha with 3 small children will soon move to Decatur to enter Columbia Seminary. We rejoice in this, and ask your prayers for him and his family as they embark on this new stage of their lives.

We trust that shortly we will see many of you. If your church wants us to report on the Lord's work in Korea, please write us in Montreat and we will be happy to try to include you in our itinerary if at all possible. May the Lord bless you all!

Cordially yours, *Joe B. Hopper*

P.S. from Dot: How often I wish I could have you with us to experience the emotions we have as we see evidences of God at work among these remarkable people! If only you could sit on the floors of Korean homes, understanding the talking, hearing the hopes of Korean Christians about the future or tales of past sufferings in this nation! Four nights ago we were treated in a restaurant which specialized in seafoods (what Joe calls a "what-so-ever passeth through the paths of the sea-food dinner"). Each of the 3 ministers had had a turn as Presbytery chairman of evangelism. Over that meal we learned that one had escaped from North Korea with his father during the Korean war, and another had had his childhood home burned to the ground by communist guerrillas.

Last week at the Chonju Penitentiary my Korean friend (Hanil Seminary dormitory matron) and I came for weekly worship in the women's section. Nineteen ladies were present that morning, and one of them was to be released that day, having completed her year's sentence. (Usually I do not know what their crimes have been, for I'm merely trying to be their friend, teach them of our Lord's saving power, and help build them up in their faith.) Prisoner #4000 is now a Christian and will return to her family in Seoul...she is a petite, short little lady. My Korean friend prayed for her by name, and my heart was warmed as we sang two verses of "God Be With You 'til We Meet Again" which, in fact, probably will be in heaven and at Jesus' feet. What a blessed hope we Christians share!

I wish you could join the Monday night English Bible class which Alma Grubbs, Martha Cope and I find such a blessing personally as we encounter Korean middle- and high-school students. You would be uplifted as we are during their 1/2 hour of English hymn-singing and chorus singing. We've been having between 50 and 60 students the last several weeks, and during study-time I take my 13 or 17 middle-schoolers downstairs where we study simple stories about Jesus. We close singing, "Oh, how I love Jesus, Because He first loved me" in English.

With love,
Dot



Coney Island Icecream (32 varieties) has come to Chonju! Enduring "Missionary hardship" in celebration of Dot's birthday are Ruth Folta, Dot, Alma and Merrill Grubbs and David Chu

*IS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CORRECT? IF NOT, PLEASE CLIP OLD ADDRESS AND SEND WITH NEW ADDRESS AND MISSIONARY NAME TO: Missionary Correspondence Program, Room 304, 341 Ponce de Leon Ave., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30365. ALSO, PLEASE NOTIFY THIS OFFICE IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THESE LETTERS.

M-120

Joe and Dot Hopper
Box 64, Montreat, NC 28757
April 19, 1984

Address after June 15:

Box 77
Chonju 520, Korea

Dear Friends:

As our year of "Home Assignment" draws to an end, we look back upon many wonderful visits with family and friends, and thank you for your hospitality and interest in our reports of our part in

Our grandchildren, New Year's Eve 1983,
Ages 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, and 1 month.
"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy
deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He
has done." Psalm 78:4b

the Lord's work in Korea. We have travelled in all the presbyteries in North Carolina, and to churches in Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida where we rejoiced to find many who want to know more about mission work abroad and who support this with their prayers and gifts. For all this we give thanks!

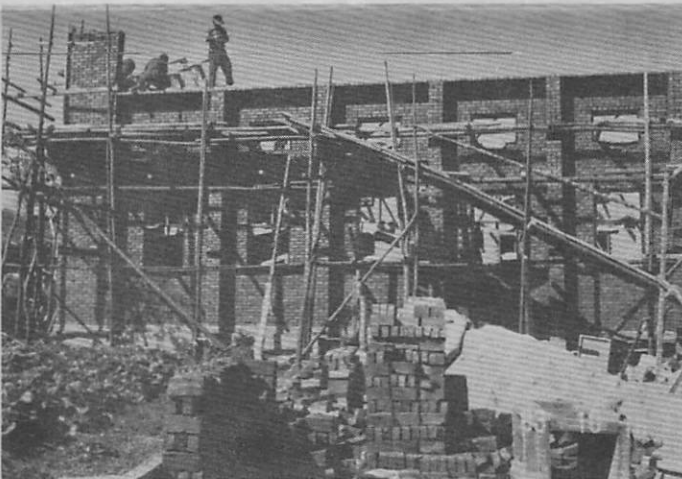
The Hopper family has increased in size by one with the arrival of little Martha Ruth last December in the home of David and Liza in Princeton, W.Va. (where David is in Family Practice), making three little girls in that home. Alice and Jack and son Justin continue living in Stone Mountain, Ga. Barron and Martha and three little ones are in Avondale (just outside Decatur, Ga.) where Barron is finishing his first year of study at Columbia Theological Seminary. Margaret lives in Chapel Hill, N.C., and is a nurse in the VA Hospital in Durham nearby. We have enjoyed frequent visits and are pleased with how they have established themselves in various occupations.

We look forward to returning to Chonju the third week in June, and are confident that the Lord has much for us to do during our final two years of service until we retire in mid-1986. First, of course, will be participation with the Korean Church in the celebration of her 100th birthday in September. My parents went to Korea as missionaries in 1920 and we ourselves in 1948, so that together almost two-thirds of that history has involved our own family and we look back with gratitude for the many ways God has blessed our ministry. We are reminded of familiar words in Lamentations 3:22-23:

"The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease,
For His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
Great is Thy faithfulness."



Deacon Chung is paralyzed and cannot walk or talk. Though extremely poor he has donated part of his small garden land for a new church at Soodong.



A new church in Chonju City (Sung-won Church)

We have often been asked during the past year, "Why does the Church of Korea grow so fast?" Of the many reasons which can be given, one of the most important is her practice of "Friendship Evangelism." More than through programs passed down from church headquarters, or through mass meetings, the church grows because friends witness to friends, mothers to their families, students to their classmates. Almost every congregation of every denomination is divided into small groups for Friday evening neighborhood prayer meetings. There are tens of thousands of these informal gatherings to which non-Christian neighbors will accept invitations and find Christ in the warm hospitality and joy of people who sing and pray and study God's Word together.

An illustration of how this works comes from a group of three islands off southwest Korea, but it could just as easily have happened on the mainland. In April 1982, Jeff Ritchie and I travelled 2 hours by boat from Mokpo, my boyhood home, to Ha-wi-do where there is a strong church begun many years ago. The evangelist of that church took us by boat 15 minutes on to a smaller island (Neung-san) where there are 85 children in the elementary school. Their two teachers were deacons in the Ha-wi-do church and had started a Sunday school... and had all 85 children in it. They proudly showed us a small plot of land where they were preparing to build a church. We encouraged them and had a prayer for their little group of Christians, and then sailed 30 minutes more to Shin-do, a beautiful isle with a magnificent beach but no church. We called on a couple of Christian families and had prayer with these people who had to sail some 40 minutes to the large church (weather permitting). As we left the island we discovered that the entire island population of several hundred was having some kind of community meeting at the schoolhouse near the boat landing. As VIP guests, we were invited in, introduced and welcomed. Although not Christians, their leaders insisted that we have a prayer for them before we departed. A year later in 1983, word came that this little group of Christians was building their own church, and recent news is that they also have a resident evangelist.

The next morning we travelled to Peasom, a large village on the lower end of the first island. There we had a worship service with about 20 people in a small mud-walled, straw-thatched house. Their leader was a deacon in the big church and he had witnessed to this group of friends and neighbors and organized a prayer meeting. About 6 weeks ago we had a letter from one of their number saying that they too are building their little church so as not to have to walk an hour and a half to Sunday worship at the mother church. Do you get the picture? One strong church...three new ones because: (1) Two deacons taught school on an adjacent island, started a Sunday School and built a little church 2 years ago; (2) Christian girls married and moved to still another island, and their witness resulted in a second church built last year; (3) A deacon farmer gathered his neighbors for a prayer meeting and this year a third church has grown from his ministry. Ordinary people, but extra-ordinary witnesses! This is what we mean by "Friendship Evangelism."

On April 10th our hearts were saddened by the death of Rev. Hugh Linton in a traffic accident near his home in Soonchun, Korea. Hugh was a personal friend since boyhood, and a greatly admired fellow church-planter whose presence will be greatly missed. I believe the records would prove that he had a part in starting more churches than any missionary in Korea's 100-year history. His work was administered through "Operation Lighthouse," a committee of which I am a member. Rev. Ahn Ki-chan continues his service of many years as executive secretary of this organization, backed by other Korean pastors and laymen, and we are confident the Lord will continue to bless this strong program responsible for starting scores of churches. This year (1984) the "Outreach Foundation" of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is hoping to raise \$40,000 to establish 10 churches at \$5,000 apiece under the auspices of "Operation Lighthouse." A fitting memorial to a great missionary would be to contribute to this (Outreach Foundation, 425 Ashworth Road, Charlotte, NC 28211).

Please continue to uphold Dot and me in your prayers that our final two years in Korea may be used of God for continued fruits for His Kingdom.

Sincerely,

Joe and Dot Hopper

*ENCLOSED IS A CARD THAT WE ASK YOU TO RETURN IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN ON THE MAILING LIST TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE LETTERS FROM THE HOPPERS. THOSE WHO DO NOT RESPOND WITHIN THE 30 DAY PERIOD WILL BE REMOVED. THE CARD IS ADDRESSED AND STAMPED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. THANK YOU.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MISSION BOARD
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Your gifts to the WITNESS SEASON enable the
Church to do Christ's mission in the world!

520 Box 77, Chonju 520
Republic of Korea
October 4, 1984

Dear Friends:

One hundred years to the day after the arrival of the first resident Protestant missionary (Horace N. Allen, M.D.), the Presbyterian Church of Korea celebrated with all due pomp and ceremony at the Chamsil Gymnasium in Seoul, newly completed in preparation for the 1988 International Olympics. We were privileged to be a part of some 13,000 seated in the galleries and on the playing area. In attendance were commissioners to the Korean General Assembly, past and present leaders from all over the country, scores of visitors from the U.S. and about twenty other lands, and missionaries. The program was beautifully prepared, with appropriate messages from Dr. Hahn Kyung-jik (pastor emeritus of the world's largest Presbyterian Church and "grand old man" of Korean Christendom), the moderator of the PCUSA and other dignitaries.

Recognition was given to missionaries from abroad who have served in Korea, and to missionaries of the Korean Church to other lands (some of whom were present), and to others for outstanding work in the church...

such as a lady who had won nearly 400 people to Christ in a short period of time. A representative of the families of Christians martyred in past years for their faith received a plaque in recognition of those sacrifices, as did the family of a Korean missionary to Bangladesh and Pakistan, Rev. Chung Sung-kyune, who died on the field this past July. A magnificent choir of 1800 voices with a brass band filled the vast space with anthems of joyful praise, climaxed by the favorite of all Korean Christians, the "Hallelujah Chorus", in which the entire assembly was asked to join (a performance which would have astonished Handel, I am sure!).

"Arise, let your light shine!" (Is. 60:1) was the theme chosen for the Centennial. It is appropriate not only to challenge the church as she begins her second century, but also in retrospect to what has happened since 1894, when Korea, "the Hermit Nation," lived in darkness with shades drawn not only to cut off the light of modern civilization, but also to deny entrance to those who could proclaim the good news of the Light of the World. The century since has seen the collapse of a tottering old monarchy, 40 years of Japanese imperial rule, terrible wars, revolutions and political upheavals. Through it all, that Light has shown in thousands of villages and cities and in millions of homes and hearts so that today about one in five Koreans is a Christian, and thousands of churches dot the landscape. Throngs of churchgoers on Sunday mornings are easily identified as each one carries a Bible and a hymnal. Truly the Lord has done great things in this land, for which we may all give thanks. You who read this letter may have the satisfaction of knowing that a century of partnership in mission has yielded such rich dividends for the Kingdom of God.

We returned to Korea after our year in the States on June 23, and are back with our usual responsibilities. The summer was hot and "sticky", but now wonderful fall weather is here, fields are golden with a bumper rice crop, and we enjoy peace and freedom to witness and serve in the name of the Saviour. Perhaps the greatest change I see within just a year's time is the rapid increase in the number of ordained pastors serving rural churches. This reflects not only the growing numerical and financial strength of those congregations, but also the vast number of graduates pouring out of Korea's many seminaries. Where in past years counties with perhaps 25 churches had only one ordained minister (if any at all) with most of them served by unordained lay evangelists, now there may be 8 or 10 ministers. We can foresee that in a few years the ratio of ordained pastors to lay evangelists (currently about 2 to 3) will increase dramatically.

But the work of planting new churches must go on unabated, and we are happy to have a part in promoting their growth. We returned to Korea to find three new churches started in

This symbol of the Korean Church's Centennial expresses the theme, "Arise, let your light shine..." (Isaiah 60:1)



The Taeguk (yang-yin) mark represents the Korean nation.



The form of the living fish symbolizes Christianity ("Arise...").



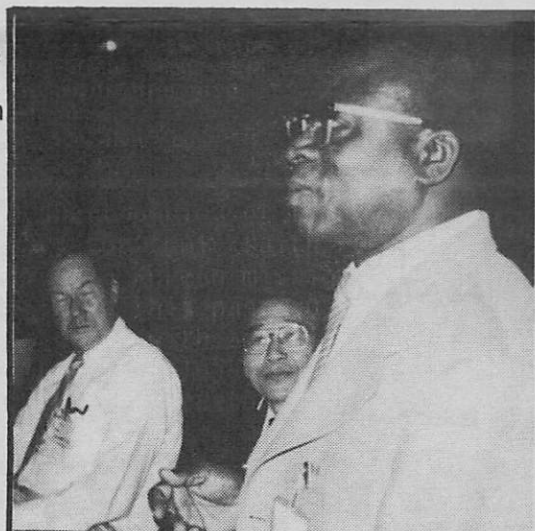
The number "100" depicts the Centennial idea.



The red or blue square carries the idea of the whole world into which the light of the Gospel shines. ("...let your light shine...")

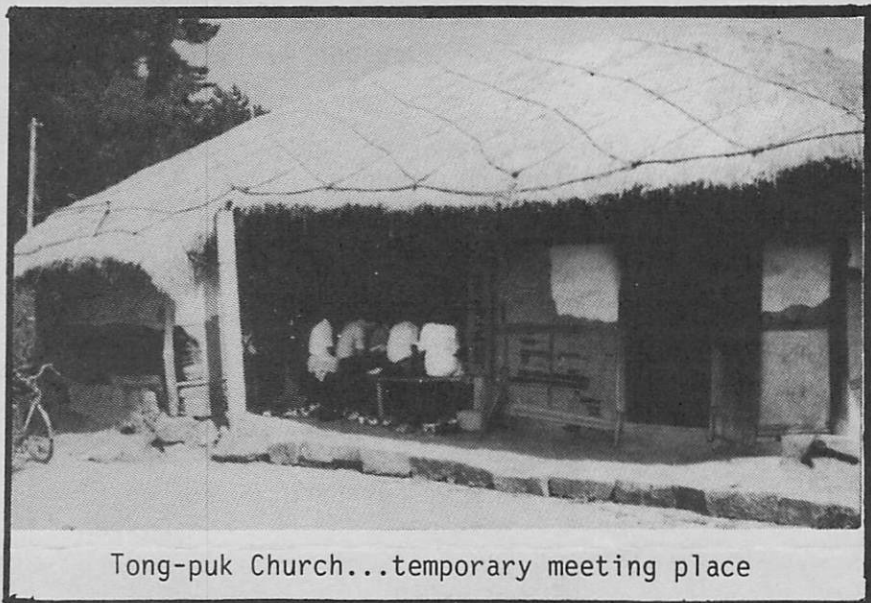


Korean missionaries abroad at the centennial



A guest from Nigeria greets a centennial gathering

our area within recent months. On August 19 we worshipped in one of them, the Tong-puk church in Puan county, in a small borrowed mud-walled, straw thatched old house (one of the few to be found in Korea today). Forty adults were crammed into a very small room with others sitting around the doors. A young seminary student began work there late in March, and already has a thriving little congregation. In September we attended the "ground-breaking" for their new church building, held on a day when torrential rains blanketed the country, bringing severe flooding to Seoul, and necessitating holding our service inside the little borrowed hut. Tong-puk is just one of thousands of small rural churches all over Korea from which members migrate to the big cities, resulting in the growth of urban "mega-churches."



Tong-puk Church...temporary meeting place

Among other significant local events has been the recent offer by North Korea of relief goods (food, cloth, cement, and medicine) to South Korean victims of the September flooding. South Korea's unexpected acceptance of the offer, and then the actual completion of the promised delivery by North Korea...the first attempt at friendly contact since the end of the Korean War in 1953. Will this bring a new day in relations between the two parts of Korea? We can only pray that God in His good time will restore unity and peace to this peninsula, troubled by conflict for so long!

May the passage from which the Korean centennial theme is taken gladden and challenge all of us, especially as we approach the celebration of the birth of the "Light of the World."

"Arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness the peoples;
But the Lord will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you.
And nations will come to your light,
And kings to the brightness of your rising." (Is. 60:1-3)

Your fellow-servants in the Lord,

Joe and Dot Hopper

Joe and Dot Hopper

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M-120

P.O. Box 77
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June 5, 1985

Dear Friends:

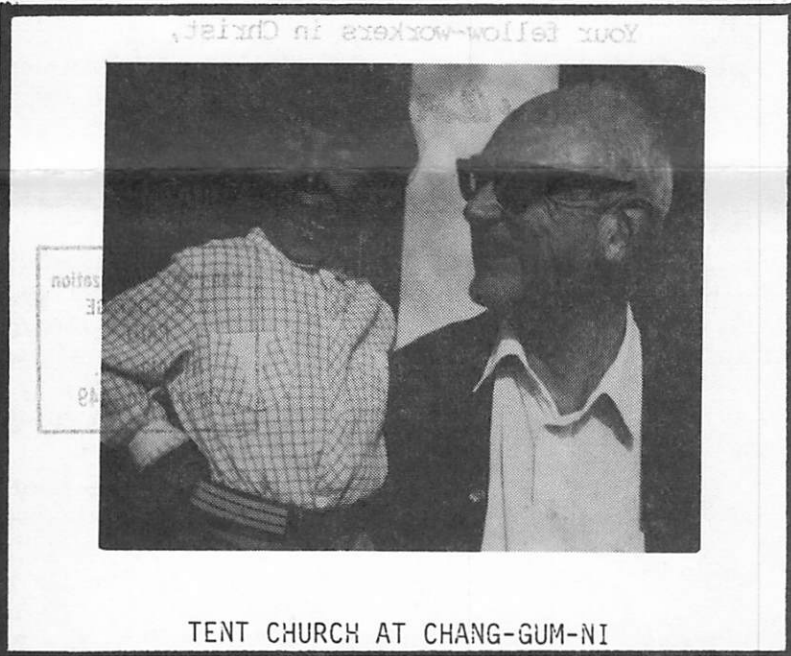
While your news headlines everything from tax reform to baseball scores, we in Korea are bombarded with the latest in South-North Korean relations, university student demonstrations, and plans for the 1988 Seoul Olympics. It is wonderful to sit in our living room and turn to the U.S. Armed Forces TV station to watch the CNN news live by satellite direct from Atlanta to keep up with your world. Then we flip to one of three Korean channels to learn everything from the visit of a North Korean Red Cross delegation for discussions aimed at linking up families divided between the two Koreas, to percentages of the rice crop which has been transplanted. Very little of importance that happens in the U.S. is missing from the Korean news, but rare is mention of Korean events by CNN! Anyhow, we live in an exciting, if sometimes perplexing or distressing world, and it is good to know that Almighty God is in control and working His purpose out. We pray that our small part in this remote corner of His world will contribute to that purpose.

Our lives revolve around churches and yet more churches and their activities. Among approximately 450 Presbyterian churches in North Chulla province on the mainland and on Cheju Island, we try to concentrate on helping and encouraging those that are new and weak. We live in a culture that loves ceremonies, and long ones at that. Since March first, we have attended 12 such. Two were ground-breakings for new churches, the others were almost all "combinations," i.e., one big blow-out combining a number of events such as dedication of a new church, anniversaries, installation of a pastor, ordination of deacons and elders, and conferring honors for various types of service. Sometimes separate vows, prayers, and charges to officers and congregation for each category are given...making upwards of a dozen speeches and that many prayers. Someone must deliver a congratulatory speech (as an old-timer now that may fall to yours truly), and gifts are exchanged publicly between everyone involved. Throw in several special music numbers, the reading of telegraphed greetings, and the flowery invitation to the inevitable feast, and you are lucky to get off with a two-hour affair! Invitations are issued far and wide, so it's a great occasion for friends to get together. But this is part of the "fellowship of the saints" and we rejoice to be accepted in it...often with friends of long-standing (perhaps in this case we should say "long-sitting!").



WITH PASTOR SUH SIN-GIL AND FAMILY

From experiences in recent months, we briefly relate three:



TENT CHURCH AT CHANG-GUM-NI

Chang-gum-ni is on a rugged mountain slope dropping off into the largest artificial lake in this part of the country. Deacon Chin of one of our Chonju City churches taught there in the elementary school for 3 years during which time he held Sunday School for the children, and by various forms of public service created a favorable atmosphere. Though now teaching in Chonju, he is sponsoring the start of a church in Chang-gum-ni. Through Mr. Chin's efforts a tent has been erected for services, and preaching temporarily provided on Sunday afternoons by a pastor in another church. As of mid-June, a young man with two years of seminary education (Kim Sun-woo) will

complete his 30-month military duty (as a chaplain's assistant) and take over full-time to develop this new church. He is bright, energetic and enthusiastic. Pray for him.



WITH SAMUEL LEE ON CHU-JA ISLAND

On a Wednesday during our month working on Cheju Island, we sailed 2 hours to the Chuja Twin Islands to spend the night at the Sin-yang Church with Evangelist Lee Soo-tuk, his attractive wife, and their children, Esther and Samuel. We admired the pebble beach, the monster-like rocks along the coast, the little harbor of fishing boats, and beautiful silver fish leaping from the water near dusk. One lady who has been in that 60-year old church from its beginning does not recall any previous visit by a missionary. At prayer meeting that night I preached to a full house of about 130, and at the 4:30 dawn (?) prayer service to about 45. Unlike the larger Cheju Island, the people of Chuja are responsive to the Gospel, and both this church and the one on the twin island are growing. The two top officials in the

island administration are Presbyterian elders. We rejoice when the church has such deep roots and wide influence, giving a sense of permanence to the Christian witness there.

This morning I visited the Sin-Dong Church here in Chonju. Twenty-seven years ago a local pastor asked me to help with this outpost he had started amid fields and peach orchards. It was then a small mud-walled building with a tile roof, about the size of your living room, with some 25 members. An elder in that pastor's church later donated land and money to put up a more substantial building, considered adequate at the time. In the interim the city has grown far beyond this spot, and what used to be a small rural church is surrounded by a forest of towering apartment buildings housing thousands of families. Desperate for space, Pastor Kim Chung-soo and a congregation of about 100 have sacrificed and borrowed to construct a large and beautiful building, with basement and first floor educational facilities, a second floor sanctuary to seat 500, and an apartment to serve as manse built in as well...conservation of space necessary because land is scarce and horrendously expensive in Korean cities. Already his congregation has nearly doubled in a few months, and prospects are for a strong church. They were grateful for a small contribution towards building expenses which I was able to present, thanks to gifts from some of you American friends.

"See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove:
Who can faint, while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage;
Grace, which, like the Lord the Giver,
Never fails from age to age."

(John Newton: "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken")

Thank you for your prayers, your concern, and your gifts.

Your fellow-workers in Christ,

Joe + Art Hopper

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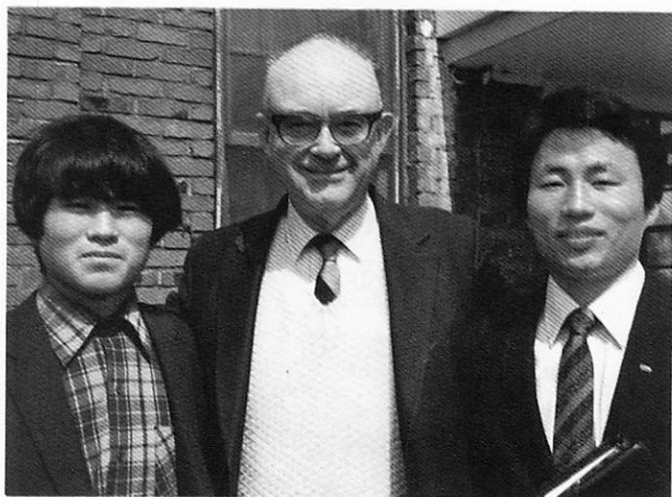
Dear Friends:

May 1, 1986

At the end of June we retire from missionary service, and for the first time since 1920 there will be no Hoppers assigned to mission work in Korea. In that year, Dot was born in the Belgian Congo (now Zaire) to missionary parents (Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Longenecker) and the following year Joe was born in Kwangju, Korea (parents: Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Hopper). Our own career began in 1948 when we reached Chonju with infant daughter, Alice.

In recent months we have reflected much on those years. With long-time Korean friends we have recounted events both serious and hilarious. We wonder if any society has ever seen such enormous change in less than 40 years. We came to a land of poverty, poor health, political confusion and pessimism. We were greeted by a serious military uprising 100 miles to the south. Less than 2 years later a quiet Sunday was shattered by invasion from the north and the beginning of the Korean War. Revolutions and assassinations have overturned governments. Beginning in the early 1960s, the "New Village Movement" transformed farms and villages, replacing mudwalled, strawthatched houses with modern style homes. Roads which were muddy or dusty, rutted or rocky, are largely gone, while thousands of cars, trucks and buses jam the busy paved expressways today. Smoky lamps and flickering candles dimly lit homes and churches. Now electricity is universal and brings every conceivable electronic gadget and household appliance. Busy factories turn out clothing, TV sets, and automobiles which flood foreign markets. Illiteracy is almost wiped out (a larger percentage of Koreans attend university than do the people of Great Britain). Old and young appear to be well-fed, beautifully clothed, and healthy. There is little unemployment, the standard of living keeps rising, and personal freedoms are enjoyed except in the political world where the establishment is still widely resented and challenged. We have lived under the constant threat of invasion by one of the most powerful military machines in the world maintained by communist North Korea, but we are grateful for the security we have enjoyed, especially for the U.S. Army.

For us missionaries, the most astounding change is the amazing development of the Korean Church, and for this we praise God. In our province (North Chulla) the number of churches has grown 10 times over, and the number of Christians more than that! Chonju city had less than 10 churches in 1948, and now has over 300 in a population of 425,000, and many of these have more than 1,000 adult



Seminary student evangelists

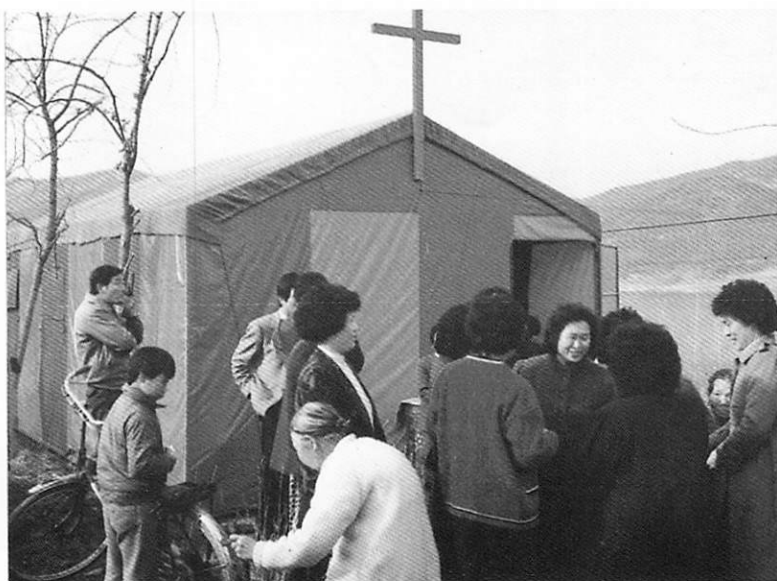


members. Rural churches were few and far between and woefully weak; now they dot the landscape, often with beautiful places of worship. The Korean War brought a wave of Christian refugees from the north who settled everywhere to start new churches and invigorate old ones. Zeal for evangelism spread the Gospel like wildfire. Even the tragic denominational divisions failed to stunt church growth. Where once there was only one

... Junior-Hi English
Bible Class



Village church under construction



A new church starts in a tent

ordained minister for every 20 or more churches, now new young ministers have reduced the ratio to less than 2 churches per pastor. Seminary graduates who find no openings in existing churches simply go out and start one!

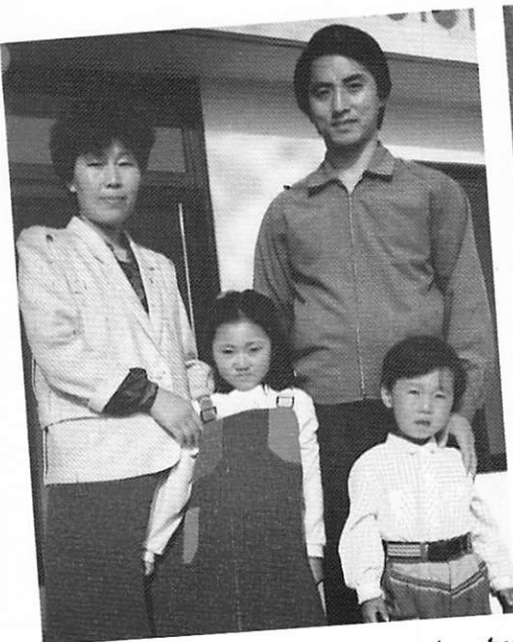
We rejoice to have been a small part of this movement, and over the years to have been identified with scores of churches in one way or another. Joe has been able to stick to his calling of rural church planting and development. Recently he spent the day in a district meeting discussing the affairs (and, yes, the problems) of a flock of rural churches. This spring he has had a part in helping about 10 churches in their initial or early development. All these years God has constantly opened up opportunities to serve countless little pioneer churches. In these final months it is a joy to visit those with which we struggled years ago and to greet old friends who recall our visits with many tales. . . some already bordering on the legendary!

God has blessed us as a family too, as we have made our home in Chonju these 38 years. To our own 4 children are now added 8 grandchildren. Dot was almost the only teacher of our children through grade school. After the children left home, Dot joined my country work, and for 19 years she has travelled almost every Sunday to rural churches where she counts many friends, especially among the women.



Dot's favorite posture
...Korean style living room





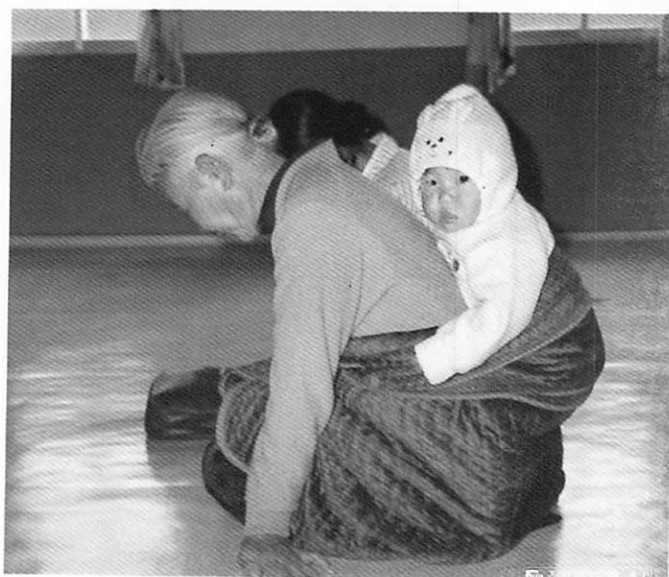
Congregation of the Pak-san Church
...Evangelist Lee and family

For 5 years we worked among the churches of beautiful and exotic Cheju Island 2 months each year. In addition she had opportunities with the Women of the Church organization, in the penitentiary, orphanages, home for mental patients, mission hospital, student Bible classes, entertaining Korean and foreign guests, and all kinds of personal contacts. Aside from his major work with churches, Joe's duties included publication, construction, care of mission property, relief, work with Bible institutes and seminaries, committee work, involvement in Presbytery and General Assembly affairs, hauling freight, emergency plumbing, scrounging for supplies, etc., etc. But we had time for leisure, too--evening games and music with the children, hunting pheasant with the boys, family picnics, exploring the beauties of Korea, and most of all vacations in our little cabin in the Chidi San mountains above the summer mosquitoes and heat amid a wonderland of trees and flowers and spectacular views.

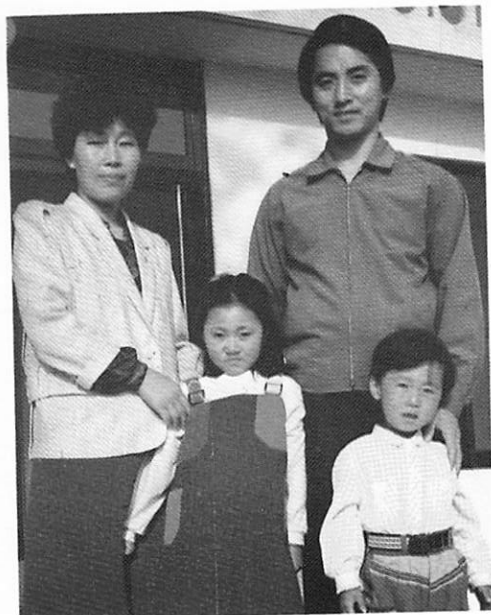
There were the furloughs. . . times to renew connections in the homeland and report on the progress of the Gospel in Korea. Many who read this letter were our hosts and we recall pleasant visits with you. Through the years your letters and greeting cards and gifts, but especially your prayers have sustained us. We have tried to answer all communications and acknowledge all gifts, and ask your forgiveness where we have failed. We could not live happily ever afterwards without our two typewriters and they are often busy at the same time.

As we say good-bye to our Korean friends, they almost invariably ask: "Who will take your place?" We reply, "Now is the time for your own young leaders to take over." We mean this, and yet, we still see vast opportunities for continued missionary presence in this land. . . not just in educational and medical institutions, but in evangelism and church planting as well. This is still a young church where standards need to be upheld, leadership trained, and outlook broadened. With population growth, there are now more non-Christians than when we came in 1948. Mountain and coastal regions remote from Seoul still need and welcome the missionary. We pray that our American Church may not entirely abdicate and leave the territory to others, not all of them desirable: such as the Muslims, the Mormons, a revived Buddhism, and certain national cults.

After July 1 we will make our home in Montreat and hope to see many of you there. If the Lord wills and opens the doors, about six months later we hope to take up some form of pastoral ministry in the home church. We look back with



A saint at prayer



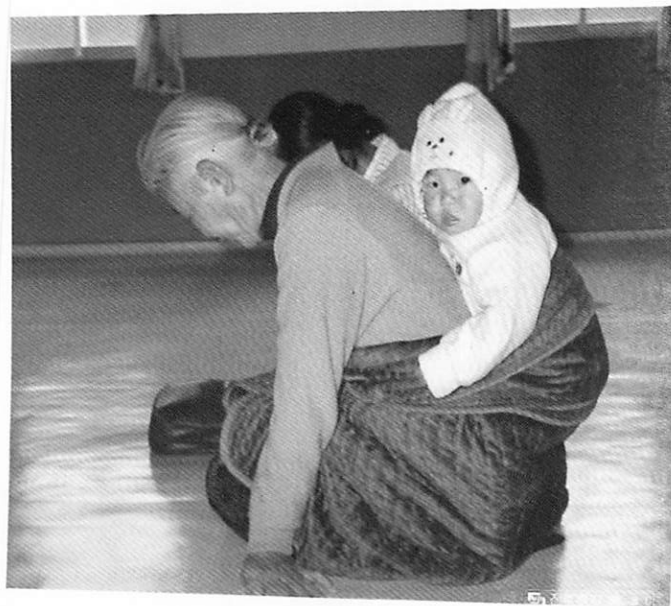
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A saint at prayer

deep gratitude to a far from dull life, full of God-given opportunities, rich in memories of friends and co-workers, both missionary and Korean, and always undergirded with the faithfulness of God and supported by the generosity and concern of you faithful Christians in the homeland.

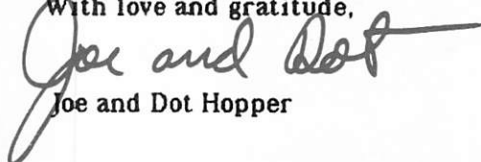
Our thanksgiving is expressed in the words of a favorite hymn in missionary circles:

"Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not, As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be."

"Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided, Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!"

May the Lord richly bless and keep you all!

With love and gratitude,


Joe and Dot Hopper

From:

Rev. and Mrs. Joe B. Hopper

P. O. Box 77, Chonju 520, Korea (now)

P. O. Box 64, Montreat, NC 28757 (after July 1)