

Monday am "The American Christian as Seen by the Korean."

Intro: All Americans eat raw eggs. All Americans have big noses and feet.
All Americans are rich. All Americans are Christians.

1. Early "image" of American was identified with the missionary.
Assumption not only in religion, but in matters of conduct as well.
Clean moral life and concerned primary with church affairs.
A person to whom to go for any kind of help, financial or otherwise.
2. America, and Americans, and the Church regarded as a hope for political independence.
1st treaty with Admiral Sheufelt in 1887.
American legation a source of strength during struggles around end century.
Missionaries deeply involved in the political affairs of the country because they were assumed to be (1) neutral as far as foreign interests were concerned (2) interested in the welfare and independence of the Koreans (3) not seeking any personal gain or profit.
Even amid disappointments of Japanese take-over, America still regarded as source of help for political independence.
Christian doctrines inspired love of freedom and independence and human rights.
3. Americans regarded as liberators from Japanese in 1945, and defenders during the Korean War.
Koreans do not forget these things and often mention them.
They are grateful for American sacrifices.
But they regard the overall policies of U.S. as weak and naive
 - (1) First in letting the Russians talk us into letting them have control of North Korea.
 - (2) Second in not really winning the Korean war and forcibly wresting N. Korea from the communists and uniting the country.
They regard General MacArthur as the hero par excellence.
Grateful for massive economic aid which has put country on its feet.
4. Americans in the continuing role of resident defenders.
 - (1) Regarded ~~ed~~ as symbols of anti-communism. Cannot understand certain policies which they regard as weakness towards communism.
 - (2) Regarded as symbols of U.S. know-how. Technical progress is almost every field related to U.S. culture...learn from the GIs, from study in U.S., and from U.S. literature, films, etc.
 - (3) Regarded as holding American wealth. Korean GI gets ~~xxxxxxx~~ about \$1.00 per month...U.S. GI incomparably wealthy.
 - (4) Regarded as symbol of U.S. religion.
 - a. Koreans have had to revise their concept from observation of US GI. Often ask questions about this.
 - b. Cannot understand apparent contradiction of professed Christian faith and local immoral conduct.
 - c. They still regard U.S. as basically a Christian nation, but are puzzled by inconsistencies.
5. What do the Koreans think of the individual serviceman?
 - (1) They note ~~rudeness~~ and abrupt manners. Lack of etiquette from their point of view.
 - (2) Resent a condescending attitude...because it belittles them. National pride a strong matter.
 - (3) Picture taking problem...symbolic of how they want to be well thought of abroad.

- (4) Regard all GIS as a ~~strong~~ soft touch--overly generous.
- (5) Problem of different ethical standards...why is stealing or lying, or cheating, or ~~breaking~~ breaking a contract wrong?
- (6) Remember Koreans are different too.

6. What Koreans think of the American church.

- (1) Changing picture from that of old-time missionary.
- (2) Contacts with GIS and other Americans here, travel abroad, and literature, have introduced many new ideas, often conflicting views, sometimes chaos.
- (3) Only occasionally seem to be troubled by American denomination-ism...probably because most major missionary groups in Korea have worked together in harmony and fellowship without serious competition or rivalry. Also the Korean Buddhist and other religious faiths are hopelessly divided. Korean churches have themselves split up many times over minor matters.
- (4) Look to American church for missionaries and money. Here again motives are sometimes mixed. Problem of control of funds a very real one, and there is danger that our popularity will be merely that which comes because we are a source of money. But church is gradually learning more financial independence.
- (5) Problem of being "spoiled" by too much help..orphanages, relief.

7. American servicement as "personal ambassadors"

1. Frankness is necessary here..Koonmal illustration.
2. Lack of interest and participation in life of Korean church, natural obstacles.
3. Active participation in church or chapel life on base is a good example and witness.
4. Personal conduct when "on the town"
5. Attitudes towards the people of most importance...kindness, courtesy, humility, genuine concern for human need, willingness to cooperate with Korean ways insofar as we find them morally acceptable.