

Korean Connection

Thank you to all of you who “Calebs” who are still taking your mountains and who are passing the inheritance to the next generation!

Tod McDowell, Richard Rose and I have just returned from South Korea. We went in obedience not fully knowing all the reasons. Two things orchestrated our trip: 1) I was scheduled to teach in a small school in Seoul, this city that has 11 of the world’s 12 largest churches, and 2) the “Your People” book was scheduled to have its publishing debut just at the time of our arrival. We knew the significance of both of these because the larger part of the church in Korea does not yet understand the significance of the “Israel connection.” The Lord orchestrated our time beautifully.

South Korea is an excellent example of God’s word to Ezekiel about the nations coming to know the Lord when He brings Israel back to the Land, showing the holiness of His great name (Ezekiel 36:23, 24) and Paul’s statement to the Romans about “greater riches” to the world when the Jewish people come into their “fullness,” when they accept the Lord (Romans 11:12, 15). Millions of believers gather weekly in this nation that was only about 1% believers when Theodor Herzl called together his first Zionist conference in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897. Today South Korea is known all over the world for its 24/7 prayer meetings, its prayer mountains and its large number of missionaries spread across the world. It is called the “Jerusalem of the East,” and will celebrate, along with Israel, its 60th anniversary as a nation next year.

Our role was obviously to help the Korean church understand the importance of our relationship with Israel and the Jewish people and the significance of the perhaps ½ million Jewish people who have come to faith in Jesus in the last 35 years. I was invited by Pastor Lee and the Korean Messianic Theological Seminary. This passionate band of believers was profuse with their honor and blessing to Tod, Richard and me as we lived and taught among them for a week.

Another person who served and honored us daily was the translator and editor of the newly published Korean translation of the “Your People shall be My People” book. The book had been recommended to our brother David while he was visiting IHOP in Kansas City. He read it on his way home to Korea, and felt compelled to translate and publish it, even though he knew it is not yet a popular message in the Korean church. This brother heads up Fisher Music with the Insight division for books. He brings Vineyard, Hillsong, Integrity, IHOP and other music to Korea, and is thus uniquely poised to help bring the “Your People” message to Korea.

Almost simultaneous with our arrival in Korea, David shipped 200 copies of the Your People book to Pastor Lee. He shipped another 200 books to a 25,000 member church that does have the Israel message and is a close friend of our Tikkun brothers. Asher Intrater has spoken for this church. Still another 200 books were sent to a professor of a theological seminary who also pastors a church on the campus of the “Harvard of Korea.” This brother studied in the US and became very closely related to our Tikkun network.

Eitan Shishkoff had been with him the week before we arrived. Our first evening together was spent with him in an “Awakening and Transformation” conference on the university campus. Davis Ross, the man who brought YWAM to Korea and is fluent in Korean, was the speaker.

Some of you may be aware that our beloved Winkie Pratney has been hospitalized in Korea for several weeks, twice nearing death before the Lord rescued him and started him on a path of full recovery. Tod and Richard were able to visit (and I spoke on the phone with) Winkie in his hospital room. They spent over an hour with him, his wife and son, praying, rejoicing, dreaming together in the Lord.

Another very significant meeting was with a former mayor of Seoul (now the 2nd largest city of the world with a population of over 23 million) who came to one of our early morning prayer meetings and with whom we later had breakfast at our hotel. He edits a very God oriented future focused Korean journal, heads up a Korean/American initiative, and was meeting this week in Washington D. C. with Vice President Cheney.

Our Korean visit was another of those times when we were confident of being in the right place at the God-ordained time.

Thank you to all of you who partner with us in making this possible.

Don Finto