



November 05, 2018

The fall is a very beautiful season in South Korea. All mountain peaks boast of their colors from various trees and shrubs. As time goes by deep into the fall, God's grace and peace have also been deepening. We have had a good start to our third term as MC Canada Witness workers. For the past three months, we have been busy participating in many activities: The Seoul meeting which is an important part of the church planting project; preparing for the workshops and lectures on "healthy boundaries in church;" preparing for the MCSK Annual Assembly translating songs and the "Minister's Manual", and participating in a peace seminar related to alternative service for the Conscientious Objector in South Korea. Here is the news in detail:

1. Lectures and workshops: In August, I started leading lectures and workshops on boundary issues in the church context. The most memorable workshop was for a group of 150 people, who were divided into smaller groups for interesting conversation. Although there are several organizations who introduce nonviolent communication, conflict transformation, restorative justice and restorative dialogue, I personally believe that we need to understand boundary issues clearly for better communication and healthy church relationships. I facilitated workshops in four different churches and received very positive feedback. My hope from facilitating these workshops is that the churches involved can develop healthy boundaries.

2. Mennonite Meeting in Seoul: After I shared my faith journey during a Seoul meeting the brothers and sisters agreed that it was important to spend the first three weeks of each month studying the Bible and the last Sunday to listen to each person's faith story. By listening to each other's faith journeys we are beginning to know each other better and understand our purpose for gathering together. We also discussed how we could develop our Seoul gathering into a worship service in the future. We hope that our cooperative work can create a beautiful worship service and develop an appropriate Mennonite liturgy in the Korean context.

3. MCSK Annual Gathering and Development of Resources: MCSK stands for Mennonite Church South Korea and is only 2 and half years old. We had our 3rd Annual gathering October 12 - 14 hosted by Peace and Joy Mennonite Church in Nonsan city. Prior to the gathering, each church leader met monthly in preparation. The theme for this year's Assembly was 'Christian Community' which is the heart of Jesus. Last year's theme was



The 3rd MCSK annual gathering hosted by Peace and Joy Mennonite Church



'Discipleship' and next year we will gather around the theme of 'Peace and Reconciliation.' MCSK leaders worked very hard listening to voices from each church in order to best plan for this year's gathering. A small program book was also published which included 33 translated Mennonite songs in Korean. The Mennonite Hymnal translation team was made up of 4 leaders: SungHan Kim (Jesus Heart Church), Seorin Wei (Jesus Heart Church), Sunju Moon (KAC director) and myself. I also spent many hours preparing the guidelines for communal discernment from the 『Minister's Manual』. I hope to finish translating the whole book by the end of this year. We also finished translating Palmer Becker's book, 『Begin Anew』 in Korean. I gladly provided supervision for the translation team of Becker's book.

4. Peace Seminar: The Korea Anabaptist Center hosted a peace seminar on alternative service for



Peace Seminar: Seeking the way of alternative service for CO in South Korea

Conscientious Objectors on October 20. We invited 4 guest speakers from 4 different organizations. The first presenters were Bruno and Heidi Sägesser from Switzerland who presented on "the CO history and alternate service in Switzerland." Bruno was the first Swiss CO who dedicated his whole life to bringing alternate service in Switzerland. Once out of prison, Bruno prepared the way of alternative service for the next generation. The second presenter was ChungGoo Park who

recently retired from the Methodist Seminary. Park presented "the biblical and theological foundation for the CO movement." He clearly argued that Christian church should be a community of witnessing and following Jesus Christ rather than interpreting who he is or what the Bible says. For the third session, YoungSeok Lee, the director of the World Without War presented on "the meaning of alternate service and the CO history in South Korea." This organization was founded in 2003 for supporting CO. Lee himself as a CO spent 20 months in prison. Dr. KangHo Song led the final session on "peace service beyond the alternative service." He is the founder of the Frontiers which has worked at peace activism since 1993. Dr. Song argued persuasively that Korean churches should work towards peace making rather than working passively to claim alternative service. The next KAC event will be the 3rd Anabaptist Conference on January 19, 2019. Annually KAC calls for the Anabaptist conference prior to the Anabaptist Sunday during January. I will present on the "Anabaptist church and community" for the half-day conference in January.

5. Canadian visit and Sook Kyoung's work: During September, we had guests from Canada. On September 10, Paul and Lynne Williams, our friends from the Valleyview Mennonite Church in London,



Ontario, visited Chuncheon. Lynne visited Sook's English teaching class and spent an hour with Sook's students. Although several middle school students dropped registration, Sook Kyoung continues to teach English to elementary students. Through this study program, she hopes that students will grow in their English language ability.



Lynne told a story to the students

6. Peace for Korean Peninsula: Since the president MoonJaeln visited Pyongyang and the mountain Baekdusan, two governments seek the best way to bring peace to the peninsula. South and North Korea agreed to hold face-to-face discussions 24 hours a day and every day of the year on matters concerning improving inter-Korean ties and promoting peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. It is great to see there are many exchange programs between the two Koreas such as 1) civic organization held a joint event in North Korean side to deal with the issue of exchanges in various sectors, 2) two Koreas officially expressed their intention to co-host the 2032 Summer Games, etc. We need to keep praying for peace that can be a new start in Korean Peninsula.

Prayer Issues

- 1) Thanksgiving: We give special thanks to God for covering the busy schedule so far and having a clear Anabaptist vision for Korean ministry.
- 2) For planting a healthy Mennonite church in Seoul.
- 3) Bock Ki works at planting a Mennonite church in Seoul, helping Korea Anabaptist Center and Mennonite Church South Korea and developing Anabaptist resources in Korean through ongoing translation, writing, presentations and workshops. Sook Kyoung focuses on English ministry through the study nest at home. We hope to see God's kingdom grow well through our activities.
- 4) For our children: JinSol and Daniel who continue to study at the University of Waterloo. JinSol prepares for her comprehensive exam on December 4, 2018. Daniel has studied at the University of Waterloo since September. Pray for their health and time management.
- 5) Keep praying for peace on the Korean peninsula!

Warmly,

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