

We have been hearing so much about war in Korea, we thought a report of a revival in Korea would be interesting to our readers. No doubt many of those who heard the gospel and perhaps were saved in the revival, are now among those who fell in the recent war. That was God's time to save some.—Editor.

I SAW REVIVAL IN KOREA

By Bob Finley

Staff Member Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship

I saw Revival in Korea. I saw more than 25,000 persons profess to accept Christ as Saviour within six weeks. I saw more than 4000 persons daily at 5 a.m. prayer meetings. I saw hundreds continue all night in prayer for days on end. I saw crowds up to 75,000 come together to hear the gospel.

I saw the Holy Spirit at work on the eve of the war that today has engulfed Korea. The conflict has come, but not before the entire nation of Southern Korea was shaken by mighty revival.

When Bob Pierce, Gil Dodds and I were invited to Korea the first of April, we discovered that our Lord had brought us into the midst of a revival that might well have been lifted out of the pages of the book of Acts.

Pierce and I are of the opinion that this is the greatest single evangelistic campaign we have ever witnessed. Korean pastors and missionaries agreed it was the greatest demonstration of the work of the Holy Spirit in the history of Korea. He moved the people to pray. I shall never forget the sight of more than 1000 people continuing in prayer out of doors for three successive days and nights. They refused to seek shelter from several drenching rain-storms.

The Holy Spirit brought conviction of sin. At meetings in Inchun the people burst into tears and rose to their feet to confess their sins. The pastors had to stop the confessions in order that there be opportunity to preach the gospel.

In city after city I saw men and women fall on their faces in tears of repentance, beseeching God to have mercy on their guilty souls.

The Holy Spirit wrought miraculous conversions. I distinctly remember a young communist in Seoul. God transformed his life instantaneously, giving him faith for fear, love for cruelty and beauty for ashes. Then he stood up before 10,000 people and gave a public confession of a murder he had committed a few days before.

United In Christ

God wiped out organizational differences and united Korea's four denominations with a vision to win their nation to Christ. It thrilled me to see saints from the Presbyterian, Methodist, Holiness and Salvation Army churches praying and working together for revival in the National Christian Council with no mention of their separate affiliations.

The revival was accompanied by apostolic miracles. At a daybreak prayer meeting of Presbyterians and Methodists, a paralytic boy leaped to his feet and walked for the first time in his life. He reminded me of the man who sat at the gate of the temple in Acts 3.

Before he was healed, I noticed that this Korean's right foot and arm were wrinkled and shriveled and helplessly twisted. He had been carried 30 miles to the meeting on the back of another. Heads were bowed while prayer was made for the sick. When I opened

my eyes and saw him standing, I could hardly believe it. I had thought that such miracles were only for the early church. Just to make sure I went up to him and examined his right hand and foot. I felt the new, solid flesh with my fingers. It was as warm and whole as my own. Then I believed.

At the same time I noticed a small crowd gathered around a middle-aged man. I went over to see what had happened. The man had been dumb but now was talking for the first time in 40 years.

Then I noticed another crowd gathered around a young man who was continually flexing his fingers and picking up objects with his right hand. His mother stood by weeping for joy. He had had a withered hand, but the Lord had healed it just as he did the one in the synagogue at Capernaum.

Gospel Confirmed With Signs Following

I know that a great many miracles occurred in Korea, because I saw them, but the Koreans do not place undue emphasis upon them. They are more or less taken for granted as a part of the revival. The chief concern of the church is evangelism, and the whole revival is geared to that end.

Church women go from house to house preaching the Gospel. Christian students parade the streets with band music and hymn singing to distribute tracts and exhort the people to turn to God. Many churches require candidates for membership to win a soul to Christ before admission will be granted. Every church is a center of evangelism.

In such a movement of the Holy Spirit, our part was incidental. Korea did more for us than we did for Korea.

What went on in Korea is difficult to describe. There was no set pattern. Every city was different, but in general there were five types of meetings.

Most spectacular were great outdoor rallies where Gil Dodds would run an exhibition race and give his testimony, after which Bob Pierce or I would preach the gospel.

God Captured The Press

Dodds came to Korea at an opportune moment. Their marathon team had just left for Boston, so the entire nation was foot-race conscious. Thus God used the world's champion miler to capture the imagination of the press and start all the nation talking about the evangelistic team from America.

After opening ceremonies in Taegu, Gil ran a thrilling half mile to set a new track record. Then the huge crowd gathered round to hear his testimony, and the gospel message to follow.

It humbled me that I should be privileged to preach to such an audience. As I surveyed that tremendous crowd, conservatively estimated to number over 75,000, I realized that but for the grace of God these people would be listening to some atheist. Only two years before the public school students in Taegu had been over 75 per cent Communist. Now every student in the city was sitting before me to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While heads were bowed for prayer at the close of the message, well over 2000 raised their hands to signify their decision to accept Christ.

Veteran Presbyterian missionary William Lyon, after thirty years in this land of great revivals, said it was the greatest single evangelistic meeting he had ever seen.

Revival and Restitution

The newspaper account the next day also carried a personal testimony. An employee had been converted and had confessed having

stolen funds from the paper. He wanted to take cuts in his salary to pay back what he had stolen.

In addition to the big rallies, Bob Pierce and I were requested to preach daily in the public schools.

The Taegu technical high school for boys is a typical example. One afternoon I went to speak at the regular assembly period. Two thousand boys aged 16 to 22 sat in military order on the ground in the schoolyard, brought there to hear about Christ.

They never stirred as I preached the Gospel for nearly an hour. At the conclusion they bowed their heads reverently for prayer. Then in response to my invitation over 700 boys arose from their seats and came forward to acknowledge their decision to accept Christ.

I begged them to count the cost, warned them of the difficulties of the Christian life and pled with them not to come forward unless they were completely sincere. But they kept coming, their faces set with hope and determination.

Best of all, there was a Christian group in the school to follow up the converts. Leaders of this group quickly enrolled the new additions in their prayer and Bible study groups and took them to church.

The nightly city-wide evangelistic meetings were a third type of meeting. Pastors and missionaries unanimously agreed that they were the largest in Korea's history.

In Inchun, third largest city, we held the first meeting on a Sunday night in a large school yard with a high board fence around it. The 8000 who came and sat on the ground filled the yard completely. On Monday night there was an overflow who sat on a high bank overlooking the schoolyard. By Wednesday night the meetings had to be moved to a large square in front of the railroad station to accommodate the 15,000 who came. Before the meetings closed on Sunday night the attendance had grown to 20,000. In every meeting there were hundreds seeking salvation.

The same thing happened in Seoul. We began there in a long rectangular board and bamboo church building seating 4,000. The first night it was packed out with another 2,000 standing outside listening through the open windows. The second night boards had to be pulled off the rear wall so the standees could see inside.

Next night a pulpit was set up just outside the rear of the building. Then with the aid of loud-speakers we preached to the 4,000 inside and 10,000 outside in the churchyard. The crowds continued to grow until nearly 20,000 were crowded into the churchyard for the final meetings. Every night hundreds responded publicly to the gospel invitation.

Revival Follows Prayer

All of us attributed the success of the nightly evangelistic meetings to prolonged prayer in the early mornings.

My first experience with a Korean prayer meeting was staggering. When I awakened in the darkness at 5 a.m. a slow drizzle of rain was dripping from the roof. It seemed useless to be getting up so early.

While my missionary host splashed us along through a maze of puddles, I kept looking out of the jeep window down deserted alleys, wondering if anyone would be out to a prayer meeting at that hour on such a cold damp morning. Even as we walked into the building I expected to see perhaps 25 or 30 old ladies and half a dozen men. But there to my

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