

To the SPG 15 Tuton Street Westminster London SW1

Report of the Reverend Charles Hunt missionary at Seoul and province of Kyengi diocese of Korea for the period May 1st 1933 to December 31st 1933

Postal address English Church Mission Chongdong Seoul Korea via Siberia

Dated 16 January 1934

Dear Sirs

I returned to Korea at the end of April 1933 after my furlough in England and arrived in time for the diocesan conference. This conference has not been held since 1929 although the diocesan synod has been held since then. At the conference we discussed the questions of propaganda of the Faith, the employment of voluntary catechists, the Native Clergy Fund, purchasing of rice fields and land with native subscriptions instead of investing the same in the banks, a new legal corporation consisting of Koreans and Japanese with the Bishop as chairman to hold lands and houses for the church, and the question of church music and the printing of the music of the hymn book. The whole question of the diocesan conference will be discussed at the synod which meets this year, the question is whether it will be possible to hold the conference yearly in the capital or whether it will not be better to have deanery conferences over which the archdeacons will preside, and this owing to the growth of districts and the expense involved in long distance railway traveling which almost makes it impossible to meet yearly in Seoul.

The Bishop asked me to continue my work as Vicar Rural of the Central area of Corea and as priest in charge of the Korean work in Seoul. In Seoul I have the able assistance of Father Moses Yoon who also serves as the bishop's Korean secretary. The work in Seoul is difficult owing to the position of the cathedral which is in the center of the city but owing to the town planning the Christians live in the outer parts of the town—the nearest being 1/2 hr distance away. The Corean population is gradually being pushed out of the city into new suburbs. Our Seoul congregation numbers nearly 300 of which 164 are Communicants. In 1933 we have had 5 adult baptisms and 18 infant baptisms. An effort is being made to open up new centers in various parts of the town but we badly need special funds for this as well as more workers. This autumn a special effort was made in connection with our church cemetery which is outside the city by some 6 miles. We are fortunate in having a Christian burial ground. It is impossible now to get permission for private burial grounds. At All Souls tide a new large iron cross was erected in the cemetery and stands out boldly against the mountains and the graves are being repaired and the cemetery made beautiful again. A large number of Christians went out by special buses on All Souls Day for the blessing of the new cross and to join in vespers of the dead. The cost of the cross and the repairs was largely undertaken by the Korean Christians. Many of our institutions are in Seoul: the hostels of St. Nicolas and St. Mary, the Society of the Cross -- native sisters -- the training classes for women and our Publishing and Bookstore.

I am glad to report an uprise in the sale of books, about 70 pounds worth of books and magazines sold during the year. Our largest sales consists of prayer and hymn books and private prayer books, a new edition of the latter came out early in 1933. The Koreans are not a reading public. I traveled up in the train the other day for several hours and in the whole long carriage of over 100 people not a soul was reading. About 10 miles from Seoul is the village of Kwang Nam where we have a small church with 30 communicants and a day school with a daily attendance of over 40 boys.

A new station at Choon Chun about 60 miles East of Seoul was opened this year. Choon Chun is a town of about 15000 in the province of Kang won do and a number of communicants had

gone to live there. We have 20 baptized people in this new center and a catechist has gone to live in this town and with the help of his wife who is a trained worker a Sunday school of 45 children has been started. At Christmas the catechist invited the parents of the children to attend a Christmas party and 3 rooms of the house were crowded out. This new and energetic catechist will I am sure get a move on.

At Chemupo a native priest is in charge of Saint Michael's church which has a roll of 160 baptized of whom 91 are communicants. The people of this parish contribute in proportion to the number a larger sum to the native clergy fund than any other station; last year they contributed ¥110 at par 11 pounds, more than 2 shillings a Communicant.

The college of saint Michael at Chemulpo has been closed during the year, the warden being on furlough. However in the autumn a refresher course was held for catechists at the college and the college will now be opened again in February 1930.

At Yo ju about 60 miles South East of Seoul the work goes steadily ahead. A Korean deacon is at work and the Station is visited by the Vicar Rural. An increase of 27 in the number during 1933 brings the total number of baptized up to 208 -- with 140 Communicants. An effort has been made to start a building fund for a new church since the present church is far too small. Across the river at Yo Ju at a place called Tokpowi a new chapel has been built -- the chapel of the Holy Name and the Christians contributed 5 pounds as well as labor to the total cost of 20 pounds. The hospital of St. Anne is situated at Yo Ju and wonderful work has been done there during the past 10 years by Dr Barrow (?). However in January last sister Doctor Barrow underwent 2 operations and the hospital was closed for 6 weeks. Doctor Barrow left on furlough in July and a Korean doctor was left in charge but he failed us after a fortnight and the hospital was again closed from August 15 until the beginning of November when another Corean Doctor took over the work. In spite of these ups and downs during 1933 nearly 6000 patients have been seen, among these over 2000 were charity cases. The new Doctor promises well and he is very keen and capable.

At Sou-won 25 miles South of Seoul at the church of Saint Stephen there is a congregation of over 600 -- counting 3 attached chapels in the county and the native priest administers to 360 communicants in this district. A new chapel has been built at Samchokni where there are 64 baptized, and of these 45 are Communicants. In June 1933 we began the preparation for the special Mission to be held from March 5 to 12 1934, the people meeting for Mass of special intention on Fridays and a special service of intercession for the mission also on Fridays. At Suwon is the diocesan orphanage with over 30 children in residence under the charge of 2 sisters of Saint Peter's community. The sister in charge also works amongst the women of the district. At Pyeng-taik Fr. Park Augustine has charge of 8 churches and chapels with 562 baptized of whom 338 are communication. During 1933 he has registered an increase of 126 baptized and he has 72 catechumens on the rolls. A new center is being opened up at An jung towards the West Coast, I am going there tomorrow to finish the purchasing of a new site of over 4000 Pyeong or tenbo of land. Fr Park's district is a very scattered one and the people for the most part are very poor but there is a great movement into the church in this district and not a little opposition from the French Roman Catholic priest who is Fr Park's neighbor

At Kanghai we have 2 Korean priests, one in the North and the other in the South and between them they are in charge of 1564 baptized of whom 786 are Communicants. Kang hwa is one of our oldest stations and in years gone by there were several foreign missionaries stationed on the island but no foreigners live there now. In the South of the Island at On Su Ri the Corean priest received at his own request only a deacon's salary and for years he has lived in his own house.

It has been found necessary now to build a parsonage for the native priest since Fr. John Kim may not always be in charge and we must have a priest's residence. A beautiful Korean house has been built at the cost of 210 pounds – yen 2,100 And of this I think that it can be said that Fr. Kim by receiving only a Deacon's salary has contributed the balance of his salary for the past 8 years i.e. 1.5 pounds a month or 120 pounds.

To look after such a large and scattered flock you will I think agree that those 2 priests have as much as they can do. However there has been an increase during the year on the island of 88 baptized. There is still plenty of work to do on the island since the population is over 30,000.

We have to record a very happy visit from the secretary of the SPG Cannon Stacy Waddy at the end of October and beginning of November 1933. The secretary was able to visit all the above named stations, Seoul, Suwon, Kak son ni in Pyeng taik district and Yo ju but unfortunately he was not able to go to Chemulpo or Kang hwa -- time would not allow. On December 19th I was able to produce a miracle play 'Holy Night' in Seoul. Unfortunately I did not ask for permission of the author as I should have done and I introduced an extra scene so please don't publish the program enclosed. The Caste of over 30 included English American Russian Japanese and Koreans and the Blessed Virgin's part was taken by one of our Japanese Communicants. The play was in English

We have to thank SPG for its constant and ready help and I hope I may count myself amongst those who consider it a great honor to work for so great a society. With many thanks and best wishes (excuse writing it is almost below zero in my room, we are having the coldest winter I can remember in Corea)

yours very truly  
Charles Hunt