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Korean Missionaries in Southern Africa:

A discussion and evaluation of Korean
missionary activity in Southern Africa,
1980-2006

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ABSTRACT

In the thesis, *Korean Missionaries in Southern Africa: A discussion and evaluation of Korean Missionary activity in Southern Africa (1980-2006)*, the researcher discusses the coming of missionaries from Korea to Southern Africa during the period 1980-2006. He evaluates their endeavours, activities, the specific challenges they had to face, various problems that they had to overcome, as well as opportunities and challenges beckoning from the future.

Chapter Two describes the history of missions in Korea as well as the coming of Korean missionaries to Southern Africa. By almost any measurement, the growth of Christianity in Korea during the last century is one of the most amazing stories of our time. The Korean church has rapidly changed significantly from being a mission field to a sending field, over a period of 100 years.

For the last three decades, over 250 Korean missionaries have committed themselves to the Great Commission of the Lord and are involved in 17 types of ministry in Southern African countries.

In Chapter Three it is established that the Korean missionaries did their best to understand the complexities of the context of the country which they were serving. They overcame their mono-cultural background, and tried to adapt to and relate to the Southern African culture. They are still in the process of doing so.



The most important matters the Korean missionaries encountered, as reported on in Chapter Four, were understanding the local context, language and cultural acquisition, meeting the expectations of the local people and local churches, as well as those of the sending churches in Korea. On a personal level missionaries have to cope with family concerns, maintaining their spiritual life, health problems, financial concerns, frustration as well as unfulfilled ideals.

In Chapter Five, the Korean missionaries reported on their missionary work. Using a comprehensive definition of mission (containing the perspectives of kerygma, diakonia, koinonia and leitourgia) as yard stick, the missionaries contributed in many and creative ways in presenting the gospel of Christ in the country they came to serve. The chapter further discusses the five major challenges missionaries have to face and the seven *personal* challenges with regards to their attitude towards the people to whom they minister.



KEY TERMS

Children's ministry
Church planting
Discipleship training
Korea
Leadership development
Mission
Missionary
Missions
Missionary Training Institute
Partnership
Theological education

ABBREVIATIONS

Numerous abbreviations are used in this study, most notably the following:

ACM: Africa Continental Mission

ACTI: Asia Cross-cultural Training Institute

AEC: Africa Evangelical Church

AIM: Africa Inland Mission

AL: African Leadership

CCC: Campus Crusade for Christ

CMI: Campus Missions International

ENM: Every Nation Mission

GMS: Global Mission Society

GMTC: Global Missionary Training Centre

GP: General Partnership

GPTI: Global Professional's Training Institute

HOPE: Helping Overseas Professionals' Employment

KFHI: Korean Food Hungry International

KHE: Korea Harbor Evangelism

KRIM: Korea Research Institute for Missions

KWMA: Korea World Missions Association

KWMTI: Korea World Missionary Training Institute

MTI: Missionary Training Institute

OM: Operation World

OMF: Overseas Missionary Fellowship



PM: Paul Mission

SIM: Serving In Mission

TIM: Tyrannus International Mission

UBF: University Bible Fellowship

WEC: Worldwide Evangelization Crusade

WMA: World Mission Society

YWAM: Youth With A Mission



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