

S. A. Moffett

TESTIMONIES OF FAITH IN KOREA

15

WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES

Introduction to the Minutes of the Presbytery of Korea.

 During the revival movement in 1907, the four Presbyterian missions working in Korea, the U.S. Northern and Southern, the Australian and Canadian, jointly formed a presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Korea on 17 September. It was organized at the Changdaehyon Church in Pyongyang and this extract is the introduction to the presbytery minutes. Composed by Han Suk Chin, clerk of Presbytery and translated from the Korean by Rev. W. D. Reynolds.

Spiritual and great is the excellent Presbytery! The Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ, having selected the apostles and disciples, ordained them to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven in all the world for the salvation of the souls of all men.

Thus commissioned by the Lord Jesus, the apostles and disciples carefully kept the special command of the Lord, given as He ascended to heaven, and all with one accord assembled in the upper room at Jerusalem and gave themselves to earnest prayer. After receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power, promised by God, they were able to speak with other tongues and work miracles, and, being scattered abroad, preached the Gospel to every nation under heaven. Those who repented and believed on the Lord they baptized in the name of the Lord and made disciples. From amongst these believing brethren, they chose men and ordained them as elders and pastors to govern the church.

From Antioch of old Paul and Barnabas and a few believing brethren went up as delegates to Jerusalem, and being assembled together with the pastors and elders of the original church at Jerusalem, discussed and decided upon the

regulations which the church should serve. This, truly, is the origin of the Presbytery. Hallelujah! We will praise the deep love of our Heavenly Father, the Lord of hosts; the wide mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church; and the great power of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter!

Our Korean people knew not God, but worshipped evil spirits and idols, so that there was no way of escape from the impending punishment of God. But a merciful God looked with compassion upon our countrymen and moved the hearts of the Christian brethren and sisters of the American Presbyterian Church, North and South, the Australian Presbyterian Church, and the Canadian Presbyterian Church, and caused the General Assemblies of these four churches to select and send out missionaries to this country. Thus commissioned of God, missionaries came out to this country in 1884; and during the twenty-three years that they have been preaching the Gospel close to 100,000 people have repented and turned to the Lord.

In place after place they have ordained elders and founded churches. The English and American missionaries and the Korean elders from various places met together and discussed the affairs of the church; but not yet having ordained any Korean ministers, they were unable to constitute a Presbytery, and called these meetings the "Presbyterian Council" During this interval fifteen annual meetings have been held.

By the abounding grace of God a few years ago four General Assemblies, to wit: the American Presbyterian Churches, North and South, the Australian and the Canadian Presbyterian Churches, granted special permission to organize the Presbytery of Korea.

On September 17th, 1907, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Council, Rev. S. A. Moffett, D.D., made a speech narrating how the authority of these four General Assemblies had been obtained to establish a Presbytery for the church of Korea. He said "This Presbytery depending upon the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, and unshakably established in firm reliance upon the Cross, must become a glorious

light before men and a pure and holy Presbytery before God," and precisely at 12 o'clock declared the Presbytery of Korea duly constituted. Thereafter seven men, graduates of the Theological Seminary of Korea, were ordained to the ministry, and the Presbytery was called the "Tai Han Kuk Yeisu Kyo Chang No Hoi" (The Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Christ in Korea). Truly, this is the independent Presbytery of Korea! Hallelujah! Praise God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! To Him be the glory, world without end.

Amen.

 Korean Church History Research Institute, "The Korean Mission Field", 1986, pp. 164-165

Our People Forever!

 The following two poems are resistance ones against Japanese colonialism. They urged readers to reflect on the current historical situation of Korea, to participate in social reforms of the mother land and to relieve the suffering of the common people from Japanese suppression.

1. Sons and daughters of our sage king
 May you live forever
 Mountains high and rivers sparkling
 Eastern shore, our homeland!

Chorus :

Gorgeous land, Sharon's Rose
 All three thousand li,
 All Koreans, subjects of this nation
 Keep you forever more!

2. Love of country, spirit noble
 High as Pukak Mountain
 Single-hearted true devotion
 Deep as the clear East Sea.
3. Twenty million, all united
 Loyal to our nation
 Scholars, farmers, workers, merchants
 Let us do our duty.
4. Our whole nation and our sovereign
 With the help of our king
 Let us all share joy eternal
 In peace and true freedom.