

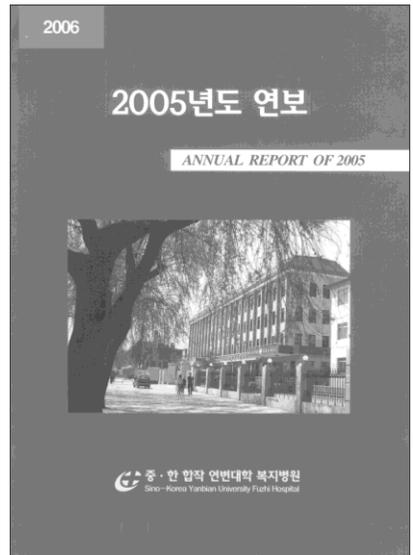
An Interview with Dr. Paul (Joong Kee) No

** The following is an interview with Dr. Paul (Joong Kee) No of Yanji, China, conducted while he was visiting a church in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, February 3, 2008. This is the first time we have had an interview in the Haddington House Journal. Interviews such as this help to give us insight into the work of fellow-believers around the world and what Christians can do for the Lord by using their gifts and vocation for the Kingdom of God.*

To provide some context for this interview, I must first mention that Dr. No's daughter, Jean, is a student at Haddington House, Charlottetown, and teaches Sunday School at the local Korean Church in Charlottetown. The No family is from Korea but has been serving in North China for many years.

China has many more complexities than we often recognize. There are fifty-six ethnic groups of Chinese peoples living in over twenty provinces. In the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture in the north-eastern Jilin province, there are many Chinese Koreans who form a distinct ethnic group, one of China's fifty-six. These Chinese Koreans are related to the Korean peoples of North Korea, and until quite recently the Korean language of Yanbian was closer to the language of North than of South Korea. However, with modern television and movies, this Korean is starting to move more towards that of South Korea. Some of the Chinese Koreans of Jilin province have been there for several generations (some dating back to the seventeenth century), whereas others have been there only since the period of the Japanese occupation of Korea (1910-1945).

Editor



Yanbian Hospital, where
Dr. No serves.

Q. Describe the area in China where your hospital is located.

A. Yanbian University Fuzi hospital is located in north-east China. Jilin province is home to the Korean Autonomous Prefecture of Yanbian, a Chinese-Korean, self-governing area. It is only a one hour driving distance from North Korea. The population of the province is about two million. The population of Yanji city (the capital of the prefecture) is four hundred thousand. Forty percent of the whole population is Chinese-Korean.

Q. Please give the details of your duties as a doctor at the hospital.

A. Our hospital is a Chinese and Korean joint hospital, so almost all the workers are Chinese-Koreans, and about twenty workers are Korean missionaries. I am the vice-president for the hospital and the president for Korean workers. The size of our hospital is about 100 beds, and we have 180 workers. I am also a cardiac surgeon and in charge of the cardiac center. Since 1999, I have done seven hundred heart surgeries. I also train other doctors.

**Q. How many years have you been working in China?**

A. I have lived in China for fourteen years. Our hospital was built in 1994, and I contributed to building the hospital.

Q. How is evangelism done at the hospital?

A. The Chinese government forbids religious activities in the hospital; but as we examine patients, we evangelize them indirectly. For example, we have a social services department. We help the poor patients, do counseling and give free medications to epileptic patients. Through this department, we can evangelize patients secretly, and also we evangelize when we visit recovered patients' homes. For example, when I finish a heart surgery, I visit the recovered patient within two months. When I visit them, I evangelize them. In fact, forty percent of my patients believe in Jesus Christ. Korean missionaries in our hospital

visit the recovered cardiac patients twice a year, and once a year we have a sports day for all recovered cardiac patients. Half of the cardiac patients are children, so we give scholarships to the children.

Q. Please comment on the persecution of Christians in China.

A. The Chinese say that they have religious freedom, which means that they have freedom to keep their religion and they have freedom not to have a religion. In other words, believers cannot force unbelievers to believe in Christianity. Thus, by the law, foreign missionaries cannot do missions. The Chinese government represses establishing churches, seminaries or Bible colleges. Although the Chinese say that they have religious freedom, many Christians have disadvantages in the society because of their faith. However, many of the Chinese have started to believe in Jesus Christ. The number of Chinese Christians is about a hundred million. There is a church in Yanji city where five thousand Christians go. Also, services are only allowed to be performed in areas permitted by the law.

Q. Please tell us about the underground church in China

A. The Chinese underground churches vary in different locations. For example, the underground churches in southern China are flourishing. The underground churches are called house-churches, and usually less than fifty people are gathered at once. They don't want to be recognized by the Chinese government. And these house-churches are hostile to the churches that are recognized by the government. However, the underground churches in northern China are very different. They want to be recognized by the government. They remain as underground churches because they cannot be recognized by the government. This is because the government limits the number of churches in each city. Therefore the situation in the south and north is very different. As a missionary, I think the underground churches and the churches that are recognized by the government are equally representing the living gospel. However, the underground churches are often in a place of persecution and danger. They can be closed by the government at any time.

Q. What are the main prayer concerns for the hospital?

A. (1) Pray that the cardiac center becomes well established and glorifies God in China and contributes to the development of our hospital.

- (2) Pray that those doctors that I am training become excellent doctors.
- (3) Pray that all the workers of our hospital come to believe in Jesus Christ.
- (4) Also pray for Korean missionaries and their families in our hospital.
- (5) Pray that more world missionaries can come to our hospital.
- (6) Pray that our hospital becomes a base camp for North Korean medical missions. When North Korea opens, I hope that our hospital can build a hospital in North Korea.
- (7) We have built another hospital in the southwestern part of China. Pray that the hospital can be opened this year.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about what God is doing in China and/or in your work specifically?

A. The video clip I showed was taken when I visited patients last December (2007). I visited two different cities. The two cities are located in the very north part of China near the border of Russia and are called Siangyasan and Jiamus. It takes two days by train to get there from our hospital. In Siangyasan, one cardiac patient and her husband planted three churches. The patient tells people wherever she goes that she has been healed by God. About twenty people came to our hospital and had heart surgery because of her, and about eighty percent of these patients believe in Jesus Christ. As you saw in this video clip, they had a Sunday service, and I examined the patients after the service. About fifty people were gathered. This is an underground church. The patient's husband is also preaching passionately.

Another city that I visited is Jiamus. In Jiamus, there is a church that is recognized by the government. The ministering servant of this church is the patient of mine that had heart surgery. When I visited the church, they welcomed me with singing and lots of food. I thanked them and I preached. After the service, I also examined many patients. Eight people came to our hospital for heart surgery from this city. They all became Christians. As you see, one person can lead many people to salvation. I have experienced God using my gift to lead many people to Christ and to build churches. God uses an ordinary person like me to do His work. I praise God for all of His work.

I meditate on Mark 8:34 all the time. It says, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." I try to deny myself and look at the cross. I am walking with the Lord as I am striving to fulfill my calling. I also give thanks to God for meeting

Pastor Jack and you (the congregation). Please pray for Anna, my children and me. I hope and pray for my children to grow and become God's workers. Thank you.



*Jilin
Province*



Dr. & Mrs. No and Jean



The No family



Dr. & Mrs. No teaching in China