

Copy

CANADIAN MISSION
39 Pyung Wha Dong
Iri City
Chulla Puk Do

Sept. 9, 1964.

Rev. C. M. Lloyd,
The Mission to Lepers,
P.O. Box 13,
Taegu.

Dear Mr. Lloyd,

We visited the Ho Hei Won leprosy colony last week and found it located about sixteen miles from Kwangju over a rather poor road. It is a resettlement area now and all positive cases are supposed to have been sent to Sorokto. Other information is as follows:

Total number living in the colony	<u>519</u>	
No. patients	359	
No. wives without leprosy	11	
No. children without leprosy	<u>149</u>	519
Men 279	Women 274	

DDS received from the government but no other medicines. Rations stopped last year when the colony was made a resettlement area and infectious patient sent to Sorokto. Since then food was scarce and after an appeal to the authorities a few of the poorer families were given rations on the basis of their poverty, not as leprosy patients. They do not know if this will be given this year and are concerned about it.

This is not a government established and run institution.

A Roman Catholic doctor visits the place monthly for about one hour but does not examine nor treat patients. No doctor's services are available.

Most patients are old cases. All new cases are sent to Sorokto.

A technician comes twice a year from Sorokto to do skin scrapes. All patients are said to be negative.

There is no physiotherapy nor care of eyes.

Children of school age number 101 but they are not accepted in the local school. The treatment building and the church are being used as class rooms and the children are taught by patients without teacher training.

There is some family planning in practice but apparently not much.

Each family has a house so that over crowding is not worse than in other villages.

The settlement has 52,596 pyung of rice land and 34,776 of upland a total of only 157 pyung for each individual which is obviously insufficient to support them adequately. The land seems fertile and well used. Small animals and fowls are raised.

The most urgent needs are said to be

- 1st. More food or more land to raise food.
- 2nd. Education for the children.
- 3rd. Books or magazines to provide reading and information.
- 4th. Dressings and medicines.

5th. They complain that medical and surgical treatment for conditions other than leprosy is denied them at all hospitals because they have had leprosy.

As for No. 5, Dr. Codington told us that no one would be turned away from his hospital on those grounds. So it looks as though that is provided for.

Concerning the education of the children, it looks hopeless to get the whole 101 children into the local school even if there were no prejudice against them since class room space is not sufficient. So we proposed trying to get one class of the smallest children into school after physical examination by working with the educational authorities. This is not likely to succeed this year but efforts are to be made again though they have failed in the past. The school equipment is nothing but benches, no desks, and a small blackboard in each room. The parents have bought text books for the children but they have no maps, globe, nothing but the blackboards. I think a small grant for school equipment would be a good thing.

As for food it remains to be seen what the government may do. If they do not help what about CWS? They have given no recent help. I did not ask about the past.

If more land could be bought for them, it would provide the food and end the problem.

I plan to subscribe to some magazines and buy a few books for them. They have a good church building and most appear to be Christians. A minister is chaplain and seems to give good service.

* * * * *

This morning we also visited a government leprosarium near Chunju. It is a big place called and has 1003 patients and none who are not patients. Of these 843 are lepromatous but 623 are now negative.

They have a very large and fine church built by the Presbyterian Mission and a good school building where the facilities inside are primitive and the teachers are unqualified patients. Primary school classes are held in the mornings and middle school class in the afternoons.

They receive rations from the government.

The place is large and well kept, clean, orderly, and the soil is good, the gardens excellent.

There are said to be two doctors and two nurses but most of the medical care is given by paramedical workers trained at Sorokto.

There is no eye service nor physiotherapy.

A minister lives outside but comes regularly to take services in the church. There are many Christians but apparently less than half the patients.

They get no help from CWS or anyone outside the government. DDS is provided but dressings and other medicines are always in short supply. They have some surgical instruments and do major surgery sometimes but equipment and conditions are primitive in the extreme.

I have arranged to spend three days at the Ho Hei Won to examine the children and the eyes of as many as possible. Dr. Codington will send one of his interns to help me and to learn something about leprosy. He will also send a visiting nurse and provide the atropine and eye medications if they are to be had in Kwangju.

On Monday night I gave a slide lecture on leprosy to a group of about two hundred women from eight different churches. I am booked to give another tonight and another on Sunday night after church, so I hope some people will learn something about leprosy and perhaps lose some of their fear of the disease.

Now that the worst of the heat is over I hope you in Taegu are all feeling better, also that the work is going well. I was sorry to hear that so many of the Mission members were not well but surely by now they are quite all right. You are all in my mind and in my prayers very often.

Sincerely yours,

Florence J. Murray.