

Tulsa Based Foundation Develops Alternative To Welfare for Korean Lepers

Chicago, Ill.—The David Livingstone Missionary Foundation, home based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, has made a successful and unique investment—not for profits but for the future of over 200 men, women and children stricken by leprosy.

The David Livingstone Missionary Foundation, headed by Dr. Billy James Hargis and Dr. Jess L. Pedigo, has developed a new approach in providing relief help to the impoverished victims of leprosy in Korea.

Instead of continuous welfare type handouts this Foundation has adapted the strong American free enterprise system to a positive self-help program.

The Background

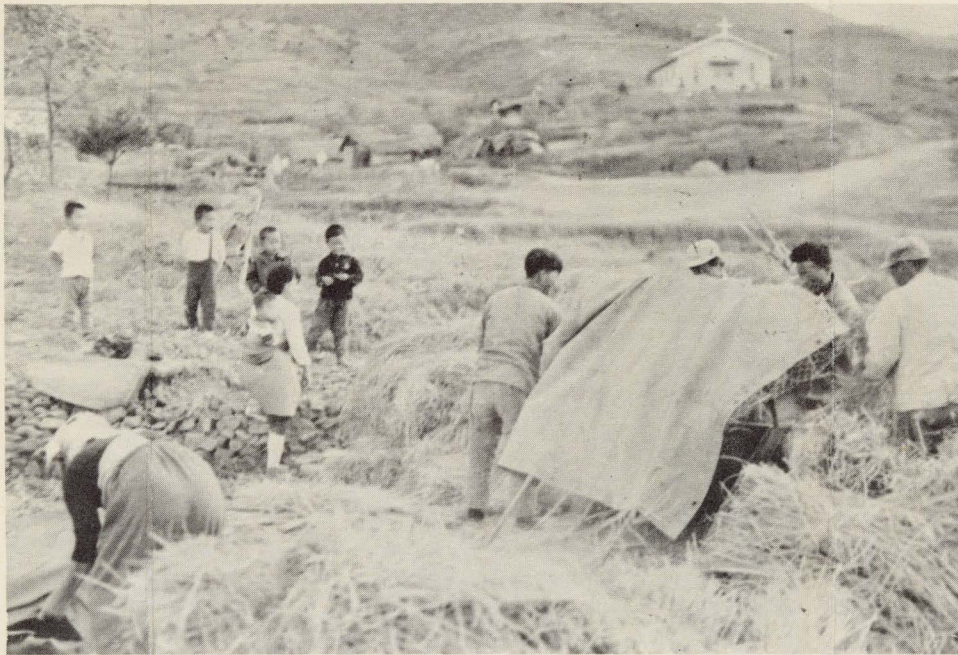
It is estimated that there are over 100,000 cases of leprosy in Korea today.

Because of its contagious nature, those who suffer with the active stages of this disease are forced to be isolated in leper colonies on remote islands off the main peninsula.

The Korean government is doing all it can to care for these people but because of the severe lack of funds for relief work it has become necessary to demand that lepers, whose affliction can be controlled by drugs, leave government sponsored colonies.

These lepers have been discharged by the thousands.

They can't communicate the dis-



Men, women and children of this Korean Leper Village work together preparing for harvest. In the background you can see their chapel.

ease to others and they suffer no further ravishment of their face and extremities.

But, unfortunately, many were afflicted for years before their infection could be halted.

Their faces are twisted grotesquely, their limbs crippled, fingers and feet missing. The marks of their malady are very plainly evident and wherever they go they elicit fear and dread.

Fear Makes Social Outcasts

One might think that their society would recognize the plight of these people and offer them the kindness of acceptance as ordinary citizens.

But no, the Asiatic fears leprosy dreadfully. They have an almost superstitious awe of the debilitating disease. The Korean society has adamantly refused to have anything to do with either the lepers or their families.

These innocent victims of leprosy who were once doctors, school teachers, farmers or other respected citizens were compelled to beg at street corners or scratch through trash for food that will allow them to survive.

About three years ago now, Dr. Pedigo, the director of the David Livingstone Foundation, learned of the horrible plight of these people and made inquiries on how the DLMF could possibly help.

Dr. Pedigo reported "it was obvious, of course, that money was the primary need." But how should the funds be disbursed and what was the ultimate goal?

The Plan—The Goal

After weeks of research and consultation the answer seemed plain. The David Livingstone Missionary Foundation would help these people form villages and make them self-sufficient by putting them into the farming business.

In this way these families could care for their own basic needs and also sell their produce at the marketplace. Chicken farming was selected.

Answer: Chicken Farming

A flock of 200 chickens, costing only \$140, would provide the minimum amount needed to support a family. The larger chickens costing 70¢ each, would produce eggs; and then, of course, chicks and in turn meat, feathers and other produce.

The necessary feed for the chickens would cost \$50 per month and the chickens would bring an average of \$120. This left \$70 each month . . . enough to set a family free from the shame of begging. It restored pride, self-respect and dignity.

Business A Success

The first group named their village the Grace Leprosy Village.

To date they have over 60,000 chickens, new homes and a church.

Every man, in a real sense, has become a businessman. Now, where there was poverty there is prosperity. The village is totally self-supporting.

Village Asks For Self-Support

This program has indeed been a success. But, Dr. Pedigo reports that there is another group of lepers that has asked for the Foundation's support—the Sungjwa Village.

The David Livingstone Missionary Foundation is a worldwide relief agency and has committed its support to 27 children's homes throughout Korea, India, and Mexico.

In order for the Foundation to help this new leper village, Dr. Pedigo is asking for help from concerned Americans. He has set up a special fund: INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN LEPROSY RELIEF FUND. Dr. Pedigo said: "These people desperately need our help" and he must raise a fund of at least \$7,000 within the next few weeks.

He has requested all gifts be sent to: International Christian Leprosy Relief Fund, c/o Box 232, Tulsa Oklahoma.

The work of the DLMF truly exemplifies the concern of Americans for their fellowman and the success of the traditional American free enterprise system, improving the economic well-being of people throughout the world.

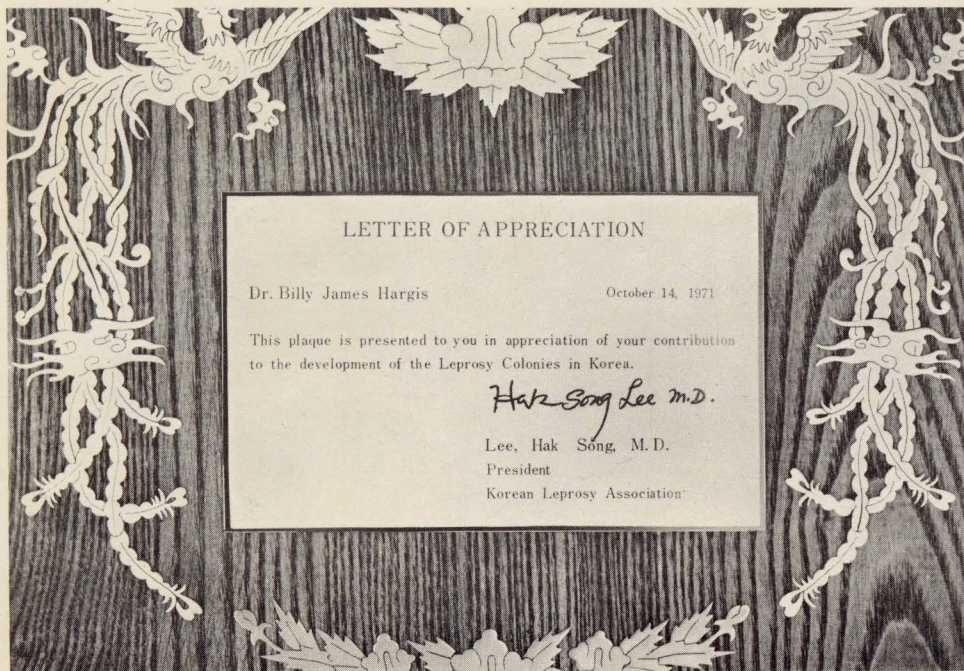
Livingstone Foundation Receives Award

Korean Leprosy Association Commends Self-Help Program Developed by U.S. Relief Organization

Dr. Billy James Hargis, Chairman of the Board of the David Livingstone Missionary Foundation, yesterday was presented a formal "Letter of Appreciation" for his organization's work with the negative lepers of Korea.

The David Livingstone Missionary Foundation has developed an unusual self-help program to put these unfortunate people into the farming business. The Foundation was formally commended for its successful program to take the poverty stricken poor and provide them with self-help tools.

Below is a reproduction of the plaque given to Dr. Hargis at a dinner in Seoul, Korea.



I have sent you this article because I thought it would further convince you of the success of our self-help project.

Our program is not welfare but a chance for poor suffering people to become self-supporting citizens of their country. Please read my letter - There are 217 families in the Sungjwa Village who need any sacrifice you can make. J.L.P.