

Yi Su-Jöng's Macedonian Call to the American Churches

"The Gospel for Corea," *The Illustrated Christian Weekly* (Jan. 26, 1884), p. 46;

"Rijutei to the Christians of America, greeting," *Missionary Review* (March, 1884), pp. 145-146.

Yokohama, Dec. 13, 1883

I, Rijutei, a servant of Jesus Christ, send salutation to the brethren and sisters of the churches in America.

By the power of faith and truth I receive great blessings of the Lord and my happiness is unlimited. Since by your prayers and supplications we are able to keep our faith firmly and are not moved by Satan, we ascribe praise and glory to the Lord.

Tens of thousands of people in our country are still ignorant of the way of the true God and live as heathen. They have not yet received the saving grace of the Lord.

In this day of the propagation of the gospel, our country is unfortunately situated in an obscure corner of the globe where it has not enjoyed the blessings of Christianity. Therefore, I am translating the Bible into the Corean language in order to make it a means of extending the gospel. For the success of this work, I am praying day and night. The Gospel of Mark is nearly completed.

Five of my countrymen are of the same mind with me. They have been baptized already. There are many more who receive the teachings of the Bible gladly, and the number of those whom we expect to become Christians increases daily.

During the past seventy or eighty years the French missionaries have been secretly propagating their doctrines in Corea. The Government strictly prohibited their religion and the converts were put to death without distinction of age or sex. But they held to their faith and died triumphantly. Those who have been thus executed are more than 100,000. Although these persons were mistaken in understanding the teachings of the Lord, their faith is praiseworthy, and it shows that the people are ready to receive the gospel. The priests also were often persecuted, but they heeded not the dangers.

At present the Government has opened the country to foreign intercourse and is trying hard to improve the condition of the people. Consequently it is more lenient towards the Christian religion; and although it has not permitted it openly, it does not seek to persecute Christians.

Recently a Chinese Christian named Wan Sok-Chak, presented a copy of the New Testament to our king, but the Government interfered and it was not accepted. The king was very much displeased, and the affair is now a subject of great discussion. At first we must expect difficulties; but it will only clear up the way, and I think this is the golden opportunity for introducing the gospel into Corea.

Your country is well known to us as a Christian land; but if you do not send the gospel to us, I am afraid other nations will hasten to send their teachers, and I fear that such teachings are not in accordance with the will of the Lord.

Although I am a man of no influence, I will do my utmost to aid missionaries as you may send. I beg most earnestly that you will send some one to Japan at once who can consult with those who are laboring here and prepare himself for the work. This, I think, is the best and safest plan.

I beseech you to give a careful consideration to these words of mine, and if my request is granted my joy will be unbounded.

A Servant of Christ
RIJUTEI

Article was found and Transcribed
by Sung-Deuk Oak