Radio Still Works

MAY 18, 2012

For more than 23 years, Pastor Kee Myung Lee was the director/speaker for the Korean Voice of Hope radio program, until his recent retirement.

On one of my visits to the studio, I asked Pastor Lee if there was any contact from North Korea about our programs. Due to high levels of security between the two countries, which are officially still at war, there isn’t much information coming out of the North, nor people ready to reveal what they know, in order to avoid reprisals by the regime on our believers. Pastor Lee simply said, “Yes, there is some contact.”

Wanting to know more about our broadcasts to the North and sensing Pastor Lee’s reluctance to share more information, I asked if he thought it was worth the effort and expense to continue preparing and airing programs to North Korea. Without hesitation, he responded, “Yes!” Then, with renewed enthusiasm and conviction, he said:

“We must keep this program going and not stop our broadcast to our compatriots in the North.”

Meet JeongSu

JeongSu is a native of North Korea. As a young man, he studied at Yuhan College in China, located in a city of more than 7 million people. He was an atheist and became a staunch communist as well. One day while JeongSu was looking for a Korean radio program, he bumped into the AWR Voice of Hope broadcast coming out of our shortwave
station on the island of Guam. He liked it so much that he recorded the programs so he could listen to them over and over again.

In JeongSu’s own words:

“The thing that touched my heart the most was a prayer the announcer recited. The hymn sung on the radio also gave me [a] heavenly impression. I met a whole new world I had never known before.”

How often we hear about listeners who, while looking for another station (the BBC most of the time), just “happen” to find AWR!

JeongSu wrote to the studio at the Korean Union Conference headquarters in Goyang City, South Korea. Pastor Lee, the director/speaker, whose voice JeongSu had heard on the radio, sent him a Bible and Bible study materials in his native Korean. JeongSu began studying the material, along with four fellow students, who also became interested. They would all get together to tune in to the Voice of Hope broadcast each time it came on the air. JeongSu says:

“I accepted the gospel through AWR’s Korean language broadcasts and was baptized. One of my friends, YoungWoong Kim, was also baptized and later became a pastor in China.”

But the story doesn’t end there!

JeongSu decided to go to school to become a missionary, and enrolled at Japan Union College. After receiving his degree in theology, JeongSu was employed as a pastor for five years in Japan. He was then invited to return to China to pastor the Yanji Gongxin Church, which has a current membership of more than 300.

Today, Pastor JeongSu is a living testimony of the effectiveness of radio in reaching difficult areas. As he looks back on his career, he remarks:

“God led my life to this faith and dramatically changed my life through the Voice of Hope program so that I could live my life as a pastor, which I could never dream of. I thank His grace, thinking of how miserable my life would be if I had not met God through the program. Even now, the gospel is reaching many people in China through the radio. There are still many people who cannot access the Internet, while a shortwave radio is portable. It is playing an important role as a gospel spreader. Since no one can interrupt radio waves, it is the best way to convey gospel messages.”

Yes, radio is still one of the accessible most cost-effective ways of sharing the gospel!

Thanks to you, our AWR supporter, God’s true message is reaching places and people who cannot be reached through conventional evangelism. Pastor JeongSu speaks to us as one who actually lives and works in mainland China. His testimony is
a powerful argument in favor of our continued shortwave penetration deep into this vast country.

Jesus Himself reminded us in John 12:32: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”

This is what it is all about: lifting up Jesus, the Lamb of God, the Savior of the World. He is the great magnet that will draw people to Himself and prepare them for His soon-coming.

Please consider a special gift for this unique project. Millions are waiting on the verge of the kingdom, ready to be ushered in; you can definitely make this happen.

Your partner in mission,

Dowell Chow
AWR President