



## FROM THE EDITOR

The Hong Kong Sunday Examiner, in the 22 May 1981 issue, reported that in 1984 the Korean Foreign Mission Society will be sending out its first missionaries to preach the Gospel in Peru, South America. The Mission Society chose Peru as its first mission territory because of the shortage of priests in that country and because of the level of poverty of the people.

The Korean Foreign Mission Society was founded in May 1975, when the Korean Bishops' Conference gave permission to Bishop John Choi to start the Society. The motivating ideal behind the foundation of the Society is the fact that the Korean Church after 200 years of evangelization has begun to move from a position of 'receiving' to a position of 'sending and sharing'.

Since its foundation, the Mission Society has received very strong spiritual and material support from the Korean Church. In March, 1976, the Society accepted the first group of candidates to enter the seminary for their missionary training and formation. At present, about 30 seminarians are enrolled. In March of this year, the first priest of the Mission Society was ordained and the Society hopes to recruit other young Korean priests to go with the new priest to Peru for the work of evangelization.

This news item is similar to a recent event in the Philippines. On the occasion of the 4th centenary of the foundation of the Archdiocese of Manila, a series of activities were scheduled. The most important event was the International Congress of Mission held in Manila from 2 December to 7 December 1979. The Congress particularly emphasized the importance of dialogue and the spirit of poverty in the work of evangelization. This is of utmost importance especially in those places where there exists a very rich and deep religious culture such as in Islamic countries. In such situations, the evangelizer can only seek to enter into a dialogue with the local people.

The Congress strongly encouraged this type of dialogue because evangelization not only means the propagation of the faith, but also seeks to experience and to discern the guidance and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit as revealed through people and culture. Through openness and willingness to dialogue, the evangelizer is able to increase and deepen knowledge of the truth. This is the responsibility of every Christian. Whether or not a person enters the Church is the work of the Holy Spirit and of the providence of God.

As the Congress also emphasized, poverty and exploitation are the biggest problems facing the mission of the Church in Asia. Evangelization must be deeply involved in service to the poor and in the struggle for human dignity.

At the closing ceremony of the Congress, sixty Filipino priests, sisters and lay people received their mission from the Church in the Philippines to preach the Gospel outside their own country.

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These two examples of the Korean and Philippines Churches show very clearly the ideal of evangelization today. Evangelization must have the local Church as its starting point. In the future, the work of evangelization will no longer be the unique responsibility of the European and American Churches preaching to the African and Asian Churches. Rather, it will be the

responsibility of every local Church. Every Christian is one "who is sent" as the Lord himself was sent.

In the light of this understanding and ideal of evangelization, this issue of TRIPOD is devoted to reflecting on evangelization and our motherland.

The first article, entitled "Overview of the Appointment of Archbishop Deng Yiming to the See of Guangzhou - the Vatican's Approach and the Feeling of the Chinese", emphasizes the need to strengthen communication in order to improve the understanding of the Universal Church and of the Local Church.

The second article, "A Few Words to our Western Missioners", seeks to remind the foreign friends of China that those who wish to care for China and the Church in China cannot forget the need for humility in order to experience and discern the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in Chinese thought and culture.

The third article, "1200th Anniversary of the Erection of the Nestorian Tablet", not only recalls the long history of Christianity in China, but also explores the problems related to the indigenization of the Church.

The fourth article, "The Mongolian Territory and the Christian Encounter, Part 1", is the first of a series of three articles. Although the contents of this first part puts emphasis on the historical and geographical background of Mongolia, the last sentences point out the awareness of the early missionaries of the social aspects of evangelization. This article aims to help us understand that Christians are not to escape from the world but rather to enter into and assist in the construction of the society in which they live.

The final article, "Review of Resources on World Religions", gives a list of that periodical's articles on Christianity. It is offered to our readers as a valuable reference aid.