

Stories from your Missionary Brother



Description: Doing Bible translation with NK defectors (above)

On a Luke 10-style mission trip with NK defectors (left)

Support Me



I am a Free Methodist affiliate missionary serving persecuted Christians with the non-denominational NGO Voice of the Martyrs Korea (VOMK) in South Korea.

Did you know that you have persecuted brothers and sisters in North Korea and other countries around the world?

It is my privilege and my great joy to be able to spend each day serving and doing life together with persecuted Christians and North Korean defectors.

More importantly, it is my privilege to introduce these family members to you through the stories in these newsletters!

They tell us that they are praying for those of us in the free world. I hope you will pray for them, too.

your Missionary Brother,

Trevor Foley

Luke 10 Mission Trips

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. (Luke 10:1-4 ESV)

When I was a young Christian still in my late teens, I often fixated on Jesus’ command to the Rich Young Ruler in Luke 18:22 to “Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” I thought Jesus wanted me to leave my house and family and go live in the meadow by the highway as a vagabond, and that I was being disobedient to Him every day that I didn’t. My conscience kicked me every day I spent sleeping in a bed in a house instead of sleeping in the grass on state land.

I finally got my big chance to silence my conscience when I was given the opportunity to serve as a missionary with Voice of the Martyrs Korea in 2016. After a two-month internship in South Korea, I visited the U.S. and sold or gave away most of my possessions in less than a week. I still had a few bags with me coming back, but I felt I had answered Jesus’ call.

Thankfully, since then, I have come to realize that Jesus’ call to the Rich Young Ruler was probably a call specific to him and a not a general rule. But my fixation did teach me something about what it means to prepare for mission as a Christian. Just like Jesus “emptied himself” (Philippians 2:7), the first step in Christian missions is divesting yourself and relying on God. As my dad wrote in the book [Planting the Underground Church](#), “The missionary is declared ready for service when his or her bank account balance hits zero.”



Noisy Evangelism

On a plane ride, I was sitting in the aisle seat, with two strangers sitting next to me. I noticed that the one sitting in the window seat was reading a book. I was curious to see what they were reading, but I was too far away to see. So I did what any normal person would do—I used my phone’s camera to take a closer look.

The part of the book he was reading was discussing Freud’s views and seemed to be searching for truth in psychology.

I went to the notepad application on my phone and wrote,

“I see that you are reading a book on psychology and I wondered if you may be a person who is seeking truth. I want to share a Bible verse with you John 14:6

‘Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”’

I passed my phone over to him across the person in the middle seat. He took my phone into his hands and read it. Then he smiled at me and attempted to give my phone back to me. Then he took the phone back for a moment, read it again, and returned the phone to me.

I did not get any big reaction or outcome out of the man, but I viewed this as a practice of faithful witness.

After a few years of doing ministry in the mission field, in 2020, I finished seminary and felt the Lord’s leading to affiliate with a denomination. As I went through a vetting process and interviews with one denomination, I felt things were going well. However, after many months, in the final interview, I was told that, in order to affiliate with the denomination as a missionary I would have to raise an initial amount of almost \$10,000, which would be used to pay for things like my plane ticket and housing in the mission field—where I already was and had been living. It was so obvious to that denomination that missions should start with fundraising rather than dispossessing that they did not make provision in their system for a way for a missionary to affiliate without raising a significant amount of money!

From that point, the Lord brought an end to that process with that denomination and led me instead to [affiliate with the Free Methodist Church](#), which has been a great fit!

Maybe a little bit similar to the way that Jacob crossed over the Jordan with only his staff and the Lord helped him become two camps (Genesis 32:10), In my experience as a missionary, I crossed over the Pacific Ocean back in 2016 with a few suitcases and, since then, the Lord has given me a cozy one-room apartment to live in, and various possessions. But even despite this, my missions strategy has not changed.

Here at VOMK, we make use of a mission strategy we like to call the “Luke 10 mission trip”. Just as Jesus instructed the twelve in Luke 9, and, similarly, the seventy-two in Luke 10 to “take nothing for your journey” (Luke 9:3 ESV), we think about what we would usually take for a trip and leave most of it behind (except for things like medication and a cell phone for emergencies). Each time we do this, we experience the provision of God and can answer like the disciples did in Luke 22:35, saying we lacked nothing when we went.

On one Luke 10 mission trip, I went with a South Korean friend and a Chinese friend to a village in the South Korean countryside. We knocked on doors and told people that “the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.” Some people ignored us, but many people let us into their homes, fed us, and listened to us preach the gospel. When we left that village, we left with a bag full of snacks to bring back with us as a tithe to share with our community.

On another more recent Luke 10 mission trip, I went with a South Korean co-worker and a North Korean defector student to a neighborhood on the other side of town, asking the Lord to help us meet North Korean defectors who may be a good fit for our discipleship training school. As we prayed, the Lord let us run into an acquaintance of our student whom she had not seen for five years. The acquaintance hosted us for lunch in her house and we told her and her husband that the Kingdom of God has come near. Although they were not Christians, they had a positive view of the faith and seemed interested in getting involved. Later, though, they decided that they were too busy to get involved.

None of the Luke 10 mission trips I have been on have resulted in some great revival or explosion of church attendance. But, in each one, we have seen the faithful provision of the Lord as we seek not success and fear not failure, but trust the reliability of God’s word.

For those who are interested in more ways in which to bring the way we do and be church in line with what is explicitly commanded in scripture, I highly recommend [the book Planting the Underground Church](#)

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Support Me

If you would like to support me, please click the link to the left and make a donation. Even a small donation is helpful in supporting my work as a missionary to persecuted Christians in Korea.

If you do decide to make a donation online, please make sure to include my name in the comment section of the donation. However, if you choose to donate by check, please write “VOM Korea” in the note. Thank you!