

A. R. HOLTON SETS EXAMPLE FOR VIGOROUS,  
AGING PREACHERS RE: WORLD EVANGELISM

Ira Y. Rice, Jr.



Ever since Brother and Sister A. R. Holton announced two years ago that they were being sent to evangelize in Seoul, Korea, I have felt they were setting the most powerful example possible for some of our vigorous, mature, aging preachers to make the latter end of their lives more effective for Christ than the first.

And after watching the way three successive Asian audiences warmed to them, when Brother Holton spoke here Lord's Day, Nov. 2, in Singapore, I am fully persuaded that one of our greatest reservoirs for preacher-personnel to evangelize the Far East is almost altogether untapped. Brethren, it would have thrilled and inspired you to watch the respect and attention with which our Chinese audiences drank in the gospel presented by our extraordinary older brother.

Knowing how Asian people respect 1) age and 2) scholarship--in that order--in advertising his coming I purposely emphasized that A. R. Holton is 70 years old, the former President of a Christian college in America, and the immediate past-President of the Korean Christian Institute in Seoul.

The result was like magic. We had 73 (compared to our previous high of 54) for our morning service; 86 in the afternoon; and 60 at night. These attendances did not represent the same people, although some attended all three services. However, to accommodate all who wanted to hear Brother Holton, we had to devote the morning service to English preaching; translating into Cantonese and Hokkien at the afternoon meeting, and into Mandarin at night. And whether they could understand him directly as he spoke, or had to depend on an interpreter to grasp what he said, all three audiences gave him the most enthusiastic hearing of any preacher who has come our way to date.

More than 160 Koreans were baptized into Christ during the 15 months Brother and Sister Holton worked with the Haskell Chesshirs at Seoul. I am assured that an equal or possibly even better result would come from such a combination in Singapore, where 70% of the people speak English, making language far less a barrier than in some parts of Asia. But for the fact we knew the Holtons need to complete their inspection/teaching tour of Asia and Australia and get on back to make their report to the brotherhood, we should have insisted they just drop anchor in Singapore and stay here and work with us for a good long while.

It is not that Brother Holton is my own father in the gospel (he baptized me August 8, 1929) that I am so sold on what he has accomplished in the Far East already, but that I truly feel he has paved the way for many other such older preachers as he to come to the Far East to demonstrate what they can do. I sincerely believe that with patience, tolerance and hard work such brethren will be more effective in Asia than many of us who are somewhat younger than they. Interested preachers should write Brother Holton at 4801 16th N. W., Washington 11, D. C., or me at Box 2223, Singapore, Malaya.

16th & Decatur Church of Christ  
Washington 11, D. C.

Brother and Sister Holton may soon be coming your way to tell you all about the work in Korea. They are scheduled to arrive in the States about December 29th.

Secretary

*They did arrive today - the 29th.*