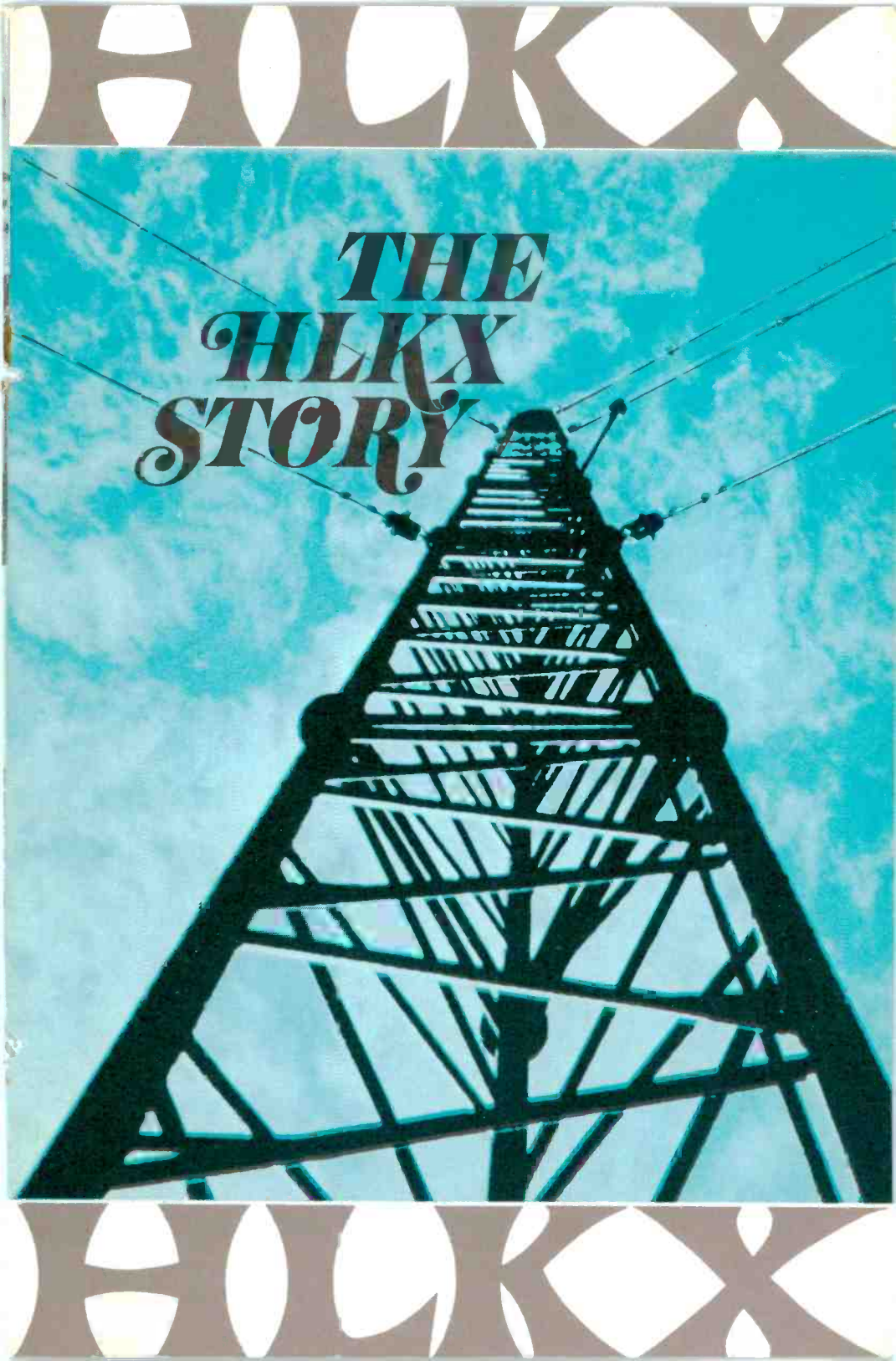


*THE
HILKX
STORY*



In 1954 Korean President told TEAM missionary Tom Watson, Jr., his government would welcome a missionary radio station "to fight Communism throughout the Orient."



Korean and missionary personnel beam the message of love to a continent immersed in hatred.

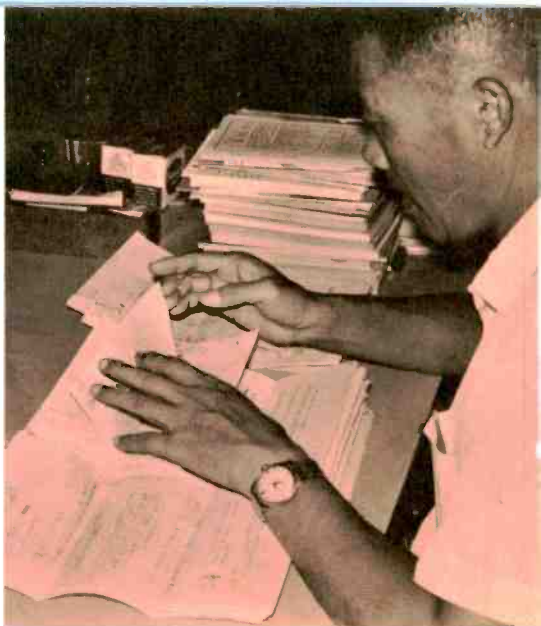
THE HILKY STORY

This is the remarkable story of God's response to man's burden, vision, determination and faith. 300 million people can hear the gospel in their own language because these dared to believe God.



They call these ancient ones Harabuji — many turn to Confucius to seek meaning in a life that is past . . .

. . . while this little Adul looks upon the future with wonder and expectancy.



TOP — The important follow-up ministry is carried on by dedicated Korean Christians. They send out thousands of Bible correspondence courses each month.

BOTTOM — Special musical groups add zest to the HLKX broadcast schedule in four languages.

Dr. David H. Johnson read the letter a second time and chuckled. "I'll tell you, Siri," he said to his secretary, "you've got to hand it to this fellow. He thinks big. Too big, I'm afraid. But I suppose there's no use discouraging him from this end. He'll get plenty of it out there. I think I'll find out what his next move is."

With that, the General Director of TEAM dictated a letter to Tom Watson, Jr., in Pusan, assuring him that "we will be glad to have a radio station in Korea — if you can get the license, raise the money, and build it for us."

Later on, Dr. Johnson good naturedly acknowledged that he had no idea he was writing an authorization for what would become one of the world's important gospel witnesses to the Communist orbit in Asia.

Watson's letter of inquiry had been written while on assignment from TEAM'S Japan field in 1952 to assess the possibilities of the large society's sending workers to the land of Korea. An uneasy truce minimized open hostilities between United Nations forces and North Korean Communist troops, while the Christian general, William Harrison, headed a frustrated negotiating team at Panmunjun. Korea was a land of tragic physical need, and TEAM was seriously considering declaring it one of its worldwide mission fields.

But to a small group of Japan missionaries, Korea was more than that. They were missionaries with radio experience and a vision for covering the Orient with powerful gospel broadcasts. In a sense, Korea was "the last frontier of the Free World." It offered an unusual opportunity for beaming Christian programs into the Communist countries of Asia. The Shantung Peninsula of Red China is only 225 miles across the Yellow Sea from Inchon. TEAM'S pioneer work since 1890 when it entered China as the Scandinavian Alliance Mission had been centered in the Mandarin speaking country south of Peking.

The huge Russian port city of Vladivostok is less than 500 miles to the north — an easy range for broadcasts on a clear channel at night. Communist North Korea





TOP — Religions are mixed in Korea. Christianity is strong, but it is opposed by Buddhism, Confucianism, and animistic superstitions.

CENTER — Primitive farm equipment still rears the rice paddy for its annual crop.

BOTTOM — "Will you share with us?" In the midst of plenty, the Western world finds it hard to identify with the needs of others.

begins just 15 miles outside the city of Inchon. Literally hundreds of millions of people lie within easy reach of a powerful transmitter on the standard broadcast band. They can be reached with a minimum of effort in three major languages – Korean, Russian, and Chinese.

God had given one small bit of evidence of His interest in the project through a former Korean Presbyterian pastor who had struck out on his own to get more schooling in the United States. Tai Kook Kang wanted a theological degree from a truly evangelistic American school, and had chosen Bob Jones University.

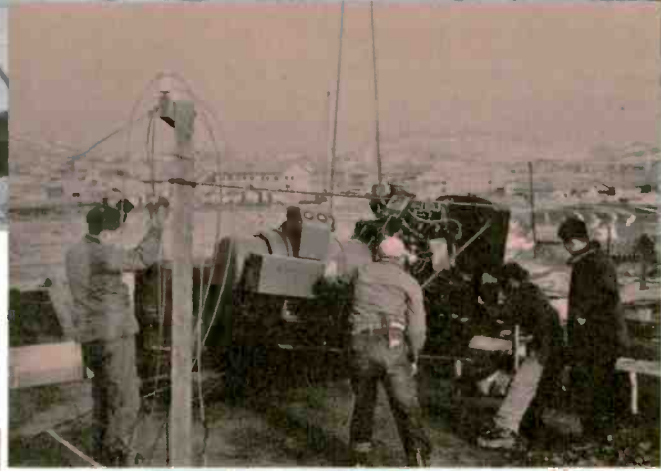
At precisely the same time, Watson still owned and managed a Florida radio station, though he had been converted to Christ only a short while before. When the two men met in Greenville, S.C., under what seemed to be circumstances ordained of God, Kang asked pointedly, "Why don't you bring your radio station to Korea to preach the gospel?" Watson could think of no reason why not. He was seeking the will of God for his life. "If Korea and missionary radio should be what He wants, I'll do it," he promised Kang.

But God's way proves, as often as not, to be a roundabout road. During a missionary conference a short while later, the 33-year-old radio executive was challenged by a TEAM candidate to "come on out to Japan and help us." General Douglas MacArthur had just recently pleaded with American churches to "send 10,000 missionaries to Japan and a million Bibles." TEAM was doing its best to make a substantial increase in its Japan contingent.

In a remarkably short while, Watson and his family were on the way. After a few months in language study, the Floridian was sent to Korea for the TEAM survey. There he was met by a persistent Kang, whose opening remark was, "Now we will have a radio station to preach the gospel in Korea – praise the Lord!"

Syngman Rhee, remarkable political strong man of Korea and a professing Christian, did not ordinarily receive visitors on such a casual basis or on such short

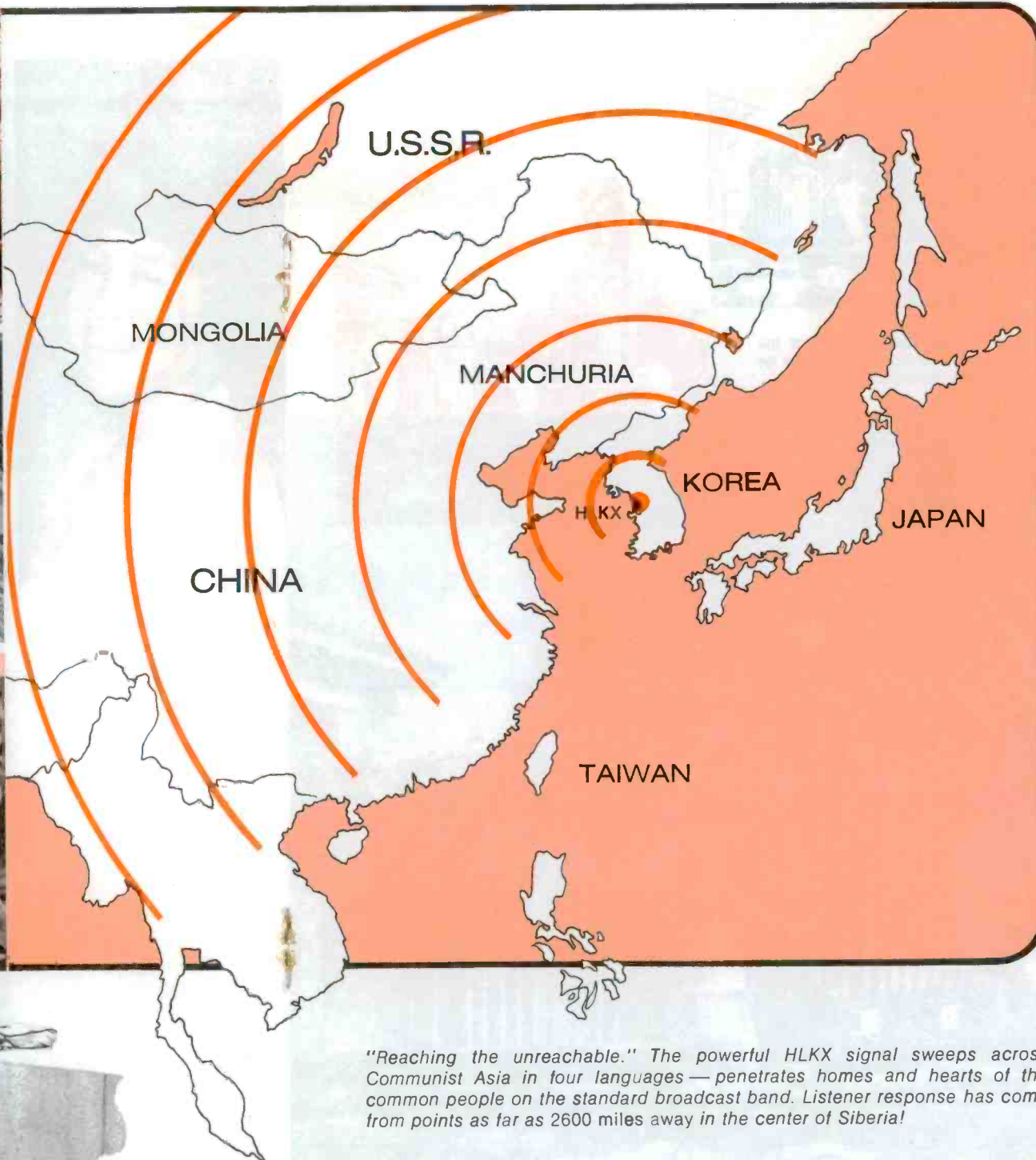




TOP — God uses men and women of many skills to accomplish His purposes in the missionary enterprise.

BOTTOM — HLKX Director Bill Winchell reports on listener response in a radio staff meeting.





"Reaching the unreachable." The powerful HLKX signal sweeps across Communist Asia in four languages — penetrates homes and hearts of the common people on the standard broadcast band. Listener response has come from points as far as 2600 miles away in the center of Siberia!



Huge transformers are part of the HLKX power distribution complex on the Inchon transmitter site.



notice at his presidential palace in Seoul, but when Kang asked for an appointment for himself, Watson, and missionary Fred Jarvis, he got it the same afternoon. "Is a powerful Christian radio station in Inchon a feasibility?" the TEAM missionary asked President Rhee. "Certainly," the Korean chief of state responded. "Such a station would not only preach the gospel in Korea, but would also fight Communism throughout the Orient. I will help you get your license."

Even with Rhee's help, negotiations with the Korean government took two years. Watson lived in Seoul; his wife and three children had to remain in Japan because of wartime restrictions. The presence of UN troops on the peninsula complicated matters and hindered negotiations. The military was opposed to a "propaganda" transmitter aimed into China, North Korea, and Siberia. It was not until the peace treaty was actually signed at Panmunjun in the summer of 1954 that military leaders withdrew their objections and agreed to a broadcast license for The Evangelical Alliance Mission's corporate counterpart in Korea. The assigned call letters were HLKX.

The first provision of Dr. Johnson's letter had been met. The license was in hand. But the raising of more than \$100,000 and the construction of a 20,000-watt broadcast station still loomed as a gargantuan task.

TEAM'S Board of directors took the project to the Christian public in the United States and asked for contributions and volunteers to make the bold dream a reality. God began to provide the necessary personnel. Julius and Thyra Bergstrom of TEAM'S China field accepted responsibility for all Chinese broadcasts, and radio technicians Bill Winchell and Herb Korte agreed to join the HLKX staff as engineers. Wendell Tallakson, chief engineer for Back to the Bible Broadcast, offered to come for six months to help with the installation, and Les Morris, a Canadian soft drink bottler, volunteered his services to oversee building construction. The Slavic Gospel Association promised Russian personnel to prepare broadcasts beamed at the people of Siberia.

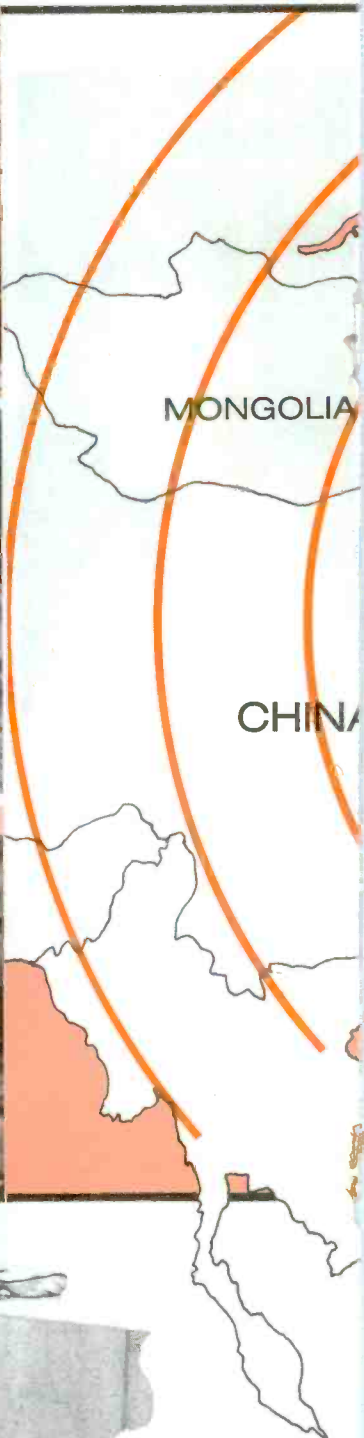


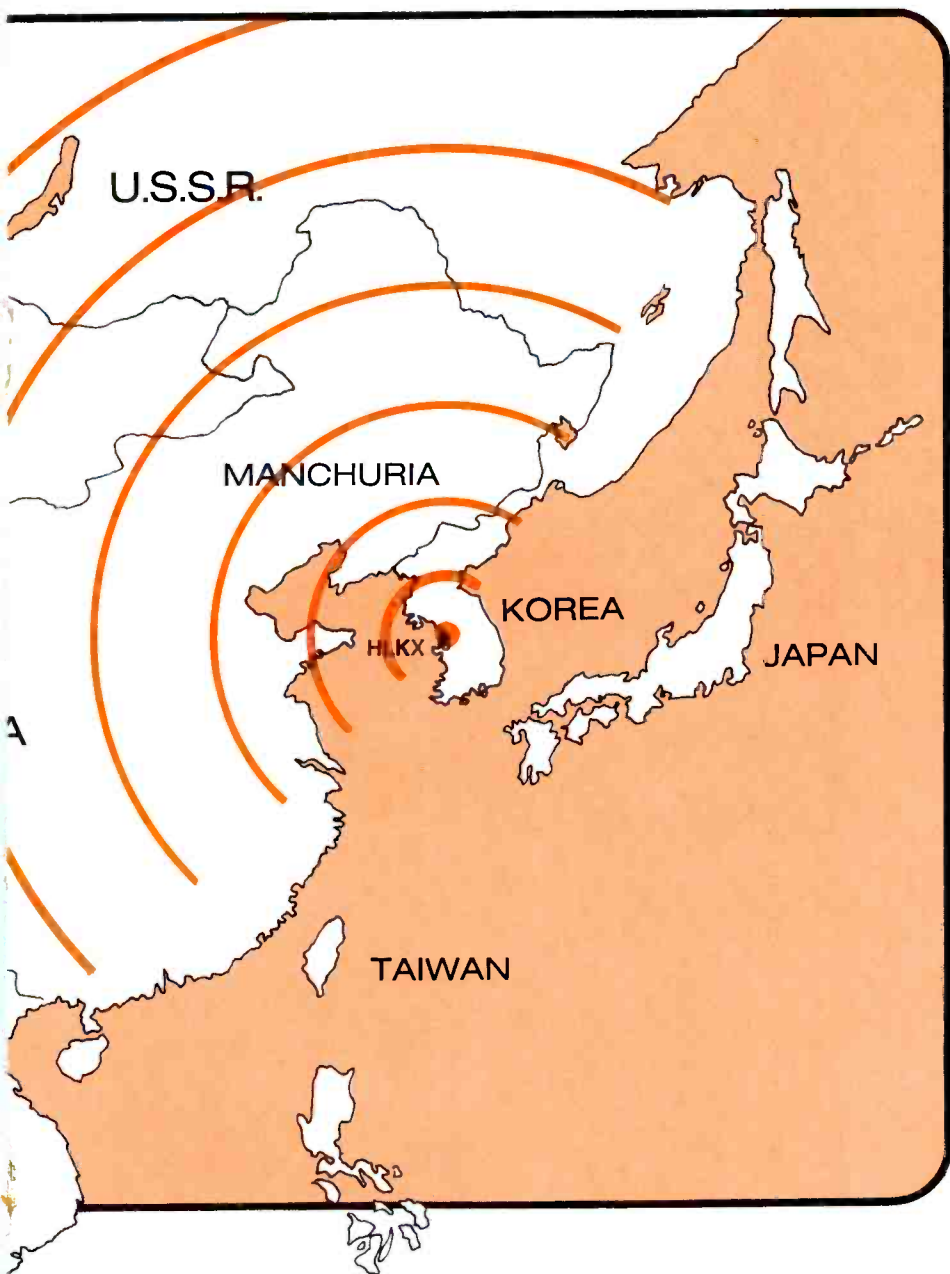
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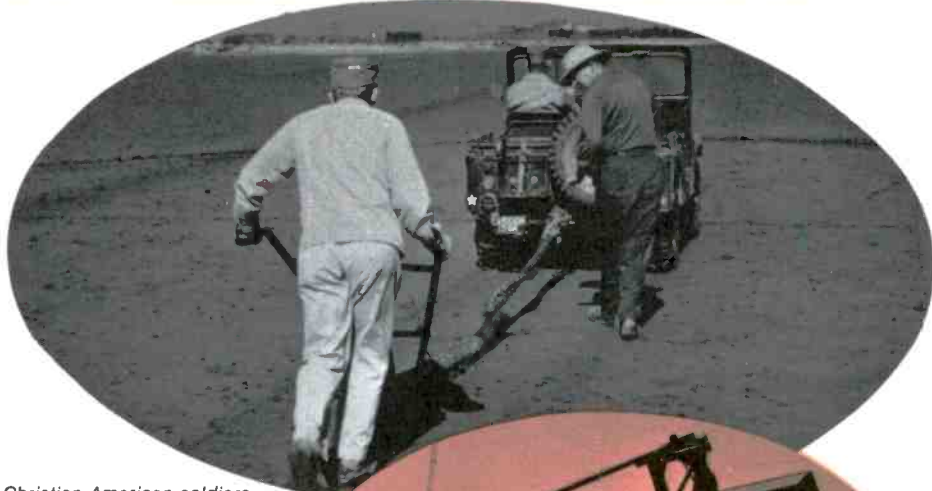
With contributions in hand sufficient to order the \$30,000 transmitter, TEAM began to assemble the equipment, and sent the radio missionaries to Korea to begin construction. Bill Garfield, who headed TEAM'S literature ministry in Korea, had located suitable land near the mud flats of Inchon harbor.

"The Lord set a table in the wilderness," HLKX staff members often described the 11 months of construction at the studio, transmitter, and residence site. Building materials were hard to find; electronics equipment was non-existent unless shipped in by special order from the United States. The war had devastated Korea and stripped away many of its resources. But the building site at Inchon was in the center of an area heavily populated with United Nations troops. Huge American supply depots were nearby. Canadian, British, Australian — even Turkish units were within easy reach of the HLKX compound.

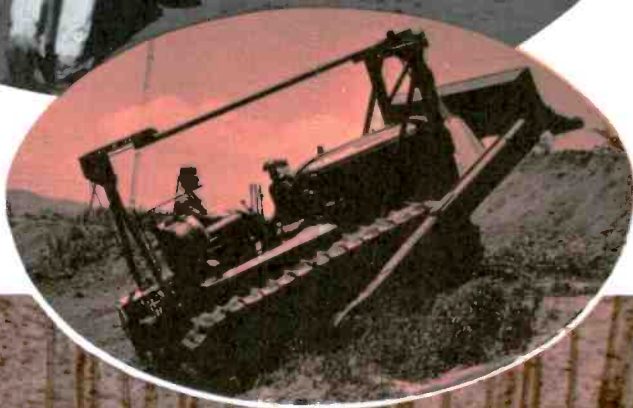
Sympathetic commanders made surplus materials available at no cost. Heavy equipment — complete with driver and operator — was loaned at critical stages of construction. Scores of Christian soldiers found the missionary project and offered their help. One supply sergeant found 300 gallons of paint designated for disposal in the sea and delivered it at the radio compound.

To accommodate the station and its staff, the missionaries built three studios, a transmitter room, offices, warehouse, generator building, and seven residences designed to house nine missionary families. On the mud flats they erected a 425-foot broadcast antenna. Miracle after miracle gave evidence of God's guidance and provision.

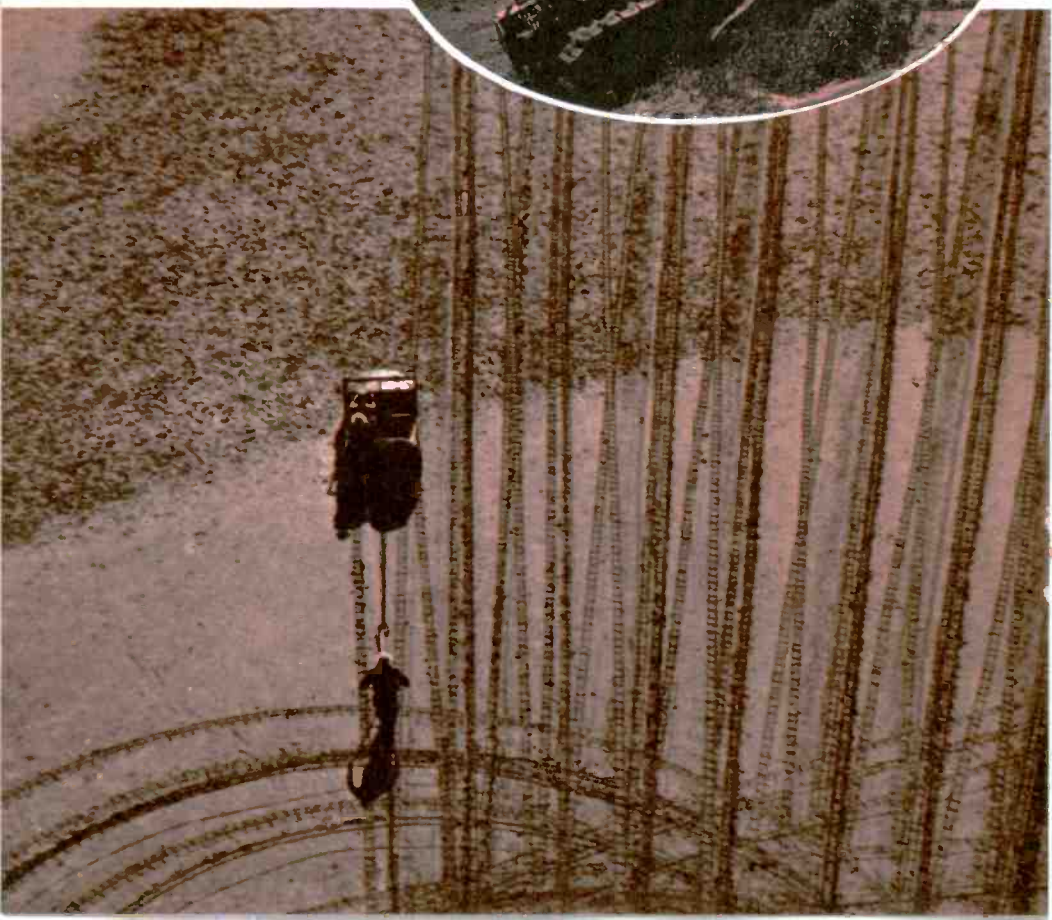
At one stage it was impossible to bring in Korean electric power because \$1200 was required to build the necessary transformer facilities. Funds were not available. The very day a decision had to be made, military criminal investigators donated a shipment of silk brocade cloth that had been seized by postal inspectors when military mail was used to bypass customs duty. A clothing company in Seoul offered to buy the cloth — for \$1200!



TOP — Christian American soldiers stationed in Korea helped lay the ground system for the broadcast antenna. — One military unit loaned a huge bulldozer — complete with GI driver.



BOTTOM — Jeep tracks make a graphic pattern in the dried mud flats as the ground radials go in.





At 6 p.m. on December 23, 1956, the first broadcast went out from the HLKX transmitter, launching a ministry in five languages that continues to reach deep into Asia with the message of freedom and peace through Jesus Christ. Chinese, Korean, and English transmission began that day, with some 50,000 American troops providing a challenging mission field for gospel broadcasts in their own language. A short time later, Jack and Vera Koziol arrived to represent the SGA as directors of Russian programming.

Among the first responses received to Koziol's broadcasts deep into Siberia was a thrilling letter from a woman who signed her name, "Valentina." She lives in a small agricultural community outside of Vladivostok. She wrote to tell Koziol how she had heard his messages night after night until she realized her own need of a personal relationship with God. According to her letter, Valentina had never heard that God had a son — was totally unaware of Jesus Christ, even as an historical figure. She had never heard His name. Neither had she ever seen a Bible. Her letter referred to it simply as "that book from which you teach about God." She wanted a copy for herself. "Please," her letter repeated three times, "send me a copy of that book in Russian."

Ever since the Russian broadcasts first began to pull letters from Siberian listeners, HLKX has followed a policy of sending two Bibles in Russian to every listener who responds to the Russian broadcasts. Bibles are in critically short supply in the Soviet Union, and most listeners who write ask if there is a way they can get one. To each inquirer, one Russian Bible is sent from Japan, and another from Finland. Many have written to acknowledge receipt of the Word of God and to express their gratitude. Some have complained the package never came. In most cases it is never known whether the Bible got through or not. But confident that in this case too the Word of God "returneth not void," the Russian staff continues to mail the books to all who write.

On the island of Taiwan, TEAM built recording studios to utilize available Chinese Christians in the preparation of gospel broadcasts aimed at the mainland. In addition





TOF — In the original HLKX studio, a Korean choir sings the gospel for enslaved countrymen beyond the "Bamboo Curtain."

BOTTOM — Julius Bergstrom, Director of Chinese broadcasts, mirrored often to the Chinese community in Inchon.





to a two-hour block on HLKX, TEAM Radio Taiwan also furnishes programs for the Far East Broadcasting Company and for broadcast on Taiwanese stations.

In 1960 the HLKX staff got permission from the Korean government to increase broadcast power to 50,000 watts. A new transmitter was purchased and sent to Inchon, where Chief Engineer Bill Winchell led a team of Korean technicians in its installation. Meanwhile, with Watson's wife, Katheryn, a victim of cancer at the age of 36, a much-needed studio and office building was constructed in downtown Inchon and dedicated in her memory. The main studio was designated a memorial to Emma J. Knox and built with funds contributed by friends and loved ones.

15

By that time the HLKX staff had grown. Broadcasts had been added in Mongolian and Ukranian. Pearl Rathbun had taken her place as musical director, and Rod Pence and Carrol Hovland had come from Montana to help with programming and management. Merlin and JoAnn Oehrke, a husband-and-wife musical team serving independently in Korea, offered their services to the radio ministry. Bob Livingston and Larry Lunceford took part in management and broadcasts. Jeanne Hanson, Leon Bird, and Dick Chase were later additions to the staff.

In 1962 came the first disturbing inkling of government plans for the Inchon harbor area HLKX was using. Soon word came down through channels that HLKX would have to find another location. The mud flats which gave the 50,000-watt signal a remarkable boost on its way to China and Siberia would be filled in to provide room for Korean industry. A large chemical company purchased land surrounding the missionary compound, and started building its plant and installing its access railroad.



The missionaries held their ground as long as possible, but finally gave in to the pressure exerted by government and business interests that wanted their land. A new location was found a dozen miles to the south, but still on the mud flats. There the missionaries tackled once again the job of building a transmitter building and the herculean task of moving the antenna. By adding an additional tower, Winchell and his Korean engineers installed a directional antenna system that enabled the station to beam its programs southeastward into the Korean peninsula during daytime hours, then reverse fields and send a strong signal northwestward into Asia after dark. The new strategy gave the station an effective radiation pattern of 100,000 watts.

By 1968 it seemed crucial that HLKX place more emphasis on its Korean language broadcast — yet without reducing its gospel witness to people of other nations. The broadcast day was stretched to 23 hours, and studios and offices moved to the capital city of Seoul. The Incheon chemical plant purchased the old compound, and a new policy of housing missionary personnel in Korean neighborhoods was adopted by the field council and radio committee. Since then, radio workers have lived among the people of Seoul, thus adding impetus to their personal witness for Jesus Christ.

More than 1,850 Koreans have enrolled in the HLKX Bible correspondence course, and this expanding ministry of the Word of God is taking the gospel story to many who might have had no other chance to hear.

The HLKX story is an unfinished story. New chapters are being written daily in terms of victories won in the hearts of men and women who tune to this powerful gospel signal in five languages.

From a mountain range in eastern China a man wrote us, "I could not hear this information from any other source. I am thankful that through your broadcasts I can come to know about Jesus Christ, God's son."

Literally hundreds of millions of others await the light of the gospel through missionary radio. They have no other way to hear, except by the airwaves.



TOP — "Can you tell me the way to Heaven?" Millions in the Orient today fit the Biblical description of "sheep without a shepherd."

BOTTOM — Buddhist worshippers carry their godshelf to a special festival.





ABOVE — Missionaries and Korean Christians cut tape to symbolize opening of new transmitter building.



LEFT — Primitive Iriwa boats brought tower sections across Inchon Tidal flats.

BELOW — From the top of the 425-foot broadcast antenna, a view of the original Inchon radio compound.



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