

New Seoul Church Opens Doors

By Joe Thompson, Associate Editor

Georgia New Seoul Korean Baptist Church is open and doing business in Tucker.

That's right — New Seoul Korean Baptist Church is operating as a growing and vital part of Atlanta association, occupying buildings and grounds of the now disbanded Cooledge Road mission of Briarlake church in Decatur.

Mere existence of New Seoul church is a story of importance to Georgia Baptists, and its history is an example of cooperation and unselfish commitment of which state Baptists can be proud.

New Seoul church, through its constitution as a self-supporting congregation in March, became the first Korean Baptist church within Atlanta association and Georgia Baptist Convention. The church and pastor have helped with Korean Baptist missions already in operation in Macon, Warner Robins, Marietta, Columbus, Savannah and Hinesville and the promise of another work in Griffin soon.

THAT IS an unusual record for any new congregation of English language, not to mention one which ministers to approximately 10,000 Koreans in the metro Atlanta area and several thousand more throughout the state.

The missions around the state are being sponsored by Roswell May 31, 1984

Street church in Marietta, Macon First church, Wynnton church in Columbus, Emmanuel church in Savannah, and Central church in Warner Robins.

And, of course, that does not mention the two missionaries being sponsored by the church as ministers to Koreans in Korea.

NEW SEOUL church actually began in 1976 as a Korean Bible class taught at Druid Hills church in Atlanta. Growth of that outreach led to establishment of a Korean mission at Druid Hills in the summer of 1977 and Druid Hills' support of the work with financial assistance for pastor Kyung Yul Moon.

Pastor Moon has led the congregation from its inception and was a major force behind negotiations which led to purchase of the Cooledge Road property and its current renovation and refurbishing for use as the congregation's first permanent home.

Purchase of the church building is an unusual story of cooperation in itself with church members' financial support, Briarlake church's support, and funds from the Home Mission Board and Georgia Baptist Convention all contributing to the final purchase.

Atlanta association has coordinated much of the work through its language missions ministers' director Bill Fulker-son.

The state convention's support was unusual in it being the first-ever use of new-site fund money to purchase an existing building for a language church instead of purchasing land for a building.

The 2.5 acres of land looks to provide adequate space and growth potential for the more than 120 current members of New Seoul church. Included are a sanctuary, educational space, offices, fellowship hall, kitchen and parking area.

THE CONGREGATION had dedicatory services and open house for its new building last weekend and already is looking for start-up of another English-language or international-language mission within the Atlanta area.

Some items still needed by the congregation include classroom tables and folding chairs, audiovisual equipment, pianos, children's chairs, a van, a refrigerator, a freezer and money, all of which can be given or coordinated through Atlanta associational offices.



COOPERATION BETWEEN Atlanta association, Druid Hills church and Georgia Baptist Convention has resulted in start-up of New Seoul church in Tucker. Shown with a bi-lingual sign are pastor Paul Mims of Druid Hills church, language missionary Bill Fulker-son of Atlanta association, GBC director of language missions Jerry Baker, Atlanta associational director of missions Russell Barker and pastor Moon and Mrs. David Ho Moon.

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