

The North Korean TB Patients' Priest





At a 'graduation ceremony' marking completion of eighteen months of treatment – Autumn 2013

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Cover image

School in Pyongsong – Spring 2010

Since 1995, the Eugene Bell Foundation has provided humanitarian aid to North Korea, delivering hope to those in great need. For information on how to donate, please visit us at www.eugene-bell.org or email us at English@eugenebell.org

Father Gerard E. Hammond Receives the Gaudium et Spes Award August 1, 2017



On August 1, 2017, Father Gerard E. Hammond, Maryknoll missionary and Eugene Bell Foundation board member was given the Gaudium et Spes Award, the highest award of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal benefit organization with a membership of over 1.9 million.

Father Hammond has served in Korea as a missionary of Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers since 1960. In 2000 he began partnering with EugeneBell to extend his ministry to the people of North Korea. His faithful service and support has been instrumental in making possible the foundation's work in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

Father Hammond has been a regular participant on EugeneBell delegations and has traveled to North Korea more than fifty times. He has a natural talent for tact and

diplomacy which has helped the foundation maintain good working relationships with officials from the Ministry of Health and Foreign Ministry as well as the staffs and patients at local medical institutions. "Our delegations face many difficulties in North Korea. Three weeks of traveling to multidrug-resistant tuberculosis treatment centers can be exhausting, even for the young. And yet despite his age, I have never heard Fr. Hammond complain about being tired. He serves as our spiritual leader and is a constant source wisdom as well as good cheer in times of hardship and comfort in time of need. I cannot imagine going to North Korea without him," said Dr. Stephen W. Linton, Chairman of the Eugene Bell Foundation.

The Gaudium et Spes Award is given to people in recognition of exceptional merit who have made important contributions to the realization of the message of faith and service in the spirit of Christ.

Who is Father Hammond?

Stephen W. Linton, Ph.D.
Chairman of Eugene Bell Foundation

Father Gerard E. Hammond, 2017 recipient of the Guadium et Spes award from the Knights of Columbus, has been a Maryknoll missionary to Korea for almost sixty years, and has been featured in a number of Eugene Bell Foundation's publications. Each one focused on a different aspect of his significant contribution to our tuberculosis work.

Fr. Hammond is a member of EugeneBell Korea's board of directors, has served as chaplain and spiritual advisor on countless delegations to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), and has raised more support for our multidrug-resistant TB patients than any other single person. These contributions alone make him so central to our treatment program that it is impossible to think of EugeneBell without reference to Fr. Hammond.

Visiting the DPRK holds a special place in the heart of Father Hammond and other Maryknoll missionaries because the northern part of the Korean peninsula was where the Catholic Foreign Missionary Society of America (also known as Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers) first began its work in Korea in 1923. In his visits to the North, Father Hammond represents not only Maryknoll but also the multitudes of Catholics, Korean and non-Korean, who have prayed, served and died to bring the gospel to Korea. This is one of the reasons why he considers every trip to North Korea to be a spiritual pilgrimage. When visiting North Korea, Father Hammond has taken time on weekends to reach out to the members of the international community in Pyongyang. This is more difficult than it sounds as EugeneBell delegations must travel to all twelve of the multidrug-resistant TB treatment centers where our patients are treated. The North Korean authorities have never objected when Father Hammond was invited to say Mass at a resident embassy on Sunday. "After all," they say, "he's a priest. What else would you expect him to do?"



Distributing paper-crane necklaces at a graduation ceremony for patients who have completed the eighteen months of treatment - Spring 2014

Father Hammond's role in the DPRK has a meaning not only for the past and present but also for the future. Over several decades of frequent visits to North Korea, Fr. Hammond has demonstrated through word and deed that the Catholic Church is a spiritual institution dedicated to loving God and loving neighbors in the broadest sense of the term. He has taken particular care to introduce other Catholic societies to North Korea by inviting their members to volunteer for EugeneBell delegations. The spirit of service he and his fellow Catholic missionaries offer to tuberculosis patients in the North reflects precisely the kind of priestly ministry approved by Pope Francis.

Father Hammond wins the hearts of the North Koreans he meets with his sincere commitment and sacrificial service to TB patients. The deep affection shown Father Hammond is further evidence that the North Korean people will transcend politics and ideology when offered true friendship. His unique ministry is an inspiration to us all.

Maryknoll Missioner to Korea



1 With his sisters when Father Hammond was fifteen years old, celebrating his admission to Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers Minor Seminary Venard



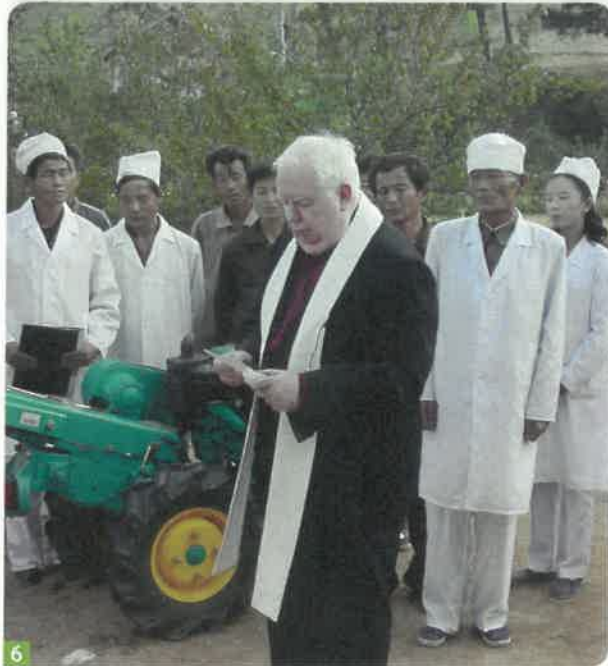
2 Fr. Hammond at his ordination at Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers Major Seminary in 1960 (fourth from the left)



3 Fr. Hammond at a baptism ceremony at the Cheongju Cathedral, August 21, 1965

4 Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers Center and Sacred Heart Cathedral in Pyongyang taken in 1933





5 Fr. Hammond dedicates a mobile X-ray vehicle made possible by Catholic donors.

6 Fr. Hammond blesses a cultivator given by Catholic donors to the Hamju TB Treatment Center – Spring 2010



7 Fr. Hammond at a Mass for the foreign diplomatic community in Pyongyang – Autumn 2013



8 A Mass for the foreign diplomatic community in Pyongyang – May 2010



9

9 Fr. Hammond and Fr. Edward Dougherty thanking Maryknoll fathers who sponsored medication for patients at Songsan MDR-TB Center – Spring 2013



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10 At a dinner after a Mass at the Polish Embassy – Autumn 2013



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11 With Pope Francis on his visit to Korea – August 2014



12

12 Cardinal Stephen Kim Sou-hwan visits Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America for the 70th Anniversary of the Diocese of Pyongyang in 1997



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13 Official celebration of Cardinal Nicholas Cheong Jin-suk's becoming a bishop at Su dong, St. Anne Catholic Church in the Cheongju Diocese. October 3, 1970



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16



17

14 With doctor at the Daean TB Center – Spring 2006

15 Pyongsong Children's Hospital – Spring 2007

16 Patients supported by members of Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers at the Songsan MDR-TB Center – Spring 2014

17 With caregivers at Potonggang MDR-TB Center – Spring 2017

Thanks to Donors, Patients Who Receive Treatment Can Be Healed

Fr. De La Garza Evia Ugarte Ignacio | Guadalupe Missioners

I am working in a hospital and I want to help sick people because they need help more than others. In addition, helping multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) is necessary not only because they are segregated from their family and their own town but also because they live in a divided country. They did not want to suffer from illness or live in a divided country. They have just suffered from the consequences of this sad history.

EugeneBell's presence in North Korea is an important sign of acceptance, care, union and peace. EugeneBell

has helped many MDR-TB patients in North Korea while showing great respect to their way of thinking and living. But of course, every day we have to face all kinds of difficulties. Thanks to donors, patients who receive treatment can be healed.

As a Catholic priest, helping those people is a good way of following Christ the healer. I don't say anything about religion or Christ to the patients or the people who work with us, but they can see that there are many ways to be happy. Some day they will find by themselves a higher, a bigger goal of their lives; a great health that never ends.



Father Ignacio congratulates patients who have completed eighteen months of treatment.



Father Ignacio makes a photographic copy of a MDR-TB center's records - Autumn 2014

A Grace That God Has Given Me

Fr. Maurizio Giorgianni | Oblate of Mary Immaculate

By way of introduction, I am Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate. When our Father General sent me to Korea in 1993, he told me always to keep an eye open for the possibility of doing something in North Korea. Personally, I was always interested in the situation and the people of North Korea. In 1993, I went for the first time to Panmunjom. I remember that I felt sad thinking about the division of North and South and that I prayed for the people of the North and for me to go to the North someday. When I heard the stories of people who visited the North with Eugene Bell, I thought that the dream that I had in my heart to meet and help the North Korean people could become a reality someday.

In fall 2014, Fr. Gerard E. Hammond approached me and asked me if I would like to participate in the Eugene Bell Foundation's multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) treatment program. Fr. Hammond, who is my friend and also like a father to me, knew this was my heart's desire. Thanks to him, I was able to join Eugene Bell's treatment program and have been an active participant ever since.

Going to North Korea is a dream come true and a grace that God has given me. I am a priest and I have learned from Jesus that what gives meaning to life is to love people, especially those who are most in need. Going to North Korea is also a moment when I can speak to the North Korean MDR-TB patients, not only by word but also through actions of kindness and humility. I want them to know that their life, their health, and their happiness are important for us and also for God. In this way, we can bring hope to them for the future. It is like a meeting with Jesus because He said "whatever you have done to someone in my name you have done it to me."



Fr. Maurizio prepares sputum samples for testing with GeneXperts to check for multidrug-resistant TB
- Autumn 2017



Fr. Hammond with Fr. Maurizio while visiting a MDR-TB center
- Autumn 2017

A Sign of the Promise of Reconciliation and Unification

Fr. Christophe Berard | Paris Foreign Mission

As a Catholic priest of the Paris Foreign Missions, I have visited North Korea more than ten times with the Eugene Bell Foundation to treat multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients. I have helped the foundation by fundraising in the South and by donating my time to assist the medical team when visiting the North.

Father Gerard E. Hammond introduced me to EugeneBell, which helped open the way for me to follow the path of Christ's disciples by being with the North Korean people, treating them, and taking care of them like in the parable of the Good Samaritan. I believe it was providence that I was sent to North Koreans through EugeneBell's work. In this way, people I did not know became my neighbors.

From my young age, I have learned that the church exists not only for itself but also for the whole world, especially for the poorest and the sickest. Through my experience as a Catholic priest during the last 25 years, I have discovered that the priest is not only sent to the Catholic believers but also to everybody in the world. A priest needs to turn the eyes of the church to those who are forgotten by society and the world. As a priest, joining EugeneBell as a part of the delegation is a way for the Paris foreign mission to put this conviction into practice. Through those who are seriously ill, we are able to meet Jesus as the Gospel of Matthew teaches us: "Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me." We do not bring Jesus but we are able to meet him in our lives, because God is always with those who are in difficulties. The challenge for each of us is to follow this



Father Christophe Berard tests sputum samples in GeneXperts to confirm MDR-TB in patient candidates ~ Spring 2017

path of authenticity and to serve them by helping them recover their lives by being cured from this disease. For us, this is enough because we believe men can be truly alive only through the glory of God.

The two Koreas are divided, so helping these people to be reconciled is a part of our pastoral ministry. I sincerely hope our work with EugeneBell will be a sign of the promise of reconciliation and unification. Encouraging people to create links, to open bridges, and to open doors through walls are signs of God's wonderful presence in human lives. As you can see, my vocation as a priest is fully implemented in work with EugeneBell. Working with Protestants or nonbelievers is a sure sign that God's love transcends all divisions. For me, EugeneBell is a great experience which allows us to know how to turn our eyes to the poor and the sick and in so doing, to learn to become one as Jesus taught us. Thanks be to God.

At a graduation ceremony with patients
who have completed a full eighteen months of treatment for MDR-TB – Autumn 2016



To treat one patient (**18 month treatment course**) costs **\$4,860**



Donate to EugeneBell

A donation of any size can make the difference for patients who are not matched with a donor.
There are many ways to donate.



Sponsor a Patient

As a 1:1 donor You will pay **\$270** a month for your patient's medicine and treatment.
As a 2:1 donor You will pay **\$135** a month for your patient's medicine and treatment.
As a 3:1 donor You will pay **\$90** a month for your patient's medicine and treatment.
As a 4:1 donor You will pay **\$68** a month for your patient's medicine and treatment.



Providing Nutritional Supplements

For \$20 a month
You can send a daily packet of nutritional supplements for one patient.

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