

## Korea and me

—childrenes' Hospital—  
miss Thiessen

I was born as the oldest daughter into a Christian family in Manitoba, Canada. After me my parents had four sons. At the age of 12 years I accepted Jesus Christ as my own personal Saviour and promised to give my life completely into his service.

After high school I felt that God was calling me to be a nurse. Applied to the Grace Hospital School of nurses for entrance was accepted and finished the 3 year course in January 1958. Immediately after graduation I went to work in a small town about 30 miles from my home. In January, 1959 a classmate and I went to Calgary, Alberta, a distance of 1,200 miles from my home. We had been there only a few months when I recieved a letter from our mission board

asking whether I would be willing to serve for a 3 year term in Vietnam. At first I tried to ignore the letter. However, the more I thought about it the more I wondered whether God might be calling me. After a time of deep searching of my own heart and seeking in prayer and Bible Study whether this was what God wanted. After a month was sure this was what He wanted me to do. I then promised God that I was willing to go wherever He wanted to send me.

A month after I recieved the letter from the Mission board I answerd yes, I would go. But they had already found someone else to go to Vietnam by this time. They needed someone to go to Korea, however, and so I came to Korea.

On September 2, 1959 we left San Francisco bound for Korea a country I knew very little about. Of course the work I was expected to do in Korea was also very vague in my mind. All I had been told was that I would be a nursing advisor in a Children's Hospital in Seoul, Korea. We landed in Pusan on Sept. 19 and my first thought when we got off the ship was, "My, what a lot of people there seem to be here."

It is hard to describe the shock of the first sight of our children at the Hospital. I had never in all my life seen such misery and suffering. It seemed wrong to eat or laugh or to enjoy myself in any way at first. How could I laugh when there was so much suffering?

The most rewarding thing has been when our malnourished and children with no will to live, have with love and good food begun to improve and become like normal children. The second most rewarding thing

has been to see our children adopted into real homes.

Have had many honors bestowed upon me since I came to Korea. This last May, Mayer Yun of Seoul City very kindly gave me an honorary citizenship as well as the Key to the City of Seoul. There are so many other people who have worked much harder than I, and really do deserve this kind of recognition. It makes my responsibility much heavier and greater than before.

My one great wish would be that we as nurses might really possess the spirit of service that Florence Nightingale displayed. To too many of our nurses today nursing is just another job. This is never what it was meant to be! Until we as nurses really show the public what it means to be a nurse it is very hard to raise the standard of nurses in any country. May God help each one of us to realize what a nurse really should be.