



October 2015

# GLOBAL NETWORK UPDATE

Quarterly newsletter from ECFA encouraging the faithful administration of God's work among all nations



On June 27, 2015, the Christian Council for Financial Transparency of Korea (CCFK) officially launched with a celebration lunch and an international symposium. Dr. Ho Chan Hwang was named the CCFK founding president, and Rev. Dr. Gary Hoag, ECFA International Liaison, and Rev. Dr. Sung Wook Chung, ECFA Korean Advisor were present for the festivities. CCFK outlined five standards (Five Stars: Spirituality, Transparency, Accountability, Reliability, and Sound Governance) and commissioned five services for churches and ministries (Accreditation, Consultation, Cooperation, Support, and Education). Pictured above are the CCFK board members and advisors, international guests, and in the front row from the right are the “Seven Sisters” who pray every single day for CCFK and the Global Network.

## Accountability and Transparency of Christian Ministries in Korea

By Dr. Ho Chan Hwang

### What is the key factor for Christian Ministries' growth?



In the last century, Korea has faced very unique historical events. The country was colonized by Japan, and soon after the end of World War II, the Korean peninsula went through a devastating civil war that caused countless casualties in addition to the total collapse of the nation's economy.

However, despite losing everything and becoming one of the poorest countries in the world, South Korea went through a dramatic economic transformation within the last sixty years to become the tenth largest economy in the world.

Christianity in Korea shares a very similar history. One hundred years ago, the gospel came to this dark and hopeless country. Through all of the persecutions and criticism, Christianity in South Korea has survived and has become very influential.

South Korea is the second largest country that dispatches missionaries.

Currently, identical to the Korean economy, Korean churches have entered into a stagnant period. As society and social values evolved, the development of culture and the diversification of the society that followed resulted in a decreased growth rate of Korean churches.

Nonetheless, separate from macro social changes, there is another factor that has caused the decline of Korean churches' social influence and growth: credibility. [Click here to read full article.](#)

## Online Resources

Visit [www.ECFA.org/GlobalNetwork](http://www.ECFA.org/GlobalNetwork) to view CCFK's “Five Stars” standards document. Also, AfCAA is praising God for the publicity and accreditation calls they are receiving in part thanks to open doors in various forums in Kenya, contact from this Global Network, and their new website [www.afcaa.org](http://www.afcaa.org). Check it out!

## Updates from the Nations for Prayer, Praise, and Collaboration

**Africa:** The threat of legislation of churches in Kenya persists. In response, a growing number of church leaders are telling officials that adequate laws exist, but they need to be enforced. Valentine Gitoho reports that this argument, if accepted, would be good for us all as compliance is part of our AfCAA standards. To date, AfCAA has finalized its nonprofit application forms but has not yet launched. Pray for us to have favor with the government and to model the transparency we hope to someday accredit.

**Australia:** Mr. Gary Williams says CMA is grateful to the Lord for answered prayer. The CMA Standards Council has appointed a director. A senior Christian lawyer will be departing from a prestigious law firm at the end of 2015 to take on the part-time role. Pray for our Standards Committee as they continue to refine the standards, and for the induction and orientation of the director, that he will find fulfillment, success, and affirmation that this is God's place for him. Pray also for all of us at CMA as we make the necessary significant adjustments to our operations.

**Guatemala:** "You faithfully answer our prayers with awesome deeds, O God our Savior." Psalm 65:5 (NLT). Edgar and Gladys Güitz have waited decades to see these prayers answered. Both the President/VP of Guatemala resigned linked to corruption. Many government officials were captured and put to justice only four days before elections. Thanks to God voting was peaceful on Sept. 6, 2015 with record turnout (70% of Guatemalans). As no candidate got a majority of votes, the top two candidates will run again on Oct. 25, 2015. Pray for a president to restore trust in our nation. This revealed that Christians/non-Christians expect honesty and transparency from authorities. The same is true for pastors/non-profit directors. The atmosphere is favorable to foster accountability. May the Lord lead us as Christians to take the initiative!

**Hong Kong/China:** Mr. Chi-Chung Keung has asked Drs. Sas Conradie and Gary Hoag to co-sponsor a "Generosity and Accountability" consultation in Hong Kong in April 2016. Pray for God to rally a coalition of interested church/nonprofit leaders together.

**India:** Mr. Deva Villuri seeks prayers for Lord's guidance to get the program initiated, and for key partners willing to join hands and help in this task. EFAC needs the Lord's direction to see if we can partner with any like-minded or organizations willing to kick-start this much needed project. We are working towards getting this off ground. Pray for us.

**Philippines:** Mr. Angelito Gabriel requests prayer for God to catalyze the work of CCTA. He and Dr. Zenet Maramara are thankful for new CCTA board members and praying it grows to seven people. Also pray for safe travels for Drs. Wesley Willmer and Gary Hoag as they visit Manila Oct. 7–13, 2015, and for fruitful meetings with them, the CCTA board, and for a great awakening in the practice of governance and stewardship after their trainings.

**South Korea:** CCFK is actively recruiting members. As churches are building their 2016 budgets, pray for many to join. CCFK will occupy a new office on Oct. 12, 2015, to save on rent. Pray for safe moving and God's providence in the new place. CCFK is also doing

research to publish a finance manual for churches and ministries to complement their Church and Money book which outlines accounting principles. Pray for the development of this practical tool. Lastly, CCFK president, Dr. Ho Chan Hwang will speak on financial transparency to representatives of about 100 missionary organizations on Oct. 19, 2015. Pray for God's blessing on this event!

**Ukraine:** Dr. Gearl Spicer notes that leaders in Ukraine are committed to financial integrity and moving to map accountability principles that mirror ECFA standards for replication in ministries so that credibility can grow in spite of the chaos of war. Pray that a training can occur in 2016 to further enhance these efforts.

**UK:** Dr. Sas Conradie requests prayer for a European consultation on "Generosity and Accountability" co-sponsored by Global Generosity Network and ECFA in Malaga, Spain on 20–21 January 2016 in conjunction with a Compass Europe Conference January 21–23, 2016. He hopes that the consultation could be a platform to launch a European accountability initiative. Please pray for arrangements, interest, and registrations from across Europe.

**Uruguay:** Denominations in Uruguay continue to fragment with new churches forming rather than old congregations working together. The economy seems stable and accountable, however many Christian ministries operate with foreign revenue. Pray that solid Bible teaching seasoned with the love and grace of Christ permeates the church, and that Uruguayans would enjoy building their perception amongst unbelievers as united in Christ, transparent, and generous in community.

**USA:** On Sept. 21, 2015, Dr. Ho Chan Hwang and Rev. Dr. Sam Ko came to California and helped Rev. Dr. Sung Wook Chung, the ECFA Korean Advisor, host "Transparency Talks" among Korean-American pastors and ministry leaders. As ECFA nears the 2,000-member mark, we are celebrating that God is moving Korean-American churches to start the process of joining.

## God is at Work Around the World

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*  
(Rom. 12:12).



As God answers prayers around the world, let's celebrate His goodness together. He's helping His people overcome difficulties in some of the darkest situations by the power of the Holy Spirit. While we rejoice with those who rejoice, let us also faithfully intercede with and for those facing adversity, uncertainty, and crisis. In so doing, our work of encouraging the faithful administration of God's work among all nations, will be sure to bring Him glory and reflect His love!

— Rev. Dr. Gary G. Hoag, ECFA International Liaison

Global Network Update is a quarterly e-newsletter from the ECFA that seeks to encourage faithful financial administration among all nations. For more information, visit our web page at [www.ECFA.org/GlobalNetwork](http://www.ECFA.org/GlobalNetwork) or to subscribe, [click here](#).