
Mormonism in the Land of the Morning Calm: A Bibliography of Published Sources on the LDS Church in Korea

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Although leaders and laity of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints evangelized in the Asian nations of India, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), China, Siam (Thailand), and Burma (Myanmar) during the 1850s, and in Japan during the first quarter of the twentieth century, they did not formally introduce Mormonism into Korea until after World War II. Granted, a handful of LDS missionaries and Japanese Church members traveled across the Korean Peninsula en route to China or for work opportunities with the Japanese government during the Japanese occupation of Korea. And a number of LDS servicemen from America also fought in the Korean War and met together in church units. But it was Kim Ho Jik, a graduate student in nutritional sciences at Cornell University, who was the first native Korean to be baptized into the LDS faith in 1951. When Dr. Kim returned to Korea he helped American servicemen establish the Church in his native land. In 1954 they, along with officially called missionaries, organized the first Korean Sunday School, and in 1955 President Joseph Fielding Smith formally dedicated Korea for the preaching of the gospel. Subsequent Church leaders created the original Korean Mission in 1962, organized the first Korean stake in 1973, and dedicated the Seoul Korea Temple in 1985. At year-end 2006 there were 78,646 members, seventeen stakes, ninety-eight wards, fifty-two branches, four missions, six districts

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in the Republic of Korea. There is no LDS presence in neighboring North Korea.

The purpose of this bibliography is to help scholars and interested Latter-day Saints appreciate what has already been written and published on Mormonism and Korea, so that they can make meaningful contributions to the growing body of material on this understudied topic. It goes without saying that any serious scholar will want to review the manuscript collections at the Church History Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City (see Robert H. Slover II., "Resources in the Church Historian's Office Relating to Asia," *BYU Studies* 12, no. 1 [1971]: 107–18); the L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; Manuscripts Division, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah, Salt Lake City; and Archives, Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City. These repositories hold the papers, personal histories, correspondence, talks, study manuals, scrapbooks, photo collections, and oral histories of some of the members and missionaries who have lived and proselytized in Korea.

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