

Cover Image: Dr. Mattie Ingold Tate on a mission trip with Korean “Bible women” and a servant carrying their bedding, ca. 1910. (photo: PHS Montreat)

Our mission heritage in Korea is just one example of how Presbyterians seek to witness the Good News in word and deed. And Mattie Ingold Tate is just one of the hundreds of men and women who have devoted their lives to mission work. Dr. Ingold, the second physician to serve the Presbyterian Church in the United States mission, arrived in Chonju, Korea, in 1897. Specializing in treating women and children, she cared for over 2,000 patients in one six-month period. After marrying the Rev. Lewis Tate in 1905, she gave up medical practice except in emergencies, preferring to travel the countryside with Korean assistants to teach basic Christian doctrine, the Bible, hygiene, and child care. Her Korean translation of the “Child’s Catechism” was widely used. She retired from the mission in 1928 after her husband suffered a heart attack.

“Every patient received a tract and the children picture cards, on which my teacher had written Bible verses.... The medical work I regard merely as an evangelizing agency which is only an aid, and always subordinate to, the evangelical work.”—Mattie Ingold, 1899

To help congregations celebrate their heritage, each year the Presbyterian Historical Society features an aspect of Presbyterian history. This year the Presbyterian Historical Society also celebrates our 150th anniversary. Founded in 1852, the society’s mission is to collect, preserve, and share information regarding the church’s heritage. For information about upcoming events, exhibits, and for resources to help celebrate Heritage Sunday, visit our web page at: www.history.pcusa.org.

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Witness the Good News: Our Mission Heritage in Korea



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Korean text: Matt. 10:7: “Go and proclaim...”