Dr. Samuel Easton McManis (孟滿秀, 1891–1952), A Missionary Who Brought Together Preventive Medicine and Medical Evangelism

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THE PATH

Dr. Samuel Easton McManis was born in Winchester, Ohio (1891), and he graduated from the Ohio Wesleyan University (1920) and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine (1924). He interned at St. Mary's Hospital from January to August 1924. He married Marion Elizabeth (M.E.) Wallace in January 1924, and moved from San Francisco to Korea on August 30, 1924. His tenure at the Swedish Methodist Hospital of Wonju began on February 23, 1925 and ended in August 1929.¹ Thereafter, Dr. McManis returned to the United States (US) for a sabbatical. During this period, he studied surgery at a medical school in Pennsylvania. His return to Korea was canceled due to personal reasons. Then, Dr. McManis was laid to rest in New York on December 7, 1952. His wife, M.E. McManis (née Wallace), graduated from the Christ Hospital School of Nursing in 1924. With her husband, she served in Wonju as a public health practitioner and childcare worker between 1924 and 1929 (Fig. 1).

FROM THE UNITED STATES TO JOSEON

Dr. McManis was mostly trained in his homeland, except for a year spent at the University of Montpellier (France) in 1919. During his college years, McManis joined the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, which was part of the

New York-based International Medical Missionary Society that trained medical missionaries.

McManis' early letters with missionaries indicate that he wanted to be assigned to China. Oliver R. Avison, the head of Severance Hospital at that time, was on a sabbatical in the United States. Hence, McManis asked Avison for advice regarding medical missionary work in Joseon (modern day Seoul) and the equipment required to open a hospital there (June 1924). After overcoming hardships, McManis eventually was named as a medical missionary worker of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he traveled from San Francisco to Wonju on the USS Van Buren on August 30, 1924. His duties encompassed various roles, including missionary work, education, and medical care.

COMBINING MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK WITH PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

The Swedish Methodist Hospital (Fig. 2) re-opened in February 1925, thanks to the proactive efforts of a medical missionary worker named Anderson.² The closure of the hospital turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as the people of the area began to appreciate the hospital more in its absence. For a short period after its re-opening, the hospital only offered out-patient treatments due to the time required to train assistants and nurses required to operate the hospital.

Moreover, the high number of patients necessitated the hosting of patients in houses near the hospital and required that medical staff visit those houses to administer treatment. On average, the hospital treated 20 patients per day (Table 1). A patient waiting for treatment described their experience by saying, "We await the medical missionary workers like children waiting for their parents." From 1925 to 1929, Sa Young Ahn³ and Eun-gye Lee (two doctors trained in Severance Hos-

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Fig. 1. McManis couple.

Fig. 2. Swedish Methodist Hospital (left) and house of McManis couple (right).

pital) worked as doctors in the Swedish Methodist Hospital. In particular, Ahn served the community faithfully through many different roles, including medical service to teaching as well as missionary and administrative work (Singanhoe).

McManis recorded that training the community about the importance of early treatment and basic medical knowledge had created hopeful signs; providing Korean staff members with hygiene facilities was also used as a positive example in written reports.⁴ Below are the health education reports in 1927⁵ and health education reports in 1928.⁶

In the interest of Public Health, classes were held every day for a week at the time of the District Classes. At that time, a Health Clinic was provided to mothers, and various posters fully explained how to stay well. They were also taught by example on what to feed, as well as how to feed, bathe, and take care of the baby, to make sure that children's lives would not be needlessly lost (1927).⁵

At the time of the Men's and Women's Bible classes, which lasted 10 days each, a Korean doctor gave lectures on Baby Welfare and Public Health. These have been much appreciated. Locally,

Table 1. Treatments at Swedish Methodist Hospital

Period	Admission	Out-patient (including visit treatment)	Operation	Doctor
Sep 1913–May 1914	7	1042	18	A.G. Anderson, R.R. Reppert
Jun 1914–Mar 1915	89	2157	29	A.G. Anderson, Y.S. Kim
Apr 1915–Mar 1916	65	1958	34	A.G. Anderson
Jan 1916–Dec 1916	119	3055	84	A.G. Anderson
Sep 1918–Sep 1919	221	4637	182	A.G. Anderson, S.W. Yoon
Oct 1919–Sep 1920	227	5604	163	S.W. Yoon
Sep 1922	87	3144	-	S.W. Yoon
Feb 1925–Jun 1925	-	2487	12	S.E. McManis, S.Y. Ahn
1927	41	7010	-	S.E. McManis, S.Y. Ahn, E.G. Lee
1928	71	3657	74	S.E. McManis, E.G. Lee
Jun 1928–May 1929	97	369	-	E.G. Lee
1931–1932	-	800	-	B.Y. Kim, S.O. Lee

there is an increasing demand for the doctor's services rather than the midwife, resulting in less infant mortality. Although this only marks a slight beginning, we are glad to note the dawn of a better day for mothers and babies. In this respect, we should state that our nurse usually makes several follow-up calls in which she teaches the mother how to bathe and care for the baby (1928) (Fig. 3).⁶

McManis' wife was a registered nurse who graduated from a nursing college in the United States. She handled the public health and infant welfare affairs in Wonju.

MATERNAL AND CHILD PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECTS IN THE JOSEON PERIOD

In January 1924, pre-liberation infant welfare work in Korea began with a mothers' group started by a Methodist women's missionary group in Gongju, South Chungcheong Province. A donation from an American philanthropist funded the construction of an infant welfare hall, which housed a doctor's office, meeting room for mother's group, and milk supply room. It became the missionary hospital at a later date. In 1930, infant life-saving stations began to be built for various services, such as pre-birth assessment, training, midwifery, and daytime and nighttime childcare. Then, in 1932, the South Chungcheong Provincial Office was relocated to Daejeon, along with the infant welfare hall and milk supply center. In addition, after combining the financial support of philanthropists from Denmark and American Methodist missionaries, a new building was built. Meanwhile, under the supervision of Samuel and M.E. McManis, the Swedish Methodist Hospital began its maternal and child health project in 1925, well in advance of similar projects in other regions. Afterward, the McManis couple (Fig. 1) became involved in similar maternal and child health projects across Korea, including a project in Pyongyang during the 1930s, another project under a missionary alliance in Seoul's

Severance Hospital in 1934, Pyongyang Union Christian Hospital child health project in 1934, the North Presbyterian Church child health project in Incheon's Naeri Church in 1935, and the Missions of the Presbyterian Church of Australia's Busan Infirmary in 1939.

BRINGING GOOD NEWS WITH MEDICAL CARE

The re-opening of the hospital meant that the missionaries now had a much better environment for their work, and that the people of the area were much more receptive to the mission. The reports written by McManis in 1926 and 1928 detail the story of a "man living 40 miles away from Wonju," who suffered severe head and hand injuries from a tiger attack. After 7 days of folk medicine treatment, his condition worsened, and he was brought into the hospital. He later recovered, returned to his home, led prayer groups, and eventually built a church in his village.

A woman suffering from severe frostbite recovered 4 weeks after receiving surgery to remove necrotic tissue. After being carried by oxen to her home, her husband met a missionary worker named Carlson (who presided over a church in Wonju-eup from 1924 to 1928). The husband learned Hangeul and went on to study the Bible as a Christian. These accounts detail how medical missions helped spread the gospel.

INTRODUCING THE FIRST EVANGELIST

Seong-seo Gu, who graduated from the Methodist Theological Seminary, originally worked in the Icheon and Yeosu areas before his failing health forced him to step down from his post in 1926.⁴ During his treatment in the Swedish Methodist Hospital, Gu continued to work as a missionary. After his recovery, Gu was first assigned to a church in Chungju in 1928, but was

later assigned to Wonju in 1929. Below is a report made by McManis to the International Medical Missionary Society (March 23, 1927).

It is the non-Christians there that we especially hope to touch.

原州瑞美監病院報告

原州瑞美監病院事業을報告하게됨을하나님께감사합니다.年來로朝鮮人에게도와주는事業이確實히進歩하였습시다.人生이生命을救援하는病院의事業이進歩된것인故로病院에서는더욱盡力하는中이외다.米國의補助는眞情으로感謝할수밖게업는것은불상한사람들의게救濟하는事業뿐아니라傳道事業까지할수있게된것을감사하옵나이다.昨年中에는特別히惡한流行病麻疹으로因하여苦痛을當하는이들을힘써도와주었스며또그當時에男女查經會가있서朝鮮醫事는嬰兒養育法과公衆衛生을教授함으로多大한有益을보았나이다.그것은産婆들이醫師를請하는것이나嬰兒의死亡率이減少한것이올세다.이것이우리가微弱하나마始作한것인데압호로모든어머니와해들의게더욱有益이있기를바라며伊後로우리看護員들은모든어머니들의게兒孩를養育하는것이나沐浴식히는것을教授하겠나이다.특별한일은原州郡에서四十里밖게사는사람이범을잡다가頭部와팔에重傷을當하여治療하다가本病院을차저왔슴으로入院식히고手術後治療하기를一週刊하는동안에우리는그의家族들의게그리스도의福音을專하였습시다.그는完治되어自家에도라간後에하나님께感謝하고自家에祈禱所를定하고信者를얻어將次禮拜堂까지建築하기를圖謀하는中이외다.其外에는十一個洞리에居住하는十九名의新信者가病院에서그의病을治療하는中에서作定한것이며또는十三洞리에二十七回를巡廻하여許諾한信者들을尋訪하고그들의家族들까지信者가되고會堂까지建築하도록힘써오며或은許諾한後에멀년간사람도잇사오니모든結果는곳알수업고오직하나님께맛기고祈禱할뿐이을세다

一九二八年九月二十七日

原州瑞美監病院長 孟萬秀

Since December, we have had an Evangelist to help with this work. He has his desk in the waiting room and talks with the patients while they wait their turn to see the doctor. He gives out treats and Gospels. He has made a poster and hung it above his desk. It shows a picture of a man about to be swallowed by a serpent, illustrating the dangers of a drinking problem. The in-patients always come with their relatives and friends, and he uses that opportunity to speak to them.

We hope that you might meet the Evangelist. He is such a fine young man—a real example of Christianity. He is a second-generation Christian, a graduate of the Theological school, and a man with personal experience. He has a very attractive personality, and is well-received by everyone. In fact, he is often overwhelmed with invitations to preach and teach. A church service in Korea is not always as quiet as it might be, but this man is always given a quiet attention.

McManis' primary goal was medical care. However, the hospital suffered from chronic underfunding, as it had a much higher ratio of charity cases compared to other hospitals. Therefore, to keep the hospital in operation, McManis spent a considerable amount of time leading donation drives in Pyeongchang, Yeongwol, Jecheon, Munmak, and Hoengseong, as well as writing to Methodist missionaries in the United States. After all, medical missionary work and the gospel are like light and salt.

EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL MISSIONARY WORK

Returning to Philadelphia in 1929 for a sabbatical,^{7,8} McManis sent reports to headquarters in New York about the status of medical missionary work in Korea and the need for medical training (1930).⁸

My opinion regarding the future medical needs in Korea is essentially that of the Findings of the Association of Medical Missionaries of all Boards in Korea, namely, that the greatest emphasis should be placed upon teaching institutions (medical) in the future.

Having personally experienced the achievements and shortcomings of the medical missionary work in Joseon, McManis felt that the medical, educational, and missionary work in Korea must be handled by Korean doctors. However, his "preparations for educational projects after returning to Korea" were rejected, which perhaps killed his dream to return to Wonju. In the following poem,⁶ McManis spoke about his 4-year experience in the Swedish Methodist Hospital (1928).

God, patient of beginning,

Fig. 3. Report on preventive medicine (1928).

*Help us this day to see
Time has no real beginning, no real end-
Just continuity.
Teach us that years in passing,
Heal, pardon, make us wise.
Teach us that days, in coming bring with them
Fulfillment and surprise.
God, patient of beginnings,
Help us this day to see
In earthy bulbs, spring flowers; in man, the Christ;
In years, eternity!*

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization: Sung Ku Ahn. **Data curation:** Sung Ku Ahn and Jong Won Yoon. **Formal analysis:** Sung Ku Ahn, Sang Baek Koh, and Solam Lee. **Investigation:** Sung Ku Ahn, Sang Baek Koh, and Jong Won Yoon. **Project administration:** Sung Ku Ahn and Sang Baek Koh. **Resources:** Jong Won Yoon. **Supervision:** Sung Ku Ahn and Sang Baek Koh. **Validation:** Sang Baek Koh and Solam Lee. **Visualization:** Sung Ku Ahn and Jong Won Yoon. **Writing—original draft:** Sung Ku Ahn. **Writing—review & editing:** all authors. **Approval of final manuscript:** all authors.

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