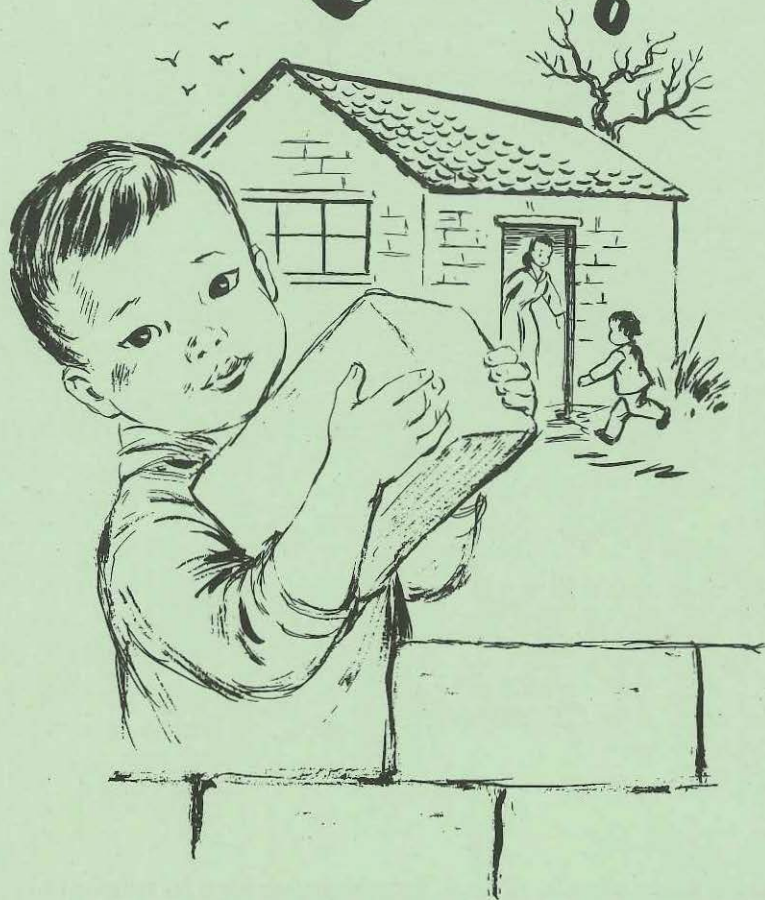


Let's build a house in Korea!



American Friends Service Committee
(Quakers)

10¢
a copy

Let's Build a House in Korea

written by Mary Esther McWhirter and illustrated by Lela Warner

You know what happened when war came to Korea. In movies, in magazines and on television, you saw pictures of houses that were blown to bits. Not all of the houses in Korea were destroyed, but many of them were. Hundreds and hundreds of families had to leave their homes. In many of these families the fathers and big brothers had been killed. Life was not easy for the mothers and the small children who were left. But they did exactly what you and your mother would do if your house were gone and your father dead. They found make-shift shelters in which they have continued to live during the years since the war. It's true that such buildings keep out at least some of the rain and snow and wind and cold. But no one claims that they are pleasant houses.

To some Korean mothers and children, "coming home" means crawling into a dark cave or scrambling down into a damp cellar. To others, "home" means a draughty warehouse with a leaking roof.

If you were a child in Korea today, you might be living in any of these places, none of which is fit to be called a home. What's more, you'd expect to live there for a long, long time—forever, maybe.



"House Blessing" from the book DEATH AND GENERAL PUTNAM by Arthur Guiterman. Copyright 1935 by E. P. Dutton and Co., Inc., Publishers. Used by permission.

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That is, unless you happened to be one of the children who will live in a new house built with blocks made by a landcrete machine.

You ask, "What's a landcrete machine?"

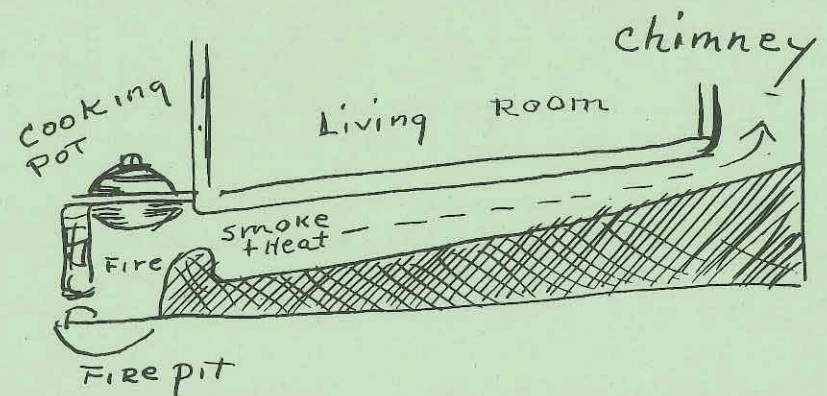
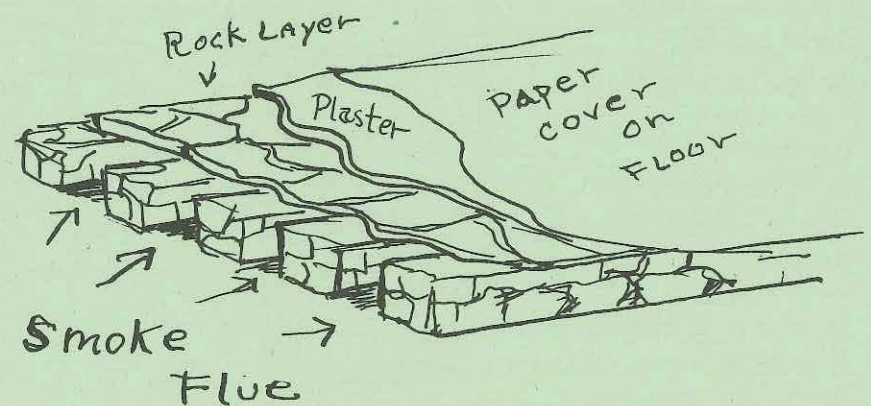
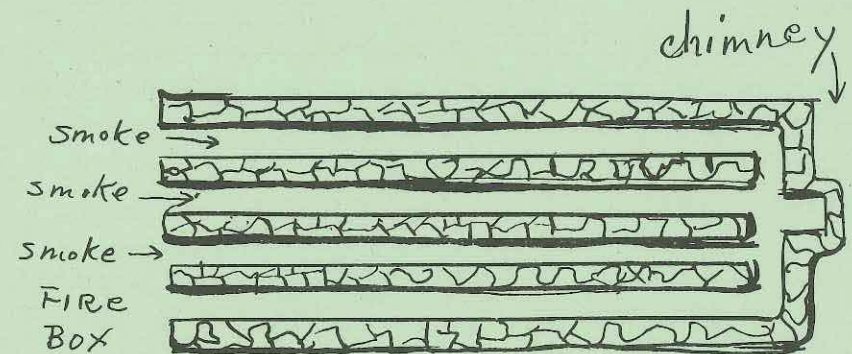
It's a big machine into which earth is put, and as the machine whirls around, the earth is pressed tightly together to make a large solid block. This marvelous machine is about as big as your teacher's desk.

Each block made by the landcrete machine is shaped in such a way that it locks onto another block. When about 1,500 blocks have been turned out by the machine, it's time to begin work on the walls of a Korean house. It's then that a group of ten mothers and their children - some bigger and some smaller than you - gather at the place where the first house is to be built.

Working side by side, they lay block upon block. Slowly the four walls begin to rise. As you see, it's going to be a small house, only 13 feet by 17 feet. At the corners it's about as tall as your front door - that is, 7 feet high. There's just one room with a kitchen opening onto a courtyard. Joined to this house is another one just like it for another family.

Before the floor is laid the children help their mothers dig tunnels in the ground. These tunnels are wider and deeper than those that you dig at the seashore or in a snowbank. Further, these tunnels are not just for fun but for an important purpose. Smoke from the fire at one side of the house passes through them, warming the clay floor which is laid on top. The chimney pipe at the other side lets the smoke out.

HOW A KOREAN HOUSE IS HEATED



Tiles, all made in Korea, cover the roof. And as for the windows, well, you'd never guess – no, not in a thousand years! So we'll just have to tell you.

You remember how, a few years ago, you helped send barrels and barrels of powdered milk to Korean children. Each of those barrels was lined with a sheet of plastic material. Now these plastic linings are used instead of glass in some of the new Korean houses. And what perfect window panes they make, because they let the sunlight in, are unbreakable and, of course, free.

Day by day, mothers and children lift and carry and fit together all the pieces that go into the making of a house. At last it's finished! What a joyous day it is for the new owners when they move into this remarkable house! To them it seems like a dream come true.

Soon these same mothers and children will again meet to help build another house for another mother and her children. And before long, every one of these ten families will have a place to live. Later, still other groups of families will help one another in building landcrete houses in the same way.



That's how the help-one-another-story can go on and on if . . .

The "if" depends upon you and your family. How do you want the story to end? Do you want the Korean family to finish building their house and "live happily ever afterwards"? For that kind of an ending, money is needed; not a lot of money, but money just the same.

Money is needed for the earthen blocks turned out by the landcrete machine and for cement to cover them so that they won't fall apart when it rains or snows. But don't let the cost of these blocks scare you. Suppose you have only a nickel. That nickel is enough to buy 3 large blocks of the kind turned out by the landcrete machine.

For the price of 1 soda pop or candy bar you can buy
3 large blocks for the wall of a Korean house.

For the price of 1 ice cream cone you can buy
6 large blocks.

For the price of 1 movie you can buy
15 large blocks.

If you do baby-sitting or dandelion-digging, one hour's work will buy – how many blocks?

Suppose that you belong to a family in which there are five people. If each one earned or saved 5 cents for 100 days, you'd have \$25 which is enough to buy all the 1500 landcrete blocks for a house for 1 Korean family.

Or, 5 families, the same size as yours, could buy 1500 blocks in 20 days if each person gave 5 cents a day. That would be only \$5 per family.

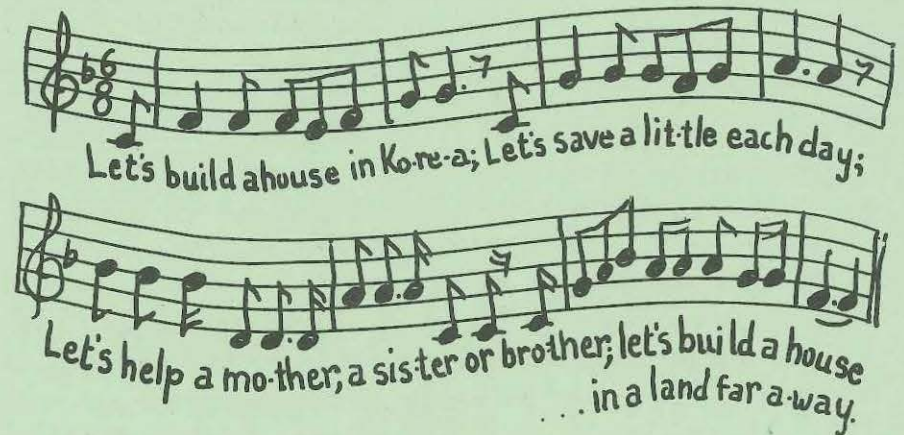
In this envelope of materials you will find stand-up figures of a Korean mother and her children as well as patterns and directions for making a Korean house from paper. As you earn and save each nickel draw and color the three blocks which that nickel will buy. As you find your nickels piling up, you will color more and more blocks.



What to do with your nickels? We suggest using the coin cards, "Let's Build a House in Korea." You will find several cards in this packet.

When you are ready to send your gift of money to help a Korean family build a house, please change the nickels (if there are more than ten) into a check or money order. Please do not send more than fifty cents in cash through the mail.

(Note: Besides the cost of the earthen blocks, additional money will be needed for tiles, wood and pipes; \$200 is enough to build a house for one Korean family, including the \$25 for blocks. Other friends are helping to raise the \$175. But the blocks come first!)



When Your Family Wonders and Worships

As you hold in your hand the coin card, "Let's Build a House in Korea," try to imagine a Korean family that needs a house for exactly the same reasons that you need yours: a place where you can eat and sleep – yes, and also a place where you can think, talk, plan, sing, play, wonder and worship together as a family. As you read the poem, prayers and Bible verses below, think about the house where you and your family live and the house your family is helping a Korean family build.

House Blessing

"Bless the four corners of this house . . ."
Our house . . . and their house, too . . .
"And bless the door that opens wide
To stranger as to kin . . ."
Our door . . . and their door, as well . . .
"And bless each crystal window pane . . ."
Ours of glass . . . theirs of plastic . . .
"That lets the starlight in . . ."
The same stars shining in every land . . .
"And bless the rooftree overhead
And every sturdy wall . . ."
Of their house . . . and of our house . . .
"The peace of man, the peace of God . . ."
The same peace, hoped for and prayed for by
families the world around . . .
"The peace of love on all . . ."
The love of God for his children and their
love for one another — the only pathway to peace.

Arthur Guiterman

Prayers About Homes

We remember the families of the world, O
God, who live in many different kinds of houses:

families in the far north who live in igloos

families in warm lands who live in tents

families in our country who live in houses
of wood and brick and stone and steel

families in Korea who are still living in
caves and shacks and warehouses.

May we find ways to help them help themselves
and their neighbors in the building of houses where
they can be happy together as families. Amen.

O God, we are filled with wonder as we think
about your plans for your world. We thank you
that homes are a part of your plan: homes for all
your creatures — nests for birds, caves for animals,
water for fish and houses for people. Amen.

For our own safe and comfortable house we
are grateful, O God. As we enjoy our house we
are sorry that all families are not so fortunate.
Through no fault of their own, many families live
in dark, crowded places. Help us remember them,
not only with words but also with deeds. Bless us
as we work and plan and save to help these families
build the houses which they so much need. Amen.

We are sorry, O God, as we remember Korean
families having no real homes. Help us think of
ways of earning and saving money to help these
families build houses that may become real homes.

We are glad that we may work with you in
helping other members of your world-wide family.
Amen.

Bible Verses

. . . Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have
nests. Matt. 8:20b

. . . The stork has her home in the fir trees.
The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the badgers.
Psalm 104:17b, 18

For additional copies of these materials and further information about educational resources for children, please write to:

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