

# PREFACE

by

SAMUEL HUGH MOFFETT

Dear Relatives of WDR:

This book was written for you, but many other readers will enjoy its glimpses of American children growing up in a mission station in isolated northern Korea back in the early 1900's. It is missions from the bottom up as it were, and inside out — not as the hardy pioneers saw it but how their children saw it. It is a very different perspective, and you will find yourself stopping from time to time and thinking, "Is that really how things looked back then?"

It's a true story, but not the whole truth.

I can think of a few omissions. For example, nothing is said about ROMOMO Company. This was a company formed by Dave Mowry, Dayton Roberts and me at about age seven and was intended to become a giant corporation to make us rich. As a matter of fact, Dave made it to the executive level of Monsanto Corp. before he died, but Dayton never became the publishing magnate of his early aspirations. And my talents as a historian never achieved financial recognition. So ROMOMO Company has never been listed on the Wall Street stock exchange.

And then there was the night-time attack on the Pyongyang Foreign School study hall, where the kids from the dormitory were in study session under the direction of Miss Harriet Bruen. My brother Howard had just received a low-powered BB gun for his birthday, and Dayton and I persuaded him to make an assault on the PYFS school building next to the Moffett home.

The kids in the study hall reacted enthusiastically. When the pellets began to ping against the windows and bounce off the ceiling, they dove for the floor under their desks and shouted, "The Russians are coming!"

Then Howie went inside and Miss Bruen met him on the steps. "Give me that gun", she said, and Howie meekly surrendered.

The next day the Principal, Mr. Reiner, called Howard in. After a tongue lashing, he gave him a note describing the event to take to our father to determine the appropriate punishment. Father listened gravely and asked Howie what would be the right penalty. Howie replied, in the family tradition, "Going without dessert for a week". "All right", said Father, and that was that.

In those less violent days it was a neighborhood prank and no harm done. All Howie lost was his BB gun and dessert. Today, in seriously alarmed America, he might have gone to jail, or at least been suspended from school.

More importantly, though, my octogenarian friend for all these many years has modestly omitted the fact that despite these reminiscences of less-than-heroic contributions to the Christian mission in Korea in his youth, he grew up to make a very significant mark on the history of Protestant missions in Latin America. He was as much of a pace-setter and model of missionary statesmanship for our generation as our parents were for theirs.

Under the leadership of his brother-in-law, Kenneth Strachan, he helped guide the Latin America Mission to new methods

of cooperative evangelistic strategies for reaching Latin America's exploding urban centers and the surrounding areas with the gospel. And as a director of the LAM, he pioneered patterns of turning leadership over to Latin direction by re-forming former mission structures into diverse national "entities", each with a different center of empha-

sis and administrative control.

But he describes this better than I can. Read the book. It is more than entertaining. It is history which is fun to read.

— Samuel Hugh Moffett  
Princeton, NJ.

I HAVE ENJOYED  
WRITING QUITE A BIT  
ABOUT THE STRACHANS  
AND THE L.A.M.

NOW IT'S TIME FOR

# MY SIDE OF THE FAMILY



As seen  
by

W.  
Dayton  
Roberts

Preface by Samuel H. Moffett

## DEDICATION

*My Side of the Family* is dedicated to  
all the Roberts, Strachans, Clarks, Hales and Hoppers  
who have not been exposed to  
LIFE IN KOREA

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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*History of the Korea Mission of the  
Presbyterian Church U.S.A (1884 – 1934),*

and to my son, Bary, without whose help  
I could never have handled  
the photos and format of Adobe PAGEMAKER

# MY SIDE OF THE FAMILY

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