

◆GOALS◆

Godly Worship Service
Raising Kingdom Workers
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing World
Social Service for Local Area

The Biweekly Choong Hyun

I love you, O LORD, my strength,
(Psalm 18:1)

For to me, to live is Christ
and to die is gain,
(Philippians 1:21)

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To the Ends of the World

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

Young People of Choong Hyun are Ready to Go for World Mission

The great commission of Jesus Christ for us was that we must go to every corner of the world and make disciples of all nations. God has blessed the Korean churches so much in every way but what are we doing to fulfill His great commission?

Our church realizes the importance of world mission and increased the budget for world mission as much as ₩1.2 billion. We pray that this budget will be used for the places where the actual mission is accomplishing. Choong Hyun has already explored the possibility of evangelism in Kenya, Sudan and Egypt and waiting for the people who will go there as a missionary.

We thank the Lord for many young people of Choong Hyun who want to go these remote places voluntarily. 30 students from the high school group, 103 students from the college group, 56 people from the first young adult group, and 20 people from the second young adult group are ready to go for a short mission trip this coming

summer.

There has been a great change for the mission plan in our church in order to make our world evangelism realistic and actual. What the mission requires is not the names of man but the hearts that are full of passion for the lost souls. Our church is looking for the young people who would not negotiate with reality and hoping to see them win many lost souls for Christ.

Rev. Sung Kwan Kim, the senior pastor of our church, wants to see the increased budget for the world mission sprinkle over the Nile river with the gospel. Over 200 young people of Choong Hyun are ready to sacrifice their summer vacation for a short mission trip. Let their sacrificial hearts be the seed of world mission which will bring a hundredfold harvest.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)



▲ Short Mission Trip of the young people of Choong Hyun

sanctuary and submit it back before March 8th and put it in the box in the main sanctuary lobby. God has not called just to attend church but to serve for the church.

Let's Send the Books for the Children of Missionaries

Mission Committee is sending books for the children of missionaries who are at the front line of spiritual battle to expand the Kingdom of God. Most of missionaries are scattered around the uncivilized countries where even the basic education is not available. These books will give them a basic education that they need and, also, will help them to remember their mother country and language. You can fulfill your responsibility in world mission as you join for this wonderful event by providing more books. For further information call 552-8200 (ex.356) and ask for the World Mission Committee.

Type of Book : Profitable books for Middle & High school students

Receiving Office : Office of World Mission Committee (Mission Building #406)

Let's Make a Change (2)

Let the Worship Be the Worship

Our church emphasizes the importance of restoring worship that is in the Spirit and Truth from the beginning of this year. This is our church's greatest goal to achieve. Thanks to the church members who realize the value of worship and make their step with church's goal. And the number of tardy people for worship service has decreased remarkably.

But there are still people who rush to sanctuary at starting time of worship, or even after worship time. Let the worship be the worship. Please be in the sanctuary at least 20 minutes before worship starts in order to prepare the hearts and be ready to worship the Lord. Sitting in the pew from the middle seats first is suggested.

The Second Communion Service of '98

During 1st-5th Service Today



sacrament is one of the greatest privileges that we have in Christ. There will be heavenly blessings given to us during communion service today as we meditate on the expiatory death of Jesus Christ.

(Photo From the Last Communion Service)

Application for Volunteer Workers Deadline: March 8th

God has given us talents to keep His church holy and beautiful and to expand His Kingdom. Our church distributed applications for volunteer workers on February 8th to call for holy service. You can pick up an application in the lobby of main

The second communion service will be held during 1st through 5th worship service at main sanctuary today. We must sanctify our hearts and bodies before we take the body and blood of Jesus Christ. To join for holy

SERMON OF JEREMIAH

(Jeremiah 26:1-19)

Jeremiah was a prophet who ministered in Judah during the reigns of Josiah and succeeding kings up to the Babylonian exile. He proclaimed words that were spoken first by God Himself and were therefore certain of fulfillment. During the reign of King Jehoiakim, Josiah's son, a special message was given to him to deliver to Judah. It begins with specific instructions from God to Jeremiah, "This is what the Lord says: Stand in the courtyard of the Lord's house and speak to all the people of the towns of Judah who come to worship in the house of the Lord. Tell them everything I command you; do not omit a word" (vs. 2).

These instructions contain three very important orders. The first order is to stand in the courtyard of the Lord's house. Jeremiah is not instructed to stand just anywhere but to stand in the temple of the Lord; God's church. The second order is that he is to speak to the church's members, those who come to worship regularly. God is telling Jeremiah that these people who earnestly seek to worship Him, really need His message. They come to worship the Lord but they don't hear the Lord; that's why God clearly states to Jeremiah, "This is what the Lord says". These people are continually coming to God's temple but are not hearing God's message. And the third order contains a double request of the same order. Jeremiah is to tell the people everything that God tells him, he is not to omit one word but repeat everything exactly as God says. He is asking Jeremiah not to change one word for fear of human approval or disapproval.

God tells Jeremiah the reasoning for His message to Judah, "Perhaps they will listen and each will turn from his evil way. Then I will relent and not bring on them the disaster I was planning because of the evil they have done" (vs. 3). God wants His people to turn away from evil. He wants them to be aware of their wrongdoings and repent. He wants them to change their ways and follow after Him. Although His people come to worship, they are not worshiping but doing evil. This evil comes at a high price and God asks Jeremiah to be strong and tell them exactly what He says in order to avoid His calamity.

Jeremiah's sermon to Judah, directly commanded by God is, "This is what the Lord says: If you do not listen to me and follow my law, which I have set before you, and if you do not listen to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I have sent to you again and again (though you have not listened), then I will make this house like Shiloh and this city an object of

cursing among all the nations of the earth" (vss. 4-6). Jeremiah directly quotes God, "This is what the Lord says", so that there is no doubt or misinterpretation. The message is unquestionable and clear, if His people do not listen and do not follow His laws (which they obviously haven't done in the past) then God will destroy His beloved temple and make His city cursed among nations. God's temple will be like Shiloh. Shiloh is a terrible place that is well known to the Israelites. Their city, known from their ancestors as the promised land from God, will be cursed.

This message is very strong. The Israelites know that God's temple is the place where God abides with them. They know that their city is God's blessing land. All their blessings and comfort come from these two sources. If the Israelites leave the temple and city and practice idolatry elsewhere, that would be fine. But for them to go to God's temple to worship, hear His message, live in His city and use His name and continually do and practice evil is immoral and wicked. God's punishment will be severe - a disaster!

"The priests, the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speak these words in the house of the Lord" (vs. 7). As soon as he finished speaking the exact words that God commanded, all the people seized him and threatened to kill him. Before consulting God for His decision, they drew their own decisions that Jeremiah must be bad and that his words could not be God's will. How could Jeremiah liken God's temple to Shiloh (that's bad)? How could he curse God's blessed city (that's not God's will)? Their way of thinking reflected their teaching. All these people thought they were better than God and made their own conclusions. They knew that life belongs to God, yet without a moments thought they were ready to kill Jeremiah.

As they gathered around him, they questioned his motive for speaking so cruelly about their temple and their city. To them, prophecy meant God's blessing. In the name of the Lord, everything was to be a blessing, not a curse. How could he use God's name and curse God's house? Therefore, they knew he was wrong. To gain support for their decision to kill him, they called upon the city's government officials who were not present at the time of Jeremiah's sermon.

The government officials came to



God's temple to listen to hear what the priests, prophets and all the people had to say on the matter. With the government officials present, the power to kill Jeremiah was legalized. So, the priests and the prophets told the officials, "This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against

this city. You have heard it with your own ears!" (vs. 11). Because he cursed the city, surely the government officials would favor their decision to kill him.

"Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard. Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the Lord your God. Then the Lord will relent and not bring the disaster He has pronounced against you" (vss. 12-13). Notice that Jeremiah doesn't address the priests and prophets, only the officials and people. He discerns the situation and places that there is no trust in the priests and prophets. He continues, "As for me, I am in your hands; do with me whatever you think is good and right. Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the Lord has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing" (vss. 14-15). Jeremiah truthfully speaks to them of the Lord's command. He doesn't change any of God's words to help him in this situation. He doesn't place value in his life but in God's word for them to listen.

Now, an amazing thing occurs. The officials and all the people tell the priests and prophets, "This man should not be sentenced to death! He has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God" (vs. 16). The whole environment changes. Everybody (priests, prophets, officials, and all the people) have heard God's message. The innocent people responded correctly to the priests and prophets. They really believed that Jeremiah was a servant of God. He didn't compromise the Word of God and told the whole truth even though his life was at stake. The Jewish people knew God and recognized and found a true servant. They also realized that the priests and prophets were wrong.

Some of the elders of the land stepped forward and spoke to the entire assembly of the prophet Micah's ministry to King Hezekiah. They reiterated the doom that was

prophesied by Micah regarding Judah. They also mentioned that King Hezekiah did not put Micah to death but feared the Lord and sought His favor. And the Lord relented and did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them but extended Judah for one hundred years more. The elders, with their experience, saw Jeremiah as a servant of God who should not be put to death but listened to.

The real key in today's message is the understanding that the people continued to come to the Lord's house and worship Him, even though their deeds were wicked. From a human standpoint, their actions appear honorable. Going to church every Sunday to worship God is a respectable deed. The problem is that God sees into the hearts of all mankind. He told Jeremiah to stand in the middle of His temple, not in the wilderness, not in the corner of street, not in someone's home but at the center of His house to preach to all the people His exact words. He was instructed not to omit even one word but to be honest and truthful. God knew their hearts and pleaded with them to repent and follow His ways. He asked them to listen to Jeremiah, for they had repeatedly not listened to the prophets He had sent time and again. God warned them of the severe consequences which would occur if they continued in their ways; He would collapse His temple and curse His city.

We find the same situation occurring again in the New Testament (Rev. 3:1-3). Jesus tells the church in Sardis that they think they are alive, calling His name, and doing well; when in fact they are dying. He says, "Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you" (vs. 2-3).

Christians today need to search their hearts and come to God sincerely in faith. Whenever we are weak, torn, and struggling; we need to return to the cross in repentance and find God's grace. For the cross alone is our salvation! Our hearts are the temple of God. Is the Holy Spirit active in your heart? Our Lord wants to change your deeds. He has the power to change your heart. Let's hear Jeremiah's sermon to Judah and Jesus' sermon to Sardis, and change our hearts to worship, trust, and obey God everyday and in every way!

Paul's Opening Address to the Galatian Church

(Galatians 1:1-10)

Of the thirteen books in the Bible written by Paul, the book of Galatians is a special expression of his devotion and loving heart towards Christ. The Galatian people were Paul's first missionary experience - his first love! Naturally, they continued their biblical education and expanded their doctrinal beliefs and practices after Paul's departure. Unfortunately, in their learnings they lost focus and turned away from the gospel of Christ.

When Paul heard this news, he responded by writing to them a very powerful, informative and strong letter. His introduction is candid and direct. His words are not socially courteous and kind but they are mighty and truthful. His approach appears harsh but his heart abounds in love. He cares for these people so much that his plain-spoken words are meant to embrace them and bring them closer into grace and peace.

His letter begins with a special greeting, "Paul, an apostle - sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead" (vs. 1). This bold statement leaves no room for argument as to what kind of apostle Paul was. Paul not only knew who he was but also clearly understood who it was that appointed him. His words are spoken in a matter-of-truth with no doubts or maybes. He knew that no religious institution or special man called him to be an apostle. He also knew that it was God, the God who resurrected his Lord and Savior and "all the brothers with [him]", that transformed him into an apostle (vs. 2).

Paul continues in his greeting with the words, "To the churches in Galatia: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (vss. 2-3). He formally addresses his receptors and then blesses them with grace and peace. These words are the blood of Christ! Grace and peace is what it's all about - nothing more and nothing less! Can you see what Paul is doing here? He's giving them the pure and perfect gospel message. He's reminding them that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give grace and peace!

To help them remember what grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ truly means, Paul states, "who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father" (vs. 4). Jesus gave His life for our sins. He pulled us out of the depths of despair, according to God's will. Yes, it was God's will to send His only Son to this earth to die for our sins in order to bring us out of this evil time and into His presence and eternal time. God's mission is grace and peace! He wants to redeem us through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. God created us to glorify Him and in Christ we can through His blessings of grace and peace. Doesn't hearing about this grace and peace make you want to kneel down and worship in praise to the One who makes you His child? Doesn't this grace and peace make you want to

glorify Him through everything you do?

Paul knew and experienced this grace and peace, he proclaimed "to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (vs. 5). Paul emphasizes 'grace and peace' and 'glory to God forever' not because it sounds good or makes him look good but because he understands and is confident in his Christian position. His faith allows the Holy Spirit to speak through him clearly and correctly! His character allows the Holy Spirit's words to come out forcefully and intensely. The combination of his faith and character produce very strong and powerful meanings in his actions and words. As we are about to experience, His method is hard but his heart is deep with love for God and His children.

After his reverent greeting, Paul gets into the heart of the matter. He doesn't mess around or hide behind niceties. His magnanimous spirit charges head on into the dilemma. He states, "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel" (vs. 6). Paul lets the Galatians know right up front that he is totally shocked at their behavior. He can't believe how fast they have abandoned Christ and moved from His grace to a different grace. Paul's heart is really bursting with the grace of Christ here. He recognizes their sin and adamantly wants them to readjust their sights towards the One who did everything, who gave His life for them. Paul calls them to attention through denunciation. He publicly charges them with wrong doing!

Imagine if you can for a moment - some Christian coming up to you and basically telling you that they're startled at your practices and beliefs. You think that your smart, well-informed and right. You read your Bible, pray, and attend a prestigious church every Sunday. This person not only smashes your pride but informs you that your perception of Christianity is a totally different gospel than the gospel of Christ. How would you feel? Better yet, how would you react?

This different gospel that Paul mentions "is really no gospel at all" (vs. 7). It is distorted, false, and counterfeit representation of grace and peace. The gospel that Paul preached to them was the gospel. "Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ" (vs. 7). It appears that their church leaders strayed from grace and peace by adding their own understanding. In so doing, they not only confused their congregation but twisted, misrepresented and falsified the gospel of Christ. Paul is saying that it is imperative to know Christ and stick to His thinking - not our thinking. Our will and way leads to death; Christ alone leads us to eternal life.

This situation happens when Christians advance their biblical knowledge and let their understanding, their pride, and their self-reliance creep in and take precedence over Christ. The

gospel of Christ is the gospel of grace and peace. He is not just first priority but sole priority. When people fall into this trap, they find themselves standing on the wrong side, looking at the side of grace. To stand in grace and peace requires complete and absolute death to self-will and self-way. It requires complete and absolute faith in Jesus Christ! This true faith places you on the side of grace - it places you in grace. It leads you from death to resurrection!

This is a powerful message that Paul enunciates by stating, "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned" (vs. 8)! Wow! This is really important and extremely powerful information. Paul is telling the Galatians that if he or one of his fellow workers or even an angel from heaven preaches anything other than the authentic and complete gospel message that he already preached to them, they will be in big trouble! Again, this same warning is given in the very next verse, "As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned" (vs. 9).

A double warning should definitely lead us to pay double attention! It should wake-up all the Christians in the world! If any person or being proclaims anything other than the pure gospel of grace and peace, they are cursed with eternal punishment. This message is highly relevant for today's 21st century church leaders and church members. There are far too many church leaders today that have succumbed to their own understanding by ignoring or placing God's grace and peace on the back burners; in place of their own revelation - not Christ's revelation. There are far too many church members who place themselves and their families under false teachings by not knowing and living in grace and peace.

The key understanding here is God's grace and peace! The grace, peace and power of Christ and the Holy Spirit comes from our faith in God's work for us, in us and through us. This essential truth is everything! It's easy to rely on our own experience and knowledge to help solve problems and guide us into the future. This method, this way of thinking is absolutely wrong and will always lead you into more trouble and possibly death. As a Christian, we are servants and children of the Lord. Our job is to proclaim grace and peace through our faith to the world. Everyone has special talents and is called to serve the Lord with them. I am called as a pastor. You may be called as a business man, doctor, store owner, teacher, musician, etc... Whatever our position as Christians, we are all called to live in His grace and peace and to share it with others. How we share the gospel message with others are avenues that only the Holy Spirit can direct us on. Each person and circumstance leads to different methods, the only constant element is

God's grace and peace. His grace and peace are sufficient. His grace and peace are everything!

Sadly, the world today has an abundance of Christians who seek approval from the world and its people. Many church members still rely on earthly traditions and philosophies to direct them. Some of the world's finest seminaries and religious institutions teach our future church leaders and church members to understand that they are human beings that need to understand the world in order to serve God. "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ" (Colossians 2:8). Christians rely on Christ - exclusively!

Paul continues this thought by asking, "Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ" (vs. 10). Christians are servants of God and their goal is to glorify and please Him, not mankind. How often do we lose this perspective? It's so easy to become embarrassed, timid, or worse ashamed of our position in Christ by forgetting His grace and peace. It's only when we live in His grace and peace that we can, like Paul, boldly and courageously proclaim it!

Today's message is a real challenge to myself. Every morning I awake and ask myself, do I have grace and peace in my heart? Every evening I go to bed asking myself, did I explain Jesus Christ's grace and peace to everyone I talked to, instead of my own knowledge? I know that if I don't, I will be cursed and not belong to heaven. My heart seeks the Holy Spirit's guidance and direction in all my thoughts and actions, everyday! My loyalty is to proclaim grace and peace - not through my head knowledge nor by any man or institutional obligation but solely as a new creature with a new gospel called directly by God!

Your body is the temple of the Lord. Inside this holy temple, Christians experience the indwelling of Christ. With Christ inside, grace and peace shines brightly and abounds in love. It is in this grace and peace that we live and witness about. It is this grace and peace that we must treasure and share through the Holy Spirit with the world. It is not something that can be taken to task lightly, halfheartedly or incorrectly. The consequences of such actions is eternal condemnation! Christians need to live, practice, and fervently apply God's blessings of grace and peace everyday, so as not to forget or quickly turn away from His truth.

Paul writes with strong words and in a straight-forward manner. He doesn't leave any room for misunderstanding, his message is simple: Grace and peace come from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever - Amen!

❁ Exploring Sudan, Mission of the Barren Land (1)

Sudan Mission Team

With the heart of Joshua & Caleb

Dae Sun Ha

(Elder, Chairman of Administration Committee)

Even though this trip to Sudan was a long planned mission, our hearts were not bright as the sunny sky of December 22, 1997, the day we left Kimpo airport because our nation is facing a national economical crisis. We became to realize that this trip to Sudan was necessary to fulfill the great commission of Jesus Christ and the core work for our church to accomplish. We went to Sudan in order to observe the present situation of the Sudan mission and to explore the possibility of evangelism. Rev. Paul S. Lee, Elder Kwang Heun No, Elder Choun Kwan Kim, and Elder Dae Sun Ha (Sudan Mission Exploration Team) went through departure procedures with the heart like Joshua and Caleb who went to explore the land of Canaan as we feel

the power of prayer of Choong Hyun.

We could feel the guidance of God even before we left Kimpo airport. We were paged by the interphone as we were waiting for KE951 to Cairo. They



◀ Sudan Mission Team attended service for the completion of "Extended Program in Theological Studies." May God bless them and use them as a mighty instrument of gospel.

changed our economy class seat to business class just because we were a member of Morning Calm. It was a 16 hours flight but we had a pleasant flight on business class. We arrived safely at Cairo on 23rd of December.

We were welcomed by missionary

Joon Kyo Lee who was waiting for us at Cairo International Airport and went to his house. We met lay missionary Joseph Huh (he ministers at Alexandria) and went to visit Paraonic Village with missionary Lee as he told us about the present condition of evangelism around the Alexandria area. We heard that missionary Joseph Huh gave a discipleship training to 20 natives for two months from January 1998.

We were treated very well by missionary Lee's family and they prepared a heartfelt dinner for us. We went to the airport early to do a complicated departing procedure and left Cairo at 01:05 a.m. on 24th of December to our final destination Sudan. After a two hours and forty minutes of flying, we arrived at Cartum airport in Sudan. It took us an hour to finish complicated entering procedure and we finally came out at 04:50 a.m. We were welcomed by missionary

Young Dae Kim.

We went to the motel in Sudan and visited missionary Kim's home for breakfast. We went through for our schedule in Sudan and we decided to visit Ambassador Don Sae Jang at the Korean Embassy according to our

schedule. And then we visited Korean-Sudan Technical Training School and met director Barri as he told us about his ministry at this institution.

Pray for Evangelization in Sudan

1. Churches in Sudan grew up in persecutions. Becoming a Christian in Sudan means to become an anti-Islam. We must pray for the people of Sudan who hesitate to become a Christian because of political and social disadvantages. Pray for the disunity of Christians in Sudan among different people's racial groups so that they can take care one another with the love of Christ.

2. The suffering of the people of the Southern part and moderate Islam is not known to the outside world. The serious violence is taking place in these areas and all foreigners were deported from there. Pray for the leaders of the world so that they can persuade the Sudan government and, in result, the violence can be stopped.

3. Pray for the Christians who take refuge in the forest near the town so that their serious lack of daily commodities and medical goods can be supplied.

❖ A Wonderful Thought of Choong Hyun

Joy of Life

Esther Jihyun Kim

(Daughter of Rev. Sung Kwan Kim)

Life is about growing and learning. My family, friends, experiences, and observations contribute to the molding of my character. Every experience that I have is a part of who I am and what I think. From the day that I won the spelling bee in third grade to the day this last May when I discovered that my parents would be moving to live in Seoul, South Korea, my journey has taught me about what it means to be Esther Kim.

My family is the most important influence of my life because it is my foundation. Since I was a little girl, my father has always been my best friend. He is my favorite playmate, counselor, protector, and most of all, my loving father. I learned from him many life lessons including how to throw, catch, hit a softball, laugh, and enjoy food. He also showed me to have faith and sacrifice for loved ones. He imparted to me the importance of integrity,

determination, and hard work. Most of all, he taught me the value of love. He taught me by example that the love overcomes great obstacles and makes man great. Love is thread that connects and equalizes all human beings. My father is a wise man with quiet inner strength and a rather tough exterior. He hardly ever lectures but instead teaches me how to be the best person I can be through his own daily living.

When I was fourth grade, I was forced to put to use many of the lessons that my father had taught me. Planning for a family move to California, my father studied near Los Angeles for little over a year. During



that time, I lived at home in Chicago with my mother. To lessen my mother's load, I controlled much of the family's general financial situation. I remember planning the groceries, putting the gas in the cars, and calculating the weekly budget. Of course, my mother was really in charge, but my parents gave the responsibility of keeping the finances organized to me, a mere fourth grader. I felt mature, confident, and gratified to know that my parents trusted me enough to concretely help my mother through a difficult time without my father.

A few years later, my family moved from Chicago to Deerfield midway through my last year of junior high school. The move was difficult because I had to leave all of my childhood friends and adjust to a new house, community, school, and people. Although my family had decided against moving to California, my father had moved to Korea to spend most of the year finishing his M. Div. studies in theology. Therefore I was left to struggle without him to guide and comfort me

whenever I needed him. My new environment taught me some valuable lessons. Society can be a cold place when one does not have any prior contacts or reputation. Since I was unhappy socially for a while, I concentrated on my schoolwork. I discovered that my hard work and my ability to compete with the best allowed me to survive because the fruits of my efforts demanded the respect of those around me. Although it was not happy lesson to learn, it was in some ways a truthful one.

What is truly valuable in life? From experiences, peer and family relationships, as well as literature I have learned about love. My studies of ancient philosophers and modern thinkers consistently lead me to the same conclusion. The one thing that truly separates human beings from other creatures is our ability to love which binds us together and transcends all differences. Man is as great as he is today due to not only competition but more importantly, to his all-powerful love for others. Love stands guarding against a harsh path towards a dehumanized future and deteriorating human life.

I thank God that I became to know this truth through such a wonderful family who taught me the value of love and the joy of life.