

GOALS

Godly Worship Service
Raising Workers for the Kingdom
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing the World
Loving Neighbors

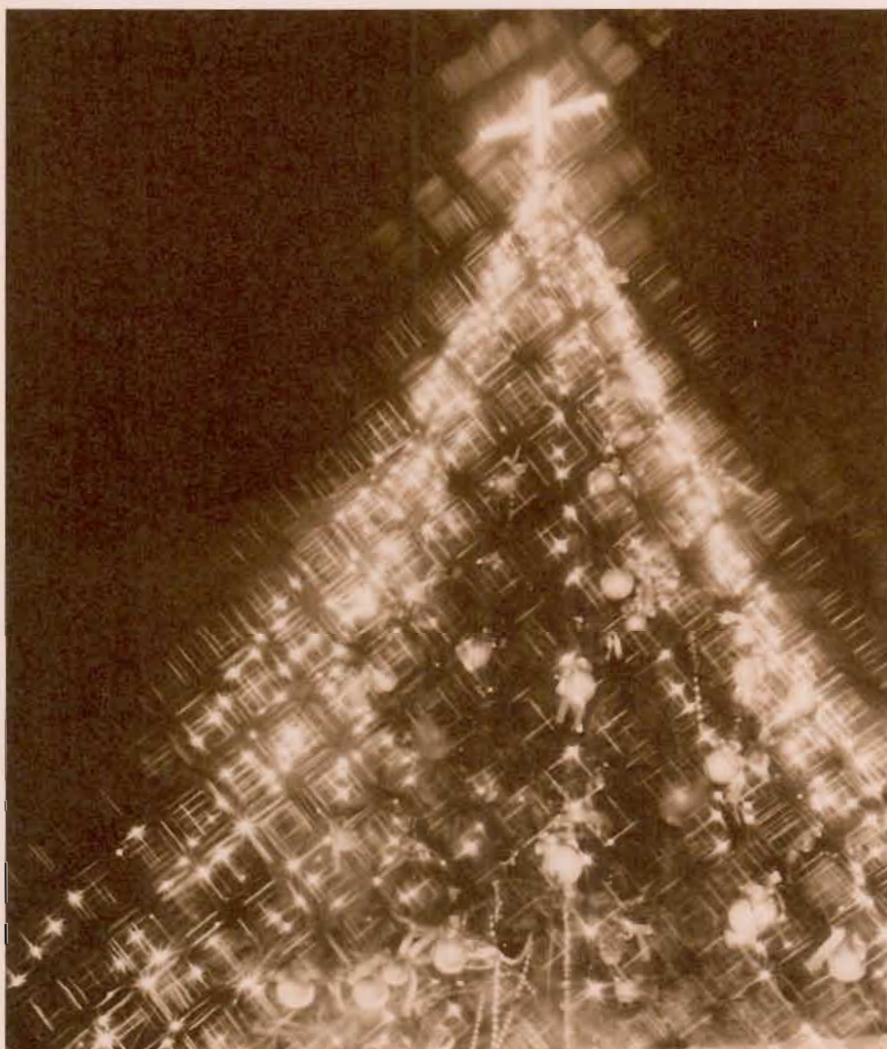
The Biweekly Choong Hyun

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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Dear Jesus,

Hi, it's me, Mee Kyoung, your adorable daughter. It's your birthday in a couple of days, right? Happy birthday to you from my heart. You know me well, don't you? I think you know I am a weak sinner, because you felt everything human when you came to the earth as a human being about 2,000 years ago. Soon, I'm going to middle school. I got much taller, you know. Once I became a junior high school student, I want the height of my faith to grow much taller as well. You can count on me! I promise. I heard that you were a good son to your human parents. I wish to become someone that you will be proud of. I really thank you for staying with me always. And ... this is a secret, you know ... Jesus, I love you! Truly yours,

Mee Kyoung (5th and 6th Graders' Department)

I'm excited just thinking that Christmas is coming soon! Yet, my faith isn't that strong, so my excitement might be not because of your birthday, but simply an unknown expectation about the holiday. By the way, I've got a wish these days. I wish that this Christmas would be a blessing and joy for beggars dependent on begging in subway stations and crippled people relying on volunteer staff. I pray for the homeless people sleeping near Seoul Station, and people staying in old age homes and orphans missing their lost families ... And I pray ... that everyone may know God's love to send us Jesus.

Chun Young Cho (High School Group)

My loving fellow Christians!

Merry Christmas to all of you! I hope your Christmas will be warm and bright, for God is with you. Well, if you are feeling anxious or complaining because you are lonely ... how about a date with God in your hearts, talking about this and that? I believe it will be very special. Anyway, Merry Christmas again!

Sung Jin Park (College Group)

In a few days, the day when Jesus was born is coming. On Christmas Day, I'm gonna come to church ... and praise God ... and have fun with my Mom, Dad and my elder sisters. I hope other people also praise God and be happy on the joyful day when Jesus was born.

Jung Hyun Gye (Love Class, mentally handicapped)

Since Jesus was born, people have begun to be delivered from sin. We were destined to be condemned with pain, sorrow, disease, agony and eternal death in hell. However, Jesus turned our mourning into singing, storms and waves into prayer, and our condemned destination into blessed life in heaven. So, let us all remember why we should praise him in our truth and spirit.

I want to love Jesus with all my might and follow the word of Jesus. My hope is not in secular glory, but in the heavenly kingdom where the Lord's throne is placed. I pray for all Choong Hyun members and families to be filled with faith, hope and love in this season of Christmas.

Kyoung Cho Park (Hope Class)

We're on the Way to the "Rocky River" - Suriname

Three lay missionaries, Kyoung Jin Oh, Soo Kyoung Lee, and Jung Eun Han from the Suriname short-term mission team, left for Suriname on December 22 (Wed.) to help Missionary Ahn. While there, they will assist with church ministry, native evangelism, children's education, and beauty art mission. These three missionaries will bring the 'beautiful gospel' to the prepared people of God in Suriname. Please pray for them according to their prayer requests as follows:

Freedom of religion exists in the country, so it is quite easy to evangelize to Hindus and Muslims. According to

1. Let them depend on only God and give them more faith through an even deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit.
2. Let them be strong in body and soul. Let them meet your prepared souls to receive the gospel.
3. Let there be a lot of supporters praying for truth and sincerity.
4. Let there be cooperation, service, love, humbleness and patience among the people.

some data, there are 140 missionaries working from 21 mission groups. Even though there are many Hindus and Muslims, the opportunity for evangelism is wide open. The history of Suriname's churches is over 250 years, but its influence is very weak. Groups, such as the Mormons, Jehovah's Witness, Seventh Adventist Church and Unification Church are actively expanding their activities in the country.

Street Evangelism in Myongdong and Seoul Station First and Second Young Adult Group Hold Outdoor Missions

On December 23, the First Young Adult Group went to Seoul Station for street evangelism, distributing food and spreading the gospel to the homeless. Also on the same day, the Second Young Adult Group went to Myongdong for street evangelism aimed at passerbys in the area. These evangelical activities served as a remainder that we,

as Christians, must not only celebrate Christmas for ourselves but also to share the joy and good news with our neighbors. We pray that the love and great news Jesus brings may be shared with others not only through these street evangelical activities, but also in our daily lives.

Uganda Short-term Mission Team Returns

The Uganda short-term mission team returned on December 15. Between their departure on December 1 and before their return to Seoul, they participated in a mission training course in a remote region of the country. They examined a mission field and prepared for a future long-term mission plan. Please express your appreciation to members of the short-term mission team. Although they were in the African nation for only two weeks, we hope that their hard work will result in positive, long-term results.

Go! Go! Go! MISSION!

Tae Yang Park, a mission intern pastor, has been serving as a short-term missionary in Sudan using his brief vacations since the summer of 1998. He left for Sudan on December 23. There, deserts are everywhere and you'll only find dirty water springing out of the faucet, at a temperature of 40 degrees Celsius, and a variety of harmful diseases.

Sudan is the place that no one wants to visit or live in. However, Jesus commanded us to serve in missions - even in harmful, dangerous places. That means "go."

In addition, there are seven medical missionaries and three additional lay missionaries heading to Sudan on January 31. Let us all support this mission by praying for their success and safety.



by Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

CELEBRATING THE NEW COVENANT

(Luke 22:19-20)

As we assemble today, the first Sunday of the new year, let's accept Jesus' invitation to eat bread and drink together in remembrance of Him. He asks believers to participate in this holy meal so that they can reflect on the past, present and future significance of God's new covenant which is based on Jesus' death, ascension and return. Remembering the cross, and the impact of His great sacrifice on us now, and the hope we have in His coming again brings glory to the Lord God. Also, celebrating the new covenant through communion draws us closer to Jesus and

remembrance of Me.' And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood'" (vv. 19-20). In so doing, Jesus affirmed that His death was the means by which the new covenant would come about.

It's interesting to note that Matthew's recollection of Jesus' words at His last supper are more objective, "for many", whereas Luke's account is subjective, "for you" (see Mt. 26:28; Lk. 22:19). Luke's writing was intended for Gentiles. His individual emphasis

persevere until the end.

Let's focus a little more on the spiritual side of this celebration. Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh" (Jn. 6:51). This reference to Christ's sacrificial death on the cross helps us to better understand the analogy of Christ's body as bread. The Jews didn't understand this, so Jesus further clarified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves" (Jn. 6:53). Isn't it wonderful that you, today, are able to eat the bread and drink from His cup? Jesus promises us, "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him" (Jn. 6:54-56). Amen!

How is it possible to eat Jesus' body and drink His blood? Through the sacred meal we call communion. How is it possible for Jesus to be your Redeemer? Because He died for your sin. His flesh was torn and His blood was shed for you. Only Jesus could fulfill the price of redemption. Only His pure blood could satisfy the demands of the law and release from its guilt. Christ's substitution of His own sinless life for that of the sinner was true love. His suffering and sacrificing show us His love. At the cross true love met with true sorrow, and the crown of thorns turned into the crown of eternal life. His sorrow, suffering, and death were for your life. He gave his body for you, and He shed his blood for you.

My dear friends, communion service is a very personal experience with the Lord God. Don't let

"And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'

And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood'" (vv. 19-20).

renews our vision. It is a special time in His presence where great sorrow and great joy mingle within our hearts to purify and sanctify us.

Let's overview some of today's biblical text to enhance our perspective of communion. A cynical situation greets us at the beginning of Luke 22. As the Passover day approached, and God's people were gathering to celebrate their independence from slavery, the chief priests and scribes were plotting to kill Jesus (v. 2). Passover was like the greatest religious holiday for the Israelites. It was the happiest of occasions because it marked their deliverance from the bonds of 430 years of Egyptian oppression. It was a special time for thanksgiving and praise to God for His great mercy and mighty works. We clearly see that the hearts of the religious leaders were darkened; they were obviously not in a festive or worshipful frame of mind. Their thoughts were self-centered and, thus, way off from God's will. Not only that, but an evil and strange thing happened to one of Jesus' twelve disciples, "And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot" (v. 3).

When the time for the Passover meal had finally come, Jesus reclined at the table with His disciples. He had waited for this special time to arrive. He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God" (v. 15&16). This was the Lord's last Passover meal before His death. He "earnestly desired" to share it with His disciples, and tells them, as well as us, that He would not eat of it again until His ultimate return. "And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in

helps us to better appreciate God's grace, Christ's death indeed affects many, but it has more significance when you realize that He died for you. Personalizing the cross deepens your perspective and understanding of Jesus' love.

Jesus entertained His disciples with servant leadership. He was the divine host at His table, not His guest. He gathered the twelve for a solemn evening of true fellowship. In their midst, He took

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He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him" (Jn. 6:54-56).

bread, prayed over it, broke it and gave it to them to eat as He declared that it represented His body. He held up the cup of drink in proclamation of the new covenant in His blood. Today, in His midst, we take the bread and drink in similar fashion. Although Jesus does not eat it with us, His presence among us enables us to fully enjoy and appreciate His sacrificial love. The bread symbolizes His body and the drink symbolizes His blood, which He gave for a blessing for you. The bread gives you strength and the drink brings joy. These blessed elements help us to

Satan trouble your mind or disturb your thoughts. Focus on Jesus in prayer. Let the Holy Spirit convict you. Confess and repent of your sins. Hunger and thirst for the food of righteousness. The greatest affair of history is Jesus' death. Through His sacrifice and offering we have hope, happiness and a future. Let's join in this joyful, holy, and wonderful communion service with Christ. Today, He brings us together in His presence and invites us to be one under His cross. Let His peace, joy and love kindle your heart and burn forever within you.

My Year-End Closing Prayer

Yang Hee Namgung (First Young Adult Group)

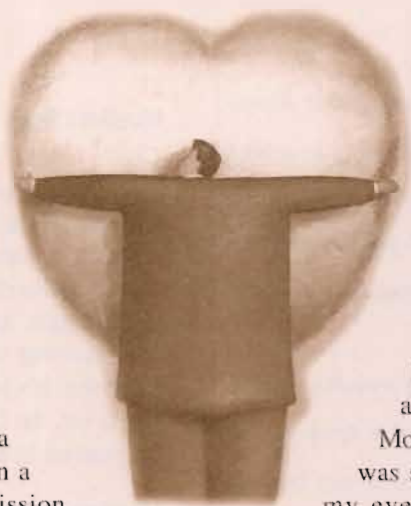
Four years have passed since I graduated from college. I couldn't figure out how time passed so quickly. I was busy catching up with life. After turning one more page of my planner, I realized the year is almost over. The usual feeling about the end of the year is one of regret. However, I give thanks to God for his blessings and love throughout this year. Most of all, I've gotten to know this church and had a chance to grow more in faith.

A few years ago, I happened to find my old prayer requests at the beginning of this year, written down in my diary. I made a resolution to become a more mature Christian in 1999. Looking at the list, I could see that God answered about 80% of my prayer requests. My behavior has significantly changed and so has my sarcastic perspective on other Christians in the church. Still, I have a long way to go. I've tried to see the world and church from God's perspective. As a result, I have experienced a much deeper fellowship and peace with Jesus.

I haven't found my 'match', but I

pray for my future husband's spiritual life, whoever he might be. I know God will provide for me in His time. Between September and November, I had a chance to participate in a LMTC short-term mission training program, and find a new vision in short-term missions. Next February, I will be going to Vietnam as a part of mission training for 10 days.

Everytime I pray, I wonder: Why does God love me like this? All my desires and arrogance have been flattened and God humbled me so that I could only confess that God is my Lord. I'm so grateful for that. Recently, I've begun to have a new expectation. What kind of person would God shape me into? For God has answered all my prayers, from little ones to unthinkable requests. I cannot deny him or his love. Now, I wonder what sort of love confession God would make me to speak about next year.



What Do You Think, God?

Sun Young Yoo (First Young Adult Group)

I don't remember when I first knew about God. Since I was a little girl, I've grown up hearing about God all the time from my Mom and the church. It was so difficult to keep my eyes shut during the prayer. How could I ever love my pastor giving an hour-long sermon? Talking about home service? My friend! It was such a pain.

During the summer vacation of my senior year in college, I met God. Those days weren't easy for me. As I felt myself weakening, I could only remember God. Then, I started to gradually pray, and read the bible that I hardly opened. You know what? I used to lock my room door and sing hymnals for an hour, because I didn't want anybody hearing or noticing my singing. Well, I should say it was all inspired by God. He moved my heart to pray and praise. Since then, God started driving me here and there with no rest. He led me to the place where I could be trained in the word, and

vacation bible workshop and retreat in which I could listen to the word, meet new people and have fellowship in Christ. Nevertheless, I know too little about God, and feel so sorry to him. This summer, I felt so stuck. I was vaguely able to know God's love for me, but couldn't feel it strongly, even though I had the knowledge about it. Then, I had to pray again. "God, do you love me? I know you sent your only son for me. But, I can't just feel it. How can I feel it in the middle of my life?" When the fall came, God began to show his love. Whenever I opened the bible, listened to the sermon and kneeled down to pray, he specifically spoke, "I love you like this." I could feel his love through my loving parents, precious church friends and even a clear blue sky that I gaze up time to time.

Now I don't ask about how he loves me any more. Instead, I ask God to let me know more about his love and to stand on the solid confession of love toward God. I like him so much, and long to see his face. I only desire to become God's lovely and holy bride!

A Pilot 'Experiencing God'

Young Uhn Chun
(Second Young Adult Group)

Flight No. 185, departing from Seoul at 18:20, 11.19.1999, to New York: this is my flight schedule for today. Three hours before departure - I arrive at my office to take some papers for the flight. One hour and 20 minutes before departure - I arrive at the international terminal of Kimpo Airport and move to the gate. One hour and five minutes before departure - the plane is as crowded as an open-air marketplace.

After walking through the crowd, I get to the cockpit and sit down in my seat. Then, I do the most important thing: pray. Can't do it too long or loud. But I do it much longer than my meal prayer. It's for the safety of 380 passengers and 20 flight attendants.

When boarding is complete, the engine is started. Sliding into the runway, I see it's already dark. Receiving the permitting transmission to take off, I raise the engine power.

Takeoff is the most dangerous part of the flight. Until the plane reaches a safe altitude, the cockpit is filled with five minutes of nervousness. Technology has gone far enough to reach the moon and travel throughout space. Yet, there is no such thing as 'a perfect machine'. This simple fact proves that even complicated human beings can't naturally evolve:



there must be
God's
creation. I
praise my
God the
Creator.

Well, takeoff is successful, and houses and streets on the land get smaller and smaller in my sight. Now, I fly over over Kangnung, Kangwon Province and enter the East Sea's sky. The countless lights reflecting from fishing boats on the dark ocean is a beautiful view. Yet, can it be ever compared to shining stars on the dark sky? Glory to God who created the universe! Amen!

Flying over Japan, the body starts vibrating: the plane has returned to the middle of the clouds. I turn on the seatbelt light and order the passengers and attendants to sit down. Using the radar, we look for a way out of these clouds. After receiving an assistant transmission from the Tokyo Control Tower, the plane detours to 20 km right from the center of the clouds. Eventually, things settle down. God doesn't always allow me smooth sailing. Through difficult and turbulent moments, God tests me and makes my faith stronger.

2:15 a.m.: my backup pilot enters. Now, I can feel God's blessings in a much more comfortable seat.

Consoling Hands of an Evangelist

The hospital rooms, where patients stay, are heavily locked. An evangelist unlocks a door and enters to meet a patient. "God loves you. Weakness, sickness and pain, inferiority complex and loneliness: please, put them down before the Lord. He will restore you, for he loves you."

The last room is secured with a much heavier lock than any other door. The evangelist prays for the lock to be opened and the bar to be removed from the door. Finally, it is opened with someone screaming. Inside the dark room, a girl is sitting on the ground. She used to praise the Lord's love in joy, but now is a soul wounded by disappointment and self-doubts. The evangelist approaches to her. "God loves you as you are. Please receive his love. Just come to him as you are." She starts crying.

"Thank you, Lord. Thank you for opening up my closed heart with many wounds and for lighting me in brightness. I cannot breathe for even a second without you. I cannot step forward. Lord, love me more and comfort my wounded heart. I want to have the heart of the Lord and love like him."

As the end of this year comes to a close, I think about the face of the evangelist who handed over the love of the Lord in his consoling hands.

Commissioned Heart

Soek Hyun Lee (Mission Intern Pastor)

Five months have already passed. It was mid-July when I arrived at Kimpo Airport. I was wearing shorts and a shirt back then. Now, I'm shivering in a thick winter coat because of the cold winds blowing around the airport. The last five months were good time to me. I was glad that I could come back to Choong Hyun Church and serve in the Mission for Foreigners in Korea, receiving love and care and benefiting much from it. Those were wonderful moments.

I had an opportunity to reflect upon myself through a MTI training course. There were tough moments during the 10 weeks of training. I used to think that my preparedness and readiness for mission was sufficient. However, the gap between other trainees and me proved one thing: that I've got to prepare a lot more. They were beautiful and passionate and I was greatly challenged by them. "Why would you participate in a mission despite many risks?" For them, it was an easy answer: evangelical missions must be done. Because they remember that many souls died without knowing the gospel, they embrace their duty with hearts of compassion and love.

Evangelical mission must not only be international. Spreading the gospel to unbelievers in Korea is also a broad-based, challenging mission. If anyone of us believes that missions are someone else's responsibility, you must reconsider and look among your surroundings. Mission is everyone's responsibility and must be continued until the Lord comes again. Winter short-term mission has begun. It requires everyone's prayers. Even though you can't participate in a mission, please pray for continued support for those serving in the mission fields.

News from Suriname

Muslims Built Medical Center and Temple in Jungle in Suriname

In 1998, Suriname became the 52nd member of the Islamic Development Bank, and, as a result, they could open medical centers in native Indian and African towns. It was a declaration of their holy war to Islamicize Suriname as the first Islamic country in South Central America. It's been many years since Catholics first settled in the jungle, and, recently, heretic churches such as Bahai and Jehovah's Witness are increasing in number and strength. Now, the Muslims are going after souls in Suriname. It's just unbelievable that the history of Suriname churches are over 250 years; yet, the Christians and its churches are not spiritually alive. Please pray for the workers in Suriname to fight and defeat the forces of Satan.

Mission Field Survey

On November 8, we went beyond Mata and Pikin Salon to extend our mission area. We arrived in Tibitie, 75 km away from Pikin Salon, and Wita Gron, 35 km from Tibitie.

After speaking with a tribal chief, we handed out bibles and promised to come back in the near future to speak more about the gospel. Then, a young man - our interpreter - said, "We are Catholics from the cradle to the coffin." We discussed with him that such thoughts would change once he read the bible for himself. They needed the word of God. When we left the area, we prayed that the door of evangelism may be open for them.

From December 22, three additional lay missionaries started working with us to evangelize the natives in this area. Please pray for us.



Meditation on Faith

Seung Hak Lee (First Young Adult Group Pastor)

I'd like to introduce a passage that I once read, by which I fell into deep meditation and repentance.

In a small town, a severe famine came upon the land with great devastation. All crops went withered and their cattle died. So, the pastor of the town and his congregation decided to pray for one week. Then, they specially prayed with sincerity. A week passed, the prayer relay ended, and the Lord's day came. The congregation got together in the church for the worship. The service started. The pastor stood before the pulpit.

"Fellow Christians! We believed that God would rain today, and so we prayed for the last week. Do you still believe he's going to rain?" "Amen," answered the people. Then, the pastor asked again. "Then, where is your umbrella?"

The life of Christians, in simple word, is based on belief. By believing, we are saved and live. What do we believe, then? We believe in the faithful Lord and his covenant. Faith is like stepping out of the boat to walk on the water when Jesus signals "OK!" Why did Peter fail? He saw the winds blowing. He saw the waves crushing. He moved his eyes from the eternal Lord onto the temporary world: he relied on the world. It's like Lot's wife. "You with little faith! Why did you doubt?"

A new millenium is coming. People are excited as if something big might happen. Yet, there is one thing unchanging forever: the power of faith. "However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:8)." "This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith (1 John 5:4)."

"Do you always feel God's love everyday? Do you give him thanks for his grace?", asked a friend. "Of course!", I answered in a loud, confident voice. "Then, let's give God at least an hour of our week." Uh-oh! I felt a little guilty by his suggestion. I felt like I wasn't even giving an hour to God. His challenge gave me a chance to open the door of practicing God's love. Knowing that God would use me as I am, and giving no excuses such as, "I'm not ready", I participated in a Thursday evangelism outreach near Seoul Station.

As I praised there, the tears of my gratefulness dripped down on my face. He comforted my heart, became my strength and gave me his peace. I stood there to comfort others, but I was the one who experienced God's consolation and grace.

Not only God's direct intervention, but also the weary eyes of the suffering people passing by the station caused me to feel the strong inspiration of God. I saw drunk and lost people without resting places everywhere. Their voices were depressed, but a couple of

them asked me to sing "Siloam" once again, or said "I know 'Amazing Grace'." Lord, please, help them stand up again.

On December 23, we'll visit the station again. With the title of "Seoul Station Mobilization Evangelism," we are going to meet the tired, broken souls. We are planning to distribute food, Christmas cards, socks and clothes. We expect some difficulty in distributing the goods to share, but God already has taken care of everything and we only enjoy his providence now. I would like to invite you to pray for such continued generosity before the end of this winter.

Here I Stand Again in Seoul Station

Min Jung Kim (Second Young Adult Group)

