My Dear American Friends,

One of my smaller children asked me the other day why my hair is so thin and scarce. I could have said many things, but I said, "Because God pats my head so often." I believe that God does. Through so much sickness and trials I face in my life and work, God kept on patting my head and I was able to come through victoriously. Even now I, especially the University, am facing difficulties but I believe that our God will prevail because He loves us so much that He keeps patting our heads.

**NOT A PEACEFUL PICTURE**

Summer is here and our children’s school vacations started. Having 75 children at Home all the time is not a peaceful picture. Someone breaks something all the time. But we planned DVBS, camp and even a trip to the World Oceanic Exposition being held at southern city of Korea.

Thousands of children are there (they are talking about 10,000 people every day!) We are training our children to hold tightly to each other. The trouble is, sometimes the hands they hold turn out to be total strangers.

I remember last words of a Korean minister whose funeral I conducted last year. He told his wife to hold onto his hand as tightly as she could. She did, and then he said, "Hold onto the hand of Jesus as tightly as you are doing, and you will be alright." I happened to be the President of the Senior (I mean 'old senior') Preachers’ Fellowship and these days, one of physical exercises we do when we get together is to hold onto the neighbor’s hands tightly.

**FUND TO BUY THE PARKING AREA**

One of the things which we tried to hold onto for many years, we may have to let go. On the vacant land beside our Children’s Home, the Catholic Church is building a welfare building. We used a part of it for our parking area and they have said we have to vacate it soon. Actually, we thought it was our land. When we do, we may have to use our children’s basketball court for parking and we hate to do that. So, we are praying to be able to buy a part of the vacant land and it’s too big money for us. When you pray for us, will you pray also for the FUND TO BUY THE PARKING AREA, to save our children’s basketball court!

**DEMOCRACY IS SO NOISY AND CONFUSING**

We are having a big election in South Korea. We are voting for the new President and there are all kinds of debates, accusations and demos in the streets. Someone said that Democracy is so noisy and confusing. Still, it’s better than not having them at all. There is a story about a voter at a North Korean voting booth. The voter was given an already stamped and sealed vote, and told to put it into a voting box like they had been doing for years. He complained, “as a voter, I want to see who I am voting for,” and was told, by an attendant, a police, “That’s why it’s a secret election.”

**HOW CAN WE NOT FEEL THEIR PAIN!**

These days, I am attending and speaking in many meetings which are trying to help the North Korean defectors. Twice last month, we held large prayer meetings for the release of many Korean preachers being captured and held by the North Korean and Chinese police on account of their mission activities. We know that there are many missionaries being held in prison even right now, and we prayed and cried all night for their release. The Church is Christ’s body and they are a part of our body. It’s like a part of our limbs being torn off. HOW CAN WE NOT FEEL THEIR PAIN!
**STANDING ON THE WORD OF GOD!**

For smaller preachers like me, most pulpits are too high, not to speak of the tall foreign pulpits. In Korea, there are not a few smaller preachers and we need some sort of stands, such as boxes, rocks or thick books. One of those small preachers applied for a pastor ship of a country church. Not being able to find a proper stand, he used a thick Bible on the platform. Not many people expected him to be accepted, but a couple of elders strongly insisted that “He was standing on the Word of God!” And now, everybody is happy.

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**THE BLOOD AND SWEAT PREACHERS**

Just like the rest of the world, Korean Churches are also slowly changing...from the Bible based, Bible centered, old time preaching to social, liberal, psychological preaching. I am afraid that Korean Churches are not growing as fast as they used to. The blood is not there any more. The sweat is not there any more. So, some of our preachers, (actually my former “homiletic students”) got together and organized “The Blood and Sweat Preachers” and they have been preaching everywhere. Most of them have their own churches and a couple do not, but they are still preaching on the street corners and subways, etc. Actually, subway is the best place to preach, as you have captive crowds, but your voice needs to be flexible.

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**THE REAL CHURCHES ARE THE NON-LICENSED CHURCHES**

Talking about flexibility, worship services in China really need to be flexible. There are two kinds of churches; one is licensed churches usually called “three-self church.” But the preachers of the licensed church needs to be a communist and even preaching needs to be adjusted by the party policy. The real churches are non-licensed churches, but the way you call (address) preachers needs to be flexible, from ‘teacher’ to ‘baker’ or ‘librarian.’

We are supporting missionaries who bake bread with evangelistic messages on the bread cover and also a preacher who keeps a library. Also, worship services need to be flexible and sometimes, when warned by the guards, need to become, in a couple of seconds, just a “reading class” or “singing class” or even a “bread-eating party.” Still, if they are caught and found by the police, having a church service without permit, they will be imprisoned and fined severely.

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**BEFORE THEIR EXECUTIONS**

In any case, I must say that our Bible Correspondence lessons are getting rather popular in China. They were popular in Korea in the 1970’s and 80’s. We had more than a thousand students, and then it dropped to tens and twenties. And now, it’s getting popular again in China. In Korea, presently, our correspondence students include soldiers and prisoners. A couple of our students were inmates who were sentenced to death and they are gone now, but I had the privilege of baptizing them before their executions. The military bath-tub which we used as the baptism, was ice-cold, but I felt their faith burning in their hearts.

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**THE WEATHER OVER HERE** (in July) **WAS VERY DRY.** We hadn’t had a drop of rain for many months. The ground was cracking up. But our children looked forward to summer vacation and camps. We took them to the mountain this time for our children to enjoy the cool creation of God. Besides, it’s too difficult to keep them together in the sea. Keeping them together at the World’s Oceanic Exposition may be even more difficult.

I was informed the other day by the radio station that I am the oldest radio preacher they have and they asked me not to age any more. I told them that I will try.

Actually, Korean expression, when asking a person’s age, is to say “How many ages have you eaten?” I told them that I have been eating my ages and I don’t get older any more.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Unlicensed churches in China that they will stand on the Word of God always.

Our Bible Correspondence students that their zeal will never be discouraged.

Korean street preachers.
THERE IS A CROSS IN EVERY SERMON

I confess that every time I prepare my sermon, I suffer by the seriousness of the pain of this world and my own weakness. I hope that God (and you) will forgive me if I dare to call it 'small Gethsemane pain' when Jesus prayed “take this cup from me.”

Yes, there is a cross in every sermon and there is a resurrection in every sermon. And that's why preaching can change the world! I believe! In our Home, seven boys out of ten used to dream to become soccer players. Last year, I preached missionary sermons every Wednesday, and eight boys out of ten want to be missionaries. Last Children's Day, a dance team of a Christian College came to entertain our children and I lost a few missionary candidates to Christian dancers, but I keep on preaching missionary sermons, and I believe, some day, these children will change the world!

BAPTISMAL BACK-ACHE

June, I call it, was baptismal month. The weather is just right to baptize people in the river. In fact, Korean churches planned to baptize about 2,000 soldiers at Boot Camp. We believe that good soldiers are young men with healthy body and soul. So, we planned and worked on this project for months. But, really, weather isn’t any problem, as long as there is a soul to baptize. I baptized people in a frozen river breaking the ice with hammers and I baptized in almost boiling water in a hot-tub. When I was younger, I baptized 12 people in a swiftly flowing river and almost lost one, but he is now a very active elder in our church. One time, I baptized 125 young strong men in a prison and I had baptismal backache for a few days. I don't know where they are now, but I know that they are somewhere baptizing some other souls to Christ.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO THIS SIN-SICK WORLD

Preaching has never been easy for me. There is just too much pain in this world and I am too weak to help them. Every year, our Christian University sends out hundreds of preachers to the world, and yet, sometimes I feel sorry for them. The other day I met a lady with beautiful hair. Everybody complimented her hair, and she didn’t know whether she should thank or cry because it was a wig. Under the wig, she had no hair because she had cancer. On Parents’ Day our children thanked my wife and me for taking care of them and I know that some of them were crying inside asking, “Where is my real father and mother?” I just hope that my Gospel message was able to touch some of their deeply hidden pain.

THEY ARE CHANGING KOREA RIGHT NOW

Never underestimate the power of the preaching. Some people think and say that the age of preaching has passed. And that it cannot change the world in the age of computers any more. But I cannot agree with them. The Word of God is just as powerful as it was two thousand years ago, and His Love is as real today as it was 20 decades ago. Do you remember the preaching of Martin Luther King? Didn’t his preaching change the USA? There was a preacher called Choonsun Choi in Korea. Two things were peculiar about him. First, he never wore shoes, even on the coldest days. Second, he never missed a day preaching in the streets. A few times I saw him shouting to the passing cars and to the trees on the streets, and I stopped and listened, to attract other listeners. He passed away preaching on the coldest day a few years ago. A few weeks later I saw a new preacher on that corner and now there are hundreds of street preachers in Korea! And I believe they are changing Korea right now.

THERE IS A CROSS IN EVERY SERMON

I confess that every time I prepare my sermon, I suffer by the seriousness of the pain of this world and my own weakness. I hope that God (and you) will forgive me if I dare to call it 'small Gethsemane pain' when Jesus prayed “take this cup from me.” Yes, there is a cross in every sermon and there is a resurrection in every sermon. And that's why preaching can change the world! I believe! In our Home, seven boys out of ten used to dream to become soccer players. Last year, I preached missionary sermons every Wednesday, and eight boys out of ten want to be missionaries. Last Children’s Day, a dance team of a Christian College came to entertain our children and I lost a few missionary candidates to Christian dancers, but I keep on preaching missionary sermons, and I believe, some day, these children will change the world!
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