KOREA CHRISTIAN GOSPEL MISSION

In the weddings which I preside, I usually hold communion services. I feel that the best pledge of new couples are the pledges made by the blood of Jesus. So, I hold communion services. And of course, I serve communion to Christians who are about to die. Some do not like it, as some may not be ready, but it is not dying ceremony at all. It is ‘LIVING CEREMONY’ knowing that our souls will not be there anymore... our souls will be flying toward God, our Father! So, like a poet said, “Don’t cry in my tomb! I am not there!” In fact, that was my sermon title for Easter morning.

Some Churches share boiled eggs on Easter morning, some Korean Churches serve rice cakes, some Churches even share sushi. I lived in the generation when our Church members brought bags of barley (as it is about barley harvest season) or even a live chicken tied to the barley bags. During the services, the chickens often preached their own sermons. I imagine their sermons were as effective as the rooster’s sermon toward Peter when Jesus was arrested.

You may have some family-oriented holidays in the month of May. We in Korea have more. For instance, the first Sunday is ‘Children’s Day,’ the second Sunday is ‘Parents Day,’ the third Sunday is ‘Teacher’s Day,’ and the last Sunday, we are trying to make ‘Grandparents day,’ so that every Sunday of May is a holiday to celebrate. In the US, the big holiday is Mother’s Day.

KOREAN SUMMER

Korean summer heat is burying Korea presently. It seems that this earth is getting warmer and warmer every year and keeping 70 children cooler in this weather is a battle every day. Actually, supplying enough drinking water for 70 children in this weather is battle for survival...especially in this season when viruses are active.

I often try to take our children for walks through woods and also for walks through the Words of God, for Jesus said, “in them, a spring of water welling up.” I preach every day, either to Churches, students, to our children or through radio! And I need that ‘SPRING OF WATER’ more than anybody else! Please pray for me.

For my mother’s day sermon, I preached on the following qualities of love: Wide Love, Easy Love, Long Love, and Deep Love. The first letters of each of those words spell out “WELD” as in “WELD THE FAMILY.” For my children’s day sermon for our children, I often preach from Joel 2:5, which says, “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten.” Our children have had many “LOCUST EATEN YEARS” in their lives, and God says, “I will repay you.” Sometimes, I see tears in our children’s eyes when I read to them this Scripture.
MEDAL OF HONOR

Let me introduce some of our children's writings, on Mothers' day, concerning their mothers who passed away.

"I shall never forget the love of my mother, who slept outside of the mosquito net, while I slept inside, because the net was too small...I shall never forget the love of my mother, who kept saying "I am not hungry"; while we were eating, because there were not enough food...I shall never forget the love of my mother, who kept saying "I am not cold", while we slept under the blanket, because the blanket was not big enough...

One hymn that we usually sing in Korean on Mother's day (I do not know if you have it) is “My mother's Bible” or “There's a dear and precious Book.” I often see tears in our children's eyes when we sing this hymn. For Christians, Prayer and Hymn are TWO IMPORTANT PILLARS. These 2 are the spiritual breath. Prayers may be inhaling breath and hymn singing is exhaling breath.

On Father's day, some of our children gave me their handmade paper MEDAL OF HONOR. I am enclosing a picture of mine with that big paper medal beside a small medal which our President gave me. Some of my former students bought me, on Teachers' day, a new Bible and I appreciated that. My old Bible may have been looked too old to them. Actually, I have many Bibles and they are torn Bibles. They are so old and torn; besides, I have written all kinds of things in my Bibles... not only sermon outlines, but also some proverbs and illustrations, even a part of comic strips like ol' Charlie Brown.

In fact, I never had brand new Bibles (and dictionaries)... the moment I buy them, I start to bend them to make easier to read, write things on them and so on... BIBLES ARE TO BE READ and used and I shall be ashamed to carry them brand-new always.

MORE BABIES COME TO GEON!

Believe it or not, we now have 13 babies... all from Churches' baby-boxes. Several Churches decided to set up boxes for those babies whom the mothers, many teenagers, who absolutely had to give up mothering. The boxes have light, warm blankets and the system to let the pastor know immediately. And many of those babies eventually come to us. They are beautiful babies, but usually sick and hungry for love. We give them names, a home and lots of love! I told our workers the other day that they are servants of God, actually 'SAVING LIVES', because these babies may have died if we didn't care.

Actually, we have raised thousands of homeless children, last fifty years, many of whom are the children of the defectors from North Korea. Many of their parents died or lost and seperated during the daring courses of escaping from North Korea...not only dangerous escape from North Korea, but also during the long and starving journey through the hostile continent of China. If God had not protect them, they would not be alive today. That's why we feel that these children are like PEARLS BORN THROUGH THE PAIN...the pain of God in these cases. And we thank God for making us life-savers. It may not be 'evangelism' exactly, but we are 'saving lives.' thank God!
CHINA AND NORTH KOREA

In addition to the Children's Home, Christian University and Broadcasting work, we are supporting Korean missionaries all over the world. However, our emphasis is toward the EVANGELIZATION OF CHINA AND NORTH KOREA. Our final goal is to reach 25 million people of North Korea with Gospel by radio and Gospel balloons and missionaries, we feel that we can also change China. Prophet Zechariah says, “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit.” World can be saved, not by military might, nor by political power, but by the Spirit of the Power of our God. So we are doing all we can. Korea sent out, a Newspaper reports, almost 20,000 missionaries around the world, and our Mission is supporting 12 of them.

We are supporting 4 missionaries near the border of North Korea and one of them is one of our children who grew up in our Children's Home. He always wanted to be a missionary from when he was a little child. I often found him gazing at the map of South Korea, China and North Korea. He told me that the map of China looks like a rooster and reminds him of the rooster's crow which made Peter to break down and weep. He came Home, our Children's Home, from the field last winter and his two children were shivering by cold. I gave them some coats which some American friends sent to me. They said, they need Bibles more than coats and they are still WORKING AND SHIVERING.

I broadcast my radio messages to North Korea 5:10 AM. You might think ‘who would listen to radio at 5:10 in the morning?” But I found out that lots of people do...especially in North Korea. All North Korean people have to go to work, ‘forced labor,’ for the Communistic government 6 in the morning and they do not come back until about 10PM, labor and indoctrination. So they say that 5:10 is the best time to listen to us. Of course, they have to risk their lives in order to listen to us, because if they are caught listening to us, they will be arrested and sent to the world's worst concentration camp. But they are still LISTENING AND RISKING and risking their lives!

So, we are doing all we can, to reach China and North Korea, with the Gospel. And we know that we are not alone.... and our methods may not be the best, but we are doing all we can, in the way that we think it's the best.

DOWNNEY MISSION TEAM

From July 26 to August 6, a short-term mission team composed of ten members of Downey First Christian Church came to Korea to conduct a weeklong vacation bible school program for our orphanage children and learn more about our country. It turned out to be a blessed time as God was glorified through their work, the children had a blast, and everyone involved was edified and encouraged.

So, a special thank you goes out to Stephen, Marissa, Heidi, Maria, Julie, Stephanie, Vince, Brenden, Katie, Josh, and all the members of Downey First Christian for your support, your prayers, and partnership in the work of the Gospel in Korea!

MERS VIRUS

We are finally winning the MERS virus. The number of the patients are decreasing and so are the dead. Not a few of them (33) had to die alone in the quarantined hospital beds and had to dictate their Wills to the nurses, but they and the nurses fought good fights for the rest of the world! Our children have been washing their hands thoroughly, which was not easy, and they are saved! We realized once again how weak we human beings are in this world! And how true is God's Words! The End of the world is not far and how prepared are we?

Recently, I presided a funeral of my former student who served as a missionary to Russia for 20 years. Actually, for last two years, he was sick of cancer and died in a hospital. But as far as I know, he was not dying. He was calling someone from his hospital bed and was talking about the Love of Jesus Christ. He was not dying. He was LIVING THE DEATH. And I prayed that I would die like him...living my death, because there is no end in a Christian's life!

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