MY DEAR AMERICAN FRIENDS,

PREPARING FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!

I AM ALIVE and working hard in Korea as usual. As the year is coming to an end, I have to think about what to buy and what we can afford to buy as Christmas gifts for 70 children and 25 workers of Geon Christian Children’s Home. And our students of the Christian University are planning where to go to serve during one month of the winter vacation. Many of them are planning to go to China, near to the North Korean border and evangelize the defectors of North Korea. (Actually, they want to go to North Korea, but only few will be permitted. In fact, China is a communistic country also, and if they preach there without permits, they will be imprisoned, but they still hope and plan to go to the cold, frozen countries.)

And through the radio, I have to figure out how to convey this message of hope to the hopeless 25 million people of North Korea...

As a minister of the Gospel, I meet many people, especially dying people. I found that are two kinds of dying people. One kind is the people who are afraid of the death. Another kind is the people who are not. (I have just lost a sister recently and she went to meet the Lord like a sleeping beauty.) And the difference between the two kinds of dying people is WHETHER THEY HAVE A HOUSE IN HEAVEN OR NOT.

The best thing that can ever happen in our lives is to meet the Lord. And as the thanksgiving season is here, one thing that we are thankful the most was to meet the Lord...and as the Advent is approaching, the best Christmas gift that we ever received was the Coming of the Savior. Many people are interested in material gifts, but they should not forget the best gift they already received.

I found out the other day that Anna, the prophetess in Luke 2, met Jesus and rejoiced at the age of eighty-four (Luke 2:36-38), which is my Korean age in the new year. What a wonderful gift to receive at eighty-four!

GOD TAKES CARE OF TOMORROW

Our God always takes care of “tomorrow.” This time last year, we had no idea where and how we are going to feed, clothe, and educate 70 children for a year! We had no idea how we are going to build a building which our government has been requesting for years.

But now, our 70 children are healthier and happier than ever and studying hard...even our two sets of twins who started school this year! When they first came to our home, they were completely emotionless, and now they go to school smiling every day! And our new building is almost completed (although we are still trying to raise one tenth of the construction fund). It still has nothing inside...We have to fill it up with beds, desks, ping pong tables and what not, but we believe that OUR GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF TOMORROW. HE WILL FILL THEM UP.
FAMINE OF LOVE

I probably mentioned about “the famine of batteries” (to listen to our radio messages) in North Korea. I may also say that they have “famine of love”...even family love. In a country like North Korea, family system is not important. They teach children that their dictator is their father and they have to hang pictures of their dictators (instead of their family pictures) in every home and office. And besides, they plant government spies in every family...that is, someone of every family is a secret government spy. And the spies report every movement of the families to the government. (You may not believe me, but this is true. Every defector from North Korea will corroborate.) So there is also FAMINE OF THE FAMILY LOVE!

But CAN YOU REALLY DESTROY THE FAMILY LOVE? Can you really destroy love period? NO! “Love never fails,” the Bible says. “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things,” 1 Cor. 13:7 says. No one can destroy real love and family love is usually real love. And our children of the North Korean defectors are the witnesses of that real family love. Their parents (in many cases, one parent) escaped from North Korea for the future of these children and by traveling through many dangers in China, Vietnam, Laos, and what not, risking their lives and protecting these children with their lives, eventually reached South Korea. Many died or were captured while traveling, and even those who finally reached South Korea, they were so exhausted that many of them ended up in the mental hospitals. That’s why these children are living with us! Truly they are the fruits of the family love.

And now, they learned of God’s love...God’s eternal love, depthless love...LOVE WILL NEVER FAIL...Gospel Love will win eventually...

RICE LINE IS LIFELINE IN NORTH KOREA

Real hunger is in the hearts of men and women no matter where they may be...especially in the heart of the oppressed North Korean people...hunger for peace, hunger for freedom, hunger for love, and many many more. They are crying inside “FREEDOM OR DEATH!” And sooner or later, their cry will blast out. I already see the signs here and there...

So far, North Korean dictators have been able to keep the people under control by weapons such as RATIONING. They ration everything from radios to rice. And I am afraid that rice-line is life-line in North Korea. That is, North Korean people are enduring under the brutal rule, because they have to eat to survive. I wish I could help them more...I dream of them every night. And I cry and pray for them with the children of Geon Home all the time.

Someone said Christianity is “L” RELIGION. That is, “Jesus came to save the Least, the Lost, and the Last. Also, Jesus came as the Light, the Love, and the Life. That’s the Gospel. North Korea may control their people with rationing. North Korea may have nuclear weapons, but we have this Gospel. And Gospel can blast all weapons on Earth!
HAPPY CHOOSUK!

We celebrate the autumn harvest thanksgiving a little earlier than you do. It’s called CHOOSUK. Everyone who can go to visit their parents and relatives have a feast together with their families all day. Many of our grown up children come to see us (as they have no other parents to visit) and our Home is full of them, their children, and even some grandchildren, and of course, all our present children. We eat fresh crops, fruits and nuts (and they go nuts), and sing all day and night, under the full moon.

Most of the Korean people thank parents and ancestors, but we thank God for His Salvation and the Blessings of the year. I had the privilege of baptizing thousands of people in my life, but one baptism I shall never forget is the baptism of an aged dying school teacher many years ago. His two daughters came to Church, but he never came. He became sick of cancer and was suffering in a hospital. So I went to see him. He could not even speak and I spoke loudly to his ears, “Jesus died on the Cross for your sin. If you believe in Him, you will be saved. If you believe, repent, confess and want to be baptized, press my hand.” I felt him press my hands as tears were dribbling down his cheeks. We filled a bathtub and baptized him. He died in peace one week later, and we are thankful he met the Lord. In this thanksgiving season, we are thankful for God’s love!

Our children helping harvest the rice crops!

UNEXPECTED INJURY DURING NWSOM 2014

Throughout the months of September and October, I planned to participate in the Northwest School of Mission 2014 with my wife and son. Unfortunately, I was sick for about 2 weeks when I fell and rolled down to the ground floor during NWSOM. The CT scan showed some brain hemorrhage, so I had to stop the speaking tour and my son John took over for two weeks (and they said that he did a better job without me) Actually, the sickness is a good thing because: 1. It makes you pray more. 2. It makes you think more seriously about “life and death.” Actually, it makes you work harder for the Lord, as it makes you think “This day may be my last day on earth...and I better work harder.”

Missionaries of Northwest School of Mission 2014!

STILL DREAMING....

August 10, 1957 was the day I landed at San Francisco with $7 in my pocket. I knelt at pier 5 and prayed that God will help me to finish my study in five years. August 23, 1962 was the day that I landed back at Incheon port, Korea, pier 3 with $35. I knelt and prayed that God will help me start a Bible College, Publishing House, Radio work, and if possible, an orphanage. It was a big dream for a small preacher with small money. But God has been so good to let me achieve those dreams. I am still small (maybe smaller), but I am still dreaming...

I dream that our grown up children of Geon Home will be successful Christian leaders. I dream that our North Korean listeners of our radio messages will follow Christ! But I also dream of the day when I die and “rest from my labor (Rev. 14:13).” Until then, whoever and wherever, all will love Jesus and His Church, that’s my only wish...

Yours because of Calvary,
Yoon Kwon Chae
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