**Jaeeun Cho’s LT You Will Be a Blessing**

**Genesis 12: 1-2, “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”**

 **• God called a would-be single lady to be a blessing*.***

 **I was born as the eldest daughter in a family of two sons and four daughters on December 6, 1948. In my second year of high school, I had my first seizure while studying at the library. In my first year of college, God led me to Bible study at UBF. Just prior to my junior year, God completely healed my seizures. I was so happy to meet the God who heard the earnest prayers of my mother and me. However, this happiness was temporary. My father’s business had not been going well, and later, he suddenly died from a cerebral hemorrhage. I decided to drop out of college to earn money in order to support my younger siblings. But to my surprise, after hearing about my situation, the professors at my college decided to grant me a scholarship. I was so moved by God’s love that I voluntarily got up at 6:30 am and held early morning Daily Bread meetings with the students at the dormitory. This lasted for 2 years. Sometimes as many as ten students gathered together. On hearing this, Dr. Samuel Lee visited to encourage us.**

 **While I was working at an adoption agency, God established my family with S. David Cho based on Genesis 12:2, “You will be a blessing.” Actually I had no desire at all to get married because I only wanted to pour the love which I had received from my father onto my siblings. I would have remained an unmarried woman forever without the prayers and support of Dr. Lee, Mother Barry and M. Maria Ahn. After marriage, I listened to Dr. Samuel Lee’s Sunday message every week. I felt filled with joy and through the work of the Holy Spirit I was changed into a new creation. In 1977 Dr. Lee and his family left for the U.S. as missionaries, leaving us with one word, “Have faith in God!”**

 **In 1978, Dr. Lee returned to Korea from the U.S. to share his world mission report. He delivered a message based on Hebrews 11:24-25, “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.” Dr. Lee emphasized that when Moses refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, he chose to suffer and even perish and we also should serve God even if we perish. Inspired by this message, I made a firm decision to even perish by sacrificing my own financial security as well as supporting education for my children. At that time, Korean students were demonstrating against the military government. I was heartbroken when I saw bleeding students dragged away by the police. I made a firm decision to help save them with the word of truth.**

 **• Pioneering the medical, dental and nursing colleges ( Yongon campus)**

 **In 1984, God led me to pioneer the SNU medical, dental and nursing colleges at the Yongon campus.**

**M. Joanne Kim (now in Chicago), an SNU nursing college graduate, brought three nurses – Sarah Yoon, Gwang-ok Lee and Joy Kim (now in Indianapolis). Soon these three sisters married Moses Yoon, Isaiah Lee and David Kim. Then four families came together to serve this college ministry. It was very difficult even to see students on campus because many of them were busy in the lecture halls, laboratories or the library. To have Bible study, I had to wait for meal times or until 10 p.m. when the library closed. After struggling with some stubborn students, I often returned home at midnight or 1 o’clock in the morning. We had group Bible studies on Saturday and daily bread meetings on weekdays at lunchtime. I prayed earnestly that God would raise 12 Bible teachers in each college. God accepted my prayer and within three years, God raised 2 shepherds from the medical school and 5 shepherds from the dental college. Especially God used Missionaries David and Joy Kim as kernels of wheat to pioneer the dental college. Joy Kim was known as “Jesus *ajumma*” at the time. (Do you know what Jesus ajumma means? According to dictionary, it means she was so passionate, aggressive and determined to push strongly for the sake of the gospel. M. Joy Kim, do you agree with this?)**

 **However, it was not easy to raise disciples at the Yongon campus because the medical students had strong stubborn ideas. Dr. John Jun suggested it was better to help such students before they go to the medical, dental schools, and gave us direction to pioneer the pre-medical and pre-dental colleges located at the Kwanak campus. So, from 1987, we started to visit the Kwanak campus which was located an hour and a half away. We obtained a students’ activity room, called the “circle room” on campus. Every morning at 10 a.m., four shepherdesses including me gathered to share daily bread and pray together. After fishing and teaching students, the four of us took a taxi home at 11 p.m. That year in 1988, we unexpectedly saw 3 freshman students grow spiritually. The next year, three new students also began to grow.**

**(3) Pioneering Kwanak-3**

 **Around this time in 1989, God sent many one to one Bible students who were not only from the medical school, but also from various other departments. Every Sunday morning, I went to the Kwanak dormitory to bring students to the Jongro worship service. Then, I served them with lunch and washed the dishes; afterwards, I was completely exhausted. However, when I saw that students were listening to the word of God joyfully, I felt a refreshing joy wash away all the tiredness in my body. Since we had over 60 Sunday worship service attendees, in 1993, we rented a center near the SNU campus, and was called Kwanak chapter 3. All the families moved from Jongro to the Kwanak campus.**

 **However, in 1994, my husband suddenly passed away after suffering from cancer for 6 months. I was so shocked. Dr. Samuel Lee sent me a letter congratulating my husband’s homecoming in God’s heavenly kingdom. At first, it was difficult for me to accept this congratulatory letter because I wanted to live together with my husband on this earth forever. However, Dr. Lee’s letter made me realize that I should consider my husband’s departure to heaven as glorious. I decided to live as a citizen of God’s kingdom, holding on to Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount as practical guidelines. Yet, practically, I faced a serious financial problem, which seemed to be impossible to cross like a river. I didn’t know how to feed and educate four children: one preparing for college, one who had entered a college, one in high school and one still in elementary school. I had already sold my house and got a smaller rent house in order to serve and feed the students. However, I heard the Holy Spirit speak very clearly in a warm and calm voice, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”(John 14:1) From that time on, I began to trust in God and depend on his promises even in the midst of anxieties. I also learned to enjoy deep peace, entrusting all my anxieties to God.**

 **From 1998, Dr. John Jun came to Kwanak to deliver Sunday messages and serve the lay shepherds. They then became united as a strong vessel of the Holy Spirit. Shepherds Joshua Kim and Mark Yoon became staff shepherds. In 2000, through the dedication of all the coworkers, Kwanak 3 constructed a new center which is the present center. After moving into the new center, the SNU graduates began to establish house churches with faith to anyone and at anytime for the glory of God. In addition, many missionaries were sent out.**

 **Around this time, my first daughter, who was sent to Chicago UBF as a missionary suddenly left UBF and nobody knew where she went. I was so shocked that I had diarrhea all night, gripped with anxiety. At the time, Dr. Samuel Lee called me sincerely apologizing that he did not take care of her well, and he advised me to overcome myself by devoting myself to God and working twice as hard. She was at the prime age of marriage, so my great fear was that something terrible would happen to her. However, I decided to hold onto John 14:1 and trust in God and work twice as hard. Eight months later, I was relieved after hearing from my daughter that she was doing well. During this time, God blessed me to raise up many house churches. Through this event, I also encouraged the leaders who were going through personal difficulties to persevere by trusting God and working twice as hard.**

 **Meanwhile, Kwanak-3 faced difficulties in raising disciples among students. Nonetheless, all the shepherds continued to fish students and challenged one to one Bible study. Especially the full-time shepherdesses continued to go out fishing. The lay shepherdesses visited the dormitory in the evening for fishing, entrusting their children to babysitters. Most of the 30 house churches tithed twenty percent and fed students at their homes every Sunday evening. In 2005, Dr. John Jun was appointed as the UBF General Director and went to the Chicago headquarters. M. Moses Yoon, who just returned from the U.K., succeeded him and became the** director **of Jongro and Kwanak-3 ministries. Under his faithful leadership, all the coworkers newly made a vessel of the Holy Spirit.**

 **God revived the student ministry through all the co-workers**, especially **S. Daniel Byeon and M. Esther Park, who returned from the mission field to Kwanak-3. S. Daniel Byeon lost his young son through a car accident. Although he was a theology major, he offered his PhD study to God. He was moved and convicted by the gospel of the cross and decided to plant this faith in students’ hearts. At the summer Bible conference he boldly trained the lay shepherds to share their life testimonies and reveal the grace of God. Among them was S. Daniel’s wife, an SNU medical college professor. She had suffered from depression after an eyelid cosmetic surgery accident and thought about suicide. But through Bible study, she met Jesus and became a professor shepherd. She sincerely shared God’s grace in her life. Many lay shepherds also shared the grace of God who saved them from darkness during colleges. As a result, many students were touched by their honest testimonies, began to open their hearts and also confessed their sins. S. Esther Park has engaged in the united prayer meeting with women team leaders for the last 6 years. She has showed an example for serving 1:1 Bible studies. Once one Bible student went down to his hometown at Jeju Island during vacation. She used the airline mileage that her husband had saved for a family vacation to fly there in order to study the Bible every week. Her husband gladly agreed to this and he began to respect her more. About 40 student leaders are currently growing at Kwanak-3 through the sacrificial dedication of** the Kwanak 3 co-workers.

 **If I had not met Christ, I would have continued to suffer from seizures and lived a sorrowful life as an unmarried woman only caring for my physical siblings. But God saved my life and called me as a blessing to campus intellectuals. I thank God for blessing me to raise Bible teachers and missionaries among those who were suffering under military oppression. I also thank God for blessing me to serve over 12 1:1 Bible studies every week. Looking back on the last 31 years, most of all I thank God for building up the united prayer meeting with several shepherdesses every morning for SNU discipleship and world mission. Through this united prayer, God raised 12 Bible teachers in SNU’s medical school, 12 in the nursing college, and 7 in the dental college. God has increased our number from 3 woman nurses to 125 Sunday service attendees and 38 missionaries. Although I sacrificed supporting education for my children, God blessed me by establishing 3 beautiful house churches among them, and God gave me 7 grandchildren. I thank God for numerous women co-workers in Chicago UBF, including Grace A. Lee, Sunji Jun, Maria Ahn, Sarah Kim, Grace Jeon, Pauline Moon, Rebecca Choi, Joanne Kim, etc, who have prayed for Kwanak pioneering work. When I reflect on all of God’s grace, I can only thank and give glory to him. I pray for sending out 100,000 missionaries by 2041. I also pray that both North and South Korea may be reunified as one nation, that the unified Korea may be used as a priestly nation and that I may continually dedicate myself for this mission.**

 **One word: God has made me a source of blessing.**