

Messages

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Welcoming the New Year!

"Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first." (Revelation 2:4,5a)

We UBF members' love for our Lord Jesus Christ was pure and fervent from 1961 to 1999. Among brothers and sisters' love also was pure and sincere. They loved each other dearly. During this period, we have constantly pioneered many new chapters and countries. However, there some people who left our ministry because of different direction in 2000. In order to keep the absoluteness of the gospel and pure faith, we gave our heart, mind and strength to our 1:1 ministry and discipleship ministry. As a result, the absoluteness of the gospel and pure faith was restored, but we confess that we have lost our first love toward Jesus and among ourselves. It is time for us restore our first love and love one another purely and sincerely so that we may establish the community of Jesus' disciples again (Jn 13:34). In the time of the end of the age, the love of most will grow cold (Matt 24:12), but we must establish the community in the love of Jesus and draw those young students who are in this cold world with the love of Jesus.

Looking back on the past year, I could not but praise and thank God. Most of all, God blessed the Purdue International Conference abundantly with about 3400 attendants. The conference was filled with God's grace through his word and God's world mission vision. Over 500 people volunteered to go out as missionaries. This was God's response to over 3000 times of prayers offered by many missionaries and brothers and sisters.

Last year God blessed the continental directors' conferences in Africa, Europe, CIS, Asia, Latin America, and North America. Through these conferences we could prepare the Purdue conference in detail and find specific wisdom and prayer topics for discipleship in each country. I was very thankful to find direction for those who needed prayer support. This past year God enabled us to rejoin NAE (National Association of Evangelicals) and protect his sheep from stumbling due to this issue. Furthermore UBF became a member of Cross Global Link, the most renowned mission community organization in the U.S.; we also joined ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability). In this way, UBF virtually joined the Christian community. I am very thankful that through this, sheep and leaders could be protected from Satan's attack.

I pray that UBF may go back to the Bible and dig out the word of God deeply daily. We may all become spirited shepherds and feed God's flock with the life-giving word of God. And we may raise disciples of Jesus through diligent one to one Bible study and our labor of love, and double our ministry by 2010. I pray that we may please God by sending out 100,000 missionaries by 2041.

RESTORE YOUR FIRST LOVE

Revelation 2:1-17
Key Verse 2:4,5a

“Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.”

Revelation chapters 2 and 3 are Christ's letter to the seven churches in Asia through Apostle John. At that time, these seven churches were the actual churches. However, these seven churches represent the Church of the entire world. So, from these seven churches, every Christian can find his own spiritual condition and repent. At that time, the church in Ephesus (AD 100 early church), the church in Smyrna (AD 100-313), and the church in Pergamum (AD 313-590) were located on the west side of the Asia Minor. We want to think about this passage in Revelation 2 in two parts: First, (2:1-7), The Lord's letter to the church in Ephesus. Second (8-17), the Lord's letter to the churches in Smyrna and Pergamum. As we study this passage, I pray that we restore our first love of our Lord.

I. Christ's letter to the church in Ephesus (1-7)

What kind of city was Ephesus? Ephesus was the largest port city of Asia Minor. It was the trading and business center of Asia Minor. The temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, (Acts 19:35) was there. The people practiced emperor worship and magic. So, Ephesus was a city of idol worship, hedonism and corruption. How did Christ see the church in Ephesus? Look at verse 1. “These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.” Jesus is “him who holds the seven stars in his right hand” (1b). Jesus appeared to them as the Sovereign Lord. Christ rules over his church and the saints with love and power. How did he commend the church in Ephesus?

Verse 2a says, “I know your deeds, your hard word.” Christ acknowledged their deeds of faith. In the church of Ephesus, there were many acts of faith done by first generation Christians. He also commended for their perseverance (2c). Apostle Paul was the Shepherd and Overseer in Ephesus. But he was arrested by the Roman governor and sent to the island of Patmos. However, he received the revelation from God and wrote the book of revelation. In 1 Thessalonians 1:3, Paul said that we persevere because of hope. The reason we can persevere in spite of many temptations and hardships is because of our hope in Jesus' second coming. This postmodern atmosphere is like that of Sodom and Gomorrah. The secret of overcoming this atmosphere is to hold on to the hope of Jesus' second coming.

Jesus commended the church in Ephesus for not tolerating the false apostles (2d, 3, 6). Our community must be a community of love. At the same time, we must guard against bad influence from false apostles who hinder and destroy the Christian community. We should not follow evil trends of the time. At that time, false apostles (Nicholaitans) spread gnosticisim and hedonism. This hindered gospel faith. However, the church in Ephesus exposed them and warned against their false teachings.

How did Christ rebuke the church in Ephesus? Look at verse 4. “Yet I hold this against you: you have forsaken your first love.”

First, they have forsaken their first love for God. They say the first love is pure and sincere. Ephesus Christian community love for Jesus was the greater than our UBF Christian community. They experienced the greater love of Christ through Apostle Paul's sincere Bible Study and became the men and women of God. They had kept this great love of Jesus in their hearts. This was their first love for Jesus. 1 John 3:16 says, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." Because of their fervent love for Jesus, they took care of God's flock. Because of their fervent love for Jesus, they have preserved and have endured hardships.

In Mark 12:29-31, a teacher of the law came to Jesus and asked about the greatest commandment. Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." At that time, Pharisees kept all laws meticulously. Even though they said that they loved God and prayed regularly and praised God, the temperature of their love toward God had gotten cold, and their hearts were far from God. Jesus said, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (Mark 7:6). We also, must examine ourselves to see if we honor God only with our lips. When we sin, we must repent with contrite hearts and tears like King David. Then we can restore our love relationship with God. Jesus told us to love God with all our soul and with all our strength. When we love someone, we want to spend time and money for them. So, when we love God, we should not spare our minds and our strength, not even our souls. Reverend Sohn in Korea loved God with all his soul. It is not easy to love God with all our soul continually for a lifetime. We have to make daily decisions to do so.

Second, to forsake one's first love means to forsake God's commandments. To love God is the first commandment. To love one's neighbor as one's self is the second commandment which Jesus gave (Mark 12:31). Jesus taught us that the first commandment demands a love relationship with God and the second calls for a love relationship with our neighbors "Love your neighbor as yourself". We sometimes sacrifice our bodies and spend them entirely. Despite this, we love our bodies. We sometimes make instinctive sacrifices with our bodies but we ultimately desire to keep our bodies whole and improve them. Jesus taught us to love others genuinely and secretly, and as consistently as we love ourselves. Jesus acknowledged that we love ourselves. In reality, those who mistreat themselves like orphans cannot love their neighbors. Only those who love and appreciate themselves are able to love others in the right way. How did Jesus teach us to love our neighbors? "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12). As Jesus says in this verse, we must do to others what we would have them do to us.

Why do we have to love God with all our hearts and soul?

First, we must love God with all our hearts and souls because God is our Creator, and we are His creation. (Gen. 1:1) God is the origin of all things and He is our Creator. As children obey and love their parents, we must love our God with all our hearts because He is our Maker.

Second, we must love God with all our hearts and souls because God is our Savior (Jn 3:16). God sent his one and only son Jesus to us when we were doomed to perish because of our sins. Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin and destruction. Therefore, it is natural for saved sinners to love God with all our hearts.

Third, we love God with all our hearts because when we do so, we live a happy and fruitful life. When God created man, he was very happy. God blessed man and gave him a mission to be fruitful, increase in number, and fill the earth. (Gen. 1:28). God gave man a mission to

bear abundant fruit. When we love God with all our hearts and make a deep love relationship with God, we become happy and bear abundant fruit (John 15:5).

What life direction did God give the Ephesus Christians? Look at verse 5, "Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place." Their first love was fallen and lost. They should remember where their love was. So, Jesus says, "Repent and do the things you did at first!" (5a). He means that they should restore their first love. In the beginning, the church in Ephesus had a burning love toward God. (Acts 20:36-37). However, in the course of exposing and punishing false teachers in the church, the love between brothers grew cold. Arguments and division grew among Christians. As a result, only formality and tradition remained in the church. Even though we have experienced a first love toward God, this love can cool down unless we renew it everyday through God's word. It is just like saying: "Out of sight, out of mind." As we feed chorals in order to maintain fire, our love can cool down unless we fan it into fire everyday.

Jesus said, "If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place" (5c). This means that Jesus, who is the head of the church, will leave the church. I experienced the burning love of Jesus on the cross when I first studied the Bible. I was willing to give my life for Jesus. When I gave up my career as a physician in order to be a UBF staff, my love for Jesus was strongest. But as time passed by, my love for Jesus grew cold. Whenever I repented and newly meditated on the love of Jesus on the cross, the temperature of my love again rose—sometimes from 50 degrees to 70 degrees. When I see myself, I am like the church in Ephesus. I too had forsaken my first love. I must repent and meditate on the love of Jesus and accept his love and restore my love again up to 100 degree temperature. What was the conclusion of Jesus' letter to the seven churches? Look at verse 7. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God." Jesus promised to give the tree of life which is in the paradise to those who overcome by faith.

II. Letter to the churches in Smyrna and Pergamum (8-17)

Verses 8-11 are the letter to the church in Smyrna. Smyrna was a port city located in the north of Ephesus. It was protected by the Roman Empire by a pledge of loyalty to Rome. So the place became the central location of emperor worship. Jesus did not rebuke this church, but only encouraged and commended them. Jesus appeared in a resurrection body to the church in Smyrna. They had struggled to keep their faith in the midst of afflictions and poverty(8). Jesus comforted them by saying, "I know your afflictions and poverty" (9a). Jesus told them that they were rich even though they were financially poor (9b). Jesus acknowledged their faithfulness and blessed their future. In Smyrna, there were many Jewish immigrants. So the place had very strong Jewish traditions and ideas. Many Jewish people persecuted Christians. In the midst of persecution, what direction did Jesus give to the Christians? Look at verse 10c. "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." What does it mean to be faithful to the point of death?

First, it means to be faithful even with a few things. In Jesus' parable of the talent (Mt 25:14-30), the master recognized the two servants who doubled their talents from five and two talents to ten and four talents. "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things." If the servant who had received one talent worked and brought one more talent, he would have received the same recognition. In order to be a good and faithful servant, we have to be faithful even with a few things.

Second, it means to be faithful to the end. Even Judas Iscariot was faithful for the first two years. But in his third year, he was not faithful and he betrayed Jesus.

Third, it means to be faithful even in adverse circumstances. Polycarp was arrested because he didn't worship the Roman Emperor as god. He was about to be burnt in the Smyrna amphitheater in AD 155. An executor asked him, "I will let you free if you confess the Emperor as god and deny Christ now." But Polycarp answered, "I served Christ as my king for 86 years. Christ never disowned me once. How can I disown him now?" He was burnt to death singing hymns. He is a good example of being faithful to the point of death. We have lived about 50% or 80% of our lives. I pray that we can be faithful to the point of death.

Verses 12-17 are the letter to the church in Pergamum. What kind of place was Pergamum? It was located 100km north of Smyrna. It was the capital city of the Seleucid Dynasty right after the fall of Greece. On BC 133 as Syria was merged to the Roman Empire, the city played the role of the capital city of Asia. So, Pergamum was a center of religion and culture. There were Aesclepius temple, Caesar's temple, Serapeum temple and the temple of Zeus and Dionysius. It was the city of idol worship. How did Jesus appear to the church in Pergamum? "These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword (12)" Jesus came as a judge to the Pergamum church where there was immense confusion. The city of Pergamum was a city of confusion, idol worship, corruption and pleasure seeking. Christ encouraged his servants who kept their faith in that atmosphere

Look at verse 13. "I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives." Antipas was martyred in Pergamum. Because of his good influence, Pergamum Christians kept their faith in the midst of extreme persecution. How did Christ rebuke the church in Pergamum?

First he rebuked the people who followed Balaam's teaching (14). Though most of Pergamum Christians were sincere in their faith, some followed Balaam's teaching. Balaam tempted the Israelites to worship idols and indulge in immorality in the desert of Siddim. Even though he couldn't directly curse the Israelites, because of his love for money, he tempted the Israelites to worship idols and practice adultery with Moabite women (Numbers 22-25, 31:8, 16). As a result, 24,000 Israelites were killed by God.

According to verse 15, Nicolaitan's teaching is same as that of Balaam. Nicolaitan means 'swallowing the people'. This means that they swallowed the people with corrupted and immoral teaching. They claimed that the time of law was over, and people should live without the law which promoted lawlessness. They taught that believers could indulge in unlimited physical pleasure since they were already forgiven. Such teaching is comparable to hedonism in our time. Our times are badly influenced by hedonism, materialism and idol worship like Sodom and Gomorrah. As described in the later part of Romans 1 (Ro1:18-32), the world has become full of shameful homo-sexuality, every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. Love grew cold and people became lawless (Matthew 24:12). We also live in a flood of bad influences. Even in America, which is known as a Christian country, gay marriage was legalized in two states. During the recent elections, gay marriage was just barely banned gay marriage in three states. The vote in California was very close, 48 to 52. In America, the divorce rate has reached 60%. Ironically, the divorce rate among Christians is almost the same. This shows that Christians are being influenced by the world; they are not positively influencing the society. The bad influence of the world corrupts the church. The church in America must expose evil and keep genuine gospel faith like the church in Ephesus.

How then we may not be tempted by Balaam's teaching? First we must study God's word with an absolute attitude and live according to its teaching. Second, we have to repent everyday and keep the gospel faith (16).

In conclusion, in the course of fighting against false teachings, we ended with superficial mannerism. We have to repent and restore our first love. We have to meditate on the love of Jesus on the cross and restore our burning love for Jesus. And we must love our neighbors as ourselves.

"Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first."

WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET

John 13:1-17
Key Verse 13:14

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.”

John's gospel chapter 13 to 16 is about Jesus' teachings for his disciples in the Upper Room the night before his death. So we can think of it as his last will. What do you think his most important desire was for his disciples? That was to wash one another's feet. Through today's message, let's pray that we all may be the ones who wash one another's feet.

I. Jesus who washed his disciples

Let's look at verse 1. “It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.” It was the night before the passover. The next day, Jesus would become the Paschal Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world when he was nailed to the cross. It's terrible just to think about it. Even Nero, the Roman Emperor who reigned over the world with great power, went crazy and trembled so miserably before his impending death. Jesus, however, knew so well about his crucifixion. He knew the time come. What about his 12 disciples? They argued with one another over who could be the greatest on the way to Jerusalem. John and James provoked the anger of the other disciples with their secret request to their mom that Jesus should give them the higher positions. In Luke 22:24, the disciples were still arguing about who was greater. A few hours later, Judas Iscariot would betray Jesus, and rest of the disciples would deny and run away from Jesus. They were just like gangsters who did not deserve Jesus' love.

What did Jesus do? He embraced all his disciples as his own by any means. He loved them even to the point of death. 'To the end' means both chronologically 'to the last moment' and spiritually 'to the fullest.' Scientists once studied why love changes. They found that the amount of a hormone called 'Dopamine' controls how love changes. However, Jesus' love has nothing to do with such hormonal changes. Jesus' love is the same, yesterday, today and forever. Jesus thought more about his disciples who had to remain in the world than about himself. Jesus poured out all his love onto the disciples, knowing it was all they needed.

Look at verse 2. “The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.” We see it's the devil who put the thought of betraying Jesus into Judas' mind. People say that we can think freely. However, it's true that the devil plants thoughts of unbelief, lust, pride, and opposition in our minds. Therefore, we should overcome such sinful thoughts, knowing that they are work of the devil. One sheep fell into the same sin again and again even after being served with a lot of love and money. Then he just left, wounding his shepherd's heart. His shepherd got angry at that moment. He could not even sleep. He was totally drained and lost his appetite. Shepherds feel powerless in such situations. I am sure all of you as directors have experienced these things. Still we should see the work of Satan behind those things and then get angry at Satan and fight with him. Then we can overcome our depression and powerlessness. We should love our weak sheep with Jesus' hope to the end.

Look at verses 3-5. "Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him."

First, Jesus certainly knew who he was, what he had to do, and where he would go. He had ascertained that God gave him power and authority over all heaven and earth. He knew that his death on the cross would complete the work of world salvation. Defeating the power of death and rising from the dead, Jesus would be the king of kings and sit on the right hand of God in heaven. Those with a clear identity and mission will never be shaken but go forth, overcoming all difficulties and obstacles. They accomplish their mission. However, those without a clear identity and mission will be shaken, wandering in chaos.

Second, Jesus used his power and authority to strengthen the weak. He knew the purpose of God's power that was given to him; It was to save people's lives. In their sinful nature, men tend to abuse their power for their own glory. As a matter of fact, all the believers are very powerful, if only for the fact that God has given them the gospel that leads to the life or death. Each missionary has power. I read about one Korean missionary in the Philippines who (wielded or exercised) his power like the president of a big company. Directors are responsible for protecting the work of God in their chapters. But sometimes it is easy to treat coworkers or sheep as if doing the work in the name of the director. How did Jesus react?

Jesus' disciples did not even clean their feet before attending the Passover dinner. Their feet were covered with dust and sweat. I guess the room was ripe with the stinky foot odor of 12 men. No one thought about washing one another's feet. They were all in a competition. An authoritative teacher might have yelled at them, "can't you smell this stench? Bring a stick for your spanking!" Or, an ordinary teacher would say, "guys, could you just go out and wash your feet, please?" However, Jesus stood up in the middle of eating. He became a servant although he already understood the impending glory of God. He took off his outer clothing. In another sense, to "take off" means to throw away. In that sense Jesus taking off his outer clothing means the same putting aside his own his life for others. Jesus wrapped a towel around his waist. He started washing his disciples' feet in a water basin. Then he dried them with the towel. Back then the Jewish people were mostly bare footed, and their feet would easily get dirty and sweaty. When they were back in their houses, the lowest servants usually washed their feet. However, Jesus, the king of kings, the Son of the almighty God lowered himself and washed his disciples' feet. He did so in the last moments before his death. People say love is feeling and emotion, but the Bible teaches love is a humble, sacrificial and decisive act.

Look at verse 6. "He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Peter was embarrassed by his turn to be washed. He could not understand Jesus' act. When he put out his dirty feet, he felt uncomfortable. So he rejected his turn to be washed. We can find two facts in the conversation between Jesus and Peter in verses 7-9.

First, human beings are naturally smelly and dirty so they have to get a shower all over their body every day. (But it is more washing with water.) Verse 8 reads, "'No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." There is no exception among humans who have to get washed in their smelly and dirty body. They can hardly live without washing. Without washing, we can not have part with God. To reject washing is to deny the love of God and to stand before his wrath and judgment.

Secondly, although we take a bath, we still have to wash our feet everyday. In verse 10, "Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." In the old days, the Jewish took a bath when invited to a feast or dinner. So they needed to wash only their feet. Likewise, "a person who has had a bath" symbolizes a person who's born again by faith in Jesus; that is, a person whose sin is cleansed. 'To wash feet' means to wash our daily sins with Jesus' blood in repentance. This is the way we build the love relationship with Jesus and live a meaningful life in Him. A friend of St. Francis' always wanted to learn the secret way of St. Francis' passionate life. He stayed with him and observed him but could not find it. Then one night, he saw St. Francis get up and cry out in the middle of night, "Lord, forgive me, a sinner." That was the secret. We all have to confess our sins everyday and wash away all our sins so that we build a love relationship with Jesus. This is our first priority.

Only Jesus can wash our body and feet every day. Jesus really wants to wash each sinners' body and feet. He really wants to have a love relationship with us. He wants an intimate and deep love relationship with us. How intimate and deep would it be for us to ask someone to wash our dirty feet? Now we all have already been washed by the grace of Jesus although we are fallen men in our body. The world is corrupted, too. We have to stand with our two feet on this world and stump around, and our feet naturally get dirty. We actively sin everyday. Therefore, we need to have our dirty feet washed by Jesus. The more often we get washed, the deeper our relationship with Jesus gets. This is the greatest grace and privilege from God. My first grand-daughter, Anna becomes 17 months old. When she comes to my house, she makes my house so messy every where. She doesn't know any etiquette, of course, but she does it because she knows and trusts her grandparents. Even with poopy in her diapers on and slimy stuff running from her nose onto her face, she runs to me and gives me a big hug. (Then I wiper her nose and clean her up.) We have a such a love relationship. Jesus wants us to run and hug him too, even with in our poop stained diapers and with our runny noses! Jesus died on the cross in order to wash all our sins. Praise Jesus who washes away all our dirty sins.

Look at verses 10b and 11. "...And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean." Here Jesus even washed Judas' feet, telling his disciples, "you are clean, though not every one of you." Jesus wanted to give a last chance for Judas to repent. He loved him to the end. Judas could have repented at the moment. He did not by his choice.

II. Jesus commands to wash one another's feet.

Look at verses 12-15. "When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." Jesus wanted his disciples to be the kind of men who could wash one another's feet. He set the good example of washing his disciples' dirty feet as their teacher and Lord. Whose feet should we wash? They are the ones that are the closest enough to smell each others' dirty feet. Who are they? They are our co-workers. Not the center coworkers. It's your husband. It's your wife.

Some men say that women are the most mystical being which we cannot understand. Meanwhile, some women say that men are the most difficult to teach. Men and women are different in their sex, in their nature and character and in the way they think and feel. We married by faith but we are not perfect. We see each other's weaknesses. Each other's foot odor gets stinkier and stinkier. So the rate of the divorce in the old age increases. One

director was brought up in a family with very authoritative father and submissive mother. He ignores women unconsciously. He doesn't listen to women. Outside the home he understands and embraces all other missionaries' weaknesses and mistakes but inside he ignores his wife's advice. His wife gets wounded in her heart until she gets too sick. Another director's wife grew up with a powerless but abusive father. So she unconsciously ignores her husband. She is not satisfied with her husband's work. She tries to insist on things. Her husband gets powerless and cannot use his talent at all. Husbands! Let's wash our wives' feet. Wives!! Please wash your husbands' feet! Then your house church can be firmly and healthily established. Is there any one here who thinks you can serve mission well without the love, peace and co-working spirit in your house church? That's a big mistake.

The next closest people whose feet we can are the co-workers in our mission field. They are our life-long colleagues and co-workers. The beautiful community is where the body of Jesus stands firmly and where there are people who wash one another's feet. The Holy Spirit comes to such a community and works to heal the sick and bring the dead back to life. Sometimes directors with great ambition can treat their co-workers with a business mentality or with pride. They usually take co-workers' cooperation and hard work for granted even without saying thank you. Directors should say thank you to their co-workers every day. They should often ask about their difficulties and share their agony together.

Directors can become cold when their co-workers get tired and reveal their weaknesses and get judgmental. They may want to pressure their weak co-workers. Co-workers can sometimes get hurt in their pride, comparing spirit or jealousy because they have to do all the hard work and serve. They might think, "how long should I be a housemaid like this? How dare he say that to me?" Any mature shepherd and missionary can also have weaknesses. They can hurt others and get hurt by others. Therefore co-workers should wash one another's feet. M. Philip Won co-worked with one missionary who's 10 years older. They live next door treating each other as brothers with love. Do you think they do not have any weaknesses? They do, but a flock of sheep overflow in two house churches when they wash each other's feet and co-work together.

We also wash our sheep's feet, too. We cannot wash others' sin, but we can accept others as our sheep without judging them. At the same time, we should teach them to reveal their sins before God and repent. We should patiently help them until they put out their dirty feet before Jesus to get washed.

Look at verses 16-17. "I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." Jesus teaches that those who wash others' feet and serve can be blessed. (Serving is a blessing. To best way to bless others is to serve them.) Washing another's feet is embracing their faults and weakness and serving them with Jesus' love and humbleness. Jesus commands this. It is the Jesus' strong command in verse 14.

In fact, it's hard to wash our own feet. It's harder for us to wash others' feet. It probably is the most difficult job to do. It may be okay for one or two days, but to do it every day continually is really hard. How can we do it?

First, we follow Jesus' example. He says in verse 15, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." Even as the king of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus washed all his undeserving disciples' dirty feet. When we imitate Jesus' example, we can do it. We should try our best to imitate his way. We can get used to it when we work hard, and practice it.

Secondly, we have to grow with Jesus' heart. Our will is limited indeed. It can explode when we do on our will, not with our heart. Our inner-man should be Jesus-like and grow mature. Philippians 2:3-8 read, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!" How can we be like Jesus? We have to bring our dirty feet to Jesus and get them clean then we can be humble like Jesus. And we can learn his serving heart. We should empty ourselves. We should get rid of either good or bad things in us. We should wipe out our ambition or desire. Jesus' spirit is, in short, the spirit of 'emptying.' The older we get and the higher social position we have, the smellier and dirtier we get. We are prone to not listen to others and trying to work with our experience rather than love. Ambitious Jacob finally emptied all his ambition and desire after 20 years passed. Like Jacob, I realized something at the age of 50 when I had to change my mission field four times. Looking into myself, I had my experience and social position. I found the smell of pride and self-righteousness. Now I bring out my dirty feet to Jesus. I pray that I may be molded into a humble servant of Jesus who can serve God's people with all my heart and respect.

Only is Jesus the Lord. We have to receive His grace of forgiveness that washes our dirty feet of sins. Then we can make our inner-man truly humble like Jesus. We can treat our co-workers as we do Jesus and serve our weak and dirty sheep as we do Jesus.

In conclusion, Jesus gave us a command in verse 34. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." He commanded us to love one another as he did to the point of death. He asked us to love one another with Jesus' unconditional life-giving love. The power of washing others' feet doesn't come from us. It is from Jesus. Jesus is all. Jesus is love. The source of love is Jesus' cross. When the love that comes from the cross of Jesus overflows in us, we can share that with others. When we love one another, our sheep can recognize Jesus' love in us. Co-workers' love can establish a community where the body of Christ is. The great ones are those with Jesus' love. A shepherd's life is to love. We as Christians can grow only with Jesus' love. We should build a loving community despite the fact that we go out fishing less and study fewer times 1:1. European directors have to build a community of love. Jesus who gave his life to us commands us today, "you also should wash one another's feet." Amen!

YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT!

Mark 6:30-44
Key verse 6:37a

"You give them something to eat."

I thank God for allowing us this year's European Directors' Conference in Germany again. The year 2009 is a very historical year, since this year is the 40th anniversary of pioneering Germany and Europe UBF and a new starting point to prepare the future pioneering ministry in Europe. I thank God for this opportunity to serve Dr. John Jun, Msn. Sunji Ju, Sh. Samuel H. Lee, Sh. Okhee Lee, and many servants of God from Europe and the whole world, here in Rehe, Germany. During the 3 days of our conference, I pray that God may allow us to get a good rest and have a precious time to prepare the year 2009 and the historical European International Summer Bible Conference.

I would like to hold on to Mark 6:37a "You give them something to eat!" once again in the 2009 as the year key verse of Europe UBF. I thank God for allowing Europe UBF to obey this word of God last year and serve the world mission by coworking with Dr. John Jun. I thank God for blessing the conference with 3,400 attendants and 500 volunteers for the world mission. I also thank God for blessing the life giving spirit and five loaves and two fish faith of European mission coworkers for the European campus pioneering ministry. May God bless this 2009 European Directors' Conference so that we may prepare the work of God in Europe UBF in 2009, especially the 2009 European Summer Bible Conference with one heart and one mind. I pray that we may challenge the European campus pioneering ministry actively by inviting 1,000 attendants to the 2009 European Summer Bible Conference through our 1,000 times of united prayer and 1:1 Bible studies and render the glory to God. In this hour, I would like to invite you to the seashore of Galilee, and remind ourselves with the word of God through Jesus.

I. Jesus' shepherd heart (30-34)

Let us read verse 30: "The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught." The apostles had a mission report with Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. They gained confidence for themselves that they could be great apostles someday and they were much encouraged. Jesus knew that the disciples needed some rest and told them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

Look at verse 33. As the crowd saw the disciples heading toward to a quiet place, they began to run. They ran so fast, as a matter of life and death, so that they arrived at the other side of the seashore before Jesus and his disciples. When the disciples saw the crowd, they wanted to steer the boat to the opposite direction. But what did Jesus think of them? And what did he do?

Look at verse 34: "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things." Seeing the crowd, tears of compassion gathered in Jesus' eyes. And Jesus began to teach them the word of God. The compassionate heart is God's heart for sinners. God's compassionate heart for sinners was the starting point of God's great salvation history. Out of His compassion for sinners God sent even His beloved son Jesus into this world. A compassionate heart for sheep without a shepherd is Jesus' heart. Because of this shepherd

hart, he taught the word of God until the late in the day, raised the 12 disciples, and finally became the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world.

With the compassionate heart of Jesus for a sinner, Pastor Abraham Lee of Germany raised Sh. Volker Keller as an ancestor of faith in Germany. Also with the compassionate heart for a sinner Msn. Kaleb Hong raised Sh. Reiner Schauwienold as an ancestor of faith in Heidelberg. With Jesus' compassionate heart for a sinner, Msn. Moses Yoon of UK, Msn. Marc Choi of France, and Msn. James Kang of Bulgaria raised up Sh. Abraham Kaier, Sh. Bruno, and Sh. Georgy as Abrahams of faith in UK, France, and Bulgaria respectively. With Jesus' compassionate heart for a sinner, currently Msn. Paul Lee of Greece is serving Sh. Stamais, Msn. Hannah Shin of Czech is serving Alesch, Msn. Paul Lee of Swiss is serving sister Nooemi, Msn. Barnabas Kang in Macedonia is serving Tommy, Msn. Joshua Lee of Belgium is serving Gael and Romeo, Msn. Elijah Park of Poland is serving Tomasch and Smanta, and Msn. Joseph Bae of Croatia is serving Katrina and Mrs. J.. Also in this year, I earnestly pray that our European mission coworkers may learn Jesus' compassionate heart for a sinner and raise up Abrahams and Sarahs of faith and Jesus' disciples in the campuses of each European nation. Amen!

II. You Give them Something to Eat (35-44)

Out of his broken shepherd heart Jesus taught the crowd the word of God until late in the day. The disciples grew impatient and hungry and wanted Jesus to finish his teaching. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." (35.36) But unexpectedly Jesus' answer was not an OK. Let's read verse 37. "But he answered, 'You give them something to eat.'" When the disciples heard Jesus' command, "You give them something to eat!" they could not believe their own ears. They looked at each other and wondered whom Jesus meant by "You." Their answer was "Mission Impossible! That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

Why did Jesus give his disciples such a burdensome command?

First, Jesus taught his disciples life giving spirit.

The life giving spirit is God's spirit. God gave even his beloved one and only son Jesus in order to save the world. The life giving spirit is Jesus' spirit. In order to pay the price for our sins, Jesus sacrificed His life on the cross. The life giving spirit is Christians' spirit. Mother Sarah Barry sacrificed her life in her beautiful golden age of 25 and even offered her marriage dream in order to plant the word of God and hope in the hearts of Korean young intellectuals. Even after Msn. Isaac Shin has passed away, Msn. Hannah Shin has been giving her whole life to serve the campus students in Czech Republic, while carrying 4 or 5 crosses. In order to live as a shepherd for campus souls in Denmark, after her hard work at the embassy, Msn. Pauline Lee goes to an evening college to expand her capability as a Bible teacher. While carrying the cross of self supporting, Msn. Rebecca Choi is sacrificing her whole house church to Jesus in order to make France a kingdom of priests. Msn. Sarah Lee in Belgium is enduring unbearable patience training for the salvation of sister Gael and brother Romeo. Last year, Msn. Sarah Lee in Swiss offered her morning time to God fully in prayer in order to serve sister Nooemi and her family. When we have a life giving spirit, we can always find a possibility in any impossible situation. When our European missionaries live by the life giving spirit, then I believe that the native shepherds will grow as influential pioneers for campus ministry and world class spiritual leaders. May God fill the European continent with the life giving spirit and may she once again be used as a Kingdom of Priests for the world mission.

Second, Jesus taught his disciples a sense of responsibility.

Many people feel burdensome when they are ought to be responsible for something. They feel even more burdensome when they are ought to carry a cross of mission. But the sense of responsibility is God's heart. God could have given up the sinful and wicked mankind and condemn them continually as he did in the time of Noah. But because of His shepherd heart and sense of responsibility for sinners he raised up one man Abraham as an ancestor of faith. Out of his mercy on Israelites who were in slavery in Egypt for 400 years, God delivered them and trained them for 40 years in the desert. And God remolded them as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Because of this faithful love of God we have decided to live for the glory of God. A sense of responsibility makes one person great. And God uses a nation, where are intellectuals who have spiritual responsibility as a Kingdom of Priests.

In the 16th century, Martin Luther had a sense of responsibility for the people who could not have a Bible nor read it. Because of this sense of responsibility, he sacrificed his whole life to translate the Bible, even in the midst of life threatening persecution. Because one man Martin Luther, many people could receive salvation and Germany could be used as a royal priesthood and a holy nation. And how could Germany overcome the destruction and misery after the World War II and become the driving force of European politics and economics and have a leading position in the EU? This is due to the sense of responsibility of the German intellectuals for their destructed country and for the neighboring European countries. This sense of responsibility gave them a dream for reunification of Germany and a vision for a united Europe. And they prayed for the reunification of Germany and for Europe. God blessed the prayer of faith of German people and made their vision come true.

When I visited Israel UBF last November, I could not sleep well because Msn. J. and Msn. M. S. cried out in prayers and sang hymns every early morning. Through their tearful prayers and their Jerusalem Bible academy, I could feel their strong sense of responsibility and shepherd heart for the salvation of Jewish souls. I could see that God blessed their spiritual sense of responsibility and granted them Jewish students N. and B. as prayer coworkers. When we have a sense of responsibility for European campus students, the European campus mission is possible. And God will make our vision for European campus mission come true. May God help our European directors to have a sense of responsibility for the flock of sheep on their campus and to conquer the language and struggle harder for the 1:1 Bible study ministry and in prayer. And I pray that we may go back to the Bible and focus on 1:1 Bible study by faith.

Third, Jesus taught his disciples the five loaves and two fish faith.

Let us read verse 38. When the disciples obeyed Jesus' command "Go and see!" the disciples could learn the five loaves and two fish faith. Actually, these five loaves and two fish were not enough to fill the stomach of one man, Peter. However, Jesus accepted their five loaves and two fish, gave thanks to God, blessed them, and fed the five thousand. All the people were satisfied and 12 basketfuls broken pieces of bread and fish were leftover.

Praise God for accepting our five loaves and two fish and for blessing them and doing His great work in Europe last year. What are the five loaves and two fish we brought to Jesus by faith?

First, the 1:1 Bible study ministry

I thank God for inflaming the fire of the 1:1 Bible study ministry in Germany and European countries in 2008. I thank God for raising Abrahams and Sarahs of faith in each European

country through faithful 1:1 Bible study. Last year, through the five loaves and two fish of 1:1 Bible study, the Europe UBF's Sunday service attendants grew in average of 48. In 2009, let us pray to serve the 1:1 Bible study ministry more actively and challenge the European campus ministry more influentially. I pray that we may have 600 1:1 Bible studies in Germany and 400 in other European countries every week and invite 1,000 attendants to the Eringerfeld European international conference.

Second, one day Bible academy and one day Bible conference

Since more than 70% of the European UBF chapters are single house churches, it is not easy to have 3 days of conference. Thus, last year, many of the Europe UBF chapters held one day Bible academy and one day Bible conference. Through the one day Bible academy and one day conference, which seemed insignificant, God inflamed the mighty fire of God's word all over the Europe UBF and let us experience the work of God last year. We could be awakened to the secrete of Paul's disciple making ministry in the lecture hall of Tyrannus and have a vision for the European Mission. The one day Bible academy in Swiss UBF, which was held once every month, seemed very small in the beginning. But God accepted these very small five loaves and two fish and blessed it. Through the one day Bible academy sister Nooemi grew up as a disciple of Jesus and her family received salvation. Moreover, the one day Bible academy in Swiss influenced the whole Europe UBF. House church UBFs throughout Europe began to have one day Bible academy. In Germany as well, house church ministries began to have one day Bible academy. In Mainz, Karlsruhe, Munich, Freiburg, Kiel, Braunschweig, and Frankfurt, the Holy Spirit worked in growing sheep that they made decisions of faith to live as disciples of Jesus. The mighty work of discipleship ministry led to a blessed and graceful Christmas worship service and we could receive many graceful news and pictures of the Christmas worship services from across the Europe. In the New Year, I earnestly pray that we may continue to actively serve the ministry of God's Word through the one day Bible academy and semniar and re-inflame the fire of the disciple making ministry.

Third, The seven European regional Bible conferences

Pioneering one nation through one house church is really like feeding 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. But when the pioneer missionaries in Europe decided to serve the regional Bible conference by faith and built a vessel of coworking, Jesus blessed their coworking faith. Last May, God has entrusted Msn. Barnabas Kang's house church in Macedonia with 5 faithful sheep as coworkers, who served the Balkan regional conference. It was a miracle of faith like splitting the Red Sea. In June, God sent seven coworking sheep to Msn. Joseph Jin's house church, and blessed the Northern Europe regional Conference with more than 30 attendants. Last year, God was pleased with the vessel of coworking among the missionaries in the Central Europe and blessed their ministries with a great work of the Holy Spirit. One example is the 1st anniversary thanksgiving Bible conference in Croatia last November. Although it was the first conference for this pioneering chapter, God blessed the faith and sacrifice of Msn. Joseph and Msn. Maria Bae and raised sister Katarina and Mrs. Jassenka as spiritual coworkers. As the European missionaries built a vessel of coworking in each region by faith, God helped them not only to overcome their loneliness in the mission field but also to lay a foundation for each pioneering ministry. In this year as well, I earnestly pray that we may build a firm vessel of the Holy Spirit in each European region and bring this five loaves and two fish to Jesus continually.

Fourth, Early morning and campus prayer

Through visiting many mission coworkers last year, I realized that the five loaves and two fish of one or two hours of prayer in the early morning is a critical element for one's mission life

and the success of one chapter. Through their personal testimonies I could realize that the key to God's blessing is to visit campus and build campus prayer altar faithfully regardless of the situation. I cannot forget visiting Geneva UBF in Swiss with late Sh. Moses Kim's house church and attending the early morning prayer meeting there. Also, during the mission journey to Israel in the end of last November with Msn. Stephanus Park, my heart was much moved by Msn. J. and Msn. M. S., who cries out in tears every early morning to God for the salvation of their Jewish sheep. I believe that our European missionaries who carry the cross of prayer in the early morning and on the campus are like Zacharias and Elisabeths of our generation and true presidents and stewards of the university. Last year, I also could see our 2nd generation missionaries grow up as true spiritual coworkers when they won the victory in the early morning prayer and participated in the campus prayer meeting. Also in 2009, I pray that we may win the victory in the early morning and bring our five loaves and two fish of daily bread and prayer to Jesus by faith.

Let us read verse 37 once more. "But he answered, 'You give them something to eat.'" When the disciples heard Jesus' command, "You give them something to eat!" Through this command Jesus wants us to overcome our negative thoughts and learn shepherd heart and sense of responsibility and life giving spirit for European campus students. And he wants us to find our five loaves and two fish by faith and bring it to Jesus. I earnestly pray that our European missionaries may obey this word of Jesus and serve the European campus pioneering ministry and world mission.

The year 2009 is a historical year of 40th anniversary for Germany and Europe UBF pioneering ministry. Therefore, Europe UBF is planning to host the European Summer Bible Conference as a thanksgiving for the 40th anniversary of pioneering Europe UBF and to invite many guests from the whole world. We have been preparing this historical conference in prayer for the last 2 years since the European strategic conference in Denmark. And on April 12th 2008, through the first World Mission Report in Germany in Cologne, we have built a vessel of the Holy Spirit for its preparation. And we also started to work for PR actively. For example we began to cooperation with KOSTE and Open Doors. We have also reinforced our internet mission team for presenting God's work in Europe and Germany UBF. And through pioneering Stuttgart University and Frankfurt University by the experienced senior missionaries who are in the mid 50s, Germany UBF newly began its campus pioneering ministry.

After the Purdue International Bible Conference, Dr. John Jun gave us a direction for our preparation for the European Summer Bible Conference, that we may actively serve 1,000 1:1 Bible study teams and have 1,000 times of united prayers for 1,000 attendants. The united prayer meetings might seem insignificant and inconsequential, but I believe that God will accept this five loaves and two fish of united prayer and richly bless the 2009 European Summer Bible Conference. Moreover, I believe that God will bless our prayer for pioneering 45 European nations including Italy, Spain, Finland, the Netherlands, and Slovenia this year.

May God bless this 2009 European Directors' Conference. May God help us to receive our first love to Jesus and bring our five loaves and two fish to Jesus by faith with Jesus' shepherd heart, sense of responsibility and life giving spirit. May God help us to bring our 1,000 times of united prayer, 1,000 teams of 1:1 Bible study, and 1,000 attendants to the European Summer Bible Conference as our five loaves and two fish and double our ministry by 2010! May God bless us to send out one house church to every 1,700 campuses in Europe until 2020! May God also send out 100,000 missionaries to China, North Korea, and to the Moslem countries and to all the 233 nations of the world by 2041.

One Word: You give them something to Eat!

ALWAYS PRAY AND NOT GIVE UP

Luke 18:1-17
Key Verse 18:1

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”

In this closing message God speaks to us what we must do in this life. This is about always praying and not giving up. This is life. Something in this life, we must not give up. First of all, we must not giving up on living. We must not give up on praying. However, it is so easy to give up because of our weaknesses and sense of despair. Jesus knows us. As we conclude this meeting today, let's consider what it means that we “always pray and not give up”.

First, we always pray and not give up because this is what Jesus regards most important (1-8). In this section, the main idea is that God, different from the unrighteous judge, hears the cries of his people and bring about justice for his chosen ones. In the gospel Jesus gave many parables. Sometimes he does not make the point very clear. So disciples quite often felt confused. In this particular parable Jesus states the point at the very beginning. This is for the disciples—his serious followers. Jesus says to us, “You should always pray and not give up.”

In a certain town there was a judge. This is a very powerful man in the town. He makes judgment on the matters of importance in life. He settles in his own way. Over the years he probably used to say about himself to the people in this way, “I do not fear God. Neither do I care about you. I do all for myself in my way.” Yet, because he was so powerful in the town, people feared him.

And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ This widow probably had a little savings for herself. Then, an evil man took away all that she had with cunning schemes. She lost all. She had none. This evil man lived in the same town with ease and comfort. In desperation this widow was determined. He came to the judge and stated the case—by personal visit and mails. The judge refused to hear her case. But she kept coming—to his office, home, restaurant and even restroom. She bothered him day and night. Finally, this judge decided to settle this matter.

This judge again repeated his personal value statement. He said to himself, ‘Even though I don't fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!’(4,5). He had no regard for her. He became sick of her bothering. The only reason why he decided to help her was his own interest—quickly in his own way.

Here are two people—a judge and a widow. The judge is more powerful in this world for a time being. The widow, however, has more powerful appeal to God for the whole time. Therefore, the widow is more blessed. The helpless, pitiful and weak widow is more blessed than the powerful, honorable and powerful judge in this parable. This is what the world does not understand. But we must understand this as we serve the gospel ministry. Our helpless, pitiful and weak state is not hopeless. Rather, we must make this state as the reason to pray always and not give up. Then, our appeal is more powerful to God to anyone. I now understand why Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor, ...Blessed are those who are hunger now, ... Blessed are those who mourn...”(Mt 5;1-5). That's why the more helpless we feel, the more we are more determined to come, pray always and not give up.

Jesus said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?" God cares about his people. Second, God also has power to bring about justice for his chosen ones. God hears those who cry out to him day and night. God will not keep putting them off. Jesus said in a clear and convincing way, "I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly." God hears our cry and does bring about justice for us quickly. But Jesus does not end with this. To God, "quickly" may mean ten years, thirty years or even hundred years later. But we don't have that kind of time. To some of us, the golden years of life pass within ten, twenty or third years. We don't have time to wait that long!

Look at verse 8: "However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" Certainly, this is not a positive conclusion. At the time of his Second Coming, the chances are great that he will not find much faith on the earth. In Luke 17:27 we read, "People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. ²⁹ But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all." This is the way the world ends! This is the reason why we must always pray and not give up. In this world if we always pray and not give up, we are outstanding Christians! We are world class Christians!

Throughout this year I received so many encouraging news—Czech Republic, Greece, Portugal, Hungary, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden,... in almost all countries. One of the most encouraging news was from Israel. It is not about the numbers of people attended in their small conference. It was about the early morning prayer of Joseph and Mary Son! God is there as we offer our prayer always and not give up. God's work is there, although we may not see it.

I used to regard that the great work of God is about many people coming to the Lord. I thought that the great work of God is to change this world. But the great work of God is to change myself. The lasting work of God is to change ourselves. We always pray so that we may grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. We always pray to engage in the ministry of God's word and prayer. We always pray to fight the good fight, keep the faith and finish the race. We always pray to raise up world class leaders that will pass our batons to the next generation. We will always pray to work on transforming hearts and lives. For this we will pray and not give up our one ministries.

Second, we always pray and not give up because God exalts the humble (9:9- 14). This second part is about how we should pray. This is about the right attitude of prayer. This is about those who feel confident of their own righteousness and look down on everybody else. Jesus told this parable. Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

What does Jesus teach about prayer here? "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God." For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Practically, what does this mean? Does this mean that it does not matter to do good—fasting, offering and do all the wonderful practices of devotion? Does Jesus want us to live like a tax collector and offer prayers of the tax collector? Do not look up to heaven. Be sure to beat your breast. Utter these words, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner?"

Prayer is not for a show! Prayer is not for formula of success. As we really pray to God, we humble ourselves before the mighty God. As we pray always and not give up, we become humble. To pray is to live humble. To be humble is to be free. To be humble is to be strong. To be humble is to be joyful. To be humble is to practice to stand in the presence of God. This is what I would like to do. Practice to be with God! In this world too many people act so powerful and important. Ultimately, they are not. Come before the presence of God and be humble. In this way, we become the highest position in the world. As we always pray, God exalts us. We dwell in the higher grounds.

Third, we pray always and not give up so that we can welcome little ones (15-17).

People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. They (parents) expect Jesus to touch and bless them. What do Jesus' disciples try to do with them? The disciples had some fatigues over too many bothering people. The disciples have seen too many needy people. They were always surrounded by people who demanded them. Initially, they were glad to learn to serve them. After a while, they become tired of that work! They felt that children were bothering them. So these disciples rebuked those who were bringing little children!

What does Jesus teach his disciples about the kingdom of God? Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁷ I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." By this time Jesus had more than twelve disciples. But Jesus did not spend time with them all the time. Jesus did not give them positions of honor for them. Rather, Jesus trained them to welcome little ones. Jesus made them to work hard to serve the needy. This is the way they grew up as world class leaders.

Mother Theresa became great as she welcomed the little ones—despised, abandoned and poorest of the poor in the City of Calcutta, India. In that way, she exalted and honored Christ Jesus. Our ministry is not serving the poor. Our ministry is helping the young people. What kind of young people do we serve? We all want to serve intelligent, healthy and able young people. Instead, God sends many little ones to us. What do we do with them? Our natural mind may not bear them. We need the grace of God. We need the power of God. We need the hope of God. For this we must always pray and not give up.

The kingdom of God is for those who are humble like little children. Probably, we can interpret in this way. One is that we accept the kingdom of God with child-like trust. The other important teaching is that the kingdom of God belongs to us as we welcome little ones around us. We will reward us in the way we welcome the least of brothers among us (Mt 25:40). God will judge us in the way we reject the little ones among us (Mt 25:45). The great work of God is being done by welcoming little ones around us.

In the New Year this is what I am committed to welcome little ones. I will be more prayerful for our children, teenagers and young people. The hope of God is with them. Pray always and do not give up on them. We will not give up loving God and our people--nearby.

European countries—all European countries—have diverse Christian traditions. You see beautiful churches, museums and so many memorable buildings and places to visit with rich Christian memories. What is missing is the lively Christian community in which people always pray and not give up. We are here to serve them in the name of Christ. One main thing we do is this: always pray and not give up. This is our mission. This is our work. This is who we are. This is what we are.

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up"

A Double Portion Of Your Spirit

2 Kings 2:1-25
Key verse 2:9

"When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?' 'Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,' Elisha replied."

Happy new year! I hope you had a merry Christmas. Did you receive some gift you were hoping for? This year, one shepherdess encouraged me to ask coworkers in Koeln not to give many gifts to each other but instead raise our offering for starving North Korean people. So God blessed us to increase the Christmas offering by 30 % or 1,000 Euros. May God bless North Korea to overcome starvation and to welcome Jesus Christ as their savior. Today's passage shows that God's servants should have a desire for some gift. But what should they really long for? Elisha asked for **"a double portion of your spirit."** And his desire was fulfilled. God help us to know the meaning of his request and to serve his work accordingly.

This chapter begins, **"When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind ..."** (1) During his ministry, Elijah had to struggle with the corrupt king Ahab and evil queen Jezebel to the point that he became depressed and yearned to die. In this crucial time God revealed to him, **"Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel – all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him."** (1 Kings 19:18) From that time on, God helped Elijah to concentrate on raising disciples. He started with Elisha, a farmer's son. By and by, he established training centers for fellowships of 50 prophets each, all over Northern Israel. In the dark time of idol worship these prophet schools were a bright light, like a city on a hill. They were like the house churches in Muslim nations, in China and even in North Korea.

Elisha had no theological education and no college degree. He became known as the man who **"used to pour water on the hands of Elijah."** (3:11) In short, he was Elijah's servant. He had to do all the paperwork and errands and also the household chores, whereas the other prophet disciples enjoyed beautiful Bible workshops during the day and rest by night, playing ping-pong. It must have been humiliating, but he served Elijah faithfully.

That day, Elijah was at Gilgal. From there he went 20 miles uphill to Bethel and then another 20 miles downhill to Jericho – all in one day. He wanted to visit his disciples one last time and leave behind his spiritual legacy: "Israel – a kingdom of priests and a holy nation! Back to the Bible! Early morning prayer! Disciple-making through one-to-one ministry!" Elijah's message was not complicated. As he travelled from place to place, he always told Elisha, **"Stay here ...!"** (2,4,6) Elisha might have thought, "Finally, one day of rest all for myself!" But Elisha didn't think about having a day off. Each time he replied, **"As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you."** He was ready to accompany Elijah to the end. He was ready because he wanted to serve Elijah and learn from him to the end.

A learning mind is an indispensable characteristic of God's people. Whoever wants to be used by God, should learn both from God and from ancestors of faith to the end. It is not easy to have a learning mind "to the end." We are tempted "to turn a switch" at a certain point, saying, "Now I am a leader; I can teach what I have learned already." But whoever stops learning, stops growing. Whoever stops learning may become like Korah. Korah had the great privilege of supporting the high priest Aaron at the altar of God. It was an indispensable, precious task. But to Korah, it was not enough. The result of his pride was that he incited many others and perished together with them.

Paul was a great scholar. He might have depended on his knowledge of the Scripture and his ability in leadership. Instead he considered *"everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus ... I want to know Christ."* (Phil 3,8.10) He never stopped learning from Jesus. God blessed his learning mind and entrusted him with a like-minded man, Timothy. And he taught Timothy also to look for faithful people with a learning mind and to serve them.

A learning mind is a distinctive mark of coworkers in our church, beginning with Dr. Samuel Lee and M. Sarah Barry. Each year, Dr. Lee read the whole bible at least once and made so many marks in it that it became really thick. Although he had already written many high-class sermons, he never stopped starting a message praying and trembling in front of an empty sheet of paper. M. Barry was originally Dr. Lee's employer. But she was not ashamed of learning from him and even learning from teenage students in her old age.

Elijah and Elisha came from Gilgal over Bethel and Jericho down to the river Jordan. ***"Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground."*** (8) Awesome! But this division of the waters was only a foretaste of what was going to happen. ***"When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?'"*** (9a) What an offer! Usually a dying person has a final request. He wants to listen to "Amazing Grace" for one last time or wants to receive something for the last time. Elijah was different. Elijah wanted to give something to the end. And he made no restrictions to what Elisha might ask for.

Well, what should you ask of such a great man of God who had just divided the river Jordan with his cloak? E.g. you might ask for this very cloak, as a kind of "magic wand." Or ask for any other miracle. At least demand his theological library. Being suddenly confronted with such an open offer doesn't make it easy to make the right decision. Elisha had no time for consideration; he had to make an immediate decision. What did he want? Let's read verse 9. ***"When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?' 'Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,' Elisha replied."*** Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. What does his request mean?

First, Elisha longed for spiritual power. Elisha wanted to have ***"a double portion of your spirit."*** He didn't want material things or magic power. His desire was to receive spiritual power. Through Elijah's ministry he had realized that only the spirit enables us to do God's will and to serve God's work. It was not ability or courage that made Elijah great, but his spirit. He was a man on whom the Spirit of God was resting. He was a man who obeyed the Spirit of God. Elisha realized that without the Spirit of God, he could do nothing at all. Therefore he asked to inherit a portion of Elijah's spirit, a portion of the Holy Spirit.

What a difference the Spirit of God makes, can be seen in Jesus' disciples. Before they received the Holy Spirit, they were faithful, but so powerless that they hid behind bars even when they knew that the Jesus had risen from the dead victoriously. They knew enough. Yet they had no power to do anything. But when they received the power of the Holy Spirit, they never became tired of proclaiming the death of Jesus on the cross for our sins and his glorious resurrection as our living hope.

The Holy Spirit enabled Korean students to pray for world mission although they were materially poor and had no passports. The Holy Spirit enabled them to challenge this "mission impossible." The Holy Spirit helped them to overcome language barriers, cultural barriers, visa barriers, etc.. The Holy Spirit helped them to make disciples of Jesus among students in 87 nations on earth. Sometimes we feel helpless how to approach and serve students. We have served the yuppies, generation X, generation Y, and postmodern generation. Things change all too fast for us. We change our invitation cards and styles, our music style, clothing and much more. How can we approach the currents of time, the

Zeitgeist, in the right way? We need the Spirit of God. We need the power of the Holy Spirit. This must be our heart's desire.

One day, Jesus' disciples were confused because he kept praying while they had finished prayer within five minutes. Anyway, they humbly asked Jesus, "*Lord, teach us to pray.*" Then Jesus taught them the Lord's Prayer. He confirmed, "*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*" In conclusion he said, "*If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*" The almighty God is our heavenly Father who loves us and doesn't withhold anything we need. What is our greatest need? We need the Holy Spirit. Therefore we may ask the Father for His Spirit and we will receive Him. (Luke 11:1-13)

Second, Elisha wanted to continue the sacrificial ministry of Elijah. Look at verse 9 again. Elisha didn't simply ask for Elijah's spirit. His heart's desire was to "***inherit a double portion of your spirit, Elisha replied.***" The German translation here has a reference to Deuteronomy 21,17; along with other faithful translations we can understand this desire correctly. Elisha asked for "the portion of the firstborn" who received twice as much as his brothers. Elisha prayed to be raised as the rightful successor to Elijah. This was not a small thing. Who could fit into the shoes of this great man of God? Great people leave behind great gaps. But Elisha didn't think that there should be a gap. He didn't think there had to be a gap. He was ready to step into the breach. He was not presumptuous or pretentious. Rather, this was also the desire of Elijah. From all his heart, Elijah wanted the work of God for which he had labored to exhaustion, not to decrease, but to grow all the more. This would happen if someone continued Elijah's sacrificial service with determination. This was the reason that Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit, that he asked for being given the responsibility of succession.

He might have been "moderate," asking just for a single portion. What would that mean? It would mean that he were not ready to accept responsibility. He would only have the blessing. But when there is no-one to take responsibility, the ministry will stagnate and become obsolete in the long run. Therefore, Elisha's spiritual desire was a necessary consequence. His spiritual desire was the fruit of Elijah's disciple-making ministry. His spiritual desire proves that he was changed from a simple farmer into a mature servant of God. In the decisive moment, Elisha could express his spiritual desire simply and clearly, because he understood the heart of Elijah and the heart of God.

Some time ago, Dr. John Jun gave us the prayer topic to double the ministry of God in UBF by 2010. At first I sighed, "This doesn't work; only in Korea, maybe in Chicago. But not in Koeln." Some people considered it not to be helpful to serve God's work "according to numbers." But in prayer I struggled to understand Dr. John Jun's heart. Most of all I prayed to understand God's heart. God so loved the world that he sacrificed his one and only Son on the cross "*that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16) God "*wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*" (1 Tim 2:4) God is "*not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*" (2 Peter 3:9) Understanding God's heart is very simple. Dr. John Jun is ready to accept responsibility and to conform to God's heart's desire.

But what does it mean for us to double the numbers in our different chapters and nations? Should we take twice as much time? Should we distribute twice as many invitations? Should we double all our input? I don't know. But one thing I know: We can double the work of God among us when EACH ONE of us serves ONE PERSON. No more is needed. It's as simple as that. Now it is up to us. Are we ready to accept this responsibility? Or are we content enjoying God's blessing for ourselves? This is the difference between a double portion and a single portion.

What was Elijah's response? **"You have asked a difficult thing, Elijah said, yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours – otherwise not."** (10) He couldn't promise Elisha for sure. But shortly afterwards, while they were walking and talking together, **"suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind."** (11) It was a breath-taking scene: After a sacrificial life of faith, God took Elijah to heaven without his having to taste the pain of death. Like a victorious commander, this great prophet of God was raised from earth to heaven in triumph. When Elisha saw this, he cried out, **"My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!"** His heart was burning with pain because of this great loss – a loss for Elisha, but even more for the people of Israel to whom Elijah had been a good shepherd.

Nothing more could be found of Elijah – except for his cloak that had dropped down and was now lying on the ground. Elisha picked it up and went back to the river Jordan. He took the cloak just as Elijah had done and struck the water with it. **"Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?"** he asked. Then the water divided so that Elisha could return without getting wet. In this way he realized that God had answered his prayer and had confirmed him as successor to Elijah. A company of prophets from Jericho saw this at a distance and said, **"The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha."** (15) They recognized him as Elijah's successor, established and confirmed by God.

When we look at Elisha's ministry in 2 Kings, we realize that he was different from Elijah in many respects. But one thing is clear: God used him as a shepherd for the kings and the people of Israel as He had used Elijah before him. God even made him an international shepherd.

We are neither Elijah nor Elisha. But we can serve God's work in our times when we have the right heart's desire. We must ask God for his Holy Spirit. Through his Spirit, God can use us preciously. Are we willing to take responsibility by asking for a double portion of his Spirit? God help us to double the work of God in our chapter and nation until 2010 for His name's sake.

LET US REBUILD THE WALL OF JERUSALEM

Nehemiah Chapter 1+2
Key Verse 2:17

“Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”

Nehemiah speaks at a dark time in Israel's history. The walls and gates are down. The believers were vulnerable to attack. Nehemiah with vision calls people, ‘Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace’. The people responded and came together to rebuild the city! It was an amazing work of God. But before a single brick was laid there was the tears and prayer of one man, Nehemiah. May we learn the power of one man's prayer with tears. May we share God's heart for the lost students of Europe and be used to rebuild the walls of faith.

Look at Ch 1:1. “The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa,” It was the 20th year of King Artaxerxes. This is 445BC. Jerusalem had fallen about 140 years earlier and Nehemiah had therefore been born and grown up in this Persian kingdom (modern day Iran). If a generation is 30 years then he was already the 5th generation. He could therefore have adopted a worldly Persian life yet he lived a holy life in an unholy nation. He became a cupbearer to the King (1:11). This was not simply the barman but a key position. The King would be at risk of assassination and poisoning and therefore to be in charge of the king's food or drink was a very trusted role. Nehemiah could have enjoyed a comfortable life selecting fine wines and overseeing the palace cellar. Yet he never lost his identity as God's man.

In the month of Kislev, December, Nehemiah was in the citadel of Susa and at this time one of his brothers came from Judah with some other men. He questioned them about Israel, the Jewish remnant and about Jerusalem. Nehemiah wanted to understand their situation. In this we see that although in Persia his heart was in Jerusalem with God's people. What did they say? Look at verse 3. ‘They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”’ They emphasised the miserable condition of Jerusalem. They mentioned many problems ‘those who survived the exile are in great trouble; in disgrace; the wall of Jerusalem is broken down; the gates have been burned with fire.’ How did Nehemiah respond? Look at verse 4. “When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.” This was not a quiet tear but a deep cry of anguish and sorrow. It seems from Chapter 2 that this could have been a period of 3 or 4 months. His pillow was wet. He fasted and mourned. Why did he mourn and cry like this? When he saw the reality of God's holy people being mocked and in great shame he cried out of a broken heart. But his tears were not merely tears of a shepherd like heart. It was the thought that God was dishonoured and Israel's faith had not been restored that weighed on him. The city of Jerusalem in many ways represents God's glory. God's holy city was in ruins and was overrun with weeds and wild animals. Nehemiah earnestly wanted the city to be rebuilt and the glory of God restored. When he thought about this his heart was in great pain. He wept. His tears were holy tears. God precious used

those with broken hearts and who seek God's glory in tears. Jeremiah, the weeping Prophet, even confessed, "My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within, my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed." (Lam 2:11). Such tears are ultimately those of Jesus who wept over the destruction of Jerusalem.

Looking at today's situation across Europe there are many reasons for tears. People cry from worry about the recession, the banking collapse, pressure of tough jobs, the environment, family worries, ministry struggles and so on. But greater than these we have to mourn more about the destruction of the spiritual and moral climate of our society. Europe is described as a 'post-Christian society'. Across Europe the church is weak and in steep decline. Pope Benedict last year lamented the weakening of churches in Europe. He said "There's no longer evidence for a need of God, even less of Christ". He said, "the so-called traditional churches look like they are dying." The statistics are startling. In the last 20 years 49% of men under 30 left the church in the UK! At the current rate of loss it is predicted that by 2028 men will all but have disappeared from the Church in the UK. In 12 major European countries, about 40% of people say they never or practically never attend church. This is almost three times worse than in the USA. In the UK it's estimated about 2500 people leave the church each week. The few that join tend to be from immigrant communities. And what of the believers? Under the influence of materialism and relativism believers often don't live very differently to the wider society around them.

For us called to a university ministry, we must mourn and cry that campus walls have collapsed. The very first European Universities were created as a place for the study of truth. The supreme subject was theology - the knowledge of God. There should therefore be the sound of prayer, praise and the word of God in our universities. Yet today our universities are hostile to the gospel; students are tough, materialistic and self-centred. In the UK universities tend to have one student Christian organisation. At UCL at most about 100 people may attend a meeting. This is from a student body of 22,000. In this environment there is almost no salt and light in the campus. Yet is anyone surprised by this news? Isn't this normal to us? For many it's all we have ever known - we become used to a ministry in decline and are often not even bothered by it. But the surprise here is that Nehemiah is given news that is 141 years old. The walls and gates were burnt 141 years earlier yet he mourned and wept at being told the news. This is like being told of the first Boer War or that Japan had occupied Korea in 1910 and bursting into tears today. Nehemiah received the old news but in a new way. He came to share Jesus' broken heart. As shepherds who are called to be responsible for students should we not mourn and cry when we see this situation? Although we may know about the problems in Europe and think they are 'normal' may God give us Jesus' heart and shed tears for Europe's broken campuses!

But Nehemiah did not just mourn for his and his nation's failures. He started to pray. He started to kneel down to God. Look at verse 5, "Then I said: "O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands." What kind of God does he hold to and pray to? He held to the God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant with those who love and obey his commands. What was his first prayer?

Look at verse 6-7, "let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and

laws you gave your servant Moses.” He first confessed sin. He knew that it was because of the sin of disobedience that they had reached this miserable situation in which they received God's punishment. The Israelites did not live according to the word of God in the Promised Land. They became like spiritual prostitutes by worshipping many kinds of pagan Gods. But he did not say 'those nasty Israelites have sinned before you'. Rather he said, 'we...including myself and my father's house have committed against you'. But is this right? In fact the reason that the Israelites were suffering was because their descendants had not kept God's word. It was not Nehemiah or the other Jewish descendants fault that they were captive in Babylon or that the walls had been destroyed 141 years earlier. In fact Nehemiah was the victim of his ancestors behaviour - he was the one forced to live in exile! Yet he did not complain about his forefathers, society or co-workers but said, "including myself and my fathers house have committed against you". He embraced the sin problem of the Israelites as his own. However Nehemiah's confession was not just some general responsibility for the sins of the Israelites. He found his sin in the sin of his ancestors. He found the desire to indulge in the life of blessing. He perhaps lived a palace life in Susa, at times he might have forgotten his identity as God's people. Almost unconsciously he could become part of the gentile culture. We see here the holy work of rebuilding the temple of God started from one man: Nehemiah who mourned about the destruction of God's glory and God's temple and accepted it as his sin and repented. Before he built the temple of God he rebuilt his inner wall by repenting of sin.

Today what is the reason that many European churches are dead or dying? What is the reason that campuses are so ruined? What is the reason that the student ministry shrinks? Is it just 'this generation'? Is it the spiritual leaders? Political leaders? Is it post-modern thinking that denies absolute truth? No. It is because of our sin, which is my sin. The spiritual indifference, the lack of love for God, not living with an absolute faith, selfishness and not serving God wholeheartedly – these are my sins. So what should we do in order to serve revival of Europe's universities?

First there should be the work of repentance amongst us. If we shout at campus intellectuals and armour ourselves with morality will this solve the problem? No. We have to have broken hearts toward destroyed universities. We have to realise that the sin of students is my sin. The sin of laziness, sins of indifference, pride and impurity. Rebuilding starts with repentance. Second we have to restore the absolute attitude to the word of God amongst us. The fundamental sin of the Israelites was that although they knew the word of God they did not live according to it. Look at verse 7 again, "We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses." We must restore an absolute attitude to the word of God. It's from such inner repentance that rebuilding of the campuses flows.

In conclusion the prayer and tears of Nehemiah seemed little but they were not weak. They were a strong foundation for the rebuilding of Israel's walls. Jesus wept and prayed over Jerusalem before the victory of the cross. Today we pray for our nations. We pray for revival in Europe. The news that the spiritual walls and gates are burned is not new but like Nehemiah may we accept it in a new way and came to share Jesus' heart for this ruined continent. May God give us his broken heart for this Godless land. When we have the courage and faith of Nehemiah, the walls of faith will be built. Nehemiah himself assures us in verse 20 "The God of heaven will give us success." Amen!

EFFECTIVE ONE TO ONE MINISTRY

John 21:15-17

Luke 12:42

The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?"

Praise and thank God for giving me this opportunity to share God's grace with the precious missionaries in Europe at the beginning of this year 2009. The topic given to me for this special lecture is "Effective One to One ministry." I do not feel fully qualified to discuss this topic in a comprehensive manner. Rather, the focus of my presentation is to share the lessons God has taught me over the years in the course of living as a Bible teacher. In the course of prayers and reflection, it dawned on me that God has been very gracious to this unworthy sinner. While preparing this lecture, God helped me to repent me to restore my first love for Christ Jesus overcoming the lukewarm spirit of this generation. Most of all, may God grant all of us faith, love, strength and wisdom to serve this challenging generation. May God bless each of us to be a very faithful and fruitful one to one disciple-maker in 2009!

[1] God prepared me to be a one to one Bible teacher

First, "Do you truly love me more than these?" (John 21:15-17).

I met Jesus Christ personally in my third year of the Medical School at Seoul National University, Korea. So it was a late start for me. I was quite ignorant of the Bible. God trained me to study the Bible and even speak at various Bible academies and summer conferences with the texts from Genesis, Exodus, and Romans. This was hard and burdensome; somehow God helped me to do so. In this way God prepared me to lay a good foundation to be a Bible teacher. My initial Bible study experiences were not so good. Almost all of those who studied with me stopped even before coming to the third chapter of the book of Genesis. Probably, without ever hearing about Satan in Genesis chapter 3, they fell into the temptation to quit. Sheep without a shepherd is pitiful as well as a shepherd without even one sheep. God in his good purpose trained me in this way so that it was clear to me that my own diligent and sincere effort alone is not sufficient to raise any disciples for Jesus.

Anyway, while experiencing sheep that studied for a while and fell away like falling leaves in the fall, I lost the meaning of shepherd life. My body and spirit became very tired. Out of desperation I sought advice from Dr. Samuel Lee to understand how to serve God's mission. He gave me two specific advices. One was to learn faithful intercessory prayer and the other was to learn to co-work, instead of trying to do it all by myself. Afterwards, God allowed me to be a shepherd without a sheep for almost ten years before starting a new pioneering ministry for Kyunghee University in Seoul. This was the period when I received humility and faith training.

By God's grace, my wife and I established a house church. Since my coworker had already finished her preparation to leave for America as a missionary doctor, she left for her mission field six months after our marriage. I stayed in Korea and became a man without his wife, which was so-called 'Hudson Taylor Training' in that Hudson Taylor, renowned English missionary to China, lived many years in his mission field without his wife. Throughout this period of training, God molded me as an independent servant who depends on God, not on any people whom I easily count on. However, my sheep showed no mercy to this man without his loving wife. Many of them left one by one finding whatever reason they could

think of. In the year I was receiving 'Hudson Taylor Training', I invited sheep wholeheartedly for the Summer Bible Conference in Jejudo. Even at the conference they were not interested in God's words at all, but missed meetings to go fishing and swimming whenever the chances allowed them. I wondered why God gave me such bad sheep all the time. I complained to God. I condemned myself for not being faithful to my family. I despaired with the sense of failure as a shepherd, too. I prayed in tears, "Lord, I sent away my wife as a missionary in obedience to you. I am now receiving this 'Hudson Taylor Training' by faith. Why then don't you send me even one good sheep?"

At that time, through one of the conference messages the Lord came to me, "Jintae, son of Hagyun Suh, do you truly love me more than these? Feed my lambs"(John 21:15). I had nothing to say before these words. God exactly pointed out my sin problem and challenged me to repent. Jesus wanted me to love Him the most, not worrying about the outcomes of my sincere shepherd life. He wanted to grow in my love relationship with him first. I was a sinner who merely struggled to feed sheep even for my small glory and satisfaction. In the name of feeding sheep I loved myself and this world more than my Lord. When I served sheep with this attitude, they somehow recognized it and left me with no regret. God had compassion on me, helping me repent. I resolved to be a good shepherd that loves the Lord and feeds his sheep for his glory and for their wellbeing. In this way, this conference was a truly memorable one, since I learned what it means to be a good shepherd for Jesus and his sheep, not for myself.

Second, Bind up the testimony (Isaiah 8:16)

When I developed this absolute love relationship with Jesus and renewed the spiritual order with him, my 'Hudson Taylor Training' was over. My coworker returned to Korea from New York. God blessed us to be a wonderful family of mission. However, I had to pass another God's second training topic. With my firm decision to feed sheep based on the love of God, too many sheep all of a sudden attended the Summer Bible Conference of that year. My fellowship grew very big. At that time, God sent my house church from Chongro Headquarters to Anam Center. It was to pioneer Korea University with Shepherd Mark Yang. However, even with the passing of time, my fellowship had no college students from Korea University. Those who had joined with us for the pioneering ministry all except one left for one reason after another. Once again, I merely complained and despaired in deep disappointment over my unfruitful shepherd life.

At that time, Dr. Samuel Lee gave me Isaiah 8:16, "**Bind up the testimony and seal up the law among my disciples.**" This was God's word for the prophet Isaiah who was despairing over the wicked Israelites. Dr. Samuel Lee urged me to grow up and become a servant of God's word first—being fit to raise disciples of Jesus. I had no real word of God that was deeply planted in my heart. Instead, I served his sheep with my own will and hard work. Naturally, many sheep neither tasted any real joy nor experienced God's grace through my ministry. In reality, I was driving them away with my legalistic and moralistic demands. God's training was to help me accept God's words deeply in my heart. I repented my useless sense of despair. Instead, I made up my mind to do first things first: constantly reading the Bible, doing Daily Bread, prayerfully meditating weekly message and faithfully writing testimonies.

Around that time, I was serving a three year military duty as a medical officer. For the last two years I was assigned in Pusan area which was about four hours away from Seoul by train. This was a very precious period for me to meditate and store God's words in my soul deeply. During the weekdays, I stayed in Pusan; during the weekends, I came to Seoul to participate in Anamgol pioneering ministry. While I was alone, I wrote testimonies deeply and read the Bible prayerfully. Gradually God helped me to taste the power of God's words and help me prepare one-to-one Bible materials. With no sheep I did not waste my time by

indulging in vain thinking. Rather, I took it as the most precious “wilderness” opportunity to prepare myself as an independent and responsible Bible teacher. While spending more than these ten long years without sheep I learned to be content and rejoice in the Lord. Therefore, I was able to provide comfort and hope for anyone who struggled without any sheep. Through this period of training God taught me the essence of faith—it is to keep absolute faith in God with great patience, even though there might be neither real visible fruit nor tangible rewards. I believe that God surely uses his servants for gospel ministry when they are prepared and ready as independent and reliable Bible teachers. Amen!

[2] God helped us pioneer Kyunghee University

First, God raised up one father of faith

After completion of my military duty God led me to the Kyunghee University Hospital as a faculty. At that time, we had an earnest prayer topic to raise up “Peter” team brothers who might bless the faithful “older” sisters who need to form Christian families. God graciously answered with our prayer and sent Abraham Han to us as one-to-one sheep. He was a somewhat older student in his fourth year at the Medical School and already completed his army service. Amazingly, he even said that he was praying to find a good bible teacher for a long time. God answered both my prayer for one-to-one sheep and Shepherd Abraham Han’s prayer for one-to-one teacher. God led us to meet together, which was the beginning of pioneering ministry for Kyunghee University. God accepted our sincere prayers for the “older” sisters and used them preciously for gospel ministry. One-to-one ministry is to serve God’s great will to save the whole world; in practice it is to bless the shepherd heart of one Bible teacher.

God called one person, Abraham, and served him one-to-one for a long time, to accomplish the world salvation purpose. Eventually, Abraham became the man of faith and obedience. God blessed Abraham, so from him, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. Through the pioneering ministry of Kyunghee University, we experienced that God sends many sheep through one father of faith.

Second, “Who will give them their food allowance at the proper time?” (Luke 12:42)

It was not easy for busy medical students to find time for intensive Bible studies. However, when the Holy Spirit worked, many medical students came to study the Bible. Then, sheep invited their friends. At the Summer Bible Conference of that year, there was a great work of God among students from the school of Medicine, Dentistry, Oriental Medicine, and Nursing. We called those who grew to be shepherds as ‘Lions’ Team, named after the symbol of Kyunghee University--Lion. This pioneering ministry grew year after year and many pioneering leaders were raised for each year. Among them, Missionary David Cho, now pioneering North Western University in Chicago, invited many students for Bible study and helped them faithfully. But all of them said good-bye to him without completing even three lessons. He also probably needed a similar training like me.

One day he invited one student for Bible study thinking that he was a medical student. He was in fact a student from Kwangwoon University. Fortunately, he moved beyond the “impossible” first three lessons of Genesis and continued to engage in one to one regularly. We encouraged Shepherd David to bear fruit in one-to-one ministry no matter what university the student was from. But the student, as a non-medical student from another university, felt somewhat uncomfortable with the center environment where many “smart” medical students were studying the Bible. Therefore he did not want to come to the center. So Shep. David went to the campus of Kwangwoon University and studied the Bible there instead. For the

sake of Kwangwoon University, we acquired a Bible center nearby the campus and many students came for Bible study, rest and fellowships. In this way, the pioneering ministry of Kwangwoon University started. We just encouraged Shepherd David to serve one sheep and bear fruit in his shepherd life. It was God who blessed his shepherd heart to begin the pioneering ministry at Kwangwoon University.

Following the Kwangwoon ministry, the work of the Holy Spirit spread to Dongduk Women's University as well. The sheep from Kwangwoon University were mostly brothers. Our leaders were concerned about their marriages in faith. So, we prayed for pioneering Dongduk Women's University that located nearby Kwangwoon Campus. We prayed to find one woman of God from this campus and many leaders went to the campus for one to one invitation. God was certainly pleased with our prayers and raised up many great full-time shepherdesses as the mothers for many nations through this campus.

We also praise God who began his good work at the Medical School of Catholic University of Korea. One pioneer shepherd in the 'Lions' Team' volunteered to pioneer the Medical School at Catholic University of Korea after graduating Kyunghee Medical School. He applied for the resident program at the Catholic University Hospital. At that time, my oldest daughter Jin-soon entered Catholic University Medical School. With this, God granted this school as our third pioneering field. Building on the pioneering ministry at Kyunghee Medical School from 1981, God granted us very prosperous ministry within 7-8 years extending our tents of mission and raising up the faithful prayer servants for each campus.

At the beginning of pioneering ministry for "Lions' Team" we simply did not have enough shepherds to feed the sheep. A few leaders had to bear many students who wanted to study the Bible. Since I have been a shepherd without sheep for many years, I thought I should give God's words to all of them. I tried to help them in groups—instead of several one to one studies. At that time, Dr. Samuel Lee advised me that we should focus on disciple making ministry through one-to-one bible study. He gave the name of our center to be 'Kyungsung', which means 'stay awake,' which has become the spiritual direction for us to serve the pioneering ministry for Kyunghee University. I was concerned about how to serve disciple making ministry since I had been a lay shepherd and not received any formal shepherd training.

Then, Dr. Samuel Lee gave me Luke 12:42, "**The Lord answered, 'Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?'**" Based on this, he planted faith in God and inspired me to feed sheep with conviction that God's people will grow if I live as a faithful and wise servant to give God's word to his people at the proper time. By this word I was free from the unnecessary burdens of doing something special for his people. Rather, I decided to present myself as a servant of God's word and trust God for the results of my work. I changed the direction to devote to one-to-one Bible study, not group studies. I served two teams of one to one in the early morning and the other two teams in the evening each day.

One early morning in the winter, I left home for one-to-one Bible study. There was so much snow and no taxi was available. I thought that the sheep would not come to have a Bible study in such a cold and snowy day, and I planned to return home. All of a sudden I remembered Luke 12:42. I thought that even though the sheep might not come but as a shepherd I should go to the center to pray for the sheep. Then, I saw a taxi just coming toward me. To my surprise, there was the sheep in the taxi who promised to have one-to-one. He said that he also hesitated to come, wondering if I would really come in such a bad weather. But he decided to come anyway thinking that he should keep the Bible study appointment. In this way, God helped me obey to Luke 12:42.

Giving the spiritual food allowance at the proper time does not require special know-how and techniques. Neither was it about outstanding ability nor smart methods that mattered. But I experienced that the sheep would grow when I feed God's words to them

responsibly, as a faithful and wise manager. Our leaders did not know what and how to serve the pioneering ministry. But we prayed for the sheep God entrusted to us three times a day. And we worked hard to be the faithful managers to give them their food allowance at the proper time. Indeed, God himself raised many leaders and missionaries and then sent them to pioneer three chapters in Korea and sent out 70 missionaries to 17 nations.

Third, "You give them something to eat" (Mark 6:37)

Medical students are very busy. At the ordinary time they were faithful to one-to-one study. But at the time of exam they would stop all other things and only concentrated for their exam preparations. When they did well in the exams, they came again for the Bible studies. But when they did not do well in their exams, they blamed for the time investment they made for Bible study and then quit studying the Bible as of first importance. While trying to live by faith according to God's words, they have little time with their "old" friends. They felt alone and alienated. As their minds are filled with worries and concern for their future, they stop being open to God's words. To overcome this challenge we came up with some special measures. We were seeking a practical way to help these students overcome their stress during exam periods and further develop good spiritual relationships. Our women leaders and full-time shepherdesses prepared gourmet foods--lunch set, whole baked chicken, and hamburgers before the exam week. We also had special prayer meeting every day to support them and feed them physically as well. Then, not only those who were doing one-to-one studies but also many hesitant sheep attended the meeting and shared Daily Bread, enjoying the gourmet foods. Shepherds gave them God's words and students shared their prayer topics and prayed together. In the course of such serving life sheep experienced God's grace. They developed trust and love relationships with the leaders who love them with sincere and pure love of God. They saw how eagerly these Bible teachers fed them with good food and prayed for them in spite of their own financial and practical needs. In this way, many students tasted the grace of God and opened their hearts. They shared their life issues, asked for help and engaged in sincere Bible studies. Many students grew in faith just as little children are happy in the environment of love, continuous prayer support, active fellowships, regular meetings and close friendships based on love of God. After all, faith, hope and love remain but the greatest of these is love.

Fourth, United prayer (Matthew 18:19)

As the number of sheep grew, the number of people suffering from various problems in lives increased, too. When we were not sure how to help all of them with various life issues, we decided to pray. We had engaged in early morning prayers. Fulltime shepherdesses had united prayer meeting in the every morning, and also prayed at home till late with their children. On every Friday, we had prayer all night, depending wholly on the prayer. In the evenings on Sundays, staff shepherds had team conferences to discuss and pray for spiritual needs of key leaders. We were seeking God's direction holding onto their prayer topics. After having the united prayer, the night was gone and there was a bright early morning. God listened to our prayers and blessed our ministry with the returning work among those who had left before. God helped us to have prayer support for the missionaries sent out from our chapter and beyond. We earnestly prayed with the prayer topics that our missionaries provided, calling each and every name in the early morning prayer and Friday vigil prayer. When we did so, God answered our prayers and accomplished great salvation ministry in the foreign mission field.

Fifth, the ministry of special bible study program, 'The Lecture Hall of Tyrannus'

Medical students had no rest in their heart and usually felt tired and weary because of constant exams and tests. To raise them up as Bible teachers, we had to use the school

break periods. We followed the example of Apostle Paul's ministry at the Lecture hall of Tyrannus. When the summer or winter school break time came, we organized the special Bible Study teams, we had various group Bible Study to teach students Genesis, John, Romans, and Exodus. We set up an overall schedule to finish the study during the school break periods. We also helped them have in-depth Bible studies and had them prepare Bible study materials. Through these focused Bible studies, they could have confidence and conviction to be Bible teachers of fishing and teaching the bible to the students.

The most important prayer topics of Kyungsung Chapter is to raise up 100 capable Bible teachers first and extend to 300 till 2010, supporting the goal for UBF to send 100,000 missionaries by 2041.

In conclusion, I think there is no special method or secret for effective one-to-one ministry. We, who were called as shepherds and missionaries, should have a clear priority on the love relationship with God. We should maintain the attitude of faithful stewards to take and serve the flock of God. For this, we first should store God's words deeply in us. We need to provide the food allowance for his sheep at the proper time as the faithful and wise managers. At this time, I believe we should accept Dr. Samuel Lee's instruction, "Go back to the Bible" deeply in our hearts and personally obey to it. I believe that God will accomplish world campus mission for His name's sake as we go back to the Bible and serve one-to-one Bible study faithfully.