OUR DEAR AMERICAN FRIENDS,

BEST CHRISTMAS GIFTS

On Christmas, some people receive books as gifts, some people receive flowers as presents, I receive BABIES AS CHRISTMAS GIFTS. Actually, we received three new babies recently. They were left in a Church's "baby box," without names, without any information. It seems that there will be a few more Chaes....actually, there are already a generation of Chaes in our Home and I am beginning to have some problems remembering all their names.

I feel that birth of babies is a sign that God still has hope in this world. Or rather, this world still has hope of salvation. Every time when I hear laughing or crying of our babies, (and that's about all I hear from these babies), I know that GOD HAS NOT YET GIVEN UP ON THIS WORLD! and I thank God. I may not be able to see their future with my own eyes, but I almost feel like Moses seeing the promised land and I thank God.

Another thing that I am always happy to receive are the letters from the listeners of my radio program. Sometimes, they come with loads of questions and problems and requests for visits. Still, I am happy to receive them and answer them. But the special letters are those from people who have heard my radio messages before they escaped from North Korea. In fact, I just received one, and this is very rare. There is almost no communication by mail between North Korea and South Korea, due to the North Korean policies.



Christmas Gifts from God

It is simply impossible! But when they escape from North Korea, they try to contact me from other countries, such as Japan, Thailand etc. Usually, they have no return addresses and very brief content...mainly that they heard me while they were in North Korea and NOW THEY ARE CHRISTIANS!...but they are full of love and new hope. They are the best Christmas gifts to me.

So, we thank God and you for helping and praying for us, for the children, and for North Koreans, when we needed help the most and wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

LIPS MISSION

These days, I often preach to the retired preachers. (We have a group called Senior Preachers Association and I was the president one time). The other day, I preached to them under the title "LIPS MISSION'. As older ministers, we don't have much use of our eyes, ears, nose, hands and feet. But our lips can always be active. And it is our duty to use our lips to proclaim the Providence of God to the very end.

For instance, there were more than a few times, when we didn't have enough food to feed our children, but in these times, last minute help always came. So "GOD ALWAYS PROVIDES" is my testimony and that's my lips evangelism. And that's what God commanded to the people of Israel to keep reminding people that God saved them by the blood of the Lamb in Egypt and at Golgotha (Exodus 12).

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GRADUATIONS GALORE!

February is the GRADUATION SEASON in Korea. Our University will graduate Christian workers and our Children's Home also may have to let go some children who graduated High Schools and are looking for jobs. It is always a tearful season, as they depart, and yet also, a hopeful occasion knowing that this world would be a better place to live through these young people.

In fact, I think that I caught the flu by standing outside in this cold weather waiting for our children to graduate. And our graduating children are not one or two. For instance, this year, 6 are graduating High Schools, 4 are graduating Middle Schools and 4 are graduating Elementary School. And I have to be there. If I am not there, THEY DON'T HAVE A FATHER PRESENT. So, I try to be there no matter what the weather is like.

Our Christian University is also sending out 153 graduates to the world. I preached at the Commencement service and I apologized as I congratulated them, because they are now going to have to carry their own crosses to their death. I told them that their real graduation is at the end of their lives and the TUITION IS THEIR LIVES! I must say that our tuition is the most expensive, because we require their lives!

Before the departure of our graduates and

children, I preached to them a message on "the Power of the Blood," because that's what they are going to need. "Blood" is rather too bloody to talk about, and some people hesitate to talk about it, but I feel that less emphasis on the "blood" resulted in the negligence of weekly communion and the birth of such theologies as modernism etc., and I feel that more preaching on the "Blood of Jesus" is needed in this world. After all, it's the Blood of Jesus which saved us and which will save the world!



Seoul Christian University Graduation Ceremony

COLD WINTERS, WARM HEARTS

It's now winter vacation. Korea is so cold in winter that students need winter vacation. But winter is also good for home Bible studies and prayer meetings. In fact, "fasting in prayer gardens'" meetings are also popular these days and I try to be there one day every week. For me, empty stomach makes my head empty to receive God's directions. Besides, it makes me lighter, as I walk on snow.

This winter, we held our annual Christmas party for the homeless people, which we call "Neighbor Invitational party." It was a very crowded party this year. There were more than five hundred people and Jesus was among them (Remember Jesus said, one time, "Son of man has no place to lay his head"?) At this party, I preached a sermon entitled, "Unexpected Christmas." I talked about how Mary's conception was unexpected, the lock of a hotel room was unexpected, and the escape to Egypt was unexpected, and so on... and their homeless situation was unexpected! But just as God used Joseph and Mary's

unexpected situations for the salvation of the world, I know that God will change the unexpected situation of the homeless for the Victory of all!



Neighbor Invitational Party



YEAR OF THE SHEEP

Happy Lunar New Year! of the sheep. Sheep, they say, is the most helpless animal. It can't fly, it can't swim (I guess sheep trying to swim would be kind of like trying to swim with an overcoat). It has no major weapons like sharp tooth or claw or big horn. And I suppose that's the reason why they are loved by the people, most of all by Jesus Christ. Jesus loved them and they loved Him.

One living being more helpless than sheep may be human kids... babies that is. Even sheep kids open their eyes as soon as they are born and stand up soon after they are born, but human babies can't stand, can't see, and can't even suck milk. And I guess that's why God loves them the most. God cares for them and they grow fast. You just have to come see our babies. They were born only last year, but they are growing quickly. The best time of my life these days, is when I go to their room. They sit up and smile...the kind of smile which melts you... the kind of angelic smile that leads you to Heaven. And yet, how difficult it is to rear babies.

FAMILY COUNSELING

One program that we started under our new title as "Children's Welfare Comprehensive Town," is FAMILY COUNSELING. We counsel families of all situations, particularly with the families who are about to break off, and believe me, it's very very difficult work. But we need to prevent these tragedies (of making more orphans), and it breaks my heart even more thinking of, and trying to help out families of the North Korean defectors wandering in China. They say that there are more than two hundred thousand of them.

Actually, we, the South Korean people as a whole, are passionate about the UNION OF FAMILIES who were separated by the War. It has been sixty years since

COURAGE TO STAND UP AGAIN

To our children, most of all, I try to give them courage to stand up again. That's something that I learned while I was studying in the western world. When a child falls down, Korean mothers will do everything to help and aid him or her to stand up again. When a child falls down in the USA for instance, the parents usually do not aid, but say "YOU CAN STAND UP" and encourage him or her to stand. It's that courage that I am trying to imprint in the heart of our children... the kind of courage that Joseph had, the kind of courage that Paul had. I said, at the morning devotion of our workers, "the best things that we can give to our children is "faith" and "courage."

Every minute is crisis. You can't take your eyes off them even one second. How thankful we are to the social workers (dorm mothers) who take care of them 24 hours everyday. And how thankful we are to our God who takes care of all of us every second of everyday. Some of our babies were abandoned in Church baby-box. I was talking to some of our workers the other day that perhaps MARY MIGHT HAVE BEEN TEMPED TO USE THE BABY BOX, if she lived today. How grateful we are that she didn't -- and instead, watched Jesus being nailed on the Cross.



100 Day Celebration for our new babies

the Korean War, still I am afraid that there are too many separated families. Our government has proposed to North Korea to arrange the family union meeting this month, but I am afraid that there has been no response from North Korea.



The most recent North/South Korea family reunion

By the way, I have received some questions about my SPEAKING SCHEDULE this year. As I am not getting any younger, I cannot travel as much as I used to do, but I usually make one trip to the USA annually for the Board meeting and speak at some Churches around that area. But I definitely have one travelling schedule in mind in future. It is a TRIP TO HEAVEN. And I am looking forward to it.

YOURS BECAUSE OF CALVARY, YOON KWON CHAE



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