

KOREA PUSAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

2002 April/May Edition

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Beloved companions,

As we prepare for Mission Conference and face the reality of our departure, Sister Slover and I are filled once again with deep feelings of appreciation and love. It has been the greatest privilege of our lives to associate with you in doing the work of our Father in Heaven. When President Hinckley set us apart, he instructed us not only to counsel our missionaries, but also to be counseled by them. Each day we have served, we have learned from you and from those who came before you. We have been humbled by your faith and diligence, and thrilled by your testimonies of the Restored Gospel and of the Savior. How can we ever adequately thank you for all you have given us?

I have every confidence that you will welcome President Seo and his companion with the same generous love and support that you have afforded us. I have learned that in the Lord's work, each leader is called for a season and brings exactly what is needed for that time. Of course President Seo will not always do things as I have done them. That will not mean that either of us is wrong. It will simply mean that the Spirit will lead him to act in accordance with his own strengths and the current needs of the Mission. Remember the lesson we have so often discussed. In the pyramid of priorities, doctrine forms the foundation, principles are next, and specific rules and programs form the apex. Rules and programs may change, but the underlying doctrines and principles will remain the same. A new president has a great need to feel the support of his missionaries. I shall never forget how much joy one of my first assistants, Elder Heckathorne, brought to me by telling me after a few weeks that he admired and loved me. I felt like I belonged here. I ask you to approach this change in that light.

The Lord's hand is in His work. We are called for a time, and are expected to serve with all our heart, might, mind, and strength. We run hard until the end of our lap, and then pass the baton to the next runner. I leave you with my testimony of the reality of the Restoration, the divine origin of the Book of Mormon, the

prophetic mission of Joseph Smith, and the vibrant leadership of a living prophet, Gordon Hinckley. More importantly, I leave you with my witness that God the Father knows and loves His children, and that the Savior Jesus Christ is the author of our salvation. Beyond all doubt, I know these things to be true. Like you, I hope to be a disciple of Christ – to be worthy of His approbation.

May the Lord bless and keep you, my beloved companions. We love you as we love our own children, and we will do so for the rest of our lives. You will be in our prayers and in our dreams. Your joys will be ours; your sorrows will pain us. God be with you 'til we meet again.

President Robert H. Slover II

SISTER SLOVER'S MESSAGE

As I write this, Korea is red with people shouting Te Han Min Gook and preparing to watch the Korea- Italy match. The whole country has been dressed in red for a couple of weeks, and businesses compete with people trying to stay up on the latest soccer match. Throughout our lives, there will be many equally absorbing things to devote our time and attention to. We need to be sure that we choose wisely, for where we place our time and energy shows where the things that we treasure are. We cannot serve the Lord and prepare for his kingdom if we are always talking and thinking of the latest sports event or song or political scandal, no matter how absorbing they seem. Robert Frost wrote a poem that I think expresses this idea. His poem, "Choose something like a star" concludes with the lines

"It asks a little of us here.
It asks of us a certain height,
So when at times the mob is swayed
To carry praise and blame too far,
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid."

We should have an eternal perspective, and place the things of this world in their proper sphere. As we stay our minds on the Lord and his teachings, we will feel of his spirit in helping us to choose well and wisely. We will be staid

with the love of our Father in Heaven. We have loved serving with you in this great work. I have loved the opportunity of being able to see you grow as you serve our Father in Heaven. I pray that you will remember how much we love you and how much our Father in Heaven loves you and live up to your potential. Onje kajena.
Sister Slover

CONVERT BAPTISMS

Total Baptisms in 2002: 86
Goal for 2002: 300
Baptisms for April/May: 16/17
부산 Zone 7 대구 Zone 7
동래 Zone 2 경북 Zone 1
낙동 Zone 1 신라 Zone 6
가야 Zone 0 경남 Zone 1
탐라 Zone 6 진주 Zone 2

NEW MISSIONARIES

Welcome to our new missionaries who arrived !!

April-

Sister Naegle - Pleasanton, CA

Elders 김정기 - 수원, Korea

Crowder - Chino Hills, CA

Northcott - Penticton, BC

Goodwin - Santa Clara, UT

Shepherd - Ogden, UT

May-

Sisters 김순희, 정정윤 - 서울

Elders 조남준 - 서울, Korea

Mckinley - Moreno, CA

Gravensteter - Clarkston, MI

Sizemore - Diamond bar, CA

Cobia - Blackfoot, ID

RETURNING MISSIONARIES

April-

Elder and Sister Chang

Sister 윤미선

Elders Alverson, Elliot

May-

Sisters- Nielson, 여의주, 김은하

Elders Oblad, Bollard, Ellsworth,

Erwin, McCammon, Kim (Jason), Washburn

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

김학재 has been inactive for maybe 5 years. Before that, he was a Bishop, Branch President, and Missionary in the 서울 mission. His wife was offended in some kind of deal with New Skin. Anyway, 김학재 fell away with his wife

and became bitter against the church. He took all his church books put them in a shed outside. I visited him two or three times with Elder Fitts and we were making progress. When we next met he very boldly said that he did not want to meet us anymore. When I asked why he said, "He hated everything that had to do with the church."

I was really mad at him. I thought when we had visited him it had been really fun, and we were not pushy or anything. A long time passed. Then one Sunday morning I got a call at 8:00 AM. It was a Brother Smith who served a mission in Pusan 20 years ago. He baptized 김학재 in 진주. He said that he wanted to meet him, but couldn't find him. It was kind of sad to tell this man that Brother Kim was inactive. Brother Smith requested his address and asked when church started. I told him. At 10:00 AM just as Sacrament meeting was starting, in walked Brother Smith dragging 김학재. Brother Kim looked like a little kid caught red-handed by his mother. It was testimony meeting, the first one up was Brother Smith, and for 10 minutes he talked about Brother Kim's conversion and baptism. Brother Smith left that night for Seoul. That next Thursday I went to Brother Kim's house. He was not home, but his wife was. We talked a bit, then I got my nerve up and asked how brother Smith's visit was. She said she really enjoyed it. My second question was whether they planned to come out to church this next week. She went off on how they still had problems, not with the church, but with the people, and faith. I bore testimony, and asked if they had plans to ever come back to church? She said she did not know. I asked her to re-think it, and that was it. They did not come the next Sunday, but they have come for the last two weeks as a family (two un-baptized sons). Then yesterday they invited me to dinner. When I got there all his books were back on the shelf. He pulled out his pictures from his mission. When it came time to eat he said he would pray. When dinner was over his wife apologized for being rude. Then he told me that these last two weeks at church reminded him of his responsibility to baptize his children and be worthy to go to the temple with his wife again. I flew home last night. I could not believe the change. It took five years, but I'm glad I had an opportunity to see the end result. I wish I could tell everyone before me that they did succeed in helping him, it was just on the lords time.

-Elder Ellsworth-