

A Profile in Joy: The Life of Stephen Kim

Note: Excerpt from Annabelle Laughbaum, A Profile in Joy: The Life of Stephen Kim (Kansas City: NPH, 1993).

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Dear My special Ma'am:

Hallelujah! Greetings in Jesus' name who saved us from our sins. Praise the Lord! Always our Lord Jesus Christ gives new living water to my heart.

You know, Ma'am, here it is very hot weather during the whole year. It was difficult for us to adjust. But nowadays we are very fine in many ways because of many people's kindly guidance, concern and prayers.

Grace and I attended the first summer session at APNTS as soon as we arrived here. Now we are very busy preparing for the second semester classes. I will study for a master of divinity degree and Grace for a masters in religious education. I think our main problem will be reading and writing in English rather than in speaking English. I trust that if we study continually day by day, this problem will be solved one day.

There are several reasons why we decided to study in the Philippines. The first is that I have a big concern for missions in Asia. God gave me a vision about this when I experienced salvation in Christ. Another reason is to increase my English ability. I came also because of our economic problem. After finishing my degree, I hope that I can enter a doctoral program in America...After our preparation we will go back to Korea.

Grace and I are living in a family apartment on our campus. Our seminary gives us all of the necessities of life so we can cook and Grace can make many kinds of kimchi killer still!...Every morning we have early morning prayer meeting together at my home. We read the Bible, give testimonies, sing and pray loudly.

Generally, all was going well with the Kims. Stephen enjoyed campus life and also his experiences in becoming acquainted with Manila. He and

Grace were enjoying life on the campus, their studies, and their ministry. They knew now what God had in mind for their future. In one of his letters

Stephen wrote: "Last year was the most significant year for both of us. God showed us the right way that we ought to go. We do praise the Lord that He purifies our motives for studying. The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom to dedicate ourselves wholly. God is calling us to a special pastoral ministry for the handicapped in Korea, along with a publications ministry. The publications ministry will relate to them. There are millions of physically impaired people in Korea who don't know who Jesus Christ is yet. Grace and I are willing to obey God's will in being instruments to deliver the message of entire sanctification."

The Kims were enjoying life to the fullest. Then a bomb dropped. Stephen told about it:

I became very ill. I could not eat anything. Even if I drank water, I vomited. I also had terrible headaches and double vision. Some of these were the same symptoms I had years before when I was at KNCTC and fasted and prayed. Now, seven years later it was happening again.

The doctors said I needed brain surgery. I knew that I would be an extremely serious operation that I might not live. However, I was not afraid. I had the conviction that, for me, death meant that when I closed my eyes and then opened them, I would be in the arms of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am planning for the future of APNTS, Dr. Fairbanks and Dr. Edlin, academic dean, wanted to expand the number of Asian and South Pacific faculty members as quickly possible. They saw in Stephen the potential "for a long-term relationship with APNTS as faculty member." Following his release from the hospital and graduation from the seminary, Stephen enrolled in a doctoral program at Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary in Baguio. "We were beginning to discuss the possibility of a teaching internship at APNTS," Dr. Fairbanks said, "following Stephen's completion of his course work for the program."