

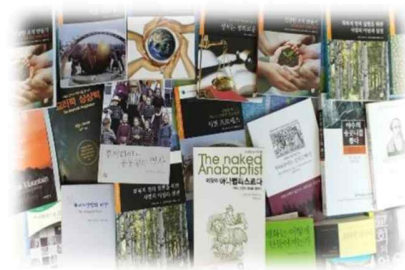


June 21, 2019

It's been a long time since sharing our prayer letter with you. It seems that my spirit and mind has been refreshed writing this prayer letter. I think it is because I am writing it on my way to different cities in USA and Canada. I literally started writing it in Incheon airport, and have been adding lines to it as I visit the cities. I visited Chicago, Evanston, Michigan City, Elkhart, Goshen so far and am on the way to go Vancouver, Toronto, Hamilton, Kitchener/Waterloo, London, and Abbotsford.

The original purpose of this journey was to participate in the symposium called "Power and Preservation: Enabling Access to the Sources Behind Our Stories," which is hosted by the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism. While staying in Goshen College in Indiana, we learned from each other, sharing how to preserve our history in a responsible and equitable way and how to provide access to those most connected to this story. I was invited because I am involved in creating Korean Anabaptist resources.

As I was preparing my presentation on Korean history, I naturally had the chance to look back on the last 20 years of my life. I vividly remember the first moment I started doing translation work. It was in Elkhart, Indiana, while I studied at AMBS from 1999-2002. As a father and married international student, I often took care of our two children, Jin Sol and Daniel. While they played at the local park, I translated some lines onto my lined notepad. That became my first translated book, *From the Anabaptist Seed* by Arnold Snyder. I also remember many other personal but monumental memories, such as meeting C.J. Dyck at his house, and packing boxes together to send them to the Korea Anabaptist Center; visiting a bookstore called the "Books Abroad" where people collected used books and sent them to seminaries and resource centers in other countries; translating and making two brochures about Anabaptists and Mennonites and sending them to the Mennonite Visitor center in St. Jacobs, Ontario in 2003; listing the "must-read and translate" Anabaptist books for future Korean readers, and inviting able translators to this translation work; calling for a meeting to launch the Korean Anabaptist Journal in 2011; making books for Korea Anabaptist Press from 2014 until its closure in 2017 due to insufficient funding. On this current journey, I also carry a book with me to translate.



Korean Anabaptist books: we have over 150 titles so far

When I think of these opportunities and works, I can only say "Thank you, God, for everything I can do!" It is more than a blessed milestone to have the Korean Anabaptist Journal, to have been able to translate over 30 Anabaptist Mennonite books into Korean, and to have opportunities to present and to write about issues related to Christ-centred Anabaptist theology, discipleship, community, and peace. I believe that this symposium will be an important event in my life too. We explored important questions such as: "Whose responsibility is it to preserve historical documents? How is that responsibility shared among relevant groups? Who will be the storytellers and listeners? How can we encourage people to collect, preserve, and access these historical resources and archives?" etc. These questions will have added meanings as I continue my work in South Korea.

In addition to this main purpose, I have been blessed with having the time to visit Reba Place in Evanston, Mennohof in Shipshewana, Greencroft in Goshen, and AMBS and the MMN office in Elkhart.

Starting from this weekend, I start following my Canadian itinerary, starting with visiting several

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. - 1 Cor. 3:11

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churches and the MCEC office in Ontario from June 22-27, and then participating in the MC Canada 2019 assembly in Abbotsford, BC from June 28-July 1. The Ontario visit will be very sad because I have to say good-bye to James Martin, the director of MC Canada Witness, who has supported us with his best. I also will be meeting with the new interim director, Jeanette Hanson, to catch up on many things.

I hope that our Korean ministry will be more focused on the Mennonite Seoul meeting, which is the church planting ministry on Sundays, and on resource development and peace work in Chuncheon. I have been especially inspired by the peace event called the DMZ

Human Peace Chain on April 27th. It has challenged and pushed me to become involved in peace work in a more practical way. So in another way, this journey is a time of discernment.

I have already called for peace organizations and leaders to issue a peace journal. As I travel, I have been contacting the editorial team to plan the first issue of *the Peace Journal*. I believe that it is going to be the first thing I do when I am back in South Korea. At the same time, I would like to call more people to bring peace to our city in more practical ways. As civilians, we need to develop peace work at the local level and in tangible ways.

Sook Kyoung is always thankful to have children who come to our place. There are 8 students this year. Although it is an English program, she provides counsel, wisdom, and strength for those who struggle with bullying issues, low self-esteem, puberty, study stress, and other concerns. The environment of most Korean schools is not ideal for many students, particularly those who are vulnerable and in need. She enjoys time with her students and has become a respected teacher, good listener, encourager, and healer. She rejoices with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep; she thanks God for all of these opportunities.

* Prayer Issues

- 1) Bock Ki's journey in USA from June 16-21 and Canada from June 21- July 2: for good health, and for sharing and presenting about the Korean ministry in various church meetings.
- 2) Mennonite Seoul meeting: to search for the way to a Christ-centered and congregational church.
- 3) Daniel visits and helps his mother in South Korea, while Jin Sol prepares for an oral examination and proposal defence on July 4. Pray for our children's physical and spiritual health.
- 4) Peace for the Korean peninsula continually, especially for the relationship between North and South Korea.

Christ's Peace to you!

Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park
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Peacemakers: Every year MCSK takes a Peace Journey. This year we went to GwangJu where the democratization movement rised in May 18 to 27, 1980. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gwangju_Uprising

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