

# Conclusion of 『MY Life, MY Faith』 Impression Competition



**(WINNERS)**

<p><b>Grand Prize:</b> Heun Kim (Youth)</p> <p><b>2nd Prize:</b> Gwan-Gi Park (General) Chang-Hoon Yoon (Youth) Ji-Eun Kwon (Students)</p>	<p><b>1st Prize:</b> Young-Hee Namgung (General) Tae-Woo Yoon (Youth) Kyung-Ah Go (Students)</p> <p><b>3rd Prize:</b> Mi-Hwa Choi, Hee-Jung Kang, Geun-Young Oh, Min-Kyu Kim (General); Jung-Min Kim (Youth) So-Yeon Lee (Students)</p>
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Hosted by Urim Books and taken place April 10 ~ July 10, 2008, "The My Life, My Faith, Volumes I & II Impression Competition," which drew hundreds of entries, has come to a close. To the Grand Prize winner, \$3,000 and a medal will be awarded. To each of the three 1st Prize winners, \$1,000 and a medal; to each of the three 2nd Prize winners \$500 and a medal; to each of the five 3rd Prize winners, \$200 and a medal; and to each of the 50 Consolation Prize winners, gift certificates to merchants of choice or to Urim Books will be awarded. Entries were categorized into "Students,"

"Youth," and "General" groups, reflected representations from various denominations, and were submitted from all around Korea and overseas as well. Urim Books organized the Competition to stir up desire in reading among believers to help each of them learn about a true life as a Christian, and plans to organize such similar events in the future. A Urim Books official has expressed his gratitude to all participants, who he said reminded him of the fact that a great book that gives birth to life is one's better half in life and brings forth a turning point in the life of the reader.

**GRAND PRIZE**

*I have met the mentor of my life.*

Heun Kim (Youth)

Whether a book is a fiction or an autobiography, you are bound to meet its author as you read down his work. Within it, through the communication of thoughts, the reader carries on a conversation with the author and amidst a meaningful conversation, the reader ends up meeting herself through that book. The author's passionate and touching life portrayed in My Life, My Faith has enabled me to take a look at my life and my faith. It has not only enabled me to "take a look" at my life and my faith but I feel it has also emanated strength that propels the reader to leap over the limit of thought and compels her to lead a life filled with specific deeds. By reading about the author's faith and his life without anything having been added or taken out, a tale that some of us living in a period of time too familiar with the scientific civilization could find a bit unfamiliar, I felt as though I was witnessing a Biblical event. As I read down, I felt as if I were meeting with God who was standing before the author, who in turn is a bridge between the reader and God. ...

**A True Spiritual Instructor**

Tae-Woo Yoon (Youth)

... As I read this book I kept asking myself, and I reached the same conclusion: If I were in the author's shoes, I could not have been able to bear it all and would have wanted to run away from everything like a coward. From such a perspective, I can gather how much Dr. Jaerock Lee had loved and feared God until he overcame the process. As he was subject to trials that tormented him both physically and mentally, I wondered whether his image and heart when he clung to God in prayer would have resembled those of our Lord the night before He was captured at Gethsemane by those who sought to have Him killed. The scene in which he was betrayed by church members, to whom he had manifested signs and wonders unimaginable by the common sense of man and whom he had nurtured in love, resembled our Lord as portrayed in the film "The Passion of the Christ," in which He was rejected and abandoned even by the disciples He loved. Yet, just as God held in the highest our Lord, after donning flesh, shedding all His blood on the cross, and overcoming the authority of darkness, God has made use as a great vessel of Dr. Jaerock Lee, who has overcome every step of trials by faith and in obedience, and is doing His work through Dr. Lee to this day. ...

**1st Prize**

*A Letter to a Flower Garden*

Young-Hee Namgung (General)

... The most precious treasure I have taken away from reading My Life, My Faith is confidence. As I read a story of a man who had found himself in diseases and afflictions of life and the miraculous manner in which the Almighty God molded him into His child and His great servant, I felt soaring up in my heart a strong sense of confidence by which I felt I could do anything. My heart was moved and overwhelmed with hope. "If I obey the Father in perseverance and love, I, too, can become a great child of God. I, too, can live a different life! I, too, can live a successful life! I, too, can show the world through my life that God is alive!" The blood in my veins began to ride a new rhythm and a new light of wisdom began twinkling in my eyes.

**A Grand Journey of Faith Unfolding on Each Page**

Kyung-Ah Go (Students)

The moment I embraced a book in blue covers I had carried from home with utmost care, I felt a rush of sensation in my heart. During the breaks I had at school, I read the Senior Pastor's autobiography My Life, My Faith, and the Holy Spirit did not seem mindful to pour grace upon me wherever and whenever He pleased. After I turned a few pages, my eyes and fingers were soon bound to the book. "What's the idea?" I had been attending Manmin for a few years and thought I knew about the Senior Pastor "pretty well" but I could not have been more mistaken. The first volume of My Life, My Faith dealt mostly with the Senior Pastor's former life, healing, and about new life while the second volume portrayed him as God's beloved and great servant, an eternal shepherd of love. I was deeply touched in the heart by the author's serene, concise, and honest writing. Then I was touched by the truth in his writing. I was touched yet again the grand journey unfolding on each page, a voyage that took him back and forth between this world and the spiritual world. ...

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## 2008 Summer Retreat Students' Time of Refreshing and Joy in Summer



"The 2008 Summer Retreat," a time of refreshing and joy during summer months for Students' Sunday School (Pastor Sung-Sook Lee, Principal), took place at the Boramwon Retreat Center in Goesan County, North Chungcheong Province, July 28-31, 2008, under the theme "Space." Kicked off with "The Opening Service," the Retreat progressed with a variety of activities and programs including dance competitions, Pilgrim's Progress Program, "Unity Athletic Competition," a campfire, and many others. The students clung to the Word of God they heard, prayed in earnest with their friends, and desired to be born again by the strength of God. As they experienced firsthand the spiritual space through extraordinary shapes of clouds, the panorama of the brilliant light that resembled lightning amidst clouds, massive two-fold rainbows,

and movements of the stars, the students' hearts became more intensified with a hope for heaven. "The Volunteer Service Team" that assisted with the proceedings of the programs and in the cafeteria and "The Discipline Team" in charge of providing leadership and guidance to the students' guidance especially attracted the attention of many participants and teachers alike. At "The 15th Manmin Students' Praise Festival," the 13 teams that had made through the preliminary rounds competed. The Retreat, participated by students from branch churches around Korea and from overseas, provided each of the participants with an opportunity to rise up spiritually, establish a proper idea befitting students of faith, and nurturing a dream and vision for God's kingdom.



**Service & Joy**  
"It was exhausting to go to bed later and wake up earlier than my friends but it was very worthwhile to serve others as I remembered God's love for me."  
Gun-Wie Park (third year in middle school), Volunteer Service Team

"I was very glad to see each team member serve one another, guide and lead other students, learn to be patient, and fathom spiritual love."  
Li-Ra Jung (senior in high school), Discipline Team

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**Confessions of Faith**

1. Manmin Central Church believes the Bible to have been written in the inspiration of God and is the accurate and errorless Word of God.
2. Manmin Central Church believes that the Triune God - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit - exists as one and works with each other
3. Manmin Central Church believes that only the atoning blood of Jesus Christ forgives us of our sins.
4. Manmin Central Church believes in Jesus Christ's resurrection, ascension, and the Second Advent, and the eternal heaven.
5. Members of Manmin Central Church confess "The Apostles' Creed" whenever they gather and believe in it verbatim.

**MEMO**



**After the Retreat ...**  
"By the Word and prayer, my heart has been renewed."  
Shi-Eun Kwon (16, U.S.)

I pray and worship every day with the Global Christian Network (GCN) in New York City. I had fasted for 3 days prior to the Retreat and my younger sister Ji-Eun (15) fasted for 33 days in the morning. When the teacher prayed for us, I remembered the wrongs I had done against my family and repented of them. When I held my friends' hands in prayer, the fire of the Holy Spirit was with me and I felt my body heat up. I am so glad to have made many friends who devote themselves to prayer. My sister said that she felt as though God embraced her tightly when she listened to the Word and repented in prayer, and vowed to become more diligent and faithful in her life in Christ.

**"Through Pilgrim's Progress Program, I've realized how difficult it is to be donning a body bound to untruths."**  
Mi-Soon Im (19, Daejeon)

I was blissful when all of us came together in passionate praising. As the speaker used real-life examples at school and in everyday life to illustrate God's will for us, I learned and fathomed a great deal. During the Pilgrim's Progress Program, I pulled over myself a sack on which the words "Jealousy, Envy, and Pride" were written, and it was unbelievably hot and stuffy inside. At that moment, I realized how difficult it was to don a body bound to untruths and vowed to quickly throw away sin and evil.

**Column** *A Heavenly Communications Network*

With the advancement of science and technology, it is today possible to speak or communicate with people on the other side of the globe on the telephone, the Internet, or on video phones. No matter how far apart two individuals may be physically, only the conversations between the two will allow one's heart to be expressed to the other and permit one to fathom the other's heart. If we had a pathway through which we can confess our heart to God the Almighty, it would be prayer. Through it we can tell Him a variety of problems we face in life and the desires of our heart, and receive His guidance onto the most beautiful and the best path. Prayer is a privilege given to all those who believe in God and it cannot be compared to anything in this world. "But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer" (Psalm 66:19).  
from Dr. Jaerock Lee's column series "The Water of Life" in *The Korea Economic Daily*



Senior Pastor Dr. Jaerock Lee

## Becoming the Lord's Witnesses Even to the Remotest Part of the Earth

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Following His crucifixion to give salvation to all mankind, the Lord appeared before His disciples and confirmed to them His resurrection (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-21, 24). After His resurrection, our Lord appeared before His disciples for 40 days and spoke to them about the works of God's kingdom. Then, as we find in Acts 1:4-5, our Lord "commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, 'Which,' He said, 'you heard of from Me,'" and promised His disciples "for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

After telling them, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth," Jesus "was lifted up while they were looking on" (Verses 8-9). As the resurrected Lord had asked of them, His disciples received the Holy Spirit and God's power, and made every effort to spread the gospel "both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." As a result, a church was established in Jerusalem, the number of the saved increased day after day, and when a church was founded in Antioch, a land of the Gentiles, Paul the Apostle embarked on his missionary journeys. Christianity that began in Jerusalem was spread through Antioch and on to Turkey, Greece, and the Roman Empire, and spread eventually "even to the remotest part of the earth," including Europe, Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Oceania. Yet, even today, countless people around the world have yet to receive Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. What are we to do if we are to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord?

### We must receive the Holy Spirit and God's power.

Consider an incident that transpired to the Apostle Paul when he visited the Ephesus region on one of his missionary journeys. He asked some disciples who professed their faith in the Lord, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" (Acts 19:1)? They replied, "No, we have not even heard whether

there is a Holy Spirit" (Verse 2). There are many Christians today who say they believe in Jesus Christ but not yet have received the Holy Spirit.

Receiving of the Holy Spirit requires one to believe in the heart and confess with his lips that Jesus the Son of God came into this world, that He was afflicted and crucified on behalf of all mankind in order for them to receive salvation by faith, that He resurrected, and that He ascended into heaven. As Romans 10:9 tells us, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved," we can receive the Holy Spirit.

Only when one believes in Jesus Christ and receives the Holy Spirit to be a divine gift can his dead spirit revive and can he experience the works of the Holy Spirit. He will receive the Holy Spirit, learn of sin, righteousness, and the Judgment, and be guided by the voice of the Holy Spirit. When he receives the power of prayer, overcomes the enemy devil and Satan, and lives by God's Word, he can subdue and rule over the world. In other words, the gospel can be spread "even to the remotest part of the earth" only when he bears the fruit of the Holy Spirit and receives God's power. Here, the "power" refers to the strength by which one can defeat the enemy devil and Satan.

### We must know the spiritual significance of "Jerusalem ... all Judea and Samaria ... [and] the remotest part of the earth."

"Jerusalem" is the place where the gospel was first preached and in spiritual terms, it refers to the temple in which we worship God. To a greater extent, "Jerusalem" signifies homes, schools, or workplaces of which each of us is a part. Therefore, becoming "a witness of the Lord in Jerusalem" requires each Christian to listen to God's Word, live by it by faith, and not only be obedient within the church according to the order but must also emanate the fragrance of Christ wherever one may find himself.

"Judea" is a region of which Jerusalem is a part and in spiritual terms, it signifies oneself and all children of God who have received Jesus Christ. Thus, becoming "a witness of the Lord in

Judea" requires each of us as a child of God to take after the Lord who is the Light, emanate His light in this dark world, and become the salt of this world. Just as our Lord has done, each of us must sacrifice ourselves to give life to countless souls and serve to prevent any decay.

"Samaria," unlike Judea, is where the Gentiles reside and in spiritual terms, it indicates all corners of the globe to which the gospel has not yet been spread. After one has heard the gospel and become a child of God, he has to present Jesus Christ to the world and become His witness by emanating His fragrance. Doing so requires him to live wholly by the truth and magnify God with good deeds in everything. Only emanating God's light in such a manner will enable him to give life to his parents, siblings, relatives, neighbors, and countless others and allow them to come before the Lord.

Now, then, where is "the remotest part of the earth"? It is Israel, the origin of the gospel where the gospel has been shunned by its people and the spread of the gospel meets the most difficult challenge. Becoming "a witness of the Lord in 'the remotest part of the earth'" calls for each believer to devote himself to prayer for the works of the Holy Spirit to be manifested in the Land of Israel for its people to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah.

### We must recognize God's Providence Accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Israel failed to recognize Jesus Christ as the One and Only Son of God and instead ended up crucifying Him. Nevertheless, God loves His elect Israelites without a change of heart and has shown His love to them to this day. In what ways is God allowing for the gospel to re-enter Israel from which the Good News originated?

The spreading of the gospel in Israel in the last days is possible only by God's methods and only at the time of His choosing. Amidst the works of the Holy Spirit who searches even the depths of God, the hearts of the Israelites whose spirits are hardened by a frame that is the Law of the Old Testament can be shattered. Just as a church was

established in Jerusalem by the apostles who received God's power following the Lord's resurrection and ascension, God will raise up Israel in the last days by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Such mission work in Israel calls for the works of the power of the Holy Spirit on a colossal scale that no one will dare deny. As Jesus told us in John 14:12, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father," by the power of the Holy Spirit the works Jesus did and even greater works can be accomplished.

For this very reason, God has revealed to Manmin Central Church His plans for the mission work since the church's founding and personally tried and blessed the Manmin congregation to accomplish world mission by the power of the Holy Spirit. A closer look at Manmin's mission work since Year 2000 will easily reveal God's providence. In order to prevent any intervention or accusation on the part of the enemy devil and Satan while such secrets of God are revealed all around the world, God allowed the manifestations of the works of His power our Lord manifested to take place through Manmin and led this congregation each step of the way.

Furthermore, God has led Manmin to a level at which only the power of the Holy Spirit is capable of accomplishing anything and everything and is actively accomplishing today the final Providence of spreading the gospel in Israel. When the time of His choosing arrives, He will cover Israel, the origin of the gospel and a pivotal stage for the cultivation of mankind, with the works of the Holy Spirit the Helper.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as He has promised, our Lord who resurrected and went into heaven will return to the earth, riding on the clouds, when the gospel returns to Israel, where the Good News originated (Acts 1:11). May each of you come forth as a blessed child of God and welcome Him by receiving the Holy Spirit and God's power and becoming the Lord's witness "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth," in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I pray! ✝



## God's Love for His Elect Israel

At the dawn of the 20th century, something remarkable transpired in the barren land of Palestine. Jews who had been scattered in Eastern Europe, Russia, and around the world flocked to that land abounding in thistles, poverty, famine, diseases, and agony. Despite an incalculable number of deaths from malaria and famine, they did not forsake their strong faith and high ideals; they overcame all adversities and began creating kibbutz (a collective community in Israel that was traditionally based on agriculture). In time, the state of Israel was born and the Jews had their own nation for the first time in about 1,900 years. This was possible for a people who had always held fast to God's Word of promise (Jeremiah 31:10).

On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of Manmin Central Church, this issue of Manmin News examines the will of God for His elect, which overlaps with the Church's world mission.

### Judaism: A Faith of God's Elect Israel



Israel is a democratic republic located on the southeastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea, and its capital is Jerusalem. Of the approximately 6.5 million people, more than 80% is Jew while Arabs makes up about one-sixth of the population. Judaism is adhered by 80.1% of the population, followed by Islam at 14.6%, and Christianity at 2.1%. Judaism is a traditional religion of the Jews based on the Law of Moses and founded in the 4th century B.C. They believe in Jehovah the only God, the coming of the Messiah, and the construction of a heaven on Earth, and display a strong sense of elitism.

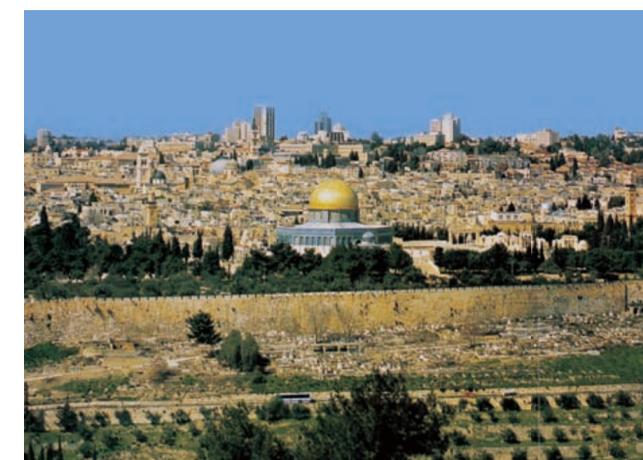
God chose Jacob, whose heart was good and straight before Him, as the forefather of Israel. Jacob, in turn, was the son of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham, the forefather of faith. The 12 tribes formed from the 12 sons of Jacob make up the people of Israel today.

The Israelites migrated to Egypt on account of Jacob's son Joseph, left that country under Moses' guidance, and settled in the land of Canaan that is today the territory of Israel. Following a period of judges, Israel became a militarily strong and prosperous nation during the reign of King David who solidified the country's foundations but by his son Solomon's time, Israel was split into Israel in the north and Judah in the south. In 586 B.C., Israel was captured by Nebuchadnezzar and its people were held in captivity in

Babylon. During the 1st century, B.C., Israel became a Roman province and was destroyed by Roman general Titus in 70 A.D.

Thenceforth, Jews had been scattered throughout the world, drifting and roaming about it for 19 centuries, and the magnitude of oppression and persecution in the form of massacres and expulsions in and from many countries they endured transcends all imaginations. Throughout their history, the Jews thrived under God's watchful eyes when they lived by His will but when they forsook His will, punishment in the form of afflictions and trials found their way.

Thus, we know that history attests to the fact that the Israelites did not suffer needlessly. Pontius Pilate, in sentencing Jesus to death, told the crowd in order to distance himself from a sinless death, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves." The Jews replied, "His blood shall be on us and on our children!" and their demand came back



The Dome of the Rock built by the Muslims on the grounds of the lost Holy Land

to them as colossal persecutions. As we read in Psalm 22:18, "They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots," Roman soldiers divided Jesus' garments into 4 pieces and one soldier kept His clothing (tunic).

Here, "garments" in spiritual terms refers to Israel, God's elect. The fact that His garments are divided into 4

pieces and lost its shape and function as a piece clothing foreshadows the time when the nation of Israel will cease to exist and its people will be scattered into all directions. Then we also read in John 19:23, "Now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece." Here, the "tunic" refers to the heart of Israel. The faith of the people of Israel in their God, which began with Jacob and lasted through the centuries, remained unchanged.

As they are a people harboring an unchanging heart, the Israelites have held fast to their culture and faith despite countless trials, and never forgotten that they are God's chosen people. Remembering His Word of promise (Jeremiah 31:10), they ended up reclaiming the land of their fathers (Ezekiel 38:8). Following the founding of the state of Israel, its citizens have cultivated waste lands and developed a variety of industries to join the ranks of developed nations, and have endured to this day amidst unceasing challenges and threats to their very existence from



acknowledge that the Jesus their ancestors had crucified is the Christ, they are still waiting for the coming of the Messiah.

The freedom of religion is legally guaranteed but the reality is far from it. Evangelizing to Jews or people under the age of 18 is strictly restricted. To a people who regard the New Testament to top the list of "forbidden books," a Jew who accepts Jesus Christ is no longer considered a real Jew. Jewish Christians are also a target of terrorist acts.

Despite the age-long frame of thought rooted in the Law and elitism, mission work in Israel has continued. The fruit it has borne, however, is too few.

Spreading the gospel in Israel is possible only at the time of God's choosing and only by His methods. In the last days, this work requires manifestations of the fiery works of the Holy Spirit and a steady flow of spiritual messages that can shatter the Israelites' spirits hardened by the frames of the Law.

God has promised that He would not forsake His elect to the end. When the gospel returns to a land that had served as a stage for the cultivation of mankind during the 4,000-year history of the Old Testament and is the origin of the Gospel, the cultivation of mankind will come to a close.

Just prior to that, the God of love has left open for His elect the path to salvation. This will serve as the final proof that the cultivation of mankind has not failed on account of Adam's sinning but that the Providence of salvation has been wholly achieved through Jesus Christ.

Jews want miracles. No knowledge, doctrines, or sermons can raise Israel up; only signs and wonders are required. Mission work that goes above and beyond merely wishing Israel well, a ministry of the gospel that firmly attests to Jesus Christ to the Jews, is what is needed in Israel today, and the key is found in the works of the Holy Spirit.

By the works of the Holy Spirit that empowers man to do even greater works than what Jesus did (John 14:12), Israel will repent and receive salvation.

We give all thanks and glory to God for leading in His limitless love not only His elect but all people on the path to salvation.