

Empowered as New Generation Leader

John 12:24

"I tell you the truth unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

Thank and praise God for the work of world mission that has gone on for the last 50 years in UBF. Thank you Lord for the servants who have gone on before and worked hard to prepare a foundation for ministry to flourish. Thank you Lord that by your grace I could contribute some tiny bit to your glorious work on earth. My name is Jeremy Hajek I am from Lombard Illinois and belong to the Dupage UBF – which is 30 miles (15 km) outside of Chicago. I have lived in Dupage County all my life. Our ministry's main university is a 2 year transfer college (one of the largest in the US) so most students complete their time and transfer out to another university. But by God's grace and a unique series of events I was able to stay in Dupage County and get a job right next to the campus and Bible Center. I believe God was preparing me to participate in his campus mission work going on at College of Dupage and IIT.

As for why I am a candidate to be an empowered next generation leader, it is clear. It is by the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ alone. I was a useless sinner doomed to live in my sins and the Lord of Glory saw fit to call me to repentance and save me from my sins. He is the one that made me a useful and productive servant of God and called me to his campus mission ministry. It is by grace alone that I stand. Though I have many shortcomings He is transforming my life step by step into the image of Jesus Christ.

As a young man I lived a life of selfish indulgence not caring about others but using them for my own enjoyment. I gave bad influence to others and hurt others not thinking about my actions in life. This led my life to lack purpose and direction, even though I had many talents and abilities. While I was enrolled at the College of Dupage and walking around the campus one day, one missionary family invited me to Bible Study. I cannot remember why but I agreed and accepted their invitation in October of 2001. Now I look back and see that it was the Holy Spirit preparing my life to be used for greater things than my own enjoyment and selfish pleasure. Through deep Bible study of Luke's gospel and Genesis I was able to meet the living God and see the life changing power of the blood of Jesus Christ. My life was changed. My key verse became John 12:24, *"I tell you the truth unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies it produces many seeds."* Through seeing the grace of Jesus Christ poured out on my life and through the sacrificial work of missionaries in the field I felt the grace of God touch my heart. No longer did I want to hang out and go dancing. No more did I want to listen to heavy metal rock records. No more did I want to watch ungodly media. I threw away all my tapes and CD's and movies and my life was changed. Through Jesus revealed in my changed life my sister was also able to begin Bible study with my wife and participate in our ministry.

I realized that the Lord prepared me for work in Dupage County and for this nation and for the world. As I was raised in Dupage County, the Lord saved me and prepared me I believe to go back to the lost students and give back to the community I took so much from. In order to be a shepherd the Lord has been training me through weekly Bible Study for the last 10 years under the auspice of Msn David Kim. Going through the word of God deeply and writing testimonies has helped me to be able to pick the

word of God and the message of God out of the text and not my own ideas. It has also taught me to humbly listen to the word of God. In cooperation with Msn David Kim I have been able to post Bible Study questions and answers to our ministry website in order to be able to help the body of Christ. By God's grace I have been involved in the planning of the Young Disciple Conference (YDC) and disciple workshops. Through message preparation training from numerous Easter and Fall bible Academies I could struggle to learn the heart of Jesus by pouring out my soul to understand the word of God. The Lord trained me through his servants to understand not just how to speak the word of God, but how to understand the text and share my own testimony based on the passage. Message training helps my mind focus on the word of God and what the word says not what I think it says.

As a young man in Christ I made a lot of mistakes in interacting and treating fellow Christians. I learned from presiding at the Sunday service that the altar of the Lord is holy and the words spoken there should be clear. Through many challenges I have learned to curb my pride and serve others out of love and grace. Through setting up chairs and hymn books I learned that the holiness and importance of service to the Lord, seen or unseen, is important to have a proper place of worship. After living in the bible house for 5 years and taking care of the house and cutting the grass and maintaining the building I learned the importance of sharing and giving of oneself to the ministry. Just as Christ lived an open life amongst the disciples, living in the Bible house was a great learning experience to share the house/center and serve others there.

By the grace of God I also could travel around the world to see the work of God going on in many other countries. I have been to Korea, Mexico, Germany, Canada, Australia, and Africa (Kenya). Here I could meet and learn the heart of Jesus to sacrifice their lives from many front line missionaries and have in common the grace of Jesus Christ with them--though our cultures were far different.

Also I have received message preparation training by helping proof read Msn David Kim's Sunday message for the last 6 years. By God's grace I was a life testimony speaker at the World mission report in Seoul in 2006 and received message training from Pastor Ron Ward, Pastor Teddy Hembikedes, Msn Mark Yoon, and Dr. John Jun for the 2010 Midwest regional summer conference. This messenger training taught me that the secret to sharing a conference message is deep meditation on the word of God. I learned from these great servants their heart for Jesus but also their joy in Jesus and repented of my tiny faith and confidence in my own abilities. I learned to rely on Jesus all the more through message training and to give my pride up because I have nothing to stand on before Jesus.

No leader of God's people, from Moses, to Saul, to Peter, to even Jeremiah actively campaigned for their jobs. Sometimes I wish that God's servants could lead forever and I could just enjoy their work. But the point of this conference is looking to the next 50 years. My life, the events that have happened are not a coincidence. God is preparing me to answer the call. My key verse is John 12:24 because my life I believe was meant to be given as a sacrifice to raise many disciples of Jesus. Only when I die to myself can Jesus work in me. Like my namesake Jeremiah, I cannot claim I am too young or slow of speech. The Lord has provided all the tools to reach out and help participate in his ministry in the next 50 years and until Kingdom Come.