

Life Testmony

Mary Lee

### **You will be my witnesses**

Key verse: Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

#### Part I. I was a country girl

My name is Mary Lee. I was born in 1962 and grew up in the countryside. My family moved to Kawangju city when I was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters. I was very shy. But somehow, God led me to attend the Sunday school in a church. No one believed in God in my family except me. I went to Sungshin University in Seoul. I was wondering and lived a sinful life, ignoring God’s guidance. I was in agony and despair because of sin. But by God’s grace, I was invited to the Spring Genesis Bible school in 1985. The word of God touched my heart and I began to study the Bible regularly. At Mt. Chilam Summer Bible conference, I received the forgiveness of sins through repenting of my dirty sins and accepting Jesus as my personal Savior and Lord. It was the turning point of my life. I made a decision of faith to cut off worldly and petty desires and my sinful life. I received spiritual training to grow as a spiritual shepherdess. I was so happy to serve God’s flock on the campus. In 1986, God establishd my house church with David Lee. We served KMA for 2 years and many cadets came to study the Bible. God established 5 remnants and sent all of them out as missionaries.

In 1988 God opened a way to go out as missionaries, marvelously. Shep. David applied to a very competitive exam to acquire the Korean Army scholarship. Only one person would be selected in the Computer Science area. But no one showed up for the interview except David because there was another army event going on at the same time. In this way, God led us to go to UMKC as a missionary family. I hold on Acts 1:8 as a key verse for my missionary life.

#### Part 2. Mission life in UMKC

I served the UMKC campus ministry for 5 and a half years. When I arrived at UMKC, M. Noah and Sweety Rhee had already been pioneering there for a year. It was so hard to overcome language barrier. But soon God enabled me to overcome English through

feeding campus sheep with 1:1 Bible study even though I felt dumb before American students. Among Bible students, Phyllis Newberry grew as a campus shepherdess and married to Shep. Andrew Martin in Cincinnati. Now they are pioneering NKU and have 5 children. God trained M. David Lee's faith through his school study. At the same time, I was trained to keep my faith through prayer. David was supposed to go back to Korea after 2 years of Computer Science Master's course. But we prayed from the beginning to continue to study Ph.D. course in UMKC, even though UMKC did not open the Ph.D. program in Computer Science. It looked impossible because all the conditions were not ready yet. But there happened to be a miracle when we prayed earnestly for the glory of God. The Ph.D. program was opened right on time when M. David finished his Masters' course. The Korean Army allowed David to pursue his Ph.D. study because an officer selected that year did not get an admission from U.S. It was truly the answer of our prayer and his grace was so abundant. Praise God who listens to our earnest prayers. In this way, God trained and led us to the end until we firmly believed everything was in God's hands. We praised God not because of his Ph.D. degree but because of God's marvelous grace and mercy. We only tried to live a life of mission somehow. But God blessed us so much to overcome the world and render glory to God by faith. We only tried to seek God's kingdom and his righteousness first. According to the promise of God, he blessed us so much to give us all our necessity things as well.

### Part 3. Mission life in Wharang Chapter

Early 1994, we came back to Korea and pioneered Yongwoon Chapter, serving Daegon University. In the meantime co-workers in Donkyo Chapter began to pray earnestly for us until God led us to Seoul from Daejeon. God answered our prayer and we began to pioneer Wharang Chapter in Nov. 1995. We pioneered KMA and Hongik University campus. I learned three things through this ministry.

First, Shepherd David was a layman so he had not enough time to serve campus sheep. So I had to co-work with him as a full time intern shepherdess. I had 5 to 10 1:1 Bible studies each week. The ministry was growing to reach 50 Sunday attendants. I focused on making an environment that David could serve God freely without being bothered by house work or babysitting. And I tried to serve meals at any situation whenever David wanted to invite sheep. I wanted to be a helper suitable for him whom prepared Sunday message each week.

Second, early morning prayer. I have eager desire to have deep relationship with God through my personal early morning prayer. I tried to do so even though I had a 4 month old baby. At the beginning of new Millennium, we faced big trials. In the mist of hardships, I could do nothing but pray. Our gracious and merciful God helped and empowered us to continue to pioneer unbelieving students on campus. Despite of all our weaknesses and shortcomings, God established 20 house churches and sent out 25 missionaries from Wharang UBF.

Third, God made me as a source of blessing for my unbelieving family. No one believed in God except me. But now my brother is a shepherd and my sisters and parents attend church and became Christians. I praise and thank God for saving my family through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank God for growing 3 of my children as 2<sup>nd</sup> generation missionaries.

Part 4. God's calling to missionary again.

When we came back to Korea in 1994, we began to pray to come out once again when David's obligation was over. With a full world mission vision, he announced everyone should go out as missionaries. God answered our prayer topics until not many shepherds remained. His military obligation ended in March of 2005. It seemed that going out as missionaries was not so difficult. But we had to wait for 2 years. Even though we had our own plan, God led us to fulfill his will. We made a decision of faith that God may give us to cross over the Jordan river as a dry land. Now I am here by any means. I believe that God has led us to this new mission field. May God help us to pioneer one campus. Up until now, God has been leading us to pioneer each campus wherever we go. I only depend on God. Whatever we do, I want to commit to God. God may guide us with his mighty hand. May the Holy Spirit come upon me so that I may receive power. God may use me as a witness of the Gospel for American campus souls and North Korean.

Prayer topics:

1. Personal relationship with God through early morning prayer
2. Give us green cards and solve our visa situation.
3. Make one disciple of Jesus and pioneer one campus