

Shepherd Jeremy Hajek's Life Testimony from World Mission Report

Hello my name is Jeremy Hajek.

From a prodigal son to a kernel of wheat

Key Verse: 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."

Part I – I was a prodigal son.

I am from COD chapter near Chicago. I was born on November 18th, 1979. My grandfather participated in the Korean War and served in the Navy. From a young age I had a hot temper. My attitude was, "My way or the highway." As I grew up, my temper led me to get me into fights with others. I would never admit I was wrong. For example, when I was in high school, my best friend and I competed for the same girl like Korean dramas. She rejected both of us, but I accused him of stealing her. For the next 3 years, I told vicious lies to turn others against him. When I graduated from high school, my greatest ambitions were to be a football player like Heinz Ward and play guitar in a rock band. Even though I did these things, strangely I was not happy at all. Once I yelled at a girl and knocked her books out of her hands because I thought she insulted me. I even insulted my mother when she kindly offered to help me with my homework. I was very selfish and mean. After two years in college, I was finished playing football. I was depressed and sat in my apartment, eating frozen pizza and watching Star Trek re-runs. I gained 30 pounds in eight months like Korean comedian, Kang Ho-dong. I invited others to my apartment to debate philosophy, but ended up doing shameful things to others who passed out drunk. I chased after girls, but our relationships always ended bitterly. God gave me the best chance in life to do something good by giving me abilities, material things, and most of all, a godly mother and grandparents. But I abused God's blessings to serve my own selfish desires. I was a hopeless and helpless wicked sinner before God.

Part II – A Kernel of Wheat for the U.S.A

In October of 2001 I had returned to my parent's house and enrolled in the College of DuPage. I was worn out from my sinful lifestyle. At that time, a UBF missionary invited me to study the Bible. Several times a week Msn David and Joy Kim would travel from Chicago over 60 miles to study the Bible with me and other students. Because these Korean missionaries loved Jesus so much they would travel so far just to serve a few people. As I studied the Bible I started to see that Jesus sacrificed his life for me. At the 2002 summer conference, I heard John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life." Jesus' love moved me to break up with my girlfriend and share testimonies at student meetings. I began to learn from Jesus who was a true sacrificial shepherd, and not selfish at all. By 2002 God had granted COD an independent chapter from Chicago Center. And by God's grace I was appointed Sunday service presider. This was such a change for me. I had always been selfish on Sundays by sleeping late and watching football. But Jesus

changed me to give up football and I love football! Before, I had a rock band to sing silly love songs. Now God is using my guitar playing to honor God through worship songs and praise music. Then in the summer of 2003, I became spiritually lazy. Because I had given up everything except my heart. I offended coworkers by my disrespectful attitude and words. When I did not struggle spiritually, I began to gain weight again. My heart was focused on starting my own business, not sacrificing my life for Jesus. Later, in the winter of 2004, I was asked to select a yearly key verse by my shepherd who knows me very well. As I was reading through the world mission report, I noticed one verse being repeated, 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." I thought about my life in the context of that passage. Here were missionaries, who had no money and had to overcome prejudice, visa, and language problems in a foreign land. They did this all because they loved Jesus. I saw in my life that God had given me everything I could need. I had used all of the things God gave me to serve myself and not him. So I accepted John 12:24 as my life key verse with repentance, crying deep in my heart. Now I see how Jesus has engineered my life to be a kernel of wheat to die for him, and raise many seeds for Jesus. God has blessed me with a full-time job at IIT, a branch college near COD to serve the ministry through 1:1 Bible study and fishing. He has granted me a chance to go fishing on two college campuses each week while completing a master's degree. Through this, one student, Brian Winter, is growing through 1:1 Bible study. He was very sad because of his marital problems. But now he has hope in Jesus and prays to reunite with his wife. Another student, Sean Durkin, is an exact copy of me when I was his age. We even look alike. We are studying Genesis and he has accepted Jesus. God has also sent Tristan Ziar, Kyle Langen, and Allan Park. God has recently given me a vision in God's time to return to my own people in the Czech Republic to rekindle the gospel flame as a missionary to that country. Until then, may God use me as a kernel of wheat for USA ministry by raising 120 disciples starting from 5 1:1 studies each week. May God change USA into a kingdom of priests and a holy nation by pioneering 561 campuses in this generation.

One word: A kernel of wheat for U.S.A. ministry