Blessings to All Peoples

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Acts 3:25

You are the descendants of the prophets and of the covenant that God gave to your ancestors, saying to Abraham, "And in your descendants all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

1. Dry Bones

How many of you remember Pastor Kim's sermon on the dry bones dream story in Ezekiel 37, back in March this year? He asked whether it was okay for him to use my recovery story as an illustration and to give this testimonial sermon on World Communion Sunday. As he might have told you, I was in the hospital for 3 months including 2 weeks under a coma status from April 2016. I was attacked by flesh-eating necrotizing bacteria, and while I was in coma for two weeks, my doctor said I would have a 20% chance of survival. The bacteria attacked my lungs killing blood cells, causing Sepsis, and destroying my immune system. Later I heard that Pastor Kim with tears on his face reported to the Church Council meeting of North Boston Korean UMC that it looked like I won't make it.

Dr. Haque, a Middle Eastern doctor at Lawrence General Hospital, who maybe from an Islamic country, told my wife that she could pray to her God for me to be in that 20%. After seeing Pastor and Mrs. Kim, my family was praying. And prayer warriors like Mrs. Kim and Jenn Jonay, a lay leader of Mosaic Christian Movement (MCM: which will be explained later) prayed fasting for days for my recovery like Jesus calling Lazarus from the tomb and raising him from the dead. My wife Unyoung and my son Chris, who were next to me daily while I was unconscious, told me all of this later. With the power of the prayers of MCM, together with prayers of many families of North Boston Korean (NBK) church and NE UMC, Hallelujah, I got my consciousness back, although I could not even raise and hold my arms, like this at that time.

After moving to Tufts Medical Center, I had a chest tube surgery, leaving 7 incisions in the side of my chest, for the water draining procedure from my chest cavity, and a camera was inserted during surgeries to remove and treat all infections. I also underwent another Code Blue situation by the shock caused from the contrasting agent injected for the

CT scan. If it was not God's touch leading all of the procedures, I confess, I would not have made it, since I was losing my strength to sustain myself, and had to sign a consent agreement, that if anything goes wrong, it is not their responsibility. Only God's responsibility tells. After two stays, each more than a two-week duration in the Spaulding Rehab Hospital and Tufts Medical Center, I finally got back home on June 22, 2016. I became able to walk only with a walker or a cane, after weeks of rehab training. Finally, just on the last Sunday of Pastor Kim at NBK church, I came to attend the worship service with the help of a cane. All worship attenders welcomed us, me and my wife with a big round of emphatic applause, because they had been praying deeply for us. That was just before Pastor Kim's first service in Swift Memorial UMC Church.

That was not the end of my story, but again in March 2017, I had a few days emergency hospitalization for a heart attack and 2 stent inserting surgery. Now, I am fully recovered from the successful cardiac surgery and the 36 weeks of cardiac rehab training. A few of my friends jokingly said, "No more surprises! So that Unyoung may not need a new husband." As the dry bones got flesh and breath back and formed an army of soldiers, I slowly put all weight and strength back to normal now. Amen! What a wondrous miracle of God who has granted me a second life. I cannot refrain from saying that God granted me this second chance of life to serve His purpose at Mosaic Ministry.

2. Mosaic Story

I will now talk about my testimony regarding MCM, Mosaic Christian Movement. It is God who started this ministry of fostering harmonization among all multi-cultural peoples to be one in Jesus. As you all may have figured out by now, Pastor Kim is a pastor who is passionate about and dedicated to discipleship and discipleship training of lay leaders. In spring 2012, he gave a training session for all church council members regarding "Fishers of People" as Jesus called to Peter to become from a "fisher of fishes." That reflection triggered me to think that the executive recruiting business I am in is for "fishing people," by God's bringing to my faith that He has a reason of putting me in that business and in New England. And as the SPRC Chair, I discussed numerous times with Mrs. Kim, Pastor Kim's wife, about starting a new ministry for English speaking young adults as a church plant. Then DS Rev. Mike Davis, told us that in American

churches, young adults are not coming back after college, and we started to recognize that it is a need for all young adults in the U.S.

In 2013, as I was attending the New England Annual Conference as the Lay Representative, I was touched by God, as the theme of the conference was "Strangely Warmed Heart: Formed by God." I felt God called me to serve the post-immigration, multi-cultural people living in New England. So, Mrs. Kim and I attended together with other volunteers, the Path One Church Planting Launch Pad workshop in PA, which was hosted by the Northeast Jurisdiction of UMC. And we made a five-year plan for MCM, Multi-Cultural Ministry. As we worked for the last 3.5 years on the MCM ministry, we were increasingly more convinced that these people are not served well in existing Christian communities. But as Korean people living in this land of New England, I felt we have special missions to work as Korean-American Christians. We are indebted in love to all peoples on earth, as the Bible says. In Genesis 12:3, God called Abram to leave from his hometown, and from the father's house to the foreign land that God will show. When he obeyed (in Genesis 22:18), God made a covenant with Abraham that "through your offspring, all peoples on earth will be blessed".

In the New Testament, Acts 3:25, Peter preached the same covenant, to the people of Israel gathered in front of the Porch of Solomon. The covenant subsequently spread to all Gentiles thru St. Paul's missionary journeys to Eastern Europe planting early churches of Ephesus, Corinth, Galatia, Macedonia, and so on. Then, spread further throughout Rome and Europe, and continued to America thru pilgrims, and then to Korea thru the American Presbyterian and Methodist missionaries, and likewise to all over the world. The fathers of faith all obeyed and served the purpose of God's creation of humans, which is to multiply, flourish, and govern all of God's creation. We as offspring of the faith fathers, don't we have the responsibilities of the same multiplication of discipleship? As a person living the 4th Quarter of my life, as many of you are too, I thought we could help the young generation to carry on such ministries through young people themselves. So, we applied for the Hebrews 11 Grant to the Congregational Development Office of New England UMC, and it helped MCM financially to lay the foundation of Mosaic ministry for the last 3.5 years. Later, MCM became Mosaic Christian Movement, fostering the multi-cultural, multi-racial, and multi-generational harmonization among all

races and ethnicities in Christ.

After the foundational work, we are excited to report that from last September 10, 2017, we started weekly services of the new church, Mosaic Chapel at 5 PM on Sundays. Hallelujah! Mosaic Chapel is located in Medford, MA within 15 minutes outside of Boston and dedicated with the vision of "Disciples making Disciples." We now have a young lead pastor of age 31, Pastor Brian, and we are trying to reach out to many diverse young adults, and baby-boomers like me in the nearby area. How many of you have children or children's children married to or respectful of multi-cultural people? How many of you know someone in your neighborhood married to or appreciative of multi-cultural backgrounds? Like me, as I said, who are living in the 4th quarter of our lives, Mosaic Ministry has a meaningful purpose, helping our children, and children's children…to live in Jesus. Please inform them to check out the website of this Mosaic Chapel at www.mosaicNE.org. Thanks be to God, for your invitation of us, and I'd like to share my testimony in a Korean Sacred Song entitled, "All Your Grace In Me."

3. Our Way Forward Prayer

Let's all pray together! Our God in Heaven, we praise You for all the creation on earth and heaven, and blessings you gave us humans to multiply, flourish, and govern all of creation. We praise your covenant to Abraham that "all peoples on earth will be blessed thru your offspring." Help us maintain a stable, peaceful, and joyful world of love for our children and children's children, as the foundation of their lives. We also pray Lord, oh God, let us all become one in Jesus Christ, regardless of our race, ethnic background, country of origin, and sexual orientation. But most of all, Dear God, help us shine the light of the love that Jesus Christ granted us through his crucifixion, and help us to enlighten the world of today and the future, and grant us the power of the Holy Spirit for touching all lives and transforming them together. We also pray for the United Methodist clergy and laity together, to be more transformational leaders, so that we all can become "Disciples making Disciples." We pray all these in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.