Pastor’s Letter

The spread of Protestantism in Korea began on June 24, 1884, when American Methodist missionary Maclay, Robert Samuel, received permission from the government to engage in missionary work. It has been almost 140 years since then. Of course, Catholicism had spread in Korea long before Protestantism. The history of Korean Protestantism is shorter than that of our churches. However, the development and growth of the Korean Protestant Church are considered unique even in the history of global Christianity.

Many churches in Korea have congregations numbering over ten thousand. While there are many reasons for the revival of Korean churches, I personally believe that the love for the Bible and passionate prayer among Korean church members are the most important foundations. This is also the view of scholars studying church growth. If we look for another reason, it is the small group meetings. In fact, small group meetings within the church can be traced back to Wesley, and Korean churches have adapted and applied these small group meetings in various ways under different names. Through these gatherings, church members have learned the Bible and how to pray, and by taking care of each other, they have strengthened their faith. Many lay leaders in various fields have emerged from these small group meetings. I consider them as pillars supporting the Korean church.

I was very pleased when I heard about the Prayer Partner Project two weeks ago. First of all, it was initiated by our United Methodist Church's Discipleship Ministries on an interdenominational level. I was also glad that it used The Upper Room, which many UMC churches already use, and provided good materials. Most importantly, it was great that the initiative encouraged members to voluntarily form small groups.

From Sunday school to the youth group to the young adult group in the church community, I learned to pray by listening to pastors, teachers, church adults, and seniors praying. Whenever I encountered difficult moments in my life, whether alone or in prayer meetings with the community, I experienced the Lord more deeply by crying out to Him in prayer. I was part of the community throughout my church life. This was an incomparable blessing.

The Prayer Partner Project is designed to be a balanced gathering of scripture reading and prayer for those who participate. I bless our church members participating in this project, and I hope that our members within our community will enjoy the abundant life that God bestows upon us through this project.

*“For it is sanctified by God’s word and by prayer.” 1 Timothy 4:5*

With love and blessings,