
Sunday, November 12, 2017
Did You Know?

Our 40th Anniversary

We read in Genesis 29:20 that Jacob served seven years in the house of Laban to marry Rachel, 'but these years seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.' In the same way, the past forty years of our church has seemed only like a few days to me. I was blessed to be part of twenty-nine of its forty year existence. From the days when we rented Don Mills United Church at 126 O'Connor Dr., to the converted sanctuary of the 185 Bartley Drive warehouse, to the present 650 McNicoll Ave. building, it has been truly amazing. Many have served the church faithfully during those years. I remember the dedication of Rev. Jae Kwang Kim and Rev. Suk Hwan Lee, our first and second senior pastors. I also remember the great sacrifices of the elders, the fervent prayers of the deaconesses, and surely, the unceasing commitment of deacons and church members. Events and occasions that brought joy and pain have all been worked out by God who 'works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose' (Romans 8:28). I give praise to God and express deep gratitude to those men and women of faith who have gone before us. Many of them are now 'resting' at Young Nak Memorial Garden, but they shall surely rise at the sound of the trumpet and we shall all meet once again in our resurrected bodies.

Forty years is like a marker in the Bible, signaling the end of one generation or part and the beginning of another. Moses spent his first forty years in the prosperous court of Pharaoh. Then he spent the next forty years in the lonely Midian desert. Finally, he endured his last forty years leading the rebellious people of Israel out of the Sinai desert. Well, our church has just finished its first forty years. We have witnessed tremendous growth in number and spiritual maturity. What began as a few dozen believers has now grown to a several thousand member church. When we first began, we were in need of assistance from our Canadian brothers and sisters. Along our journey we have been able to lend support to others, beginning with a mission to Russia, and 'enlarging our tent' to Kg, Cambodia, and several other countries.

What will God have us do in the next forty years? He has given us a new vision for our city. At the main campus we were blessed to extend God's love to those who have come from Southeast Asia and now, we have a church plant in St. James Town. Hopefully, more new church plants to come. I can also see how God will use the second and third generations in our church. They will take the Gospel to the Millennials, a generation that have moved far away from God. Our people will need to be well-equipped and go deeper into the Word and prayer to do this. All of us must dedicate our lives to be used of God. On this fortieth church anniversary, let us dare to renew ourselves, to love the Lord more than ever, to be his hands and his feet, and to be the salt and light of the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Minho Song
Senior Pastor