

FIRST-PERSON: My Pilgrim Journey

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus
National Chaplain, KWVA
American Legion Post 442 Chaplain

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1. CHAPLAIN'S CORNER ON LIVING HOPE

Dr. Paul Kim

National Chaplain, KWVA

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3)



Tom Bodett, folksy American author, ad pitchman, and radio personality, writes: “They say a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world: someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for.” At a crucial juncture during the Korean War, General Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964), one of America’s most decorated military heroes, brought hope to a dejected and downtrodden people. Under his steady and determined command, the successful Incheon Landing brought an expectation that the war could soon be over. We know the rest of the story in that although MacArthur could not obtain complete victory, his maneuvers allowed South Korea to preserve its freedom. The Korean people are forever grateful for those who served in the war. Immortally etched on the granite wall at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in our nation’s capital is the apt phrase: “Freedom is Not Free.” Indeed, it cost the lives of so many sacrificial soldiers. We continue to remember and honor all our Korean War veterans and those who have served in Korea.

We must then ask ourselves, what do we hope for? The Bible says to have a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. A better question to ask then is this—in WHOM do you place your hope? There is nothing greater than to have a living hope in Jesus. For every hope in this world will end up as a dead hope. Only in Christ do we have an eternal, living hope.

May God help you to find the living hope today!

2. A LIFE OF A HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

A hospital chaplain is called to minister to the sick, to give spiritual care along with the clinical care provided by doctors, nurses, and medical technicians. The reality of life is that like the poor, there will always be amongst us those who suffer from illness and disease. The Apostle Luke, himself a physician, wrote in his Gospel about a woman suffering from bleeding for twelve years, who spent all her money on doctors but could not find a cure. By faith she approached Jesus from behind and touched the hem of His robe and was instantly healed. Although the crowd was oblivious to what happened, she knew it was a miracle of God. Even with all the advancements in medical care and technology, medical professionals can only be humbled before God, who is the Great Physician.

After I finished my seminary education I returned home to the Big Island of Hawaii to start a new house church in a nearby beach community. Soon after I began a second house church plant across the university campus of my alma mater, the University of Hawaii at Hilo. It was during this time that I felt the conviction to serve as a hospital chaplain so I began my studies in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) for pastoral care and counseling in the fall of 1977-78. I spent one year in CPE at Memorial Hospital Medical Center in Long Beach, California and at South Carolina Baptist Hospital (now, Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital) in Columbia, South Carolina.

I remember vividly how one afternoon in October, 1977, a wife of a patient came by the hospital chaplain's office of Memorial Hospital Medical Center in Long Beach, California. She wanted a chaplain to visit her husband, who was in his late sixties. She told me that her husband had refused to take any medicine and had not even eaten for a few days. She wanted me to convince him to change his mind. At her request I went to his bedside and quietly introduced myself. I just wanted to listen, knowing he was not up for any religious dialogue. He shared with me that he was afraid he was going to die. As I listened to his emotional pain I encouraged him to have hope. I prayed for him silently on my own. I found out later that he was discharged from hospital. Sometimes all we can do is show that we care—and pray.

On another night when I was on call at South Carolina Baptist Hospital, a phone rang in my room. It was from the operator who received an urgent request to have a chaplain visit a patient who had a second heart attack. I hurriedly went to the ICU to see a man in his mid-50s. He was so scared as he kept watching the heart monitor over his bed. I listened to his worries and I shared a few Bible verses to comfort him. After a few days he was discharged. A few months later, the man came to visit me to say thank you, saying how my presence helped him so much on that night. I gave thanks to God for using me to be a source of encouragement to that man.

I may not have fully realized it at the time, but my residency as a hospital chaplain taught me lifelong lessons in pastoral ministry. For until then I had never really experienced sickness and death so closely. In fact, I had never seen a person dying with my very own eyes before. But over time I learned how to be in the presence of the sick and dying, to listen to them and just **be** with them and their family members.

With their permission, I offered many tearful prayers of biblical comfort and hope, especially Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." As a hospital chaplain I was forced to confront the reality of suffering and death. These experiences helped me to grow emotionally, spiritually, theologically, and professionally. And as I am myself a survivor of quadruple by-pass heart surgery, I know that God has numbered each one of our days and I cannot take for granted even one more day of good health. We will all succumb to death one day, but we do not fear it because Christ has overcome death on the cross. That is why we can always take courage and hope in the resurrection. As 1 Corinthians 15:55 says: "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" We have ultimate victory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. A WORD FROM CHAPLAIN

By Paul Kim

New year is special that people wish and hope something new may come on their way. What do you anticipate most for this new year? Most people decide to have the new year resolutions such as to be healthy, to lose weight, to exercise, to read... we try out for a few days, but soon we discontinue them to go back to our normal lifestyle. Yet we should not be discouraged not pursue for the goal in the beginning of new year. Still there are many more days have left to rededicate to get back to the new year resolutions.

We agree how hard it is for us to keep up by our own strength. We need a help from the Lord. In the Bible it says, "...therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). How can anyone be in Christ...? It was summer 1968 during my furlough from the Army stationed from Fort Lewis to come home in Hilo, Hawaii a month. A local Baptist pastor whom I knew came to visit me at home how I could be a Christian. After one hour of his presentation from the Bible I was convinced why Jesus had to die on the cross to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. I became a new creation in Christ. He changed me to forgive my sin to be a child of God through the Holy Spirit. Since these 52 years I have walked with my Lord Jesus in the blessed life. I look forward the heavenly prize when my life comes to the end in this world. Do you have the assurance of the hope of the glory now?

4. THE LIFE OF AN ARMY CHAPLAIN

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Being a military chaplain is a special calling to be a pastor to the troops in uniform. The chaplain serves the role of a spiritual advisor, someone who can build up the morale of the troops by offering much-needed pastoral care and counseling. The chaplain serves at chapel or in the training field, or sometimes even in combat situations—wherever the need may be, a chaplain’s presence is often demanded. Even during training, a military chaplain participates along with the recruits to act as a role model and a source of encouragement. As a young man under Moses, Joshua must have filled a role similar to a military chaplain. Joshua then used what he had learned as an aide to Moses by performing the functions of both military and spiritual leadership over the Israelites. In Joshua 1:10-11 it says, “Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people: ‘Go through the camp and tell the people, get provisions ready for yourselves, for within three days you will be crossing the Jordan to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you to inherit.’”

In February, 1986 at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (now Gateway Seminary), I was sworn into the Reserve Army chaplaincy with a vow to defend the Constitution of the United States of America. The ceremony was officiated by Chaplain Samuel Birky, a former Navy SEAL who had two combat tours in the Vietnam War. I received an endorsement letter from the Chaplaincy Department of the Home Mission Board (now North America Mission Board, SBC). That summer I went to the Chaplain School for training at Fort Monmouth, NJ. After graduation, I was promoted to the rank of captain. It was a great honor and privilege to put on my Army uniform as I ministered to our troops on one weekend of each month at the Oakland Army Base, a part of the 91st Infantry Division headquartered at the 6th Army in San Francisco, California.

In summer of 1990 I requested to be on two-week active duty at Camp Casey, the headquarters of the 2nd Infantry Division stationed at the DMZ in Korea. Every morning we went our early for Physical Training (PT) before breakfast. As a chaplain I was housed at the officer’s quarters and I attended meetings and led chapel services. On a memorable day in August I even got a unique opportunity to preside over a wedding of an American soldier and a Korean bride. On a very humid summer day, some thirty family members, relatives, and friends on both sides gathered. In the middle of the wedding ceremony the electricity went off. As I had been taught, I bravely soldiered on and finished the ceremony! Ministering to our troops at the DMZ was one of the highlights of my time as an Army chaplain.

In my ten years of serving as a Reserve Army chaplain I gained many spiritual insights. I was able to experience the power of teamwork and unity, leading to a church-planting strategy that utilizes leadership training and missions deployment where we send teams of 10-30 church members from our

church network to plant new churches at home and abroad. During over thirty years of my pastoral ministry, we have planted over 40 churches by raising homegrown pastors and missionaries.

Even in retirement, I continue to serve as a chaplain to our veterans in the American Legion in Cambridge and the Korean War Veterans/Defense organization as the national assistant chaplain. As I travel to our SBC seminaries, I have supported seminary students to hold student-led chaplain fellowships and encouraged many to join the chaplain candidate programs. Even when our Armed Forces are not engaged in military warfare, they are in the midst of spiritual warfare each and every day. More than ever I believe our Armed Services need spiritual support, encouragement, and the prayers of our people. This Veterans Day, as we remember and honor our military personnel, may we commit to praying for them, their families, and for the spiritual victory of our nation.

5. THE HONOR OF MILITARY SERVICE

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

National Chaplain, KWVA

Marsh Post 442 Chaplain, Cambridge, MA

As a teen growing up in Korea, one of my dreams was to move to America. At the time, it was not easy to receive a visa from the U.S. Embassy in Korea. It was next to impossible to meet all the legal requirements for immigration unless you received an invitation from a family member living the U.S. But surely God had a plan for my life in America. In May 1967, the legal process for my family's immigration was finally approved! After three long years of waiting, it was a miracle of God's grace.



Day of departure to America, 1967 - Kimpo Airport, Seoul

One of the main reasons I wanted to go to America was because I had a strong desire to serve in the U.S. Army. Whenever I saw American soldiers stationed in Korea carry out their duties to defend our small nation, I felt a burden to pay back even just a tiny portion of the great national debt we owed to the U.S. I thought it would be such an honor for me to acknowledge my gratitude to my newly adopted country by enlisting in its armed services. So within three months after arriving in Hilo, Hawaii to join my mother and my older sister, I volunteered for the U.S. Army in September 1967. My heart swelled with pride as I fulfilled this worthy life goal.

My decision to enlist was during the Vietnam War era. While many young people were traveling out of the country to dodge the draft, I rejoiced that I could be in America and join the army. So at 19 years of age, I began this new journey of life not knowing what my future would hold. As I reflect on my four months of BCT/AIT and two years of active duty in 1967-69 stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, I can see how God provided so many blessings, far beyond my imagination. It was an opportunity to grow and mature as a human being, to learn about American culture, the English language, military life, and even

earn my U.S. citizenship. After two years of active duty, I was discharged so that I could attend college and obtain two seminary degrees under the GI Bill. During those days, tuition was free for seminary students of the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program.

As the national chaplain of the Korean War Veterans Association, I'm so grateful to have served my country for the cause of defending freedom and upholding the Constitution of the United States. Our freedom is given by God; no government should take away from *We the People*. The Bible says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage (Psalm 33:12)."



National Chaplain, KWVA

America's Christian heritage began with a small band of Separatists known as the Pilgrims when they established Plymouth Colony in 1620. They came to this new land looking for the freedom to worship God in a way that was denied to them in England. We know the story well—how they suffered much in that first winter, yet they never lost hope that God would honor their faith. We are indebted to these Founding Fathers and Mothers of faith. As Plymouth colony's governor, William Bradford (1590-1657) wrote: "All great and honorable actions are accompanied with great difficulties, and both must be enterprised and overcome with answerable courage." These were honorable soldiers of Christ, fighting the spiritual battle, and equipped with the weapons of faith, hope, and love. The Bible says, "Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him (2 Timothy 2:3-4)." Our God is a mighty conqueror, warrior, and King on the lookout for faithful soldiers.

It is the sacrifice of our veterans that have made our nation strong and honorable. All veterans live by the code: "Honor, Duty, Country." I pray that each and every one of us can also add faith, hope, love, and Christ. As we continue to serve our veterans, their families, and our communities, may we all carry

the banner of faith by serving the greatest commander—Jesus Christ who is the victor over Satan, sin, and death. God is seeking honorable soldiers of Christ to serve His Kingdom. The Bible says, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you (Matthew 6:33).” Live each day for Jesus who is the coming King who will establish His Kingdom of peace and justice for eternity. Maranatha!

6. THE SACRIFICIAL VALOR OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

By Chaplain Paul Kim

National Chaplain

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” – John 15:13

Shortly after midnight on February 3, 1943, the SS *Dorchester* carrying 902 servicemen, merchants, and civilians was struck by a torpedo fired from the German submarine U-223. Only 230 survived. Out of the 672 who lost their lives that day, four were Army chaplains. In the moment of chaos and panic, many testified to their calming presence, distributing lifejackets and when they ran out, giving up their own. Some eyewitnesses recounted seeing the four in their final minutes, arms linked in prayer. For their act of sacrificial valor, they posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart in 1944. A one-time Special Medal for Heroism was awarded by President Eisenhower in 1961.

As a chaplain, it has been my honor and privilege in bringing these stories of faith and sacrifice to the public’s attention. Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a rabbi, Lt. John P. Washington, a Catholic priest, and Lt. Clark P. Poling, a Reformed pastor all willingly laid down their lives in order to save others. We can say their self-sacrifice was not incidental; it was part of their ministerial DNA. They were merely reflecting the very character of the God they served. In April 2019 I took my 9-year old grandson who lives in Philadelphia to the Chapel of The Four Chaplains at the Naval Shipyard. It is appropriately in the “City of Brotherly Love,” as they demonstrated the highest expression of human love. Their sacrificial valor is a chilling rebuke to our times where self-preservation and self-absorption reigns. As we remember their legacy of faith and service to others, let’s continue to pray for our nation and serve in love. And may we never forget for a moment the enduring motto: “Freedom is not Free.”

7. A TRIBUTE TO OUR FALLEN HEROES

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

National Chaplain, KWVA

The Marsh Post 442 Chaplain, Cambridge, MA

1st Lt. Thomas Redgate is a hero of the Korean War, whose remains returned home after missing for 70 long years. It was brought to burial for Lt. Redgate to rest in peace at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Cape Cod. It was reported in the military MIA Record that he was missing on December 11, 1950 at the battle of Chosin Reservoir, where his unit was overpowered by Chinese soldiers during the coldest time of the year in North Korea, with temperatures dropping down to -30 degrees below zero. He was only 24 years old when he went missing in action. His remains were finally accounted for by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in April 2020. Before the Korean War, Lt. Redgate was a combat veteran of WWII. In both wars, he took up the call of duty when our nation needed him, to defend freedom and fight for peace during such critical periods in our history. Truly, "Freedom is not free." He went to foreign soil, leaving the comfort of life in America. He grew up in the cradle of freedom, being raised in Charlestown, Massachusetts, not far from the Bunker Hill Monument, a tribute to one of the earliest battles of the American Revolutionary War.

On the evening of September 14, 2021, police motorcycles escorted the arrival of his casket draped under the American flag. Many from the neighborhood, fire fighters with two trucks, the U.S.S. Constitution Navy crew, military veterans, and Koreans from across Boston lined up to welcome him home, waving our American flags. The spirit of patriotism filled the air as the funeral home automobiles, accompanied by his family members, arrived at the address of his childhood home. The war hero had returned home at last! People were taking pictures and the media crews were there to record the event for the evening news. The members of the family joined the crowd to thank us in welcoming him home. As the national chaplain of KWVA, I asked his family whether I could offer a prayer for the family. His niece from Denver, Colorado who was standing next to me replied, "Yes, please. Thank you!" So I gave a prayer honoring his heroism and gave thanks that his remains could return to his awaiting family after all these years. The family expressed their heartfelt appreciation. As the sun began to set slowly upon this emotional homecoming event, it reminded us once again of the great cost of freedom.



President Harry Truman said, “Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” Nearby the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington DC, there will be a new Wall of Remembrance of the Korean War to be dedicated on June 25, 2022 in honor of our fallen heroes. In Boston there stands the Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Memorial. The 50-foot-tall Beacon of Honor on Northern Avenue is a tribute to those who died in the war on terror since September 11, 2001. There are 272 names of our fallen heroes displayed on glass panels, with more to be added.

As we welcome our fallen heroes as they come home to rest, we remember how the Bible speaks of the Fallen Heroes of Faith, who are welcomed by the Lord Jesus, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also (John 14:3).” Can anyone imagine this welcome homecoming and what kind of glorious home it shall be for the heroes of faith? In the last two chapters of the book of Revelation, the beloved disciple of Jesus saw such a vision. Nothing can compare to this new heaven and new earth prepared by the Lord Himself. It is to be a dream home reserved for His children who are redeemed by God’s grace, born into His kingdom by faith in Jesus Christ. How can anyone reject and turn down this invitation to be with Him in eternity and instead choose to suffer in the lake of fire, separated from God eternally (Revelation 20:11-15)? Now is the time to pray in repentance of your sin, to ask for God’s forgiveness so that you can be born again. Then you will gain the promises of eternal rest and the privilege to go to an eternal home as a Hero of Faith. Do it now!

8. WALKING FOR GOOD HEALTH

Chaplain Paul Kim

Within four months, I have walked 300 miles. Walking offers several benefits for our daily lives: a) discipline, b) energy, c) confidence, and d) challenge. It builds good health, and people want to be healthy. It all begins with making a commitment to start walking regularly. Everybody walks from one point to the next for daily activities. But if the person extends the walking for longer distances on a regular basis, then it can become exercise for better health. People want to control their weight to be healthy. The desire for better health drives an enormous industry, made up of healthcare professionals, weight management businesses, and so forth.

Likewise, walking by faith helps Christians to grow spiritually. Unless we walk daily, we cannot grow physically nor spiritually. In the Bible, it says, “for we walk by faith, not by sight.” The Apostle Paul writes his letter to the Corinthian Church to walk by faith “...to please the Lord Jesus for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil (2 Corinthians 5:7-10).” God has given us one life to live on earth. At the end of this pilgrim journey, we must give an account of how we lived for Christ at the judgment. Life continues beyond this earthly life. The Bible teaches us about life after death (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation chapters 20-22, etc.).

Before it is too late in this pilgrim’s journey, let’s walk this life by faith. God is the Giver of this life that we are responsible for in how we live both physically and spiritually. God has allowed us—as stewards of our lives—to manage our wealth, talents, knowledge, and service for the kingdom of God.

9. WALKING FOR THE REWARD

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

National Chaplain, KWVA

Marsh 442 Post Chaplain, Cambridge, MA



I have reached 900 miles a little after the one-year anniversary of my starting this challenge. What is the “reward” that keeps me motivated to walk an average of four miles daily along my city’s streets, imagining myself on a road to Seattle where my siblings live? My greatest reward has been my improved health, something that goes beyond any monetary value. I am sharing my testimony to encourage you to get on the path to better health by walking. Many of you may have been like me, striving to lose weight—especially around the belly area!—but we know it is not easy. I’m sure we’ve all tried countless ways to shed pounds, but the ugly pot belly seems to always remain, sticking out from under our shirts. A few times, my family doctor recommended me to start different lifestyle management techniques as my blood sugar level hovered in the prediabetic range (Hemoglobin A1C of 5.7-6.4%). We know how hard it is to manage diabetes, and all the health issues that can result from it. I made up my mind to skip lunch and to walk outdoors on the streets during the COVID-19 pandemic. I did not want to remain in “lockdown” in my house; I’d rather go outside to walk. When I just started walking, I did not have a specific goal, so my walking last spring was a bit more sporadic. Then, a campaign that was listed in the National American Legion Magazine last August caught my eyes: the 100 Miles for Hope Challenge that would last until Veterans Day. This was a worthy goal, and I accepted the challenge.

When the Jews were exiled to the foreign land of Babylon (modern day Iran) in the 6th century B.C. for 70 years, there was a Jewish youth named Daniel who became the prime mister in this adopted country after using God’s wisdom to interpretate the Babylonian king’s dreams. He was young, but he was faithful to God and courageous to stand up for his conscience in critical moments. While he and his three friends served in the royal court, they were determined not to eat the king’s food: “But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king’s food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. And God

gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of eunuchs..." (Daniel 1:8-16). What was their reward after ten days? Their appearance was better than those of others who had continued eating the king's food.

What is the best way to lose weight? The answer is to not eat so much! We should take in less food and exercise. It is a simple solution, but most people eat too much: eating three large meals a day, going to all-you-can-eat restaurants, indulging themselves at special events. On top of their regular food consumption, people love to drink alcohol and eat sweet desserts. This is not the way to lose weight! The more we put food into our body, the more we gain weight. The Bible says, "Therefore I (Jesus Christ) tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" (Matthew 6:25) What then should be the priority in life, if not food and drink? It is the spiritual issue of seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33) Until the turn of the 20th century, our ancestors walked daily without automobiles or our modern transportation systems. What can we learn from them that we can implement in our lives today to be healthier? Walking is one of best ways to lose weight, along with less food consumption. Now, I feel much healthier: I have lost 30 pounds since I started the 100 Miles for Hope challenge a year ago. That is my reward, which I am proud of and has boosted my self-esteem. I challenge you to take my advice to do likewise. It is simple and helps you save money as well!

10. A WALK TO HARVARD CAMPUS

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus
National Chaplain, KWVA
American Legion Post 442 Chaplain



I have walked 1,400 miles since the 100 Miles For Hope challenge began in August 2020. The challenge started in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is still going on—causing confusion, frustration, and uncertainty—with no hope for an end in sight. However, I accepted the challenge to walk outdoors to overcome the fear and anxiety of being in lockdown at home. It was all worth it to accept the challenge, as I have continued to walk for the past one and a half years. In my daily walking routine around my neighborhood, I walk to the Harvard campus on Mondays. It is a 4-mile route there and back.

During my 41 years of collegiate pastoral ministry, starting at UC Berkeley in Spring 1981, I have visited many university campuses at home and abroad. In the U.S., I have walked on the campuses of schools such as UC Berkeley, UCLA, USC, Stanford, University of Washington, University of Chicago, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, University of Hawaii, Tufts, Brandeis, Wellesley, Northeastern, UMass Boston, Boston University, Boston College, MIT, and Harvard. Overseas, I have visited Oxford, Cambridge, Moscow State University, Edinburgh, McGill, Seoul National University, Korea University, Yonsei, Ewha, and Kyungpook National University. Out of the 30-some universities I've visited, I have walked to the Harvard campus most often since I live close by.

The first time I stepped foot on the Harvard campus was in November 1990, a couple of months prior to planting a branch church of Berkland Baptist Church (BBC) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. We had our inaugural worship service on January 6, 1991, with 33 people in attendance at a rented church building—the First Baptist Church Cambridge—in Central Square, in between MIT and Harvard. And just recently, we had a wonderful and blessed 31st anniversary worship service on January 2, 2022, with around 200 church members over Zoom. How did our church plant come about 31 years ago? It all started when my wife, Dr. Rebekah Kim, now a Southern Baptist Chaplain at Harvard University, was walking alone in the evening hours in Harvard Yard during a visit to a former church member over the Thanksgiving holiday. She felt like she heard the Macedonian Call of a man's voice, saying three times, "Why

don't *you* come to start a church?" Feeling afraid after the strange experience, she quickly left the campus so she wouldn't be walking alone past sunset.

The Bible tells a story of a Macedonian Call made to Apostle Paul in the first century. It says, "And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'" (Acts 16:9-10). I had actually used that passage for my church's inaugural worship service sermon on March 1, 1981, in Berkeley, California. My sermon title was "The Vision of Paul." Since our first church service, I have proclaimed Christ through this very same text multiple times at our many church plant inaugural worship services at home and abroad.

As I look back these 31 years, it was truly God's call for me and my wife to do the mission work of starting our branch church, BBC-Boston, and leaving BBC-Berkeley as the mother church. In the past three decades, I have seen so many college students from top-notch universities in the Boston area attend our church (now Antioch Baptist Church), come to know Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, and be disciplined into mature Christians and co-workers in the gospel ministry. Their lives have been forever changed, as they now walk on a Pilgrim's journey, waiting for Christ's return (what we have come to call the "Pilgrim-Maranatha" journey). Thus, each time I walk on the Harvard campus, I cannot help but reflect on the many events that have taken place through our church ministry—right at America's first college that was established back in 1636! As the New Year 2022 has begun, may you set walking more as your New Year's Resolution, physically as well as spiritually, to strengthen your faith as a pilgrim progressing towards our home in glory.

11. 100 MILES FOR HOPE

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

A day after 9/11, 2020, I completed the “100 Miles for Hope” Challenge, sponsored by The American Legion, which started in early August and ends this Veterans’ Day. I decided to walk the 100 miles, since I had already begun walking safely while social distancing with a face mask on ever since strict COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in the beginning of May. On average, I walked 3 miles daily, especially enjoying my weekly walk to our Marsh Post 422 building on Saturdays. During the rest of the week, I took different routes to explore the rest of my neighborhood, like Harvard University, the local city park, and other areas of our community.

The challenge requires discipline: the discipline to leave home, starting with that first step. In the beginning, the hardest part was not the walking itself; rather, it was the struggle to muster up the will power needed to get out of the house instead of settling at home to do other things. Once that first challenge was overcome, I would thoroughly enjoy the walk, arguably my favorite part of my daily routine. I am glad I accepted the challenge to finish the goal of 100 miles two months ahead of schedule.

As the Post 422 chaplain, I dropped in the building after finishing my goal today. I was glad to see a dozen Post members relaxing there, many whom I had not seen since the COVID shutdowns several months ago. As I greeted them, I announced that I had finished the “100 Miles for Hope,” pointing to the red campaign shirt I had on. They were excited about the news and showed their approval with two thumbs up. Since I came along with a couple of my church members, I introduced them briefly. As the chaplain, I wanted to encourage our veterans in every way possible. God knows what they need most in life. We all need hope in Jesus Christ. He is our living hope. Even the name of our challenge is “100 Miles for *Hope*.” The Bible says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

I would like to continue walking in phase 2 of “100 Miles for Hope.” Could I encourage you to take your first step and join this challenge till Veterans’ Day 2020?

Blessings,

Chaplain Paul Kim

12. LIVING HOPE FOR THE RETURN OF CHRIST

Paul Kim

National Chaplain, KWVA

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11).



What comes to mind when we think about Christmas? Presents, Santa Claus, the North Pole? It's easy to be distracted by these things but of course the true meaning of Christmas is Jesus Christ being born into this dark, fallen world, separated from His Father in Heaven. Jesus suffered and died on this earth to save sinners, but He always longed for home.

Home is where the heart is. Those in military service far away from their families count the days when they'll be able to go home again. Perhaps the greatest tragedy of the Korean War was the displacement of so many people from their homes, resulting in permanent separations of family members and loved ones. As we meditate on Christmas, let us pray for the service members who might be thousands of miles away from home. Let us remember and lift up Christians in pagan lands who are suffering from persecution and imprisonment. What is the surest comfort for those who are separated from those they love? It is the living hope of the return of Christ. The Bible promises that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming back to be with us, Immanuel, once more. But in His Second Coming, He will take his church, His bride, to be with Him in His heavenly home. Instead of being lost in the chaos and consumerism of the Holidays, let us recover the meaning of Christmas and long for Christ to be Immanuel with us once more, that we may go home to dwell eternally with Him. Maranatha!

13. I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

National Chaplain, KWVA

Marsh Post 442 Chaplain, Cambridge, MA

There are countless Christmas songs but for me, Bing Crosby's "I'll Be Home for Christmas" holds a special place in my heart. It was written in the perspective of a soldier overseas who longed to be home with loved ones. In 1967, I spent Christmas stationed at Fort Ord in California for Basic Combat Training (BCT) and Advanced Infantry Training (AIT). I was thousands of miles away from my home in Hilo, Hawaii so I listened to a lot of Bing Crosby's iconic Christmas tune. Even now when I hear "I'll Be Home for Christmas" I get a little emotional.



Coming Home for Christmas

A few years later as a seminarian at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1973, I was the only student in the dorms during Christmas because I couldn't afford to go home to Hawaii. For three weeks I was all alone on campus. I realized during that time how precious home is.

“Home is where the heart is” or “Home sweet home.” Home is where you want to go, where you to be, where you feel you belong.

The Bible tells of a story about the preciousness of home. A prodigal son left the home of his loving father, insisting on his inheritance even though his father was still living. After wasting all he had, he was left fighting with pigs in a pigsty for food. When he reached rock bottom state, he was able to come to his senses and make the decision to go home. Although this story is often referred to as the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the focus should be on the loving father who was waiting for his wayward son to come home. When he sees his son coming from a distance, the father runs to embrace the prodigal.

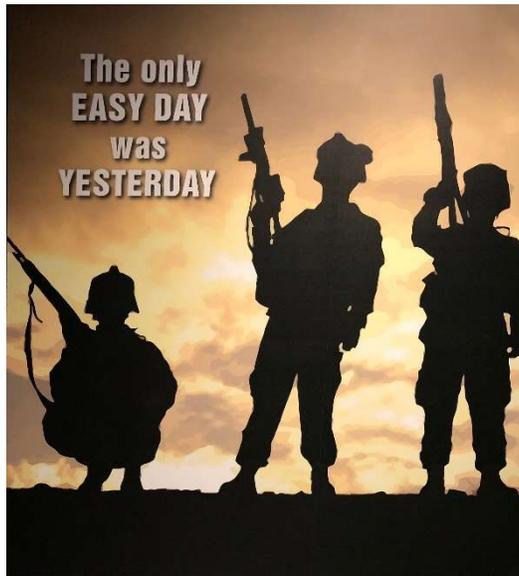
Our lives can be likened to kids playing on the playground. When night falls, the parents will call the kids home. “Johnny, come home!” And Johnny will go home. “Sarah, come home!” And Sarah will head to her home. When your time comes to depart this world, are you certain that you’ll have a place to go? Would God call you home by name? Or are you so much home in this world that you have no regard for a future dwelling place?

In 1620 a group of dedicated Christians known as the Pilgrims sought out a place in the New World where they could live out their faith freely. They saw themselves as merely strangers and sojourners in this world. Therefore, they were willing to suffer and sacrifice in order to build a better future for the next generation. Recently, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of our church. More than 400 of our extended church family worldwide gathered together in Plymouth, MA from November 24-27 to celebrate this milestone, along with marking the 400th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving in 1621.

We were in Plymouth because we wanted to continue the spirit of the Pilgrims who lived heaven bound lives. But we’re only able to “come home” to God only because our Lord Jesus left His home in heaven to be born in Bethlehem in a manger. He was born to die on the cross to save us from our sin. Jesus then resurrected and went back to His home in order to prepare a home for all those who believe in His name. As we celebrate Christmas being Jesus’ first coming, we should prepare for His return as He promised. May we be like the Pilgrims who longed for the glory of their heavenly home. Maranatha!

14. COMING TO AN END

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus
National Chaplain, KWVA
American Legion Post 442 Chaplain



The Navy SEAL Motto

Everything comes to an end at its appointed time. No one has the power to change the course of time, because God has set time in His Creation. Time is measured by the Earth's rotations around the Sun, and time has been changing since the beginning according to God's plan. We live in His time and His space. King Solomon writes, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2). During the time of Noah's flood, the Lord set our life span to 120 years: "Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." (Genesis 6:3)

As the year comes to an end during the Christmas season, we begin to reflect on the year that has passed. How do different people spend their final week of the year? How are our thoughts and feelings different from all the other days of the year? Do we feel more empty, lonely, or emotional as the year comes to an end? Why do endings change our mood and cause us to think differently, like at graduations, retirements, or farewells?

A therapist remarked in a post, "[The end of the year] can make us feel uncomfortable and lead us to sadness, because we feel that we did not make the most of the time that was given to us, and instead of thinking about what we hope to achieve we dwell on what we didn't. We all have the right to find ourselves at this time, without letting sadness hurt our lives. Take a moment alone and analyze all the moments we have had, good and bad, find closure and return to feel fulfilled and happy." People search

for happiness as the New Year comes, and they make New Year's resolutions every year in an attempt to improve their lives. Common resolutions are to exercise more, eat healthier, save money, lose weight, and reduce stress.

On New Year's Day 2021, I made a resolution to walk outdoors for an average of four miles a day. As the year comes to end, I have walked 1,105 miles. I'm filled with a sense of achievement, confidence, and pride for meeting my resolution and am ready to challenge myself with another New Year's Resolution of staying healthy and energetic as I enter my mid-70s. My active lifestyle does not just affect me; it has challenged all the congregations of our church to join the "Berkland Baptist Church (BBC) Walking Club" to use our God-given time to improve our physical health. The findings of a study on the health benefits of walking encourage us: "Walking increases cardiovascular and pulmonary (heart and lung) fitness; reduces risk of heart disease and stroke; improves management of conditions such as hypertension (high blood pressure), high cholesterol, joint and muscular pain or stiffness, and diabetes; [promotes] stronger bones and improves balance."

Furthermore, there are 10 amazing benefits of walking:

1. It sharpens your brain.
2. It strengthens your bones.
3. It boosts your mood.
4. It enhances your circulation.
5. It reduces your risk of tripping and falling.
6. It bolsters your memory.
7. It lessens the pain of conditions like arthritis and fibromyalgia.
8. It improves your blood glucose levels.
9. It raises your immunity.
10. It improves your sleep.

Time is short. It may run out before we know it as it quickly flies away. Therefore, why not use your time beneficially in the New Year—personally, spiritually, professionally, and academically—for the glory of God?

15. A LIFE OF A PASTOR

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Everyone is given one life to live in this world. There will come a time on this earthly journey when God will call us back to Him. A Psalmist says about our lifespan, “Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away” (Psalms 90:10). During our short time on earth, we can serve God in many different capacities, but those of us who are called to be pastors are given the special privilege of servant leadership (John 21:15-17; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-5).

One day, at a Christian bookstore just across the street from Fort Worth Hall at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, I was looking to purchase several books when I heard an excited voice calling to the other side of the bookstore, “Pastor!” A pastor was there with a few members of his congregation and as I watched the interaction between shepherd and sheep, I thought to myself, “Who is worthy to be called such an honorable title of a pastor?” That was 45 years ago in 1973 but the voice that shouted “Pastor” still rings so clearly in my ears like it was yesterday.

The life of a pastor is a unique and special calling from God. Why does God call a certain individual into the gospel ministry? Ultimately, it is for His glory and purpose (Ephesians 1:4-6; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-4). God has chosen us by His grace. Pastors are given the responsibility to be watchmen on the wall. He called Noah, Abraham, Moses, Samuel, and prophets in their generation to do the work of God. He still calls His people to do His work in every generation until the return of Christ our Lord! What a great honor and privilege it is being called by God to be a pastor, to be His servant, a shepherd over His flock! We are to proclaim His Word faithfully so that sinners can be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:20-21; Colossians 1:27-29).

Ever since I heard the lady calling her pastor at the bookstore in 1973, I always held the title of “pastor” with precious reverence. But I never dreamed that one day I would be ordained into the Gospel ministry by Dr. W.A. Criswell at First Baptist Church in Dallas. It was on July 7, 1976 upon my graduation from Southwestern. Under the guidance of Dr. Criswell I learned what it means to be a pastor. It’s been a long journey in pastoral ministry, beginning with a collegiate church plant at U.C. Berkeley in 1981 with my family of five. By God’s grace the ministry grew to over 500 active students. After 10 years, in 1991, my family moved to reproduce another church with the same DNA in the Boston area to reach out to students in the many nearby colleges. Over the nearly 37 years of planting and growing churches, God has been so faithful. I am forever grateful to my wife, Dr. Rebekah Kim, Southern Baptist Chaplain at Harvard University, who has been a faithful co-laborer in planting churches and equipping disciples. Although I now serve as Pastor Emeritus, I continue to be invested in raising pastors, missionaries, and church leaders for the 21st century both at home and abroad in fulfillment of the Great Commission.

16. A REUNION FOREVER

Dr. Paul Kim

National Chaplain, KWVA

Marsh Post 442 Chaplain, Cambridge, MA

A reunion is a joyful time, where after a period of separation, family, friends, and classmates, can come together again. We're reminded of how important relationships are through our family reunions, class reunions, and veterans reunions. Truly there is no place like home. When soldiers go on furlough, they make their way home because that's what they've been longing for—to see their loved ones again. On the other side, families await their coming and when they return home safely, they're often met with joyful tears. The heartwarming scene of a soldier coming home from a long period of active duty overseas never gets old.

In August 2019, I was invited by my Army chaplain friend, Sam Birky (Col. Ret), to his 50th UDT/SEALS Reunion in San Diego. Prior to joining the Army chaplaincy, Sam was a former Navy SEAL for five years and served two tours in Vietnam. Known as "Top Gun," he hails from a family of warriors. His 20-year-old younger brother, FN3 Harold Birky, also a SEAL, lost his life on January 30, 1970 in Vietnam. Recently, when I visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, I saw his name etched onto the black granite stone of the memorial wall. I made a rubbing of his name to honor him. Sam has expressed to me the heart-wrenching pain of missing his brother, who gave his life as a sacrifice in service of his nation. But Sam finds comfort in the hope of a heavenly reunion. Harold was a faithful and dedicated Christian like his older brother. As they're both heavenly citizens, they will one day be reunited, to be joint heirs with Christ. Sam uses this hope in the resurrection to witness to fellow SEALs.

The Bible tells a story of a family reunion through the life of Joseph, who was sold as a slave to Egypt at the age of 17. His older brothers, offended by Joseph's dreams of lording over them, plotted together to permanently remove him from their lives. They were jealous that their father, Jacob, loved this younger son the most. It was a tragic family story of loss and betrayal—until thirteen years later, when an unexpected reunion took place. The brothers came to Egypt to buy grain, as their own land was in a state of drought. Unbeknownst to them, they had to beg Joseph, who had become prime minister of Egypt. The Bible says, "Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them..." (Genesis 42:8-9). When Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers, this reunion resulted in forgiveness. As Joseph confessed: "...I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life" (Genesis 45:4-5). What a spiritual man Joseph was in being able to recognize that the injustice of what his brothers did to him was part of God's plan to save his family and create a people belonging to Him. The powerful reconciliation brought upon by Joseph's forgiveness is but a shadow of what Jesus did for us sinners. While on the cross, Jesus prayed: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). The Lord Jesus is willing and able to forgive our sins when we trust in Him as our personal Lord and Savior. The Holy One desires to be reconciled with sinners, so that He can enjoy us forever, in heavenly reunion.

Ultimately, God is sovereign and He controls human history. As the one who created the heavens and the earth, He rules with power and authority; with divine wisdom He establishes and brings down empires. According to His Word—and His promises never fail—He shall return to this earth to restore His kingdom, to have an eternal reunion with His children of faith. The Bible says two angels assured the disciples of the promise of Christ’s return: “...This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). While Jesus was present on earth, He taught His disciples that there will be a heavenly reunion of His Church, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:3).

In May 2023, it will be the 50th class reunion of my graduating class at the University of Hawaii, Hilo. While it’s important to mark such occasions, all of our earthly reunions are temporary. But the heavenly reunion we have in Christ is forever. What a day it shall be to celebrate the eternal King when He returns for His bride, the Church. On that day, we shall enjoy the wedding feast, and be with Him in glory forever.

It is never too late and you’re never too old to receive the Lord Jesus. The Bible says, “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God” (John 1:12). Now is the time to pray to God, to repent of your sin of rebellion and rejection against Him, and to ask for His forgiveness. By becoming a child of God, you are promised a reunion with Him that is eternal. The Lord Jesus is waiting for you to make your decision NOW!



17. BIRTHDAY TRIPS

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

For my 50th birthday in 1998 I had the privilege of joining a two-week Holy Land Study Tour cruise sponsored by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Two seminary professors led us through various biblical sites in Israel, Italy, and Greece. The Bible seemed to come alive as they explained the historical background and significance of each place we went. I even got the rare opportunity to visit the Island of Patmos where John wrote the book of Revelation. On top of the educational tours I was able to enjoy good company. I made friends with my cabin mates as we shared our life testimonies and took many group photos together. It was an unforgettable trip.

Ten years later in 2008, for my 60th birthday, I joined the seminary's Holy Land Study Tour to Israel and Jordan. With me this time was my wife. I remember I was serving as the president of the national alumni association of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and we were celebrating the seminary's centennial, which made the trip even more meaningful.

Our tour guide was an American who had moved to Israel and had been there for over two decades. He was very knowledgeable of the Scriptures and he shared with us his spiritual insights having experienced living in the Holy Land for so long. My wife, Rebekah, who is the Southern Baptist chaplain at Harvard University, as a student of Hebrew herself and an avid proponent of understanding the Bible in its Jewish context, got along especially well with him. They took turns amusing and enlightening us of the Scriptures as we toured the Holy Land. Memories from this trip are etched into my mind because it was designed to be a hands-on experience. One of the most memorable excursions was the Wilderness Journey. On New Year's Eve we rented a huge tent to sleep in the desert wilderness so that we could get a taste of what it was like for Moses and the Israelites.

In Jordan the tour group surprised me on my 60th birthday at the hotel restaurant with a birthday cake that was decorated with a long sword, apparently a local birthday tradition. We visited an ancient palace prison where John the Baptist was to have been beheaded. We went to Petra in Jordan where I got a chance to ride a camel. It was surely a trip of fond, lifelong memories.

When I turned 70, my wife arranged for the senior pastors of our network of churches to join us for a one-week trip to Hawaii, the place where I first immigrated to from Korea. It was a special time for me to show my long-time disciples my historical roots. We visited the Army Chapel where I was sworn in for the Army in 1967, the church where I was baptized, and our old family home. As this year I marked the 27th anniversary of surviving a massive heart attack, I'm reminded that each additional year given to me is a precious gift from God. So I'm especially grateful that God has extended my life so that I've been able to experience such memory-making birthday trips every 10 years, none of which I take for granted. God has been and continues to be my Ebenezer.

18. CATCHING THE SPIRIT

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

In the spring of 1987 a video production team from the Home Mission Board of the SBC in Atlanta (now the North American Mission Board) came to Berkeley, CA to interview both my wife, Dr. Rebekah Kim, and me about our campus-based churches. We founded Berkland Baptist Church in 1981 to reach out to college students on the Berkeley campus and God had expanded our outreach to Stanford students as well. They followed us around as we ministered to students at Berkeley and Stanford, capturing hours of interview footage of us and of our students. After the interviews the crew members expressed how overwhelmed they were by what the Spirit of God was doing in the lives of these evangelistic students, hence they named the video presentation: “Catching the Spirit.”

The video was edited into a two-minute segment which was shown at the “HMB (Home Mission Board) Hour” at the SBC annual meeting in St Louis, Missouri in June 1987. I was then given an opportunity to share a brief testimony of what God had done in the first six years of our church ministry. Of course I started with a story of our humble beginnings, how what began as a family of five quickly grew into a bustling ministry of over 500 active church members, mostly Asian-American college and graduate students. Truly it was not according to man’s design but a powerful work of the Holy Spirit that radically transformed the lives of college students who were occupied by their own agendas into a spiritual army ready to engage in winning souls to Christ and to engage in spiritual battle. God’s surprising work allowed me and my wife to cast a forward-looking vision for our ministry to be focused on raising spiritual leaders for the 21st century.

Indeed, in the first decade many college students were able to “Catch the Spirit” of evangelism, radical discipleship, and intense study of the Word of God. Many committed their lives to the ministry beyond college in order to build up the family of God through a covenant of lifelong Christ-centered relationships. What was particularly encouraging was that many of these students came from non-Christian backgrounds. But when they encountered the living God their changed lives were powerful testimonies to their friends and family. The concentric circle of evangelism continued to be compounded. Within a three-year period, we baptized over 100 new believers each year. In the decade since we started the church we had baptized over seven hundred new believers! God had blessed our vision to enlarge His tent through missions and church planting (Isaiah 54:2).

This verse in Isaiah was at the heart of my two-minute testimony at the SBC presentation. I shared the exciting news of the Spirit’s leading with the audience that day: “Today my wife is leading a group of 20 college students on our church’s first summer mission trip to Japan and Korea. Please pray for their safety.” Little did I know at the time that this would be the beginning of 33 years of sending college students to fulfill the Great Commission in reaching out to the world. In my observations of the students who participate in overseas mission trips, they return with a renewed sense of passion for evangelism

and ministry. As I reflect back on my remarks at the “HMB Hour” I believe “Catching the Spirit” captures the essence of what has unfolded in nearly four decades of our church’s ministry.

Next March 2021 we will mark the 40th anniversary of our church. In anticipation of that spiritual marker, I am again reminded of how indebted I am to the Lord for calling me into the gospel ministry. I’m especially grateful for my beloved wife who has suffered and sacrificed so much in building up the family of God. And I remember my dearly departed mother-in-law who helped raise our two children so that we could be free to do ministry. She was like a kernel of wheat that died and bore much fruit. Much more than I, both of them will be richly rewarded for what they have done for the kingdom of God. Needless to say, without them I would not be able to share God’s story of “Catching the Spirit.” May we be ever more driven by the power of the Spirit and spiritually alert to the Spirit’s leading. And as the time of our Lord’s return draws nearer each and every day, may we not flag in our devotion and in our preparation for the kingdom to come. Maranatha, Lord Jesus!

19. CELEBRATING OUR 30th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Pastor Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Founding pastor of Berkland Baptist Church

Having turned the calendar on a turbulent year, in the beginning of 2021 we were able to hold a special service to commemorate the 30th anniversary of our church in Boston. Although due to Covid-19 restrictions we could not gather together in person as we had originally planned, we were still able to celebrate with our fourteen churches worldwide. On Sunday, January 3, over 500 people congregated online through Zoom. For nearly five hours we recounted and remembered the 30-year history of the Boston church through the sermon, video slideshow, special music, and many personal testimonies. It was such a joy to see the faces of all of our church members and missionaries around the world, a memorable gathering of the family of God. Everyone was encouraged by the spirit of unity.

It was on January 6, 1991, when we held the inaugural worship service of our church at the First Baptist Church in Cambridge, MA. I recall we had 33 people total, with the Director of Missions (DOM) of the Greater Boston Baptist Association in attendance, as well as some college students and a number of special guests. There was a sense of excitement in the air, with great expectation of what God could accomplish through our ministry. Slowly but surely God began adding to the newly formed congregation. It was truly the faithful work of God. Our first church that we started in 1981 in Berkeley, CA had grown from my family of five to over 500 active church members, most of them students from UC Berkeley. After 10 years, however, God gave us a vision through my wife to move to Boston. While she was walking alone on the Harvard campus during Thanksgiving time in 1990, she heard a “Macedonian Call,” a voice telling her to come instead of sending a pastor-disciple couple as we had originally envisioned. We obeyed immediately because we knew it was God’s voice since humanly-speaking it was difficult to leave a thriving ministry to start a pioneering work all over again.

So like our first church in Berkeley, the Boston church plant was from the very start focused on college ministry, with weekly campus Bible studies, outreach events, discipleship training, fellowship, and community service. That first Fall, we were able to baptize our first five new believers. One was my very own daughter. Another was a college graduate who stayed with our ministry and became the senior pastor of the church some twenty years later at my retirement. From humble beginnings God has grown our ministry and it is now one of the leading churches in our Greater Baptist Association. Since the founding our church plant in Boston it quickly became a sending body. Our church has raised co-laborers among our disciples and sent them off in small teams as missionaries to establish branch churches in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Alaska, Korea, Central Asia, and the Caucasus region.

In retrospect, we can see clearly what God had in mind when He moved us from Berkeley to Boston. It was for the sake of the many changed and transformed lives through our church ministry. Many have stayed on as church leaders and campus staff. Many got married through our church and have children who are part of our children’s department. Some have been called to gospel ministry as pastors and

long-term missionaries. One young family was commissioned as missionaries to Korea at our 30th anniversary and we recently had a tearful farewell for them.

Over the years we have tried to obey God's biblical command, as in Acts 1:8, when our Risen Lord challenged His disciples saying, "...you shall be my witnesses from Jerusalem... to the ends of the earth." The church is the body of Christ and it must bear witness to Jesus. The priority of church is to worship God and to be his witnesses (martyrs), not to be excellent and competent in "doing" ministry since it is the Spirit of God that works through us. The Book of Acts records the work of the Holy Spirit through the power of prayer. In looking back 30 years, we advance forward in anticipation of what God will do as we continue to carry out the Great Commission until Christ Returns. Meanwhile, we commit ourselves evermore to the baton of faith to our children and sheep so that they too can serve God in their generation.

20. CELEBRATING OUR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Anniversaries mark special days in our lives. My wife and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary on January 1, 2020. We got married in Los Angeles in the presence of over five hundred of our family members, friends, and church members. As we were both church staff with busy schedules, we picked the first day of the year as a meaningful convenience—not only did it represent a new beginning, but we wouldn't ever forget the date. Little did we realize it would prove to be an inconvenience on that day. Early in the morning I got an urgent phone call from my best man who at the time was a seminary student at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. His old car had stopped running. I had a few hours before the wedding ceremony, which was set to start at 1:00 pm. I had no other choice but to go pick him up. But no matter what route I took there were major roadblocks everywhere. The famous annual Rose Bowl Parade was happening at the moment and I had the most difficult time reaching my best man. It seemed like an eternity but we managed to make it to the wedding ceremony just in time. Indeed, we would never forget our wedding anniversary date! Ever since then I have been increasingly aware of the significance and importance of marking anniversaries and the special moments in life that define us. Our calendars are filled with dates that remind us of the importance of history. We celebrate the Fourth of July to commemorate our nation's freedom and independence. We mark V-Day and D-Day to recognize the suffering and sacrifice of the greatest generation during the Second World War.

Recently we celebrated the 39th anniversary of our church, which we mark on the first Sunday in March. I still remember vividly our inaugural service. On March 1, 1981, our family of five, the original founding members of the church, as well as eighteen guests gathered at a church building in Albany, California nearby the campus of UC Berkeley. In those days "church growth" was the big buzzword with many books and seminars about it; hardly anyone spoke of church planting. What we were doing—planting a new church targeting college students at UC Berkeley—was considered at the time not only novel, but many tried to discourage us with a warning that it was bound to fail. But by God's grace slowly and surely He began to do a great work. Miraculously we were able to acquire a church building located on the border of Berkeley and Oakland, hence the name Berkland Baptist Church was born. And one transformed life after another, our church which began with my family of five, grew to over 500 hundred active church members, most of them college students. In ten years God prepared the congregation to be a sending body as a mother church that would go on to plant other churches. My wife and I were actually the first ones sent out, as we volunteered to leave the thriving church to plant a church in Boston in 1991. Over the next decades many pastors, staff, and missionaries whom we had personally disciplined had been sent out to plant churches both at home and abroad in order to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission—to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to show the world this love.

As was our annual custom, we had intended to celebrate the 39th anniversary of our church at our weekend Spring Retreat in Connecticut, but due to concerns over the COVID-19 situation we had to change course and instead held a one-day retreat on the MIT campus, with my wife, Dr. Rebekah Kim, who has served as the Southern Baptist chaplain at Harvard University for nearly a quarter century, as the speaker. We were reminded how even if a man makes plans, it is God who determines his steps. God was still in complete control as due to this unexpected change of events all of our network of churches worldwide was able to join online through Zoom to watch and listen to the challenging messages. And through this six people came to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, one of which was a student from Wuhan, China studying in the States. In light of what was happening with COVID-19, we were especially encouraged by God's love and mercy upon her, as now she has eternal life in Christ.

At the retreat on the Saturday before our church anniversary, we watched a documentary on the Pilgrims, as this year marks the 400th anniversary of their arrival in Plymouth Harbor. We were all especially challenged by William Bradford, who as the leader of those who came to America on the Mayflower in 1620, suffered greatly to establish a faithful, pure church. As we celebrated our church anniversary the next day, we were reminded of the legacy of true faith. We were standing on the shoulders of many spiritual giants who had walked the faith journey before us. And we began to earnestly pray for our 40th church anniversary next year. As William Carey famously said: "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." We do not know what tomorrow will bring. The coronavirus pandemic has again humbled us to confess, "If the Lord wills we will live and do this or that" (James 4:15). We will prepare in prayer, but we know that each and every anniversary is a gift. Let us not take any of our anniversaries and even each and every day for granted. But may we acknowledge that God is truly sovereign over us.

21. COMMEMORATING SACRIFICE: A MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Many towns and communities observe Memorial Day with ceremonies and parades. Families line the streets as floats with colorful flags and high school marching bands pass by. The day is also synonymous with backyard BBQs and store sales, marking the unofficial start of summer. But for Christians, if there's one word that encapsulates the meaningfulness of Memorial Day and how it relates to the church, it is "sacrifice." And this is especially relevant given the times we are going through with the pandemic. This is an opportunistic time for the church to meditate, reflect, and take action on this biblical word.

As a veteran chaplain I have been invited by the Cambridge Veteran Services to open the Memorial Day ceremony with an invocation and to close it with a benediction. Even in the liberal, intellectual center of America it is acknowledged by city officials that our nation and the principles of duty and sacrifice are built upon biblical foundations. A few years ago when I attended the Memorial Day ceremony in Washington DC with the members of Korean War Veterans Association, I often heard in the speeches the inscription that is engraved on the granite wall at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in our nation's capital: "Freedom is Not Free." Indeed, our freedom has a cost. Many countless lives have been lost to ensure the freedoms we enjoy. Likewise, our freedom from sin and death had a great price. It cost the precious blood our Lord Jesus Christ shed on the cross.

Because of Christ's sacrifice for sinners—you and me—we can have freedom and victory. As Hebrews 12:1-2 states: we are surrounded by a great a cloud of witnesses, the great army of the Lord cheering us on from victory to victory. Jesus Christ endured suffering on the cross to forgive us of our sins that we may finally be unfettered and join him to run the race toward the heavenly goal. Jesus is our role model of a life of suffering and sacrifice.

On this year's Memorial Day observance, Vice President Mike Pence gave an interview where he stated the essence of the holiday by quoting from John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." As we recognize the sacrifices made day in and day out by our essential workers during this time of crisis, may we be evermore ready to point to Christ and His cross as the emblem of the ultimate sacrifice. Now more than ever our nation and the world need to hear the life-giving message of hope, redemption, and consummation we have in Jesus Christ.

22. EASTER AND THE BODY OF CHRIST

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Easter is the greatest day in human history. It marks the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ from the dead as foretold in the Scriptures. In my travels all over the world I have visited many tombs—the burial sites of royalty in Korea and China, the pyramids of Egypt, Westminster Abbey, Arlington National Cemetery, and more. Having lived in New England for so many years I have had the opportunity to visit the graves of spiritual giants like George Whitefield, D.L. Moody, and David Brainerd. Every famous historical figure, whether a conqueror, emperor, a founder of a world religion, the most brilliant philosopher, scientist, or even a saint, what they all have in common is the cold, stark reality that their dead bodies remain buried somewhere on this earth.

I have been blessed to visit the tomb of Jesus three times on various trips to the Holy Land. Whether it be the Church of the Holy Sepulcher or the Garden Tomb, every visitor to Jerusalem makes an effort to see not a buried body, but an empty tomb! After Jesus' resurrection, for forty days He walked, talked, and dined with his followers before His ascension. Before leaving this earth, however, Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit, whom the Father had promised to send.

In over 70 years of my life I have never experienced an Easter like this year. For the first time in my Christian walk I was not at a church building on Resurrection Sunday. It was a surreal feeling having to Zoom in to the service. But this unprecedented time of having to be homebound because of the coronavirus pandemic is surely a blessing that only the mind of God could conceive. It has given me a fresh perspective on what it means to be the body of Christ, the church. As pastor emeritus of Antioch Baptist Church, I listened to the Easter message from my long-time disciple and senior pastor, David Um. He shared a powerful testimony of how on the morning of Good Friday, his father, who was suffering from COVID-19, had to be taken to the ER in an ambulance. My wife, Dr. Rebekah Kim, who was at the time preparing to teach a Good Friday Bible Study for our network of churches around the world through Zoom, prayed for him to repent and be saved. Afterward, Pastor David was able to lead his father to Christ. After 84 years, Pastor David's father finally surrendered his life and became a child of God. On Good Friday, God was indeed good! Furthermore, Easter Sunday was especially meaningful to him as he was able to mark the power of the resurrection in his life. And even though he could not receive any visitors, he was not alone. As one who had crossed over from death to eternal life, he was in the presence of the resurrected Christ. Even now, as our prayer network of churches around the world is lifting him up in prayer, thank God he is in stable condition.

As I reflected upon all that happened this special Easter weekend I realized all this would not have been possible without the body of Christ, the church. Everyone in our church was praying desperately for him.

Even a few days before Good Friday, Pastor David was a panelist on an SBC Executive Committee-sponsored webinar on the “Scattered Church” during the pandemic where he shared a story of how after the worship service on Palm Sunday he had to drive to go on a rescue mission to bring his ailing father from New York back to Massachusetts. I’m sure prayer warriors Dr. Ronnie Floyd, Dr. Kevin Ezell, and many who participated in the webinar were praying earnestly as well. In the webinar Pastor David mentioned that since we are no longer able to meet in a physical building we should be reminded that the body of Christ, the church, is ultimately about relationships. And since due to the coronavirus we are scattered and cannot even physically meet together, we have been given this precious opportunity to reboot and do church the right way.

After the resurrection, Jesus knew that He would not “be with” His beloved disciples in the flesh for long so He prepared them to be one with Him through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. It goes without saying that for the church, bodily presence is important. But what the Easter story teaches us is that the presence of the resurrected Christ through the Holy Spirit transcends physical limitations and any boundaries. As we reevaluate our lives and review how we do church in light of the pandemic, may we commit to one another through prioritizing first and foremost our relationships. Even through social distancing let us be diligent in witnessing to our non-Christian family members, friends, co-workers, and acquaintances. The pandemic has shown clearly that we cannot take for granted the time that we’re given. But most importantly, let us be all the more united through the body of Christ, His church, and live out the oneness that comes from a daily encounter with the resurrected Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is how the disciples who had gathered in Jerusalem during Pentecost experienced true oneness and turned the world upside down. This same Holy Spirit is with our churches today. It is up to us, however, to live up to the power of the resurrection we have in Christ.

23. FAREWELL OF MISSIONARY FAMILIES

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Life is filled with farewells, such as when you move from one place to another due to graduation, a new job, a military deployment, and so forth. It is sad to say farewells to loved ones, friends, church members, and neighbors.

On the Lord's Day, May 24, 2018, two long-time church families of Antioch Baptist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts were appointed as our newest missionaries—the Choi family to a former Soviet Republic and the Lee family to Fairbanks, Alaska. Pastor Choi and his wife have been with us for nearly a quarter century ever since they started coming as freshman at MIT. Deacon Isaac Lee and his wife Jane have been with us for 23 and 13 years respectively. Pastor Choi delivered a challenging farewell sermon from Matthew 6:19-24 about how his life has been changed through the relationships in the family of God. The other three missionaries shared their personal testimony of how God has been faithful in changing them through the power of the Word of God. The inspirational message and testimonies touched the hearts of the congregation. After the fellowship meal they remained at church for a farewell fellowship where a video slideshow was shown. It depicted decades of memories made within the history of our church. But most importantly, it gave evidence of how God transformed their lives over the years.

A few days later, many gathered together once more for a Wednesday night farewell celebration. This time many church members shared their most lasting memories, funny stories and experiences of living life together with those missionary candidates, which went on late into the night since it was the last day for the missionary families to be with us. The next day a large group came out to the airport to send them off. Tears were shed as we said our painful good-byes. A TSA agent was overheard saying, "I have never seen these many people come out to the airport for a farewell..." It was a powerful testimony of the impact these two missionary families have had in our lives through their faithful service to the Lord.

This beautiful picture reminds us of the farewell between Apostle Paul and the Ephesian church elders in Acts 20:17-38). "...After he said this, he knelt down and prayed with all of them. There were many tears shed by everyone. They embraced Paul and kissed him..." In life we experience numerous farewells—of loved ones, friends, co-workers, church members...In Ecclesiastes 3:4, the writer says, "A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance." It is sad to see our loved ones leave us, but we know this is a part of life. But this should be especially so in the healthy life of the church because God's missionary heart commands us to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth (John 20:21; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). As Christ's ambassadors, we must go if He calls us. As pilgrims we walk this journey on earth, but one day when the journey ends we will have a heavenly reunion with all those who trusted the Lord Jesus Christ in faith (John 1:12-13, John 3:3-8; Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Our church in Cambridge experienced a painful farewell, but our missionary families in the former Soviet Republic and in Fairbanks, Alaska will welcome the newly sent missionary families so they will be in good hands. In John Bunyan's classic, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, the pilgrim bids farewell to his old life and journeys heavenward toward the celestial city. Until we get there, let us be faithful in Christ just as Abraham was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God (Hebrews 11:10).

24. THE TRUE MEANING OF THE CROSS

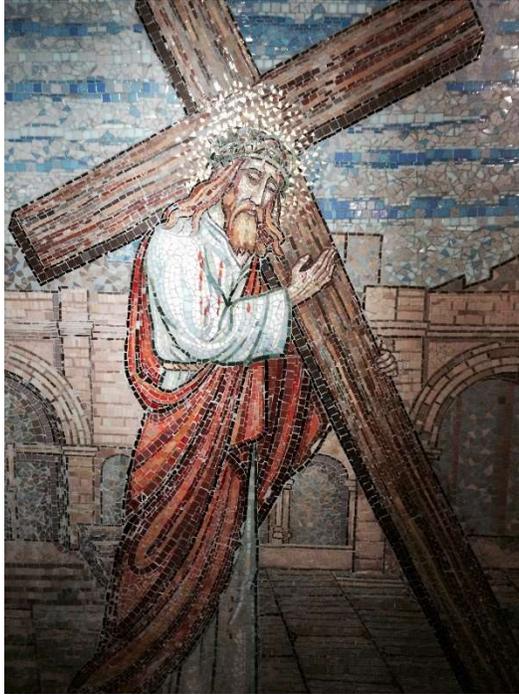
Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

National Chaplain, KWVA

Marsh Post 442 Chaplain, Cambridge, MA

What does the cross mean to us? The cross means different things to different people. To some it might just be an ornament to wear on their necklace, for others it's a symbol of death. Military cemeteries often feature rows of crosses in straight lines to honor the sacrifice of the dead. In Jesus' time, the cross was the ultimate form of capital punishment for non-Roman citizens in the Roman Empire. It was a painful, slow death made all the more degrading by making it a public spectacle of shame and disgrace. Although Jesus was crucified with two criminals, His cross was different. First, Jesus was sinless. But He was willing to take upon the sin of the world. Second, His death on the cross was foretold in the Old Testament. The cross of Jesus was God's plan for the redemption of mankind. Third, the cross is an emblem of shame turned to glory through the victory of Jesus over Satan, sin, and death.

In September 1999, an 80-year-old Billy Graham spoke to a standing-room only crowd of students and community members at Harvard Memorial Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He told a story of a young lad in England who was lost. A police officer found him sobbing. "Where do you live?" asked the policeman. The young boy couldn't remember his address. The policeman named streets and he pointed to various landmarks around town with no luck. Then he remembered that at the center of town was a church with a large white cross. "Do you live near the church with the cross?" the policeman asked. All of a sudden the lad stopped crying and replied, "Yes, sir, please take me to the cross and then I can find my way home."



The Cross of Jesus (displayed in Israel)

To God, we are all like that lost little boy. When we lose something, like a key, we take time to search for it. How much more so, then, does God search for lost human beings? Every sinner is precious in God's sight. Because He so loved the world God sent his Son to die on the cross. There, Jesus shed His blood for our sins. The Bible says, "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Hebrews 9:22). Why do we need to be forgiven of our sins? The Bible says, "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Who wants to be judged? No one! The Bible says there is judgment for those who reject Christ's atoning work of forgiveness. They will be cast into the lake of fire if their names are not written in the Book of Life, known as the "White Throne Judgment" (Revelation 20:14-15). It is a fearful thing, but there is a solution. It is to look to the cross of Jesus. Only then will you realize that God is searching for you and He is waiting for you to run into the arms of the merciful and loving Savior. Do not postpone another day, receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Today is the day of salvation!

25. JOYLAND MINISTRIES

Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” they asked. Jesus brought a little child before His disciples and answered, “Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

A children’s ministry of a church is vitally important. The kind of program that is run is a reflection of the church. Since the beginning of our church we have invested in the futures of our children because we believed they would become tomorrow’s leaders. After nearly forty years in ministry, our vision has borne fruit. Some of the children from our Joyland Children’s Ministry are now leaders at our college and Young Adult ministries. Some are even married and have their own children who are now part of the second generation of Joyland kids. The JOY in Joyland is an acronym for JESUS, OTHERS, and YOU, emphatically in that order. They gather for worship, Bible Study, and fellowship. On special occasions like Easter, Mother’s Day, Church Anniversary, Thanksgiving, Christmas and more, they give presentations like Bible memorization, hymns and praise songs, and skits. They even have an alternative to Halloween called Hallelujah Night, with food, Scripture-themed games, and of course, candy. It is one of the highlights of the year and it builds up in the children a sense of church tradition and the joy of living against the pattern of this world while celebrating and elevating a Christ-based culture.

The Psalmist writes:

*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.
Blessed is the man
who fills his quiver with them!
He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. (Psalm 127:3-5a, ESV).*

Children are precious gifts to us. We are to raise them in the fear of the Lord, to discipline and nurture them to be “sharpened swords” and “polished arrows” who can be used by Christ as weapons in His quiver against the enemy. Our nation is desperately in need of our next generation to be raised up and for them to rise up for Christ. They are the humble ones with whom our Lord takes delight. Only then can our nation experience the revival of 2 Chronicles 7:14: if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

26. LIVING A LIFE WORTHY OF THIS GENERATION

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

National Chaplain, KWVA

Marsh Post 442 Chaplain, Cambridge, MA

Is my life worth living in this generation? This is a question that more and more people are asking as they contend with the confusing realities of life—our fractured politics, scattered media, compromised public schools, distracted youth, disillusioned churchgoers. Where do we turn to so that we may learn how to live a worthy life in this wicked and perverse generation? We search for answers but there is no answer apart from God. Why? Because God is the source of our lives, if we're disconnected from the source of life, then what kind of lives can we live? We have to go back to the beginning to find the answer. The Bible begins, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light (Genesis 1:1-3)." God has the answer to life's confusion. In the beginning the earth was without form and void—what it really means was that it was without order and full of chaos. From the beginning the world was in darkness. But God, by His almighty power, brought forth order and light. Yes, there is hope in our generation because God wants to rescue us out of spiritual darkness into His marvelous light. God can do this because with Him, nothing is impossible.

C.S. Lewis once wrote, "We are what we believe we are." Believing is faith rooted in God's word. The Bible says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1)." No one knows our future except God Himself, who holds the future. He controls human history. Thus, we need to have faith in God. "In God We Trust" is not just a meaningless motto. Unless we have faith in God, we cannot solve our many human problems. No matter how much societies have evolved, we have not outgrown sin. Therefore, we need God's forgiveness. Jesus came to forgive our sins by dying on the cross. And He defeated death through the power of His resurrection. He promises He would come back to judge the world. He knows and sees everything we do. Nothing can be hidden from Him.

Jesus came to earth to teach His disciples how to live in their generation. Jesus warned them about the persecution to come, not only from the Roman Empire, but from the forces of unbelief. He encouraged them saying, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid (John 14:27)." Is not the peace of mind, heart, and soul what we need most in this generation? Only then can we seek to live a worthy life for God.

At the 15th anniversary of our church, on March 3, 1996, a few college students at Berkeley composed a heart-felt song to show their gratitude to me and my wife. The song was titled, "Worthy Life" and it captures the spirit and vision of our pastoral ministry from the beginning—to raise leaders who will live worthily for God.

The song begins:

They had little but the vision God had planted in their heart

Driven by a passion for the Lord

Pouring out their love and asking nothing in return

Even though the way was long and hard

Then others caught their vision, many joined to give their lives

Taking up the cross to follow Him.

The refrain continues:

There is no other way, he who gives his life will gain it back again

He who sows in tears will reap with songs of joy

I have found a life worth living for

No riches can compare, with the wealth of love and joy we share

I will follow Him wherever He may lead

For I have found a worthy life.

May you learn to live a worthy life in this generation as you seek the purpose of God each day. God wants all of us to live abundant and victorious lives. There is no better way to live than surrendered to God in obedience to the Word. Let's live a life full of faith, love, and hope, waiting for His Return who promised us the heavenly banquet in celebration of Christ being wed to His bride, the church, family of God, the body of Christ. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

27. MULTIPLE CHURCH PLANTING FOR GROWTH

Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

On a trip to the Island of Maui, Hawaii the tourists are attracted by its beautiful ocean and breathtaking natural Hawaiian scene of the tall mountain, Haleakala (10,023 feet tall). Still there remain the old sugar cane plantations and pineapple fields... One of the most attractive locations is the Banyan Tree Park in Lahaina a walking distance to Front Street with the ocean one side and restaurants and gift shops on the other. According to the history the 8 feet tree was planted on April 24, 1873 to mark the 50th anniversary of the arrival of first American protestant mission in 1823. Now the tree is the largest bayan tree in the United States its top reaches to 60 feet tall and has rooted into 16 major trunks, apart from the main trunk, with the canopy spread over an area of about 0.66 acres.

I have visited the park several times in the past to illustrate the bayan tree to the church planting in the biblical teaching. Apostle Paul writes, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth... (1 Corinthians 3:6-9). It was not a good soil to plant a church to grow, where the people in the community had many moral and legal issues. In addition the family life was broken in the ungodly Roman culture. Their religious life was filled with idol worship. Even the church has been divided each other... How can anyone plant a new church or to replant the divisive troubled congregation? As the founding pastor how could he replant the dying church? As the spiritual father he confronted them in the harsh letter to point out their spiritual problems to imitators of him in the gospel with love (1 Corinthians 4:14-16).

Church planting is a challenging ministry, not knowing how it would survive in the beginning years to grow. Like the bayan tree someone or a group of people planted nearly 150 years ago now, but years passed the tree grew beyond imagination as the largest tree in this country. It reminds us of the mustard seed in the parable, which Jesus taught his disciples of what the kingdom of God would be (Mark 4:30-32). Now the mother church in Jerusalem was planted on the Day of Pentecost. It has spread out to every corner of the world as his witnesses with the power of the Holy Spirit through the gospel. It is the testimony of faith in hardship, persecution, trials, throughout the church history. In each generation we take the baton from the previous generations of hard labor to build his church for his glory. As the bayan tree has many trunks, so his Jerusalem church has rooted into the good soil to multiply churches, which we cannot count them so numerous like stars in the heaven. The Lord assured his disciples that he is coming back to take his church to be with him (John 14:3). He keeps his promise in his written word.

It was the spring of 1981 my small family planted a church within the university community in UC, Berkeley. It has been a pilgrim journey like the Separatists who arrived in the cold winter of 1620 to search for religious freedom and the new land. Now after 400 years their future generations have built this nation America. It was a humble beginning among Asian-American college students to teach the gospel with the spiritual guidance to give hope for their future as the leaders. Now as we look back, we can testify that it was God at work faithfully all these 39 years. Like a tiny bayan tree we planted it,

which multiplied 40 branch churches, but as years have passed by, some branches fell off, dried off, died away... Still 14 churches are growing together deeply rooted in love of God as the family in Christ for the missions, evangelism, disciple-making to bear much fruit. The pilgrim journey is challenging, but one thing we are to remember that God is with us to the end of age. As long as we do not give up the hardship and storm the Lord will rebuke the storm to calm on the peaceful voyage to reach the final harbor to see the Lord with all faithful saints were waiting on us. One day we will be with the Lord eternality. Victory in Jesus overcome Satan (Romans 16:20).

28. “THE UNFORGETTABLE CALLING”

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Everyone is given a name from birth. And usually the name is infused with some meaning and so it is special to us.

On Saturday, May 12, 2018, the annual graduation ceremony of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary took place at the Gordon College gymnasium in Wenham, Massachusetts. Campus police and parking attendants were busy directing traffic for the graduates and their family members and friends. It was a slightly cold and rainy spring day in New England, yet the guests were in high spirits as they filled the stands. It was a very special day for my family because my wife, Rebekah, the Southern Baptist chaplain at Harvard University, was about to receive her Doctor of Ministry degree. All our church members from Cambridge, along with several overseas missionary couples from our mission churches—around three hundred of us—gathered for this momentous occasion.

As the name of each of the graduates was called in alphabetical order, sounds of shouting and applause were in the air. Some thirty doctoral candidates waited in expectation for their degrees. Finally, the name “Rebekah Kim” was announced and we all stood to cheer. The deafening noise went on for a good 40 seconds, probably a record for a Gordon-Conwell graduation. It was an unforgettable moment for the family of God, made all the more memorable by the presence of our special missionary families from the Republic of Georgia, Armenia, and Korea.

In the Bible, God called many people out by name. He called Moses from the burning bush at Mt. Horeb (Exodus 3:4-5ff) with a mission to deliver His people from slavery in Egypt. God called Samuel out of bed in the night when he was a young boy (1 Samuel 3:1-10ff). God called a youth named Jeremiah to boldly proclaim the judgments of God (Jeremiah 1:4-10). As the Lord Jesus was passing through the city of Jericho, He saw a chief tax collector up on a sycamore tree. Jesus called Zacchaeus by name (Luke 10:1-10). Zacchaeus’s life was transformed by this seemingly chance encounter but it was really what he was searching for all his life. The risen Lord Jesus called Saul’s name while he was on the road to Damascus to arrest and persecute Christians (Acts 9:3-9). The calling stopped Saul in his tracks and he became Paul and changed the course of history.

God’s unforgettable calling continues from the beginning of human history to this day. He calls His disciples to do His will in each and every generation. He calls us to a loving relationship with Him when He invites us to come unto Him (Matthew 11:28-30). When we hear his calling, then we are to reply, “Here I am, Lord. Speak to me...” I heard His calling into the Gospel ministry when I was a senior in college in Hilo, Hawaii in the spring of 1973. His call was still, small voice, but as I searched the will of God through the Scriptures, His voice became louder and clearer to me. I knew I had to surrender to His

will in obedience so I enrolled at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas in the fall of that year. Since then, my life has been changed by the power of His Spirit. It is my life testimony that His calling is an unforgettable one, the most important experience in a person's life. As It has been 45 years since my Christian pilgrimage began. Until He calls me back to Him, I want to keep running the race so that I can imitate Apostle Paul in saying: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7).

29. WAITING ON LIVING HOPE

Paul Kim

National Chaplain, KWVA

The Bible says (John 14:3), “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”



The historic Inchon Landing (September 15-26, 1950) under the General Douglas MacArthur brought many U.S. troops along with hope to the helpless and hopeless South Korean soldiers and giving new hope to the nation. It was turning the tide of the Korean War in recapturing the capital city of Seoul. Victory was in sight as our brave fighting soldiers marched onward into North Korea, but millions of Chinese soldiers crossed the frozen river in the cold winter weather under 30 F degrees ...

The world has engaged in spiritual warfare from the beginning of human history and we have learned that Man cannot fight alone. As soldiers need commanding officers to lead and fight the war, so it is the world needs to have a commander of our soul to fight for us. In the Old Testament God was fighting for the nation of Israel when they obeyed God’s command. It is true that everyone ought to follow the command of Christ the Lord in the Bible. Do you read the Bible daily to understand our duty, honor, the kingdom as the soldiers of Christ with daily prayer?

30. WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

At his father's deathbed, Bob Sparks made a promise to his father that he would find the remains of his father's dear brother, Army Corporal Ron Sparks, who died in a POW camp in North Korea during the Korean War. The good news came when one day the DNA sample he had given came back from an army lab with a 100% match.

On August 16, 2016, a military procession brought the remains of Corporal Ronald Sparks to Cambridge City Hall. Family, friends, veterans, local government officials, fire fighters, police officers, a sizable contingent of the Korean community, and a throng of patriotic supporters had gathered to honor the memory of the city's native son and long-lost fallen soldier. It came to be a significant event, with the local media giving it wide coverage. The mayor of Cambridge spoke poignantly of how CPL Ron Sparks, who had sacrificed his life for our freedom, was finally home. The Korean Consul General of Boston presented the Ambassador of Peace Medal to CPL Spark's sister. As a clergyman and National Assistant Chaplain of the Korean War Veterans Association, I was privileged with the opportunity to offer my remarks of gratitude. The next day CPL Ron Sparks was given a full military funeral and was laid to rest next to his parents, who never got to see their son after sending him off to war. The surviving family members had waited 65 long years for this unforgettable moment.

Waiting is a way of life. In our day to day existence we wait for so many things. In Samuel Beckett's well-known existential play, *Waiting for Godot*, two characters wait for the mysterious Godot, who never shows up. The play makes us ask ourselves, what are we waiting for in this life? Are you waiting for graduation, career, marriage, house, children, retirement, etc.? All these things will eventually fade away. Doesn't it make sense then to wait for something that is eternal? At the return of the Lord Jesus, He will take his church, the family of God, to be with Him in a loving relationship forever. Since our Lord and His angels promised that this will happen, it is worth waiting in faith for its fulfillment.

Why does God want us to wait? What is the spiritual benefit of waiting? Oswald Chambers in his *My Utmost for His Highest* writes: "The time of waiting may come to teach you the meaning of sanctification – to be set apart from sin and made holy—or it may come after the process of sanctification has begun to teach you what service means." Waiting for Christ allows us to grow in spiritual maturity.

In the Bible there are many references that call for Christians to wait for the return of Christ. Waiting, in a spiritual sense, requires discipline, patience, and long-suffering. But we must not just wait idly and let sin and Satan rule the world. We are to engage in spiritual warfare and fight every day to win victories in Christ. While we *wait*, we are called to *work* patiently, *watch* for the signs of His impending return, and *witness* to the world's lost through ministry and missions. "Behold, I am coming soon," Jesus

proclaimed. One day that promise will be fulfilled and we will have to give an account of our lives. What a glorious day it shall be for those who wait patiently and prepare diligently for that appointed hour! So until Christ returns, let us wait without being spiritually lazy and complacent.

And let us not forget that we are merely strangers and pilgrims on this earth. We are citizens of heaven. Just as the body of CPL Ron Sparks finally made its way home to Cambridge, Massachusetts, when Christ returns, we will finally get to go home. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

31. THE SEARCH FOR A NEW WORLD

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

We are all in search of freedom, peace, and happiness. These ideals are priceless. They were God-given gifts but sin introduced mankind to slavery, war, and suffering. That is why God sent His Son, Jesus—to restore the world through repentance. In Matthew 4:17, Jesus preached His first sermon: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Man can only find freedom, peace, and happiness when he repents of his sin and is no longer possessed by the world but instead chooses to possess the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 11:28-30; John 1:4-5; John 1:12-13; John 3:16).

I recently visited the town of Plymouth, Massachusetts where a group of 120 people known as the Pilgrims landed in 1620. The story is a familiar one, they boarded the Mayflower and crossed the Atlantic Ocean in search of religious freedom, peace, and the right to the pursuit of happiness. Upon arrival in the New World they faced much hardship. Many of them did not survive the first winter and were buried in a strange and foreign land without seeing their dreams come true.

The town of Plymouth is still here to remind us of this history. Visitors make their pilgrimage, schoolchildren by the busloads, parents with their children. They come to gaze upon the famous Plymouth Rock, where the date “1620” is engraved. The waves of the Atlantic Ocean crash against the rocks on the beach just as it did when the Pilgrims first landed. It brings a tinge of sadness to my heart as I overlook the bay from the opposite hill. I imagine they knew the uncertain future ahead.

These early Pilgrims built Plimoth Plantation, where they could live together and worship God freely. They are our forefathers of faith who built our nation upon biblical foundations for future generations. Now nearly four centuries later, America has grown into the most powerful nation on earth.

More than ever we must preserve their legacy of faith. We enjoy freedoms today because of their willingness to trust God even in the midst of uncertainty. In John 15:13, Jesus says, “No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends.” Freedom is not free! There is a costly price to be paid. As we remember the sacrifice of these Pilgrims, we are to help others find freedom, peace, and happiness in Christ Jesus our Lord. The Bible says that Jesus gave His life on the cross as a ransom, to pay our debts and to set us free eternally (Mark 10:45; Ephesians 5:25; Colossians 2:14). The hymn writer Elvina Hall (1820-1889) wrote *Jesus Paid It All*: “I hear the Savior say, ‘Thy strengthen indeed is small, Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all.’ Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.” May we live in the freedom that can only be found in Christ!

32. HISTORY OF CAMBRIDGE

Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts



History is important. We need to learn from the history. Life has full of history to tell, whether they would good or bad. It was in 1630, the new arrival of the Puritans from England came to Boston whereas the Separatists known as the “Pilgrims” landed at Plymouth 10 years earlier in 1620. They are two different religious groups of the new arrivals to the new land in the 17th century. This year we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim’s landing at Plymouth which this nation is built upon since then.

When the Puritan leaders arrived in Boston harbor they could not agree where would be their new capital until they spotted a hill near the Charles River in late 1630. They named it Newtowne, which later renamed it “Cambridge” after the University of Cambridge in England where they came from.

After 10 years of the striving pastoral ministry with my family of five to grow five hundred active church members within the university community nearby UC, Berkeley, we felt God's call to move to Cambridge in January 1991 to reach the students at Harvard University and MIT including other elite schools in the Greater Boston. Since these nearly three decades of the local church-based campus ministries I learned the history of Cambridge and its community. It has the full of precious rich American history to learn. They start from the early days of the Puritan's culture from England in 1630 till modern days of new immigrants from all over the world. The city has become the international community of all nations and people groups.

Like these early settlers in America, the Bible tells us Abraham and his descendants were the sojourners of the new land to name their towns, which God promised Abraham to give the land to his offspring. One day when Jacob was running for his life from his brother Esau, God appeared to him in his dream in the night that the Lord promised to be with him in his journey. The next morning he named the old town Luz to Bethel means the "House of God (Genesis 28:13-19)."

Cambridge is known by two renowned universities: Harvard University and MIT which is only two miles apart each other. Just across the street from Harvard University campus there is a public land known as "Cambridge Common" founded back in 1630. In the 17th century the 8.5 acres of land included woodlots as well as ox, sheep, and cow pastures. History reminds us the Cambridge Common was the Army training center when General George Washington was the commander of the Continental Army on July 3, 1775 he trained those civilians known as the "Minute Men" to bear arms to defend and protect the colony for freedom from the British soldiers who stationed in Boston across the Charles River. Just a few months earlier on the fateful night of April 18, 1775, it was William Dawes, Paul Revere's less famous patriot contemporary, who rode on horse through the common en route to Concord warning of the British soldiers were coming... It was the beginning of the Revolutionary War to fight against the British troops.

God calls us in the ministry to train our new believers as the mature disciples that they would be the new disciple-makers to reproduce the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and to warn sinners to repent as John the Baptist proclaimed and our Lord did likewise did in Matthew 4:17, "From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Later Apostle Paul called for repentance that one day God will judge the world (Acts 17:30-31). The Bible warns us that no one can escape from God's judgment: "and just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment (Hebrews 9:27)." As I reflect the history of Cambridge Common as the Puritans moved from England to settle in the new land in 1630, we ought to live for the hope of glory as the spiritual pilgrims.

33. MY VISIT TO THE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON DC

Dr. Paul Kim

National Chaplain, KWVA

On Saturday, June 26, 2021 the weather was hot and humid in the nation's capital. It was a day after the 71st anniversary of the Korean War. A group of us, five Baptist pastors from DC, Philadelphia, and Boston came together for a day trip to visit the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam War Wall of Remembrance, and the WWII Memorial. Despite the hot weather, many visitors were there to pay their respects to these fallen heroes. As we were taking pictures at the WWII Memorial, the tourists who passed by took notice of my KWVA cap with a cross on it. I felt like a VIP on this day. Unfortunately, when we finally made our way to the Korean Memorial Park, we found it was under construction. A wire fence surrounded the 19-foot tall statues of patrolling soldiers. I noticed several wreaths were left from the recent ground-breaking ceremony for the Korean War Wall of Remembrance.

From this visit two thoughts came to mind. First, it gave me a renewed appreciation for all those soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice—their very lives—to protect a small and unknown country called Korea. When the “Land of the Morning Calm” was thrust into chaos by a surprise attack by North Korea on June 25, 1950, American soldiers responded immediately to their nation's call to promote freedom and liberty around the world by defending Korea from Communist aggression. As a native Korean, I feel a deep appreciation for U.S. soldiers who gave up their youthful lives on foreign soil. They remind us that “Freedom is not free.” As the Bible says, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends (John 15:13).” As we are eternally indebted to our “friends,” it is our responsibility to honor them. The Korean War is sometimes referred to as “The Forgotten War.” But we can never forget. These soldiers shall be remembered forever by Koreans as heroes who saved our nation and allowed it to become one of the most thriving, truly stable democratic governments in the world today. Korea is a key ally of the U.S. in the region and the U.S.-Korea military alliance remains strong. The 8th army has never left the country since the war broke out. Our U.S. troops must stay in Korea as long as there is a threat from the North.

Second, because our troops shed their blood on Korean soil, we have a hope and a future. As I think about the North Koreans under the dictatorship of the Kim family for three generations, my heart aches for the people there. There is no freedom of religion, no freedom of the press, no freedom of speech. Although the people in the North may be without much hope in a worldly sense, there is the future hope of redemption through the Second Coming of Christ, when the yoke of oppression and suffering will be vanquished and both the living and the dead will be judged. Jesus told his disciples in regards to persecution and confusion under the Roman Empire, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Let

not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid (John 14:27).” South Korean Christians have been praying for North Korea for more than a generation. We are patiently waiting for God to do a great work in upending decades of satanic control in the North. But even as we wait for the political winds to change, we know that ultimately, it is the spiritual that remains. God’s divine plan is to set up His kingdom of righteousness on earth, which He foretold in the Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation. The Bible says, “And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever (Daniel 2:44).”

The Korean War Memorials are special reminders to Christians of God’s divine purpose. These memorials serve as concrete reminders of the freedom, peace, and hope we have in Christ. And we should take heart knowing that no sacrifice is wasted in God’s plan of redemption. As Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).” Let us labor together for the Lord in preparation for His coming. Maranatha!

34. THE COST OF FREEDOM

Dr. Paul Kim

National Chaplain, KWVA

“Freedom is Not Free” is the adopted motto of our KWVA. This phrase is etched on the granite wall of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in our nation’s capital. It is meant to honor those who gave their lives in the Korean War, to preserve the freedom of a small, unknown country against communism. Many paid the ultimate price while fighting bravely in the bloody war. They are buried, but not forgotten. On July 27, 1953 there was a ceasefire agreement at Panmunjom, which is observed as Armistice Day. Over 70s years later, the war is still not officially over; it is one of the longest wars in history. Like a temporarily dormant, but still active volcano, we do not know when it may erupt again. Therefore, our U.S. forces have been stationed in the Korean peninsula since the ceasefire to defend the Republic of Korea against the North. The price of freedom is still being paid.

In many ways, however, freedom is priceless. The debt of lives lost and blood shed cannot be repaid. Therefore, it is all the more imperative that the memory of their sacrifice be preserved and remembered. Most of those who did not return home were young men who had never heard of Korea before being sent off. Nearly 37,000 U.S. soldiers were killed in combat, with over 7,000 still missing. Although their resting place remains unknown, each and every missing soldier is buried in the hearts of their family members. Many of the missing were identified and their remains returned home at last to be buried with honor, some next to the graves of their parents who never got to see their sons after they left for the war. Our nation will remember them by name as the Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Memorial will be dedicated next June 25, 2022.

The Bible declares: “God so loved the world to send his only Son to die on the cross to set mankind to be free from sin and death that anyone who believes in Him shall not die, but to have the eternal life” (John 3:16). Apostle Paul wrote, “For freedom Christ has set us free, stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1). This is the Good News. Jesus Christ sacrificed His life—He shed His precious blood to cleanse us of our sin. His blood has the power to set us free from the slavery of sin and death. What do we have to do in response to this Good News? The Bible says, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).” Is there any reason why you would not want this most priceless gift of eternal life? Of true freedom from death?

In August 1968 I came home to Hilo, Hawaii for a 30-day furlough from the army. One afternoon a Baptist pastor visited me to share this Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. It was simple to understand. Until then, I had attended church and was educated at a mission school, but I did not have a personal relationship with Christ. My misunderstanding was that since I attended Sunday worship services, I was a Christian. But as the pastor explained to me what the Bible says about being a child of God, I was convinced that I was a sinner and separated from God, the Father. I repented of my sin of separation and asked for forgiveness. And I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. Since

then, as I reflect on my spiritual journey of 53 years, I am so grateful to God to be set free from my sin and free from the penalty of sin—death—through eternal life in Christ Jesus. Because of this one decision, I was able to be commissioned later as an Army Reserve Chaplain in 1986 while I was a pastor in Berkeley, California. Over the years God has given me the privilege of sharing my faith with many, to encourage them to trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior so that they too, can be free from sin and death. There is no greater joy than to live a life of freedom in Jesus Christ! He paid the price of freedom for all mankind. May God open your heart so that you may gain eternal life. Most of us are at an age where we must prepare to depart from this world. I pray you will be saved so that you can spend eternity with the Lord. May you find hope in Jesus Christ!

35. ON THE TRAIL OF FREEDOM

Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Known as “The Freedom Trail,” the 2 ½ mile path marked by red paint in downtown Boston attracts over a million visitors each year. As you walk along this famous trail you come across various historical sites related to the Revolutionary War. For instance, you can retrace the steps of the brave protestors who confronted British soldiers at the site of the Boston Massacre in 1770. At the Old South Meeting House, you can transport yourself to the events of 1773 where a small band of Patriots snuck out to Griffin’s Wharf at night to dump a shipment of British tea into the Boston Harbor. At the Old North Church you can relive Paul Revere’s midnight ride and if you have an active imagination you might be able to hear the faint echoes of, “One if by land, two if by sea.” Over the years I’ve given countless tours of the Freedom Trail to our church guests and visitors. I remind them that it’s because of the events that occurred here that you are able to be here.

As the national chaplain of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), I’m almost obligated to mention whenever I get the opportunity the words etched on the granite wall at the Korean War Veteran’s Memorial in our nation’s capital—“Freedom is not free.” Our historical monuments, museums, and memorials remind us of the high cost of freedom. America is at our collective worst when we exhibit historical amnesia to the sacrifices of those who have gone before us in blazing the trail of our freedoms. We ought never to forget. We should never take the fact that we live in a free nation for granted.

But more than any human freedom, we should long for freedom from sin and death. Slightly off the path of the Freedom Trail is a plaque that reads: D.L. Moody – Christian evangelist, friend of man, founder of the Northfield schools, was converted to God in a shoe store on this site, April 21, 1855. A young man of humble means experienced freedom in Christ on that date and became the most influential evangelist of his generation, leading countless men, women, and children to Christ. D.L. Moody preached the simple but powerful message that Jesus came to this world to die on the cross so that whosoever believes in Him shall not die, but have eternal life. It was the Father’s plan of salvation to set us free from sin and death through His son’s costly sacrifice.

Juneteenth (June 19th) is a historical date that commemorates the event in 1865 whereby Major General Gordon Granger announced to the enslaved in Galveston, Texas that they were indeed free. This was more than two years after Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation but many slaves did not or were prevented from hearing the good news. But imagine if the slaves heard this announcement, just shrugged their shoulders and went back to work as slaves! Apostle Paul writes to the church in Galatia that Jesus has set us free and that we are not to go back to our old life to put on a yoke of slavery

(Galatians 5:1). Jesus paid it all for us to have true freedom. Why should we live as if we have spiritual amnesia and forget about the freedom we have in Christ! Nothing can take that away from us. Not war, pestilence, COVID-19, or any powers and principalities of this world. This is the Good News that we should take to the ends of the earth so that all may be saved. This is the heart of God.

36. THE HONOR OF A GOOD NAME

Dr. Paul Kim

National Chaplain, KWVA



Proverbs 22:1 says: “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.” Every person, school, organization, and entity has a name. We try hard to live up to a name. In the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, the meaning of a name was intimately tied to the person’s identity.

The name of America stands for the people, ideals, and history of the nation. As citizens, we honor the name of America by recognizing its symbols, such as the Constitution and the flag. We remember the spiritual legacy of the Pilgrims who landed on our shores 400 years ago in Plymouth, Massachusetts in order to exercise the freedom of religious worship.

At the Korean War Veterans Association, we value the history behind our name. It is our duty to remember the legacy of those who served our nation bravely. Our name is synonymous with the mission to promote, preserve, and pass down the memory of our nation’s veterans.

We strive to remember each hero by name. We are to honor those who sacrificially gave up their lives in the Korean War (1950-53) as well as those who continue to serve for Korea's security. Many of their honorable names are permanently etched into various Korean War Memorials such as the one at the Navy Yard in Boston. We eagerly anticipate the commemoration of the Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in our nation's capital next summer.

But the name above all names is that of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Korean War is officially still ongoing as there's only a shaky truce in place. The Eighth U.S. Army has been in Korea ever since in order to maintain this fragile peace. No human effort, however, can attain peace forever. Only in the name of Jesus can we have true peace. In the Bible, the Lord Jesus declared to his disciples saying, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27). Jesus was born into this world as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), to take our sins away by His death on the cross.

Jesus has promised to return to rule the world by establishing His everlasting kingdom. The names of past kingdoms have come and gone, many already forgotten. But the name of Jesus remains forever. Apostle Paul encouraged us in his epistle (Philippians 2:10-11), "So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." We are to abide in the honorable name of Jesus and to worship Him until He calls our names unto Himself. He desires to know each one of us by name through having a personal saving relationship with Him.

You might have worked all your life in order to have your name be honorable in the sight of your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. In American military history there are only a handful of names that surpass the reputation and status of Generals Douglas MacArthur and Dwight D. Eisenhower. I have had the privilege of visiting their worthwhile memorials, the MacArthur Museum and Eisenhower Presidential Library. While we strive to be men of honor like them, in the end what is the most important? It is that our name is written in the Book of Life. What good is an honorable name if you end your life eternally separated from the God of creation? "And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15). In order to avoid the eternal lake of fire, you need to turn to the Good News of salvation through repentance of your sin and embrace the saving name of Jesus Christ.

37. THE ETERNAL BRIDGE OF LIFE

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

National Chaplain, KWVA

American Legion Post 442 Chaplain

There are more than 600,000 bridges across the United States. The last time you were on a bridge, did you ever take the time to think about how it was built? What kind of engineering, planning, and work it took to connect one point of land with another across a body of water? On a recent road trip from Cambridge, MA to Philadelphia, PA to visit my grandchildren, we were driving over the George Washington Bridge, which is a double-decked suspension bridge over the Hudson River, connecting Manhattan and the suburb of Fort Lee, NJ. I've driven on it many times before, but I had always taken it for granted. It was just a structure to get past the painful NY traffic so that I could cross to the other side. But this time I thought about how important this bridge is to the life of NY. Its construction began in 1927 and took four years to complete. Nearly a century later, it is supposedly the busiest bridge in the world.

On the other side of the United States is the Golden Gate Bridge. Not only is it an iconic landmark of the Bay Area, it functions as a way to connect San Francisco with Marin County. In October 1986 I was on a "Tiger Cruise" on the Navy transportation ship from Pearl Harbor, Honolulu to the Bay Area. The ship passed under the Golden Gate Bridge and I was able to experience the strong currents of the ocean rocking the ship back and forth. When you look out into the distance, you see the vastness of the Pacific Ocean and realize how difficult it must have been to build a suspension bridge over these treacherous waters.



Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus was born into this world. He came to be a bridge between sinful man and a holy God. This separation is greater than the length, breadth, and depth of the Pacific Ocean. Jesus is the bridge that provides the way across the impossible gulf that exists between God and man because of our sin. But this accessway to God was not without cost. Jesus became a bridge through His death on the cross. The cross is the bridge that connects mortal man to eternal life in Christ. Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Have you come to Christ, asking for His forgiveness for your sin of separation, to cross the bridge of Christ into eternal life?

The Golden Gate Bridge is the most photographed bridge in the world and is widely acknowledged as the most beautiful. The George Washington Bridge is one of the most functional and useful man-made structures. But will they be able to withstand the test of time unless they are refortified and repaired with high cost? Nothing lasts forever except Jesus Christ. In this new year, is your hope and desire to cross from death to life through the eternal bridge of Jesus? If you haven't done so, what are you waiting for?

38. ONLY ONE-WAY TO JESUS

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

There is only one truth, which remains unchanging. Jesus is unchanging. In Hebrews 13:8 we read, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Yet, life changes from birth to death. What does it not change: God, Bible, and the nature of man's sin, thus the Bible is relevant to all mankind everywhere throughout the history? I learned a spiritual lesson from the train ride. Train runs on its course toward its final destination. It cannot take a detour to get off from the track. If then, it will be derailed to damage severely. Several years ago my wife and I took a cross country train ride from Tacoma, Washington to Boston on the sleep car for three days and nights. The train ran on its course toward the final destination to reach our home at last.

Like the train runs one way to reach the final destination, our life ought to run on its course to Jesus for the heavenly reward. Apostle Paul shared his lifelong journey, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing (2 Timothy 4:7-8)." Many centuries later John Bunyan wrote his dream of Pilgrim Progress in the prison cell to describe the rough and dangerous journey to reach the celestial city. He faced many temptations, but he kept walking toward the final home where the Lord Jesus was waiting on. Jesus declares he is the only one way to God through the cross, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6)." When I was in college in the 70's there was a slogan "One Way to Jesus."

Man cannot build a new way to God the Father apart from the cross of Jesus for salvation for the eternal life. It is the truth: "Without cross there is no crown." As Jesus was dying on the cross he declared "It is finished." Salvation is done through the death of Jesus Christ to forgive our sin, whosoever believes in him shall not die, but to have the eternal life. That is the truth, but all other religious teachings and systems by man-made roads are the broadways to lead to death and destruction without hope beyond this earthly life. They face judgment that no one can escape from it (Hebrews 9:27-28).

Jesus Christ is the only one way to salvation through his death on the cross. It is God's plan of salvation in his unconditional love for the eternal glory all though who believe in Jesus Christ, the only way to God.

I still remember what the late Dr. W.A. Criswell preached in his sermon at FBC-Dallas, when I was a seminary student in the 70's. When a sinner becomes educated, he/she becomes the educated sinner; when sinner becomes wealthy, then he/she becomes the wealthy sinner..." Man cannot save from one's sin. We are born as sinner and to die as sinner, but God sent his Son to die on the cross for sinner to be saved whosoever believes in Jesus the Lord and Savior. The Jewish religious scholar, Nicodemus

encountered the Lord Savior Jesus, he heard to be born again. He understood what the spiritual birth meant to open his heart to believe the Lord Jesus (John 3:3).

Apostle Paul was transformed from his religious tradition and the Jewish teachings as he encountered the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. It was a miracle which the dead in sin to come alive with Christ to serve the true and living God. The Bible has the numerous salvation accounts to repent from their sin in forgiveness of sin to have the glorious new life in Jesus Christ for the heavenly life, where the name is written in the book of life. It is one-way track toward the heavenly prize as the citizens of heaven and children of God waiting for the Return of Christ.

Who is your One this year to point to the Lamb of God who takes sins of the world (John 1:29)? Still millions of people have derailed their journey by the worldly temptations. You are saved by God's grace to lead lost living in the spiritual darkness back to only one way to Jesus. You are the messenger of the gospel to proclaim the truth who Jesus is.

39. SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

By Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Life is like a journey toward a destination. Apostle Paul describes it as a race (2 Timothy 4:7-8) in that all the runners run, but only one receives the prize (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). For most of us, life is more a marathon than a sprint. Even so, God has fixed human life spans, usually around 70-80 years (Psalm 90:9-10), which is relatively short compared to the age of, let's say, certain type of trees. So what's important to God is not the length of the race or journey, but its quality. And the quality is dependent upon our effort to reach the goal, which is to win the race. I pray every day that God will give me the strength to run in such a way.

As I reflect on my Christian journey for half a century, I am grateful to God that I came to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior in August, 1968 during active duty in the U.S. Army. The Reverend George Godfrey, a Baptist pastor, shared with me God's plan of salvation on that August afternoon at my home in Hilo, Hawaii. He explained the meaning of the cross, why Jesus had to die on the cross for my sin. As Rev. Godfrey turned the pages of the Bible, showing me verse after verse, I could not help but accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. Growing up in Korea, I attended a mission school, but no one had ever asked me whether I had received Christ. I assumed going to the church made me a Christian but I was wrong. Through Rev. Godfrey, I learned that being a Christian was to be in a personal relationship with Christ (John 1:12-13; John 3:3-5; Luke 19:10). Since I started my spiritual journey that fateful day, I've been on this race for 50 years. And I can testify to how much I have been blessed spiritually. God has been faithful to guide me every step of the way. I do not know when my journey will come to an end in this world (John 14:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Hebrews 9:27-28). But I long for my departure so that I may be with my Lord who saved me from death and gave me eternal life as His child on that August afternoon in Hawaii.

I came to America in 1967 at the age of 19. Just three months after immigrating to Hawaii from Korea I joined the Army. During those two years on active duty I learned English quickly so that I could assimilate into American culture. I also earned my U.S. citizenship. Two years in the Army shaped me into who I am today. Upon discharge from the Army I started my college and seminary education under the GI Bill. I am proud to be an Army veteran; it's such an honor to have served this nation in uniform. Later during my pastoral ministry in Berkeley, California I felt God's call to Army chaplaincy and so I served as a reserve Army chaplain for 10 years. Currently I serve as a chaplain in the American Legion Post #442 in Cambridge, Massachusetts and as the National Assistant Chaplain for the Korean War Veterans Association. The Lord has opened many doors of opportunity for me to minister to our veterans who served our beloved country. Truly, our nation is "the land of the free and the home of the brave." But more than anything, the Army has given me insights and readiness for the reality of the

spiritual battle that is before us daily. I am forever indebted to the United States Armed Forces for preparing me to be a faithful soldier of Christ who does not get entangled in civilian affairs, but is focused on pleasing his commanding officer (2 Timothy 2:3-4)

During the early days of my ministry, I heard the name of Dr. Billy Graham, who in 1973 made a visit to my homeland of Korea to preach the gospel, which turned out to be the largest crusade ever held in his 60 years of evangelistic ministry. It took place at an old Air Force base in Seoul, with an estimated crowd of 1.3 million people gathered to hear the powerful Gospel message. Over the years I watched him preach on TV numerous times and attended his crusade on several occasions. But it wasn't until I had the privilege of attending meetings at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association building in Charlotte, NC as a Massachusetts field representative for "My Hope America with Billy Graham in 2013" and "Decision America Tour with Franklin Graham in 2016" that I began to study his life closely. The Billy Graham Library, with multimedia displays, rare film footage, and more than 350 photographs, gave me a deeper appreciation for the sustained quality of Dr. Graham's life and ministry. On February 21, 2018 at the age of 99, he finished his earthly journey after speaking to more than 210 million people in 186 countries on six continents. He is no longer with us on this earth, but he still speaks through the life that he lived. He is a model for us on how to run the race for God's kingdom until the very end. What a remarkable spiritual giant who finished his journey as "America's Pastor." We are all challenged to follow his example of faith.

40. MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Memorial Day Observance is a special day to remember of our loved ones who passed away before us. According to its history it was first widely observed on May 30, 1868 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former Union sailors and soldiers. Originally it was called "Decoration Day," which took place on May 30, 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery. In many towns and communities the local government officials officiate the Memorial Day Observance with the ceremony and parades... children are lined up with their parents on the street corners to watch where colorful flags and the marching bands pass by. In many cases both the military veterans and high school marching bands march the process.

It is more than one day event in a year. We often visit the graveside of our loved ones to stand quietly to reflect our fond memories which they left love in our heart. Now they are at rest in peace until one day the Lord returns. The Bible does not say when the day shall be which on one knows except God the Father (Matthew 24:36). Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Thessalonian church: "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first...(1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). What a glorious day it shall be as we look forward of his return to take his church with him where he is (John 14:3). It is Jesus who built his church to proclaim the gospel to bring the lost to find him to be saved for the eternal life. It is our duty, honor, commitment for the Great Commission with the Greatest Commandments.

As a veteran chaplain I was invited a few times by the Cambridge Veteran Services for our citywide Memorial Day Ceremony to open the invocation and conclude the ceremony with benediction. It is the veteran cemetery where the parade took place and the local government officials attend it along with the firefighters and police officers... It was on the Memorial Day in 2018, our members of Korean War Veterans Association, USA participated in the parade process with many other organizations in Washington, D.C., where hundreds of cheerful visitors everywhere waved the little American flags along the parade route... A dozen of our church members in the national capital were among in the crowd following me sitting on the moving float. It was the memorable parade watching the cheerful crowd along the way...

It reminds me of the race that is set before us surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses cheering us to endure to finish toward the goal ... (Hebrews 12:1-2). Jesus Christ endured suffering to take his cross to forgive our sins that we join him to run the race toward him. He is our role model to imitate in our daily life to live the victorious life to meet him in his glory. When he returns the graves will be empty,

where the saints will rise to meet the Lord in the air, so those who are alive in faith to be raptured in the air to be with him forever (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

Prior to the Memorial Day there was a patriotic dress rehearsal concert to recognize those veterans who served the armed forces in front of the U.S. Capitol building. The retired general Collins and a dozens of program personnel were on the stage to sing with the band and inspirational heroic stories... It was very memorable Memorial Day event at the national Capitol... We are to remember our loved ones who left their legacy to cherish of their life in our heart.

41. WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF D.L. MOODY

By Paul Kim

When I entertain guests in Boston, I often take them on a tour of the “Freedom Trail” and for many the highlight is seeing a special plaque on the wall of the old shoe store where Dwight Lyman Moody worked as a young man. It reads: “D.L. Moody - Christian Evangelist, Friend of Man, Founder of the Northfield Schools, was converted to God in a shoe store on this site. April 21, 1855.”

On that fateful day in Spring, an 18-year old Moody was working at the shoe store in downtown Boston when his Sunday school teacher, Mr. Edward Kimball, visited to pray for the salvation of his soul. The Holy Spirit touched Moody’s heart and he made the decision to surrender his life to Christ. He became God’s chosen instrument to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to countless thousands of people.

What can we learn from Moody’s life as the greatest Christian evangelist of his generation?

In an article, “Why God Used D.L. Moody,” by his long-time friend and co-laborer for Christ, R.A. Torrey, he listed seven reasons why God was able to use Mr. Moody.

1. A fully surrendered man
2. A man of prayer
3. A deep and practical student of the Bible
4. A humble man
5. His entire freedom from the love of money
6. His consuming passion for the salvation of the lost
7. Anointed with power from on high

The lesson is clear: God can use anyone whose heart has been completely transformed by Christ. Moody’s education did not go beyond 5th grade, as he grew up in poverty being raised by a single mother with eight siblings in Northfield, Massachusetts. How he must have longed to continue his schooling, for when he became a world-renowned evangelist, what was laid in his heart was a desire to educate the poor boys and girls in his hometown, which was realized through the establishment of the Northfield schools. Moody was not the most educated or talented, but he had an abiding sense of mission to bring sinners to Christ. As Moody’s famous saying attests: “the world has yet to see what God will do with a man fully consecrated to him—I aim to be that man.”

Moody became fully consecrated to the Lord and it was his singular joy to spread the Good News of God’s salvation to the world. As though he was reminded of his time selling shoes, Moody was always a man afoot, willing to go anywhere and everywhere, even to the ends of the earth if it meant that one more precious soul would hear the truth of the Gospel. Indeed, how beautiful on the mountain are the feet of him who brings good news!

In early May, 2018, I took a group of pastors and missionaries on a pilgrimage to visit the birth and burial place of D.L. Moody in Northfield, Massachusetts. The day was especially meaningful because we were welcomed by Mr. David Powell, the grandson of Mr. Moody's eldest daughter. He, along with Ms. Julia Wiggins, Director of the Moody Center, gave us a tour of the historical area. Mr. Powell, over 90 years young, still had a sprightly step and with sparkling wit he shared with us stories and anecdotes from his childhood memories of growing up at a time when Northfield was a center of spirituality and revival in New England.

D.L. Moody may have done more to build up the kingdom of God in America than any figure in the nineteenth century. But as we toured the beautiful campus, I realized that the most enduring fruit of his legacy lies not in the Moody institutions—the Northfield schools, the Moody Bible Institute, Moody Publishers, the Moody Church, and the Moody Center. It is in the people he touched and continues to touch. That's what had brought us pastors and missionaries to visit the place of his birth and death. We wanted to spiritually follow in his footsteps. D.L. Moody invested his life in the business of transformed lives and it was manifested in the countless people who came to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior through his preaching and the many men and women he influenced to become preachers, evangelists, and missionaries. We are his spiritual heritage. Moody's life showed that like the first disciples of Jesus after Pentecost, people who are fully consecrated to the Lord can turn the world upside down!

As our group gathered at the gravesite where D.L. Moody and his faithful wife, Emma, are buried side by side, I was reminded of the great Apostle Paul when he challenged the Corinthian church: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ," (1 Corinthians 11:1, ESV). I led a prayer thanking Mr. Moody for fighting the good fight and faithfully finishing the race. Although he became known the world over, his greatest life example was in walking humbly with God and obeying the Great Commission with simple, child-like faith and obedience. He left an evangelistic legacy and ministry footprint that is worthy of following very closely. May we honor, learn from, and imitate D.L. Moody by walking in his footsteps.

42. D.L. MOODY'S LASTING GIFT

By Paul Kim

Salvation is an everlasting gift from God. Friends and family share the gift of giving on birthdays, graduations, weddings, and other special occasions. Likewise, our heavenly Father grants to His children the eternal gift of eternal life in Christ. John the Apostle, a close disciple of our Lord Jesus writes, "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12)." This verse is rich with theological implications. This "right" is given to *all* who receive Jesus by faith, regardless of race, age, education, wealth, language, and nationality. God does not discriminate against anyone. Because He so loved the world He gave his only Son. And what did the Son do for us? He sacrificed His life on the cross as a ransom for many but was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

It was a Saturday morning on April 21, 1855, when an 18-year old youth named Dwight Lyman Moody accepted this gift of eternal life with great joy. He was working at a shoe store in downtown Boston when his Sunday school teacher, Mr. Edward Kimball, visited him to pray for the salvation of his soul. The Holy Spirit presented this precious gift of new life to this young man, and he became God's chosen instrument to proclaim the Good News of this gift of eternal life to thousands of people. To this day there is a special plaque on the wall of Moody's old shoe store in Boston which reads: "D.L. Moody: Christian Evangelist, Friend of Man, Founder of the Northfield Schools, was converted to God in a shoe store on this site. April 21, 1855."

What can we learn from Moody's life as the greatest Christian evangelist of his generation? God can use anyone whose heart has been transformed. Moody's education did not go beyond 5th grade as he grew up in poverty with a single mother and eight siblings in Northfield, Massachusetts. He must have longed to continue his schooling. For when he became a world-renowned evangelist, what was laid in his heart was a desire to educate the poor boys and girls in his hometown, which was realized through the establishment of the Northfield schools. Moody was not the most educated or talented, but he was especially gifted by God to be whole-heartedly passionate for the spreading of the Gospel message. As Moody's famous saying attests: "the world has yet to see what God will do with a man fully consecrated to him—I aim to be that man."

Moody became fully consecrated to the Lord and it was his singular joy to impart the free gift of God's salvation to the world. He was a man of prayer and a practical student of the Bible. As though reminded often of his time selling shoes, Moody was always a man afoot, willing to go anywhere and everywhere, even to the ends of the earth if it meant one precious soul to hear the Gospel. Indeed, how beautiful on the mountain are the feet of him who brings good news!

D.L. Moody may have done more to build up the kingdom of God in America than any figure in the nineteenth century. But the most enduring fruit of his legacy lies not in the Moody institutions—the aforementioned schools, the Moody Bible Institute, Moody Publishers, and the Moody Church. It is the countless people who came to accept Jesus' gift of grace through Moody's preaching and the many men

and women he influenced to be preachers, evangelists, and missionaries that are his true spiritual heritage. The gift that D.L. Moody gave to the world—the redemption of sinners through faith in Jesus Christ—is the only gift that will forever keep on giving till the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

43. MY FIRST DAY IN AMERICA

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

God wants us to redeem each and every precious day He has given to us, to build up a history of faith. That's why the Lord commanded Joshua to gather stones, one for each tribe, to commemorate the crossing of the Jordan so that they had a testimony to give to the next generation when they ask: "What do these stones mean to you?" For me, one of the days to mark with a stone of remembrance was when I immigrated to America from Korea. It was a dream of mine to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Filled with youthful excitement even though I didn't know what the future may hold, I boarded the plane on Tuesday, May 30, 1967.

When the Pan American flight from Korea to Hawaii landed on the tarmac of Honolulu International Airport, I descended the steps of the plane and finally touched down on American soil. A tropical ocean breeze greeted me warmly in the spirit of Aloha! I followed the other international travelers through customs. By the time I picked up my belongings at the baggage claim I had missed the connecting flight to Hilo, Hawaii. That was my first day in America.

A friendly airline agent helped me book a flight for the next day. I had to stay overnight at the Honolulu Holiday Inn near the airport. The next morning, I came down to the lobby to look around. Everything was new to me, even the vending machines. At first I couldn't figure out how they worked but I was finally able to get a pack of chewing gum, which was 5 cents.

When I arrived in Hilo, my mother and older sister were anxiously waiting for me. They had immigrated to Hawaii a year earlier. I was so happy to make a home in America. It was a childhood dream come true. I came to know Christ as my personal Lord and Savior the following year in the summer of 1968 while I was on furlough for one month from the U.S. Army.

Whenever I read about Abraham, I wonder how he felt leaving Haran, the place of his birth. What was his first day in Canaan like? In Genesis 12:7, "Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.'" There he built an altar to the Lord.

In the summer of 2001 I had the privilege to visit the birthplace and church of John Bunyan in Bedford, England during Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Summer Study Program at Oxford. In his classic, *Pilgrim's Progress*, Bunyan allegorized Christian life as a perilous journey to a new land. We are all strangers and pilgrim's in this world. And just as we have all experienced the hope and anticipation of the first day in a new place, we long for our final destination.

In Hebrews 11:40, it states that God had provided something better for us. By faith the people of God will enter the heavenly promised land to be with God who saved us through his Son Jesus Christ.
Maranatha!

44. MY FIRST BAPTISMAL SERVICE

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

On the Lord's Day, March 1, 1981, a new church was inaugurated at a small church building in Albany, California nearby UC Berkeley. The small sanctuary was only half-filled with my family of five, friends, and visitors—a total of twenty-three people. Not knowing what to expect as a young pastor, I had prepared everything for the inaugural service, including printing (by faith) fifty Sunday bulletins, setting up refreshments, and of course, preaching the sermon. On top of that, I included the two biblical ordinances of the church, the Lord's Supper and baptism. Needless to say, it was a full program!

Moreover, this was my first baptismal service in pastoral ministry. Three college students I had ministered to in Los Angeles wanted me to baptize them at the inaugural worship service. It was an unforgettable moment. As I waded into the baptistery, I reflected on my own experience of being baptized at Kaumana Drive Baptist Church in Hilo, Hawaii in October, 1972, just a year before going off to the mainland to study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. During seminary, I had learned about the importance of baptism in the history of the Baptists. I had frequently observed the baptismal services led by Dr. W.A. Criswell at First Baptist Church in Dallas. I could not believe I was now participating in administering this sacred command of Jesus. As I prepared to immerse the first candidate into the water, I found myself imitating Dr. Criswell's gentle and gracious manner.

Three months later we received an offer from the East Bay Baptist Association to move, rent free, to a larger church building on the border of Berkeley and Oakland, hence the name Berkland Baptist Church was born. Over the next ten years the church grew from my family of five to over 500 active church members. We were one of the pioneers of collegiate church-planting, making disciples through the ministry of intercessory prayer, inductive Bible studies, and building lifelong co-working relationships. By God's grace we were able to baptize more than 700 new believers! The California Southern Baptist Convention recognized our church as one of the fast growing churches and the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board) invited me to the annual SBC meeting in St. Louis in 1987 to share a 2-minute testimony of our church growth. The media team came to film our campus ministries at Berkeley and Stanford titled, "Catching the Spirit."

After ten years of fruitful pastoral ministry in Berkeley, my wife and I felt God's call to move to Cambridge, Massachusetts to plant a new branch church in 1991, BBC-East, with our very first homegrown disciple, Pastor Andy Pak, taking over as the lead pastor of the Berkeley church, BBC-West. Even though thousands of miles away, our vision from the very beginning was to plant churches on multi-site campuses, but still remain one family, united in one spirit.

Only God knew this was just the beginning of multiple church plants within the university community both at home and abroad. Upon graduation from college, many of those baptized in our churches joined

the church staff as homegrown workers. Over the years, they have served as campus directors, church planters, pastors, and missionaries to fulfill the Great Commission.

Even in our retirement, my wife and I have been committed to raising up leaders for the 21st century. My wife, who serves as the Southern Baptist chaplain at Harvard University, recently earned her doctoral ministry degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Dr. Rebekah Kim's dissertation was a culmination of over three decades of planting churches. She has been the most instrumental Bible teacher and disciple-maker of our collegiate ministries from the beginning of our church in Berkeley in 1981. Through her in-depth, lifelong pursuit of the meaning of what a church is, we have built a family of God through our eternal relationships in Christ. Now we pass the baton to the next generation of pastors and missionaries, that they may obey our Lord's command to baptize disciples of all nations in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

45. MY DAYS AT SWBTS

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

It's a fact of life that the choices we make are important. We choose our schools, jobs, marriage partners, and so forth. Out of the 33 seminaries that I looked into my senior year at the University of Hawaii in Hilo, I ended up choosing Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. And I believe it was truly a Spirit-led choice. After becoming a Christian at the age of twenty, I wanted to be more than just a Sunday churchgoer. I longed to be equipped as a disciple, to become a spiritually mature Christian, but I didn't know how to go about it.

In college, I disciplined myself to read the daily Bible readings and to pray every morning before my first class started at 8:00 a.m. I shared my personal testimony of how God worked in my life to my friends on campus. I attended the student-led "Eklessia" Bible studies at the Baptist Student Union building. On Friday evenings, a dozen or so college students gathered together at a local church for "Coffee House Ministries" where we enjoyed a time of praise and fellowship. On Saturday mornings I usually cleaned up the small church building in preparation of the Lord's Day. At Sunday worship services, I served as an usher in greeting church members, which was around 100 people on average. So although I kept myself busy in serving the Lord, I felt that God was calling me to a life in full-time ministry.

Although I had gotten into a number of seminaries, when I received the financial aid packages, I discovered I could not afford the tuition and living expenses, even with my GI Bill. As I prayed about my future, I sought out the advice of our church organist and Baptist Student Union director, Miss Josephine Harris, who I found out was a Foreign Mission Board (FMB) missionary to Hawaii for 27 years and a SWBTS alum who majored in music. Her older brother, Dr. James Harris, was the Senior Pastor of University Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas and an FMB trustee. As I was seeking her guidance, I received the answer to my prayers when she told me to apply to SWBTS. I had never heard of the seminary before. Through her help, I applied and God opened the door for me to enroll as a Master of Divinity student in the School of Theology in August, 1973. Over 45 years ago, I experienced the abundant blessings of God's providence in guiding me to choose SWBTS! God took care of every detail, including finances, as in those days SWBTS was tuition-free and the \$100 matriculation fee per semester was covered by my GI Bill.

To this day I am grateful to my professors at SWBTS, like Dr. David Garland, the Old Testament professor with whom I took my first seminary class. He shared about his first day at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and how he was in tears as his mother dropped him off on campus. When he opened the class in prayer, his gracious voice and earnest words moved me so much that I found myself in tears! Another mentor was my beloved professor, Dr. Huber Drumwright, who was Dean of the School of Theology and New Testament Professor. He was so gentle, yet he gave me the biggest bear-hug at my graduation. He was the one who introduced me to First Baptist Church-Dallas and to his sister, Mrs. Ruby Pulley, a

church member there. Her husband, Mr. Ralph Pulley, was a well-known lawyer and chairman of Deacons, and a trustee at SWBTS. The Pulley family helped me so much while I was at the church and I'm so thankful that I was able to build life-long relationships with them. What a wonderful family they are in Christ!

As I look back to when as a young Christian in college I was looking for a clear direction for my seminary education, I could see that God answered my prayer by preparing each precious soul in my life so that I could enter the gospel ministry through SWBTS and FBC-Dallas. I was eventually ordained at FBC-Dallas and I returned to Hawaii in 1976 to start two house churches. I could have never imagined then that one day I would become a trustee of SWBTS, seeking to open up opportunities for a new generation of future SBC leaders. Our God is sovereign over us and I praise and exult the matchless name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

46. SURVIVING MY HEART ATTACK

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

Cambridge, Massachusetts

The heart is perhaps the most vital part of the human body. Even before birth, the heart of a baby begins to pump and circulate blood. When the heart stops, the body can no longer sustain life. The heart is truly an extraordinary organ.

In 1983, when I was a young pastor in Berkeley, California, I experienced the trauma of a family having to deal with a tragedy involving the heart. A six-month old baby boy was transported by helicopter from Monterrey, California to San Francisco General Hospital. The baby's father was a Korean naval officer studying at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterrey. He was a church member where my brother-in-law was pastor. When I got a phone call about the situation from my brother-in-law, I drove to the hospital to visit the baby's parents since I was nearby. I learned from them that their only child was born with a congenital heart problem called infant methemoglobinemia, also known as "blue baby" syndrome. A few days later the attending doctor discussed the options—either keep him alive on life support with little to no chance of recovery or to pull the plug. It was the most painful ethical dilemma for a parent! Even my previous experience as a former hospital chaplain couldn't quite prepare me for this as I was at a loss for words. With much agonizing prayer and pastoral counseling, the parents decided to let go of the child as there was nothing more the doctors could do. I stood there with the parents watching the heart-breaking moment. The baby's mother held her only child in her tender arms in tears, not wanting to let go of her baby. The heart continued to pump slowly for about 20 minutes after the plug was pulled from life support. The doctor came by a couple of times to check the baby's heart to make sure before signing the death certificate. Understandably, this event really impacted my view of life and ministry.

Over a decade later, on March 28, 1994 during Passion Week, I too experienced a problem with my heart. After a swim at the YMCA in Cambridge, I felt an acute pain in my chest. I was barely able to drive home. My wife saw that I was holding a half-filled bottle of Pepto-Bismol, weak and sweating. She insisted that I go see a doctor so we went to a neighborhood Walk-In Clinic. There, the doctor told me to my surprise that I had suffered a severe heart attack. An ambulance came to transport me to the local hospital. Without what I believe to be my wife's divinely-inspired intuition to seek medical help, it would have been my final day in this world. While I was hospitalized for 12 days, our church families around the world fasted and prayed without ceasing for my recovery. Our Lord heard their prayers. By God's grace I survived the heart attack. On February 1997, I underwent quadruple bypass surgery. And since then, I have been in good health. God miraculously healed me and granted me a second life so that I could do His work in the ministry. As I mark the 25th anniversary of my heart attack and recovery, I am extremely grateful to God that I could go through the experience so that I could empathize and minister to those who are undergoing health problems. More importantly, having gone through the suffering and

pain of heart surgery, I feel I can understand in a deeper way the pain of God's heart as it bleeds for lost souls. As long as God gives me life and breath on this earth, I want to continue working to expand the Kingdom of God until He calls me to His glory.

47. THE PILGRIM MINDSET: LONGING FOR A HEAVENLY HOME

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

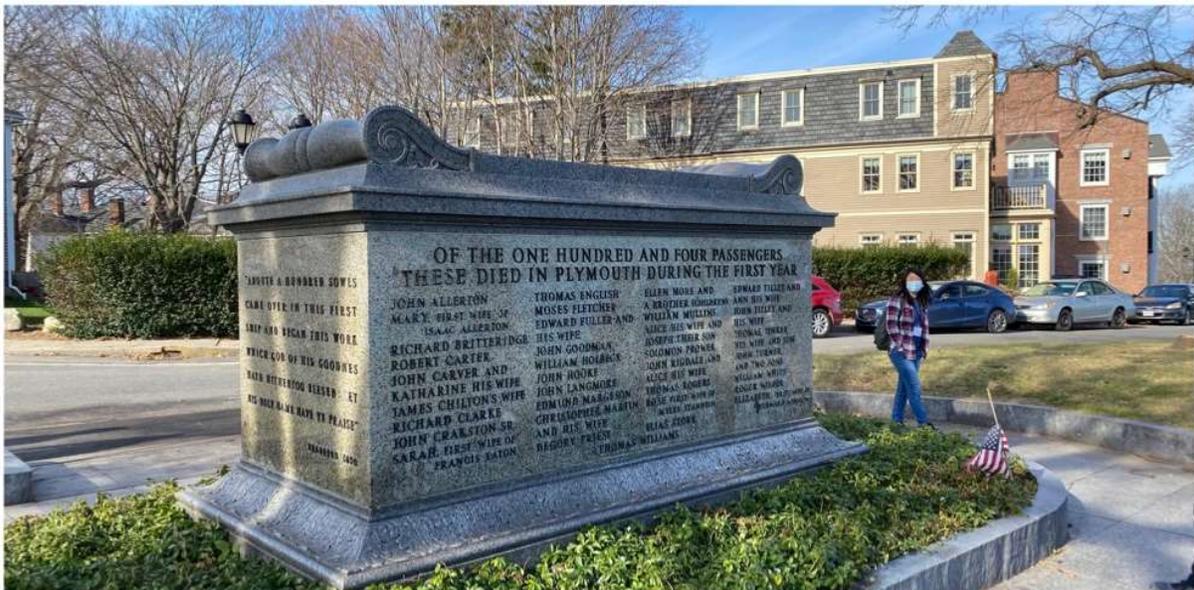
National Chaplain, KWVA

American Legion Post 442 Chaplain

There are two types of people in life: those who are rooted and those who are wanderers, like chaff blown by the wind, rootless and always in search for some place to call home. When our children were young, whenever our family went on a vacation by car, they'd ask the question all kids on road trips are required to ask: Are we there yet? Bored by being cooped up in the back seat, they'd lower the rear car window and gesture to the 18-wheel truck drivers passing by to honk their horns. Such antics made the time go by faster because they were so eager to get to the destination. A longing to get to their heavenly home—this was the mindset of the Pilgrims. And it was the mindset of many Christians in the first century as they suffered from persecution. Apostle John captured this sentiment with the word, Maranatha! "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20).

From the very beginning of church history, Christians have suffered under many different empires and governments. And even to this day, many Christians continue to pay a costly price for their faith. When the early church faced persecution in Jerusalem, they were scattered to Judea, Samaria, and beyond. They became pilgrims, strangers, aliens, and sojourners on this earth. But it was God's wisdom to use this "diaspora" to spread the message of the Good News. Apostle Peter wrote to them: "To those who are elected exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father..." (1 Peter 1:1-2). Peter encouraged them by pointing to the great sovereignty of God, whose vision was to use the dispersion as a means to proclaim His coming Kingdom to the whole world.

Several years ago, I went on a study tour of the 7 churches in the Book of Revelation in Turkey. I vividly remember visiting the village of Cappadocia, where we were able to go into the sandy rock caves where persecuted Christians made their dwelling. Although the caves consisted of a maze of interconnected rooms with ingenious architecture, they were hardly places you would call a comfortable home. These Cappadocian Christians were strangers and pilgrims on this earth, awaiting a time for a permanent home (Hebrews 11:13-16).



Mayflower II and the Pilgrim Sarcophagus, Plymouth, MA

This mindset was reflected in the Pilgrims when they landed in Plymouth in November 1620. Nearly half of those who arrived didn't make it past that first brutal winter. Even so, when they later had the opportunity to return to their homeland of England, they chose to remain because they believed God was preparing them in the New World to long for that better country—the heavenly one. On the tombstone of Governor William Bradford at Burial Hill in Plymouth there is a Latin transcription, loosely translated: "What our fathers with so much difficulty achieved, do not shamefully abandon." Bradford was challenging the next generation to never lose sight of this mindset—that as merely strangers and exiles on this earth, we are to build our lives by faith on things unseen, not on the visible things of this

world. It is important to have a clear and concrete mindset that is not affected by the fads and trends of each generation. In order to teach the next generation not to be blown by the winds of change, we need to be rooted in the biblical vision of a heavenly home. Do you have such a forward-looking Pilgrim view of your life journey? It is never too late to live by faith with the hope of future glory in Christ. Maranatha!

49. WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

Antioch Baptist Church

We are all going somewhere, but the question is: Do we know where we are going? At our 400/40 Anniversary Celebration in Plymouth, Massachusetts on November 24-27, 2021, over 400 of our church family members from our 14 churches worldwide gathered together to fellowship and give glory to God. Afterward, over half of us continued on with the post-Plimoth anniversary tour. We packed into four buses and for a week we went to Philadelphia, the Ark Encounter in Kentucky, and Washington, DC. We traveled an estimated distance of around 2,300 miles. As we were passing through various towns and cities, we did not know where we were at any given moment. I had to ask myself a few times, “Where Are We Now?” Obviously, I and the other passengers on the bus did not know. But the experienced bus driver knew. From this I learned a simple spiritual lesson. Our Lord Jesus Is like the driver on our life journeys. He knows the way to take us to our destination. He is leading us to our heavenly home. All He asks of us is to trust Him by faith. And however short or long or uncertain the trip, He promises to “be with us.”

For the past 40 years, I have experienced His faithfulness in being with us. Our Lord has led the journey of Berkland Baptist Church like how Moses led the Israelites in the wilderness. I was a young preacher back when we started our church in Berkeley, with a family of five in 1981. It was a challenging journey with only a vision planted in our hearts, as the lyrics of the song *Worthy Life* goes. In retrospect, I could have never imagined celebrating our 400/40 anniversary in Plymouth with over 400 church family members. It is truly God’s grace and His steadfast love endures forever. As we’ve been living out what it means to be a church by concretely loving one another in the family of God, let me reflect on three major themes I observed from the 400/40 Anniversary Celebration.



1. Where Are We in History?

History humbles us. Our church began in Berkeley, California on March 1, 1981; it's already 40 years old. These 40 years represent a generation. Over the decades, many have joined the family of God and experienced powerfully God's sovereignty and grace. Through God's providence, we've been able to enlarge the place of our tent through the Word of God and the biblical concept of the family of God. All of us are united together in one spirit, even though we come from six cities in the U.S. and four nations overseas: Korea, Armenia, the Republic of Georgia, and Uzbekistan. We are to continue living out concretely the testimony of what the Lord has done in our lives.

2. Where Are We in the Ministry?

From the beginning our vision of ministry was to reach out primarily to college students and young adults through church-based campus ministries. The founder of ABSK is Dr. Rebekah Kim, who as a 10-month old Christian, made a Bethel vow for collegiate ministry in her junior year at Seoul National University on December 1, 1971. This year marks the 50th anniversary of that fateful vow, which we marked on our trip at a Korean restaurant in Fairfax, Virginia. Through all the struggles and ups and downs of ministry, she has remained faithful to this vow. She has made hundreds of disciples with her unique gift of teaching and communicating the Word of God. It is one of her multiple spiritual gifts and she has laid all of them at the feet of Jesus. Over the years, she has never veered from or compromised with the foundation of our ministry—to be rooted in the living Word of God, which has the power to transform us and to guide us in our pilgrim journey. Under her leadership we are now focused on raising up our next generation by teaching our children to love the Lord Jesus and His Word. Many of our children in TRA have graduated and are helping out with campus ministries.

3. Where Are We in the Future?

We began our church with a vision to raise up leaders for the 21st century. We were intentional in investing in people, not in buildings and budgets. The church is a living organism, and we are to reproduce and multiply in order to bear fruit for the glory of God. We have Luke 9:23 etched on our hearts, to deny ourselves, to take up our cross daily, and to follow Jesus. In obedience, we seek to fulfill the Great Commission by living out the Great Commandment. Our future is bright as our people grow spiritually by engaging in the Word of God, Prayer, and Witnessing (WPW). For the past 40 years, our Lord Jesus has led us in building up the family of God through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. We want to live not in words, but in power!

In summary, God is to be glorified until His coming, which is promised and prophesied in the Bible. As the Bible teaches us what a church is, we are to live in unity as a family of God, to prepare ourselves to be pure brides for Christ, our bridegroom. Maranatha!

50. THE WARNING OF A SNOWSTORM

Dr. Paul Kim, Pastor Emeritus

National Chaplain, KWVA

American Legion Post 442 Chaplain

On a cold morning in January, I left the house for my daily 3-mile walk to the American Legion Post 442 in Cambridge, MA. It was not an ordinary day—the night before, the entire Greater Boston area was blanketed by nearly a foot of snow! As I made my way, I looked up to survey the vastness of white as far as the eye can see. There were no cars on the road except for the occasional snow plow. Children were outside sledding down makeshift snow-banked hills. As I observed this classic New England winter scene, I thought about how the entire week was filled with warnings that there would be more than 8 inches of snow. The Massachusetts government declared a snow emergency, meaning no vehicles can be parked on major roadways. Regular mail delivery would be canceled. The city was going to be effectively shut down until the snowfall stopped.

Facing a blizzard is intimidating. Given enough advance notice, however, we can prepare for its coming. Like the warning of snowstorms, the Bible tells us to be ready for the judgment to come. It warns us against living in disobedience to the Word of God.



Walking in a snowstorm, January 29, 2022

In the beginning, God warned Adam of the reality of death if he disobeys Him (Genesis 2:16-17); in the days of Noah, God warned of an impending flood: “...the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5-8). God would provide a way out of the problem of sin—through His Son Jesus Christ, who came down to earth to save us from sin and death. Christ died and rose from the grave. He overcame death to give us the gift of eternal life. The Bible is filled with warnings that unless we repent and turn from our sin, we cannot become children of God. It is through our faith in Jesus Christ that we may enter our eternal home as heavenly citizens (John 1:12-13; 3:16-21; Philippians 3:2-21).

Facing judgment is intimidating. Given His Son Jesus Christ, however, we can trust God’s divine love and justice. God is patient and He is waiting for us to repent of our sin (2 Peter 3:9-13). The Bible says, “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment...” (Hebrews 9:27-28). Are you taking God’s judgment seriously? The Bible gives us enough warnings, as much as a weather report prepares us for a coming snowstorm. Are you confident that when you die, you will be at home with the Lord Jesus? Are you ready for the Second Coming of Christ, the true and righteous Judge? May we all be ready and let us pray each and every day—Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus!

51. RACIAL RECONCILIATION



Basic Combat Training Graduation at Fort Ord, 1967

History began with one family. There was only one human race. How, then, did racial issues develop? What are the root causes, and why are these issues so prevalent in our nation and the church? A *TIME* magazine article from 2021 reported that metropolitan cities continue to be segregated, although America is more diverse than ever. With a Black population of 80%, Detroit is the most segregated city in the U.S.

What about in the church? Martin Luther King Jr. once noted with a sharp rebuke that 11:00 am on Sunday mornings is one of the most segregated hours in Christian America. My African American pastor friend told me that beyond the issue of skin color, racism is ultimately a sin problem. In Oswald Chambers' *My Utmost for His Highest*, we read: "Sin is a fundamental relationship—it is not wrongdoing, but wrong being—it is deliberate and determined independence from God." Most religions are concerned with morality and doing good, but only the Christian faith contends with the fundamental, hereditary nature of sin.

Until I came to America from Korea in 1967, I never had to think much about race. At that time, Korea was a highly homogenized nation, so racial issues were not part of the social agenda. When I enlisted in

the U.S. Army, during Basic Combat Training, I encountered people from all kinds of backgrounds, so I thought that same diversity was part of the broader culture. But more and more, I was exposed to America's history of racial struggles, largely stemming from the effects of its racist past, exemplified by the practice of slavery. I have visited three African American museums in Cincinnati, Memphis, and Birmingham in the past decade to learn more about this cruel chapter in American history. It is a painful reality that racial injustice has severely impacted American culture. Many families, schools, and communities still suffer from racial inequality.

When I was a trustee of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, I visited the Island of Gorée, off the coast of Dakar, in the West African nation of Senegal. It is known for its role in the Atlantic slave trade. There is a place called the House of Slaves that once served as a holding center for enslaved people. It is now a museum, and it was heartbreaking to be inside and think about how the people were treated and the horrible human sin that occurred, but it is history that should not be forgotten.

“We, as a nation, have a long way to go in terms of genuine racial reconciliation, but we can take heart, knowing that God can bring about amazing cultural transformation.”

We, as a nation, have a long way to go in terms of genuine racial reconciliation, but we can take heart, knowing that God can bring about amazing cultural transformation. Even one person's change of heart can make a tremendous difference. In July 2001, I had the privilege of going on a summer study tour to England with the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. There I visited the church of the Anglican cleric John Newton (1725-1807). We can be encouraged by his well-known story—a former captain of slave ships who became a priest, abolitionist, and renowned hymn writer. Using his experiences in the slave trade, he wrote what is widely considered the most famous hymn of all time: “Amazing Grace”. The song was his testimony of how he changed from a slave trader to a slave of Christ after meeting the Lord. The hymn has touched millions of lives and reminds us that there is power in God's amazing grace to transform sinners and use them to bring about cultural change.

We know that racial reconciliation cannot ultimately come through governments and worldly institutions. The only hope is through the power and love that comes from our reconciliation with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. May God help us have the hope and courage to go forward in racial reconciliation, starting with His church! While there will always be racial issues as long as sinners are here on earth, we continue to pray and work toward that heavenly goal, where there will be no more need for racial reconciliation since there will be no more sin in the kingdom of God. Maranatha, come, Lord Jesus!

Dr. Paul Kim is Pastor Emeritus at Antioch Baptist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, National Chaplain, KWVA, and The Marsh Post 442 Chaplain, Cambridge, MA.

52. KIM'S JOURNEY UNDERGIRDS CALL FOR CHURCH PLANTING

Published Oct 13, 2016 in California Southern Baptist Convention News

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Paul Kim visited New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with two goals: promoting Asian-American involvement in the Southern Baptist Convention and encouraging students to consider church planting.

Kim is working to spread SBC awareness and build Cooperative Program support among Asian-American Baptists as the Asian-American relations consultant with the SBC's Executive Committee — one of many Baptist leaders working with Frank S. Page, EC president, in an effort to understand and appreciate the diverse ethnic landscape in the SBC.

When Kim began his role with the EC, he made a commitment to visit each of the six SBC seminaries for an event he calls A2CP2 (short for Asian-American Cooperative Program and Church Planting). Much of the NOBTS A2CP2 was dedicated to church planting — a ministry task Kim hopes each seminary student will consider.

Kim, visiting NOBTS on Oct. 10, shared the inspirational story from his own church planting background. In 1981, he and his wife Becky launched Berkland Baptist Church in Berkeley, Calif. Their plan was to start a church to reach students at the University of California-Berkeley, one of the nation's most prestigious yet liberal universities.

Many people told him the plan would not work, Kim recounted. Naysayers said that college students would not come to church consistently and they would not tithe. Kim trusted God's leadership and launched the church anyway.

Early on the naysayers seemed right. Some Sundays the only people in attendance were Kim, his wife, his mother-in-law and the Kims' daughter, an infant at the time. Over time, Kim began to reach Berkeley students with the Gospel and the church started to grow. Many of the students who came to Christ also experienced a call to ministry. Shortly after the Tiananmen Square protests in China in 1989, Berkland launched its first church plant in Asia.

While the church in California thrived, God called Kim to start a new church in Boston, Mass., in 1991. This time, the Kims would be ministering to students at prestigious universities like Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

At Berkland Baptist Church in Boston, God continued to bless the Kims' work. As Berkland continued reaching college students, many of them likewise experienced a call to ministry. Ultimately, the two Berkland churches began to see church planting as a calling, as part of their DNA. The church ultimately planted numerous new churches in far-flung places such as China, the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

Kim played a key role in discipling and raising up men from the church who left jobs as doctors, lawyers, professors and engineers and moved their families across the world to plant these new churches.

One of the men disciplined at Berkland, David Um, was called to pastor the church when Kim retired in 2011, while Kim continues to serve as pastor emeritus. Although the church has changed its name to Antioch Baptist Church, its church-planting DNA is still evident.

Um, a trustee at NOBTS, also spoke at the event, sharing how God led him from the world of software engineering to ministry.

The software company Um worked for charged \$1 million per license and released a new version each year. Each new version rendered the previous version worthless. Um began to question whether he wanted to continue in such a business.

“What am I living for?” Um said he asked at the time. “As I was going through this spiritual crisis, I realized that the Gospel was for me because I was such a sinner. So I repented and I became a Christian through that experience of my own wretchedness.”

For the first years of his Christian walk, Um had little discipleship. A friend invited him to the newly-established Berkland church in Boston, where he joined and received the discipleship training he so desperately needed.

“People cared about my life and they were modeling for me what it means to answer, ‘How am I going to live for Jesus?’” Um said. “From that point on the trajectory of my life changed.”

The discipleship efforts of Berkland helped Um submit to a call to ministry. He ultimately left the world of secular employment, went to seminary and became a pastor.

During the meeting, Kim read from Acts 9, pointing out the calling of Saul, later renamed Paul. Like Paul, Christians today have been given the task of spreading the Gospel, he said.

“God has called us to carry His name, the name above every name,” Kim said. “We have the responsibility to do His work.”

As Paul “carried His name” on the missionary journeys, he planted churches, Kim said, encouraging NOBTS students to begin considering a call to church planting. Kim also encouraged those who will pastor established churches to consider sponsoring church planting.

“Carrying the name of Jesus brings hardship,” Kim said. “It is not easy, but it is a blessing.”

During his visit to NOBTS, Kim enlisted Abraham Lee, a leader in the NOBTS Korean Student Fellowship, to serve as the national Korean Student Council president for the six SBC seminaries for the coming academic year. The goal of Lee’s task will be to foster greater communication between the six Korean student fellowships. Plans include the development of blog to share seminary news, prayer requests and reports regarding evangelism, missions and church planting.

53. KOREAN-AMERICAN COUPLE INSPIRES CHURCH IN WORLD MISSIONS

By Diana Chandler, posted August 4, 2017 in Baptist Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (BP) — Korean-American Chaplain Rebekah Kim remembers her first international mission trip 30 years ago when she shared the Gospel with Japanese, an ethnic group she had been taught to view as enemies.

The human mind alone cannot forgive Japan's treatment of Koreans during the Sino-Japanese war, including the forced prostitution of Korean women and girls as "comfort women;" but the blood of Jesus has power to forgive, Kim told the Japanese. Kim, one of two Southern Baptist chaplains at Harvard University, was born during the Korean War, years after the Sino-Japanese War ended.

"I said unless I were a Christian, unless I had met the Lord, I would have come to Japan with a revengeful attitude. They were really shocked. That was my first line," Kim recalled. "And then I began to explain why I had been changed as a Korean growing up in Korea. There is no sin and enmity the blood of Jesus cannot blot out.

"The Holy Spirit began to powerfully work in their hearts, and then the barrier, the ethnic barrier, could be melted right away through my testimony."

Rebekah Kim pledged her life to college missions in 1971 as a college student, she said, and has ministered to college students in the U.S., and later abroad, the past 46 years. "I cannot quit because I committed my life for campus ministry missions."

She led a group of 28 students from the University of California at Berkley on that inaugural international mission trip in the summer of 1987, spending a week each in Japan and her native Korea. Paul Kim, then pastor of Berkland Baptist Church in Berkley, Calif., remained in the U.S. for a speaking engagement with the Home Mission Board, now the North American Mission Board, at the 1987 SBC Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Mo. Rebekah had just given birth to their son Philip two months earlier.

The Kims began in ministry together in 1981 by planting Berkland, and then planting Berkland Baptist Church-Boston 10 years later. In 2011, Berkland Baptist Church-Boston changed its name to Antioch Baptist Church in Cambridge, Mass.



The international missions outreach the Kims initiated through what is now Antioch Baptist Church has morphed to include summer mission trips to more than 10 countries, 13 church plants in five nations, and 60 international missionary families totaling 100 adults and children. For the past 30 years, Antioch and many of its church plants have led summer mission trips to an expanding list of countries, which has included China, Japan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, East Timor, Myanmar, the Republic of Georgia, Turkey, Alaska and Armenia. Paul Kim is now Antioch's pastor emeritus and serves as the SBC Executive Committee's Asian American relations consultant.

The Kims and Antioch Baptist Church senior pastor David Um were among 180 leaders and members from their church plants who marked the church's 30th international missions anniversary in Korea May 27–June 6.

During 12 meetings on seven university campuses in Seoul and Daegu, the team presented the Gospel to 222 Korean college students. While no official decisions for Christ were recorded, Rebekah Kim said several seeds were planted.

Three of the college students who made the original trip to Korea in 1987 returned this year, including Fairbanks, Alaska missionary Soomi Suh, and pastor Sam Kang and his wife Christine, already based in Korea. Two others the Kims mentored and disciplined, John Kim and Christopher Liu, also made the trip.

John Kim, who immigrated to the U.S. from Korea 40 years ago as a child, will return to Korea at the end of 2017 to work in ministry there, he told Baptist Press. He's a deacon at Philadelphia Mission Baptist Church, Antioch's church plant in Philadelphia, Pa., and is taking online classes at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS).

"I really got the sense that, working in Korea or working for our mission there, even though I don't deserve it, I just want to be a part of that," he said. "God is working; why not join Him where He's working? He is the Lord."

By focusing their ministry on college students, Antioch Baptist Church has had the privilege of mentoring and ordaining indigenous pastors at all of their church plants, including five in Korea, five in the U.S., one in Uzbekistan, one in the Republic of Georgia, and one in Armenia. The Armenian ministry is Antioch's newest, launched just one month ago on July 2.

A highlight of the Korean trip was the dedication service of the Katie Prayer and Mission House, named for the late missionary Katie Kim whom Rebekah disciplined, and the inaugural worship service of Providence Baptist Church in Goesan.

Pastor Um has continued Antioch's commitments to both the Cooperative Program of funding Southern Baptist missions and ministry, as well as missions led and funded individually by Antioch. The \$30,000 the church gave to the CP in 2015, 5.5 percent of undesignated receipts, placed the church third in the state in CP contributions, according to SBC records.

"Our church's goal for CP giving is this: as much as possible. Missions and evangelism, including CP, comprise the largest portion of our church's budget, by a significant margin," Um told BP. "We don't own a church building and we don't have any full-time staff. We spend our money for God's Kingdom purpose, because where our treasure is, our heart will be also."

Um and Antioch's entire staff are bivocational, he said. For a few years, 2010-2014, Antioch's CP giving dwindled to between 2.7 percent and 0.5 percent of undesignated receipts, as Antioch's budget was strained to care for their missionaries, Um told BP.

"During those five years of decline ... we were spending \$600,000 a year to support 100 missionaries (including children) around the world. It was a strain on our budget," Um said. "We've always believed in fully supporting our own mission work, as well as contributing to the CP. The mission churches eventually mature and become self-funding, as missionaries get jobs locally."

The latest trip to Korea coincided with the 50th anniversary of Paul Kim's first arrival in the U.S. as an unsaved 19-year-old in 1967, when he joined other family members in Hawaii. He accepted Christ in August, 1968 during a 30-day furlough in Hilo, Hawaii, Kim said, while serving two years in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

"I felt God's call [to] the Gospel ministry in my senior year in college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo in 1973," Paul Kim said. He earned a master of divinity degree from SWBTS and was ordained for Gospel ministry by the late W.A. Criswell, then pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas.

Paul Kim's commitment to international missions included 10 years as an International Mission Board trustee, when he visited and encouraged Southern Baptist missionaries in more than 40 countries.

"I believe the church ought to obey the Great Commission in making disciples for church growth, whom the Lord has promised," he said, citing Matthew 28:16-20, and 1 Corinthians 3:6-8. "A pastor ought to lead his congregation on missions with God by example, to plant multiple churches overseas to fulfill the Great Commission."

54. BERKLAND CHURCH NETWORK GIFTS \$100,000 FOR MISSION ENTERPRISES THROUGH CSBC

By Terry Barone, published Mar 01, 2022 in California Southern Baptist Convention News

FRESNO—A \$100,000 gift for California Southern Baptist Convention church planting, revitalization and collegiate missions has been received from the Berkland Baptist Church Network.

The Network began with the founding of Berkland Baptist Church on March 1, 1981 in Berkeley by Drs. Paul and Rebekah Kim. A decade later, the Kims moved to Boston and planted what is now Antioch Baptist Church in Cambridge, MA. Since then, the Network has evolved into 11 churches in five countries. Koinonia Community Baptist Church in Long Beach is the only CSBC congregation in the Network.



In addition to supporting the ministry of CSBC, the Network also gifted \$100,000 to the Alaska Baptist Resource Network where they planted a church and \$1 million to the Baptist Convention of New England. The decision to donate \$1.2 million to mission work among these entities was made when 400 members of the extended church family gathered in Plymouth, MA in November 2021 to celebrate the Network's 40th anniversary and the 400th anniversary of Thanksgiving. Shortly after, all network congregations approved the gifts.

With a passion for church planting, the network gave the gift to CSBC because the Kims believe “the biblical principle that churches plant churches. Local churches and state/regional conventions and associations know the area and its people best.”

The gift is an unrestricted grant for “church planting and revitalization efforts, as well as other ministries” of CSBC, according to a letter notifying the Convention of the donation.

Pete Ramirez, CSBC associate executive director, said, “The Convention is grateful to Berkland Baptist Church Network and Drs. Paul and Rebekah Kim for this gift which will assist in funding 55 church plants sponsored by CSBC and revitalization ministries of many CSBC congregations which have plateaued or declined.

“One of the most exciting things about the gifts is the support of college students for summer missionary programs through CSBC. We are eager to roll out once again a program of allowing college students to be on mission, a tradition among Southern Baptists. It was a life-changing experience for me and will be again for other college students because of this gift.”

Francis Chung, leader of the CSBC Missions Initiatives Team, said, “A portion of these funds will be used to restore a pipeline of future denominational leaders, pastors, and missionaries as CSBC restarts the summer missionary ministry in California. Many current leaders were once summer missionaries, so it is imperative that we launch this ministry to identify, pray for, equip, and mentor the next generation.

“When I consider the financial gift of the Berkland Network and Drs. Paul and Rebekah Kim, I recall the church in Philippi that gave generously to Paul and his ministry. In thankfulness, Paul wrote, ‘And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.’ May the same be said of the Kim’s and the Berkland family of churches, and may God be magnified as California Southern Baptists re-engage young adults for Christ.”