



A Love That Drives Out Fear

I once knew a person that said to me that he was afraid of getting into a relationship because of the fear that either he would be incapable of loving the other person as they deserved, as well as the possibility of not being loved as he would expect to be.

Fear of the absence of love in one's life is often hard for many to deal with. Some wonder who they can share their love with, while others wonder if they could ever find love at all in this world.

We are so fortunate as Christians that God's written word has a message for us even in our uncertain emotional concerns.

1 John 4:16-19 states, "*And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us.*"

How awesome is our God that He loves us so much that he sent His son Jesus to come into this world. To live our life, to understand our fears, to feel our deficiencies and to give us all

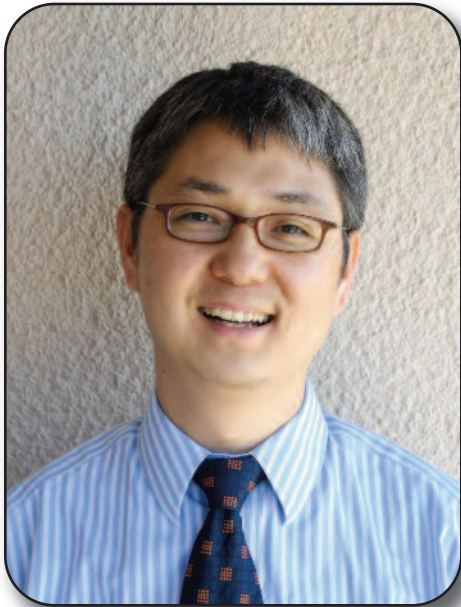
that we can need and more. His everlasting love!

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「ごあいさつ」

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2月に入りました。日本では「節分」です。「季節の始まり」、「季節の分け目」という意味です。一年中で一番寒い時期(日本では)ですが、心はイエス様の温もりで満たされています。

SDA中央教会を代表いたしまして、ご挨拶を申し上げます。教会の内外におきまして、貴重なお時間や能力のご支援、さらには経済的なご援助を惜しみなく捧げてくださいます多くの方々に、感謝を申し上げます。

日々の教会活動、役員のみなさまの情熱に加えまして、敬老会、クリスマス会や餅つき大会、婦人会等の活動には、お忙しい中、足をお運びくださり、重ねて感

謝いたします。これらの行事が大成功を修められましたのは、みなさまのお助けによるものです。ありがとうございました。

パサデナ市にわたしたちの教会堂を購入するため、タウンホールミーティングやビジネスミーティングの積極的なご参加、ご提案、そしてご決断(投票)は、胸躍る経験でした。エスクローの段階に入りましたので、無事このプロセスが進んでいきますようにお祈り下さい。引越、多少の改築修繕作業、記念礼拝等、今年には多くの新会堂プロジェクトのために資金が必要となりますので、そのことも覚えてご加禱ください。

季節の始まりに、一つご紹介させて頂きたいマザーテレサのエピソードがございます。

ひとりの女性が、マザーテレサ取材するためインドに出かけ、自分の国に帰ってきてから早速、地方紙に記事を書きました。カルカッタの道ばたで、ダンボール箱で寝床をつくりそれを住処としている女性に出会いました。彼女は孤児の赤ん坊を抱えています。しかし、病気のため全身を動かす事ができません。何年もの間、その場所でただじつと座っているのです。それらを世話しているのが、マザーテレサでした。

取材中、「これは地獄だ、地獄だ」と繰り返し口走り、なんとかこの悲惨な状況から、孤児の赤ん

坊と女性を救ってやりたいと願いました。

そのためには、今の仕事を辞めて、この場所でマザーテレサに弟子入りしよう、とまで考えました。

しかし、それを聞いたマザーテレサは、次のようにアドバイスしました。

「誤解してはだめですよ。自分の生活、自分の職業を変えてはいけません。今の立場はあなたの特権です。それを使いなさい。あなたの見たこと(貧困)のためにそれをういなさい。たった1人を助けるだけでも、たった1セントを分けてあげるだけでも、もしみんながそれを実行すれば、世界を変えられます。だから、そのままのあなたで、そのままのあなたを使って、人を助けなさい。」

マザーテレサのアドバイスを、わたしたちも心に留めておきましょう。

私たちはこれまでも、自分の能力、時間、寄付などを神様と人々のために捧げてまいりました。近隣の人々にお役にたてることを続けながら、共にイエス・キリストのために進んでいきましょう。セントラル教会がイエス・キリストの福音を証するため、地域の人々にキリストの愛を実践できるよう、今後ともみなさまの熱いご支援を賜りますように、お願い申し上げます。

Looking Ahead...

It's now February, which in Japan, marks the end of the winter season. Called setsubun in Japanese, it means both the beginning of a season and a period that divides two seasons. Though in Japan it's the coldest time of the year, our hearts are filled with the warm hope found in Jesus Christ.

As a representative of the Los Angeles Central Japanese SDA Church, I would like to say a few words. Firstly, to the many people who so selflessly support our church with their precious time, talents, and finances, from within and outside our congregation, I offer my sincerest gratitude. To our passionate staff that performs the daily work of the church: the Elderly Ministry, Women's Ministry, the organizers of our Christmas and Mochitsuki events, and to all who, despite your busy schedules, sacrifice much for the church, again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your help has made all these events and ministries a great success. Thank you.

The process we've gone through to purchase our new church in Pasadena – the town hall and business meetings we held where we proposed ideas and voted on them – has been

a very heart-throbbing experience. Even now that we're in escrow, as a church family, we still continue to actively pray for a smooth conclusion to this transaction. The upcoming move, building renovation/repair, proceeding Dedication Service, and many forthcoming building projects will all require capital we do not have. Please remember to continue to pray for those things.

With the start of our "new season", I would like to share an episode from the life of Mother Teresa, as reported by a woman who went to India to cover a story on her. Upon her return to her own country, she immediately published her story in the local newspaper she wrote for. On the roadsides of Calcutta, the reporter met a woman who had made a "home" of cardboard boxes. The woman was cradling an orphan baby. For many years, that woman could no longer move her body due to disease. It was Mother Teresa who bore the burden of caring for her and people like her. "This is hell, this is hell," the reporter repeatedly told herself while conducting her research. She wished there was some way to rescue this paralyzed woman and baby from their wretched condition. She rea-

soned that the only way to help them was to quit her job reporting and become a disciple of Mother Teresa in India. When Mother Teresa heard the reporter's murmurings, she gave the reporter this advice: "Don't make the mistake of changing your life or your job, because you've been put in a privileged position. Use it; use it for things like this that you've seen here. Even if you help one person, even if you give one penny, if everybody would do that, it would make a difference. So don't change what you have, use it to help."

Let's take Mother Teresa's advice to heart. We've all continually offered our precious abilities, time, and money to God and for the sake of others. Let us continue to serve the people in our community, all the while drawing closer to Jesus Christ. So that our LA Central Japanese Church can prove the gospel of Jesus Christ, to put into practice Christ's love to the people in our surrounding area, hereafter, we humbly request and are honored to receive your fervent support. Thank you.

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食べ放題なれど、かむのを忘れずに!



今年になって日本では、6人の人がお餅を食べて亡くなっています。更に18人の人が入院となり、そのうちの5人は重態です。お餅にまつわる事故が多いため、ある会社が喉に突っ掛った食べ物を取り出すための掃除機に取り付ける備品を作ったほどです。ロスアンジェルス中央教会で1月16日に行われた毎年恒例の餅つき大会では一人も死傷者を出すことなく、しいて言えば、食べすぎでおなかが腫れてしまった事意外問題もなく無事に行われました。

今年のお餅つきには、150人もの

方々が訪れ、そのうち100人は教会員ではない訪問者の方という盛況振りでした。老いも若きも、もち米を蒸かすことから始まり、ついたり、こねたり、食べるために丸めたりともち作りに励みました。あんこ、納豆、更にはキムチなどの様々なトッピングが出来上がったばかりのお餅といただけるようにと用意されました。なんとお餅ツツフルもありました!

お餅を昔ながらに杵でつく他に、くじ引きや、ジャンピングハウスなどの楽しいアクティビティもありました。くじ引き

では教会が用意した賞品が3人の方に当たり、二つ用意されたジャンピングハウスでは、中には40歳を超えた「子供たち」も混じって遊んでいました。婦人会は手作りのキムチを販売しました。

神様の祝福の元にととても楽しい行事となりました。今年いらっしやれなかった方々、心配することはありません。来年があります。その節には、喉に突っ掛った食べ物を吸引する掃除機の備品を忘れずに!

b y まき

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

Just remember to chew!



written by: Maki-kun

This year in Japan, at least 6 people died by mochi consumption. An additional 18 people were hospitalized, 5 of which were in critical condition! Mochi-related deaths are so common over there, that a vacuum company actually made a special attachment to suck out stuck food from people's throats! You'll be glad to know that at LACJ's annual Mochitsuki Taikai, held on January 16th, there were ZERO fatalities and the closest anyone came to injury was from bloated stomachs from over-eating the gooey, white goodness. This year's event had an awesome turnout of over 150 atten-

dees, with close to 100 of them visitors and non-church members! Young and old gathered to cook rice, pound it, fold it, and then form it into mochi balls, ready for eating. At the end of the assembly line, you had your choice of toppings, mild-to-wild, ranging from anko to natto or even kimchee! There were even mochi waffles!!!

Besides learning how to make mochi the back-breaking, traditional way, there were also many other activities going on: Three lucky raffle winners were awarded prizes, courtesy of LACJ. Our very own Family Fun

Night in-reach ministry hosted, not one, but TWO bounce houses for the kids...some of which were in their 40s, but you couldn't tell. The Women's Ministry group also sold their fresh, homemade kimchee!

If you haven't been to LACJ in a while, you're really missing out... and we're really missing you! God has richly blessed this event with great food and the best church family you'll ever find. If you missed out this year, don't fret – there's always next year. Oh, and just in case, bring your vacuum attachments.

熊本南部教会の話

武田慶子

約3年前の2008年の春、私が訪ねた熊本の小さな教会について書いてみたいと思う。

約2ヶ月になる日本への里帰り中、何度かは教会に行ったほうがいいと思い、電話帳で調べると私の滞在先熊本には、SDA熊本教会があるのがわかった。母の住む家から車で1時間半の、空港に近いこの熊本教会を尋ねたとき、母の家の近くにもう一つSDA熊本南部教会というのがあるということがわかった。次週の週末、熊本教会の吉村牧師先生が集会に来られるというので、私も熊本南部教会に参加することにした。

母の住む熊本県三角町は、人口約1万3000人余り、天草の入り口にほど近い海辺の小さな町である。産業は主にみかんの栽培と漁業である。町には小さなお寺が二件ばかりある。そんな小さな町の、さらに小さな集落に熊本南部教会はあった。そこは、住宅がひしめき合う小さな丘に建つ、小さな教会だった。驚くことに、この熊本南部教会は、山口さんという80歳を過ぎたおじいさんが自宅の横に建てた教会だということ。こんなに小さな町になぜ教会が、しかもセブンスデイアドベンチストの教会が存在するのか、非常に興味をそそられた私は、山口さんがどのように信仰に導かれたのか尋ねてみた。

青年だった山口さんは、ある日ラジオで

キリスト教の説教を聞き感銘を受け、教会に通うようになった。毎週末熊本市内の教会へ、夏の暑い日も冬の寒い日も片道2時間の道のりを自転車を通ったのだという。特に風の強い日や、雨の激しい日に通うのはつらかったという。しかし強い信仰が、山口さんを教会へと導いたのだろう。山口さんは一度芽生えた信仰を貫き、初めは反対していた父親も、亡くなる前にはキリスト教を受け入れ、クリスチャンとしてお葬式を出すことができたのだという。

熊本南部教会の内部には、前に祭壇とピアノがある。床には絨毯が敷いてあり、二人がけのベンチが両側にある、20人ばかりが入るサイズだ。主に、山口さんの息子夫婦、孫たちが参加する家庭教会という感じだ。私が訪ねたときは洗足聖餐式の日だったので、息子と一緒に洗足聖餐式を行った。礼拝後の昼食時に、山口さんは、「今日は本当に感動しました。子供にも洗足聖餐式を行わせるべきですね」と語った。小さな子供にも洗足聖餐式受けさせるのは、貴重な信仰体験だと思ったのだろう。

私は今回、周りにイエス様の存在を語る者が誰もいなかったこんなに小さな町で、ラジオでイエス様に出会い、自宅に教会を建てるまでになった強い信仰をもつ山口さんに対し、驚きとともに深い感銘を受けたのだ。

The Story of Southern Kumamoto SDA

by: Keiko-san

I'd like to write about my experience visiting a small church in Kumamoto, three years ago in the spring of 2008.

While spending about two months in Japan visiting home, I often felt that I should go to church. So I opened the telephone book and found an SDA church in Kumamoto, where I once used to live. Kumamoto church, as it turns out is about 1.5 hours from where my mom lives and is very near the airport. What I didn't know until I did a little more research was that there's yet another, smaller, SDA church called Southern Kumamoto, which happened to be really close to my mother's house. I also found out that a Pastor Yoshimura was coming to preach at Southern Kumamoto church that next week, so I decided I would attend.

My mother lives in Sankaku-machi (Kumamoto prefecture) which is really close to the entrance of Amakusa and is a small town near the beach with a population of roughly 10,300 people. Its two main industries are fishing and cultivating satsuma, and boasts two Buddhist temples. And in this small "village" of Sankaku, on a small hill crammed-in amongst many smaller houses, is the even smaller Southern Kumamoto SDA church. Surprisingly, this church was built by an 80+ year-old man named Yamaguchi-san, adjacent to his house. I was so intrigued by this anomaly and wondered why, in this small, small town, there was a church – a Seventh-day Adventist church – I felt I had to hear Yamaguchi-san's story about his faith that led him to build a church there. When Yamaguchi-san was a young, he was deeply impressed by a Christian sermon he heard

on the radio, and so he started to attend church. So every weekend, through both the blistering-hot summer and bitter-cold winter months, he would ride his bicycle two hours, one-way, to the Kumamoto SDA church. The extremely windy days and really rainy days were especially hard for him to travel to church, but his strong faith kept him going. One event in particular that helped grow his faith was when his once-disapproving father accepted Christ before his passing, and he was able to have a Christian funeral for him.

The interior of Southern Kumamoto SDA church is simple, with an altar and a piano in the front. There's a runner dividing a few benches-for-two on either side of the aisle, and sits about twenty. It really is more like a family-church, being that his son, his son's wife, and his grandchildren all attend this church. The Sabbath I visited, they were having communion and I got to witness Yamaguchi-san and his son wash each other's feet in the Ordinance of Humility. He testified by saying, "Today I was so deeply moved – to have experienced communion and the washing of my son's feet – an experience that should happen." It was obvious he felt that sharing in communion with his son from a very young age was such an important faith experience.

From this experience – meeting a man who came from a small town where nobody even knew the existence of Jesus, who found Him on the radio, and who later built a church on his property, this faithful Yamaguchi-san – I found myself deeply impressed and astonished.

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