

TWO BIBLES WORN OUT UNTIL THEY FELL TO PIECES

(A letter to Dr. Samuel Lee after his departure to heaven)

Shepherd John (Chul Ki) Kim
Chong No UBF

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.” (Psalm 1:2)



Wonderful Genesis Bible Study With Dr. Lee (1972)

Dear Mokjanim! (Mokjanim means shepherd) In the past, I was too lazy to write to you. But your sudden departure struck me like a thunder bolt. So now I want to express my heart with my pen. I tried and tried to write something, but I could not pour out my heart as I wanted. I threw my pen and paper away many times. Finally, I gave up and told myself that I could not write anything. However, I had to write my last letter to you. I did not know that my first letter to you would be one that you could not read.

When I arrived at the O'Hare International airport to attend the 2001 UBF International Summer Bible Conference, you welcomed me warmly. You wore an army suit and a big smile from ear to ear. You shook my hand, addressing me as if I were a VIP and you mentioned that I was the author of one book of John's gospel lectures. I was a little embarrassed, but I was so happy and thankful. I felt so bad when I saw your swollen hands and deep facial wounds and laceration with sutures. I already saw the shadow of death coming near you then. More than that, when I thought of those who were

attacking this sick and old servant of God so cruelly, I felt deep pain in my heart. But you loved God so much that not even physical sickness could keep you from giving your heart and all your strength to serving God. No one could stop you. At the ISU International Summer Conference you gave such powerful and heart moving announcements that most of us were confused, thinking that you were 17 instead of 70 years old. One person who heard that you had left us cried so much because he had thought that you would be around at least 17 more years.

But I knew in my heart that you were not a person who would just keep on breathing for the sake of surviving. I heard that even in your weak physical condition you served the 2001 Christmas Worship Service with a powerful and graceful message, "Glory to God, Peace to Men" which contained the secret of God's incarnation as a baby in a manger. I heard that you served the message with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength, literally. Because of this, you even needed oxygen to help you breathe. Because of your great love for God, you exhausted all of your strength and went to heaven at the beginning of this year. I knew all along that you were such a person so I was not much surprised at your going home in such way.

Mokjanim (I say it in Korean because it expresses my deep affection), I cannot call you in any other way because from the beginning till now you have been my shepherd. I first came to know you when I was a freshman in junior high school. At that time, I shared a room with my older brother, Paul, who was a student in Chun Nam University in Kwangju. Later, he was a missionary in New York. You visited my brother. You were around 30 years old; you were short, about five feet tall. You looked so spirited and confident—like a flash of lightning.

I began my Christian life from 1972. Even before having had my physical exam to enter the college, I was already attending Chong No UBF, listening to your messages and announcements. At that time, I was humanly very strong and very

rebellious. Even though your messages were so gracious and powerful, my heart was like a path, smooth and hard, bouncing back the word of God, not letting it into my heart. You gave me the nickname "Ugly duckling." While my fellow student coworkers accepted the life-giving word of God with great joy and repentance, jumping, dancing and singing, I was not moved at all, but slouched in the corner of the center. However, God did not leave me alone. God extended his mercy even to me. When I was a junior in college, God gave me Mark 2:5, "Son, your sins are forgiven." I heard Jesus' voice, "Son, your sins are forgiven" and repented. I was born again and obtained God's precious salvation. After that, my name was changed from "Ugly duckling" to "Swan." In fall of that same year, my small fellowship had a Genesis Bible School. There I delivered a main lecture. In your announcements you spoke so highly about my message that all the staff shepherds in Seoul came to hear my lecture. This was an unforgettable and glorious memory in my life.

You embraced and bore all kinds of egocentric and high-minded students like me and led them to Jesus until they could receive eternal salvation through Jesus. I praise and thank God for his great work done in campuses all over the world

through you, when you, my shepherd, loved young students as yourself. The stories are too numerous for me to tell. I cannot speak of all the great things that God has done through you. But I want to mention a few. God sent 1,600 missionaries to 87 nations through your prayer. God has used Korea as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation through your prayer. You left us with a great spiritual heritage—to study the Bible, deliver the messages based on the Bible passage, testimony writings, layman missionary movement, native campus mission, PhD shepherds, manger spirit, giving spirit, soldier spirit, pioneering spirit, one-to-one ministry, absolute gospel faith, mission-oriented life, blood shedding prayer life, etc. How could this great work of God come through God's work in one man? I cannot but confess that you were not just a small, old man who was five foot tall, but you were a giant, and a great man of faith.

Mokjanim! I was pondering about one thing after your departure. How could God use you to do so many great things? What was the secret? Finally, I came to know the secret through your son Dr. Samuel A. Lee's testimony that he shared on your 70th year birthday celebration. Dr. Samuel A. Lee delivered a message based on Psalm 1:2, "Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord,



Announcements That Always Made Us Laugh (Seoul, 1998)

and who meditates on his law day and night." The living word of God was the secret of success in your life and ministry. Many people wanted to know the secret of your success and wanted to imitate your style for their own success. But you confessed that the secret of your success in pioneering SNU in the late 1960's and early 1970's was that you spent two whole years in studying the word of God until two Bibles were worn out completely and fell to pieces. Through your confession, I learned your absolute love of the Bible. Although I did not learn your spirit and love of the Bible, I applied this spirit in my CPA test. I wrote on the cover page of the book I was studying, "Study this book until it is worn out and falls to pieces." As a result, I passed the CPA exam. You became a truly blessed man by studying the Bible again and again until your Bible was worn out and fell to pieces. Through your Bible study, you came to understand the chemistry of the Bible and learned the wisdom of God. Through your Bible study, you discovered the hope and vision of God, "World Mission Vision". Through the Bible, you gained indomitable courage. Through the Bible, you had resurrection faith. Through the Bible, you learned

never-give-up spirit. Through the Bible, you learned the unending patience and perseverance that overcomes any kind of sufferings and difficulties. Through the Bible, you learned the unfailing love of God. In obedience to the Bible, you invested your whole life, believing the living hope in the heavenly kingdom. Indeed, your deep love for the word of God made you a truly blessed man and a hero of faith in Christian history and a real giant.

My dear Mokjanim! My key verse for the year 2002 is Psalm 1:2, "But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night." You gave me this one word of God and went to heaven. Now it is the time for us to separate. I have to stay in this troubled world a little longer. But I remember Jesus' farewell message to his disciples when he had to leave them in the world, "...and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." It seems to be the life principle that to be separated is the way to be together to the very end of the age. The spiritual legacy you left for us will be with me and with all your spiritual descendants. Eternal rest and peace be with you until we meet again in heaven!



REJOICE IN JESUS' SUFFERING: Korea, A Missionary Sending Nation (WMR Seoul, 1998)

WHAT I LEARNED FROM THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF DR. SAMUEL LEE

Dr. Joseph Schafer
Penn State UBF Director

"...you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Exodus 19:6a)



At the beginning of this new year, God chose to promote Dr. Samuel Lee, from earthly life to the kingdom of heaven. I thank God for using him for the last forty years as a shepherd, Bible teacher, and world mission director. Many things have been said about him. The message and testimonies delivered at his homecoming ceremony on January 12 were heart-moving, and I cannot improve upon them. But I will briefly mention some of what I learned from him, both from the advice and shepherding he personally gave to me since I began Bible study in 1981, and from observing him lead the UBF ministry over the last twenty years.

A man without fear. Most people in this world do not say what they really think. They calculate and carefully manipulate their words to win approval and curry favor with

others. Dr. Lee always said what was on his mind and in his heart. He spoke the truth-- not what others wanted to hear, but what he believed was God's way. He was not interested in being popular or maintaining good public relations but with helping individuals. He was never afraid to help coworkers or students in unconventional ways, even if it could be misinterpreted or criticized. The literal meaning of the word pastor is "shepherd," but in this post-Christian era, many pastors have turned into politicians. Dr. Lee was a pastor in the purest sense, willing to sacrifice himself for the sheep.

A man with deep insight into individuals' problems. When we study John's gospel, we learn that Jesus the Good Shepherd knew his sheep by name. For example, a Pharisee named Nicodemus once came to Jesus at night and spoke some flattering words. Jesus ignored his flattery, looked him in the eyes, and said, "You must be born again." Jesus' words cut to the heart of each man. John 2:24-25 says: "But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all men. He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man." Dr. Lee was not Jesus. But God gave him a little bit of Jesus' insight to help individuals with the truth of God. When I began Bible study in

1981, I was a 115-pound college freshman with a proud and selfish mind. Dr. Lee was generous toward me, but from the beginning he perceived that my life was crippled by fear. He saw that I was too fearful to make real decisions of faith. Other people may have thought that I was "good shepherd material" because I was attending MIT, a top American university. But Dr. Lee never thought that. He believed I was good shepherd material because I had independent faith, a more-or-less pure heart, and a sincere desire to please God. But he also knew that I would be forever unsuccessful if I did not overcome the paralyzing grip of inner fear. Over the years, Dr. Lee trained me in many ways to overcome fear. He appointed me as a conference messenger even though I was not qualified. He challenged me to find a tall girlfriend, one who was six feet tall, so that I could learn the spirit of conquest. He trained me to speak out loud at meetings. He helped me to learn that I must live before God, not before men. The training I received from him was not large in quantity but in quality. Learning to overcome the spirit of fear has been enormously important to me, not only for my ministry but also for my personal life and for my professional career as a college professor.

A man who respected God's word, Dr. Lee had an interesting and unique method of Bible study. When he delivered messages, he did not speak from the mind but from the heart. The vast majority of preachers today use topical Bible study, bringing together passages from here and there to make a point. This method is popular, but it suffers from a severe drawback: the one preparing the message already has a preconceived idea of what the main point must be, so he rarely learns much beyond what he already knows. This method does not challenge one to deeply examine his own personal and cultural prejudices to see if they agree with the revealed truth in God's word. Instead of using topical Bible study, Dr. Lee always used expositional study. He covered each chapter of the Bible in detail. But he did not give equal weight to each verse, because he believed that each message must have a point. The job of a messenger is not to convey information, but to plant one word of God in the listener's heart. Often he said to me: "You know, the content of your message is very good. But there is a problem. It cannot move a sinner's heart. Right now, your message can move the heart of a good person. But you have to move the heart of a sinner." He also said: "The problem is that your heart is not moved. How can you move someone's heart if your own heart is not moved? You must pray until the word of God moves your own heart." Over the years I have come to respect his Bible study material. From his manuscripts, I sense that he was always learning something new, always teaching himself first.

The most important thing I learned: the main point of the Bible is not personal salvation but world salvation. As I was driving back home to Pennsylvania from Dr. Lee's homecoming ceremony on January 12, I was listening to various programs on Christian radio stations. I was struck by the fact that the preaching was focused on how to overcome personal moral and character problems such as worry, fear, arguing with your spouse, dealing with loss due to sickness or the death of loved ones. The teaching was reasonable, but I noticed that something fundamental was missing. No one was talking about participating in God's plan for world salvation. If modern American Christians could forget everything they learned and read the Bible again for the first time, they would have to conclude that the main point of the Bible is that God earnestly desires to bring all people of the world back to the kingdom of God. The intervention of God in each person's life can be summarized in two words: first, "I will bless you"; second, "You will be a blessing." For the most part, American

churchgoers have deeply accepted the first and ignored the second. Through Dr. Lee's teaching and personal example, I learned that the main struggle of a Christian is not to overcome the personal difficulties of life, but rather, to open your heart wide to make God's desires your desires, to make God's plan your plan. We were not born to receive benefits from God, but to cwork with him as he carries out his world redemption history. This is well summarized by Dr. Lee's life key verse, Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." It is also captured in essence by the one prayer topic he gave to American UBF: "May God make America a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." He challenged each of us to make this prayer topic our own. In doing so, he became a man of good influence. Now his earthly life is over, but his influence is only beginning to be felt throughout the world. May God help us to deeply accept this direction and pray until America becomes a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.



May God Make America A Kingdom Of Priests And A Holy Nation

DR. SAMUEL LEE—THE PERSON AND THE WORK

Dr. Paul Hong
Toledo UBF Director

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)



On January 2, 2002, I visited Dr. Samuel Lee and met with him. I did not expect that it would be the last time. He had an oxygen device attached to his nose. As usual, his spirit was indomitable. However, he also shared his deep concerns about the UBF ministry. His heart was in deep sorrow. He said, “I do not sleep well these days—five or six hours at night; I simply cannot sleep.” His agonies of soul seemed to be great. In a few days God would take him to his real home through fire—like a burnt offering. His pains that he endured were enormous. Even so, the focus of our conversation was Toledo UBF. He spoke about Kevin Reilly, Carol Gamber, and Abraham Nolan. He asked me about my two daughters—Sarah and Faith. I felt a great sense of love toward him. I expressed my appreciation for his many years of mentoring me. I reminded him that I received a Ph.D. through his direction. I held his two swollen hands and prayed for him—for God’s healing and God’s comfort.

Over the years, God showed me through Dr. Samuel Lee the glory and sufferings of being God’s servant. I observed how wonderful it is to speak for God and lead people to God. No occupation in this world can accomplish such a glorious work. On the

other hand, I also saw the sufferings of being God’s servant. Throughout his life and ministry, Dr. Samuel Lee passed through severe tests, particularly in 1976, 1990, and 2000-2001. I was not far away because I personally knew the situations. In a passive sense, these experiences made me wonder whether it was worthwhile pursuing life as a servant of God. In a positive sense, I could look up to the beautiful face of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the final moment Jesus cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mk 15:34). God had forsaken him. People abandoned him. Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble” (Jn 16:33). Sufferings are a part of the essential steps for serious people of faith. Apostle Paul said, “At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them” (2 Ti 4:16). How could Christ and Apostle Paul be so deserted and abandoned? Why? Some people still regard the sufferings that Dr. Samuel Lee endured as being the results of his decisions, behaviors and actions. Increasingly, I accept that the extent of sufferings may probably be due to more complex reasons including the very nature of ministry, interpersonal dynamics, changing environments, and the power of evil that works against us. God will give the final evaluation of his person and work. In time, historians will objectively evaluate his work. Therefore, I limit myself to think of Dr. Samuel Lee based on my personal encounters with him since 1970. One main question I would like to focus on is, “Who was Dr. Samuel Lee?”

First, Dr. Samuel Lee was a man in Christ. I remember many wonderful messages he delivered over the years. The messages I remember the most made impacts on my spiritual formation. I would like to share some of them: (1) In 1973, I listened to him speaking on Exodus 19:5-6. It was about God’s training of the Israelites in the wilderness. Specifically, it was about eagles’ training. I don’t know whether or not a mother eagle really picks up her little eaglet just before hitting the ground, but this message made a deep impression on me. His

message helped me to know God's heart desire for his people. God wants his people to be disciplined in holiness. Since then, I have tried to maintain a positive attitude toward God's training in any form. One Sunday in October 1976 he visited AnAmGol UBF and he delivered a message. In the middle of the message, he spoke some hard words against me. His points were: (1) Paul Hong is no good; (2) Paul Hong has no faith; (3) Instead of growing as a man of mission, he only thinks about his wife. I had no idea why he did that. That was one negative public comment he made. Besides, I had a few other such experiences. His comments were not always based on hard facts, which I could readily accept. Sometimes they were hard to take.

However, over the years I came to appreciate Dr. Samuel Lee's words: "Spiritual growth is through struggle with God, not with men." I decided not to struggle with him. I wanted to find any grain of truth in what he said. If not, I waited for the right time when I could understand better. I adopted three principles for my spiritual well-being around 1990: (1) Seek a grain of truth in what others say. If true, accept. If not, wait and see how God concludes the matter; (2) In all conflicts, practice 1 Thes. 5:16-18. Give thanks to God in all circumstances; (3) In all, don't be poisoned by others' bitterness or doubts.

(2) Self-denial and cross of mission. The message he delivered on Mark 8:34 and 35 was quite moving. It was when I was a sophomore in college. He delivered this message with great passion and affection for Christ. He also spoke in tears. I said to myself, "This must be serious." Since then, I heard this particular theme of message on numerous occasions. What made me to accept this word personally, however, was because with my own eyes I saw that he actually practiced self-denial and took up his cross of mission. In 1974 I decided take up the cross of mission for Christ and became a missionary.

Invisible influence and visible accomplishments. These points became evident through a message from the book of Judges, especially through the life of Gideon. Gideon was a nameless fellow in Israel when God called him. But God made him a great warrior. He started well but he did not end well. He had many wives and pursued honor and an easy life. Except for the influence of his heroic fighting against the Midianites, his influence was not good. All his sons were murdered immediately after his death. Visible accomplishments without invisible spiritual influence are short-lived. The point is this: real



Dr. Paul And Sarah Hong's Wedding, 1975

influence through my whole life is more critical than visible outcomes at a particular period of my life. Dr. Lee's message kept me considering a godly and healthy ministry from a much longer perspective.

(3) The meaning of "In Christ". At one staff meeting, sometime in 1976, Dr. Samuel Lee made a comment about people who only write letters to those based on their associations in their own chapters. I heard the word, "Judaism" for the first time. Referring to Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, Chapter 16, he explained the meaning of "a man in Christ". A man in Christ loves people as Christ loves. A man in Christ is a man of huge scale because Christ is Lord of all. He said, "We must be in Christ. We must love others not because of what they do for us, but because of who they are to Christ." A man in Christ has the heart of Christ by which he/she can bear so many.

With my natural tendency, I am happy with my narrow world. Before knowing Christ I was a slave of others' opinions. I focused on myself—my problems, interests, pains, and joys—all that was related to me--99.99% of time. Gradually, my world has slowly enlarged—little by little. One time Dr. Samuel Lee said, "The first step of love is to understand others. To understand others it is important to observe them, listen to them and think about them. Look at their eyes. You can see what is in their hearts and minds. Think about people whom you love." My wife and I were reunited one and half years after marriage because for some reason I

could not get a visa from the USA government. Anyway, during this time, I wrote many letters to her—even in many sweet poems I thought about my wife. Sometimes I looked at her picture and thought about her. As a parent, I think about my children. As Director in Toledo UBF, I think about many people in Toledo—their problems and their faces. Some Saturday nights I walk around the worship room and sit where people usually sit. There I think about them. I pray for them. Gradually, God gave me an attitude of relating, loving, and caring for people on a little larger scale. I usually end my letters with the phrase, “In Christ, Paul Hong”. I want to think about the meaning of “a man in Christ”. How wonderful it would be if we love others not because of what they do for us but because of who they are in Christ.

Dr. Samuel Lee loved me in hope. He did all as a man in Christ. In response, in the early 1980s, I made up my mind to love him—really love him because he was a man in Christ. Since then, I did not expect anything from him. I did not want to approach him because I wanted to get something out of him. Rather, I wanted to be of help to him in any way. This made my relationship with him free and fruitful. I knew his greatness. I also appreciated his humanity. Yet, I had no illusions about him. Strangely, I could understand him better. I accepted his humanity in all his strengths and weaknesses. I remember him as a man in Christ—he who knew, loved, and honored Christ with his life.

Second, Dr. Samuel Lee was a loyal servant of Christ. One distinct image he left in me is that he was God’s servant. His loyalty was first and foremost to God. He intended to please God more than people. He was willing to be rejected by people but not by God. As a rule, Dr. Samuel Lee did not engage in a lot of politics. When he came to the States, he said, “I will focus on my relationship with God first.” He did not relate to people in broad ways. His focus was in people in UBF. They were his people. He gave himself for these people whom God had put under his care.

UBF has deep roots in Presbyterian theology. Dr. Samuel Lee grew up in Presbyterian churches and graduated from a Presbyterian seminary. Mother Sarah Barry is a missionary from a Southern Presbyterian Mission. It is no wonder that I heard about John Calvin a lot from Dr. Samuel Lee. One of the core theologies of John Calvin is God’s glory—God’s glory first, then man’s happiness—please God first and then bless people.

The order is important. It is always godliness first and then our well-being. Through Dr. Samuel Lee I have learned a certain attitude toward God.

On serving God: Dr. Samuel Lee gave his whole-hearted devotion to one thing—the life of mission with God. We as lay missionaries do many things. We divide our time and carry a number of different responsibilities in life. Dr. Samuel Lee did one thing—he was a shepherd in UBF. He did not divert from this one goal. He finished the race. I work as a full-time professor at the University of Toledo. It is easy for me to divert my energy in many areas. However, I always remember the power of devotion to one thing that really matters.

On being a messenger: In 1975, Dr. Samuel allowed me to deliver a Sunday message in one of the main services. His advice was clear: “Prepare and deliver the message always with a repentant and thankful heart.” As a messenger I try to remember this always. A spirit of repentance allows us to seek God and find God’s message to us personally. A thankful heart lifts us to experience God in whatever circumstances and then present hope to the listeners.

Third, Dr. Samuel Lee was a good shepherd. Dr. Samuel Lee taught me the meaning of pastoral care. Dr. Samuel Lee was a charismatic leader. He had an image of a good general. Not all people loved him for his strong leadership style. However, he touched many through his effective and deep pastoral care. He introduced me to my wife, Sarah Hong, and presided at our wedding. He followed up on me for the past 26 years (since I personally formed a relationship with him in 1975). While working as a missionary, I sometimes lost my spirit. I did not want to call him. Every time I talked to him, I sensed a new spirit springing up from my soul. I wanted to be more loyal to Christ. I wanted to be faithful to Christ’s call. As a good shepherd he was ahead of all. I didn’t want him to be alone all by himself. Every time he saw my success, he was happy like a little child. He did not usually say nice things about me. But he spoke so kindly about me to others. He kept asking me, “What is your vision? What are your goals? Give me your prayer topics for 10 years.” He kept clarifying goals and pursuing them by faith.

Upon learning of his departure, the leaders in Toledo UBF gathered together. In 30 minutes, about 35 people gathered. Many came forward to share the work of God they experienced through Dr. Samuel

Lee's life and ministry. Russell Kille remembered how Dr. Samuel Lee called him in and provided him with a water-distilling device for his trip to Russia. Kevin Reilly remembered the wonderful sense of stewardship of Dr. Samuel Lee. He remembered how Dr. Samuel Lee zipped his overcoat and said, "I don't want you to get a cold." Even in many small ways, the evidences of his personal touch in people's lives were abundant. It is appropriate for me to recognize the work of God through Dr. Samuel Lee over the years.

People remain loyal to him primarily because they tasted the shepherd love of Jesus through him. In 1991, after my return from Russia, I became very sick. It was typhoid. However, doctors in Toledo did not immediately diagnose it. I was put on dialysis.

Nobody knew how long I had to do this. Dr. Lee prayed for my recovery. Through Dr. John Jun and others he found out the reason for my sickness. One night he came with a number of leaders to my room in the hospital. There, he prayed for me along with others. It was a quite moving moment. On so many occasions he addressed my personal and family life issues. Sometimes he was like a gentle father. Sometimes, he was like a tender mother to me.

At his homecoming ceremony, what mattered was not what others said about him. Rather, it was what his children and grandchildren said about him. He urged people to love God more than one's family members. That's what he did. He loved God more than his family members. Yet, he did not neglect his family members in order to grow in the love of God. His children are in the Lord. His children speak highly of him. That's is the mark of a quality life of faith.

Finally, Dr. Samuel Lee served the LORD with humility and in tears. Dr. Samuel Lee was a humble man. The mark of his humility was his constant progress and learning mind. On January 2, 2002, he spoke about 1 Co 13:11. He quoted Apostle Paul's words, "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me." He chose this as a key verse for this year. I was amazed. In his 70s he, with childlike faith, was willing to learn, grow, and make progress. He repeatedly told me, "The most important quality of God's servant is humility first, humility second, and humility last".



A Man In Christ, Dr. Paul Hong

As a humble man, he studied the Bible. He prayed. He built up people. He gave prayer topics for people with both small and large prayer topics (e.g., work, study, and feed sheep at the same time; raise up future spiritual leadership; get a Ph.D. in ten years; lose 20 pounds or gain 20 pounds depending on the needs of the persons; pioneer 560 campuses in the USA; 10,000 Bible teachers and 7,000 Ph.D. shepherds; 120 Upper Room Coworkers; Pioneer Russia; A Kingdom of Priests and A Holy Nation....) Finally, he has left a ministry that is much bigger than him. After God called him home, the UBF ministry is not in a crisis. The work of God continues. It is because God is here. God's people are here. God's vision is with us. Dr. Samuel Lee is a spiritual giant. The true mark of spiritual giants is the work that they leave behind.

I miss him. His legacy is great because he has left behind people in whom God dwells. We are the work that testifies the quality of his person. We are the evidence of his work. Of course, God did all.

Praise God who gave us the privilege of knowing Dr. Samuel Lee. We thank God for enjoying him for so many years. Most importantly, I thank God for allowing me to know a man who led me to Christ and to his people worldwide for whom I am willing to commit my life. May God answer Dr. Lee's prayer to make America a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

The Spiritual Legacy of Dr. Samuel Lee

Pastor Mark Vucekovich
DePaul UBF Director

"After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'" (Acts 13:22)



(Preface: I had a really hard time to write this. First of all, so many of you already know and have written about Dr. Lee's spiritual legacy much better than I could. I wondered what I could possibly add to it. But Dr. Mark Yoon said I should not write theoretically, but with personal stories. So I thought I could at least share these with you. Still, I had a hard time to write this, because of all people, I was privileged to work with Dr. Lee closely for a long time. I of all people should know his spiritual legacy. But frankly speaking, I feel I am nowhere near to living up to it. So I feel unworthy and self-conscious. But I repent and pray I may newly strive to live up to his legacy.)

I first met Dr. Samuel Lee in the spring of 1980, at the end of my freshman year in college at Northwestern University. It was at the Evanston Prayer House. It happened so quickly that I hardly remembered his face. At the time I didn't know anyone in UBF, nor had I ever studied the Bible, but

one Oriental lady who had been calling one of my roommates began calling me, for months, to come to Bible study. At the end of the school year I finally agreed to come to meet her. That day, I remember being introduced to a short Oriental man in a short-sleeve white shirt, and there were several Oriental women scurrying around him on the second floor of the prayer house. I thought that was kind of strange. Later that summer I attended the 1980 Niagara Falls Summer Bible conference—never having studied the Bible or attending any UBF meeting before. At one of the meetings in the Chemistry Lecture hall at Brock University, I noticed a small Korean man sitting on the stage. I couldn't remember ever seeing him before. I was sitting pretty far away from the stage, and there were several other people on the stage with him, but my gaze was attracted to him because I vividly remember noticing something unusual. I noticed that that small man's face was really shining. I said to myself, "Who is that man? His face is shining!" I asked someone, and I was told he was Missionary Samuel Lee, the founder of UBF. In his announcements he was talking about carrying the cross of ego or the cross of Jesus. Up until that point in my life, I had been carrying the heavy cross of my giant ego (which was pretty "giant" as a Northwestern student). I don't remember anything else he was saying, though; all I could do was to wonder how his face could be shining like that.

In September of 1980 I began one-to-one Bible study and attended the Chicago UBF worship services at the center on Clark Street. There, at my first Sunday worship service I saw Dr. Samuel Lee delivering the message in English; Dr. James H. Kim translated his message into Korean. I don't remember his message, but I do remember his announcements. He asked everyone to pray to evangelize 561 American college campuses and 157 nations. Everyone in the tightly packed room yelled "Amen!" I was shocked. I thought to myself, "Do these people realize what they are saying? That is totally impossible!" I became intrigued with the spiritual leadership of Dr. Samuel Lee, who could get

people to pray such an impossible prayer topic so wholeheartedly. As I attended the worship services each week and listened to his messages, I couldn't fully understand what he was saying. But I sensed that this man really has something to say. So I prepared myself to listen to his messages by bringing a small notebook. I decided to try to write down everything he was saying, so that I could understand better.

After several months of going to UBF Bible studies, fellowship meetings and worship services that fall, I went home to Gary, Indiana during the Christmas break, despite my shepherd's push to stay in Evanston and attend the Christmas worship service. At that time, since I was the last child at home, I felt a strong sense of obligation to help my mother, who was mentally ill. A few hours after I arrived at home, the phone rang. When I answered it, I was totally shocked to discover that it was Dr. Samuel Lee calling me. He asked me very politely, "Would you like to come back to Chicago and participate in our Christmas drama?" He said he needed me. For a few brief moments I was speechless. Then I found myself saying, "Sure, I'll come right away." When I hung up the phone, my parents asked me who it was. I told them, and said I had decided to go back and participate in the Christmas worship service. They said, "Wait a minute! You just got home!" But I started re-packing my clothes and left anyway, to their amazement. Ever since that past spring, when I first visited the Evanston Prayer House, I was having a very strong feeling that God was calling me to give my life to serve him in UBF. At the same time, I was getting way too involved with a girl I had met my freshman year, who seemed to be pulling me away into a life of sin. On the train ride back to Chicago that day, I made my decision not to hesitate or calculate anymore. I played one of the shepherds in the Christmas drama. We performed on the stage at the old Clark Street center. It was really a comedy.

After the Christmas worship service, Dr. Samuel Lee asked me to stay in Evanston and finish studying Genesis before the year was over. That meant studying a lesson every day. I decided to do it. When I finished, it was reported to Dr. Lee. He was very happy and said, "Now I'm going to train you to be a main lecturer at our Easter Conference." Again, I was shocked. He asked me to write long testimonies on the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph and come to share them at the Chicago UBF leaders' meetings as preparation. At that time

there were no other Americans at those meetings. I felt a little out of place. After sharing those 20-30 page testimonies, I began to study 1 Corinthians 15 with Dr. Lee. I had been studying 1:1 for seven months; now I was preparing to be a main lecturer to 500 of God's people. After teaching me the three lessons in 1:1 and listening to my testimonies, Dr. Lee asked me to memorize the entire chapter, and then, to memorize his three lectures and take written tests on them. During that time, the other messengers were also in training. But one of them was caught smoking marijuana in the basement of the prayer house; another ran away. I began to worry what would happen to me. I was good at memorizing, so I just concentrated on that. Dr. Lee was so surprised that I memorized his lectures perfectly (Missionary Sarah B. Choi checked my written tests). Then I received message performance training until I lost my voice, and I had severe diarrhea for the three days before I was to speak. Interestingly, my message was on "The Power of the Resurrection." For the first time I experienced that God is living. God's hand held me throughout that message. I didn't know what I said. But Dr. Lee liked my message so much that he kept a picture of me delivering that message for a long time in his office.

After the Easter conference, he asked me to write a life testimony in preparation to go to the World



Dr. Lee With Two Marks

Mission Report 1981 in Korea. I had to confess all my dark sins, and my sorrowful life problem was exposed. It was hard for me at that time to accept my life. Though I had been very ambitious, when I looked at my life honestly, I felt I was already washed up and helpless at the age of 20. After confessing my sins, I thought Dr. Lee's opinion of me would change. But he began to express even greater love for me. He personally helped me edit my life testimony into 1.5 pages, very graciously and artistically. During this process I realized that Dr. Lee understood me so well. As the expression of God's grace, he had a Korean tailor shop make me a suit. He gave me his own wristwatch. While we were going from city to city in Korea, one time he took me off the journey team bus and let me ride in his car with him. It was raining hard. Dr. Lee was sleeping in the back seat, Shepherd Moody Park was driving, and I was crying for a long time because of God's grace to me.

A year and a half later, I was sharing my 1983 annual key verse at a Chicago UBF leaders' meeting. In my testimony I accepted God's calling that after graduation, which was coming up after the winter quarter, I would give my life in UBF as a full-time shepherd. I was looking forward to receiving Dr. Lee's shepherd training and beginning a fruitful life. I had no idea what was in store for me. Right after that meeting, Dr. Lee and Mother Barry came up to me. I expected them to say, "Thank you for your testimony." Instead, they said, "Watch out. A certain shepherdess here is trying to cook you." I had no idea what they were talking about. This began months of severe struggle and training. Fear and anger came into my heart. I became paralyzed spiritually. Once, Dr. Lee asked me to write a testimony entitled, "Why do I stand at the back of the Sunday Worship Service like a scarecrow?" I wrote it, but still didn't understand. Dr. Lee asked me to join the dancing team for the Easter Conference. Missionary Grace Shin was teaching us from the Nutcracker ballet. I had never danced ballet, before or since. But right before the Easter conference, I sprained my foot during practice and was on crutches during the conference. I brought two gorgeous-looking NU boy sheep to the conference and shared a "shepherdology" testimony. But I was so sick spiritually. At the conference someone took a picture of me sitting with my two sheep. But in the picture, the sheep looked bright and shining in suits, like they were the UBF shepherds, whereas I looked like a sheep or a patient. That summer, Dr. Lee asked me to be the main lecturer at the summer conference, speaking on John 4. In one-to-one Bible study with

him, he told me I was just like the Samaritan woman, thirsty for love. He told me my parents had loved me so sacrificially, but I was still like a bottomless pit thirsty for love. His comment that I was like the Samaritan woman hurt my pride. What's more, I couldn't believe he was asking me to deliver the main lecture at the summer conference when I was so sick spiritually. Though I went through the motions outwardly in message training, I hardened my heart and intentionally delivered the message poorly. Dr. Lee got so upset with me that he became sick and couldn't get out of bed for several days. His face was swollen. After I did such a thing, I thought my UBF shepherd life was over. Dr. Lee went to the European conference, and when he came back, he delivered a Sunday message on Peter's confession of Christ from Luke 9. I sat in the back of the worship service room, hiding on the steps to the second floor, out of sight, thinking Dr. Lee wouldn't want to see me. In his message he was explaining the verse about how the Son of Man must suffer many things and be killed. He said it was because of our sins. It was the first time I had ever heard it said so plainly. He wept during this part of his message, but I was weeping even more. For the first time I finally realized deeply that I was a sinner, that my sins had crucified Jesus, and that my spiritual problem that year had been no one's but my own. It was the turning point of my life. It was like scales fell off my eyes. I began to appreciate and respect my parents. I also became inwardly free in Jesus. I tasted the heavenly kingdom deep in my soul, with its joy and peace.

Dr. Lee sensed that something had happened in me and asked me to come to his office and share my testimony on that passage. After listening to it, he realized I had repented. Then he suddenly said, "Would you like to have a girlfriend?" I had no idea where he was going with this. I said, "No!" I had had such a hard time that year because of a girl that I wanted to be as far away from them as possible. Then he said, "You have to have a girlfriend, for the glory of God. Do you understand?" I didn't, but I said, "Yes, sir." Then he introduced me to the idea of Shepherdess Kathy Kreitner from Columbus UBF, who had shared her life testimony at the recent summer conference. He asked me what I thought of her. I said, "She seems nice." He said, "Good. Okay, why don't you call her?" I said, "Okay." There was a long silence. Then he said, "Now."

I became Dr. Lee's helper, along with Pastor Ron Ward, typing his Sunday messages and practicing English with him, as well as working in the

headquarters for nine years. There are so many stories and lessons. Why do I tell all these early personal stories? It is not just to reminisce with sentimental feelings; it is rather to illustrate the spiritual heritage of Dr. Lee. He could have been burdened with many problems and hardships, but his face was shining because he had Jesus in his heart and spent much time in prayer. He was an international director, with many people around the world to care for and who obeyed him, but he was willing to humble himself to call a seemingly insignificant and proud student and personally beg him to come and participate in God's work. He didn't look down on people, but saw people with great hope, respect and vision. He was courageous enough to venture with people and to give hard training, out of his shepherd's heart. When people revealed their ugly sinful natures, he embraced them with the grace of Jesus even more. He had many sheep all around the world, but he always took care of one spiritually sick person as if he or she were the only person in the world. He was not satisfied with outward performances, but prayerfully tried to understand people, help them find their sin problem before God, repent and come to Jesus. He thought

of people not like a businessman, but out of a deep shepherd's heart and about their future life and happiness.

Dr. Lee often told us a UBF staff shepherd must learn to be a multifaceted worker. He said we must learn to be a shepherd, a servant, a scholar and a soldier. He himself emulated these qualities. But undergirding them all, to me, two seem to be most impressive: humility and a shepherd's heart. These are, in fact, the heart of Jesus (Mt 11:28,29). From a distance some people thought Dr. Lee was proud. But he was so humble before the word of God. This was evident in his struggle to understand any particular Bible passage. He was also humble enough to cowork with and embrace all kinds of people, with genuine respect. And, he had a great shepherd's heart for young people. At his homecoming ceremony, so many people came, including people who had left UBF years ago. Why did they all come? It was because they had experienced the shepherd's heart of Jesus through Dr. Lee. I pray that I, and each one of us, may make it our ambition to live up to Dr. Lee's spiritual legacy, especially his humility and his shepherd's heart.



A Most Beloved Disciple, Pastor Mark Vuckovich (DePaul UBF)

A GOOD FATHER FOR AN HNW

Yvonne Timlin
Chicago UBF Staff



When I was young, my father was kind of good and kind of scary. So, I could not trust men and became a feminist. But when I was in college, Dr. Lee became a good spiritual father for me. He always caught me at the center and discussed all my feminist ideas with me. He understood how wounded I was by my father, because he also suffered from his mean stepmother. Once when I lived in the staff residence during my junior year of college, I had a big fight with my Bible teacher, Pastor Mark Vucekovich, because he never took a turn at washing the dishes. The next morning, I expected to be kicked out. But Dr. Lee told Pastor Mark to embrace me as a good father and to cook me breakfast.

Dr. Lee and Pastor Mark Vucekovich talked to me about everything a daughter should know: how to dress modestly, how to be expensive with boys, how to spend money wisely, which classes to take at Northwestern University, etc... He even gave me a curfew of 1 a.m., and told me not to spend the night at anyone's house. Dr. Lee encouraged me to bring him 5 newspaper articles a week from the student newspaper that I wrote for as a reporter. So, in addition to my full-time classes and part-time job as a waitress, I also worked 40 hours a week for the school newspaper to meet my goal of 5 articles. In this way, Dr. Lee helped me to learn to work hard – and to stay out of trouble!

Later that summer (of 1988), even though I had a bad record of “cooking” many shepherds and

did not qualify, he sent me to Europe to learn world mission vision. Then I came back and diligently fished and fed 12 sheep at Northwestern. Then he invited me to join the staff meeting after graduation and gave me hope to be a full-time shepherdess. After marrying and having children, he never stopped being my father and helping me to find the way. Occasionally, I got so mad at him, but he counseled me, saying tenderly as a father, “Yvonne, you must listen to me.”

This year I had so many personal problems. He counseled me over and over, “You are stuck spiritually. You must not compromise.” I cried many times and prayed until I could understand his counseling and overcome my problem in my heart. The night before the Christmas worship service this year, he told me, “Next I must help you to study for a Ph.D.” I was so happy that he understood my ambition and energy and zeal and wanted me to do something more and great in my life. I told him that I would get a Ph.D. like him after shepherding God's flock all my lifetime. Then he laughed. A few days before he died, he called me on the telephone and told me to call him everyday and talk to him. But I didn't want to make him sorrowful over my problems. I was moved that even though he was so sick, he wanted to share all my sorrows.

Dr. Lee was my good father, not biologically, but because he earned the title. I am what I am today, because he was a good father to me and helped me to grow up mentally, emotionally, and most of all, spiritually. Now he is gone. I want nothing more than to imitate his good example to me and be a good shepherd like him for the glory of Christ Jesus. This year I pray to grow in independent faith in my Father God and learn to trust him absolutely. That is why I chose as my 2002 key verse 2 Cor 12:9, which says, “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’” I want to grow in simple, childlike faith that I am weak, but my Father God is strong. May God strengthen me to feed his sheep and depend on him to raise our fellowship a 120-member fellowship and restore my family as a house church for his mission in God's time.

The Legacy Of Dr. Samuel Lee

Pastor Teddy Hembekides
Triton UBF Director

“For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep...” (Acts 13:36)



On Tuesday, January 8, 2002, the founder of our UBF ministry, Shepherd Samuel Lee passed away to his eternal home in the Kingdom of God whom he loved and served with his whole heart all the days of his life. For 42 years he labored for his Lord and Christ with the resolution and dedication unique to the men of God of his caliber. His life had been only a fleeting moment in history. But the impact his life had on the world and on God’s history is comparable to that of the giants of faith of the Old Testament and the saints of the New Testament. He passed away. But his legacy continues in the hearts and lives of those who knew him for the man of God he was, and whose lives have been impacted by his exemplary life as a humble and obedient servant of our Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason, we

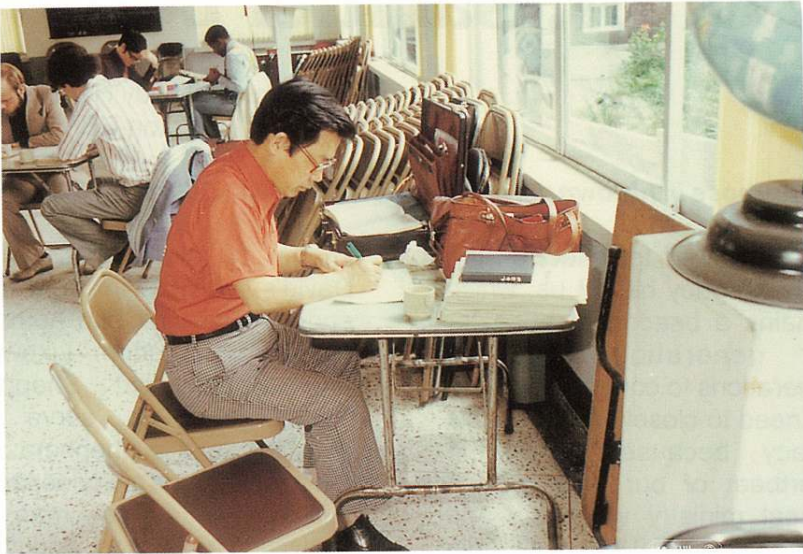
are compelled to reflect on the sacred legacy he left us, which remains a beacon of hope for our generation and the generations to come. Therefore, we need to closely examine this legacy because it is the heartbeat of our ministry, the gospel ministry we know and cherish as UBF [University Bible Fellowship].

Part I. A Heritage Of Faithful Servantship From Generation To Generation.

For the ordinary Christian, a single Bible verse may well sum up one’s life in Christ. But this man of God was no ordinary Christian. It is impossible to define and comprehend Shepherd Samuel Lee’s life with a single Bible verse, because the legacy he left us is as deep and as wide as the ocean, and cannot be summarized with a single verse. Nonetheless, it is important to consider the single most verse which best defines his life and labor in Christ Jesus. Towards the last few years of his life, he frequently reflected on the word of God from Acts 13:36 which says: “For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep...” There are clear reasons why the man of God reflected on this particular verse, but in this word of God we can see a concise summary of his life. God had chosen King David to serve his generation as a soldier, a shepherd and a king after the

image of the Christ. When David’s service in God had ended, God took him home to his Eternal Kingdom. Likewise, God had called Shepherd Samuel Lee to serve his generation as a shepherd and Bible teacher, as a pioneer and a missionary, as a man of conviction and action. And when his service to God had ended, God took him home to his Kingdom as well.

What does it mean that Shepherd Samuel Lee had served God’s purpose in his own generation? Why does this key verse well define his life in Christ? Because having served God’s purpose in his own generation gave substance and meaning to his life and left an indelible stamp on history. Men live and die without ever having found the meaning of their lives; their lives never accomplishing the purpose for which God had created them; without a shred of memory left of their existence. But Shepherd Samuel Lee’s life had meaning. The meaning of his life lies in serving his own generation in accordance with the will of God. The question is, how did he serve his own generation? He served his generation by passing on the torch of faith and mission to the next generation. The multitude of humanity’s generations have been as dark as the night, while they trudged through the nights of their generations in pitch darkness, not knowing where they came from, not knowing



His Delight Is In The Law Of The Lord (1978)

where they were going, only existing for the moment. None of them knew God, and in their ignorance of God, they perished and condemned their own generations to the same fate. But in the pitch darkness of every generation, God challenged men to hold up the torch of God's light for their generation to see the truth of God, and by seeing the truth of God to also journey back to God. But God's challenge to hold up the lamp of truth is never easy. Only few took the torch from God's hand and vowed their lives to passing it on to the next generation so that the light of God's truth many never go out, even while the world was getting darker and darker by the day. Of such men was Shepherd Samuel Lee. In his generation, the darkness was overwhelming and the challenge was impossible. The torch he was to carry to the world was a torch of God's living word in a generation of unbelieving Christians and a skeptic world. The torch he was entrusted with was the torch of

absolute faith and holy mission to a generation of compromising and disobedient Christians. But he accepted God's challenge and took the torch which never left his hands to the day he went to heaven. The words, he "served God's purpose in his own generation" well define his life in Christ, a life whose meaning was born and fulfilled when he dedicated his life to single-handedly carrying the torch of God to a fatalistic world in obedience to God's purpose in his life.

When he took up the torch of God in his hand, his life became like a light shining in a dark place, and a source of blessing to humanity. In other words, his life became the exemplary life of a man in Christ Jesus. It means that in the pitch darkness of the world we live in, men could see a flicker of God's light shining in and through this one man, and many flocked to this light in order to make their journeys back to God. But while man's life cannot sustain the

torch of God burning, God's life alone sustains it. One of Apostle Paul's key verses describes how a person may be able to sustain the lamp of God burning in and through his life. Paul says in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Likewise, Shepherd Samuel Lee was a man crucified with Christ. He did not die on January 8th. He died a very long time ago when he died to himself and Christ began to live in him. It was that life of Christ in and through him which sustained the lamp of God day after day throughout his lifetime.

His death was the birth of a new man. At the same time, this man of God's death was also the birth of a ministry. When I was a Bible student, my shepherd taught me that our ministry UBF was not an "organization", but an "organism". Organizations have no life and are dead, but an organism is a living entity and draws its life from Jesus. Organizations are made up of cold and lifeless doctrines and regulations, he said, but an organism has the warm life of our Lord Jesus flowing through it. It is this organism we call UBF which was born when a man of God, Shepherd Samuel Lee, died to himself and began to live in Jesus. There is much to say about the life and works of Shepherd Samuel Lee. But I want to focus on the organism UBF which grew as a result of this one man's faith in God and obedience to God's word. The ministry which grew to maturity throughout his lifetime, became the legacy he left us who belong

to this living and wonderful organism, the body of Christ. The ministry which grew through this one man is not a new ministry. It is an old ministry that goes back to the apostles and their disciples and the first Christians, and carries on from generation to generation through our ancestors who passed the torch of God's truth to the next generation, and the generation after that, until that torch was received by Shepherd Samuel Lee and passed on to us who would accept God's immutable challenge and take it upon ourselves to carry the torch in our generation.

In this generation, the gospel of our Lord Jesus had been maligned, twisted, misconstrued, abused, fashioned after men's fancy and subtly corrupted and perverted in order to serve man rather than be served by man, as God had intended it to be. Who would carry the pure gospel to the world? What would effect the gospel to remain the power of God for the salvation of all who believe? Thankfully, God Almighty had raised many torches to hold up the truth and the absoluteness of the gospel in the midst of many adulterated gospels in this generation. The organism UBF is but one of the torches held up toward the overwhelming darkness of the godless age. Nevertheless, one man needed to hold the torch up and to shed light on the darkness so that what is corrupt may be revealed as corrupt and what is pure may be preserved as pure. It was the faith of Shepherd Samuel Lee that did so for the last 40 years of his generation. There are countless Bible truths which had been well lit and continue to burn in the



A Good Shepherd Comes To America (1977)

lives of all UBF members, too many to count. But I will list a few in the legacy of this man which had been imprinted in my own heart as the absolute truths which should not be corrupted but defended as long as we live, as long as we are willing to carry the torch of God's truth which we have received from God's servant. I will count several truths to you which are at the core of the gospel and the lifeblood of this organism we call UBF.

Part II. A Heritage Of Bible Study.

"For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel." (Ezra 7:10) As Ezra was a student of the Bible and consequently a teacher of the word of God as well, so also have we unquestionably been appointed to study and to teach the Bible. It

is a sacred duty and a calling unequalled to any other. The Bible is like a picture of a first born son or daughter hanging on a wall in their parents' home. When a stranger walks into the house and sees the picture, it is nothing but a nice picture on the wall. It elicits no response, for there is no emotion there to tie the two. But when the father or mother enter the house and behold the picture, a flood of emotion wells up in their hearts. It is the same with the Bible. Two people may read or study the same Bible. But as the picture on the wall draws a wellspring of emotion from one and apathy from the other, so also does the word of God stir one heart to response and the other to remain passive. Once we read the Bible impassively as if it were a novel. But we learned that the word of God is not like the words of an unknown author, but the words of our Father God. When we come face to face with the picture on the wall, our hearts

come alive and we are drawn to it by deep bonds of love. It is this very relationship between the word of God and the Bible student that is nurtured and reared among those who have come to know of the treasures we have inherited through this blessed ministry grounded in the word of God. Through the blessing of Bible study, a lost son or daughter comes to know their Father God and to grow in him until they in turn take up the sacred duty of teaching it to the next generation. I thank God for the gift of Bible study and the sacred duty of teaching it in the confidence of the Holy Spirit.

Part III. The Heritage Of Gospel Faith And Holy Mission.

First, the foundation of UBF ministry. The foundation of the ministry is the gospel of our Lord Jesus. Paul wrote the Corinthian Christians these words: "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." (1Cor. 15:3,4.) Paul wrote them these words that they might remember the gospel through which they were saved. They were overwhelmed with problems, all kinds of problems. But Paul's conclusion in the matter of their endless problems was that they had simply forgotten the gospel. Paul believed if they remembered the

gospel and reflected upon it, all their problems would melt like frigid ice in the hot sun. Paul simply gave them the gospel. It was the foundation of their lives and the life of their ministry. Shepherd Samuel Lee repeatedly gave the gospel to God's children believing that problems are impossible to solve, but that the gospel is the foundation and life of man and ministry. Sometimes he seemed cold to offer no human assistance nor sympathy to one troubled by human or spiritual problems, but simply gave the gospel message instead. But the gospel he gave in absolute faith in its power, became their strength and their victory over all things in their lives. The gospel



Serving International Directors One By One (1999)

is the foundation of ministry. All else is powerless. Without the gospel, ministry cannot stand. Without it, a Christian cannot stand.

Second, the character of UBF ministry. What must a Christian ministry be like? What must it reflect? A true Christian ministry is like the manger of Jesus in character. In our generation, the rise of super ministries and megabuck ministries and gospels of health and wealth is alarming. Everyone including Christians are deceived into focusing on material blessings and the glamorous. But when God's angel visited Mary the mother of Jesus to announce the birth of our Lord, the angel said to her, "This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12) There was no luxury nor glamour in a manger in a stable. But there was the life of God in the manger which grew to be the salvation of the world. When God wanted to begin the ministry of salvation in the world, the sign was a baby in a manger in a stable. Later, the early church ministry was a handful of disheveled disciples meeting in an attic. After that, the ministry was a few men and women meeting in a hole in the ground. Paul's ministry was a small apartment where he received God's people and helped them look to God. It was small in the sight of the world, but it was the power of God for salvation. It was the beautiful sign of God's love and power at work in humble hearts that are not greedy for material wealth nor for worldly glamour. The church in time became corrupt and what was supposed to be a manger became magnificent cathedrals and ornamented buildings that

drew and housed fancy men and women who neither knew God nor the gospel. Their sign was power and glory and luxury, and they perished in their ignorance. In the legacy we inherited, we can only thank God for his servant who was adamant that a ministry of God must be as humble as a manger, and the life of his servants must be as simple as the manger. We cannot change that. It is the gospel.

Third, the motivation of UBF ministry. What drives members of a ministry to serve God? Some are driven by ambition. Others are driven by a need for something to fill their lives. Still others are driven by necessity. But we learn from the Bible that the motivation of a Christian and a ministry must be the grace of our Lord Jesus and the gratitude which comes from the knowledge that our Lord Jesus has spilled his blood to rescue the sinner, and the sinner can do no more than express endless gratitude. And in gratitude the forgiven sinner returns love and servanthip to Jesus who alone is worthy to be loved and served. Paul said in Romans 1:15,16, "I am obligated both to Greeks and Non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome." Paul was driven and motivated to serve his generation by obligation. An obligation is more than a responsibility and more than a duty. It is a deep awareness of one's indebtedness to the Lord Jesus for Jesus' grace and mercy in one's life. Paul did not feel that God's flock whom he served were obligated to him, nor did he feel as if he were doing God and them a favor by serving them.

Instead he felt that his debt to God for his grace and mercy was beyond measure, that he was obligated to serve the ministry to which he was called as a shepherd and Bible teacher. It was with this same sense of obligation that Shepherd Samuel Lee served the ministry. It was this same motivation which has also driven countless shepherds and missionaries to take up the service of God willingly, not as a favor to God nor to man, but as gratitude to the one who loved them and laid down his life for them. When service to God and mission seem like a bitter drink to someone, that someone does not know the extent to which he or she had been forgiven, does not know the debt they owe God, does not know how to be thankful to God. But as long as we carry the torch of God, our service must be motivated by the grace of Jesus.

Fourth, the faith of UBF ministry. Our ministry's faith is clearly the teaching of our Lord on the five loaves and two fish. No man and no ministry can do the work of God. No one has the ability to lift a finger in serving God. This is our faith, then, that no one can do the work of God, but that only God can do his own work through those who have faith. Therefore it is not human skill nor knowledge nor level of intellect nor accomplishment that can enable a person to serve God's purpose in one's life. One can only serve God with faith, the faith of bringing five loaves and two fish and presenting to the Lord Jesus. Jesus laid down the rule of ministry work in his miraculous work of feeding the 5000. There were 5000 people and no food to feed them. There was no way for his disciples to bring enough food to satisfy the

people. But Jesus urged them to bring what they had. They had only five loaves and two fish. He accepted them and blessed them and multiplied the loaves and fish until everyone had eaten their fill. In that Jesus demonstrated that man can do nothing but that God can do everything when man brings to God what little he or she has in faith that God may work through them. This principle of how the work of God can be done has been the trademark of our ministry. Shepherd Samuel Lee adopted this principle by faith and has taught this principle to many generations of God's servants. When they had nothing, they found something and brought it to Jesus in faith until Jesus used the little they had and fed many spiritually hungry souls with the word of God. Our ministry has been a miracle similar to the feeding of the five thousand. Our missionaries and shepherds have nothing. Most have no skills nor ability. Most have no money. But somehow the principle of faith of five loaves and two fish has been the victory over the world. They are all in the world doing the work of God with five loaves and two fish by the faith of one man.

Fifth, the conviction of UBF ministry. What is the conviction of our ministry? What kind of work must our ministry be engaged in? While there are countless ways to serve the work of God, there is a conviction which we as a ministry cannot overlook. We embrace our strong conviction from Jesus' words in John 21:15, "When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these? 'Yes, Lord,' he said,

'you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.'" and Matthew 9:36, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Our conviction as a ministry is that the work of God is the work of feeding Jesus' sheep with the word of God. Our conviction is to serve them through personal Bible study and personal shepherding until they meet Jesus personally and grow to serve Jesus with their lives. Our conviction as a ministry also rests on discipleship training. Training is a nasty word in this generation. Many a ministry have abandoned training disciples as they cloak themselves in a hideous and distorted form of Christian humanism. Training disciples had been Jesus' method of raising disciples. It had been his conviction as a ministry to train and raise disciples. Every child must be trained in order to grow strong and responsible. In the same way every serious Christian must be trained in order to mature as a useful man or woman of God. Without training, a Christian becomes his or her own man or woman, doing their own thing, believing their own ways, and finally sidestepping the gospel truth for something less rigorous and more comfortable than hardship of training. But when Shepherd Samuel Lee began this ministry, he never turned away from the truth that a ministry, and a servant of God must be ready to serve God's flock personally as a shepherd serves his flock, through one to one Bible study, and next that a ministry must embrace Jesus' method of training disciples in the truth of God. Because of this the

ministry was persecuted and misjudged, but we never turned away from this principle. And we never must, since it is another pillar in the foundation of ministry. We thank God for the man of God who held on to the truth of God even at a high cost.

Sixth, the hope of UBF ministry. Of course, our living hope is ever in the kingdom of God which God promised for all the saints. But what is the shepherd's hope for his sheep, for the one whom he serves through one to one Bible study? In Romans 5:1, Paul defines the hope of all believers when he says, "And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." Man once had the image of God. But when man sinned, he fell from the glory of God and the image of God in him was disfigured. It is our hope then that we and all God's children may grow in the image of God and in the likeness of our Lord Jesus. There is no hope that a man may have more noble than this hope. The living hope in the kingdom of God is the final hope. But the hope to be fashioned and remade in the likeness of our Lord Jesus is the hope to be like Jesus in every way, that his holy name might be glorified in and through out lives. Paul also said in Philippians 3:10,11 "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead." Paul's hope went further than growing in the likeness of Jesus. He wanted to know Jesus in life, in death, in resurrection and also in suffering. He hoped that he together with the saints might grow in the image of the sacrificial Jesus. Shepherd

Samuel Lee rebuked and encouraged and chastised and admonished without reserve all those whom he loved with the love of God. His purpose was pure, to help each child of God become more Christ-like. It is a beautiful hope to carry in one's heart. Some hope for the success of others and some for their human well-being, but thank God for the man of God, Shepherd Samuel Lee who served God's people with the hope that every one of them might grow more and more in the image of our Lord Jesus. This hope has also become the hope of those who understood his heart- the heart of the good shepherd.

Seventh, the resolve of UBF ministry. In other words, how far must a ministry be ready to serve the gospel and the flock of God when suffering is imminent? Does a Bible teacher stop serving God's flock when his suffering becomes unbearable? Does the shepherd's ministry waver when hardship surfaces? Neither, but the resolve of the shepherd's ministry is faithfulness unto death. Revelation 2:10 says, "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." Suffering is not easy to bear. And the world recoils from suffering. The world strives to reduce suffering by any means. Sacrifice is relative and remotely welcome only when self interest is at stake. But Shepherd Samuel Lee embraced the ministry suffering in resolve as a Bible treasure without equal. He frequently encouraged the suffering servants of God to embrace suffering and learn to cherish it in earnest. While some might offer human sympathy at the suffering of another, we have grown up in a ministry where God's servants often encourage those who suffer to suffer more. It is strange in the sight of both the

world and other Christians. But it does not matter. It is the gospel truth that a man or woman who is in Christ must be faithful to the point of death. We learned that faithfulness to the point of death is not a romantic theology, but an absolute command of our Lord Jesus.

Eighth, the vision and goal of UBF ministry. God's vision was never clearer from day to day as the man of God, Shepherd Samuel Lee never failed to emphasize God's vision for the salvation of the whole world. He never failed to emphasize the ministry's goal to realize God's vision through obedience to the world mission command of Jesus in Mark 16:15. "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." He stood on the absoluteness of the gospel in verse 16 which says, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Our ministry has been a world mission ministry from the onset by the vision of one man to fulfill God's desire in bringing the gospel to the whole world. Vision is scarce and sometimes nonexistent in the modern church. Ornamental Christianity is decorative and impressive but intrinsically impotent and ultimately useless to God. Men of God's vision are rare, and rarer still is a passion for world evangelization. But God raised one man with a vision, and the spark of world mission in his heart has ignited every life which submitted itself to God's will. Our missionaries who have pioneered the world are all the sons and daughters of faith of this man of vision. In life, and now in death he still inspires God's children to pick up the cross of Jesus' mission and go out into the world to fill up the kingdom of God. Many come to UBF with limited and vague vision for self and for

ministry. But the word of Jesus' command for world mission, passed down from shepherd to sheep opens their eyes until their limited vision begins to include the whole world. One man of vision and of divine goal has pillared this Bible truth as an imperative part of ministry.

Ninth, the prayer of UBF ministry. Not many know how to pray. Not many know what to pray for. Some pray childish prayers. Others pray selfish prayers. Still others pray casual prayers. Mostly people pray pointless prayers and soon forget what they prayed for. But prayer is the lifeline of God's ministry. When prayer is vague and self motivated, neither the child of God nor the ministry can grow. Prayer cannot be a shopping list. Prayer cannot be a beggar's tin can. Prayer must rather be the expression of faith and the power of God working in and through the child of God to fulfill God's will and to serve his glorious purpose. When we are young, we pray for mommy and daddy and for granny and for the hungry people of the world. But when we grow up, prayer becomes an intense labor to bring all things to obedience to the will of God. Still, something is missing! Focus! And point! And assurance! When Shepherd Samuel Lee prayed for Russia, it was out of a shepherd heart for an oppressed people. Then the iron curtain came down. Suddenly prayer was no longer for the will of God, but for the specific will of God. Suddenly, prayer was no longer prayed in resigned uncertainty, but an impossibility made possible by faith. When he prayed for America to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, prayer suddenly took yet a higher level reaching to Abrahamic proportions. We found ourselves praying according to the promises

of God. We were no longer children praying for oddities, but priests upholding a nation and a people and claiming their promises as their supplicants before God. The prayer of a ministry is no small matter. A ministry is as big and as effective as its prayer topic. We are a remnant ministry in the world, a handful of believers. But by the praying faith of one man of God, the remnant has learned a life giving truth, that seeds grow into shoots, and shoots into large trees that spread like wings across the sky. For ministry prayer to be powerful and effective it needs assurance. And the assurance of God has been a theme in UBF through the teaching of this one man of faith. "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." (Matthew 21:22)

Tenth, the sacrifice of UBF ministry. There is no work of God that comes without a sacrifice. When Jesus saved us he did so sacrificing his very life. When we want to do the work of God's ministry, sacrifice is imperative. Today, "sacrifice" is as bad a word as the word "training" is to the immature and unspiritual mind. But God demands sacrifice! Why? Because by nature, God is a sacrificial God whose desire is that all his children be like him. For this reason, the legacy of Shepherd Samuel Lee has been one which has brought the Biblical spirit of sacrifice to God's ministry and to God's people. In a worldly sense, sacrifice exists, but only towards self interest. Fathers abandon mothers in pursuit of other mothers even at the sacrifice of their own children. Such a sacrifice to the cause of "human freedom" is not sacrifice at all, but rather an abomination and a sacrilege. On the other hand, people are loathe to sacrifice

pittance even to their own family members. True sacrifice in the Biblical sense is selfless, towards the benefit of others and ultimately to the glory of God. God's people in our ministry have learned the spirit of sacrifice from the living examples of their predecessors. Our Lord Jesus' words in Matthew 10:37 and Matthew 19:29 have rarely been more sealed than in the lives of our shepherds and missionaries. "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life." For Jesus, they have learned to sacrifice their lives in raising God's flock. They sacrifice their own human hopes and dreams for the sake of realizing God's hopes. They sacrifice future security, family life, and the comforts and pleasures of life for the sake of the gospel. Because of this, they have been criticized, ridiculed and persecuted by both the secular world and regretfully even by the Christian community as well. But it has been their sacrifices that have become the blessing on the world. Thank God for one servant of God who stood on the truth of God that a ministry and a minister must not remain selfish but grow in the spirit of sacrifice to the glory of God.

I cannot say enough of this glorious and priceless legacy of faith which has been passed down to us by this man of God. But these principles are the lifeblood of our ministry and the legacy of Shepherd Samuel Lee. And by the will and mercy of God, they must be passed on to our next generation. There are those who would reform our UBF

ministries. But if an organism looses limbs and vital parts in the cause of reform, it no longer remains a recognizable and legitimate body, but rather a perversion and a vice unto itself. There is a big difference between historically "reformed" movements, whose foundation have been the absolute word of God, and the modern aberrations bordering more on the "deformed" rather than the "reformed" since their foundation has been cultural and intellectual standards rather than the absolute word of God. Legitimate Biblical "reform" must always be shaped solely by the word of God. For this reason, there is a sense of resolve among our members to uphold the legacy passed down to us by the founder, and to maintain the gospel principles based on the absolute word of God, and attained thorough rigorous Bible study and prayer by the help of the Holy Spirit. Shepherd Samuel Lee carried the torch of God's word faithfully unto death. He passed it on to us at many personal and tremendous costs. And we, in turn, must learn that it is time for every one of us to imitate his life in deciding to take up the lamp of God until we ourselves have served God's purpose in our own generation and have passed it on to the next. A man or woman of God who passes away before their work from God is accomplished is tragic. But the man or woman of God who passes away in fulfillment of God's set purpose in their lives is precious. God made us to be torch bearers. God made us to serve our own generation with God's purpose. May God carry out his precious ministry in every one of your lives as he has in the life of his dear servant Shepherd Samuel Lee. Amen.