

# Horizons

June-July 2011



Celebrating the 90th Anniversary  
of the  
Polish Churches of Christ



Reggie  
Hundley

Editor,  
HORIZONS

and

Executive Director,  
Mission Services  
Association

We welcome your letters to the editor. Letters no longer than one typewritten page are more likely to be published. Include your name and address on all correspondence. Only signed letters can be printed. Letters may be edited for the sake of length and clarity.

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## editorial

# A Sobering Reality

I am currently reading When Missions Shapes the Mission (David Horner, B&H Publishing Group, 2011). On page 82 of my iBooks version, a statement arrested that reading. “Although numerically the missions force is greater today than it has ever been, proportionate to the explosive expansion of the world’s population, we go backward with each successive generation.”

There are many good things occurring in the realm of world evangelism and global missions, and those are to be celebrated. An awakening to the need of completing the Great Commission began among younger generations some years ago. That awakening is one of the reasons the attendance at the National Missionary Convention began to increase some 15 years ago. There has also been a realization of the importance of focusing energy and resources on reaching unreached people groups and translating the Scriptures for thousands of groups that have never heard the gospel in their heart language. As I have the opportunity to build a true “world view of missions,” I am amazed at God’s power to inspire such creativity in methods of ministry to cross cultural barriers with His love and grace.

However, there are sobering realities as well. Mr. Horner provided a statistical endnote corroborating his statement above. While Christianity is the world’s largest religion (when we include those considered “nominal” in their faith), there are still more than twice as many who are without hope of eternal life through Jesus! Even with the growing numbers of missionaries and the growing numbers of methods in introducing people to Jesus, “there are more lost people on earth now than there were people on earth in 1975.” (*ibid*, page 108 of the iBooks version). We clearly have more to do.

I am also personally concerned about other trends I believe are growing. 1) While we need to focus upon the

unreached parts of the world, we cannot afford to ignore the "post-Christian world." For example, we continue to need people to go to Europe and Australia. While the people of these (and other) continents may have had an opportunity to hear, these citizens are equal in their need for the gospel. 2) Of concern to me is the trend of decreasing the visibility of missions in the local congregation. While it is laudable for congregations and leaders to commit a certain percentage of giving to "missions," it is troubling when that portion of our priorities receives less and less attention within the church life. If our Sunday morning services are solely focused upon the local activities of the congregation, how can we ever expect the congregation to have a world perspective of the Kingdom of God? The needs of the world cannot be relegated solely to "the missions committee." 3) I am also troubled that we have confused the definition of "missions" and are actually decreasing the priority of "the world" within the local congregation. If we include local benevolence and other items local and national in emphasis, can we truly identify that part of our spending as "missions"?

I am incredibly excited about the increase in enthusiasm for missions, and I stand in awe of how God is raising up people to reach the lost, but we clearly have so much more to do! Think about that!



# Horizons

**June-July 2011**

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— “The service of celebration and thanksgiving on Sunday, June 26th, 2011 honored the founding of the first Church of Christ in Poland in 1921 and the ninety years of faithful witness through some of the most harrowing years, with special attention to the opening of the tenth decade.”

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## coming events

# 2011

**OCTOBER 6-9**

### **National Christian Convention of the Deaf**

Council Bluffs, Iowa

Theme: "different"

President: Chad Entinger

Contact information: Deaf Institute  
3515 Warsaw Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45205  
[www.nccdeaf.org](http://www.nccdeaf.org)

**OCTOBER 28-30**

### **Eastern Christian Conference**

Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania

Theme: "Changed Lives"

President: David Johnson, Colonial Point Christian Church

Contact information: Eastern Christian Conference  
410-836-6102  
[info@easterncc.com](mailto:info@easterncc.com) / [www.easterncc.com](http://www.easterncc.com)

**NOVEMBER 17-20**

### **National Missionary Convention**

Atlanta, Georgia

Theme: "commissioned: making disciples of ALL nations"

President: Wing Wong

Contact information: David Empson  
317-539-4231 / [david@nmc-windows.org](mailto:david@nmc-windows.org)

# 2012

**JULY 25-29**

### **Global Gathering of the World Convention**

Goiania, Brazil

"Sharing the Love that Unites . . . Global Gathering 18"

Contact information: Gary Holloway  
615-298-1824 / [www.worldconvention.org](http://www.worldconvention.org)



feature

# 90 years + 10 years = Church of Christ in Poland

**Judy J. Harris**

Lakeside Christian Church, Lakeside Park, Kentucky

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**W**e gathered, all two thousand of us, from all over Poland, from Koszalin in the north, from Dabrowa Gornicza in the south, from Lublin in the east and from Glogow in the west, with guests from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, and Kansas. The service of celebration and thanksgiving on Sunday, June 16th, 2011 honored the founding of the first Church of Christ in Poland in 1921 and the ninety years of faithful witness through some of the most harrowing years, with special attention to the opening of the tenth decade. Those who could not make the trip to Warsaw could watch the live streaming from anywhere in Poland or anywhere in the world!



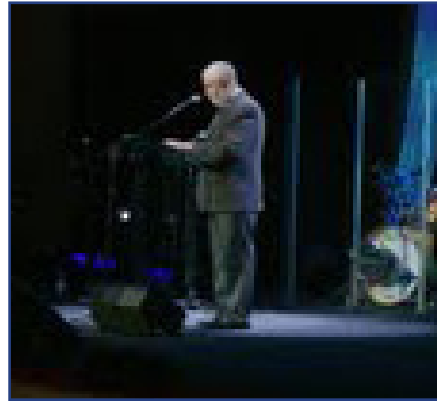
The service was held in the Congress Hall of the Palace of Culture in Warsaw. Originally built as an unwanted gift from Joseph Stalin during the Russian occupation, the ornate structure glistens with white marble, golden fixtures and brilliant red velvet appointments. Non-Polish speakers benefited from translation earphones.

Vibrant songs of praise opened the service. We took communion together with individual disposable communion sets that were distributed as we arrived.

Piotr Karel (pictured at right), the pastor from Kolobrzeg, read the grace-filled history, and hearts overflowed with gratitude as we realized God's Providence through those most challenging times. Faithful obedience and endurance marked those earlier years.

The focus shifted to the next ten years. With inspired vitality, the next decade was launched officially. Direction was shared, the new council of leaders was introduced and prayers were offered.

Representatives from other Christian faiths in Poland and the government representative brought congratulations and blessings. Polish



Christian Ministries, serving the churches for over fifty-seven years, was represented by Executive Director Wayne Murphy. He assured continued support and extended greetings on behalf of other mission organizations who partner with the Polish Christians.

As the praise music began again with their upbeat tempos, President Andrzej Bajenski said quietly, "Remember we are not a museum." And a soloist concluded with a rap version of an old hymn.

The new decade was launched indeed!

## PREPARATION

The Annual Leadership Conference for the pastors and their associates was held for the three days preceding the celebration with the theme, "The Work of the 10th Decade." Early emphasis was placed on the Restoration Movement's history in America and its development in Poland.

The significant role of the pastor's spouse was recognized again and again. Marysia Jakoniuk, the wife of a retiring pastor gave her testimony of God's goodness across the years of their ministry. The private self-assessment for pastors included consideration of the frequency of prayer for wife and children.

Elections were held for the council and president; votes were taken for issues. Pastors engaged in brainstorming sessions for strengths and vulnerabilities to give direction for the next decade. Plans were made to meet again soon.

Evenings were full of praise and inspiration. Wayne Murphy preached each evening. On the final evening, he challenged those present to think about accomplishing greater things. In John 14:12, Jesus said that the one who believes in Him will do greater things than He did. As Wayne concluded the message, he called three pastors to the platform. He introduced Andrzej Hara, pastor of the Grudziadz church which recently had become self-supporting. Wayne asked the audience, "Will your church be the next to become self-supporting?" He introduced Krzysztof Zareba, pastor of the Warsaw North church which started a new congregation, and Marek Sobotka, the pastor of the newly planted church. "Will your church be the next to plant a new church?" he asked.

Deepening knowledge of the church's past, awareness of current growth and potential, commitment and inspiration for the future. This was the Annual Leadership Conference for pastors of the Church of Christ in Poland.

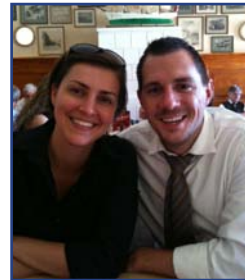


## WHAT DOES THIS ANNIVERSARY MEAN TO YOU?

### **Aleksandra and Nathanael Berry** **Warsaw, Poland**

"It is so overwhelming to see this connection of history and future in the church I grew up in. That they fought and worked so hard. Their devotion to God is very inspirational to me." Aleksandra (nee Bajenski)

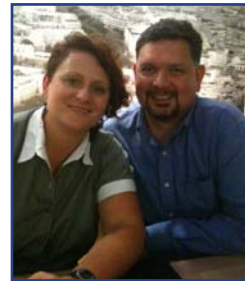
"I look back at Polish history...such a hard history... so many starts. And the celebration service in the Palace of Culture! That icon of Communism for the celebration service! The next ten years will see new openness to Christianity. The hardships of the past ninety years have brought us to this golden moment of great hope." --Nathanael



### **Zosia and Marek Charis** **Lublin, Poland**

"There has been limited general knowledge of our church's story. I am so excited to share this long history with our congregation. This is a celebration of the older generation's vision, passing on their passion to succeeding generations." --Zosia

"The new decade is opening. What next? What is before us? I see lots of possibilities for what God will do. The young have bold vision and those of us a little older caution to be careful, be faithful." --Marek



### **Deanna and Ron Reed** **Indianapolis, Indiana**

"They have come such a long way, from hidden and threatened yet unafraid to share the Gospel. The denominations are working together. The way they present the Gospel today, people will be drawn." --Deanna

"Good seeds were planted by faithful men. The success of the church here in Poland has made it through many crises, many transitions, and there are strong younger preachers. Perseverance will crown success again." --Ron



## **Dela and Paul Bajko, Bel Air, Maryland** **founders of Polish Christian Ministries in 1954**

"We remember in those early years, the churches were primarily in Eastern Poland in the towns and villages. Now the churches are in all the big cities. In the early years, the congregations were farmers and laborers. Now the congregations are young, intelligent, professional, and energetic. A strong potential for our church." --Dela

"So much history. We built so many churches. During the Communist time, the government wanted to unite all the Protestant Evangelical Churches into one but essential beliefs were lost. With the Lord's help during our visits to Poland in 1960 and 1963, the essential beliefs of the Church of Christ were restored.

There also was some misconception in America about Churches of Christ in Poland. Traveling for many years to Christian Churches and Churches of Christ, Bible colleges, conventions, service camps and schools to raise support for the work in Poland, we had to clear the picture of the Polish Churches of Christ and regain the confidence of the American brotherhood.

The next ten years? I am unsure what the next ten years will bring for Churches of Christ in Poland. We need to work together but be cautious

of ecumenism, remembering the lessons of the past. We must be faithful to the Lord in all things." --Paul

For more information, visit [www.pcmusa.org](http://www.pcmusa.org)



*Photo credits: Nina Hury and Judy Harris*

# A Brief Nine Decade History of the Polish Churches of Christ

*Delivered by Piotr Karel at the  
90th Anniversary Celebration Service  
June 26, 2011*



**T**he psalmist wrote a pilgrimage psalm that reads like this:  
<sup>1</sup>If the Lord had not been on our side—let Israel say—<sup>2</sup>if the Lord had not been on our side when men attacked us, <sup>3</sup>when their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive; <sup>4</sup>the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us, <sup>5</sup>the raging waters would have swept us away. <sup>6</sup>Praise be to the Lord, Who has not let us be torn by their teeth. <sup>7</sup>We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped. <sup>8</sup>Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.  
(Psalm 24)

Keeping in mind “**had it not been the Lord**” let us spend a few minutes looking back at the history of the Church of Christ in Poland.

“**Had it not been the Lord**” a teenager from a small village in the Podlasie region, who in 1910 left to America to earn his daily bread, would not have met a street evangelist who preached the good news about salvation in Christ to passers-by in the heart of New York. Had it not been the grace of God, the heart of young Konstanty Jaroszewicz would not have burned with love for Christ and His Word telling him to start studies in Johnson Bible College.

Had it not been God's leading, he would not have made the decision to return to his home country in 1921 in order to tell his people about salvation in Jesus. In a tiny hut near Bialystok a small group of people hungry for the Gospel began to meet. There would not have been many more baptisms, and there would not have been new fellowships called Churches of Christ in many villages and towns of Bialostockyzna, Podlasie and Polesie. In times of hard beginnings “**when men rose up against us**” God showed His faithfulness and provided help.

“**Had it not been the Lord who was on our side**” in the 20s and 30s of the 20th century... There would not have been a great blossom of new churches marked with dozens of new churches, hundreds of mission stations. There would not have been regional conventions, publishings, trainings, mission projects in neighboring

countries first held in Kobryn and later moved to Brest, near the Bug River. And about people like Konstanty Jaroszewicz, Jerzy Sacewicz, Boleslaw Winnik, Nikon Jakoniuk, Jan Bukowicz, Grzegorz Bajko, and many others, we would not think about the pioneers of the evangelical movement in eastern Poland during the interwar period. We don't even want to think what would happen **if it hadn't been God's care** during Second World War. After the war in our ruined country, cut off from the area where there had been over 80 churches, church leaders had to begin work in Poland all over.

**"If God had not been on our side"** after the liberation, new churches in Olsztyn, Gdansk, and Lidzbark Warminski would not have been established. In 1946 the building, 50% destroyed, at Pulawska Street in Warsaw would not have been purchased. There would be no opening of renovated churches, chapels, houses of prayer, or the orphanage in Lidzbark Warminski. There would be no charity help from the United States meeting people's basic needs and reviving the Churches of Christ.

**"If God had not been on our side"** in early 50s when Poland was under the terror of Stalin and his agents – as psalmist says, **"they would have swallowed us alive."** One day all key leaders of evangelical churches in Poland were arrested and accused of cooperation with the nation's enemies – western countries. Some were released from prison only after three years. Today we remember and thank God for our fathers and grandfathers of the interwar period: Jerzy and Konstanty Sacewicz, Pawel Bajenski, Boleslaw Winnik, Mikołaj Korniluk, Teodor Lewczuk, Szymon Sacala, Jozef Wrobel and many other pastors and church leaders not mentioned by name.

**"Had it not been the Lord"** the cooperation among various evangelical churches under United Evangelical Church would not have been possible. The believers from five related evangelical churches would not have the chance to learn cooperation, respect, or diversity in minor issues. There would be no learning from one another, helping and receiving from one another. There would be no joint conventions, training, trips, or retirement home for the elderly in Ostroda and no opportunity for young people to take up theological studies.

**"Had it not been the Lord"** in 60s and 70s, there would be no – despite restrictions and control from the communist government – steady growth of church ministries. Many chapels would not have been built and many mission projects, exceeding abilities of small congregations, if it had not been for Polish Christian Ministries with its founders Pawel and Adela Bajko. There would not have been evangelism of young people through youth camps, which had been initiated by Jerzy Bajenski and a group of youth leaders. There would be no transformation of a run-down farm into a beautiful camp - Ostroda Camp.

**"Had it not been the Lord"** during stormy decade of 80s during deep economical crisis in Poland, there would not have been millions - worth of charity support from brothers and sisters in the US, which was received and distributed around

the country. Tons of food, hygiene products, and medical equipment were distributed to Polish families, social aid and medical centers. There wouldn't have been a young generation of leaders who were working dynamically in their local congregations but also – due to marshal law and lack of everything – were continually developing new ministries on national scale. There would not have been Christian Bible Institute, which in cooperation with TCM, trained about 3500 students and published over 80 theological books exceeding a quarter of million copies. There would not have been youth conferences that held many thousands of participants from various churches. And in the late 80s and early 90s there would not have been the amazing evangelistic rally in over 30 cities called Bible Under the Tent. There would not have been many foundations and Christian associations come into life; there would not have been new Christian publishing houses established and new ministries in mass media.

**"Had it not been the Lord"** in the 90s – when the nation became a sovereign country – "we would not have escaped as a bird out of a snare of the trapper and we would have been free." We would not have enjoyed the freedom. We would not have realized our dreams of the autonomous Churches of Christ. Had it not been the Lord, new churches would not have been planted all over the country. There would not have been churches of many hundreds that began to set a new tone for evangelism and promoted new, more effective approach to church development. We would not have participated in world-wide satellite missions or huge evangelistic projects. Vacation Bible Schools would not have drawn hundreds of children. In prisons there would not have been preachers and no believers would have served in the army or the police.

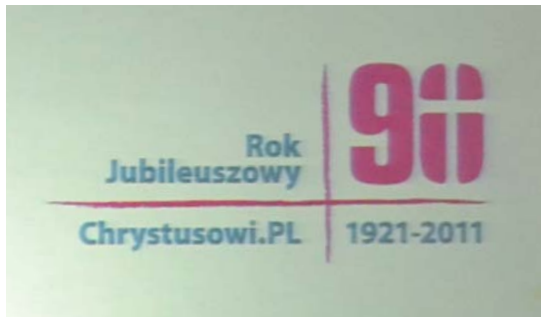
**"Had it not been the Lord"** in the first decade of third millennium... we would not have known how to use the freedom and the possibilities it had brought to properly develop the work of Christ on our Polish land. When secularism and practical materialism are devastating people's hearts and churches – thanks to God – we have noted a 30% growth in our Church. At the turn of the century the congregation in Warsaw became the biggest evangelical fellowship in Poland. New initiatives of church planting appeared. New ministries among the Jewish people started. Preschools and schools were established. Our church initiated the establishment of Evangelical Alliance in Poland.

**"Had it not been the Lord"** there would not have been many anonymous servants of Jesus Christ and dozens of local church ministries around the country, which cannot be mentioned due to time limitations.

**"Had it not been the Lord"** we would not have gathered together here in this great, historical hall in the Palace of Culture to consider the Work of the Tenth Decade. Seeing faithfulness of God in the past 9 decades we confess with the psalmist: **"Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."**

*-- Written by Andrzej Bajeński and Piotr Karel*





*Theme Poster*

# Photo Collage of 90th Celebration



*Event location: Congress Hall of Palace of Culture*



*Group of Americans in Poland for Celebration*



*Some came from quite a distance for the Celebration*



*Wayne and Diana Murphy hearing the messages in English*



*Warsaw North Minister Krzysztof Zareba extends a warm welcome*



*Government official sharing a greeting*



*Tomaszow Minister Rafel Pierkarski talking about the next decade*



*Polish singer Daniel Olszewski singing Finding U Faithful*



**Dave Johnson and Luke Bajenski**



**George Bajenski, Dr. Gary Holloway, and Dr. David Eubanks**



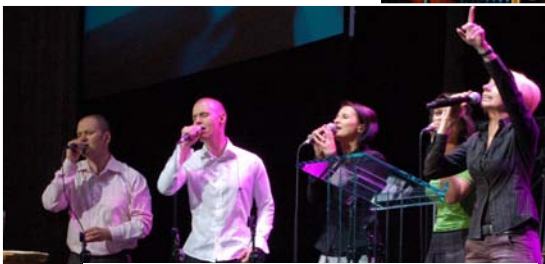
**Andrew Bajenski speaking at Convention**



**PCM Board Member Judy Harris and others hearing translation**



**Praise Band**



**Praise singers**



**George Bajenski leading in song**



**PCM Executive Director welcoming guests to PCM sponsored luncheon**



**PROeM Director Maui Dwulat sharing in prayer**



**PCM Executive Director Wayne Murphy sharing greetings from PCM and USA**



**Dr. David Eubanks visiting with the Hurys at Slowo i Zycie display**



**PMC Board Chairman Dave Johnson speaking at PCM luncheon**



**Judy Harris making presentation at PCM luncheon**



## focus on

# Prayer Needs & Praises

### Around the World

- Steve Zimmerman reports economic struggles in South Africa with gasoline over \$6.00 per gallon and the exchange rate of currency has dropped 17% in 3 months. Pray for all missionaries dealing with similar circumstances.
- Chiredzi Christian Children's Home/Village gives praise for the recent opening of their half-way house that will accommodate the needs of older children (18+) as they transition to adult lives.
- Bob Sheffler (Grassroots Leadership Development) requests prayer for the successful advancement of the TEE program in the Philippines, Ethiopia, India, and Hong Kong.
- Bill & Carleen Crandall (Ecuador) give praise for progress being made in personal evangelism and church planting as well as recent successful marriage retreats/seminars.
- Bill & Margy Hoff (Honduras) give praise for a total of 31 men who have completed residential studies in the training institute to become pastors. They request prayer that these alumni will stay faithful to their calling.
- Mike & Kathy Girton (Dominican Republic) request prayer as Mike awaits a liver transplant.
- Ray & Pam Trantham (Ukraine) request prayer as they continue to train Ukrainian missionaries to plant churches. Many of these will be able to enter "closed" areas because of their Ukrainian citizenship.
- David & Sharon Filbeck (Thailand) request prayer as they begin a 2-year home assignment. Their efforts will be focused on writing grants for building the campus of Lanna Theological Center as well as developing other needed programs.

### Haiti

- Don & Virginia Dugan request continued prayer as the cholera outbreak continues to increase in several localized areas of Haiti, including Jeremie and Port-au-Prince.
- Please pray for national worker Mathieu Alexandre who is currently in New York for prostate surgery.

## India

- LaVerne Morse (SE Asia) requests prayer for Miao Bible Institute in Moloshidi Valley, India. The school is surrounded by 113 different tribal groups. It is hoped the school can train many of these tribal members to serve as evangelists.
- Emrys & Usha Rees request prayer for Aaron Derr, a young man from Converse, Indiana, who will be working with them in India for about 8 months.
- Richard & Marguerite Uriah request prayer for the health of all Jaintia Mission staff as this is the season for all kinds of air and water borne illnesses.

## Africa

- JoAnn Martin (Zimbabwe) requests prayer as they seek to expand the Community Orphan Care Program beginning this September. This will assist hundreds of children with food and education.
- Nick & Lindale Adams (Zimbabwe) give praise for 7 men who recently graduated from Zimbabwe Christian College.
- Steve Zimmerman (South Africa) gives praise that a container of Bibles, Sunday school material, and Christian literature arrived safely. Pray these items will be distributed according to God's will.

## Team Expansion

- Join D & T in asking God that the Mien people of Southeast Asia will be reached with the gospel.
- Join T & J in asking God for energy and perseverance in language learning in Southeast Asia.
- Join A & J in praying for Taidam leaders in Southeast Asia, who are being trained in "One Story."
- Join K & R in praying that the mill will impact their region of Southeast Asia.
- Pray that Spencer & Pat Garner will be able to find the herders in their summer locations in Mongolia who want to become Christians.
- Pray for LA as she prepares to return to the Middle East.
- Praise God with JB for a productive short-term trip to a sensitive field.

## Hong Kong

- Ken & Linda Smyth request prayer for coworkers Jim & Betsy Mollette. Betsy fell recently and broke her hip and now their return to Hong Kong is questionable.
- The Smyths also request prayer for the family of co-worker Steve England who died unexpectedly on June 13th.

## KOREA CHRISTIAN GOSPEL MISSION

Dr. Yoon Kwon Chae, Director

Yoido, P.O. Box 876

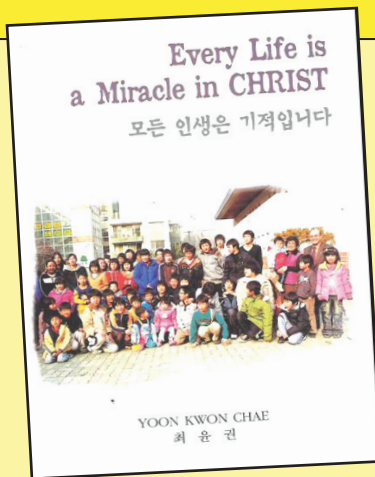
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### Books by Yoon Kwon Chae:

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*Great Big Father.....	\$7.00
*The World is Hungry for The Gospel .....	\$7.00
*Love is Immortal.....	\$7.00
*My Dear American Friends IV.....	\$5.00
*Yours Because of Calvary.....	\$5.00
*History of Korean Christian Churches.....	\$5.00

*Proceeds go to Geon Home*



**Chae's latest book**

**About These Books:** Experiences and inspirational stories of over 45 years of ministry among refugees, orphans, and forgotten lives in Korea and in the deserted areas of the world. You will laugh and cry with the author.

**About the author:** A graduate of San Jose Christian College and Lincoln Christian Seminary. Founder of Korea Christian Gospel Mission, Seoul Christian University, Geon Christian Children's Home, Braille Christian School, Radio and Prison Ministry.

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