“When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs.” (Psalm 84:6)

As we look back on our journey, this verse has become our confession. Last August, both Soohoon and Jihoon went to college. It was the work of God that was beyond our thoughts. Jihoon is studying at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, while Soohoon is going to Georgia Institute of Technology, which is within walking distance from the house of missionaries in residence. It must be the best arrangement for Soohoon, who still needs medical treatments.

We sincerely thank God and you all for accompanying us as we were walking through the valley. The lesson we learned through the journey was that even though the valley looked endless, like being in the dark tomb where Lazarus was laid, it was a process where our faith was being molded and reborn in Christ. When the Lord of resurrection and life calls our names, our body and spirit come to be restored.

We are serving about 400 missionaries of Global Ministries here at the headquarters of Global Ministries in Atlanta. The work has been providing us much learnings and relationships that enable us to grow in mission. Especially, Jay is currently working both at Global Ministries and Candler School of Theology of Emory University as a Mission Practitioner in Residence. This semester, he works with Dr. Wesley de Souza providing practical aspects of mission to the students, and he will teach a course “Re-imagining Christian Mission with Jubilee” in spring semester.

We thank God for these wonderful opportunities and ask for your continuous prayers for our mission engagement in this new context. (Photo: Soohoon receives a scholarship from Korean-American Foundation)
Global Mission Fellows - International Track Commissioning

On July 28th in Cambodia, 50 young adults were commissioned to serve as the next Global Mission Fellows. It was one significant example of From Everywhere to Everywhere principle as the cohort represented 26 countries and will serve in 33 countries for two years. (Photo: GMFs during their orientation in Phnom Phen, Cambodia)

Global Mission Fellows - US2 Track Commissioning

After the two-week-long intensive orientation, 13 US-2 missionaries were commissioned on August 23 at Grace United Methodist Church in Atlanta. We were so pleased and privileged to meet and fellowship with the young missionaries who have responded to God’s call for such a time as this. (Photo: After the commissioning, by Anthony Trueheart)

Visiting Brooks Howell Home of the Retired Missionaries

We visited Brooks Howell Home for retired missionaries (Ashville, North Carolina), and met 11 retired missionaries. We enjoyed their unique missionary welcome and hospitality. They especially enjoyed the video greetings from Thomas Kemper and Judy Chung. Upon our request, four of them volunteered to share their short and inspiring messages for new missionaries, which we intend to use for the upcoming missionary training. One of them said, "It is more important who you are with the people than what you do with the people. Let the people know that you are striving to bring the message of love to them with who you are."
Missionary Service (MS) Unit Half-Day Work Retreat

As early as this September, all the staff of Missionary Service Unit gathered to review their works achieved and share new ideas and plans for 2020. Thank all the MS staff for their vital roles in mission together with missionaries.

(Photo: Global Ministries’ MS unit staff)

Mission Thought
Grace Choi

It has been about a year since Jay and I became the missionaries in residence after leaving our previous place of assignment in the Philippines. Although every corner of our life has been and is an opportunity for mission, to leave the country I spent my entire 30s and 40s in was hard to let go of. While being busy with different activities at Global Ministries for the last year, I recalled and reflected on an event that taught me the meaning of being a missionary.

After working for about ten years in the Philippines, I had a time of spiritual depression. I asked God, “Lord, I desperately seek you, please renew me even if it means I have to go through suffering.” I should have been more careful about what I had asked for because three months later, we found that our eldest son had a pituitary tumor. We struggled through balancing our work and tending to my son’s tumor. Even though it was difficult, we were working through things one by one, and at one point, everything seemed as if they were to return to normal.

However, one day, there was a hemorrhage in my son’s tumor, and he needed immediate surgery. But at this critical time, his doctor, the best neurosurgeon in Korea, who I had been able to connect to through my friends as a former nurse at the hospital, was on leave. So, another very young surgeon had to take over the job. I became too anxious and nervous to do anything, and in the weeks leading up to the surgery, all I could do was pray. While I called out to God in distress, the Lord gently spoke to me, “Grace, you are desperately looking for the best doctor for your son. When I sent you as a missionary, I wanted you to be the best servant for my people; the lost, the wounded, and the least.” I was terrified and asked, “Lord, forgive me and help me to be so.”

On the day of the surgery, I was still afraid. When my son was carried into the operation room, God told me, “Grace, don’t worry. You sent your son into the operation room to cure him not to harm him. But remember, I sent my son to die on the cross to save you.” At that moment, I felt God’s heart and pain and was overwhelmed by God’s love.

Through this experience, I came to learn what the significance of God’s love on the cross, and how the heart of a missionary should reflect this very love shown Him. It was the heart of Christ full of love and compassion for the people who were like sheep without a shepherd. (Mark 6:34) It is my earnest prayer that the Spirit of God will fill our hearts with the love of God.