June 12, 2017

**Congratulatory Address at the Inauguration Ceremony of**

**the New Korea UBF Director**

P. Abraham T. Kim, General Director

I thank God for raising UBF for world campus mission and leading us to have today’s ceremony for the leadership succession between the 4th and 5th Korea UBF directors. I would like to express my gratitude to Shep. David Kim who successfully served the important duties as Korea UBF director for the last 6 years after the late Dr. Samuel C. Lee, Dr. John Jun, and Dr. Samuel H Lee. P. David Kim served Korea UBF by diligently visiting its local chapters, fully devoting himself to the opening of the UBF History Museum in 2013 and preparations of annual conferences for Korea UBF staff, lay and student leaders, as well as the 2016 World Mission Report and the Missionaries-Shepherds Conference. For UBF missionaries and shepherds, retirement means "re-tire” --changing tires to continue running. May God continue to use Shep. David and Sarah Kim preciously for Bible Korea and world missions.

I would like to welcome the new Korea UBF director Shep. Moses Lee and congratulate on his inauguration along with all coworkers who are here, all UBF missionaries and native leaders around the world, and UBF international headquarters staff. As we all know, Shep. Moses Lee is a holy man of God. We can see him neatly dressed wherever he goes, even in the mountains and on the beaches. Some would expect austerity from him, but his messages are full of spiritual inspiration and humor. He also sings very well. When he sings pop songs of the past, even the popular singer Na Hoon-A would find him peerless. Women missionaries in the Middle East say that they feel like seeing their own loving father when Shep. Moses visits them. We know that Shep. Moses Lee grew to be such a loving and humble man of God through his beautiful life of obedience to God’s discipline in many hardships by faith. May the Lord provide his beloved servant, Moses Lee, with everything he needs in body and spirit. Through his beautiful co-working with all staff and lay shepherds in Korea, may God continue to bless Korea UBF to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

UBF was born as a gospel community of young people who found new life in Christ through Bible studies. As those young people embraced God’s vision and went out as missionaries to 95 countries, UBF has grown to be a global lay missionary movement after the Moravian missionary movement in the 18th and 19th centuries. This growth was possible due to UBF staff, lay shepherds, shepherdesses, and missionaries who devoted their lives to campus disciple-raising ministries and world missions. After 56 years since UBF’s initiation in 1961, many UBF chapters have become an international Christian community that consists of three generations.

As we face changes and diversity in our community in the midst of the challenges of secularization in our time, what efforts should we make? It is to build up a mature Christian community after the image of the church that has the fullness of Jesus Christ. Our true identity comes from this maturity. For this, Apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian church, "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love…we will grow to become in every aspect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ” (Eph 3:17, 4:15). I pray that, whatever we do, Christ’s love may be our motivation, the rule of procedure, and our ultimate goal. Our one to one Bible study ministry originated from the love of God who sees one soul as more valuable than the whole world. Likewise, our discipleship training should be based on God's absolute love and hope for one person. As we focus on ministries, it is easy for us to lose God’s mind and heart. Therefore, we should often examine ourselves before God to see whether we are treating each person in our church community with God's mind and heart or not.

Moreover, a mature Christian community is formed through co-working. I pray that God may continue to guide UBF and all its chapters to build up a loving community, as we remember the early church in which the apostles who devoted themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word and the deacons who administered church affairs worked together, the Jerusalem Council in which apostles and elders sought God’s will together in mutual respect, and the Ephesian church in which a full-time staff, Timothy, and lay leaders, the elders, beautifully co-worked.

Let us persistently pray that God may raise 100,000 Bible teachers and missionaries to reach out to all the cities and campuses in 233 countries of the world. Let’s pray that all UBF members may renew the vision and passion for world missions through the International Summer Bible Conference in Kentucky, USA, that will be held on August 9-12, 2018. May God raise many long-term and short-term missionaries through the 2018 international Summer Bible conference.