

2021 UBF 60th Anniversary Online World Mission Report Conference

God Who Made the 60th World Mission Report Conference Memorable

“and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew” (John 2:9).

Since the beginning of the year, it was announced that this is the year of the World Mission Report Conference in Korea, and after the announcements were made, discussions and planning began in February. The staff shepherds had team meetings to discuss how the conference should be conducted amidst the Corona pandemic.

As we started preparing for the conference, we recognized the fact that the World Mission Report Conference was celebrating its 60th anniversary along with the annual Missionary Conference. Due to the Corona pandemic, there were opinions saying we should keep the conference small in number, and there were other opinions saying we should do it properly to celebrate the 60th anniversary with the use of online resources that became available during the pandemic.

When we prayed for the mission report conference, we prayed that the last 60 years can be well summarized and that we can take hold of a clear direction for the next 60 years to come. At that time, God gave the words of the wedding feast in Cana from John 2. At the Cana wedding feast, the heavenly wine that was made by Jesus left a deep impression on people. We prayed that the conference would have spiritual direction and be filled with grace, leaving such deep spiritual impression on people. Also, knowing that the wine was made by the Lord through Mary's prayer and the obedience of the servants, we wanted to prepare for the conference with 'Mary's prayer and the obedience of the servants.'

First of all, while discussing the theme of the missionary conference and the World Mission Report, there were external mottos and titles from the past 60 years that we could have used, but we felt that this 60th World Mission Report should be focused on taking hold of a clear internal direction for the next 60 years to come. Originally, the theme of the World Mission Report Conference was “To know Christ,” but this was changed to be the theme for the Missionary Conference instead. As for the World Mission Report Conference, we came to the conclusion that Acts 28 would be an appropriate passage for encouraging missionaries and small house churches around the world, who have endured many hardships due to limited circumstances and due to the pandemic.

In this way, the Missionary Conference theme was decided as “To Gain Christ” based on Philippians, and the theme for the World Mission Report Conference was decided as “Paul Rented a House” (Acts 28). As a result, the themes of the two selected passages was appropriate in strengthening and giving clear spiritual direction for all the missionaries and UBF brothers and sisters. Thank God who had compassion on us and gave us the most appropriate direction for the next 60 years to come as we celebrated our 60th year.

During the next three months, God helped our shepherds to prepare thoroughly for the conference amid much discussion, prayer, and preparation. We held staff meetings every week for the conference using Zoom, discussing, checking in on the progress, and praying. The Missionary Conference and World Mission Report Conference TFT were organized and held. In addition, the president, secretary (over-seer of the Missionary Conference), and the mission director (over-seer of the World Mission Report Conference) met twice a week to inspect the conference progress. We had discussions and prayer meetings every Thursday with the coordinators and missionaries of each continent. We met once every two weeks with Korean Continental Coordinator shepherds.

To recap the progress of the World Mission Report Conference, we discussed and set directions for promotion, celebratory performances, missionary introductions, videos for the 60th anniversary congratulatory speeches, music, and life testimonies. First, we made two promotional videos and posted them on the Internet. The celebratory performances were being hosted in Korea, and we decided to do Korean dances to thank God for using Korea for the past 60 years. It was decided that the 60th anniversary videos would not be ministry focused but be composed of missionary interviews. The Bible Korea part would consist of interviews of Korean shepherds, and the World Mission part would consist of interviews of people who through Korean missionaries first became disciples and are now living as missionaries themselves. The missionary introductions was planned to introduce all the missionaries who could not come in-person, and we also decided to introduce missionaries martyred by death because we thought it would be meaningful to commemorate the missionaries who became grains of wheat in the 60-year history of UBF ministry. Later, the world representative missionaries who led the meeting were also introduced.

The congratulatory remarks were made by the Secretary General of the Korea World Mission Association, the CCC representative, and Dr. Scott Moreau, the Dean of the Graduate School of Wheaton College, and Dr. Robert Coleman, the founding member of Lausanne, both of whom were recommended by America UBF. It was decided that the music would be a local praise song, one would be a chorus by Korean centers, and one would be a global chorus. Based on the opinion that it would be better for life testimony sharers to represent each region, we decided to do all 7 regions. However, to save time, we used subtitles, edited the videos to be 7 minutes long, and we also decided to do it as naturally as possible without it being staged. In order to save time, we decided to provide subtitles, but only in the main 10 languages (Korean, English, Spanish, German, Russian, Japanese, Thai, Indonesian, Cantonese, French/after the conference, an additional request was made by the Mongolian chapter, making it a total of 11 languages including the Mongolian subtitles).

To accomplish the above plan, God sent craftsmen like Bezalel and Oholiab (Ex 35:30-35, 36:1-7), who were wise and talented in making the tabernacle. God sent Shepherd James Lee (Jongno 1) who had passion and wisdom for the celebratory performances. God raised Shepherds Samuel Lee (Saejong), Jinsol Lee (Gwanak 5) for Bible Korea Videography. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Shepherd Samuel Lee was sent by God as a film director for the World Mission Report. Thanks to him, the overall visual beauty of the World Mission Report Conference was raised to a cinematic level. Shepherd Jinsol Lee was a video engineer and was responsible for all the work of trimming, editing and subtitling the 2 hours 30 minutes long video. The day before May 30th was originally his day of enlistment in the Korean army. He was going to enlist after making the video, but God gave him grace and postponed his enlistment date so he could finish up and rest for about 20 days after the World Mission Report Conference.

In addition, Shepherd Myung-cheol Lee (Gwangju 3) was sent to produce world mission videos, missionary introductions, and other congratulatory videos. Shepherd Joshua Lim (Jongno 2) worked hard for the music videos. In addition, shepherds Abraham Jo (Suncheon), Yongseok Kim (Yongin), Elijah Moon (Jongno 7), Joseph Noh (Ulsan), Joseph Jo (Yonhee), David Nam (Gongneung), and Spurgeon Lee (Jongno 2) each participated and co-worked in the TFF Team for the World Mission Report Conference. The shepherds worked together on promotions, on-site stage arrangements, and translations, etc. Above all, the continental coordinator missionaries (David Kim, Yohan Seo of International Headquarters, Stevan Jo of Central and South America, James Kang/Elijah Park of Europe, David Lee of CIS, Joshua Seo of Africa, Paul Kwon of Asia, Joshua Lee of Oceania) worked hard for about two months during the conference period. They got together on Zoom every week to share updates on the situation, receive advice, and serve as a bridge to accomplishing the great work of creating subtitles for 10 countries. In particular, translating and subtitling were not easy tasks, but the continental coordinator missionaries and the translation team missionaries were immensely helpful in accomplishing the work. For the 7 life testimony videos, there was a lot of hard work put in by the life testimony sharers, missionaries who

helped them, and those who helped with the videos. God made known to us the YouTube translation function that helped us create a basic subtitle script for each time zone, and based on that, input the subtitles in 10 different languages, and save it, then it automatically uploaded the subtitles on videos. In the end, it was possible for us to provide subtitles in 10 different languages because God blessed the World Mission Report Conference and made known to us this amazing function.

In order to serve the World Mission Report Conference, the people who served really worked hard like servants. In particular, they revised and revised repeatedly until the complete final video was produced. They worked hard like the servants who filled empty jars with water to the brim, denied themselves, and presented it to the banquet master at Jesus' order. In particular, Shepherd Myung-cheol Lee (Gwangju 3) silently obeyed the work of revising the video more than 7 times. Shepherd Caleb Kim, who was in charge of the whole program, experienced nosebleed several times and also experienced exhaustion to the point of almost passing out. It was also reported that his wife had an accident and bled. God made His precious laborers offer obedience to the Lord like that of the servants who participated in Jesus' miracle of water turning into wine.

Above all, God received the prayers of UBF co-workers around the world. God made known to us the most fitting studio that does Christian cultural ministry and allowed us to film the World Mission Report Conference in that place. In particular, God greatly blessed the main message. The message that Missionary Moses Yoon prepared for over two months was really well-prepared, biblical, and good. During the actual filming, the message did not come across as very heart moving at first, either because there were issues with the microphone, or because the whole atmosphere was a little chaotic, or because there was no audience during filming. However, later, according to the video broadcast from each center site, the message was truly heart moving. Grace received through the message seemed to have been amplified up to 5 times more than when it was being filmed. So, we received many evaluation feedbacks saying that the second-

generation kids did not sleep during the message and that it was really gracious. As someone who watched the on-site film recording, I could really feel that God anointed His blessing over the World Mission Report video. I am sure that this is because all the co-workers in the world prayed earnestly like Mary.

In the final stage of completion, it was pointed out that the overall pre-worship events and programs were long. Worried over this dilemma, I restructured and placed the interviews of Korean shepherds from the middle to the front of the video timeline. Then, as the overall flow of the video changed, it became an organized and heart-moving video that was not boring. One shepherd commented that that was a godsend edit.

In this way, I thank God for blessing the 60th Anniversary World Mission Report Conference. It was a conference that overflowed with grace just like in the Bible when 5,000 men ate abundantly and even had leftovers in the field of Bethsaida. In fact, it was confirmed that about 10,000 people watched the YouTube version of our video, which is more than double the number of views during the actual World Mission Report Conference. I have heard that most of the shepherds and missionaries prayed in common, saying that they give thanks for God's "abundant blessings" over this conference. It was said that many people in Korea and abroad were blessed. Since the video was 2 hours and 30 minutes, I was worried it would feel too long, but it did not feel long at all. Some even said that all the sheep and second-generation kids who usually fall asleep during worship services were all awake and actively listening. Of course, there were those who had different opinions on some points. We will take heed of those opinions and feedbacks in the future and refer to them in our preparation for the next World Mission Report Conference. Now that people have experienced the advantages of having an online conference, people gave suggestions that it would be good to hold the next World Mission Report Conference both online and offline even after the corona virus pandemic is over.

God blessed the 60th anniversary online World Mission Report Conference abundantly. Perhaps because of the abundance of grace received through the conference, there was also an overflowing collection of Corona relief donations to help missionaries in need. The amount far exceeded our expectations. So, even after abundantly helping 44 missionary families in need, there was still much left of the donations. Thus, we are planning to make a list of people to help again and to help them further. God blessed the 60th anniversary World Mission Report conference just like in the Bible where everyone had 12 baskets of food left even after they ate to their full. As in John 6:12, the Lord helped us organize all the videos from the World Mission Report conference by subject and content, that is, the ministry of putting the videos in 12 baskets, making them easy to view and uploading them back on YouTube to be used preciously for promotion. God also made it historic for our ministry and brought publicity through articles and interviews done by various media outlets.

Thank God for not letting the Corona pandemic stop us from holding the World Mission Report Conference, and for his amazing ministry that overflowed more than the usual physical World Mission Report Conferences. Thankfully, many missionaries and local shepherds were able to participate, even those who could not have come to a physical conference due to difficulties of airfare, lodging, and getting vacation days, and we were able to hold this conference with really low-cost and high-efficiency. Truly, like the wedding feast in Cana in John 2, God allowed us to receive grace that was full of joy and left a lasting impression. Most of all, we learned how Paul accomplished the evangelization of Rome in a rented house. Everyone received great grace and set their spiritual direction to serve the one-to-one Bible study ministry once again with faith and hope. We give thanks and praise to the Lord who has accomplished all this work beyond our imagination, who is not bound by limitations and circumstances. We earnestly pray that God may continually bless the UBF ministry for the next 60 years to come, help us not lose the DNA of evangelism, and continue the ministry of renting a house while overcoming all limitations through Him. I pray that God may continue to use our ministry preciously, enabling us to achieve world evangelization, and become a

ministry that writes Acts 29.

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