What a wonderful snowdrop!

Around two weeks ago, I saw a snowdrop on the way to my kid’s preschool accidentally. One day, there was just a thin plant. The next day it became a little bud, and then the flower finally bloomed. How glad I was to see this flower in Chicago!

I first knew the flower in England a long time ago. I never saw it in Korea before, so the little white flowers on green grass (England’s grass is still green in winter) moved my heart deeply. At that time, I had many plans and dreams for my future. I had hopes for my life.

Do you know what the language of the snowdrop flower is? I’ve got it! A snowdrop means ‘hope.’

You see hopes and concerns in this issue the writings from students who were previous members of the Spouse Group. They used to ask themselves “Will I be able to reach my goal?” “What kind of person should I become?” “What am I going to do here?” when they were spouses, but these questions are ours now.

Some writings share personal stories, experiences and memories but also express hopes for plans to make our own lives. We hoped for something before and now we still hope in the long winter. It whispers in our ears “Wait! – Wait!” repeatedly and we linger patiently. But suddenly, I met blooming snowdrops. Their small faces shine white smiles while melting ice remains on the ground at the end of winter. The flower has waited to appear show as the time is nearly over. Remember! A snowdrop has a secret ‘hope.’
Su-jeong lived in Hyde park as the spouse of an international student from Dec/2009~Jan/2011. Before going back to Korea, she shared her diary with our group. We felt sympathy with her story. Here is Su-jeong’s soul story and her greeting to us.

“I was so confused” 12.21.2009 - 1.30.2010
I have stayed here for 13 months. I experienced four seasons in Chicago. I look back on the past. Last winter, I had to adapt to my new life in Chicago. My situation changed from being a teacher to the housewife of an international student. I couldn't buy anything because of English and a new environment. For a long time, I would go out without my wallet or my house card. I was dependent on my husband completely, and I felt that I was a fool. Before I came here, I worked actively and I was an active woman; I couldn't leave home without my wallet, cell phone and my car key. I was so confused that I was not happy, and I missed my life in Korea.

“I couldn’t give up my desire” 2.1.2010 – 5.20.2010
My husband’s new semester started. I spent boring days with my daughter who is two years old. It’s the hardest time for me. I’m a workaholic, so it is a severe punishment for me to do nothing. Every morning, I worried what I would do all day with my baby. At that time, I liked dish-washing and cooking because I was free from my baby and I could think alone. Consequently, I became a good cook compared with my past cooking. At that time, the spouse meeting was an energizer for my life, so I really valued this meeting. The spouse meeting is a place for sharing our thoughts and giving and getting valuable information and loving each other. For I couldn’t give up my desire for myself - for my development. I had a hard time. As time went on, I gradually adjusted to my new life.

“I was happy for travel and summer program” 5.20.2010 - 8.30.2010
It was summer vacation, so I was not bored any more. My family traveled several times, to the West, Canada and Niagara Falls, Wisconsin Dells and tourist attractions in Chicago. As my family traveled, we had to cook for ourselves and drive such long distances, and we were tired, but I was very happy. America has beautiful nature and vast lands; we could see various and interesting views everywhere we went. We planned to travel East, but we were exhausted and had no time, so we didn’t.
I had the good fortune to participate in the summer program for McCormick international students. I was thankful and very happy. I had good chances to experience diverse cultures and peo-
ples, learning English, to be a student and most of all, to be free from my baby. I think I owe my happy time to Rob. Rob always helps someone who tries to do something, and he encourages us to try to do things. I always appreciate it.

I was able to get articles for my research; I went to the library of U of C, and I searched many articles and found a new topic for my research. It was the first time that I realized that studying is the easiest and most pleasant work.


I’m comfortable in this situation more and more. I became an independent person. I enjoy my new life with my friends, those who are different in age, hobby and life style, but we share our life and support each other. Sometimes, I am confused about my identity, but now I’m looking forward to meeting my university students. These days, I have gone on a Chicago architecture tour, visited the university, a church, restaurant and famous places, and had meetings with many people. Most people ask me to share my reflections on Chicago life, but in my case, the experience as a housewife was more powerful, so I strongly feel I didn’t experience Chicago life. Maybe I will enjoy my living abroad the next time.

“I returned to my country” 1.28.2011 ~ present

My family has to live apart for about 3 years. It will be a hard time for my family. I returned to my country, but I have adapted to Korean life easily and was charged with many roles as a dean, professor, mother, scholar, daughter and daughter-in-law. Many tasks are too much for me, but I will do my best and I want to appreciate all things because God is with me. I miss Chicago and am eagerly looking forward to visiting Chicago and meeting many people again.

Su-jeong Kim

She is an associate professor of Social Welfare at Young-Nam Theological University and Seminary
My name is Rang Lee from South Korea, and I am the Spouse Group meeting director. I have three names. One is 'Samonim' as a pastor's wife in Korea and Yul's mom. The other is Rang. I am glad to have three names. With my three names comes great responsibility. My favorite name is Rang. Since I came here, my name, Rang, was separated from my memory. But in the Spouse Group I am called Rang. I like it. Before I came here, I worked for the Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary in Korea as an administration staff for three years. My daughter and I live separated from my husband for one year because I couldn't give up my job, and I worried about American life. Indeed, I didn't have enough confidence to speak English and care for my daughter. I still don't have confidence to speak English. Anyway, even though it was hard to care for my daughter, she grew very well every day. It was delightful for me to see her grow-up. But her father (Juyoung) couldn't stay and feel together with us. I felt sorry about it because he could not spend time with her, so I decided that we should be together. My American life began three years ago.

I am Juyoung Kim, a Ph.D student in LSTC. My wife, Rang, is my best friend, and I have a daughter, Yul. My field is World Mission and Christianity. My academic interest is to build a mission theology of reconciliation in relation to culture, religion, race, sexual orientation, and between human society and nature. Above all, my personal interest now is to explore how I can keep living an analog life. I would like to introduce myself through the metaphor of a “cell-phone”, which is forgotten because of the “smart-phone.” But I do not want to use the smart-phone, and I cannot deal with it because technology is outpacing me, but my life’s machine is still waiting for hand written love letters sent by my pals. My previous dream was to be a medical doctor. That did not come true, but I believe that I became a Christian minister because I must be a person who cares for the poor, heals the wounded, wrestles together with the exploited, and lives with all of the people in the world without prejudice and discrimination. I believe that although I did not become a medical doctor, I am living as a spiritual doctor. I have written an eco-friendly bible study published by the Korean Christian Environmental Network, participated in the Korean Christian Environmental Movement through inter-religious dialogue and civic solidarity indirectly, and worked in ministry and mission at a local Chicago church.

Rang: How did we meet each other?

Juyoung: When I graduated from seminary in Korea, I started work as young adult minister in a new church. Although I went to the church with the pure purpose of ministry, I could not do so because of my
wife who was a member of the church’s young adult group. After praying for her for a year, I tried to be in touch with her through text messaging, surprising gifts and hand written letters. What was most important for her to accept me as a boyfriend was my thinking about the identity of my future wife. I did not want to meet a woman who was ready to be a pastor’s wife, but who could love me as an ordinary man. Therefore, it is very hard for me to live with her because my religious authority does not work in our home. Nevertheless, I am so happy and pleased to live with her. Thank you, my love, Rang.

Rang: It is true. Before Juyoung and I married, we exchanged letters every day by e-mail. I decided to marry him because his letters affected me very deeply. Those letters made my heart move toward him.

**Juyoung: What is one of your most impressive memories in Chicago?**

Rang: In my life, I think one of the best things after I married Juyoung was that I had a beautiful daughter. The other thing is that when I came here, I attended the Spouse Group. In summer 2008, we started to serve at the Food for Life Program at First Presbyterian Church. Every month we make dishes and serve them to the homeless. We all donate $5.00 for our feeding program monthly. This fund is used to buy what we need for cooking. The reason why the program started is that we share what we receive, love and care from others. I hope that the purpose of this program will keep being applied by future volunteer group and this program will give encouragement and hope to many people. The Spouse meetings and Feeding Program greatly encouraged me, so I decided to volunteer for another program. I want to talk about KAN--WIN. I was trained there for 40 hours. From last year I started volunteering and later this year I became a Woman Hot line call receiver as a volunteer. KAN--WIN is a non-profit community organization established in 1990, committed to building safe and healthy communities. It provides comprehensive services to women and children affected by domestic violence and works within the larger community towards women’s empowerment and social change. I am glad to learn and help as a Korean woman.

**Rang: Where do you want to travel?**

Juyoung: I want to go to Lebanon. The firstly, reason why I was interested in Lebanon was that I received the Bob and Jean Boling Memorial Fund for International Travel from McCormick. To submit the application, I examined Lebanon’s environmental issues and made a proposal to visit Lebanon to study more about its environmental movement. The national flag of Lebanon consists of three horizontal bands, two red bands and a white band, and a green cedar tree in the middle band. The cedar tree once covered approximately 90 percent of the mountains in Lebanon but now cover less than 20 percent. Most Lebanese environmentalists relate this depletion to its environmental problems and global warming. For solutions, different religious leaders and environmentalists have united to participate in the cedar tree preservation movement, even though religious and political tension exists between them. I would like to learn how they can reduce their religious and political tension for the cause of the cedar tree preservation movement when I go to Lebanon. Now, Lebanon is calling me, “Come on, friend.”

Rang Lee

She was the Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary Administration Staff
Director of spouse group
Welcome to Chicago : Project Onward

I was asked a few weeks ago what my favorite place is in Chicago. It seems like an easy question to answer at first sight, but this question made me think a lot. Living abroad means that you miss not only people but also places and spaces that are important or familiar to you and that make you feel comfortable and complete. You may know the oldie “People are strange” by The Doors. One sentence from this song, “people are strange when you’re a stranger” came to my mind often in my first few months here. At around this same time, accidently, I found Project Onward in the Chicago Cultural Center’s rear. To me, nothing sounded more welcoming in Chicago than the Project Onward’s come-as-you-are attitude.

This place is artistically exciting and personally the most heartwarming place I have ever seen. It provides huge forms of support such as a studio space, art supplies and mentoring to artists of all ages who live with special needs, developmental disabilities or mental illness. It is divided into two parts: a large open studio where the artists work and a gallery where the finished art work is sold. The artists receive 70 percent of whatever is paid for their work when they are sold in the gallery. You can buy postcards and note cards with reproductions of Project Onward artworks, original paintings, drawings and works on paper and holiday gifts. The artists are available to draw or paint you or your pet’s portrait too. You can usually see a thematic exhibition as well; the last one was in honor of the mayoral election about Chicago’s (past and next) mayors from 1837 to 2011.

At times, I have bought something there while the artist was in the studio working. I have always been introduced by the staff so I have had the possibility to converse with the artists and see their working table and how they create amazing creations. I have really appreciated these opportunities.

If you are interested in art or just have an open mind in general, stop by the Chicago Cultural Center and visit Project Onward to take a look at their amazing work and talk to the artists. It will be well worth it, and you may just find that this is one of those places that makes you feel comfortable and complete.

Andrea Bacsa
She works for the Hungarian government as an anti-terrorism and organized crime lawyer. She will return to her job at the end of May.
A few years ago my family came to the US for my husband’s advanced studies. Later I too was accepted in seminary. Though I was thrilled to become a student again, initially I was anxious and uncertain about balancing home, children and school.

My introduction to MTS was through the Summer Language Institute that started in July. In one of our writing classes, especially when we met at Lake Michigan, our Director Rob and Allison asked us to write a poem! Then I thought to myself that we are put in trouble!

The group split and each of us found a place to be in solitude. As I looked around, some of the students were staring at the water, others in deep thoughts, some were bent into their notes and writing off their poems!

Even as I looked around, I was deep in my own thoughts and ideas for the poem. As I started gazing at the large lake, it looked so beautiful; it was shining and was peaceful. A few people were joyfully swimming. There was a breeze from the park, which was full of big trees, green and lovely.

At that moment, I thought of giving my doubts, anxieties and uncertainties some words. So I started writing. The following are some of my thoughts that I intended for this poetry assignment on that day.

Am I really doing this!!!
It’s been many years since I left school. Today I am here as a student again, an international student in a different set up. “Am I really doing this”?

Lots of things have changed, lot of questions arising, I have taken a decision as huge as Lake Michigan “Am I really doing this?”

I am a mother of two and a wife sitting here with a diverse group of friends learning and sharing. Many questions haunt me “Will I be able to – can I do – How do I – ?

Can I go to school/seminary like others here are attending? Can I succeed in my studies? Will I be able to reach my goal? Will my little faith lead me to reach the goal of ministry that God has planned for me? Will I miss….

My thoughts again went back to my children, my happy 20 minute naps(siesta) in the afternoon etc..

Am I really doing this?
I am sitting here with lots of curiosity and lots of enthusiasm to learn, explore, write and so on. At the end again I said to myself “Am I really doing this?” Yes I think and I hope I can do it. After all, I am already enrolled as an international student in McCormick Theological Seminary.

Why I am sharing all this with you now is that I found answers for some of my questions at that time. Even though, at times, it was overwhelming, crazy, difficult and doubtful, I was successful, and now I want to study more!

Friends, becoming a student or taking up any new challenge is not always ‘a bed of roses’, but there are hidden sacrifices and a strong commitment behind every success.

That is a powerful lesson that I learned through my experience.

My experience as a spouse and as a student taught me how to balance our day-to-day life activities, the relationship at home with our children and spouse and our own cultural and social events. I learned the importance of prioritizing our activities. I understood that as a result, we can maintain a peaceful, healthier balance between family, children and our present role (spouse/student/teacher or pastor) to explore, experience and learn many things that God wants us to do.

Best, Satya

Satya Sudhakar

She graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary(MTS). She is a spouse, mother, working woman and newly enrolled M.div student at MTS.
When I was 9 years old, my family, which lived in Seoul, moved to the countryside, on the east coast of Korea, because of my father’s job. Everything I saw there was new to me. I was far away from familiar things such as supermarkets, schools, streets and friends in the city. In their place, were strange things like trees, flowers, green grass, shells and fish. I experienced such special things that I had not imagined. It was a big change in my life at that time.

The first change to me was my playground. I always played at home with my younger brother in the city. If I wanted to go outside, I could play only in front of my door. But when I lived in the countryside, I could go everywhere I wanted to go. In this place, everywhere I went was a good playground, so I could discover great places to play without any special choice. In those old days, when spring was coming, many women and girls went with their baskets to the field or mountain to pick spring herbs. I also did it with my friends. In the summer, we went to a stream to catch fish. At that time, I saw yabby (fresh water lobster)’s hatching eggs. In the winter, my mom didn't allow me to go outside, but I went outside secretly. Outside, my friends slid on the rice paddy ice. A field soaked with water with rice is known as a rice paddy. Normally during the winter people drained the water from the rice paddy, but sometimes they made ice for children. If I went there, everybody became my friend and gave me their sleds for sliding.

Another change was snacks. In the city, my snack was usually a cookie or biscuit my mother made or bought. But at that time I got my snack by myself from nature around me. During the spring season I ate spring flowers like Azalea, Acasia, Scarlet Sage, and wild berries. In the summer, I could pick a variety fruits. The most memorial snack was locust. Before the rice harvest I and my friends walked along the ridges between the rice paddies to catch locusts. After we caught them, we went to a friend’s house to grill and then eat them.

There were so many different things I cannot explain. Every day I climbed two hills to go to school. It took a long time and was too hard for me. One hour before class started, we who lived in the same village assembled and then went to school together. Sometimes I saw snakes in front of our path. Sometimes walking to school seemed like going on a field trip.

But the greatest difference was friends. At that time my friend’s parents were farmers or fishermen. Their parents were always busy. Sometimes, my friends worked with their parents.

So they didn’t expect to play with their parents. Instead, they played with friends. They played a variety of games together with trees, flowers, sand and fish. They always went to the mountain or coast, the stream or field with friends. They made everything around them friends. So I became friends easily with them. They shared everything they met from their circumstance. Maybe, in spite of my shy and introverted character, the reason I could make friends easily and go outside and play with everybody everyday was because my friends had open minds like nature.

Two year later, I came back to the city. I adapted quickly to my new city life. The places I could go and spend time were school and my house. I returned to my introverted character. I always stayed at home reading alone. Sometimes, I felt it was too hard to make friends again. Also, I liked to see trees and flowers but I could not enjoy these things in the city. As time went by, my memory about that time has faded away.

In retrospect, that time was a very short time in my whole life. But sometimes I am surprised to discover now that my emotion and sensibility came from those long-ago days. When I remember that time, I become happy. When I talk about that I find myself and am very excited. Just thinking about that time was the spring in my life making my heart flutter and happy like a spring picnic. It was a beautiful present like flower petals swirling about in the spring wind.

Mingyueng Park
She was a middle school social science teacher and writer.
The Cherry blossoms will be in full bloom soon. It is also the time for farewells in schools, companies and so on. People take good-bye pictures under blossoming Cherry trees. Then, a new annual season comes.

My daughter, Hana, came back to Japan after she graduated Pre-K in Chicago. Because it was the middle of the Japanese school year, Hana entered the Kindergarten at the end of summer. There were many differences between both Kindergartens. For example, Japanese kindergarteners wear uniforms. It has a few strict rules. Girls like Hana cannot bring fashionable items to school. Her favorite comb can only be a dark color.

One day Hana wanted to put on a pink hair band, but the teacher said “Hair bands are a danger. Take it off please.” Hana felt so sad.

Rules are boring, but on the other hand, rules can protect kids from wasteful competition. The schools are concerned not about people’s appearance but with the human mind.

Hana started to enjoy the Japanese school life. And at home, she enjoys fashion shows!

Last Cherry blossom season, my daughter was in first grade. Japan has an interesting custom about school bags. Most Japanese elementary school students use a special knapsack, “rando-cel,” which derives from the Dutch “rancel.” Kids use this bag from first grade to sixth grade, for a long time. Parents or grandparents usually give a rancel to a kid entering the first grade of an elementary school.

The rancel is very heavy and strong!! When I was a child, the rancel was one of two types, black and red. However, more color variety is available these days: blue, pink, light blue, etc…

My daughter, Hana, got a red rancel. She puts textbooks and everything in the rancel and carries it to school every day. Seeing her carrying the red rancel, I believe that she carries not only her textbooks but also her good memories of school days!

Saori, who was a member of the Spouse Group for several years, wrote this greeting one week before the earthquake. Her family lives on an island in southwest Japan. They were not affected by the quake but their church is trying to respond as it can.

Miyamoto Saori
She is a journalist and freelance writer in Japan
All my kids were born from the same parents and wearing the same clothes, but we can see that they look quite different. That is one of the reasons why I never get bored with my girls.

Most people say they look alike but there’s something they do not recognize.

Each one has her own individuality, appetite, tastes, and unique personality.

They share similarities yet are so different from one another. They are my lovely and precious treasures.

I think this could be the same case with God, when He sees us.

There are diverse races, the rich and the poor, intellectual or uneducated, pretty or ugly. All kinds of differences exist among us. However, we are essentially the same people who have the same DNA from God.

That is why I believe we should accept our differences instead of comparing ourselves with one another.

If everyone in this world were the same, it would be really boring.

What matters is that we are brothers and sisters who were born from the same Father, our God, who made us in His image with slight distinctions.

Donghyun Goo
She was the director of an English Institute in Korea

Picture: these pictures were taken when each was 12 months old wearing the same clothes. Yehna 6 years old, Naeun 3 years old, Eunyu 1 years old
We remember the winter

We took a picture when we were in Incheon, Korea. Whenever I see this picture, I remember living in Korea. Before coming to Chicago, there was so much snow that we went out to take pictures in the beautiful white snow. Though it took an hour to get there, my husband and I were very happy because we were walking on snow together. Since we had the plan to go abroad to the United States for a long time, winter, that is the last winter in Korea, was very precious for me.

On June 28, 2010, we arrived at O’Hare international Airport in Chicago. And now eight months have passed. Despite that we are not good at English speaking, I am happy because of my family. At last, I hope for every student at McCormick that his/her goal for theological study and life comes true.

Soon-ok Shin

She worked in the accounting department in a trading company
“What should I do in my life?” “What kind of person should I become?” I ask myself these questions often. Sometimes, I have experienced a blizzard in my life. I’ve felt fearful that I, or those I love, will become lost in the storm.

Spiritual direction is direction given to people in their relationship with God. God is immanent and transcendent in relationship with us. Our intimate conversation with God needs formation and training. This most intimate and precious relationship is the reason for spiritual direction. It is therefore not so strange that people who search for a deep and persistent prayer life ask for some help. Many people seek some kind of guidance in their relationship with God, and are appealing to their lives to offer such guidance.

I meet regularly for spiritual direction with my spiritual director. We sit quietly with each other and wait for the shy soul to show up. I learn to be patient. It is the process of helping my own soul experience freedom. It helps me to accept responsibility for developing a relationship with God.

Spiritual practices help us stand in the presence of God with all we have and are: our fears and anxieties, our guilt and shame, our greed and anger, our joys, successes, aspirations and hopes; our reflections, dreams and mental wandering, and most of all, our people – family, friends, and enemies — in short, all that makes us who we are. With all of this we have to listen to God’s voice and allow God to speak to us in every corner of our being. This is very hard because we are so fearful and insecure, and we keep hiding ourselves from God.

Henri Nouwen answered, “I am God’s beloved!” to the question, “Who am I?” He felt that self-rejection is the greatest trap in life – not success, popularity, or power. Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that declares we are loved (Nouwen, Spiritual Direction, pg. 28-31) Nouwen defines prayer as listening to that voice—to the one who calls you “the Beloved.” We can listen to the voice through our prayer. Prayer is a discipline to help me claim my Belovedness.

I visited Daybreak in Canada last summer. It was very exciting for me, as I love Henri Nouwen’s books and I have wondered about this community because he was so affected by Daybreak. I had a chance to look around the woodworking shop, craft studio, and chapel. I wanted to walk in the tracks of Henri. Daybreak is a very beautiful place. It is a community of people with developmental disabilities and those who care for them as they live, work, and share life together. They belong to God from eternity to eternity, like me. Although I spent a short time there, I felt they are beloved by God, like me. Henri
Many people are asking their religious leaders to help them find their way through the complex labyrinth of contemporary living. They are asking: “How can I remain aware of God’s presence in my life? How do I know that my life is lived in obedience to God and not just in response to my own impulses and desires?” All such questions ask for direction because they all require the ability to listen to God’s voice. That is why in the spiritual life the real question is not what we are thinking, saying, or doing, but whether our thoughts, words, and actions are an obedient response to God’s call.

A spiritual director in this strict sense is not a counselor, therapist, or an analyst, but a mature fellow Christian to whom we choose to be accountable for our spiritual life and from whom we can expect prayerful guidance in our constant struggle to discern God’s active presence in our lives. A spiritual director can be called “soul-friend” or a “spiritual friend.”

It is important that we practice the disciplines of the church and the Scripture and thus become familiar with the space in which we try to listen to God’s voice. The way we relate to our spiritual director depends very much on our needs, our personalities, and our external situations. A Christian helps another Christian to enter, without fear, into the presence of God and there to discern God’s call.

SeungHae Jung

she was a Spouse Group member, and now is a McCormick Theological Seminary student.
Nine months have already passed since I came to Chicago. Time really goes so fast. My children have also quickly changed in body, language, thought, etc. However, my new experience about God in America I have especially felt to be flowing slowly. That is, God allows me to endure, persevere and be patient. Frankly, I myself have had much waiting time about my important concern to study church music and liturgy in America. Although I came here for my husband's study, I want to have a job as a music director in a church, spend my personal time to develop myself while caring for my children. Let me introduce myself a little. I have an administrative character for planning my schedule and a personal nature that wants to do well by myself if I cannot receive help.

On the other hand, I easily help anyone needing help. For example, in regards to international students, it is not easy to live in another country as you know because by law they cannot work to support the family. Life circumstances are not all about studying because of all the daily hardships like overcoming the foreign language obstacle. No matter what, there are many hard things about life in a foreign country.

As for me, when I came here, it was I who loved to do the expenses by myself, even though my parents-in-law supported my husband's school tuition a little. I'm just talking about my character without reference to my faith which depends on God fully. In my country, God gave me gifts that I have used for God anytime, anywhere God wanted. People used to say, "You look wonderful because you succeed in whatever you want." "It seems that everything is always going well." Likewise, I never felt the fact that I am in trouble in my country.

Of course, I really have lived in God's grace well. In Chicago, also, I live better than in my country, anticipating those things that God will fulfill through me who is waiting so much for when God will give me my wishes. Waiting a long time sometimes makes me cranky, tired and exhausted. While being deeply in thought about my life in America, one day, I even cried out in my lonely place, racking my brain, I cried out, cried out!!!

Along with this behavior, I got a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes. I continued to weep, saying: "O Lord, American life is so hard for me. Everyday, everyday, many things to do!" Caring for my children keeping my watchful eye, encouraging my husband who has been stressed about English since he came here, worries about school tuition, monthly rent, solving problems that appear in our American life adaptation, my new attempts to accomplish my goal and mission, etc.

By the way, I had a chance to sing solo for communion in chapel this term. The song's name was "His eye is on the Sparrow". This was the song that I knew first. As I prayed and pleaded for God's grace more with my tears, complaining, despair, and future desire, at the same time, I found the meaning of that song accidentally.

The song is from Luke 11: 6-7 and Matthew chapter 6. This title's important message is that God says to me, Do not worry about everything and God who feeds birds of the air, sparrows, even lilies of the field also feeds everything I need. Do not worry, do not worry. God goes on to say to me, "Because I am always with you, Do not be afraid about what you will eat, what you will drink, and what you will wear for clothing." "I know that you need all these things and Wait until the time I give you your wishes." As soon as I discovered that song's meaning and heard God's voice, my tears started to change to delightful tears.

I said, "O Lord, forgive me, have mercy on me." "I am the weak who needs God all the time." "Be merciful to me, Thank you God, Thank you for finding peace in my mind in You and I love You so much." I am still in my waiting time.

I also know that hardships in my life can still appear. Nevertheless, because of believable, faithful, and unexpected power, I can stand firmly. That is God's grace forever and ever.

Su-yeon Lee
She studied church music and theology in Korea. And she worked as a pastor and music director in a church.
Ethel Company Taco

The Taco is a traditional Mexican dish, but now, one of the most popular foods in the world is the Taco. Do you know that according to the history of the Taco, people who lived in the valley of Mexico ate Tacos filled with small fish. Maybe as Tacos spread over the world, the way to enjoy them has become as varied as many different cultures.

One day, Ethel, who is a Spouse Group member from Mexico, invited all spouses to her house. She made tacos for us according to her own style. At that time, we experienced amazing taco. And each spouse coming from different countries enjoyed them together happily. Now we introduce Ethel’s taco.

Ingredients:
chopped beef, salt, ground pepper, lemon, onion, olive oil, tortillas and cilantro.

For the Salsa sauce:
red tomato, green tomato, green jalapeno, salt, onion, olive oil.

1. Season chopped beef with pepper, salt, and lemon juice.
2. Put seasoned beef in the pan with oil. Add onion. Stir until the ground beef is browned.
3. Warm the tortillas in a skillet for about a minute on each side until soft.
4. Put cooked beef in the tortilla with Salsa sauce and cilantro.

How to make Salsa sauce
1. Blend red tomato and Green jalapeno and salt.
2. Fry sliced onion in oil. Then combine all the ingredients.
3. Simmer until boiling.

Ethel
She studied theology at the university and works with her husband’s church and community.
Our winter story

Field trip Photo gallery

Our group began 4 years ago in the LRWC. We meet to share, discuss and experience life together every Wednesday afternoon. Rob Worley (Director of the Language Resource & Writing Center in McCormick Theological Seminary) is our teacher, mentor and friend! When the group began there were only six members, but now we have 20 members.

LRWC spouses group

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