

The Sojournal

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Announcements



SURVEY!

Please fill out this quick survey to help us plan for the fall semester of Cell Groups whether you are currently in a cell group or not!

[LINK TO THE SURVEY](#)

DEAR THEOPHILUS

Got questions? Ask Theophilus any question you have about life, friends, family, pets, and more! There are no dumb questions :)

[SUBMIT QUESTIONS HERE](#)

Prayer

Lamentations 3:22-23 - "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

- We serve an indescribable God who is faithful to answer our prayers. Let us pray with faith and have great expectations for the ways that God will move in our lives.
- Praise the Lord that His mercies are renewed every morning. He allows us to wake up each morning, He has blessed us to enjoy the sun, and has given us life. May we approach each day with gratefulness.
- Pray for God's peace and mercy in America and the nations of this world - especially Lebanon. May God's light shine in the midst of all the chaos and pain. Let His love be like a beacon in the darkness.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for your renewed mercies and blessings every morning. Thank you for waking us up, and for allowing us to see another day. Teach us to pray in faith, knowing that you are faithful and just to answer. We pray for your abundant mercy and grace in America, Lebanon, and all the nations of this world. We trust that your glory and holiness would shine through and be made known to all the peoples. We love and trust you only. Amen.

Submit prayer request [here](#)

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Reflections by Jon Shim

Member Profile Featuring
Hyeji Kim

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! 🎂

8/12 Juhee Park
8/14 Noah Say

8/15 Sarah Park
8/15 Ashlyn Hu

REGULAR GATHERINGS:

Oasis:

Wednesdays

7pm

Morning Prayer:

Saturdays

6:30am

Sunday Service:

Sundays

10:45am

LINKS:

[WEBSITE](#) | [ZOOM](#) | [YOUTUBE](#)
[FACEBOOK](#) | [INSTAGRAM](#)

Reflections

Jan Shim

My spiritual journey, like many others, has been one filled with plenty of highs and lows. Growing up in a family of believers, God has always been a part of my life, but not always a part of my life (if that makes sense lol). I've never been much of a "writer", but I will do my best to paint the picture of where I currently am with the Lord and how he is working in my life. To begin, I will take you back to the summer of 2019, a summer I will forever remember because of the overflowing amount of blessings I received.

The summer of 2019 started with "Homeless Retreat" and "Abba", two youth group retreats that I was fortunate enough to serve in. During Homeless Retreat, I was asked by Eddie Kim and Pastor Lim to help lead the praise team. Many don't know this about me, but I love to worship and sing at the top of my lungs...but not necessarily in front of others. Although I do not mind public speaking, every time I found myself in front of a crowd, I would panic. Heart racing, immense sweating, and unable to form coherent sentences let alone play or lead a worship set. This was a big problem, especially with no practice and only a one-week notice, I found myself desperately praying while simultaneously anticipating a disaster. Long story short, this is when I was reminded of the power of prayer. How when you pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you and work through you, you can do things that you didn't think you could to glorify God's kingdom.

Following this experience was a season of prayer that motivated me to start most mornings with early morning prayer (aka SBGD) at church, having morning bible studies with brothers and sisters, and taking steps to understand my call to be holy. Unfortunately everything changed when COVID-19 attacked. I found myself desperately looking for a replacement for that time/environment that church gave me for many months. It became increasingly difficult to get on my knees in my own room and pray to the Lord. Then as days became months, I found myself losing touch with God, and with that came an overwhelming loss of purpose. Constantly questioning myself in every aspect of my life, like 'what was the point of continually praying if I didn't feel the same as I did when praying at church', 'what was the point of continuing cell groups if attendance with dwindling down', 'what was the point of trying so hard when there was no positive outcome?' Although these questions still fill my head time and time again, I am reminded of summer 2019 and how amazing it felt to live life in the presence of God.

This may seem like an abrupt ending to a story that is filled with many holes, but that's because my story is yet to be finished. I hope to update my story as time continues, but in the meantime I will give the pen to the author and allow Him to write out my story as I do my best to faithfully allow His will to be my will.

HYEJI KIM



Age: 25

Life Stage: Young working professional

Birth Place: Seoul, South Korea

Places You've Lived: Seoul, SK; Southern California; Dayton, OH; Paris, France; Washington D.C.; Columbus, OH

SPEED ROUND

Early to bed or night owl
Rainy day in or sunny day out

Basics neutrals or colorful

Dreamer or realist

Talking or Texting
Rule Keeper or rebel
Jjajjang or jjampong

Hobbies

Reading, writing, playing praise songs on the piano, watching Korean variety shows/Netflix, learning new things

SPIRITUAL GIFT:

Faith

Growing up, I have had to face a lot of uncertainties and challenges being the daughter a Korean pastor who immigrated to the US. When looking back and reflecting, however, I have witnessed God working in so many ways to provide, protect, and guide. This has allowed me to adopt an attitude of "whatever may come my way, this too shall pass in the best way possible" because I am certain that whatever I am going through right now, God is fully in control.

Occupation/Job: I am an analyst at an IT consulting company and have been working in the public sector for the past couple years.

SPIRITUAL GIFT:

Service

Also by nature of the family I was born into, I thankfully had a lot of opportunities to serve. Whether it be setting up or tearing down, playing piano and singing up front or translating in a small booth in the back, I do not think twice of whether I want to do something or feel like doing it. If I see a need or if there is a call for action, I try to be there and be someone that could be relied on, praying that the act of service is one that glorifies God.



Q:

What are some of the biggest challenges you were faced with during this life stage?

Q:

Advice you would give to members about to enter the work life:

Like yourself for who you are - Just like college, the workplace is full of people who are accomplished and motivated. There will be people who have had amazing past work/personal experiences; there may be people who are more outgoing and outspoken. There also may not be that many people who look like you. From this, it is possible to feel very insecure about where you fit in and whether you are good enough; I know I was. I can't say I am completely free from these insecurities, but the way I have tried to overcome them is through liking myself for who I am in this moment. I like who I am, even with all my flaws, bad habits, and sinful nature. I believe everyone has a reason to like themselves, and the more you are able to see and come to terms with the good and the bad that is in you, the more you are able to recognize that the answer might not be fitting in. You don't have to look or sound a certain way. You don't have to always be the loudest voice in the room or have a drink at a work happy hour. You don't have to know everything, provided that you make extra effort to continuously learn. God created you and molded you to be who He wanted you to be in this time and space. What are qualities and personalities that God gave you that you are downplaying? What are talents and strengths that God gifted you with that you are minimizing?

Personally, comfort is a vice, and this also answers the question of "during quarantine, what has God been pressing on your heart?" I recognize that I've grown up to be a risk-averse person, and having comfort and stability financially, personally, and emotionally has become important to me. I find myself worrying about "How do I support myself? How do I support my family? How do I support the family that I will have in the future (Lord willing)? What about my parents' retirement? What about my retirement (yes, I think this far...)" Questions like these pushes me towards a path that is safe, one that is comfortable and perhaps is predictable. Once I am comfortable, however, I have become aware of the fact that it takes a toll on my spiritual life. In addition to not being adventurous or daring with my choices (as I could be at 25), the sense of comfort originates from me rather than from the Lord. I become very self-centered in looking towards myself to provide and decide rather than looking towards the Lord for provision and guidance. Ultimately, I become prideful. I don't think there is anything wrong in seeking comfort; it may be a natural instinct or even something that takes higher priority as one's life moves into different stages. For me, I know that I need to be hypervigilant when I seek comfort or feel comfortable; He has definitely been reminding me, "Hyeji, don't forget that you can be prideful."

Continued...



Try to balance growing professionally and developing personally - 2019 was a good year for me in terms of work. I played a couple different roles, had more responsibilities, and started to build a good reputation at my project. All of that translated to a promotion and a raise, but work had constantly kept me busy and exhausted. At the end of 2019, I found myself feeling empty. I couldn't remember at all how the year went by, and I felt that the person that exited 2019 was the exact same person that had entered 2019. I was truly thankful for the blessings God gave me at work; however, I realized that just because I was doing well at my job didn't necessarily mean that I was doing well and growing as a person. Ultimately, I want to say, don't forget to take care of yourself if there comes a moment when work becomes busy or tough. Take breaks and rest in whatever form that suits you. However, if that rest manifests itself in terms of watching TV/Netflix (as it did for me...) or something that you know to be unhealthy/unproductive, also try not to lose sight of the goals you had set for yourself. Was there a habit that you wanted to cultivate? Were there books you wanted to read? Was there a language that you wanted to become proficient in? Was there a hobby you wanted to do more of?

Learn to tout your own horn and ask for help when necessary - You may want your work to speak for itself; you may want your supervisors to notice all the hard work and/or late hours you are putting in. But more often than not, your bosses may/will not have the attention span or the mental space to keep track of all the good you are doing for your company or the fact that you may be struggling silently. It might seem uncomfortable (it did for me as an Asian woman) but knowing how to talk about your accomplishments and telling your story do not equate to being prideful. Raising your hand respectfully before you reach the brink of exhaustion and burnout is not a sign of weakness. Both may be a muscle that we have to slowly strengthen, but ultimately, I believe it is what will make you continue to flourish and grow in your career.

