

The Sojournal

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE KOREAN CHURCH OF COLUMBUS EM

Announcements



Additional announcements can be found on page 6.

Prayer

Jeremiah 20:9 - "If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,' there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot"

- God is the same God who we prayed to in our youth. Let our faith be child-like and remember His goodness.
- Give the church wisdom as we transition into reopening.
- May our faith be like a burning fire so that we are unable to stop praising His name.

Prayer: Father, You so are good. Your faithfulness and mercy is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Let me not forget the works You've done in me so that I may sing Your praises with a burning passion. Let the Holy Spirit burn brighter in me, and let Your glory shine out. Please let the Spirit guide our church as we move to reopen. Restore us, cleanse us, and renew us. We love You and praise You. Amen.

Submit prayer request [here](#)

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REGULAR GATHERINGS:

Oasis:

Wednesdays

7pm

Morning Prayer:

Saturdays

6:30am

Sunday Service:

Sundays

10:45am

LINKS:

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

Testimony

“God is always at work around you” --Experiencing God by Henry & Richard Blackaby

After starting the book, *Experiencing God* by Henry & Richard Blackaby with the church book club, I was convicted to reflect on how God has been working in my life during recent times. In this testimony, I will share how God reminded me that He doesn't need us to meet expectations, but just invites us to come.

During this time, God opened the door for me to have a Zoom reunion with people from my Sunday School class from KCC. The night before our virtual meeting, I was nervous because I wanted God to be the center of our meeting, but was afraid of making things uncomfortable. I was not sure where my friends were in terms of their faith, and I was also struggling with discouragement from not having met worldly societal expectations of a 24-year-old: getting married, having a 6-figure job, or looking a certain way.

I was afraid that my lack of accomplishments would prevent God from doing His work in the lives of my classmates. If I, the “unaccomplished” one, mentioned God, becoming like me would not be something that would motivate my friends to come to Christ. So I decided to pray.

I thanked Him for accepting me even though I am not accomplished and do not live a perfect life. I prayed that God would use the meeting to bless my friends and that He would use me even though I did not feel qualified. As I prayed, the Holy Spirit reminded me of the chorus of Beauty for Ashes: *“I delight myself in the richest of fare, trading all that I have for all that is better. A garment of praise for my heaviness. You are the greatest taste, You're the richest of fare.”*

That night, I tasted the sweetness of knowing that the gospel is not about meeting standards and expectations; it is about God offering us the best even though we do not deserve it. I was striving for approval from others through accomplishments, but God was reminding me that He has already accepted me and simply wants me to come to Him. God doesn't need us to meet expectations, but just invites us to come.

Thankfully, the meeting went well. We played Skribbl, caught up on quarantine activities, and marveled at how unpredictable life is. I also got to share my testimony about experiencing God the night before, and we closed our meeting in prayer. After the meeting, one of the girls shared with me that she was blessed by my testimony and asked if I would be open to reading the Bible with her. We decided to extend this invitation to reading Ecclesiastes with people in our grade.

God did not use my accomplishments to share Him with those around me. Rather, He used me when I brought my weaknesses to Him. I am so thankful that God loves us and invites us to come and experience Him at work in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

-Joy Lee-

Member Profile: John & Kelly Lee



Full Name: John and Kelly Lee
Life stage: Married with kids
Birthplace: New York Ohio
Places you've lived: Southern California
Seoul, Korea lived in Ohio
Stamford, CT all her life
Greenville, NC
Columbus, OH

Hobbies/how you spend your free time:

We like to travel. John is a miles and points enthusiast and collects a bunch of miles/points to travel. We are also Disney fans and have been to Disney World and Disneyland many times since the kids were born. We had several trips planned for this summer including a cruise and a trip to Japan but were cancelled with COVID.

How long have you two been together, & how long have you been married?

We both met each other at KCC early in 2000 and started officially dating in January of 2001. We married in March 2003 and have been married for 17 years.

Child(ren)'s name(s) & age(s):

Noah Lee (11) Audrey Lee (6)



SPEED ROUND

Early to bed or **night owl**
Rainy day in or **sunny day out**
Basic neutrals or colorful
Dreamer or **realist**
Talking or **texting**
Rule keeper or rebel
Jjajang or **jjampong**

Occupation:

Finance - manage investments for State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) pension fund

Substitute teacher and stay at home mom



Spiritual Gifts:

After completing the Modified Houts Questionnaire, it indicated my gift as one thing but Kelly didn't agree. She LOL'd at my result =(We agreed on Wisdom and Knowledge for me.

Exhortation





Member Profile: John & Kelly Lee Cont.

During this quarantine, what do you think God has been pressing on your hearts?

Kelly:

I'm realizing how selfish I am and my insecurities have become magnified during quarantine. Pre-quarantine I took for granted the freedom to move about and meet with friends, go to church, sending the kids to school and finding time for myself. But with school, businesses, & church shuttered and our travel plans canceled, I found myself looking inward and feeling more isolated than ever. I was putting unrealistic expectations on myself that weren't healthy and over time I broke down. I realized I didn't want to pour that onto my family. I felt like I could hear God tapping my heart to come back to Him and to allow Him to fully restore me and finally remove those things that I thought I had left behind. Obviously, this is an ongoing process, but I struggle with giving God full control and reign in me.

John:

What she said! (Just kidding.) I was just going to say I miss fellowship and realizing how important fellowship, eating together, and praying together in small groups is (Acts 2:42) but Kelly is a lot more eloquent!

What are some challenges you both were faced with during this life stage?

Kelly:

Being secure in who I am as a wife and mother. I hear different voices in my head of what a "good" wife & mother should look like and on the many days where I didn't "measure up", I have carried immense guilt. It's easy for me to compare myself to my peers and thankfully God nudges me to remind me that He made me perfectly in His image and I can be secure in Him because He is in me. Period. Another challenge during married life is dealing with in-laws. Before getting married, I've always heard the phrase, 'you're also marrying his/her family' & I never really understood that. Each family has some sort of dysfunction to it and learning to navigate family issues can be challenging at times.

John:

It's true that when you marry a person, you are also marrying into their family. We all have baggage that we bring into our marriage and it's important to understand the source and have the flexibility to adapt. There's a reason why finances and in-laws are major reasons for marital arguments. An important trait for any spouse or parent to have not just dealing with in-laws but in marriage in general is empathy. To always ask, "why is the other person feeling hurt or angry". Putting yourself in the other person's shoes goes a long way to solve conflicts.

Kelly:

While the above are challenges that all married couples will face, the most difficult thing we faced together was losing our 2nd born son, Andrew. He was 7 months old. It happened so suddenly. We had just moved into our new home and life seemed idyllic. I'd dream about how Noah and Andrew would grow up playing, fighting, making memories together. My heart ached not just for Andrew, but also for Noah. I asked God what I did wrong for Him to take Andrew away. I remember there was a time where it was so hard to be in church and stand during worship and sing praises to God. My heart felt so empty. I occupied my time by trying to stay busy around the house. I could feel myself becoming numb and hardening my heart to God. John and I were hypersensitive at the time and had difficulty communicating in healthy ways, so we were both drifting away from each other for a short period of time. I felt like I couldn't talk to anyone, especially my husband who is my best friend. During one of our many moments of bickering and circular arguments, I could hear God telling me to submit. But I was being stubborn and wanted to stay stubborn. Why should I be the one to lay down my pride, my anger? Thankfully, I listened and we reconciled and reconnected. I will never understand the reason why Andrew had to go, but I've grown to believe and have confidence that God is still good & He is sovereign-even in my loss and grief.

Member Profile: John & Kelly Lee Cont.

John:

This was by far the most difficult time period of our lives and of our marriage. We hardly fight. Sure, we have disagreements, but this was the first time I could sense our arguments were creating hurt and pain for the both of us. We went through a roller coaster of emotions: physical and mental pain, stress, anger, depression, guilt, etc. In the midst of this, Noah was the one to bring us comfort and rest. His name actually means rest/peace. We were unsure of trying for another child but God blessed us with Audrey and we are so thankful for Noah, Andrew, and Audrey. Like Kelly said above, we still don't understand why Andrew was taken from us, but we know God is sovereign and in control.

Advice you both would give to married couples thinking of having children:

Kelly:

I think my advice is for those who are unsure of being a parent. I was never a maternal person who was eager to have kids. We waited a long time before trying to have kids, a big part of it was my selfish desires. I was focused on the things I'd have to give up rather than what I'd be gaining. The moment I had Noah, I was filled with so much love. A love I didn't know I had within me. I really felt like I could see a glimpse of the Father's love for me, an unconditional, undying love. I tell our kids how much we love them and there's absolutely nothing they could do that would make me love them any less & I will already forgive them before they even ask. Raising kids is the most challenging task I've ever had, but it's been the most precious one to me. I've realized we're stewards of the children that God is allowing us to raise. They're only with us for a short time before they grow up and we launch them to live their own independent lives.

John:

cracks knuckles, stretches out hand, wiggles finger as I'm about to type I have a ton I could say on the topic of relationship, marriage, and children but for the sake of keeping this newsletter under 100 pages, I'll give some quick takes:

- For those thinking about marriage, remember that you are marrying everything about the other person. We cannot choose to pick just the good qualities but we have to understand that it's a package deal - we are marrying the person with all their flaws and we all have a lot of them. People think that marriage will solve a lot of problems and that people will change once they are married but that usually is not the case. While you are dating, be intentional. Marriage is a wonderful thing. Yes, it's difficult as you have someone else now you have to help care for and support, but you also now have someone else to help support and love you too.
- When it comes to children, what many people never tell you is that it's not always easy to get pregnant. We assumed that when we were "ready" we would just start popping out babies. It doesn't always work that way. People think that they'll wait to have kids until they are financially ready, but don't let finances become a hindrance or excuse to wait. The financial portion will work itself out. As a father, I can say that once we had children, my desire to provide for our family was a huge driver to become financially secure.
- Raising children is a tough job but it is also one of the ways we can experience giving unconditional love. I learned to recognize God's unconditional love for me by becoming a father myself. The love between a husband and wife is so important and the physical manifestation of that love is a child that is born with the same flesh and blood from both parents - just as how we were born in God's image. Cherish every second of parenthood especially during the difficult times. Your child will never be this young again. It's cliché but so true when people say that "they grow up so quickly". Learn to appreciate the small stuff and find God's beauty and miracles in everyday things.

Dear Theophilus

DEAR THEOPHILUS:

How do I be serious if my first reaction to ANYTHING is to smile or laugh?

-Happy Person



DEAR Happy Person:

Make it your second reaction.

DEAR THEOPHILUS:

How can I convince my parents to get another dog?

-Anonymous Doglover



DEAR Anonymous Doglover:

Sounds like they are taking care of one already, you can't convince them. Try moving out and buy your own dog. I'm sure that might be easier!



Submit Questions
[Here](#)



Announcements Cont.

Women's Ministry Picnic

Sharon Woods
06/20 @ 12pm



Bring your own lunch!

*with social distancing



WANT TO BE FEATURED?

Nominate yourself
and/or your friends using

[THIS LINK](#)

GOT TALENT?

We recognize there's so much talent within our EM. From activities you've picked up during the quarantine season to talents you've honed for years, we want to feature it all! We are planning on delivering a special issue on July 8th (apart from our usual issues) solely focusing on your creative work(s). It can be pictures of puzzles you've completed, knitting projects, professional hobbies, your social media/youtube accounts you want us to check out... WHATEVER it is, send it our way. Complete the signup form to be included in our special creative works issue.

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