

June 14, 2019

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Testimony by Ms. Mizue Takase

Good morning, my brothers and sisters.

I praise the name of the Lord.

I really give thanks to the Lord that I am able to share my testimony while keenly realizing your ardent prayer and love. I would like to tell you the process, in order, about what I have experienced.

Last year, on May 16th, when I went to see a doctor of a certain general hospital because my health has been so poor, I was suspected to have leukemia. The doctor found an acceptable hospital that had a specialist for leukemia and I was immediately carried there by ambulance.

My husband had gone to Hawaii to serve a church at that time, so my two daughters were called to the hospital. The doctor explained my condition and medical treatment and said that I needed to enter the hospital at once. I was able to walk by myself at that time even though I had big bruises on my legs and there were innumerable petechial hemorrhages on my arms and legs.

However, I seemed to be in a dangerous situation because the number of leukocytes was increasing. I had 57,000, normally there are 3,400~8,400. My condition changed suddenly the next day and I was taken to HCU (High Care Unit).

I could not breathe spontaneously so I was put on an oxygen mask and was continuously administered an anti-cancer drug for a week. Then, I moved into a bio-clean room until the number of leukocytes returned to a normal level and then I stayed at home for a week. I was expected to have 4 cycles like this.

However, when I entered the hospital preparing for the fourth cycle, the number of leukocytes was still low, so I had to wait for a few days before the treatment could begin. After I finished the treatment, I waited for increased leukocytes, but they didn't increase at all even though I was put on a drip for helping to increase them.

It turned out that my bone marrow itself was all dried out so it didn't work to produce anything. So, I was given a death sentence. Then the Lord worked a miracle on me. My dead bone marrow very suddenly began to produce leukocytes and I survived. However, my lungs that were infected by fungi called *Aspergillus* were helpless to be healed by taking medicine

so I had an operation to remove a part of the right upper lobe. I left the hospital at the end of May and the Lord has protected me since.

1. Why Did the Lord Allow Me to Have the Disease and What Does It Mean?

At first I accepted the disease, however, I would be lying if I said I didn't question why the Lord allowed me to have such disease. I kept asking the Lord, "What mistake did I make? What should I study through the disease?"

In the meantime, I came to realize the haughtiness in me as below—

- ① I tend to easily judge other people.
- ② I understood that the Lord allowed our marriage, but on the other hand, a thought occupied my mind that the Lord guided me to marry my husband because he had needed me. The Lord made me realize that I needed my husband so the Lord prepared him for me.

2. Physical Battles and Spiritual Battles

Speaking of medical treatment at the hospital, it was really painful. I couldn't eat anything. I was suffering from nausea, a high fever, diarrhea, inflammation of my mouth and tongue. When I went to the bathroom, I lost consciousness and collapsed. On top of that, I had a fit of coughing and spat blood repeatedly after my lungs were infected by fungi.

I could hardly read the Bible so I repeated the prayer, "Lord Jesus, please help me, I love you."

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. **In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.**" John 16:33b,c

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18a

"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to us all. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, **he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.**" 1Corinthians 10:13 c

I just kept remembering God's Word above in my sickbed.

Why could I keep fixing my attention on God's Word in that kind of situation? Why did I remain calm and had peace in my mind and could think, "I will just wait for leukocytes to be produced," even though I was sentenced to death?

The reason was that God's Word that I have stored in me has fed me and helped grow in faith and also your prayers supported me.

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

4:7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Many people around the world prayed for me. Not only my family but also the KIBC prayer team continuously prayed for me for more than one year and supported my work. I was especially moved that when my husband asked you for a blood donation in my urgent need, and many people responded to it even though they had to stay in the hospital for three days.

I was supported and encouraged by your love, such as the large square card that was filled with the God's Word, encouragement words and prayers, many get-well cards, mail, visits and so on. I believe that your every work of love made the astonished doctors say, "You are unbelievable! There is no way that would happen!" I was unbelievably made alive before you today through a miracle of the Lord .

3. What Good News Did the Lord Teach Through the Disease?

I read Philippians, Chapter 4, Verses 6 and 7 again.

4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

4:7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Anxiety and fear lead to death, but thanks lead to life. I believe that we human beings were essentially created to live with thanksgiving. Therefore, if we stop giving thanks, our souls become mentally sick. Giving thanks make our souls alive. On the contrary, complaints and dissatisfaction bring us death.

Giving thanks and praising the Lord is the word of life and when we give thanks and praise the Lord, our dead souls come to life.

Giving thanks to God should become our routine work as if it is our nature. We should give thanks from morning till night. God receives our thanks and He blesses, protects us and satisfies our necessity.

When I was in a room for 6 people at the hospital, those who had painful treatments and didn't get any better vented their fear and anger on nurses. They shouted words that made me want to cover my ears with my hands. However, at night they wailed, "Mother, help me. I don't want to

die yet.”

My treatment was also painful and persisted, however, the Lord kindly allowed me to move in a VIP room so that my husband and I could have a comfortable time. On top of that, the doctor permitted me to bring an electric piano into the room and practice it and sometimes my doctor himself accompanied me to a hall of a palliative care ward and I could practice on the grand piano.

Thanks to that, I could hold Christmas concerts, even though I had to cancel almost all the other concerts.

4. Conclusion

It is very important to acquire God’s Word as if it is our own and apply it at every moment in our lives.

As for me, who was made alive by God, I would like to serve Him by following this Scripture.

1Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

6:20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

I pray to God that I can do His work with my husband, who is my precious partner. I ask Him for His help to save as many souls as possible through my testimony and praise as well as remembering your prayer.

At the very moment that I finished my testimony, some problems which require detailed checks were found at the 10th medical check-up for breast cancer. Besides this, I had been informed that if leukemia should return, they could never give treatment by using an anticancer drug. Satan does not slacken its attack. Pray for me. We need your continuous prayer from now on and forever.

I would like to conclude my testimony by singing *My Tribute* with thanks.