

Foreword for Jubilee Manual

The Reverend Jean Kim's experience working with homeless people and the issues of homelessness has resulted in an essay of theological insight presenting models of action that reveal the ultimate in understanding of the responsibility of being a Christian in today's world. The entire study is set in the context of biblical concepts and basic Christian theological understandings. We are never at a loss as to the motivating dynamic which moves Jean Kim in mission.

Jean Kim's own personal experience of homelessness occurred when as a young girl she and her family escaped from North Korea, working their way down to South Korea, walking many nights through conflict zones. She became a refugee in South Korea moving from room to room for 4 years until the Korean war broke out. During the Korean war her family became homeless in exile, escaping from the war zone. Arriving in Pusan, they slept on the train station parking lot for the first few nights until an old man offered his yard. Six members of her family stayed in a 10x10 makeshift shack on the yard patched by sheets, ration boxes and a few pieces of panels for 3 years until the war was over.

In her later life, her training as a social worker, as well as a theologian, has prepared her well for the pioneering work she has done with the homeless community. An important part of this book is her analysis of the many ways a congregation and concerned individuals can use the resources available to them to alleviate homelessness in their community. No one can say after reading this book, "What can I do about homelessness?"

Her actual case studies in the last portion of the book are an essential resource. She not only describes the ministry in detail, but she gives you references to call with telephone numbers and mailing addresses. She artfully combines the theological and biblical mandate with concrete action steps. Every church should have this Manual in their library as well as all theological libraries in seminaries training our future religious leaders.

The Rev. Dr. William B. Cate,
President Director Emeritus,
Church Council of Greater Seattle
Dr. Janice P. Cate, Feminist and social activist
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