

FOREWORD

Pastor Jean Kim, a devoted believer and obedient follower of our Lord, Jesus Christ, has penned an inspired body of work with *People in Purple*. As part of the whole, Volume 4 captures the heart of many missions, programs and partnerships that have evolved over the years in North America. At the same time, it reflects the personal journey of Pastor Kim

In his powerful book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, author Eugene H. Peterson uses the fifteen Songs of Ascents (Psalms 120-134) as the text to illustrate the lifelong journey we take with our faith. As I read Pastor Kim's wonderful volume, I re-examined Peterson's chapter on service. In this chapter, he quotes Karl Barth: *In general terms, service is a willing, working, and doing in which a person acts not according to his (her) own purposes or plans but with a view to the purpose of another person according to the need, disposition, and direction of others.* It's as if Barth had Pastor Kim in mind when he wrote this description. The reader of her complete work, and certainly Volume 4, is keenly aware of her dedication and passion for ministry to the homeless and poor, and to the organizations and individuals that serve those communities.

In Volume 4 we find the depth of her research extensive, including interviews from more than 150 organizations. These pages provide insight and inspiration for a cross-section of ministries: housing within a church; partnerships between churches and homeless missions; both ecumenical and spiritual models for homeless mission; day care centers for homeless; programs focused on children and youth; advocacy and secular programs, and the list goes on. Many of these programs also extend locally to urban mission partners as well as to overseas missional, faith-based organizations. Such is the case for my home church, Bel Air Presbyterian in Los Angeles.

Related approaches to such ministries abound, and Pastor Kim does not intend this to be an exhaustive study. Rather, she conveys the heart behind the mission; how some have heard and answered God's special call to serve these communities, and have done so with grace, humility and dedication in order to bring His light and joy into the lives of others.

This Volume also serves as a valuable resource, providing details on proven programs that can be studied by churches worldwide seeking to answer God's call in their own communities. Pastor Kim purposefully shares her life's work in hopes that future generations can learn from these special programs. Through her insights, we all can better serve God's own who are living on the margins of life.

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