

Jean Kim's 2020 WINTER NEWSLETTER (Hope in Color Purple Fund)



SNOW SCENE of BROOKDALE BACKYARD (FEB 13, 2021)

In my 2020 Christmas Letter I mentioned that I signed into the hospice care (since 11/26/2020). Some missed it while many responded by associating hospice care with my death and dying. Some grieved, shared reminiscence of our old times together and were able to say "goodbye."

PROGRESS for the past 2 months under Hospice Care

Hospice crews are wonderful, supportive, and genuinely caring people. I am glad that I am with them. Being an energetic person all my life, I have been learning something very new: I started to associate **energy with life and death**; full energy is full life; loss or no energy is near death or death itself. My current indescribable level of low energy prevents me from doing amazingly simple tasks. I am awed! This is getting worse. I used to say that "I will serve until my last ounce of energy goes." Did I know exactly what I was saying? Now I know what it means. So, where this energetic person is now is just unimaginable! Breathing without oxygen is unthinkable. Walking on my own to the bathroom is getting more dangerous. Fixing or warming up a simple dish in the microwave or washing a few dishes becomes a heavy chore. I used to walk outside a couple of miles without resting (until October 2020). Now walking a short distance in the hallway while leaning on a walker is a heavy labor by puffing and huffing, requiring several rests. I used to have a good appetite and love to eat. Now I have little appetite and hate to eat. I used to gain weight so easily. Now I lose it so easily. Physically, lung tissues dry and die, digestive system, vision, hearing, teeth, kidney function, and sinus start to break down slowly. However, I am not suffering from severe pains yet that require pain killers. All in all, looking back two months prior to entering hospice I am whole lot worse today except my active cognitive and mental activity despite recent memory seriously failing.



However, I walk much closer with God than ever before. My heart is at absolute peace after being able to dump all my mistakes, sins, regrets, emotional aches, and mental anguishes into the big hands of God. I look forward to going home with Jesus who carried me on his back for so long. My mind and body enjoy absolute comfort and peace. But one day I wept for being saddened by leaving my dear family, relatives, and many friends in this mortal side of the world. But they will all join me sooner or later. No one will be left behind.

Your response to my hospice care (death and dying) were so generous, loving, comforting, and affirming I decided to share them here. I am so fortunate to be able to exchange many good encouraging words with you while my cognitive function is still intact. So, here we go with some of your wonderful responses with your permission to share! I hope my energy will hold me up to finish this winter newsletter which could be the last one. Who knows if there will be another one – Spring Newsletter? Some of you convinced me that graduating from hospice is a possibility. I will not welcome the chance if I had a choice. But no one knows about God's plan for my life! My prayer is that one morning I will wake up in my heavenly home with Jesus without any pain or struggle.

Hello Jean,

I read through your Christmas newsletter and greetings. I see that you are now in hospice care. And I see that you are hopeful and positive and encouraging as always! I wish I could come visit you. Is that possible? I feel sad, but also rejoice that God has given me the opportunity to know you and learn from you. You have helped hundreds or more people and blessed so many others with your love and joy and presence. Also, would it be alright with you if I communicated with the Maplewood congregation about this? I can send out a prayer request and mention it in my Sunday video message. Heidi and I are very familiar with hospice, who helped take care of my mom when she was dying, and both of Heidi's parents. They are great people and wonderful at keeping patients comfortable. Please do let me know if I can come visit you at Brookdale. I'll send a message out to a few people at MPC. I'm sure the word will get out anyway because of your newsletter. Yes, we never know God's timing. What I admire about you is that as long as God gives you breath and life, you use it to glorify God and bless others. You are full of life and joy. It's an inspiration.

Hallack Greider. Pastor of Maplewood Presbyterian Church, Edmonds, WA.

Dear Jean,

I just learned from Jack Wilson's daughter, Cat, that you are struggling with lung fibrosis and have entered hospice. I am so sorry to hear this. I know you have had several health issues these last few years and am sorry this one is bringing you to the end. Cat got the news from Halleck at Maplewood. It has been such a joy to know you. I remember when you first came to Maplewood, your decision to enter seminary, the ministry you have had, and your many contributions to Presbytery. Your fight for justice, to end homelessness. You have been an inspiration. I also remember working for you when you and your husband had the Asian store near Wilcox Park. Do you remember that? I am happy to hear that Dan's children are all grown now and am thankful you have been able to see them grow up. They are lucky to have a grandmother like you for their role model. You were such a good friend to Jack and Barbara, and I know they treasured their friendship with you. I remember hearing about your lovely lunches together. I know you missed them when they moved, and now they are gone. Thank you for your loving care of them when they still lived nearby. I am so sorry for this bad pandemic time that keeps us from seeing the people we care about. Know that I carry you in my heart. I keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

With love, Candy Wilson. Daughter-in-law of Rev. Jack and Barbara Wilson.

고귀한 선배님 그리고 제가 가장 닮고 싶은 목사님!
 고난의 삶들을 고귀한 믿음과 끈질긴 인고의 동아줄로 엮어 가시면서
 주어진 사역을 힘차게 정진하시는님의 삶은 인도의 성녀 헬렌켈러님을
 그대로 닮으셨습니다.
 음년에 도래하시는 메시아를 기쁨으로 영접 하시길 바래며
 아니 매년 매년 힘찬 삶의 응비함으로 매 성탄을 맞으시길
 두손모아 엮디어 비읍니다.
 Karmss (미국 한인장로교회 (PC/USA 은퇴목사회) 회계이며
 존경하는 목사님의 후배 노 남길 (Roh Nam Gil) 목사 올림.

The Most Reverend Jean Kim, I am saddened to hear of your illness with lung fibrosis and our coming loss of your extraordinary presence in this world. However, I know that great joy will come to you as you are welcomed into God's arms and of those who are already there to greet you. May your days with hospice be pain free. You are loved. Have a Joyful and Merry Christmas! *Love you, Catherine 'Cat' Metz* (Arizona). Daughter of Rev. Jack and Barbara Wilson

My very dear Friend, Mentor, Inspiration, Teacher,

Your Christmas letter is the first one I have ever received from someone in Hospice Care. But then, you are also the first person I ever knew well who had escaped from North Korea. You are the first person I ever knew to start a church for homeless women; You are the first person I have ever known who dedicated your time and expertise to help twenty years of delegates from Seoul and to Seoul understand the significance of their being part of our PROK (Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea) PNCUCC (Pacific Northwest Conference of United Church of Christ) exchange. You are the first person I know to start a scholarship program to help homeless folk get college educations to prepare for employment.

I love and honor you. The driver support seat you gave me for my car reminds me to pray for you every time I am driving.

Dear Jean, I am in no danger of forgetting you, but that comforting support has been so useful to me. I am not ready to say goodbye to you. You have suffered a lot and I deeply regret this. I am not praying for this or that to happen, only that you will have all the strength, all the comfort, all the care options that will be most useful for you. As you indicate, we mortals do not pretend to know how our loving Creator cares for us, we only know that we are confident Jesus knew that we WILL be cared for. But, I am sure you know that people do graduate from Hospice sometimes.

Love and gratitude, Mary Margaret Pruitt/Seattle, WA. (United Church of Christ)



SNOW SCENE FROM MY WINDOW (FEB 13, 2021)

My dear friend, fellow laborer, and Sister in Christ,

All at Good Shepherd Church are grateful for your ministry and the way in which you have allowed us to share in it. Our prayers and love are with you as you bravely march into the next phase of eternal life and worship. Of course, dear sister. Anything I can do for your comfort and joy in this blessed season, I am happy to do so. We honor and love you!

Peace, Chris

Rev. M. Christopher Boyer. Pastor, Good Shepherd Baptist Church. Lynwood, WA

BROOKDALE WINDOW VISIT December 4, 2020

Dr. Steve Woodard (Right): Mt. Lake Terrace City Council Member, Dean of Access and Completion, Edmonds Community College

Dr. Steve Corsi (Left). CEO/President Volunteers of America, Western WA.

Rev. Dr. Jean Kim (Center), Brookdale

Reverend Dr. Kim and Dr Woodard, What a special blessing for me to be able to meet both of you in such a short amount of time! I appreciate both pictures and the fellowship in light of the COVID era! How easy it would have been to say "it's too hard to coordinate". I am grateful to the Lord and each of you for the tireless work you do and have done for those who are less and often much less fortunate. He is a God who cares for every soul and the work you both continue to do demonstrates His love for others. I am

really grateful you have written the books you have Reverend Kim. We are ordering some for our VOAWW ministry team. Your life and writings are inspiring to say the least. The fact that you have struggled makes your words even more powerful and meaningful. I am sure your writing is a wealth of information and insight that we will benefit from as an organization that desires to be a positive force in homelessness. Thank you for leading and lighting the way in a world that can easily become confusing and dark. I look



forward to the day when we meet again! *Dear Reverend Kim, you are an incredibly kind, gracious, and thoughtful servant. I am so grateful to have been able to meet you on this side of eternity.*

His blessings to you always, Merry Christmas!

Steve Corsi, Psy.D. President /CEO
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 One team. One heart. One mission.

Good evening again to you both. The honor is all mine. Humbled to have introduced you both no matter how much time remains on this side of Heaven's door for us, granting your transition sounds imminent. I presume that is your (hospital) bed reference. (Always the educator will be a favorite image of you.)

Your impact will live on through your writings and us. Sending you the warmest embrace you can imagine and still appreciate. One more lunch at your friend's teriyaki restaurant is my commitment to our friendship. Can almost imagine eating indoors someday. Take care, restful evening, and much love.

Dr. Steve Woodard (Right)
 Mt. Lake Terrace City Council Member. Dean of Access and Completion, Edmonds Community College.

NOTE: Visitors are not allowed to come inside the building for the *precaution of coronavirus pandemic.*

So, window visit is being set up for visitors communicate with Brookdale residents through microphone and looking at each other through the window as the photo shows.

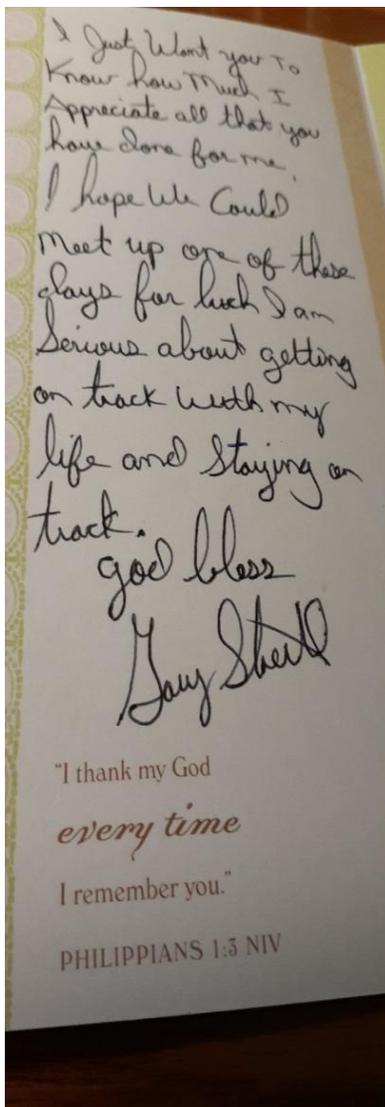
Dearest Jean

Thank you for your 2020 Christmas letter. You are such a treasure! I am so grateful we crossed paths getting our D. Mins at SFTS (San Francisco Theological Seminary). We were in rather rare company to be women with doctorates in ministry. You are close to my heart Jean and in my prayers every day. You are an angel in so many ways and to so many people. I am so glad you wrote your life story – you are amazing. May God's constant love and peace enfold you. Love you. I am proud and humbled that you are willing to write about hospice and your personal experiences. There are so many things that people, even people of God, do not say. And it would be better if 'we' did talk about them. Coming to the end of our earthly days is actually what we are working and waiting for all of our lives! I'm kind of jealous that you may soon be dancing with the angels. You are such a remarkable teacher and follower of God's love and ways. Thank you Pastor Jean. With love and gratitude, Julie Josund. Former pastor of Edmonds Lutheran Church.

The rest of write up may be found on the website, www.jeankimhome.com

Prison letter from Gary S. (February 2021)

Gary was Jean's ex- homeless student at Edmonds Community College.



The 3rd photo on the right is a mounted piece of his thank you note, his drawing, his purple roses and certificate of achievement from Centralia College Horticulture Program. I displayed these pieces on my window because I am so proud of his steadfast effort to pursue and complete the certificate that he once started at Edmonds Community College a few years ago.

2021 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (March 8) IS BEING CELEBRATED

by vanilla ice cream, orchids, and the color purple delivered to Jean by Marty Hartman herself, the Executive Director of the Mary's Place, Downtown Seattle, WA. (the first photo on the left).



Molly Moon Handmade Ice Cream is honoring four women of Mary's Place in honor of International Women's Day on March 8.

Rev. Jean Kim is one of the four honorees who will have a signature ice cream made and sold by Molly Moon's during March in recognition of her many years of love, compassion, and service to women experiencing homelessness in Seattle.

Rev. Kim is the founder of Mary's Place, an organization that provides safe and inclusive shelter and services for women, children and families on their journey out of homelessness.

Rev. Dr. Jean Kim, also known as the "Mother to the Homeless," spent more than 50 years serving people who are unsheltered. She endured years in poverty and homelessness while witnessing her home and culture's devastation throughout the Korean War. Rev. Dr. Kim experienced physical homelessness and further personal heartbreaks throughout her young life, but that never fully shattered her spirit; it gave her strength.

Jean worked for ten years at Harborview's mental health system helping women fleeing domestic violence and mental illness. With this experience, she created her first mission. When Rev. Dr. Kim started the Church of Mary Magdalene, it became a spiritual place for women in homelessness to feel safe without the threat of male violence. She brought the gift of healing through music to the group, and today, the Homeless Women's Choir still sings every Saturday for weekly worship in the lower level of Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

Rev. Dr. Kim is known for two often-stated expressions: "**together, we can accomplish miracles**", and "**we can all do more**". Eventually, the Church of Mary Magdalene became the weekly day program and family shelter provider, Mary's Place.

Rev Kim's special ice cream is called Vanilla Orchid, based on her love of vanilla ice cream, orchids, and the color purple and will be available at Molly Moon's locations in March!

Photos are taken in the lobby of Brookdale Arbor Place where Jean is residing for the past 3 years. The first photo on the left is Marty Hartman standing behind the sliding door because she was not allowed to walk inside the lobby which was a rule of precaution for coronavirus pandemic.

I enjoy eating the lavender color ice cream thinking of many caring and loving women of the world.

WORDS from PARTICIPANTS of HONOR GOD for Jean's Jubilee Event (Sep 12, 2020) cont'd

WORDS by Larry Nilson, Edmonds, WA:

Wow! What a wonderful gathering. It was my honor and joy to participate as nearly 80 gathered to praise God and be grateful for you, his servant for 50 ++ years. You have been God's hands and feet in many, many ways but mostly in serving the homeless and needy in creative, deep and effective programs. The tributes were amazing. It was a very moving time - a sacred experience for me. The speakers reminded us of your special gifts and added many examples. You greatly enriched and expanded my diverse efforts to aid the poor and the homeless. This December will be my 12th "anniversary" when I first participated in the "Cold Weather Shelter" program - December 2008. I missed the "folks" so I went to Neighbors in Need and later to NEST and then your Foundation. Mostly I was just a "friend" (and choir member) and a "clean upper." I made many connections, some deep ones, many initially out of my comfort zone. These experiences changed my thoughts and understandings of the homeless and needy and even my theology. You were the major model and inspiration in these last ten years of retirement very different from what I anticipated. I will continue to be thankful for your friendship and love, a big part of "winter years." If you have access to your "sharing" and to the tribute from Shin-Hwa Park I would treasure them. I could not record the "celebration", but I took a few photos of the three groups on my computer screen. Some will be fuzzy but will be a reminder of an unforgettable celebration. I'm attaching them. Grace, peace and much love in these challenging days. (Larry Nilson, a long time friend and co-worker of Jean Kim)

WORDS by Rev. Shin Hwa Park (Los Angeles, California)

Jean my Dearest Moksanim ("Reverend Jean" in Korean).

My sincere and heartfelt congratulations to you in celebration of Jubilee in foreign land, now your second mother land as well as the 85th Birthday God has given you his love to this world especially Korea and the United States. I also extend my deep joy of sharing your joy of the accomplishment of five books that provides the base of any homeless ministry to the next generation.

You are truly a rare remarkable female apostle of today's world. Like Apostle Paul, you have been chosen to be a wonderful and faithful female apostle for today's world to witness the Gospel of Jesus Christ for love and justice to bring a new world to those most neglected people – homeless victims of the perpetuated economic system whose benefits have been deprived. Your heart for them with full empathy and compassion like Jesus has done in his days to liberate them into the better world like any other people whose right was lost for the same benefits into the better world so that they are also lifted up as God's children in your image and your care.

You were chosen to have educated in the Hankook Theological seminary as a top student in your class. But you have not had the same opportunity as male classmates simply because you were female for whom benefits were deprived.

God has brought you out of the land of less opportunity to the United States, your second mother country which has opened new opportunities that have led you into eventually God's mission in full scale. Your love of Christ has been a witness in every activity and message you delivered to bring the liberation to the underprivileged, homeless to cause full recovery of God's image and all lost opportunities as other people including food, home, cloth and education. Your never-ending and ceaseless zeal for Christ has flourished in your study, and to bring the forgotten Gospel and mission to many churches in today's world. You were prophetic by building up a cornerstone for the poor which has become the top emerging issues out of "Black Lives Matter" calling for the justice of the perpetuated injustice system in racism. Your full spiritual energy despite your weakened strength to walk kept reaching out wherever people wanted to hear the gospel through you and your presence. I would say you were not yourself, but it was God who carried you throughout those years. God has shown the miracle by carrying you because of not your mission but God's mission using you as God's apostle.

Jean moksanim, you are a mentor to me as well as Korean clergy women as you have done your marvelous ministry among the first generation Korean American Clergywomen. You are a pioneer to assure female leadership in ministry which is superb and surpass male ministers.

One remarkable feature of God you have carried in your life is social action to bring justice. Your God-given courage with the support of your husband has provided the first nest for a political asylum in the U.S. to a young man who escaped the chase by the Korean dictator government. Your action was your marvelous ministry to witness what God has done for those people seeking for justice and democracy. There were few people who could support a victim from dictatorial government which label them as "reds" or "communists." Your conscience was lifesaving because of your faith in God.

