

FOREWORD - HOPE in COLOR PURPLE (English).

Steve Woodard

The Reverend Dr. Jean Kim is a proven advocate and champion of the homeless. Her autobiography offers clear insights into the soul behind the service. Her experience is instructive and at times sorrowful. Hers is also a story full of hope and vision. My belief is you, too, will be drawn in by her artful storytelling and agree that if not for war and division, she was destined to follow in her maternal grandfather’s footsteps by becoming a North Korean noble scholar and teacher herself (p.28). That potential storyline was abruptly altered when “even though we owned vast land and orchards, we left North Korea with empty hands, with no cash in our pockets” (p.37). The grace and mercy of God ever central in her life, her formative years were also influenced by the genuine threat of execution and exile. A difficult history to discuss, through photographs and her honest and open sharing, we are given access to a firsthand account of life in 1940s-1950s Korea. Equally as important, we are exposed to a consistent message embodied within her life and advocacy that we all should be inspired by: “I refused to be treated as an inferior, second-class human being...” (p.69). Edmonds Community College is honored to be a partner with the Jean Kim Foundation. Humbled to call her, my friend.

Dr. Steve Woodard

Dean for Student Success,
Edmonds Community College
Unitarian Universalist

.....

FOREWORD Hope in Color Purple (English) – Nicola Smith

Bravery, compassion, grace, love and eternal optimism. Jean Kim tells her life story spanning from North Korea to Lynnwood, Washington talking her walk through a difficult childhood to her current place of honored elder in our precious community. Hope in the Color Purple closes its final chapters with Jean Kim’s tremendous success in providing pallet houses for students attending Edmonds Community College. Her drive to knock down barriers to human success and understanding of how to wrap around support for those who find themselves struggling to find hope in their daily life is unwavering. Many have been blessed, including me, to have crossed paths and warmed in the compassionate glow of dear Jean Kim. It was a painful delight to journey in the shoes of Jean through her Hope in the Color Purple memoir.

Mayor Nicola Smith

Lynnwood, WA

.....

FOREWORD Hope in Color Purple (English) Michelle Grunder

Dr. Reverend Jean Kim is the living definition of what the love and compassion of Jesus Christ demonstrated. Her story and vision she depicts in this book gave me a whole different perspective on life and the “American Dream.” I first met Jean Kim when I was broken, beaten, and homeless with five children and pregnant. Caught in the cycles of poverty, mental illness, and addictions as she so accurately describes in her story, is also my story. On page 13 Jean states, “I truly hope that all “pain-stricken purple people” in this world can be transformed into “hope-filled purple people”. I am writing here to validate the authenticity of this statement. Thank you, Reverend Jean Kim, for being a light in my cold, dark world and giving me the hope and support that I will continue on to give others. Thank you for the honor of reading your story. You are my mentor and fellow sister in Christ. May “His” work continues on.

Michelle Grunder

Edmonds Community College Graduate
Student Social/Human Services Professional Advocate
“Hope-filled purple person”

FOREWORD Hope in Color Purple (English) – Robert Okerstrom

As one of the purple people that Rev. Jean Kim loved and served, it is amazing to be able to read what put the fire in her soul to help homeless people. From all my interactions with the Rev. Jean I would have never guessed that she would have gone through such hardships like she did. Her story is truly inspiring me to want to use my hardships of being homeless toward something that can help others going through similar hardships. I hope one day I can gain the strength that is inside Rev. Jean to continue to fight while still going through so many struggles.

Robert Okerstrom
Homeless Student at Edmonds Community College

FOREWORD Hope in Color Purple (English) Paul Kim

I am the oldest of Rev. Jean Kim’s grandchildren. I am studying dentistry at the University of Washington, and my grandma is so proud of me. My grandma pours out her life and soul into telling a story of purple in a way that enlightens us of grueling hardships that she endured. She wrote this autobiography for us (John, Nina, and I) to not wonder where we came from, and we are forever grateful for the gift of sharing her story with us. Though written for us, I am convinced that her story is a brilliant example for all to see how perseverance, compassion, and purpose can come together in one tiny human being and make a difference in the world today.

Paul Kim, Grandson
University of Washington Dental student