



The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John 1:9~14)

Jesus came again into the world this year. However he has already been here in the world from the beginning of the time and he is with us. But the world does not know him yet and people also do not welcome him. Fortunately, it is the testimony of John that those to welcome him are given the privilege to become children of God.

What does it mean to welcome Jesus? It means that the Lord occurs to me. Then, do I add another master though I had already a number of masters in the world? Beings of the masters to me are spread all over such as norms I must keep, values - money presumably takes up a lot - I put ahead of everything, parents, and teachers etc. Is this a meaning to add Jesus to them?

No. Welcoming Jesus is conceived of as the Words I should be a master myself. A life was given that makes my own sound after becoming a master myself. Don't you hear that those who believe in Jesus's name have a privilege to become children of God? They are not a servant of God. Heavenly Father is a father of love who lets me live as who I am. He is the one getting me to live such a life that I become a master.

A number of things happened into the world but also our society during the last year. War, terror, and death are seen and heard. Regretful news of much sadness, chagrin, and pain are seen and heard by living as not a master of own life but a slave subordinated to something. However when we welcome Jesus who has come in the light of the world, I can be a master in my life and you can be a master in your life so we can enjoy freely happy lives. Should happy and blessed Christmas be done in us then?

Thanks to all that supported us until now. We would share our news with you while closing the year.

<The News from Mother House, Diakonia Sisterhood in Cheonan>

<General Assembly for Sisterhood>

The general assembly for sisterhood was held in the last 7-9th Jan. Sisters living in a mother house of Cheonan and a branch house of Mokpo gathered and planned after reported workings over the past year. We encouraged each other and empowered in prayer.



<The 34th Anniversary of Diakonia Sisterhood in Korea>



Sisters had a service for the 34th anniversary of Diakonia Sisterhood at a Diakonia chapel of Hansan village, Mokpo in the last 1st May. We put out the words with which each has lived in a sisterhood for 34 years or less. We had a time to strengthen the unity with each other through the Eucharist which the Lord left us.

<Started construction on a new building for the Sisterhood Mother House>

9 Oct. we held a service for a ground breaking ceremony and started construction on a new building for the sisterhood mother house while we have prayed for the move to the new one over the past 2 years. The new building is located in Yeongsan-ro, Samhyang-eup, Muan-gun, Jeollanam-do between a mountain and the Diakonia elderly nursing home in Mokpo. We may be able to transfer around next spring.

<Diakonia Prayer Retreat>



Every last Saturday of June to August, we held a prayer retreat for one day in Seoul. People, who participated in the retreat meanwhile, prayed so as to continue to live a life of prayer every day.

<Service for a pledge as a Diakonia extended member qualified for full membership>

On Sunday, September 28th, Sister Cha Sungok had a service for a pledge as a Diakonia extended member qualified for full membership at a chapel of Danbi church which is a member of Diakonia family community. A pledge ceremony was performed, preached by Rev. Song Hoil and given the sacrament by Rev. Jeong Hunyoung. They are all the members of Diakonia family community. She became Eonnim Cha Sungok after Sister Rhee Youngsuk awarded a medal and declared full



membership during worship. Diakonia extended membership consists of the members who are single women and have been called to different lives of everyday. They love God and serve neighbors, following the rules followed from the Diakonia Sisterhood's creed.

<The News from Diakonia Family Community>



February 16 to 18, Diakonia Sisterhood and Diakonia Family Community had a retreat at the house of Rev. Song Hoil in Jinan, Jeonbuk. We washed each other's feet and shared a love, sitting around the table of Lord after a silent prayer. We felt divine relaxation the Lord gave us, strolling in a mountain and a plain of leisure in winter.

Sisters have worshiped together in Aunae with students from Ahhimnah Peace School every Monday morning, and also conducted a prayer meeting in the Danbi Church of Diakonia Family Community with students from Diakonia Danbi School every Friday evening. We pray for the better spiritual maturity of the youth, sisters and believers through praise for the word meditation and an intercessory prayer for the world.



<Diakonia Family Meeting>

Diakonia Family Meeting has a time to share a spiritual journey once a month and pray for intercession on time every day. 8 members are spiritual friends, who have gathered together, discerned the will of God in life, verified for all to be one in God, and lived their lives with Diakonia spirit over the past 4 years. They were now ready to start establishing the Diakonia Family. We hope that the number of members will increase; and they will variously share Diakonia spirit and be in solidarity.



<The News from Branch House, Diakonia Sisterhood in Mokpo>

<Diakonia Elderly Nursing Home>



Around 20 staffs as well as 3 sisters have wholeheartedly served more 60 seniors at the Diakonia Elderly Nursing Home. We went on a spring outing of cherry-blossom viewing near Mokpo National University. There were children' art festival at a senior's birthday party once a month. We held a cook feast where the elderly cooked by themselves and we spent a good time to invite a team of Madangguk, traditional Korean outdoor performances.

<Domiciliary Care>

Daily necessities were delivered to 60 poor families with whom we have had a relationship for example rice, meat, noodle, seaweed, and clothes etc. which many benefactors sent during and after last Thanksgiving. We think those kind of necessities were definitely essential goods for defectors' family from North Korea.

<Diakonia Scholarship>

Scholarships were sponsored with a beautiful mind and devotion this year as every year and delivered to 25 middle/ high school students of a low-income family incl. a single-parent family, a grandparent and grandchild family, and a North Korea refugee's family. Diakonia Scholarship Committee should secure a budget for 8 students also in 2015. However prospective beneficiaries who want our scholarships are increasing so it's the reality that benefactors' support is far more required. Meanwhile we can all try to muck in again because benefactors are still sharing even a bean with neighborhood.

<Cohabitation Family whose members are with no one to rely on>

Cohabitation Family members suffered difficult things. Ms. Kim slipped in November and her left tibia is fractured. Now she's in a hospital after surgery. Mr. Ko was working out regularly. However he fell from a persimmon tree and got a fracture on a spine. He is now recovering a lot and exercising hard after hospital treatment around one month.

<Visit of the Europe Shinson Hapkido>



Members of the Europe Shinson Hapkido have visited us every 2 years since 1986. In the last Sep., they visited Diakonia Elderly Nursing Home in Mokpo, led by a master, Mr. Ko Myeong who is not only an old friend but also a benefactor of

us. They performed and massaged for the elderly. In the evening we enjoyed a close friendship, and they gave us gifts and donations in appreciation.

Sisterhood in Cheonan stopped to run the House of Spirituality and Peace(Retreat House), preparing for a movement of a mother house over the past 2 years. We felt joyful and fruitful after hearing word from persons who had prayed and rested at the House of Spirituality and Peace for the last 15 years. However this situation carries a wistful sense of what might have been. It's too bad that we can accompany you no more. We expect to remember each of them we met here and to keep in touch with them through prayer. We would appreciate it if you pray and wait for us until we can resettle in Mokpo and bear good tidings for you. We express our deepest gratitude to the all that worried about us and prayed in the meantime. We will never forget and pray, recalling one by one.

Thanks to God for our life of humble sharing led by his help in the last year and wishes for the stability in everyone's lives at home and abroad to be done here on earth in the New Year.

On Christmas 2014,
Sister Ree, Abbot of Diakonia Sisterhood in Korea