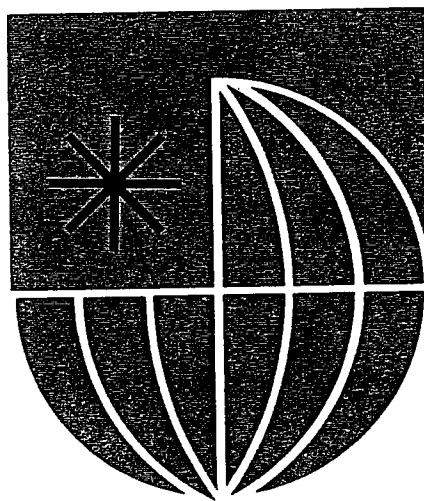


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## The University Bible Fellowship: A Forty-Year Retrospective Evaluation

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JUN KI CHUNG

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*A student Christian movement called the University Bible Fellowship (UBF) is now spreading around the world. Using a tentmaking approach to lay ministry with strong emphasis upon Bible study and disciplined living, UBF has become a dynamic Christian movement in our time. Yet the ideals and achievements of UBF remain obscure and even controversial. In this article, I discuss the history, structure, and activities of UBF, including the role played by its founder, Dr. Samuel Lee, who died on January 8, 2002.*

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The University Bible Fellowship began with a few collegians in Kwangju, South Korea, in early 1961 as a result of a recognized need for campus evangelism. By the end of 2001, almost 1,500 UBF missionaries have borne witness to the gospel and reached out to fellow students in Europe, the Americas, Africa, Australia, and Asia. In its forty years of history, the UBF has consistently fostered an evangelical awakening among young adults.

I joined the fellowship in 1973 and actively participated in its ministry until 1983. I still maintain a friendly relationship with UBF. Due to my personal experience within UBF and the lack of scholarly literature about the organization, this paper analyzes its ministry without citing many references.

### Historical Background of the UBF

Soon after the coup d'état led by General Jung Hee Park in 1961, a group of students from Chonnam and Choson universities began to look for a spiritual solution that could both heal the anxieties of intellectuals and give direction to future generations of students. Reflecting on their socioreligious history in Korea, these students concluded that the best solution to the problems of Korean intellectuals was a spiritual one, that is, the gospel. What was needed was a Christianity that could transcend not only the political issue of communism versus democracy, but also the religious issue of denominational conflict.

The leader of this Christian group was Samuel Chang-Woo Lee. Lee was born October 9, 1931, in Kobe, Japan, as the second son of Elder Y. J. Lee and Eun-Soon

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