

Key Verse “John 12:24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

Good evening! I am M. Ana Seo who is the unknown wife of the popular UBF missionary John Seo, the mother of two excellent children, and the one who wants to be the faithful servant of God.

According to the lunar calendar, I was born on the year of the pig, the month of the pig, the day of the pig and the time of pig. So, a fortune teller told my parents that I would have either the best life or the worst life because I was born with 4 pigs.

My mother was so passionate about education that she gave me too much homework, which prevented me from going out to play outside. Additionally she came to school many times to give food to my teachers. Many times I felt ashamed, and at the same time I felt pressure to study well.

When I was a teenager, I rebelled against my mother, so, my school grades started dropping. Later, I started to become academically interested in the arts or music. However, my mother didn't like my opinion because our family didn't have enough resources to support me. I was so disappointed about it and I thought that I couldn't do anything that I wanted. I failed to get admitted to my preferable university, so I had to study the major that I didn't like, in the campus that I didn't want to be. I didn't have any motivation to study there. I spent almost all of my time hanging out with my friends, drinking and visiting the club etc. The more I enjoyed the things of the world, the more empty and afraid I felt inside., I began to lose my confidence because of my sense of inferiority. I stopped going out of the house. I stayed at home all the day laying on the bed watching movies. I always remembered the word of the fortune teller. I thought that I would have the worst life in the world.

But, the grace of God came to me. My sister, a shepherdess of Anam UBF invited me to 1:1 bible studies many times. To reject her I suggested that if she did my homework assignment, I would try to study the bible. She accepted my offer contrary to my expectations. But, surprisingly, another shepherdess came to me with my homework. I couldn't reject her, so, I started to study the bible with her. The bible study made me think about my life. In 1991, I participated the summer bible conference and received God's grace through a musical about the crucifixion of Jesus. When I wrote a bible reflection on Mark 2:5, which says, **“When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”**, I recognized I was like the paralyzed man and repented for my sins and decided to live for God. I could get the motivation of living, and it made me live a different life. When I started studying for his glory, he helped me get good grades. My friends were surprised of my difference in attitude and some of them studied the bible with me. Also, God allowed me to serve many activities, for example dancing, choir, decoration etc, which made me more confident before God. Most of all, He gave

me his vision, the clear direction of my life through **Matthew 28:19**“**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**”

In 1995, I went to Venezuela as a missionary with the key verse of my life, “**John 12:24** **Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.**” through M. Pablo Star Oh who was the counselor of Korean Embassy in that time. Working in the Embassy as secretary was God’s discipline for me to be humble. The Administrator afflicted me calling to work in the night and weekend. He said repeatedly that if the embassy was a family, the ambassador was the father, the administrator was the mother, the diplomatic staff members were the sons and I was the maid of family. I felt so miserable at work. For this reason, I visited campus to pray to God not to forget my purpose of living in Venezuela. After 6 months, although I couldn’t speak Spanish nor understand well, I tried to approach college students by just saying “Hola! Quieres estudiar la biblia(Hi! Do you want study the bible?” By the grace of God, some girls accepted my simple invitation. one of whom was the first shepherdess of Venezuela, Sara Ruz. I had to prepare answers to their questions and read them, and whenever the students told me something, I just nodded my head. Later, I started to live with Sara.

One year later, I married M.John, but I was not prepared well spiritually and emotionally as well. I had many problems living together. I felt burdened for my husband to rely on me in every way, also, our personalities were totally different. I was always annoyed with whatever he was doing. A few months later, we fought with each other before Sara and I drove him out of the house. I felt hated by someone for the first time in my life. I cried and complained to God, asking why I had to suffer even though I married him because of my love for God. The next day, God answered me through a box delivered to my office from a Korean church in the USA. The box had many cassette tapes of the first John message. The message was full of rebuking of the pastor. When the pastor preached the verse 1 **John 4:20** “**Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.**”, he started shouting “you’re a Liar, a Liar”. I felt that God was rebuking me. I thought that I did everything for the love to God, including my marriage, but If I didn’t love a brother, I didn’t love God. I repented for my sins all night, and God restore our family.

Since then, our marriage had been going well and God used our family as a house church. We were the perfect combo to serve the ministry because he was excellent in sharing the message, and I did well in the part of art. We both could prepare conferences without a problem. Also, We have always lived with sheep. Growing the ministry, we became much more busier and we didn’t have personal lives. Although our children were born, we couldn’t see them in the week because we had bible study in the night after working. But, God always have blessed our family. He always provided our necessities. Additionally, God blessed us with our parents accepting the Gospel when they visited Venezuela. Specially when my father confessed that Jesus was his savior publicly in our church, I felt God’s faithfulness and grace abundantly.

Due to God's blessing, since M. John's business became successful, I could finally retire from my job after working 14 years. I was happy because our lives were settled well there. But, God had another plan. Something bad began to happen to my family. At first, someone took money from M. John's bank account, later, a robber got into our house. Continuously M. John received threatening phone calls. In that time we came to Chicago immediately to avoid danger. In the airport, . We felt so sad and lost like Elijah who fled from Jezebel after fighting against 400 prophets. In Chicago, we studied the book 1 Kings and 2 Kings everyday. Through bible study we could accept God's will, which was to succeed the ministry to the local shepherd. And, personally, I felt that God wanted me to be more mature spiritually hearing his will through prayer.

When we returned to Venezuela, M. John started preparing to succeed the ministry to shepherd Gustavo and he wanted to study outside of the country. But I didn't want to. So, I told him many times that If we had our own house, I could maintain it, so he could go anywhere. Finally we could get our own big house. I was so happy spending time to find new furniture. But just 3 weeks after living new house, M. John was kidnapped. By the grace of God, he was free just 2 hours later. Later, many shepherds recommended us to go Out of Venezuela. We accepted all these things as God's sign for our family and decided to go to the USA.

In 2013, we went to California and served the Pasadena chapter as a house church after participating in Downey UBF during 9 months. My life in the USA was a new beginning. I didn't have any bible students or any meetings. Physically I felt free, but internally I felt conflict because I didn't have a clear vision. Also, studying English again and adapting to a new culture made me stressful. But, God gave me the word **Philippians 3:13,14, "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and staring toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heaven ward in Christ Jesus"** I decided not to see behind and forget it all, and thought seriously about what I can do here to learn more about Jesus. I accepted that God gave me this time to prepare for the third part of our family's life and to do what I could do best in my situation, which was serving others. Many missionaries and brothers and sisters stayed in our house. Also, many families visited our house. Really I felt great pleasure to serve them and God's abundant grace for me. Also, I could study christian counseling online. This helped me so much with improving my relationship with my children and with reflecting on my inner state. I could also have good experiences helping some afflicted missionaries. Also, We could get our green card in the perfect time. Serving our house church, my children participated actively in the ministry. They became our co-workers. Above all, God prepared our hearts through health issues. My son and daughter had to receive very delicate eye surgeries due to their retinal detachment. M. John also had to receive laser treatment for the same cause. I repented because I didn't take care of their eyes on time and prayed to God to have mercy on them because I worried that my children would complain to God. But, thankfully, they never rebelled against God. On the contrary, they gave Him thanks as they accepted it as His good sovereign. One day, My daughter told me that although she became blind, she would not complain to God.

I felt really ashamed before their simple faith. I thought that God was preparing their heart before sending other city.

God prepared our family in all respects during 7 years. Now my son is in Boston, my daughter in Philadelphia(although she is with us in Chicago now because of the pandemic), M. John and I in Chicago. I pray with all my heart that our family may give thanks always and be used preciously for his ministry. I don't know what will happen in my future. But one thing I believe is that if I obey God's will, my life will have many fruits. So, I just put my eyes on Him and wait for his Guidance.

Thanks God for changing me from the worst life to the best life. I pray that I and my family may be a blessing wherever we are.

One word : Obeying God is the way to live the best life