

(South Korea) "Seek First His Kingdom and His Righteousness" - Korea National Lay Shepherds Conference (By Caleb Choi)

Praise and thanks be to God for the abundant blessings upon the National Bible Teachers' Conference.

A total of 330 participants attended this conference, including 320 Bible teachers, 6 staff shepherds, and 4 missionaries. The overall theme was "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness."

The opening message, testimonies, and special lectures were filled with the word of God and his grace. Shepherd Billy Choi, who delivered the theme lecture on Matthew 6, shared about his personal experience of trusting in God when he lost his job. He heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Trust in God," and held onto the vision of being a campus professor-shepherd. He challenged himself to pursue graduate studies and was appointed as a professor-shepherd at Gangnam University. He faithfully served the campus sheep on an individual basis. Testimony speaker, Missionary Andres Park from Colombia, traveled a long distance of 30 hours to attend this lecture. Despite the instability of his job and his wife's battle with illness, he faithfully served Spanish Sunday messages and one-on-one ministry for 17 years. Missionary Matthew Lim from Mongolia, who gave up his major, devoted the past 30 years to serving in Mongolia's mission field and local house churches. The special lecture was given by Shepherd David Nam, who spoke on the topic of a healthy family life. The closing message was delivered powerfully by Missionary Pablo, who emphasized that campus missions are possible only through the power of the Holy Spirit, based on the text from Zechariah 4:6.

The group leaders took good care of their group members and served them well. They prepared for the group study in advance, created a group chat to familiarize themselves with each other's faces, shared information about accommodations, the location for sharing testimonies, and the questionnaires in advance, thus building relationships. They studied Matthew 6 the night before and then attended the theme lecture the following day, where they wrote and shared their reflections, engaging in loving fellowship.

The execution team shepherds prayed fervently for four months. Eight execution team shepherds gathered on Zoom every Sunday evening at 9 p.m. to pray for the conference program, the word of God, and the speakers.

One shepherd mentioned that this year's conference was the best among the past three years. Let us pray for God's blessings so that next year the conference can accommodate 500 to 600 participants.

(Recorded by the Preparation Committee Chairperson, Benjamin Bang)