



The Lamp That Kept on Burning

By Phyllis Somerville

"Please come and preach to us," pleaded Mr. Park, who lived on an island off the coast of Korea.

Mr. Kim, a Literature Evangelist, looked down, shifted his feet uneasily and finally said, "I have never spoken in public before. You could be disappointed. I know you can find a better speaker."

"There might be other speakers," Mr. Park replied, "but it may be a long time before one of them can come to our island. I have heard some of your beliefs, and I want to learn more. I will also invite some of my friends to attend. Surely, you will not disappoint me."

Mr. Kim finally agreed, thinking that Mr. Park would bring his wife and maybe a friend or two. But what if more people came to the meeting? He knew how eager the Koreans were to hear the Gospel, and that this was a God-given opportunity to speak for his Jesus.

"We will be looking for you," Mr. Park said when they parted.

Wondering why he had agreed, Mr. Kim made his way home to tell his wife.

After telling her about the request, they knelt down together and prayed. Then they discussed what would be a good message and decided to use Daniel 2. "Many of our ministers seem to use it first," Mr. Kim reasoned.

"You need to make some notes," his wife suggested.

"Notes!" he exclaimed. "I need to write out the entire sermon word for word. If I do not write it all out, I will forget some of it."

As they looked up the Bible texts for the meeting, Mr. Kim began to feel more sure of himself.

The evening for the meeting came quickly—too quickly! But Mr. Kim knew his message well.

"Let us pray before we leave for the meeting," he suggested to his wife. So they knelt to ask God's blessing upon the little service.

They started early with their Bible, sermon, and hymnal. As they walked down the dusty road, Mr. Kim and his wife kept passing small groups of people going in the same direction. They paid little attention at first, thinking that there was some special event in the village. However, as they got closer to the place, Mr. Kim began to get cold sweat on his hands as it became clear to him that he was not going to speak to "one or two friends." All these people were coming to the meeting to listen to him!

They entered the old building and looked at the crowd of one hundred and fifty eager people, packed into the room. Mr. Kim felt like a schoolboy wanting to run away and hide.

His wife saw how worried he was and whispered, "I will be praying for you, dear."

Thankful for her words, he added, "I will need it. But God be praised for bringing out the people to hear God's Word."





The leader walked up to them. "See, I brought my friends."

"It is wonderful that you have invited so many people, but I am not a public speaker," Mr. Kim said. "Do you think they will listen?"

"Yes, yes. They are all eager to hear about Jesus."

Mr. Kim quickly chose some hymns that he thought he could teach the people to sing and then prayerfully went to the front of the hall. He noticed that there was only a little dish lamp on the table at the front of the room. The lamp was like those used in Bible times.

The people listened and began to learn the hymns he taught them. After the opening prayer he began to read his message. Everyone listened carefully with much nodding of heads.

But as their interest rose, the lamp grew dim. Too dim, in fact, for Mr. Kim to read his notes. He stopped suddenly and asked Mr. Park, who had arranged the meeting, if more oil could be provided.

The man, who was so embarrassed, stood up and humbly told Mr. Kim how sorry he was. "We tried to buy more oil, but we could not. There will not be any more until a boat comes in and that may take several days. I am sorry but we had already made arrangements and invited the people. What should we do?"

Mr. Kim suddenly thought of the miracles in the Bible. He could remember two about oil that did not run out. "Let us pray," he announced.

It seems that all heads were reverently bowed except one. The little fellow it belonged to was sitting on the front row. Maybe he was waiting to see what God would do, now that Mr. Kim was asking for a miracle.

Suddenly he shouted, "Look at the lamp!"

Mr. Kim said a quick amen and opened his eyes. "Praise God!" he shouted.

The lamp had flared up and was burning brightly! The room was filled with a confusion of voices. No one had ever seen anything like this before! The lamp continued to burn brightly on just one drop of oil. The audience insisted that Mr. Kim continue his talk. Surely the God this man talked about was a God to be worshipped!

Mr. Kim felt as if he were living on a cloud. Assured of God's presence, he forgot his nervousness and finished the sermon with power. The people begged for the meetings to continue and so the encouraged speaker willingly and thankfully agreed to continue the meetings. He knew God would work in a mighty way.

Mr. Kim spoke for three more nights. Prayer was offered each night that God would keep the lamp burning because it was true that no oil could be purchased in the town. And during the seven hours of meetings, the lamp continued to shine.

The light of the Bible took away the darkness from the hearts of many people who had known nothing but idol worship. At the end of the meetings sixty people asked to be baptized.

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