

Book Worth Reading



SOUTH KOREA | February 22

Yu Jin

When Yu Jin was 9 years old, her mom gave her a book to read.

“Since you read a lot of books, you should read this book, too,” she said. “It’s in Korean and English. Study it. Read it. This is a good book.”

It was the small book *Steps to Christ* by Ellen White.

Up to that point, Yu Jin had only read books in Korean. But Mom wanted her to learn English.

An obedient child, Yu Jin immediately began to read the book.

She read it every day on the bus as she traveled to and from school in South Korea. She read during lunch break at school.

The English text was too hard to read, so she skipped it and finished the Korean part of the book in a week.

She didn’t understand everything that she read, but she felt a strong conviction that she needed to be baptized.

She went to Mom.

“I want to be baptized,” she said.

Mom smiled.

“When you grow up, you can be baptized,” she said.

Korean children often start thinking about baptism when they are about 13 years old. But Yu Jin was 9, and 13 was four long years away. She wasn’t happy about having to wait. But she was an obedient child.

“OK, fine,” she said.

She didn’t speak about baptism again.

As time passed, she kept attending church every Sabbath as she had in the past. But she went because she wanted to participate in Pathfinders and other fun activities, not because she desired a close relationship with God.

When she turned 13, she was baptized with the rest of her friends. But she didn’t have the same conviction to be baptized as when she was 9.

As a teen, she spent more and more time with non-Christian friends, and her love for God gradually dimmed. She ate like her friends and sometimes skipped church on Sabbath. She was tired on Sabbath morning and didn’t want to make the effort to go to church.



Doubts even crept into her mind about the existence of God.

Then one summer, when she was 16, she volunteered to help with an evangelism program. Her job was to invite other young people to come to the church meetings by handing out flyers.

No young people came to the first meeting as a result of her invitations, and she felt like a failure.

A missionary from the meetings saw her disappointment and prayed with her.

To Yu Jin's amazement, several young people whom she had invited showed up at the next meeting.

A flicker of faith flashed in her heart.

Then heavy rain threatened to disrupt a meeting. She prayed, and the rain stopped. The meeting went ahead as planned.

Yu Jin was a new person when she returned to her Adventist high school in the fall. She eagerly attended a student-led prayer group, called "Kneelers," that met every Friday evening after worship services. She got a new copy of *Steps to Christ*. But this time, she didn't finish the book in a week. She read it with a group of other students at the rate of about a chapter a week. For her, it was like reading the book for the first time.

Yu Jin said she is glad that she read *Steps to Christ* when she was 9.

"When I read it for the first time, my heart was stirred deeply to follow Jesus and to be baptized," she said.

She is even more glad that she read it again. She said the book cannot be read too many times.

"Surely the Lord is coming again," she said. 🌍

Yu Jin goes to Hankook Sahmyook Academy, which will receive part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to open a gym and missionary training center, in Seoul, South Korea. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Seoul, South Korea, on the map.
- Pronounce Yu Jin like YOU-jeen, or the name "Eugene."
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/nsd-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Mission Post

- In May 1904, a Korean named Eung Hyun Lee, waiting for his ship to Hawaii, was walking along a street in Kobe, Japan, and saw a signboard that read, "The Seventh-day Sabbath Jesus Second Coming Church." After speaking to the evangelist, Kuniya Hide, Eung Hyun Lee and a Korean friend studied the Scriptures and became convinced of the Adventist message. After midnight on the evening before Lee left for Hawaii, the two Korean converts, together with a group of Japanese believers, went up to the pool below Nunobiki Falls, and became the first baptized Seventh-day Adventists from among the Korean people.
- Two sisters were involved in the early work in Korea. In January 1907, Mimi Scharffenberg arrived and within two years had established first a school for boys and then a school for girls. In October 1909, her sister Theodora Wangerin arrived with her husband Rufus.