



# Uncovering the Wells: A Korean Missionary in the UK

PASTOR KIJUNG KIM



*David Hull speaks to Pastor Kijung Kim about his missionary call from Korea to the UK and his vision for uncovering the spiritual wells beneath British church life.*

'I dreamt we already had the interview, but in Korean, which was easier!' We agreed English would be wiser for the real conversation. The first thing that struck me about Pastor Kijung when I first encountered him a few years ago was his email address, which begins 'wellsinker'.

## DEDICATION & DRIFTING

'My grandmother was the first Christian in our village', Kijung said describing how his parents went on to pioneer a small church. When he was born, they dedicated him to God to become a pastor. 'As I grew, sometimes I rebelled, but all the time the promise of that dedication never left me. Everyone stood with me in their prayers.' When Kijung was just 13, his father died suddenly. 'Life was really, really tough'. Turning 16, he moved to the city for high school, living alone.

Compulsory military service took Kijung, at the age of 20, to the

DMZ frontline with North Korea. The conditions were brutal and he drifted from faith, but when he was discharged, he knew he couldn't continue that way. He went alone to a mountain, praying through the night. 'It didn't change all at once, but it was a serious process of getting back to God.'

## JESUS ALONE

Kijung completed his training for Methodist ministry, met and married Soojung, was ordained, and sent to serve a Marine Corps church. With the horrors of his own military service fresh in his mind, he did whatever he could to entertain the troops and bring a little relief as they endured their own service. Five years in, everything changed. Late one night, one of the strongest young leaders in the church, nearing the end of his military service, cut his wrists. He survived, but Kijung was shaken to his core.

'I blamed myself. I stood before 200 young people in the church the next Sunday and apologised. What had I been doing? The answer was very simple. Jesus. The cross. The gospel. I cut all those other things out. From now on, I told them, I'm going to speak about Jesus, every week. Repeat, repeat, repeat. Jesus alone.'

At the end of his sermon, Kijung encouraged them: 'If you want to accept Jesus, stand up.' Many people stood; it was overwhelming. 'That was the moment my focus for ministry totally changed.'

## MISSION MIND

With a new passion for evangelism, Kijung went to a Discipleship Training School with YWAM on Jeju Island, and stayed on as an evangelist. Three years in, he heard the pastor preach from John 5: 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' He felt the Lord calling him to walk on to the next mission field. Jongsin

Lee, a Korean Methodist minister living in the UK, brought British ministers to visit the island. Shortly afterwards, another Korean pastor from London challenged him: 'Why don't you come to the UK?'

'With that comment, I fell in love with the UK. Like falling in love with my wife - there's no big reason. The love just came from God.'

Kijung and Soojung had by now been joined by three daughters and they all spent a week in the mountains praying. They sensed the Lord drawing them to Genesis 26: Isaac uncovered the wells his father Abraham had dug, now filled with earth, to reach the fresh water again.

## TAKING OFF THE COVER

'In Korea, many preachers use UK churches in their sermons as examples: sleeping churches, being

sold, being used for different things. That picture stuck in my mind. When I came here, I was surprised. I met so many strong, faith-keeping people. I want to tell people in my country: that picture is not 100% true. There are still many spiritually awake people. I don't have power to dig new wells, but I just try to take off the cover.'

Kijung came to the UK with his family twelve years ago. In the West Midlands, the covers started coming off the wells as he engaged with people through open air worship throughout the Covid pandemic enabling him to relaunch youth work. Now in Bath, he pastors the Korean Methodist Church that was once led by Jongsin Lee. They have started a weekly night of praise and prayer. A Ukrainian lady joined, then an English student, a Chinese graduate, then others. 'We

don't know what will happen, but we've started!'

Kijung's prayer requests are honest: that his English will improve, and that his family will settle well in this city. They need housing by the summer as the property they currently rent has been placed on the market. Above all, he prays for the gospel work: 'The water is still there. We just need to uncover the wells.'

I am so grateful that Kijung and his family are here - 'wellsinkers', believing their call is not to dig new wells, but to uncover the ones already there, where the living water still flows.

*Written by Rev Dr David A. Hull, Ambassador of MET:Revive and Lead Pastor of Freedom Church Bristol, in conversation with Rev Kijung Kim, a Korean Methodist pastor and missionary in Bath.*

## PRAYER FOCUS

### FOCUS ON THE CHURCH

**MET:Revive:** Rev Chris Briggs as chair; for the trustees and Marian Izzard as administrator; wisdom and discernment on the way forward; Rev Dr David Hull's role as ambassador; ongoing Bible studies and prayer meetings; MET South West Conference in Torquay, 23-25 January 2026, 'Heroes and Villains' - pray for the speaker Derek Burnside in his preparations; safe travel for all (Isaiah 41:9-13; 2 Corinthians 9:8-9).

### FOCUS ON THE NATION

**Revival:** A crying out for God's intervention in our broken society, bringing about a transformation into every aspect of life across our land; for people to find the hope and love they crave in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Joel 2:28-29).

**Immigration:** Minister in charge of immigration, Shabana Mahmood; wisdom on the way forward; those fleeing persecution in their own countries; the exploitation of those crossing the channel in small boats; good working relations with France to tackle

the issue; the bringing to justice of the criminal gangs perpetrating the exploitation and suffering of vulnerable people (Leviticus 19:33-34; Zechariah 7:9-10).

### FOCUS ON WORLD ISSUES

**The persecuted church:** Focus on North Korea, the country where the persecution of Christians is most extreme according to 'Open Doors'. Pray that God will give N. Korean Christians eyes to see his light in the darkness; for the estimated 400,000 secret believers; for God to refresh courageous believers with his peace; for Open Doors, Barnabas Aid and Release International as they reach out to persecuted Christians across the globe.

**Focus on Somalia:** The second most dangerous country globally for Christians; pray that secret Christians would know they are not alone; for God to protect those in danger of attacks from the Islamic extremist group al-Shabaab; for secret believer parents to have wisdom as they teach their children about Jesus (James 1:12; Matthew 10:18-20).