

LIFE TESTIMONY

Esther 4:16b

*"When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law.
And if I perish, I perish."*

Hello, my name is Esther Kim, I am the daughter of Msn.Jeremia and Msn.Ester Kim, and I am 15 years old. I was born in 1994 in Seoul, South Korea, where I also spent my first year of life, together with my parents. I received a lot of love from my relatives that granted me every wish and treated me like a princess, especially from my grandparents on my father's side, since I am their first grandchild. According to my mother, I learned to speak and walk very fastly but was also very self-willed and disobedient, so that I already had to get 땀매 at a very early age. Since my parents had been sent to Germany as missionaries, i moved from Seoul into the country to Onyang and lived there for a year with my grandparents. At the age of two, I followed my parents to Germany. As my parents had little time for me because of their studies, work and church, I went to a child minder, where I learned German. Then I went to the kindergarten, but only unwillingly. However, I was popular and had many friends. I knew a lot about the Bible and delivered God's word to them and even challenged them to believe in God seeing that otherwise they would go to hell. I used to have a childlike faith and loved God. But even though I had many friends, I often felt lonely and so I prayed to God he may give me a brother first and then a sister. God heard my prayer and gave me Paulus and Eunice as brother and sister, exactly in the order I had wished for. It was a happy time. When I started school i did not have great difficulties with studying since I had already taught myself to read, write and calculate. My classteacher was often amazed and said to my parents she had taught many children, but never seen such an intelligent child like me. But she always complained about my constant lateness and my laziness.

With the grace of God, I was admitted to the best high school in Bonn at the end of elementary school, the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt Gymnasium. From then on, everything changed. My friends from elementary school went to other schools and i had difficulties to settle down. I suffered from inferiority complexes on account of things such as height, appearance, neurodermitis and my skin. When one single class mate would tease me, I thought that no one liked me. I was afraid of people and was not even able to put my hand up for fear someone would laugh at my mistakes. But my parents and many coworkers helped me with Genesis 1:31a: "god saw all that he had made, and it was very good." when I accepted this word and believed that god had created me very good with his best intention, I could receive his absolute love for me personally and overcome my inferiority complexes. But when I reached puberty, I forgot God's grace for me and began doubting about his love. I looked at my friends and their apparently happy life without God and envied them. I wondered why I had to go to the worship service every Sunday, make bible study, write testimony, and go to prayer meetings. I was getting unthankful and rebellious, and had my own way. I strived for a pleasure-craving life that consisted of fun only, skipped prayer meetings on a whim and without a reason, and chose to go to ballet performances in preferance to go to Bible Conferences. But even though I had my own way, took all liberties, even failed in my duties and skipped school, yet I was not happy. My life was meaningless because I did not live for the glory of God but for my pleasure only. I suffered

from meaninglessness of my life and my sins endlessly. I realized I had made the biggest mistake in my life and somehow tried to do away with my sin problem, but with my own power, I could not manage to do so, however much I troubled. I was a slave of my sin, from which I could not get away by myself. But through the European Summer Bible Conference 2009 at Eringerfeld, I could hear Jesus' victorious cry on the cross: "It is finished!" personally and receive his forgiveness. I could accept that I am justified freely from all of my sins by the blood of Jesus. I made the decision to live for the glory of God from that day onward and to establish my priorities upon studying his word. I began to overcome my laziness and tiredness with my annual key verse 2009, Mark 8:34: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.", and go to Daily Bread. I could experience the power of God's word and received his abundant blessing for the smallest things, such as overcoming my fatigue and going to Daily Bread once. Although I slept less than my class mates, I could be wide-awake and study more concentrated. I also started praying to God personally, and when I having problems, telling him. I experienced how God comforted me and helped me not to look at my weaknesses. But after a time, I was getting lazy and neglected the (WORTSKAMPF?). I talked myself into believing I could still get to Daily Bread the next day and did not do so indeed. Thus, I relativized the word of God and lied to myself. I skipped school more often again and was constantly late because I did not manage to get up earlier, so that my grades deteriorated drastically, not for lack of performance but simply because was not there. My bible teacher, Msn.Maria Jung, backed me so that I could gain control of this problem with my annual key verse 1.Corinthians 10,31: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." But still my (WORTSKAMPF?) and my (GLAUBENSLEBEN?) were insufficient. However, through the message of Shp.Joachim Dietzel from John 19:30 I could once again accept, that Jesus died on the cross for my sins and fulfilled my redemption at 100 percent. I made the decision to build my life upon his grace of forgiveness and begin a new life in Jesus. I pray to (WORTSKAMPF FÜHREN?) and to overcome my tiredness and laziness in the mornings. I pray for glorifying God with 1.Corinthians with everything I do, may it be by playing my instruments, dancing, or studying at school. I also pray to exert a good influence on my class mates by studying at school. I was named for the Queen Esther in the Old Testament. Esther was a Jewish orphan, adoptive daughter of her cousin Mordecai, who lived in the 5th century B.C. In the Persian (DIASPORA?). With the grace of God, she became queen over the entire Persian Empire. When the supreme government official Haman wanted to exterminate all Jews in the whole kingdom in one day by arrogance, Esther risked her life by (HIRTENHERZ?) for her people and went to the king to beg for mercy. At that time, it was forbidden to come to the king without being particularly sent for. Disobedience toward this law was punished with death. But when Esther came to God in prayer and risked her life, God gave her his grace and the whole Jewish people could be delivered. I pray that I may (DIESES HIRTENHERZ ANZIEHEN?) and be used as a good shepherdess for my class mates and further for the young people of this generation. May God help me to lead my life for the glorification of his name and to (FÜHREN?) my people toward redemption by God, whatever the cost.

One Word: If I perish, I perish.