

Sun Ju Moon, 42
Elkhart, Indiana

The word “poverty” had never had a positive connotation for me, but after I went through a time of poverty I discovered it to be valuable in my spiritual growth.

Since I married a young minister, I began to feel that I was poor. My husband’s salary was \$300 for three years (it is the same value in Korean currency). I couldn’t do much with that money. I couldn’t even buy new dresses for my first baby. When I was alone, I used to cry for my poor baby.

Poverty made me feel very miserable, and sometimes I felt ashamed when I compared the quality of my life with my friends’ who worked in secular places. I asked myself one question: Can God make me happy even in this miserable situation? I had heard many times that God is the source of our joy and we can be happy regardless of overwhelming problems or circumstances. At that moment, I felt like I had almost lost the belief that God could help me. Therefore, I needed to decide to find something to be thankful for, even while in poverty. Later, I could find many things.

Until I went through poverty, heaven was just kind of a theory, not a real place where I hoped to go. But I was truly hoping for the heaven that God prepared for me. Secondly, I realized that my experience of poverty could console others who also experience the same problems. God wants me to share my life and my experience, not just a well-organized theory in my preaching. Thirdly, I came to have “open thankful” eyes. When I used hot water for a bath, I was really thankful. When I saw the flowers which stood in the street, God made me realize they came from God for me. Oh, I knew that what I lacked at that moment, it is only money. I had all things except money.

Our family dared to come to America to study without much saved money, but with God’s providing grace. I am strongly convinced that God is the only one who can provide for our needs, not parents, not even money. I see that my poverty can be God’s power, my humiliation can be God’s honor. When I am weak and poor, I am strong and rich in God’s view. ☑



Editor’s note: This column is a forum for women to share perspectives on the current timbrel theme. It introduces women spanning their 20’s–30’s, 40’s–50’s, and 60’s and above. If you are interested in writing for this column, please contact editor, Patricia Burdette, at <PattyB@MenoniteWomenUSA.org>.