

*From the editor*

In this issue we would like to share with you Pastor Peter's message, "Forgive This Generation" publicized in 2007.

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## Forgive This Generation

Peter

What a critically important time we are living in!

Looking back upon my life, truly I am filled with wonder. I am now living in the incredible era. It means I may possibly witness that the entire Bible will be fulfilled before our eyes. Actually, it is not only a possibility, but I have a conviction that everything in the Bible will be actualized in our generation. I am living in such a time. I am in the midst of it. I cannot help being in wonderment.

Jesus prophesied that in the end time there would be many sufferings and troubles. Incidences of earthquakes, false prophets and persecutions would happen. However, He said;

This generation will not pass away till all these things take place. (Matthew 23:34)

He said "this generation." In other words, all prophecies of the end time shall take place in a span of one generation called here as "this" generation.

Such a time shall come. And the generation of ours may be it.

I have come to believe so. To speak the truth, I am scared. However, the Lord comforts me:

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (Matthew 24:35)

The time is approaching for its fulfillment.

The Lord says heaven and earth will pass away. We do not know how. Would it be by big earthquakes or nuclear missiles? Heaven in Greek (uranos) has the same origin as a word, uranium. The Second Letter of Peter says, "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up." (3:10) It eerily sounds like a nuclear explosion. Such an unimaginable time of destruction may be near. What an abnormal time we are living in!

Living in such an uneasy time, what do you depend on? Nothing is reliable anymore. Nowhere is safe, except the cross of Christ and His words (logos). The Lord says, "My words will not pass away." To live in the eternal life means to live in the words of the living God. It is the only thing that will protect you.

Therefore, have faith of breathing the words of the Lord. Stand on the love of Jesus Christ, Him alone. His love alone is sufficient. You need nothing else. Such a time has come.

Next month the Revelation Concert will be held in Ashiya and in Tokyo. Interestingly, we are having our worship service in this Luna Hall today, and the Revelation Concert is being held in the same place next month. It is my personal observation, but I cannot help feeling that the Revelation Concert will directly relate to the fate of the earth. Only an insane person says the Revelation Concert will

change the fate of the earth. I know it too well. Laugh at me as a fool if you want. Yet I must tell you this. The fate of the earth will depend on the Revelation Concert. Whether or not the earth will pass away or survive will depend on the Revelation Concert. I may be insane, but I, too, have the mind of Christ.

I am not saying this as a suggestion or an odd idea or a rubbish talk of a weird world. We, a flock of praise, have been called for the healing of the earth, haven't we? The Lord has called us for the "end of the world project," hasn't He?

I believe that the Lord will heal the earth and protect you without fail. I tell you this with all my heart. Heaven and earth will pass away, but you who breathe the logos of Christ will not perish. You will live in the eternal life. Live in the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Let me add one more thing.

Now, today, proclaim forgiveness of the Lord in the name of Jesus Christ. His forgiveness is your protection. The protection is your healing.

Do not rely on your emotions. If you wait for your emotion to forgive, 100 years or 200 years will not be enough. Disregard your feeling or emotion, but proclaim forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ. To the land, to the people and to your town, proclaim Christ's forgiveness.

While sitting in the Luna Hall this morning, I suddenly remembered something of a long time ago. Nowadays, those things happen sometimes. Let me talk about it a little.

I suddenly remembered a book I read when I was young. The front cover had a picture of the author, Catherine Marshall, and the Japanese title of the book was "Where Love Is." The Japanese version was published by a publisher

which had nothing to do with Christianity, which was unusual.

Catherine was the wife of Peter Marshall, a pastor for the U.S. Senators long ago. He was an ardent Christian who had immigrated from Scotland and was a great orator. He passed away young, leaving very little for his wife and his young son. Their life was hard. Catherine came up with an idea of writing a biography of Peter, and finished it in a year. But the book was dismissed by most publishers as an amateur's work. Catherine believed, however, that the Lord would open the door.

The door opened. The book, "Man Called Peter," was finally published, and created a quiet sensation among many readers who were moved by the book. A movie was made based on it, and many young people became missionaries after reading the book. Catherine became a professional writer. She was my favorite writer, and I read her many books in my days in the U.S. Well, so much for preliminaries. All of a sudden I remembered a miraculous story in her book.

Two young men from countryside came to New York, and shared a room to save money. They were poor. I do not remember the details, but one man, John, had deep scars in his heart, and the other man, Mark, was of a very soft heart. John was a difficult person, but Mark strived hard to help his roommate and make their lives in the city better.

The life in New York was severe. His roommate began to deteriorate. Mark helped him and prayed for his peace, in no avail. Then a tragedy happened. Having crawled into his bed and slept soundly after the hard day's work one night, he felt an acute pain in his body. His roommate had become mad, and stabbed him with a knife. He desperately screamed

for help. A next-door neighbor came running, and his roommate was taken away by the police who came shortly afterward. The injured man was carried to a hospital by ambulance having a deep stab wound. He lost a lot of blood. A doctor said, "Impossible." Impossible to be cured. A strange thing happened, however. During the operation, the man who was too damaged to receive anesthesia uttered words, "Lord Jesus, please help John. I forgive him."

He was unconscious, yet he uttered the words over and over, "I forgive him." And he narrowly escaped death and surprised the doctor. Not only he was saved from death, but he began to be healed. The doctor said to him later:

"I have done many operations in my life, but I have never done such a miraculous operation. There was no doubt that you could have died from such a serious injury, but you lived. I have seen a miracle of forgiveness for the first time in my life. If you were angry at your friend, you received no energy to recover. Anger and hatred turn into a destructive energy and destroy the vital power to live. You believed in God and wholeheartedly forgave him. And a miracle happened."

What a healing forgiveness is! His mentally ill roommate, who had been captured and locked in a hospital, simultaneously began to recover himself.

I think there was a meaning for me to remember the story this morning.

In the end time, heaven and earth will pass away. We did not choose to live in this generation, did we? It is the will of God somehow. We will not be pleased encountering calamities, let alone being involved in unjust homicides. Should we be involved in any such incident, we cannot be indignant enough. We will be angry as hell.

To live in this generation is just like that. Why do we have to live in a time so dangerous that the earth may pass away? Naturally, we get angry.

However, because we are living in such a time, we stand on faith all the more.

To stand on the faith in Christ means to proclaim forgiveness of Christ. Forgive, forgive more, and forgive even more.

Proclaim forgiveness of Christ today to this land. Forgive everyone in your life. It is your healing. It becomes your protection. And it becomes the healing of the earth.

Whatever you forgive on earth is forgiven in heaven. Whatever you do not forgive remains forever. In a time like this, do not leave any anger and resentment. When this generation is destroyed, the earth will pass away.

Forgive this generation. I forgive in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

April 17, 2007

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