

## 17. The Kind of World That Kkottongnae is Dreaming of 2

# A World Where Every Single Person Is Respected Like God

“God created human beings, making them to be like himself (Genesis 1: 27).”

We never say, “tet out” to anybody in Kkottongnae.

People often like to keep close to a person who is worth of taking advantage of but keep a distance from a person who seems worthless, just like the saying, “They swallow when it is sweet, and spit out when it is bitter.” However, we have never said, “Get out” in Kkottongnae, whether he or she has sinned or not, is useful or not, has a mental disorder or not, or even has been making a lot of troubles.

It is because Kkottongnae’ g dream is to help make a world where everyone created like God, is respected as a decent person just like God.

### **Kkottongnae Where No One Can Say “Get out”**

There was a brother, with a Christian name ‘Andrea’ who was really hard to get on with. He was an alcoholic and had been convicted twice before. On being released on bail from the prison suffering with diabetes and tuberculosis, he returned to his home, but his mother didn’t let him in. So, the man abandoned by

his mother wandered here and there and even considered suicide. One spring day when it was drizzling with rain he came to the Kkottongnae office soaking wet and he begged us to let him stay in Kkottongnae. At first we rejected him because he had family, house, and money. With a great disappointment he turned back and uttered in a low and sad voice, “then there left only one place to go to.” We were astonished when we heard him say that and thought that he could kill himself. So we accepted him no matter what the rule was.

His diabetes took a favorable turn and the tuberculosis was perfectly cured after a year-long treatment. His rotten feet were also 100% recovered. However, from then on he started to make a lot of troubles as we had predicted. He was a real pain in our necks.

He kept making problems: for example, he often got himself into a frenzy by becoming deadly drunk; threatened others with knife; he jumped into a car and got injured on purpose in order to get a reward; and sometimes threatened voluntary workers so as to make them cry or not to serve any more, and etc.

We wanted this man who had worn us out, to leave Kkottongnae. However, we could not say it out because we knew that it meant death



Fr. Oh meeting with the homeless in the underground of subway station in Seoul.

to him. So as Jesus went through the pain and died on behalf of us, we prayed for ourselves to have the strength to accept the pain and death on behalf of him, according to Jesus' teaching and we continued to take care of him. The three years of hard time passed by. And finally he did leave and returned to the society, got married, and started a family. However, unfortunately a liver disease from alcoholism drove him to death after several years. After his funeral, his wife called Kkottongnae and told us, "My husband used to ask me never to forget the kindness Kkottongnae favored him with and to deliver his appreciation to Kkottongnae."

### **The Most Precious Life**

A famous professor with Ph.D. at a medical school said, after he had looked around Kkottongnae: "I am not going to a Christian church anymore. How could almighty God create such ugly and disabled creatures in Kkottongnae that do not even look like human beings? How come He gave life to such failures? I can't believe in such a merciless God anymore."

And a nurse who served not even half a day in Kkottongnae came and said, "It is of no use to take care of these people. I think it is more considerate that we'd rather do nothing but let them leave this world as soon as possible."

There are people who live with such chaotic values and attitudes. We can live our lives being caught up in all sorts of work and not even be able to discern what is most precious in being human and what we should do or should not do.

There is a baby whose head is getting bigger

and bigger with a disease called Hydranencephaly.

The baby named Wonbeom was born to an eighteen-year-old unwed mother. He does not know who his father is, and his mother left him shocked by the result of his birth. Wandering around the hospitals embosomed by his grandmother, he was treated here and there for six months, but in the end could not help leaving helplessly with no hope of either surgery or cure as a result of the diagnoses of the doctors.

There is a word, "Everyone lost his original honorable appearance that God had given because of his sin" in the Bible.

Kkottongnae family members having imperfect appearance like Wonbeom who has a buffed-up head are not different from us at all, though. They are the very self-portrait of ourselves who are living in the modern society. We may live with a deformed and mean heart and with a sinful selfish mind that is hidden under an exterior that looks neat and beautiful.

No one can regard the baby as a worthless creature to live his life in this world. It is also due to your ignorance if you think that it is of no use to take care of the baby. We have to notice how precious the baby's life is. Furthermore, we should be aware that it is mandatory to take care of the baby devotedly since it could not only be beneficial to all of us but also wash away the sin of the young parents who abandoned the life.

We take care of Wonbeom just as we serve and respect Jesus according to the teaching of the Bible: ". . . whenever you did something for one of the least important of these people, you did it for me . . ."

We do this to make a world where everyone is respected as God.

Won Bum with a volunteer who looks after Won Bum. He suffers from an unknown disease which makes his head become swollen and bigger because of water inside of the head.

