

Our Memories of Kim

"Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no HOPE. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

1 Thessalonians 4:12-14



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*A well-lived life doesn't end
anymore than music ends.*

*It echoes through time
with whispers of beauty and grace...*

*if we listen, we can hear the
encore with our hearts,*



*for the song plays on,
just as love lives on.*



Kim's Eyes

When Kim first arrived with Chris from Korea she was very shy. I am sure she did not know how she would be received. Her head and eyes were lowered. When she understood our family accepted her with open arms, she lifted her head and her eyes were full of love for all of us.

As the years went by, she grew greatly in the Lord Jesus. These last years as I worked with her and Chris with CASA I saw in her eyes such complete trust, strength and love in Jesus.

The last time I was talking with her I saw such compassion and love in her eyes for me. At first I couldn't understand it. As I prayed about it the Lord showed me He used her as His vessel to show me His love for me through her. I believe the love she showed was not only from her spirit but since she was such a willing vessel God used her to show His love and compassion for me as well.

As you look at the picture of Kim with the African children, you can see the expression on her face that I am talking about, God pouring out His compassion and love on the saved and the unsaved.

Many people in Africa and America will ponder as I did about what was that beautiful look in Kim's eyes as she smiled at them. It was the Lord Jesus Christ using a willing vessel.

-Jeanne Zelen

I remember Kim's bright smile and sweet spirit. When she came into our family, I was a teenager. She amazed me how she could squat down, feet flat on the ground, with bottom almost touching the ground! She tried to show me how to sit like that and I tried, but no way could I sit like that! I asked her to teach me some Korean words. She tried and when I tried to say them, she laughed so hard. It is a precious memory.

-Sue Davis

"Moreover as for us, far be it from us that we should sin
against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you."

I Samuel 12:23

We love you,

Your Family

Chris, Zach and Peter,

We are praying for each of you and we know that Kim's greatest joy was sharing Christ. Her example and legacy are a gift. Please let us know if we can ever help you as you deal with her loss.

-God Bless, Nathan Tanya, Lauren, Christian and Ethan Zelen

God's love is the secret of a lasting heritage. When the 3 sisters were asked to say a few words of remembrance at Kim's funeral, I asked the Lord to give me a scripture. He gave me Matthew 22:37-40: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and thy soul and all thy mind and thy neighbor as thy self." (paraphrase) Kim earned her AA, Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate and even higher in learning and doing this scripture. She really did get it right with an A plus, plus, plus!! Her entrance into heaven must have been a huge welcome home celebration with mountains of kim chi and good Korean food!

I'll never forget her first visit to my home in Whiting, Indiana at 1725 Sheridan Avenue, as a new bride. She was so loving and kind and made me a woven plant hanger the way they did it in Korea. She let me watch as she worked the twine. She was so humble and was a very welcome addition to our family. Chris and Kim were a wonderful team getting their education and then their wonderful time as pastors and missionaries with CASA. I was so blessed to see how God used them. Thank you God for the wonderful sister-in-law you allowed us to know for these many years. We'll be seeing you soon, Kim.

-Charlotte Francis

It was remarkable to see Kim grow in God's grace over the years. Especially in the last 10 years she seemed more and more joyful about doing the things God called her to. She had a very subtle sense of humor that took me a while to understand. Kim could be in the middle of one conversation, overhear something and turn and "correct" something Chris was saying, then come back to the conversation without skipping a beat. Kim will be sorely missed

-James Walker

Kim and I also spoke of how God broke my heart years ago for Africa and I've always felt called to follow through with a mission. I mentioned that I felt it might be more than Divine coincidence such an opportunity was so close within my reach and we shared conversations of her heart for Rwanda and the African people. You could see the passion she was filled with in her eyes, as she spoke. She mentioned as David had before, what an amazing time they had when he'd joined C.A.S.A. and Kim during his senior year. We'd discussed a time in the future when I'd hopefully be able to join her, as well.

Kim was an amazing, Godly woman who performed incredible acts, truly guided by His hand; the same hand that carried her home. Although she is greatly missed and no words can ease the hurt you are feeling, I hope it offers some comfort knowing that the radiant light of her spirit brightened the life of someone who only was fortunate enough to meet her once.

-Melissa Foreman

My aunty Kim was always very kind to me. The summers I spent with my cousins at her house are some of my best childhood memories. I'm so blessed that I got to talk with her on video chat when Zach and Chris were visiting my house last month. She was so happy and warm and liked my ridiculous hair. I'm very proud to come from a family that includes Kim.

-Josh Foreman

I only had the fortune of meeting Kim once, at the family reunion of 2009 and my baby shower immediately following. I had great expectations based off all the fond memories that had been recounted by David, through the years we'd been together and amazingly, her presence surpassed them all. Kim was an amazing woman who was an incredible bright spot that day.

She was so wonderfully warm and welcomed me with an embrace upon meeting. She stayed to help transition from the family reunion to the baby shower, hanging banners and setting table clothes as we got to know one another. She was such a pleasure to spend time with.

Kim was involved in all the games but seemed to excel specifically at the game where everyone guesstimated a specific amount of toilet paper that would most closely represent the circumference of my pregnant belly; her piece of toilet paper was literally within millimeters of being exact. I kept catching secret conversations in the corner between Kim and David, as well as noticing David's mischievous smile that he normally displays when he's getting into trouble. Kim ended up winning the game and when I went to offer her the prize, she received it with an innocently, embarrassed smile. Later, she pulled me aside and let me know that David's hug earlier may have been a conspiracy between aunt and nephew, on David's behalf to help one of his favorite guests win the game. She was so sincere and sweet and this truly is one of the most humorous memories of the baby shower, we still speak of today.

Her prayers and well wishes were so personal and tender; she radiated warmth and grace. She spoke of David as fondly as he spoke of her and mentioned how she was looking so forward to watching him grow as a father. I know she would be proud to see him now and I know that David would have loved to take Xian to eat Kim chi and Pocky with his great-Aunt Kim.

My memories of Kim are mostly from when Jimmy and I were first dating. I was Simon Peter's preschool teacher along with Ben and Heather's teacher and went to the same church that she went to. I got to know Chris and Kim when Jim and I would go hang out with them in their North Eugene home. They were so studious and I was quite impressed with both of them. Kim would make Korean food and tea and was always so hospitable to us. I also went to Lane Community College where Kim was a teacher. Because we moved away and they moved back to the Midwest we didn't get to see each other for quite some time. But then we moved to Northern California and they lived in Sausalito so we began to visit each other more often. We would take our babies over and hang with them at their military home and made it an annual event to go visit them every Fourth of July to see the fireworks over the bay. Kim and Chris and the boys came to our home for a few holiday meals. As the kids grew we didn't get to spend as much time as we should have. Josiah had the privilege of going to Africa with Chris and Kim and grew close to Kim and had much respect for her. We are thankful to them for including Josiah in their ministry. It has stayed with him and has helped to define who he is today. The last time we got to visit with Kim was August 2009, just under a year ago. Kim was beautiful and once again so hospitable. She cooked Korean food and tea and her countenance shined! We will miss Kim.

-Valerie Walker

The thing that always stuck out to me about Kim was her kindness and her ambition. From the day she got here, she worked towards improving her English, getting her driver's license and furthering her education. She accomplished so much but stayed so humble. She was always interested in my life and I could feel she really meant it. At her last visits here, we spent time together shopping. She wanted new clothes for work. It was so much fun! We laughed a lot and we bought some cute clothes together. She was a huge blessing to me.

-Barbara Foreman

What a delightful and sweet addition Kim was to our family. I hold many dear memories of Chris and Kim over the past 3 plus decades that she was a member of our family. Initially, she was fairly quiet...who could blame her with such a rowdy family she joined! As she came to know us and our culture and our humor, she quickly accepted us and we found a place in each others' hearts.

While they lived in Longview, I remember going to their apartment on 9th Avenue and playing Scrabble...friendly games where we help each other form words and use the dictionary! Kim felt free to ask questions about the words we used and their meanings. She was determined to learn English. When Zach was born, we were all amazed at how small he was...famous for his picture in Chris' lunch pail! (Wow, did he grow!!!) Jenny and Laura were just the right age to babysit Zach and we were all thrilled to have a baby in Longview who we could love on! While in Longview, Kim attended Women's Aglow retreats with the ladies in the family and easily made friends. Then they moved from our city and the visits were fewer.

On our vacation in 1977, we traveled to St. Louis and met Simon! He was 3 months old. I remember what fun we had there, Kim's warm hospitality and the delicious Korean food!!

Over the years we sisters and brothers would get together at each other's homes. Kim was fairly quiet during those visits. Who could blame her? It was tough competing with Chris' 3 sisters!! Then one evening at Don & Jeanne's house, she really opened up! It was after she had returned from a mission trip to Africa. Kim was on fire with a passion and boldness I had never seen in her! She had a new goal: to reach Africa for Jesus! She was "aglow" and burning with the Spirit!

At Chris' ordination, I saw such pride and joy in her face. She was a pastor's wife now and was so pleased and proud. Of course, his brothers and sisters were also overjoyed!

When we first heard that Chris was marrying a Korean, we were so excited. The pictures he sent showed an exotic beauty. And we wondered what Kim Hyun Deok would be like. When she arrived, she had so many frustrations and new customs to deal with. We took a trip to Canada and coming back, she could not understand the fast talking customs agent and Frank and I and Chris and Kim had to get out of our car and be searched. We went to the World's Fair in Spokane. In the Russian exhibit we saw on the wall a collection of stuffed deer and antelope heads with one of them having a gigantic, moose-like nose. She laughed and said that looked like Chris. She wanted more than anything to see Native American Indians. We took a picture of her beside two cute little Indian girls and she exclaimed that they could be her nieces. We watched an Indian dance and she muttered that that was simple. Someone heard her and jumped off the stage, grabbed her and pulled her onto the stage. After dancing with them for a few minutes, she came down and said it wasn't so simple as it looked.

She did not understand the Do-It-Yourself part of our culture and was appalled by the concept of Goodwill. What she did love was the presence of colleges everywhere. It took years as she and Chris moved around the country, but she got her PhD. She became a professor at San Francisco State University. She also became an excellent Goodwill shopper.

But the thing that made her happiest, I think, was becoming a Pastor's wife. She used her professorship and church standing to good use in Rwanda, teaching the teachers how to use computer technology.

She was always kind to me, and fed me great Korean food. She was always an encourager. I remember her saying, "Everybody goes to Rwanda, but who goes to Burundi?" She was always trying to sweep in the left out one.

-Lelia Foreman

Kim Foreman was always an ambitious person. She set high goals and worked patiently and diligently to achieve them. So in this “land of opportunity” she accomplished a lot over three decades. While remaining a wife and mother, she completed her masters and doctorate degrees became a professor and received tenure. I could see this drive in her eyes. Her oriental eyes would get big and bright when speaking of her goals. There was a glow of excitement within that motivated the accomplishment without.

I remember seeing that glow less often after she received tenure and had achieved her final professional goal. Then there was the visit to Africa and new goals seemed to be igniting the fire again. The fire began to spread to Chris. God called him to the seminary. After Chris had spent his career in the Army supporting Kim’s goals, now it was Kim’s turn to support Chris in his new calling. One of John Foreman’s sons did indeed receive that call to be a pastor and missionary. As CASA grew in focus and her husband grew as the pastor of San Lorenzo First Southern Baptist Church, the glow returned to Kim’s eyes with a vengeance. Only this time the glow spread beyond her eyes to her whole face. I don’t believe that I saw Kim’s beautiful, uninhibited smile as much in the first three decades that I knew her as in the last five years.

I believe she discovered that achieving God’s goals was much more fulfilling than achieving Kim Foreman’s goals. Although Kim’s influence at San Francisco State was significant, God’s goals achieved through Kim will grow eternal fruit. In the humility of service in God’s calling, there was a new comfort and peace within her that I had not seen before. There was no embarrassment in this uninhibited service. The reserve, dignity, and personal ambitions were lost in a new flood of joy in service. It seemed that to be a pastor’s wife and missionary to the poor was more fulfilling than to be a doctor professor.

It was good to see even if it was for only a short time. However, I am confident that the glow continues in ways unimaginable. For now she has truly fulfilled God’s purpose for Kim Foreman and she has heard His words: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant”.

-Frank Foreman

I will miss my visits with Kim. Her sweetness and sincere interest in our family always blessed my heart. At those Aglow retreats as I led the worship services, I remember looking out and seeing Kim, hands raised, head uplifted, worshipping Jesus as she stood near our mom, other ladies in our family and her friends. That’s how I see her now...with our mom and other loved ones worshipping the One she loved and served so passionately while here on earth. This quote reminds me of her sojourn:

“Only one life, ‘twill soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last.”

Kim’s memory will live on in and through the many lives she touched for Christ. May we all strive to follow her example.

-Eileen Zimmerman

The picture of Kim with the African children shows her wearing a shirt with, “Joy of God” printed on the front. It reminded me of the scripture: “In Thy presence is fullness of joy.” Psalm 16:11

I learned that “Thy Presence” in Hebrew is “paniem al paniem” meaning “face to face” like taking someone’s face, holding it and gazing into his face.

“Fullness” means “sated”, “to satisfy as after a big meal”, “complete” or “total”

“Joy” means “blessings or glee” like a religious festival with the King there!

So our Kim is now “face to face” with God and has “complete, total and satisfying” “blessings and glee”.

Auntie Kim was an inspiration. In all the different aspects of her life, she strove for excellence. But it wasn't her outstanding achievements that have inspired me the most. It was her joy and kindness and love. Many childhood memories come to mind when I think of her, but a recent memory impacted my life most of all. One time when my mom shared with Auntie Kim a painful struggle I was going through, Auntie Kim recounted her own pain and hope in a similar instance and told my mom to be sure to share with me her encouraging story. You might think this "second-hand story" could have limited impact, but it gave me a glimpse of God's bigger picture, and how He lovingly "works all things together for good." She inspired me to "think bigger" than my own little world of pain, and her response in her own crisis gave me an example of how to press deeper into Jesus when hurting.

As I considered what to write about Auntie Kim, I looked up the word "inspiration" to see if it accurately described how I felt. In the traditional sense of the word, she has truly "propelled and motivated" me as a wonderful example of a Christ-centered life. But I was also struck by a secondary definition of the word, "the act of drawing in; specifically: the drawing of air into the lungs". I feel like those who love her are now taking a deep breath, to press forward and continue on. Auntie Kim's example has inspired me, propelled and motivated me, and with that inspiration, with a deep breath I will "press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14

I pray that the Lord will draw you into his everlasting arms and surround you with His peace and great love. I love you, Uncle Chris, Zachary & Pete.

-Jenny Brotherton

When I was little, my Uncle Frizzle brought home a special auntie for me, Kim Foreman. Auntie Kim always made me feel welcome in their apartment in Longview, while Jenny and I got our first lessons in babysitting with Zachary (and his "yellow mustard"). I could tell she loved me and cared about me. And I have wonderful memories of my family visiting them in Missouri when I was 9. I met little Simon and his sweet, chubby cheeks. Auntie Kim let me borrow her Flex shampoo and I loved it! I loved having her as my aunt.

When I think of my Auntie Kim, I always think of her with my Uncle Chris. What a pair! Uncle Chris would always be kidding her. When making a special Korean dish for our big extended family, Uncle Chris exclaimed, "Where's Sheeba?" (my grandma's dog). Auntie Kim laughed and said, "Chris!!" and gave him a shove. I'm sure at times she was overwhelmed from assimilating to a new culture, but as a kid, I never noticed. Her sweet spirit shown through. Always a big smile. I wish I could have spent more time with her as an adult. Even so, when we hadn't seen each other for a while, she made conversation easy. She was genuine. The real deal. Authentic. I will miss her, and I look forward to the conversations we'll have when I reach eternity.

I love you, Uncle Chris, Zach and Simon. You mean a lot to me. I'm praying for you that God will guide you through this time of pain, giving you direction and peace, and you'll know His love more fully now than ever before. Much, much love to you.

Laura Umfleet