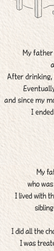
Heavenly Dream Prayer Letter

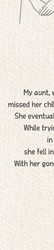
I was born in Jagang Province, North Korea.
Like many other families, mine was very poor,
so I couldn't go to school. My mother made
and mended clothes at home,
and I helped her by ironing or removing threads.



My father would have affairs outside
and drink at home.
After drinking, he would often beat my mother.
Eventually, my parents got divorced,
and since my mother couldn't afford to raise me,
I ended up living with my father.

My father married a new wife
who was eight years older than me.
I lived with them, taking care of the younger
sibling born to my stepmother.
Even though
I did all the chores and looked after my sibling,
I was treated with disdain and contempt.
Life in North Korea was lonely
and unhappy. Without school,
I had no friends, and my world was always dark.

One day, I heard from my aunt's acquaintance
that I could earn good money by working,
so I followed my aunt to China.
I didn't even know where
I was going we walked for three days without rest,
crossed the Yalu River by boat, and ended up in China.
I was immediately sold to a Han Chinese man.
I later found out that, the lady I followed,
trafficked North Korean women for profit.



I was 20 years old when I was sold.
The man I was married off
to was 14 years older than me.
I couldn't communicate with him,
and since I didn't have an ID,
going outside was dangerous,
so I stayed home all the time.
My husband made me wear clothes meant
for women in their 30s,
and the generation gap made
it hard to feel any attachment.

My aunt, who came with me to China,
missed her child she left behind in North Korea.
She eventually developed a mental illness.
While trying to return to North Korea
in a disoriented state,
she fell into the water and drowned.
With her gone, I was truly alone and lonely.

I met a broker from South Korea by chance,
who told me how I could come to the South.
I wanted to live freely and with dignity,
so I came to South Korea.
Here, I met someone
I connected with and got married.
Now, I'm raising a four-year-old,
but I still struggle to adapt
to South Korean society
due to the language barrier
and cultural differences.

I realized I needed education to understand
South Korean society better.
Through an acquaintance, I learned about the
"Heavenly Dream School,"
where I'm now studying. Although
I'm an adult with the knowledge level of
an elementary student, I'm doing
my best to learn for the sake of
raising my child well.
I'm also trying to figure out my future path
what I like and what I'm good at.
I'm interested in beauty
and nursing assistant work,
but I'm not sure if I can earn a certificate
while raising a child.
Whatever I choose, I don't want to give up.

Prayer Requests from Seo-ah

1. Please pray that my beloved family stays healthy and doesn't get sick.

2. My son is still very young and often sick. Please pray that he grows up healthy.

3. I hope I won't give up no matter what career path I choose, and that I can find a job after getting certified.