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Myung-Hyun, Missionary Kid From Uzbekistan

I spent time with Myung-Hyun to discuss his experience growing up in Uzbekistan and his relationship with God. He followed his parent's missionary work to Uzbekistan at eight years old. After spending most of his childhood abroad, he came to Handong International School at 17. And now he is currently attending HGU. It seems that the experience of spending time with people from different cultures makes Myung-Hyun's life more meaningful. He and I praise every week as a choir. Whenever I see his personality, I feel such experiences have significantly reflected his life. During this interview, I asked about his precious memory in Uzbekistan, why he came to HGU and his thoughts about living as a Christian.

First, we talked about the most memorable moments when he went to Uzbekistan at a young age. He went to an English-speaking school where missionary children attended. He met many people who followed his parents from other countries rather than the Uzbekistan people. There were many friends he wanted to get close with, but he had to keep moving due to the situation of his parents, who couldn't settle in one place. Finally, he stayed at a Russian-speaking school. As these situations continued, he was so angry with this. Also, he consciously thought about why he should live like his parents. However, looking back now, it had a significant influence on how to live the life of Christians. And he could have faith by looking at their parents at a young age. He said that every moment he spent time with his parents was valuable, no different from the students in Korea.

Second, I asked how he got to know and came to Handong Global University. Because I wondered how the missionary children knew Handong. Myung-Hyun's case was unique. His father was a pastor in Korea in 1996, and he came to Handong for a church retreat. During the retreat in Handong, he had the vision to send his son here. Myung-Hyun had seen a picture taken by his father in 1996, and it was said there was only an empty playground and a few buildings in the school. And the other case, the missionary children were recommended to go to Handong through good precedents for their sons and daughters to go to the missionary site or get a job by utilizing their major well. Therefore, Myung-Hyun entered Handong International School in 2018 and Handong Global University in 2020.

Third, I interviewed about how to live as a Christian. He said that his parents' missionary activities significantly influenced him in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan is an officially impossible region for missionary work. So, it was tough and challenging to do missionary work by revealing the name of Jesus Christ. On the contrary, it was possible to give an answer when the people asked out of curiosity. Therefore, he had to live his life as the Bible to make people curious by moving on to faith even in difficult moments. Likewise, Myung-Hyun told me that it would be Christ's life to live such a life no matter his situation and what moment he is in. He said that he is trying to live his life to give people the scent of Jesus. In other words, he wanted to live like Jesus and make people follow Jesus through his life and action.

After three specific questions, I asked more about his thoughts because I wanted to know about some situations. There are many missionary kids in Handong, but I have seen cases where their lives are religiously repulsive. I asked him if he could empathize with this. He answered that it was because of the situation and time that he could not get enough love from his parents. Myung-Hyun also wanted to be loved by his parents first, but his parents are more likely to love strangers, not children. After coming to Handong, they get out of the shadow of your parents. They are likely to desire to live in a different direction from their parents' missionary work. I could understand them to some extent while talking to Myung-Hyun this time.

To sum up, Myung-Hyun went to Uzbekistan when he was young, saw his parents' missionary work, and experienced many things. He also had a hard time adjusting to different cultures and friends. There was also difficulty making deep friends while continuing to move to school. However, through the appearance of his parents there, he could have his belief in God now. And he could meet God and think more about it when he was young. It has been almost a year since I met Myung-Hyun. I was able to have a deep religious relationship with him by asking such detailed questions. It was a great experience to hear another person's thoughts.