



Send Me and Give Me Beautiful Dreams to Share Rev. Sarah Lee

I could not dream a beautiful dream before I believed in Jesus; I dreamed only sad dreams. I grew up as the youngest child with two older brothers in a family which did not believe in God. My parents were separated, and my mom was a shaman so I grew up under my mom's shaman influence. When I was around 16 years old, I became ill with no specific diagnosis and no explainable cause. My mom's friends told me I was possessed by shaman because my sickness came from the worldly gods. I persevered and determined that as long as I lived, I would not be a shaman because I knew how difficult my mom's life was.

I won the chance to study abroad in Japan when I was a college student. There I was led to church by my acquaintance, and I opened my heart and believed in Jesus. I began my faith life with joyfulness and passion because Jesus became a TRUE LIGHT to my hopeless life. I also led many other pupils to Jesus. Meanwhile, I recovered my health, and made a vow that I would devote my life to God. After graduation, I returned to South Korea to work, but I was called by God, so I also studied theology.

While I was studying, I questioned, "Can I be used well enough as the servant of God with the background of a shaman's daughter?" Whenever this thought occurred, I could not focus on my studies. I prayed about this matter every morning and one day I received God's words which changed my life: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:4-5) I now was set free from the matter of my birth which had tormented me. God opened to me that I was to be a missionary, the prophet over all the nations.

When God called my husband to go with me as a Laos missionary, I still dragged my feet. "Is it right that I reach out as a missionary to serve and save the neighboring people, even though I did not save my mom, who was a shaman?"

I went to God again and God responded, "Do you feel that much hurt that your mom worships idols? I feel hurt about the fact that my people worship idols. I want you to go to the people who are suffering due to idol worship and to evangelize them." Just like my earnest wish that my mom had accepted Jesus, God conveyed to me this wish for all God's people, therefore I obeyed God and have served God on the mission field for 20 years.

I was a girl who had dreamed only sad dreams, but on the mission field, God made me a person who dreams beautiful dreams. As a missionary who is dreaming of saving souls and spirits and is dreaming the revival of God's kingdom, I hold dear the verse, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved; you and your household" (Acts 16:31). I prayed and eventually the

dream came true. My mom ended her job of shamanism, was baptized, and became a Christian on her birthday, October 20th, 2009.

Jesus changed my tragic life into something beautiful. I am dreaming on the mission field today because I believe in Jesus who visits people in the ditches of hopeless despair and changes their lives into beautiful lives too. My dreams of the recovery of God's Kingdom are coming true here.

Reflections

Look up the word "shaman" and discuss the meaning. Also discuss how strong Sarah's faith has become because of her call to serve God. What experiences in your life have caused your faith to grow?

A Call to Action

1. Read Isaiah 61:1-3. Does "preach" always mean to speak from a pulpit or can our actions be a sermon? Discuss ways we can minister to the following in our community.
 - Poor
 - Brokenhearted
 - Prisoners
 - Those who grieve
2. Choose one group listed in Isaiah 61:1-3 that you will especially strive to minister to in the coming weeks. This can be an individual call or a call to your CPWM.

Prayer

God of glory, strength, and courage, we lift up your servant, Sarah Lee. Thank you for her life and ministry and for her faith that moved her to answer your call. May we listen for your still small voice and answer, "Send me," to heal the broken hearted and to be your hands and feet in a troubled world and a hurting community. Amen.