Farmer went out to sow his seed. As we was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop: a hundred times as much as was sown.

Twelve Influential Early Korean Preachers

Columbia Theological Seminary

www.webkam.org/journal
Twelve Influential Early Korean Preachers

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Foreword

"Twelve Influential Early Korean Preachers" represents a sample taste of Korean sermons and highlights the significant life of early preachers in the history and development of the Protestant churches in Korea. This is not a complete list by all means but a representation of denominationally recognized names of early Christian leaders in Korea. Over the past few years, Columbia Theological Seminary (CTS) experienced a gradual increase of Korean students studying M.Div. and other degree programs. In spite of the growing population of the Korean students in U.S. theological institutions, we do not know much about Korean context. Thus, there is much to be learned from these Korean students and what they are representing in the church growth and the challenges they are facing. And as a director of Korean American Ministries and first tenure-track professor in the history of CTS, I am facing a number of requests seeking inquiries about Koreans, Korean-Americans, and Korean Christianity from the community.

This issue is a fruit of the good works the Korean students demonstrated in the class that I taught "Korean Worship and Preaching" in Fall semester, 2013. In order to define the Korean worship and preaching, the students were assigned to research examples of historical sermons and learn from the pastors whom they respect and have influenced their lives. The choices were made crossing denominational differences upon the availability of printed sermons. We then realized immediately how little information is available in this subject matter, especially in English.

For this particular edition, I am most grateful to Dr. Jae Hyun Kim, founder and director of the Korea Institute of Advanced Theological Studies (KIATS). Because the KIATS series have introduced and translated primary Korean documents into English, the class was able to do their research in the English language. And Daniel Adams has read each paper carefully and made editorial corrections for all of the English grammar errors and also rewrote some phrases to make things more accurate and understandable. It was truly a learning experience for all and I am most grateful to each of the writers that this valuable information can be made known to a wider audience.

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