

Official Adoption Agreement For the

Direct Support of

REV. DR. THOMAS PARK, YOUR MISSIONARY IN TAIWAN

Project # A10998-69489



I came to the U.S. as a teenager from South Korea. My parents sent me to be educated in the U.S. for a better opportunity in life. The first place I stayed was in Hawaii. The Lord became my Savior while living there. Since I was without my family and Jesus was the only person that genuinely cared for me. My Korean Methodist church friends shared the Gospel with me. After living there for two years, I went to Washington State to attend Evergreen Lutheran High School. It happened to be a WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) school. During this time, I became a member of a Lutheran church because of its focus on Jesus and His unconditional love for the world and me. My teachers at the high school encouraged me to become a pastor, and I wanted to proclaim Christ to people living without hope because I experienced life without Jesus, and I knew that He is the only hope in life. For this sole purpose, I attended Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota. After four years, with the grace of God, I went to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin. My pastoral internship was at two congregations in Wisconsin and Minnesota. During my vicarage, I became gravely ill with typhoid fever and spent eight days in ICU. I also received six units of blood and lost 25 pounds. Although I was dying, I was not afraid because I knew that my Lord would be with me even on to death, and I was confident that I would rise again because of what Jesus did. The Lord spared me, and I became healthy. I realized that God was not finished with me.

My first assignment out of the seminary was to a Lutheran high school in Watertown, South Dakota. I was a dormitory supervisor and a religion teacher. After a year, I went back to Wisconsin and worked at a used bookstore, an elevator motor manufacturing plant, and a wooden organ pipe assembly shop.

To pursue a graduate degree, I went to Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. While my time at the seminary, I decided to join LCMS (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod) because I could use my talents more effectively, and there was room for the minority to serve God in this church body. After spending close to three years at Concordia, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Moorhead, Minnesota, called me to be an associate and a campus pastor. My primary responsibility was to serve college students. I spent a little over a year in that position because I received a call to work with Hmong immigrants at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. I held that role for three years.

In 2016, I came to Irvine, California, to teach as a theology professor at Concordia University in Irvine. Unfortunately, my school eliminated my teaching position because of financial issues exacerbated by COVID-19. However, I am so thankful that I earned my Ph.D. a week before finding out my fate at the university.

After six months without a job, I found a temporary pastoral post at St. John's Lutheran Church in El Segundo, CA. However, on August 15, 2021, I accepted a divine call to serve as a theological educator at the seminary and missionary in Taiwan.

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REV. DR. THOMAS PARK A10998-69489

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**The people of Taiwan for the Rev. Tom Park to tell
of our Jesus—Park #A10998-69489**

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