



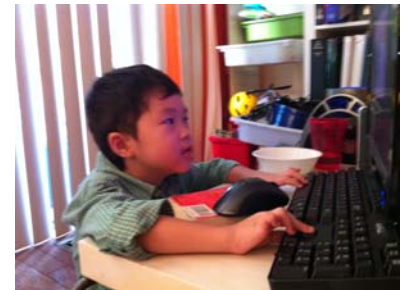
Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ... The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on the earth peace, goodwill toward men! (Luke 2:8, 10-14)

Here is the story that has made this year for us special. Throughout the entire year all have been busy. The busiest person in our family was YoungHoon, mom, the only woman in our family. She is still working on her term papers, along with

reflections something on her internship program at two public schools in Anne Arundel County. After finishing the winter semester with straight As, YoungHoon has begun her final year of the graduate work on Teaching in Music Education since September. From Monday thru Thursday, she commuted two places: one for a public school and the other for UMBC. She accumulated huge amount of commuting mileage this year. A few days a week she had to leave home earlier than Gideon who should take a school bus as early as 6:45 a.m. Our living room was filled with several musical instruments, related to her study, including a trombone, a cello, a trumpet, and a violin, along with my violin, Theo's violin, dad's guitars, mom's guitar, Gideon's trumpet, and a piano and a drum set, and several woodwinds recorders. Dad had to help mom, carrying a heavy instrument from the parking lot to her classroom sometime during the semester when she had a minor car accident. We haven't seen her much this year, especially after school. We talked with her on the phone. We used text messages all the time.



Theodore Atticus (Gi-Tack), 5 as of the 17th of this month, may be next busiest person this year. His daily routine was depended upon mom's and dad's schedules. As early as I was about to take breakfast usually with a pint of milk with reduced fat (1%) and a handful of cereal mix, Theodore was expected to be ready for a day. Three or four days a week he had to travel with daddy and attended Rev. DaeHwa Park's pre-school (?), whose primary curriculum had to do with ministries, church meetings, bible study and so forth. He also had fieldwork at parishioners' homes or hospitals Rev. Park visited. Each time Theodore carried a suitcase, filled with small cars, small planes, and some Lego pieces. Theodore worked a lot with I-Pads. He often used up all the power on Dad's phone, especially with "GangNam Style" and its parody one of YouTube clips. His favorite repertoires include Temple Run, Crazy Cars 2, NFS HP. He showed interest in playing PS3, which caused us to share our time. [I didn't like that, because he would take away all the hours we could possibly play it after we completed homework and other things.]



I am not sure if Theodore still remembers his 2 degree burn with coffee at a McDonald sometime in August. Dad recollected once that he cried for a while, yet soon enjoyed an ambulance ride, and did nothing but chatting with a rescue crew on his way to DC children's hospital. Recently, he fell in love with an old TV cartoon series, known as "Tom & Jerry." Year 2012 was for Theodore a year to dance, jump, and run. He should have sat down, read some books, and begun to learn how to write; for his handwriting is still ugly. Hopefully, he would pay lot more attention to the cartoon, so that we may have little more room for PS3. Theodore made a couple of new friends from Saint James this year: Leo, Edie, Judy, and Mike. All are older than probably 70.



Gideon Thory (GiYoon), my brother, 14 or dad, forty something, should be next busiest persons. But, I got confused which one actually was busier. Both Gideon and dad had 2012 as a year of transition. Gideon graduated R. MS and started M HS. Dad went deep into the transition phase in his ministry at Saint James as I can tell. However, Gideon would take a nap almost every day after school for a couple of hours or more until he began homework. Dad seemed to busy, yet he would watch "talking pictures," which seemed to be related to his work, yet for me it also could be considered as a part of entertainment. Both said all the time that they have plenty of things to do each day. One related to school; the other to work. Gideon has been burning florescent light bulbs in the basement where he settled down for his own shelter. Dad occupied in the living room and has been burning halogen light bulbs for the preparation for Sundays and other business. Both were the primary consumers for snacks and drinks during the night. Dad had a couple of other meetings with workshop and conferences with a group of the Korean pastors in NJ and VA. Gideon had a tour for school band concert to Busch Garden I think. He had a couple of school concerts as he played trumpet. A visit of his classmate, Crystal was an event. It was the first time we had the 2nd girl in our family. No one knew how to handle the situation for the first couple of hours of her visit. Mom and dad seemed not yet ready for the event Gideon seemed to get started a hangout with girls. I am not yet interest in that gender. Gideon got interested in playing Tennis this year. I haven't seen him play more than a couple of times throughout the year. Dad would say that he played golf. I haven't seen him playing more than a couple of times throughout the year. It is obvious that they have been busy. Isn't that normal for everyone?



Me, Jeremy Solo (Gi-Oak)? I turned 12 and will be 13 in April. I wasn't that busy this year. I always had things to do: School stuffs during the week days and church stuffs during the weekends, which were pretty much my weekly routines. I spent time with Theodore Atticus. He seemed to think that I was kind of an easy person to work with. He began a day with me and ended with me. He asked me to spend time for PS 3 and asked me to fix things when dad was not available. Theodore would challenge me with some sorts of wrestling. I should not win, according to mom. He often brought a couple of board games, such as Life or Monopoly, I should not win it either. He should win all the time. I liked MineCraft first several months. I would publish how to play at my own YouTube. Somehow, I got bored with it. Now, I enjoy Assassin, kind of something adventurous and religious.



I often felt being a middle kid with no fun at all. It wasn't fair either. I had to yield others all the time. Theodore is too young to be generous. Gideon deserves many things as the first-born. Dad claims his genetic royal ancestry, in other words, being lazy as native. Mom is the only female. I have been haunted by a series of demands and requests from my family members. However, even in the midst of busy disruptions, I have been pretty good at school work. I think I deserved a nice Notebook personal computer as I have brought nice report cards throughout the year. I am aware that all parents like their kids doing well in school.



I love to cook. I don't remember how many meals I prepared for my own family this year. Perhaps, a thousand meals! I cooked for myself. I served dad with snacks. Gideon asked often for me to cook for him. So did mom. On top of these quality services for my family, I had to do my daily routine, doing homework, checking up my I-phone, playing piano and violin each day, reviewing Brain Pops, feeding Toby West Highland White Terrier and Coco, Yorkshire Terrier, a gold fish, and a couple of tropical fish, and a box turtle who met dad on Hines Road and has stayed with us for this winter. I should have read more this year. I didn't. Upon Lord's willing, I can read more books next year!

Each day had enough work to do for every member of my family. Sundays were other days, filled with so many things: waking early in the morning as early as 6 a.m.; going to church; worshipping God; meeting people; hanging out with other kids; waiting dad and mom, and so forth. Dad used to say that it was a privilege. I often questioned about it. We didn't do many other extracurricular activities, yet scouting activities on Mondays. Dad thinks that BSA is one of the best programs for boys' life. Really?

In conjunction with dad's continuing education in Orlando, Florida, we had an opportunity to drive down all the way to Florida in April. We had a chance to visit Disney World one day. Again this year, we had a nice the 4th of July firework in D.C., especially at Lincoln Memorial area. During summer, the family had a special vacation in New England with college tour. A cordial invitation from the Rev. "Buddy" Pipes of New Hampshire worked well with the tour, beginning with Princeton University in NJ. Gideon said that he liked Yale University after the whole trip to Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology in MA, Dartmouth in NH, on our way home, to Williams and Amherst College in MA, Brown University, RI, and Columbia University in Manhattan. Dad raised a couple of weird questions when we listened to the presentations of the folks from the Admission office of these colleagues: something like chapel service! Theodore looked the youngest prospective student at each campus visit. College tour was fun, and is not recommendable for you guys. It was bored. Our stay at the hotels and motels on tour was much more fun and unforgettable. We had to shorten the trip, because dad wanted to take advantage of his vacation for Global Leadership Summit. Our summer vacation ended with a full day at Ocean City. In my opinion, we should stay at a hotel - oceanfront preferred - in the beach more often during summer.

For September and October, only thing I remember was going to church. Dad preached on "Back to the Sacred" and "Doing Right with Excellence." In November we had a time for community service project for SERRV. It was nice. Helping others is a good thing. I am thinking about organizing a group of friends a couple of times a year for the service project next year.

We met some old people (?) from dad's college, known as Yonsei University. Rev. and Mrs. Choi, Yonsei alumni, serving as a missionary couple in Kiev, Ukraine visited us in early June. Later still in June, dad had a retreat in the area of US Capital and National Mall with other old folks. Theodore had a chance to go to Princeton with dad to meet Dr. Han, who is really old, almost 90, yet a theologian, medical doctor and worldly known mentor to many, according to dad. About the end of summer, Dr. and Mrs. S Kim, the other alumni teaching at Yonsei University visited dad and ate a dinner with us at a Tofu house in Rockville. Actually, Mrs. Kim is also a doctor teaching at the Business School in the University. We visited a couple of alumni of my dad: Rev. Kwak while our college tour in July and Rev. Ko on Thanksgiving Day weekend last month. I think I heard that dad may be coming back to Korea sometime in the near future for the 25th year of college reunion.

Aunt KeumHwa called us a couple of times a month to say a hello, along with updated ups and downs of the family situation in South Korea. Big uncle, SungHwa, often called us and shared joys and concerns.

Grandmother (of my mom side) was with us first several months this year. Her visit had to do with aunt ChaDan's pregnancy. Michael and ChaDan had a healthy and good-looking son - my sweet cousin, about a week ago on the 13th. The grandmother will come back to help out aunt ChaDan shortly. Oh! dad went back to South Korea early this year, to celebrate the 80th birthday of my grandmother in January. I remember him saying that he was able to meet his old High School friends. Dad told us that grandmother and grandfather began attending a new church in Yesan. Grandmother was very sick sometime in spring. She is doing well according to dad. Both granddaddies are well. My father's dad turned 85 last October and he is well. Hope him be healthy all the time. My mother's dad turned 67 last February and started new job after his few years of retirement. He seemed to get busier. I wish all these people well this Christmas and New Year.

We visited the Gate of Heaven several times during the year to say a hello to our beloved uncle InHwa. We will visit grandaunt buried in George Washington Cemetery this Christmas.

We said a goodbye to Bishop and Mrs. Schol who baptized Theodore several years ago for their new journey in New Jersey area. We visited Greenbelt again this year and met several friends. Several friends from Olney area where we live shared their friendship with us throughout the year, including Mr. and Mrs. Browning, our special friends and godparents of Theodore Atticus; Mr. & Mrs. English. We also had visitation of dad's friends from Uruguay. We had to say another good bye to our beloved neighbor and friend, Mrs. Jane Anne DePas. She died of cancer. Mom and dad were so sad. New friends we made at Saint James are awesome! They are kind. This year we learned lots of their stories. All seemed to busy this year, because I haven't seen many people lately, whom I used to see early this year during Sunday worship. I hope to see them more often next year. I think this is about it - what I can tell you about our story in the year of 2012. Hope you all have a nice Christmas.

We wish you a merry Christmas and happy New Year!

