

# TIM2019

## We TOGETHER lived, loved, laughed, faced, fell, flew, sang, studied, survived.

By Joeeun Kim, TIM 2019 Participant

*Joeeun Kim is a Korean youth who participated in TIM 2019. The TIM2019, was an experience that she doesn't want to change with anything. She was grateful to TIM for changing her life. Without TIM2019, she wouldn't have asked "Why Not?!" and experienced "Why Now?!" throughout her life.*

**H**ello, my friends from all over the world!

I am Joeeun Kim, a Korean youth who participated in TIM 2019. It is a great honour to be invited, to a good opportunity, and thankfully, to share my experiences and stories with you. In 2019, I was selected as a participant of the Training in Mission 2019. In which, I participated in the journey, of the passionate and intensive, youth missionary training programme for 7 months. I wrote this article with gratitude to my motivation, Kisa, Jing, Asi, Faith, Sumon, Christopher, Timasi, Tojo, Joshua, Bawibik. Also, to all of our New Zealanders, Fijian, Korean; professors and friends, as well as and CWM teams for guiding us on that long and precious journey. I write on behalf of the participants, but I will mainly talk about myself since I was asked to include my personal experience.

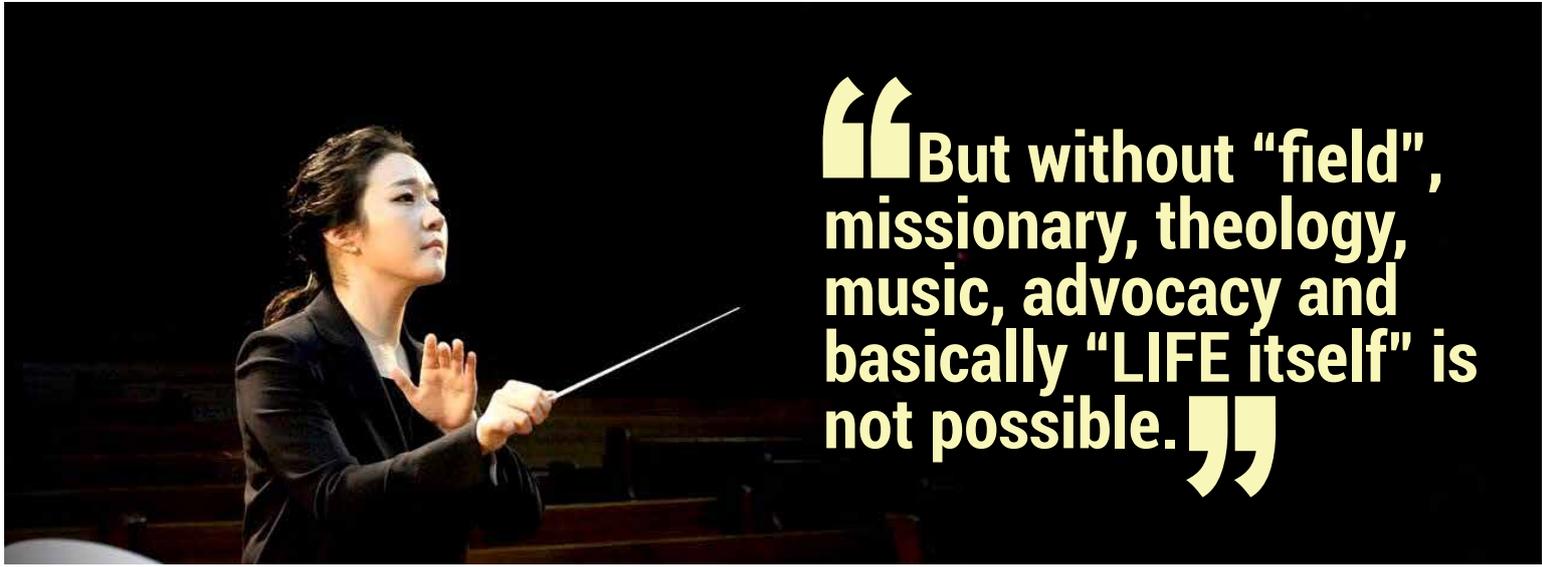
I studied church music at the Presbyterian Theological University and graduate school with vocal and choir command as my main subjects. TIM 2019 was recommended by a missionary professor who taught me when I took a class called Culture and Mission in the theology department when I was in college. Although it was not common for church music students to take theology or missionary courses, I thought it was essential for me to take this course, which will better help me to understand church music and development across different cultures. The time I applied for TIM 2019 was when I was busy preparing for my graduate school recital. At the time, when professor told me to apply, I hesitated due to my career and job offers that followed.

However, I strongly believed that planning my life was possible through God's guidance, not me, so I took courage to apply for TIM2019, leaving the proposals and 'the busy Korean life' behind. After graduating from graduate school, I worked until the day before going to TIM2019, and until the moment I boarded the plane, I didn't know much about myself, maybe I didn't know much about my life. It was my life that was dynamic and nothing was clear, so I was full of vague fear and excitement. As I boarded the plane to leave for TIM 2019, I left in doubt of my life and future. However, as I climbed the plane at the end of TIM 2019, this time, I was going back, with some questions and more answers.

TIM 2019 led me to change my perspective on life and a wide view of society as I was focusing on music and life in the church. My perspective on the world from my centre has expanded to Korea and the world, and I have a dream for the whole world by planning my future path. "Training In Mission" is the concept statement that I am keen to share about my experience as a missionary. Especially, when I reflect on my life during my conversations with people. Through "TIM2019", I found a clear vision, which God had given me. A mission, to no longer keep my personal faith under the wrong social system. It is now necessary to improve our social structure, institutions and society. These are the sites which serve as a playground for a meaningful life, a life that represents the meaning and love of Christ.

Two words that really influenced and changed me during the programme are "Talanoa" and "Marginalised."





“But without “field”, missionary, theology, music, advocacy and basically “LIFE itself” is not possible.”

**Talanoa:** Gathering, “Arrounding”, Sharing

Marginalised in TIM2019.

**Marginalised:** People who are alienated from mental and physical care.

After the programme, I wanted to stay at another desk for studying once again. Because there are more things to reflect and learn so as to have a clearer mind. But for a moment, I put everything down, the urgency and need, for me to dedicate myself to ‘field’ work, moved my feet to act and now I’m in the ‘field’. Unfortunately, the scene that came out of this new experience out of a desk was more stagnant than I thought. Instead of changing the system, I have fallen right back into it. Jesus! I am frustrated and angry at the sad reality that I see while working on it. But without “field”, missionary, theology, music, advocacy and basically “LIFE itself” is not possible. Instead of looking at the intensity of the waves from a far, try to swim with the creatures in the waves!

"Talanoa" was meaningful to me because Gathering showed another aspect of discrimination in the individualistic Korean society. There was a cultural environment that wanted to gather only with people who were familiar with them, who were beneficial to them, and who were helpful to them, and I even pursued it without doubt. However, "Talanoa," which I learned and heard through TIM2019, made me "get together" with people who were not familiar with me, who were not close to me, and who could not benefit from me, and through that process, I broke my certain frame. This frame was "a frame of thought, a frame of values, a frame of understanding, a frame of interest, a frame of action, a frame of oneself, a frame of others. "

As a youth who recently completed TIM programme, what I feel while listening to the lives and stories of the seniors before TIM, while joining the TIM 40th Anniversary Preparation Committee, is that I hope to be able to take root in learning at Training in Mission and bear fruit when it comes to 10 or 20 years later. I'm still looking for my way of life, in the middle of 20s, but the goal I've set through TIM 2019 is to visit people who have lost their voices with the talent of music that I can do and help them speak out and be in solidarity with them. At the end of the article, I share the journal I wrote in Fiji. I hope that the learning of the moment that made my heart beat fast will be delivered to your heart. Thank you.

The second word I got through TIM 2019 is "Marginalised". Before seven months of missionary training, I was obsessed with my difficulties or career paths rather than interest in the world and neighbours. However, through each module of TIM 2019, Bible study time, and Devotion time, we have the opportunity to look at the church, society, and Bible from the perspective of the Marginalised. From then on, I started dreaming with the world and the marginalised neighbours around me. The story that always appeared when sharing the situation of each country with friends from 11 countries was about alienated people. It's a shameful story. What I realised through the sharing of perspectives with my friends, was how ignorant I am of the surroundings, when I took it for granted, to live in the centre. During the TIM2019 programme, I reflected on myself, that I was quite aware of what was happening on the big streets of Korea and didn't notice any of the stories piling up in the corner. The targets of Marginalised can be, not only people, but also climate change, social structure, legal system, culture, and religion. I wouldn't have asked "Why Not?!" and experienced "Why Now?!" without learning about Talanoa and



*As I came to the city to have a group discussion over a cup of coffee after class, Jione asked us what we saw. 'What did you see and think of the Bible verses you learned this week?'*

*Because there were no windows on the Fiji bus, I could see outside in more detail, but it was people's feet that caught my eye outside the window. The feet of the people I saw on the bus were different.*

Some were barefoot, some were wearing flip flops, some were wearing sneakers, and some were wearing formal shoes. Looking at their various shoes, I suddenly thought of this. How about changing shoes between this person and that person? Will it be comfortable? Or wouldn't it be comfortable?

I've never worn the shoes of the Bible characters while reading the Bible. Until now, I have put great importance on Reading the Bible, so I focused on how Often I Read it. However, as I started looking at the Bible from a new angle with Jione in Module 4, under the theme of 'Privileging Context, Decolonising scripture, Degendering God', I started wearing various shoes.

Some shoes were very uncomfortable, some fit better than I thought, and some were very unfamiliar, but I was satisfied. What I learned from this experience is that first, changing shoes are the fastest way to know the mind of the shoe owner. The shoes of my neighbour, the shoes of the characters in the Bible, and the shoes of God. Second, my Context has limited the possibility of changing shoes and realised that I have been restricted. Third, I learned that shoes are not just valuable when they are shoes, but when someone wears them, their value is revealed.

Shoes can indicate the state of mind, and the Context to which they belong. You can reveal your values with shoes or the social image of Context to which you belong. Shoes can also mean a job. This may be a prejudice, but people wearing sneakers or flip flops seem to be students, and most barefoot people seem to be homeless, poor, or very free. In addition, it seemed that the people wearing formal shoes were



office workers, and the people wearing factory shoes were those who worked using their bodies. However, I realised that this guess was possible only after I tried on the shoes myself. Only when I experience it in person can I understand it in a wide, deep, and diverse way. In other words, in order to be able to guess the shoe owner's mind, you have to try on his/her shoes at least once.

During this week, classes with Jione have been creative and leading classes that make us "think". The "lectures" I've heard so far and the "test" I've taken so far are "how well you accept your teacher's words and how perfectly you memorised the contents!" On the one hand, the focus was on "how much the score I receive satisfies me and satisfies my teacher." But the most important thing I learned at TIM2019 was "breaking the framework of thoughts that we've never doubted." Lectures were "conversations", and exams were 100% "an opportunity to organise my thoughts." In other words, it is not a textbook reading and memorising, but a "learning process" in which you read textbooks and digest them with your own textbook.

TIM2019, 7 months in 24 years of life, it was the most influential seven months in a short and long life, even though I spent time like a war where I lost 12kg due to body aches, language/cultural difficulties, differences in diet, differences in perspectives, difficulties in communication, fights with insects. It was an experience that I didn't want to change with anything that I was grateful for changing me with my life, allowing me to face the various me intensively and fiercely inside me. ■