

## ***Caring for Others...!***

Korea Nazarene University  
Dr. Kim, Kyungsoo (David)  
Inauguration Ceremony  
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Dr. Kim, Kyungsoo and distinguished guests from the national and local governments, from educational institutions throughout the nation, from the national and local Christian churches and from the Korea Nazarene University community, *grace and peace to you.*

I bring you greetings and blessings from Dr. Daniel Copp, education commissioner and administrator of the International Board of Education, Church of the Nazarene. He regrets that he cannot attend this significant occasion.

The International Board of Education is a network of 52 colleges, universities and seminaries on campuses and learning centers in 120 nations. These institutions, including Korea Nazarene University, are linked together in a network of support and collaboration under the International Board of Education.

I remember sitting in a coffee shop on a Saturday evening in Manila, Philippines. I was enjoying a relaxing evening with two students from the Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary.

The conversation turned serious. One of the students stated passionately, “Caring for others is the measure of greatness.” Not brilliance in the classroom, money in the bank, status nor position. But, **“caring for others... is the measure of greatness.”**

I’ve been thinking about the discussion in Manila with these students. **What does “caring for others”** look like on the Korea Nazarene University campus? In the midst of everyday conflicts and colliding expectations where we **work and lead?**

I read of a former pro basketball star I admired. Speaking of his university basketball coach, he said, “**My development as a PERSON was as important to him as my development as a PLAYER.**”

What a compliment to a coach, and also to faculty members and the university president! When our priority concern is **persons** to be developed and not “**objects**” to be manipulated. It is greatness, indeed, when we focus more on the **people** around us than on *our power or position*.

**Three questions** have captivated me during my years in Christian higher education leadership:

**Question #1.** How can we work together as an academic community of faith in such a way that our relationships are *redemptive* and a *witness* to unbelievers of the reconciling work of God in Christ?

**Question #2.** If, “in Christ, all things are made new,” then *how* does our relationship with Christ transform the way we **lead a Christian university**?

**Question #3.** In conflict situations, especially when *seemingly irreconcilable expectations* are placed on the university president, how can we lead in these situations, really lead, with “**the mind of Christ**”?

These are **leadership** questions! **Our** responses to them will determine **our** measure of greatness. When good and godly people differ and often collide with us over vision and values, **great leaders choose to “care deeply.”**

Jim Collins, in his book, *Good to Great*, talks about the critical characteristics of leaders. He speaks of *humility* and *fierce resolve* as essential for level 5 or *great* leaders.

Great *Christian* leaders also **care deeply**. They value **people**, not power. For these leaders, leadership begins in the heart, not the head.

**More specifically, CARING LEADERS:**

**#1. Speak Gracefully.** They watch the words they use. Words spoken can bless or “destroy” people.

According to Ephesians 4:25, God uses our words spoken to others within the Body of Christ to extend His grace through us to them. What a powerful and probing thought! Choose to “bless” people with your words.

**#2. Live Gratefully.** <sup>[1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup>**In the good days and the not so good days, choose to be grateful.** (1 Thessalonians 5:18) **Comparison** with others, their gifts, their finances, their facilities, their students...can rob us of joy and peace. Don't compare. **Choose** to embrace gratitude, appreciation and thankfulness for the people, place and circumstances God gives to you at KNU!

Caring Leaders speak *gracefully* and live *gratefully*.

They also: **#3. Listen Intently. They seek first to understand. Understanding, not agreement is the key to conflict management.**

Believe that good and godly people *can* have honest and intense differences. Yes. Good and godly people sometimes *collide* over vision and values. We convey value and worth to those who differ with us when we listen intently to them.

God can give us “eyes” to really *see* the people with whom we work and “ears” to really *hear* what they want and need to say to us.

**#4. Forgive Freely. Caring leaders are proactive in extending forgiveness.** A spirit of forgiveness transforms and empowers leaders.

Remember the words of Jesus on the Cross: “Father, forgive them; <sup>[1]</sup><sup>[SEP]</sup>for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34, KJV). Was Jesus naïve? No. Jesus was not going to permit what others *said* about Him or the evil they *did* against Him to create a bitterness or resentment *within* Him and thereby create a rupture in the relationship with God.

Caring Leaders speak gracefully, live gratefully, listen intently and forgive freely.

They also: **#5. Lead Humbly.** Great leaders lead with clear vision, deep humility and intense resolve.

The *transference* of vision defines caring leaders. Arrogance and intimidation do not characterize their behavior. Rather, they lead by **mission, collaboration and compassion.**

*Caring* leaders seek to balance the twin and sometimes conflicting responsibilities of long range planning with the daily management and interpersonal conflicts of the university. In the midst of this tension, **they lead from their knees with much grace and deep humility.**

Dr. Kim, be known as one who *intentionally goes around doing good*. Not just at home but here at Korea Nazarene University. Listen closely to students, staff and faculty, and to your Board of Trustees. **Let your gentleness be known to all**, particularly with those who differ with you over the university mission, vision, values and programs.

Leaders, like you and me, desire to be known as decisive and our decision-making marked by firmness. We believe that our actions must be characterized by certainty and conclusiveness.

However, even more critical in leading others is a distinctively Christian **quality** of communication and **depth** of relationships. **Caring for others is the mark of greatness, more so than decisiveness.**

Determine, with the *enabling power of the Triune God*, to make this care and concern for others - this listening and depth of communication and relationships - this gentleness and kindness - *your* measure of greatness!

May the peace of Christ be yours in abundance as you lead this great university!

E. LeBron Fairbanks

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