

# **Why I support Hope4theOrphans**

**By SooGin Ma**

## ***Growing up as a girl in war-torn Korea . . .***

I grew up as an orphan in South Korea after the war (1950 –1953). *I understand something about being in lack – home, food, education, but most of all, having someone to care about my well-being.* During the early 60's, being a girl in an Asian culture was in itself difficult, but to be without parents in a war-torn country was even more difficult. Like an unwanted burden, I was handed off from place to place, and when I turned sixteen years old, I was sold as a slave by the people who supposedly cared for me. Even though I was in an abusive and inhumane situation, I never lost the hunger for education, even when there was no possibility for me to go to school. Eventually, not quite twenty years old with a broken heart and a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade education, I immigrated to the United States. Almost immediately, I registered to attend night classes at a local community college to learn how to read, write and speak the English language.

## ***Why Hope 4 the Orphan?***

I found out about Hope4theOrphan when I became friends with Janelle Avery through the church we both attend. *As I heard about the plight of the children of Themba and of the prayerful labor Janelle and her husband, Allen, had put into establishing a place for these children, I couldn't help but remember how the Lord has been gracious to me in my life.* I've learned there are ways to overcome adverse conditions - by prayer and by developing the ability to think logically and critically. It is one of the

magnificent gifts God has endowed upon humanity – the ability to gain knowledge through learning and to seek His wisdom through prayer!

*Themba promotes just such an opportunity for these children.* It provides a haven for children from beleaguered situations to learn and discover who they are in God, but most of all, to discover their Savior, Jesus! Although education is not an end in itself, it enables us to think more critically, it gives the hope of securing a better career, and to be able to serve as an example to others. Personally speaking, today I have a decent job because I pursued education. It is good to know that I am an asset, not a deficit to my family and to this country God had allow me to live in – a battered soul from the war-torn nation of Korea.

### ***Among so many ways to give, I chose Hope 4 the Orphan.***

In our world, the needs are virtually endless. More than a couple of times a week, solicitations from various charities and civil organizations fill my mailbox. I wish I could give to all who ask, but as I am prayerful with God's provision for me, *I am reminded that I am to care for widows and orphans. This is the Heart of God.* He does not ask me to give a fortune, He asks me to give from my heart. What a joy to know that my humble giving will be added to others' giving, and this is accomplishing God's eternal purpose in the life of a child I haven't even met!

### ***Sponsoring Thabisani . . .***

Often as I pray for Thabisani, for his mother and for his siblings, I know God honors my prayers for them. I am petitioning before the throne of God

that His perfect will be accomplished in the life of Thabisani and his family, just as it is in heaven! God knew him even before he was conceived in his mother's womb, just as He knew me, even before the foundation of the world. *He wrote in a book every day of Thabisani's life, just as He wrote every day of my life, as the Bible tells me.* I would not have known to pray for him and his family if it weren't for Hope 4 the Orphan.

I am going back to school in the Fall. As I am preparing to serve my King and His kingdom, I am reminded it is His desire and He is well able to rescue all who are down trodden. He is able to restore the dignity of every human being – His image bearer. *Knowing this, it is a privilege to be a part of Themba House!*