



Class AGAPE

밀알 사랑의교실

4월 Newsletter

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남가주밀알선교단 America Wheat (Milal) Mission in Southern California | www.MilalMission.com

12235 Beach Blvd. Ste. 100, Stanton, CA 90680

Tel: (657) 400-9570 | Fax: (657) 400-9662 | ClassAGAPE@MilalMission.com

“나에게 장애인이란...”

변미선 선생님 (ELA 사랑의교실 주임교사)

안타깝게도 내가 한국에 있을 때 장애라는 것은 '잘못된 것'이었다. 그래서 장애아이를 낳은 며느리는 시댁 어른들의 구박을 견디며 살아야 했고, 전세살이를 하던 사람들은 주인으로부터 외면 당하기 일쑤였다. 하지만 장애는 '잘못'이 아니라 '다름'이다. 그런데 장애인의 말과 행동 또는 보이는 양상들이 우리와 너무 다르기 때문에 그들을 이해하기 힘든 것이 사실이다. 하지만 장애인들도 우리와 똑같은 인격을 가진 존재들이며, 장애인의 말과 행동에는 납득 가능한 말로 설명하지 못할 뿐이지 반드시 그들만의 이유가 있다는 것을 안다면 장애인을 이해하기 위해 우리의 마음을 여는 것부터 시작할 수 있지 않을까 싶다.

8살인 우리 아들, 엄마 뱃속에서부터 엄마 일하는 데 따라다녀서 장애인을 접하는 것이 자연스러운 아이. 어느 날 이 아이 왈, 모든 사람들이 장애인들에게 asking은 안하고 ordering만 한단다. 말인즉슨, No/Don't 대신에 Can you stop it please? 라고 말해주면 장애인들이 훨씬 기분 좋을 것이라고 한다. 8살인 이 아이 눈에는 장애인들이 그냥 우리와 똑 같은 사람으로 보였던 것 같다. 그런데 나를 포함한 어른들은 사람보다 그 사람이 가진 장애를 먼저 보기 때문에 속된 말로 사람 취급을 안 하든지, 무서워 하든지, 불쌍하게만 여기든지, 가까이 하면 불이익을 초래할 존재로 여기는 경우가 많은 것 같다.

장애인의 달, 4월에 우리 주위의 장애인들을 보면서 마음과 생각을 잘 정리해 보았으면 한다. 나는 과연 그들을 나와 같은 인격체로 대하고 있는지, 그들의 다름을 얼마나 이해하려고 노력하고 있는지에 대해서. 이 일을 20년 동안 하고 있는 나에게 주어진 숙제이기도 하다.

“What ‘individuals with disabilities’ means to me...”

Written by Ms. Misun Byun (ELA Head Teacher)

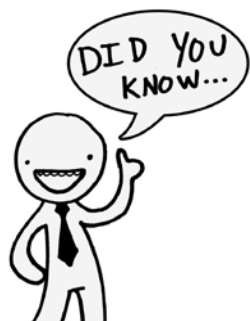
When I was living in Korea, unfortunately, having disabilities was considered to be “wrong”. Consequently, the rebuking started from the mother who bore the child with disabilities down to the child themselves living a life reprimanded by not only their in-laws but others around them. However, having a disability isn't “wrong” but “different”. The truth of the matter is that the characteristics and behaviors of those with disabilities are different and thus, difficult to comprehend. These individuals with disabilities are no different than the typically developing individuals and, I believe, that the start of understanding the individuals with disabilities is remembering that there is a reason behind each word and action that they cannot express by communicating in ways we typically communicate.

As a mother to an eight year old son, who has followed me around since being conceived, has become naturally comfortable interacting with individuals with disabilities. One day, this eight year old child expressed his concern as he observed typically developing individuals not “asking” but “ordering” them around. He shared that rather than saying No/Don't, would it not make the individuals with disabilities feel much better if we simply **asked** them to stop. In the eyes of this eight year old child, individuals with disabilities were no different than typically developing individuals. However, in this world of adults, myself included, we fall short by seeing their physical disabilities first before the individual and often times act inhumanely, scared, pitiful, and keep our distance from them.

April is Autism Awareness month and I would like to reflect on our thoughts as we look around at the individuals with disabilities around us. Ask yourself whether you have been treating them the way you treat others and how much you have tried to understand their behaviors. Even with the 20 years of experience working with individuals with disabilities, it is also something that I need to continue to reflect upon.



APRIL is AUTISM Awareness Month



- Today in America, **1 in 91 children** are being diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder?
- Autism is **four times more** prevalent in boys than girls (**1 in 58 boys is diagnosed**)
- **67 children** are diagnosed **per day**
- A new case is **diagnosed** almost every **20 minutes**
- There is **NO medical cure** for Autism
- Autism rates have **escalated 782%** in the last 12 years; a rate faster than any other disability or disease, including cancer
- Autism costs a family **\$60,000** a year on average

Join us at 2015 Camp AGAPE!

"Let's See the World!"

When: June 25th (Thursday) – 27th (Saturday), 2015

Where: University of California, Santa Barbara

Fee: \$180 (Cash/Check)

Requirements:

1. June, 2015: Mandatory 2 hour Volunteer Training

(Exact dates, times, and location will be announced in May, 2015)

2. June 20th, 2015: Mandatory Volunteer Camp AGAPE Workshop

(Exact time and location will be announced in May, 2015)

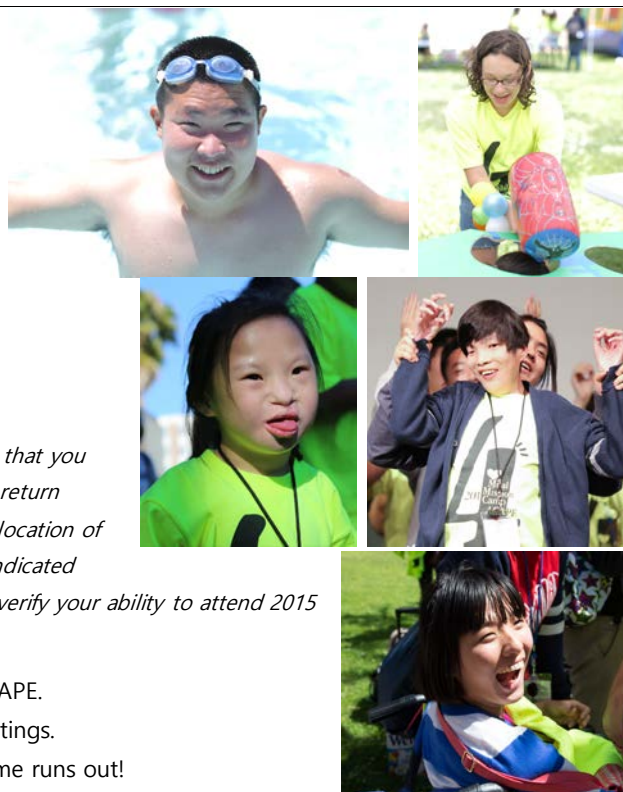
3. 2015 Camp AGAPE

**Camp AGAPE refers to the time (approximately 1:30 PM on the 25th, Thursday) that you are required to report to the departing location and the time you are estimated to return (approximately 5:30 PM on the 27th, Saturday) to be picked up back at the original location of departure. If for some reason, you are unable to depart at the approximate times indicated above, contact your branch teachers and/or the Milal office as soon as possible to verify your ability to attend 2015 Camp AGAPE.*

ALL Volunteers MUST attend BOTH training and workshop to attend Camp AGAPE.

Please schedule all conflicting schedules around Camp AGAPE mandatory meetings.

There is a limited space for volunteers to join Camp AGAPE. Register before time runs out!



Happy Birthday to our Participants, Volunteers, and Staff!

April 1 st	ELA: Jiyoung Yoon ELA: Karem Han Tor: David Lim	April 12 th	LA: Joshua McGrath	April 26 th	Tor: Ms. Sharon Lew
April 2 nd	OC: Doyeon Kim	April 15 th	OC: Hannah Rhee OC: Lina J. Kim	April 27 th	LA: Andrew Lee
April 3 rd	ELA: Caleb Kwon	April 19 th	ELA: Eric Hang	April 28 th	LA: Jong Hye Park
April 4 th	Tor: Minjung Kim	April 22 nd	OC: Seunggho Chi	April 29 th	Tor: Chris Euibin Kim
April 7 th	LA: Jason Kim	April 24 th	OC: Younmin Park	April 30 th	LA: Andrew Cha ELA: Ms. Misun Byun
April 10 th	Irv: Juyoung Kim	April 25 th	ELA: Jeewon Lee		

C l a s s A G A P E L o c a t i o n s :

Orange County	Los Angeles	East Los Angeles	Irvine	Torrance
(2000년 8월 6일)	(2002년 4월 20일)	(2003년 4월 5일)	(2007년 4월 28일)	(2008년 9월 13일)
남가주동신교회	충현선교교회	선한청지기교회	베델한인교회	토랜스제일장로교회
Dong Shin Presby. Church	Choong Hyun Mission Church	Good Stewards Church	Bethel Korean Church	Torrance First Presb. Church
담임목사: 백정우	담임목사: 민종기	담임목사: 송병주	담임목사: 김한요	담임목사:
2505 Yorba Linda Blvd. Fullerton	5005 Edenhurst Ave. LA	2701 Woodgate Dr. W. Covina	18700 Harvard Ave. Irvine	1880 Crenshaw Blvd. Torrance
교사: 양고운 650.388.6918	교사: 유은영 323.360.8952	교사: 변미선 626.246.5439	교사: 이보라 213.604.1550	교사: 강보라 310.400.9610
간사: 박은애 562.217.1324	간사:	간사: 박민수 626.665.9556	간사: 홍혜정 949.232.7936	간사: