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Power, Inequality and Vulnerabilities: Mission in a Wounded World

Statue of Peace in a Wounded World

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The Statue of Peace was built in Seoul at the 1000th Assembly as a memorial event in December 14, 2011. The Assembly gathered every Wednesday to resolve the issues of comfort women. The purpose of the Statue of Peace was for recovering their honor and human rights of comfort women. And we pray for world peace as remembering the pain of the war and affairs of comfort women. The first testimony of comfort woman was publicized in an interview of Haksun Kim in 1991. After that 239 women were registered as 'comfort woman' in the Korean government. More sufferers have survived but they do not appear in public. This paper examines how to approach comfort women and why we keep the Statue of Peace from the perspective of Christian.

The approach is from the bases of how Jesus treated women. First, we should embrace and empathize with these women. They were kidnapped, undergone human trafficking and encountered infringement of human rights. They were not welcomed in their hometown when they came back after World War II. Second, we seek for justice of God against evil conducts. The Japanese have distorted the history of wrongdoing and tried to cover it. Third, we have tried to solve the problems with solidarity in this issue. This matter is not only in nationalism or of regional matters but also establishing justice and peace in the world. Comfort women are victims of power, inequality and vulnerability. Holding the memories and awareness of comfort women is a way for Christians to participate in kingdom of God.

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