

## Hyun Jin Moon's Family Peace Association: Trail Prepared by God

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In November, my family went hiking with 3 other families in western WA area. The hike took place during a rainy season when it rained so much that there were flood warnings for many areas near rivers. The night before the hike, I learned that a bridge in the trail was destroyed by a stream. I knew that the stream would be a challenge in the trail, but I did not expect the bridge to be destroyed. The weather forecast for the next day was cloudy and rainy. Concerned, I thought about the safety of our group and alternative hiking places.

The next morning, on the way to the trailhead, I felt the inspiration that God is preparing something for us. Due to solo hike experiences in the past, I was familiar with such inspirations. After I arrived at the trailhead, I checked the destroyed bridge. People were crossing the stream. I was convinced that we could make it, even though I still did not know about other streams ahead.



When we arrived at the bridge, a young and strong member of our group crossed first. Encouraged by his success, we started to cross the stream one by one, stepping onto wood and stones. There were middle school and high school children in our hiking group as well, and I noticed the hesitation on their faces. From a distance, the stream might not seem like much, but when you are up close, you could feel the slippery ground, the fast current of the water, and the vast distance you need to cross.

I assessed the risks and the rewards. The stream was fast but not deep. There was also enough protection down the stream if anyone slipped. If someone failed to cross and twisted their ankle, this could become a traumatic experience. On the other hand, if they managed to make it across, they would think, "Wow, I can do it even though I was scared - the limitation was all in my head." It could become a life-long lesson.

So we chose to help each other cross. The stronger ones helped to pull others one by one. If even one person said, "I can't do it", we would have had to turn back. Yet, eventually, everyone made it! It became a great teamwork experience. It gave us a chance to use our creativity to figure out how to traverse this obstacle.



We crossed several other streams on the way and finally reached the waterfall in the mountain. The fall was gorgeous and rewarding. On the way back, we crossed that stream again. It became much less of an issue because we started to feel comfortable dealing with the risk. After finishing the hike, I asked my daughter what was the most exciting part of the hike. Her answer was, "Crossing the river."

As we live and grow continuously, we inevitably face challenges and risks. What's important are the lessons that we learn, such as feeling comfortable in the environment of risk and overcoming challenges through teamwork and creativity. I believe that it is through such experiences that we develop our God-given character and talent. Our life course is like a trail. God prepares a course for us, but it is up to us to walk, learn and grow.