Theological Poetry

[Editor’s Note: The following poems were produced by students in the New Testament Theology class at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, March 2014.]

**In the Tension**

*Anderson Godoy S*

Will the day come, the day I'm waiting?  
For even though I fight my sadness  
Sometimes it really seems like madness  
That you gave all but I'm still aching.

Where is the logic in your kingdom?  
Why do we hurt as we grow old?  
I don’t see pearls or streets of gold...  
Yet I believe and trust your wisdom

Since we are dwelling in the tension,  
Please help me see the “here” you’ve given  
When this “not yet” turns cumbersome.

Out of your mouth there’s been no mention  
Of all my sins you have forgiven...  
I'll pray again, “thy kingdom come.”
Kristaa Nun Thar [New Life in Christ]
Lal Pek Mawia

Khua chuan ila, kan zo tlang hi,
A mawi mange, khuanu kut chhuak;
Tuk loh ram dai, sa va tin reng,
Tu ngai lo a, tual an chaina;
Aw zoram, dam reng ang che!

I mawi na a, nun rawng hluan e,
Suih lung mawl luat vang em ni le;
In-lu-lakna, i chhungah cham,
Thim rorelna, an zar hliah che;
I sak hming, tlangrel thang e.

A khi raltiang, tuipui piah an,
I suihlung mawl, puan ang chul hnu;
Krista thui loh kawra tuam’in,
Mi lula hnam, thlarau manah,
Mingo val’in, a siam ta che.

Sakhaw tharah, sa phun thar’in,
Zu no aiah, chhandamna no;
Famkhaw lawina Rihlipui khi;
Jordan a ti, a sakhmingan,
Hnam nun tan, Krista a pe.

Glancing yonder, our Chin Land,
How beautiful, Khuanu¹ handiwork;
A virgin Land, full of animals,
O green pastures, without concerns;
O Chin Land, live forever!

O such beauty, it makes you rude,
Ignorant heart beats foolish now;
Head-hunting there, your local yard,
That is darkness, which shadows you!
O bad name, O known to all.

Beyond horizons, beyond oceans,
Ignorant mind, shabby as cloth;
Covered with Christ, as unsown cloth,
Headhunting warrior, soul-winning warrior;
The white man, thus make you be!

Being proselyte, it’s new sakhua²
From rice beer cup, salvation crown;
Lo! Rihlipui,³ dead spirit abode,
Called it Jordan, as its new name;
Christ is giv’n for your culture.

(Continued...)

¹ God’s
² An object of worship
³ Rih Lake
Rihdil aiah, Galilee dil,
Zawlbuk aiah, Kohhran a pe;
Hringlang tlang kha, Kros-in vui liam,
Pawla saih hlau, thlarau an bang,
I sakhming, Kristian tiin.

Galilee Lake, for Rihlipui,
Church is given, Zawlbuk\(^4\) instead;
O Hring-lang-tlang;\(^5\) faded by Cross,
No more spirits that fear Pawla;\(^6\)
O new name, called Christian.

Tlawmngaihna ro, Hmanngaihna nen,
Mihlui thim fa, eng fa mi thar,
Hming hlui boin, sakhming thar nen;
Sualna senduk, Kristaah phum,
Thawhlehna, i chan lo ni.

Tlawmngaihna\(^7\) treasure, Agape love,
Darkness old son becomes new man;
The old name gone, the new name come,
The sinfulness buried in Christ;
Resurrection, it is yours now!

Ngai ru! Chatuan, khua a lo var!
Thil hlui a ral, a lo thar ta!
Lei famchanna, chatuanin thlak;
Dai tawh lo tur, Pa hmangaihna,
Kristaah, kan lo chang ta.
Amen!

Behold, behold! There comes eternity
The old has gone, the new has come;
This earth death place, eternal life,
Unconditional, the love of God;
Be our own in Jesus Christ.
Amen!

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\(^4\) Community house
\(^5\) Humanity mountain
\(^6\) Guard
\(^7\) Altruism
Glossary

Khuanu: This name is used for god. And the name itself is feminine gender as well; in short, this is regarded as blessing giver, the most superior authority holder. People respected this name because they thought that all blessing is in her hand and all are comforted with this. However, the very reason why the suffix -nu (female gender) was added is that this god is female.8

Rihlipui: This is one of the lakes in Myanmar. It is located near the village called Rikhawdar, which was named after this lake in Chin Land, Myanmar. In the early culture, the belief was that all dead spirits were unable to avoid this lake; so all dead spirits must go to it. That is why to say “dead people” used related words such as Rih tlang Mual Liam, which means one dead spirit is gone but ready to pass from the lake to the mountain (see Hringlang Tlang, below).9

Sakhua: An object of worship, a god who presides over the house or household.10

Zawlbuk: This is a community house located in the midst of the village, for all villagers. This is used for communal decision-making, communal action, and security for the community. The young men are to sleep in this house for village security and other uses. It is not far from the village chairman’s house. It is especially used for such things as war and security from wild animals or enemies. People never abandon this house; rather they always stay there, especially at night.11

Tlawmngaihna: This is a Mizo term, which literally means resistance to being helped by others, but instead helping others who are in need. The emphasis is on a denial of self rather than an effort to be independent. The purpose of this self-denial is to serve the community and any person in the community who is really in need of help. It is an act of charity wherein self-interest is subordinated to the interest of community, and self-sacrifice for the need of others is to come spontaneously as a natural part

9 Dokhuma, Hmanlai Mizo Kalphung, 34.
11 Dokhuma, Hmanlai Mizo Kalphung, 184.
of one’s life. Without the principle of *tlawmngaihna*, communitarian societies like the Mizo community cannot function. It would not be possible to build a harmonious society where members of the community practiced “decision by consensus,” sharing their joy and sorrows and caring for one another.¹²

Hringlang Tlang: In Mizo belief, after the dead spirit arrived at a place that was called the porch of the village of the dead, they arrived at the mountain called *hringlang tlang*. *Hringlang tlang* means they could still feel the human climate or atmosphere. They stand alone on that mountain, missing the living and watching the human world. Only after this will they arrive at the village of the dead.¹³

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When I Found You

Josephine J. Bodegas

Comes a time to see the light
Things around me seem so bright
In all its perfectness
In the absence of life’s darkness

There in life moving forward into
Comes a question where to go
For travel without you
Is no better than straying through

All the ways are so dim
So weary in finding claims
Where to go, where to find you
Oh so afraid what a crushing into

In the corner of brokenness
Here comes a door for the hopeless
A gentle Savior from a manger
Who laid a life, a gift for a dear

Thy shed blood heals
Thy voice so sweetly tells
How precious and loved you are
That I came from afar

You heard a wordless prayer but tears
You count no wrong but cares
For a lost treasure in you embrace
For a troubled heart, joy and peace

Oh, Jesus how sweet is your saving
Found a Truth we are searching
The heavenly way awaiting
The Life we are living.
By the Grace of God
Lee, Jung Yeol

I have handicap.
It is Tourette Syndrome.
I call it a friend.
It is my inseparable friend.
I remember the day when I meet the friend.

My body trembled and my voice cried out continuously.
My body was wet with perspiration and voice became husky.
But I still trembled and cried out.
I had a sore throat. Body had tension in muscle.

Younger brother asked me, “What’s wrong with you?” My mom asked me, “Why...?”
My father said, “If you are going to act like that, I will bind you and stop your mouth.”
At that moment, something invisible crashed on me.

I went to school. Friends asked me, “What are you doing? Are you ok?”
I tried to repress trembling of body, but there was more trembling.
I must repress crying out, I must repress the trembling of my body, so I was always tired.
I was nervous if someone observed me.

I thought Tourette Syndrome is a curse to me. I feel I cannot do anything.
I have no confidence. I was afraid to face people.
I thought no one liked me.
Even my family does not understand me; who will love me?

(Continued...)
I wanted to commit suicide.
If I commit it, I might go to hell...
God does not want me to do it.
But, I am so depressed and there is no way.
Oh God, why did you give me this great thorn?
Did You give Apostle Paul epilepsy to trust You more?
You told him, “My grace is sufficient for you.”

But look at me. I cannot do anything because of Tourette Syndrome. How can I live?
But You let me commit my life to you in darkness and despair.
And You have been leading me until now.
Tourette might be your love for me;
Because of this, I love You more and I desire You more.
Thank You, Lord.
Who Is Jesus?
Ernesto Lozano Fernandez

Jesus, is my Savior, my redeemer, my hope,
Example to follow, He is also my
Strength, in which I trust
Under every moment and circumstance. He is a
Servant and model to me.

Image of the invisible God,
Sovereign over all things,

Lord of Lords, seated
On the Glorious throne.
Visible are His Blessings
Every day He is with me; He will never leave me alone.
우리의 발을 씻기셨죠 [You Washed Our Feet]
Park, Seonmok

 decidedly, New Year My father Blessed me To help my brother

Hopeless, melted snow How they are For his burden spirit in piggery I gave my hands

How wondrous it is As my family Into my concern My hands became dirty

In the Feast of Passover How you are Unclean we are You washed our feet

My brother my sister Their tears their comfort That moment that day We became one family

With my humble hands With my dirty hands My beloved family I will love and serve

(Continued...)
당신을 믿고
당신의 말씀
순종하는 것
사랑으로 섬기는 삶이죠

생사화복
우리를 위해
당신께서는
심자기에 그 손 못 박혔죠

By believing in you
By obeying you
By your words
I will love and serve

Life and death
Good and bad
You are for us
By your nailed hands on the cross