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**Conversion and Transformations:
Missiological Approaches to Religious Change**

Missiological Approach to Pioneer Kim Maria
Seonyi Lee

Missionaries arrived in Korea in the late Chosun Dynasty and the Japanese Colonial period, one of the most turbulent times in Korean history. The Good News brought by these missionaries liberated individuals from old traditions and gave the people hope of national independence from Japan. Many Korean women especially experienced conversion and successful transformation. Among them, Kim Maria (1891-1944) was a role model for other Korean women. This paper examines the missiological perspective of Kim's thoughts and activities.

Kim was born into a first-generation Christian family and was a pioneer in Korean Christianity. She lived out her identity as a Korean, a female, and an educator. As a Korean, she participated in the February 8 Declaration of Independence and the March 1 Independence Movement in 1919 for which she was arrested, imprisoned, and tortured. As a woman, she tried to realize her ideal of gender equality in her every activity. She formed Korean Patriotic Women's Association for the national independence movement. She was also the president of the National Organization of the Korean Presbyterian Women. As an educator, Kim taught students at Speer Girls' School and Martha Wilson Seminary. Kim died of the aftereffects of torture before she could witness Korea's liberation.

Kim was a leader who transformed the lives of oppressed women in Korea. As a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies to produce much fruit, her contribution and death liberated Korean women and the nation. Her missional life continues to inspire Korean women and others around the world still under gender, economic, political, or spiritual oppression.

Seonyi Lee, Th. D.

- Instructor of Missiology, Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary, Korea

- Adjunct Professor, Asia-Pacific Christian College and Seminary, Philippine

Email: seonyilee@gmail.com