



**J. Soongook Choi** was born and raised in Japan, but went to Korea with the Student Volunteer Corps during the Korean War. Out of his painful experience in the conflict of inter- and intra-racial relations among Asian nations, he became a seeker for peace and justice in a world community of different peoples.

Dr. Choi's father was Confucian and his mother Buddhist, but he accepted Christ under the influence of his seventh-grade teacher. Because of his Christian faith, the teacher was persecuted - which included the removal of all his finger nails. This piqued Dr. Choi's curiosity and he was deeply moved. While his parents' religions did not give him a clue as to the hunger and thirst in him for peace and justice, Christianity did so much for him that he became a disciple of Jesus. Five years later, Dr. Choi, who was one of three who survived from the 34 student volunteers sent to the Korean War, made a commitment to be a minister of the gospel of Jesus.

Upon returning to Korea, Dr. Choi joined the Campbell-Stone movement (Christian Church - Independent). In 1959, he came to the United States for advanced theological education and earned several academic degrees: Master of Arts from Lincoln Christian Seminary (1962); Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt University Divinity School (1965); Doctor of Ministry from Notre Dame University Graduate Theological Foundation (1989). He was ordained in 1962 and served the Lord as local church pastor, hospital chaplain, professor and president of Seoul Christian University (in Korea), and member of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The life mission of Dr. Choi was:

"To serve my neighbors and give them the impression to love, to have peace,  
to practice forgiveness, to produce reconciliation is my way of serving God."

The Soongook Choi Scholarship was established in loving memory of his life and ministry and is available to North American Pacific/Asian Disciples ministerial students enrolled (or accepted as an entering student) in an accredited graduate theological school or seminary.