

David Kim, MD

David Kim, Class of 1988, has been selected for Alumnus of the Year because of his passion for ministry. His vocation to serve others in Jesus' name extends far beyond his job as a medical doctor; the focus of his life, as a whole, is ministry.

David's love of ministry goes back to his early days. While a student at Southern Adventist College, he would drive to Atlanta on Friday afternoons where he served as youth pastor for the Atlanta area Korean Adventist Church.

While a medical student at Loma Linda University, David continued his lay ministry in the local Korean church. After completing his Family Medicine residency, David moved back to his home city of Atlanta, Georgia, where he now resides and sees patients at his Smyrna Family Medicine practice. Between his medical practice and his volunteer work, which includes medical mission trips and lay ministry, David is a busy man!

Currently he is involved in growing a church plant, called New Life which has been meeting now for several years. The model for growth used by David and his collaborators is to train leaders to disciple others, then launch them into leadership of their own small groups.

David and a friend developed a way to train lay leaders to tell stories incorporating biblical truths – “storying” the Bible, as he puts it. David is now putting together training materials and is being called upon to present these methods at various church leadership and ministry venues.

While David has always had a heart for ministry, his focus began to shift after attending a seminar at Willow Creek Church near Chicago, Illinois. David was convicted when the presenter said that Christians are not being obedient to the gospel commission if they do not have friends outside of the church. At that time, David's circle of friends and those he ministered to were almost all inside the church; he determined that would change.

David came home from the Willow Creek seminar praying about how he could reach out to non-Christians around him. The Lord led him to five individuals who were interested in a Friday night dinner and discussion group format. Over the course of about a year, David had the joy of eventually baptizing each of these individuals which included a Muslim and at least one agnostic.

David provides an incredible example for all Christian professionals: Leverage your profession and position in life to help others become followers of Jesus.