Summary of Jeffry P. Belnap During Hwa Gok Branch Period
Area/District Leader June 1978 to October 1978

LLM-AI Copilot Prompted to “Output a summary description of "Jeffry" who kept this journal, take HwaGok Brach period, June 1978 to October 1789. Evaluate the author's mindset, mention key experiences. Keep the summary under approximately 1500 words.” PROCESS

This final major phase of Jeffry Belnap’s mission reveals a missionary who has become seasoned, reflective, and deeply committed to the Korean people. Serving in Hwa Gok Branch, Jeffry is nearing the end of two years in Korea and is keenly aware that time is running out. Much of the journal reflects the tension between wanting to finish strongly and feeling the emotional weight of departure.

Jeffry’s mindset is marked by urgency. He repeatedly expresses frustration that investigators do not read, pray, or act on what they are taught. He is no longer concerned merely with presenting discussions correctly; his focus has shifted to helping people experience genuine spiritual conversion. He becomes increasingly convinced that logic, debate, and doctrinal knowledge alone are insufficient. Throughout this period he emphasizes prayer, the Book of Mormon, spiritual witness, and personal revelation as the true means of conversion.

His love for Korea reaches its peak during this assignment. He frequently comments on Korean kindness, perseverance, family life, history, language, and culture. Even while occasionally frustrated by missionary challenges, he openly declares his affection for the Korean people and worries about missionaries who speak negatively about them. Visits to Buddhist temples, traditional sites, public bathhouses, markets, and the Korean Folk Village reinforce his appreciation for the nation where he has spent two transformative years.

Unlike earlier periods when baptisms were more frequent, this segment focuses heavily on finding and teaching. Jeffry and his companions spend countless hours "seeking," tracting apartment complexes, revisiting old contacts, and trying to identify individuals willing to investigate seriously. He records many promising families and individuals, including Ahn Jae Nam, Lee Young Sook, Hong Soon Bum, Shin Dong Hee, Kim Seong Hee, and numerous neighborhood families. Many express interest but hesitate to commit, creating one of the recurring frustrations of his final months.

One of the most important milestones is the baptism of Ahn Jae Nam, an investigator Jeffry had worked with over an extended period. His baptism and confirmation provide a

significant spiritual blessing during a time when many other investigators struggled to progress. Jeffry clearly values this experience and hopes Ahn will help bring his family into the Church.

Jeffry also serves as a district leader during part of this period, mentoring younger missionaries, conducting interviews, teaching discussion methods, and trying to improve the effectiveness of the area. He spends considerable energy helping companions develop their language skills and teaching ability. His perfectionism occasionally creates tension, but he becomes increasingly aware of the need for patience, charity, and encouragement.

A notable theme involves his many encounters with other faiths. He holds long discussions with Presbyterians, Baptists, Catholics, Assemblies of God members, theology students, Jehovah's Witnesses, and even clergy. Particularly memorable are his conversations with a Catholic priest and repeated debates with Jehovah's Witnesses. These experiences strengthen his own testimony while teaching him that sincere belief does not necessarily lead people to accept new truth.

The journal also shows Jeffry wrestling with discouragement. He worries about his own shortcomings, the scarcity of baptisms, the slow pace of investigator progress, and his inability to communicate everything he feels. Yet even during low moments he consistently returns to prayer, scripture study, and renewed determination. He repeatedly resolves to work harder and finish his mission honorably.

Several unique experiences stand out. He participates in a national foreigner music contest, winning a prize while representing the mission and publicly promoting the Church. He attends mission conferences centered on repentance, dedication, and spiritual power. He blesses a woman who has been in a coma for months. He organizes neighborhood outreach events, apartment gatherings, and fellowshipping efforts. He also reconnects with former convert Koo Hyang Sook, one of the few earlier converts whose progress he can still follow.

As October progresses, Jeffry becomes increasingly contemplative. His journal shifts from describing daily activities to reflecting on the meaning of missionary service, testimony, revelation, and discipleship. He expresses sadness about leaving investigators who are still searching and hopes future missionaries will continue helping them. His final interviews with President Hawkins and last testimony meetings reinforce his conviction that his mission has changed him permanently.

By the time he leaves Korea on October 31, 1978, Jeffry is not primarily measuring success by baptisms or numbers. Instead, he sees his mission as a process of learning faith, charity, sacrifice, and devotion. His final entries reveal genuine heartbreak at leaving Korea,

gratitude for the people he has served, and confidence that the gospel he taught is true. The dominant impression is of a missionary who came to love both the Korean people and the work itself, and who left Korea feeling that part of his heart would always remain there.

Hwa Gok Branch (May/June 1978 – October 1978)
Key Events, Achievements, Projects, and Challenges Synopsis

Leadership & Mission Responsibilities

- Served as senior companion to Elder Lowell Oswald during much of the period.
- Became District Leader during the final transfer cycle.
- Conducted baptismal interviews for investigators throughout the district.
- Trained younger missionaries in discussion delivery, language study, and missionary methods.
- Organized fellowshipping efforts between members and investigators.
- Worked extensively with Hwa Gok Branch President Lee Do Hwan on branch growth and missionary programs.

Major Converts & Investigator Milestones

Ahn Jae Nam

- One of the most important investigators of the period.
- Studied for an extended time.
- Attended church activities and youth conference.
- Gained a testimony through spiritual experiences.
- Passed baptismal interviews.
- Baptized August 12, 1978.
- Confirmed by Elder Belnap.
- Blessing given that he would help lead family members into the Church.

Lee Young Sook

- Accepted baptismal challenge.
- Studied multiple discussions.
- Attended church and stake conference.

- Struggled with illness, family pressure, and confidence in prayer.
- Remained one of Jeffry's strongest hopes near mission end.

Hong Soon Bum Family

- One of Jeffry's favorite investigator families.
- Studied Book of Mormon extensively.
- Multiple teaching visits.
- Hosted member fellowshipping visits.
- Came to church.
- Continued progressing when Jeffry departed.

Shin Dong Hee Family

- Attended church.
- Participated in neighborhood outreach event.
- Hosted repeated home discussions.
- Developed increasing interest in the Church.

Jin Il Woong & Kim Sung Hee Family

- Progressed through discussions.
- Attended baptism services.
- Received member fellowshipping support.
- Became one of Jeffry's final major investigator families.

Proselyting Projects

Apartment Tracting Campaign

- Systematically worked entire apartment complexes in Hwa Gok.
- Maintained records of:
    - Interested contacts
    - Return appointments

    - No-interest responses
    - Future follow-up homes.

Neighborhood Filmstrip Program

- Regularly used:
    - First Vision
    - Intro to the Book of Mormon
    - Search for Happiness
    - Meet the Mormons
    - Ancient America Speaks.

Apartment Women's Meeting Outreach

- Invited neighborhood apartment association women into missionary residence.
- Hosted large First Vision film presentation.
- Conducted question-and-answer session afterward.
- Generated numerous new contacts and positive impressions.

Non-Member Fellowshipping Program

- Worked extensively connecting investigators with:
    - Branch leaders
    - Relief Society sisters
    - Young adults
    - Returned missionaries.

Significant Church Events

Revelation on Priesthood for Black Members

- Learned of the June 1978 revelation extending priesthood blessings to Black members.
- Immediately felt spiritual confirmation.

- Recorded it as one of the greatest revelations witnessed in his lifetime.

Mission Rededication Fast

- Participated in mission-wide fast called by President Hawkins.
- Viewed it as a powerful spiritual renewal experience.

Stake Conference

- Served as English translator.
- Assisted investigators attending conference.
- Reconnected with many former missionaries and members.

Final Testimony Meetings

- Participated in mission-closing testimony meetings.
- Shared mission experiences with fellow departing missionaries.
- Received significant counsel from President Hawkins.

Cultural & Public Activities

Korea Herald Foreigner Music Contest

- Competed with Elder Dave Merrill.
- Performed Korean music publicly.
- Won Third Place (approximately fifth overall ranking structure used by judges).
- Completed radio interviews promoting missionary work and the Church.
- Appeared in newspaper coverage.

Korean Folk Village Visit

- Explored traditional Korean homes and lifestyles.
- Deepened appreciation for Korean heritage.

Korean Cultural Study

- Continued studying:
    - Religion

    - History
    - Language
    - Customs
    - Buddhism
    - Christianity in Korea.

New Public Relations Efforts

- Created and distributed missionary contact cards throughout Hwa Gok.

Notable Religious Encounters

- Long meeting with a Catholic priest.
- Multiple debates with Jehovah's Witnesses.
- Visits to Assemblies of God congregations.
- Discussions with theology students and seminary personnel.
- Conversations with Baptist scholars and Presbyterian leaders.

Acts of Service

- Participated in blessings for a young woman who had remained in a coma for months.
- Assisted struggling members and less-active families.
- Fed homeless young men encountered on the street.
- Frequently provided transportation, lessons, and fellowship to investigators.

Personal Achievements

- Reached his final months as a highly fluent Korean speaker.
- Conducted advanced gospel discussions almost entirely in Korean.
- Led district functions and interviews.

- Developed stronger focus on spiritual conversion rather than intellectual persuasion.
- Refined his testimony regarding:
    - Revelation
    - Prophets
    - Book of Mormon
    - Prayer
    - Personal conversion.

Major Challenges

Companion Challenges

- Elder Oswald suffered recurring ear infections requiring many medical visits.
- Jeffry often felt burdened carrying most teaching responsibilities.
- Worked continually to improve companion communication and training.

Discouragement

- Repeatedly struggled with:
    - Slow investigator progress
    - Broken appointments
    - Lack of baptisms
    - Time running out before mission completion.

Investigator Attrition

- Numerous promising investigators:
    - Lost interest
    - Returned to other churches
    - Followed anti-Mormon counsel
    - Refused to read or pray sincerely.

Personal Perfectionism

- Frequently criticized himself for:
    - Wasted time
    - Poor discipline
    - Impatience
    - Lack of charity
    - Insufficient spiritual power.

Closing Period (October 1978)

- Conducted final interviews with President Hawkins.
- Said farewell to investigators, members, mission leaders, and companions.
- Bore final testimony in Hwa Gok Branch sacrament meeting.
- Completed final missionary testimony meeting at the mission home.
- Departed Korea on October 31, 1978.
- Recorded profound sadness leaving Korea, while expressing certainty that his mission had permanently changed his life.

Overall Themes

- Final missionary leadership development
- Baptism of Ahn Jae Nam
- Intensive investigator finding and teaching
- Deep love for Korea and its people
- Increasing dependence on spiritual conversion
- Growing maturity and self-reflection
- Emotional preparation for mission completion and return home