

Summary of Jeffry P. Belnap During 9th Ward District August 1977 to October 1977

LLM-AI Copilot Prompted to “Output a summary description of "Jeffry" who kept this journal, take 9th Ward District period, Page 242 to 282, August 1977 to October 1977. Evaluate the author's mindset, mention key experiences. Keep the summary under approximately 750 words.”

During his time in Seoul's 9th Ward from August through October 1977, Jeffry Belnap presents himself as a highly introspective, driven missionary who constantly evaluates both his effectiveness and his personal shortcomings. His journal reveals a young man determined to excel spiritually and personally, yet frequently frustrated by perceived inadequacies in himself, his circumstances, and sometimes those around him.

Much of this period was devoted to missionary work among investigators, referrals, and families throughout the ward. Jeffry and his companion, Elder David Richards, spent countless hours door knocking, teaching discussions, showing church films, and following up on referrals. Many appointments failed, investigators lost interest, or discussions ended without commitments. Despite these disappointments, Jeffry remained persistent and often expressed optimism whenever he encountered sincere individuals such as Kim Sang Dal, Kim Jung Sook, and Cho Cheong Sook.

A significant success during this period was the baptism of Kim Sang Dal and his wife. Jeffry viewed Kim as humble, sincere, and spiritually receptive. The baptism provided one of the few clear moments of fulfillment amid an otherwise challenging stretch of missionary labor.

Another major experience was Jeffry's involvement in the Korea Herald Foreigners Korean Folk Arts Contest, where he performed a Korean drum dance after weeks of intensive training with his teacher, Miss Go. The preparation consumed considerable time, money, and emotional energy. Jeffry often questioned whether his investment was worthwhile, yet he ultimately performed publicly, received strong audience response, appeared on television, and earned a prize. Although proud of the accomplishment, he remained characteristically self-critical and uncertain about its value relative to missionary work.

Throughout the journal, Jeffry wrestles with recurring concerns about discipline, faith, leadership, and personal growth. He frequently worries that he is not progressing spiritually as he had hoped. He criticizes his own laziness, pride, irritability, and lack of charity. His relationship with Elder Richards becomes an important area of self-reflection. Jeffry grows increasingly frustrated with his companion's habits and perceived lack of discipline, but

repeatedly concludes that his own impatience and judgment are the greater problem. Several entries show genuine repentance and a desire to become more loving, humble, and Christlike.

Physical exhaustion also affected his mindset. During September he suffered illness, fever, diarrhea, and fatigue while balancing missionary responsibilities, contest preparation, and daily demands. These struggles deepened his discouragement and contributed to a period of emotional strain. Even so, he continued serving, studying, and maintaining his journal.

One particularly impactful event was learning that investigator Cho Cheong Sook, who had recently shown genuine interest in the gospel, had died unexpectedly. Jeffry was deeply affected by the news and reflected on receiving the gospel in the spirit world. The incident reinforced the urgency and uncertainty of missionary work.

By October, Jeffry's writing shows increasing self-examination. He openly admits discouragement, concern over missed goals, and dissatisfaction with his spiritual progress. Yet these admissions are accompanied by repeated commitments to improve. Near the end of the period, he records a conscious decision to recommit himself to the Lord, abandon pride and slothfulness, and become more loving toward others.

Overall, the journal portrays Jeffry as earnest, conscientious, ambitious, and deeply reflective. His key experiences included intensive missionary work, the baptism of investigators, participation in a national folk arts competition, illness, challenges with companionship dynamics, and the unexpected death of an investigator. His mindset throughout was marked by a constant tension between discouragement and determination, with an enduring desire to improve himself spiritually and fulfill his mission with greater faith and charity.

Jeffry Belnap (9th Ward District, Aug-Oct 1977)

Key Event Synopsis

1. Arrival in 9th Ward

Topic: New Assignment & Fresh Determination

Key Events

- Moved into the 9th Ward missionary house and was shocked by its disorder and poor condition.
- Began serving with Elder David Richards, whom he admired for his kindness and easygoing nature.
- Started rebuilding the teaching pool through door contacting and referrals.

Lessons

- First impressions do not determine future success.
 - Good companionship requires patience and appreciation of strengths.
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2. Persistent Missionary Effort

Topic: Teaching Amid Constant Rejection

Key Events

- Spent many days knocking doors, contacting strangers, and following referrals.
- Faced repeated canceled appointments and uninterested investigators.
- Continued searching despite discouragement and low measurable success.

Achievements

- Maintained consistent effort despite setbacks.
- Developed resilience and persistence.

Lessons

- Success often comes after repeated disappointment.
 - Personal commitment matters more than immediate results.
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3. Kim Sang Dal's Conversion & Baptism

Topic: Missionary Success

Key Events

- Taught Kim Sang Dal through multiple discussions.
- Watched him progress spiritually and commit to gospel principles.
- Participated in his baptism along with his wife.

Achievements

- One of the most significant missionary outcomes during the period.
- Strengthened relationships with local members and stake missionaries.

Lessons

- Real conversion requires time, patience, and consistent teaching.
 - The greatest missionary rewards come through sincere individuals.
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4. Korean Drum Dance Project

Topic: Cultural Education & Personal Growth

Key Events

- Trained extensively with teacher Miss Go.
- Purchased a costume and drums despite financial concerns.
- Performed in the Korea Herald Folk Arts Contest.
- Received strong audience response and an award.

Achievements

- Learned a difficult traditional Korean performance.
- Appeared on television and represented foreign missionaries positively.

Lessons

- Excellence requires sacrifice and disciplined practice.
- Cultural understanding deepens appreciation for the people being served.

5. Physical Illness & Exhaustion

Topic: Personal Trial

Key Events

- Suffered fever, stomach illness, fatigue, and stress.
- Spent several days recovering while reflecting on his mission.
- Experienced discouragement regarding progress and goals.

Lessons

- Physical health strongly affects emotional and spiritual outlook.
 - Endurance includes continuing through weakness and discomfort.
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6. Struggles with Companion Relationships

Topic: Leadership, Expectations & Humility

Key Events

- Became frustrated with Elder Richards' habits and work style.
- Recognized his own impatience and critical attitude.
- Repeatedly reflected on his need for charity and understanding.

Achievements

- Demonstrated honest self-evaluation.
- Worked toward reconciliation rather than resentment.

Lessons

- Leadership begins with improving oneself.
 - Kindness is often more valuable than efficiency.
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7. Death of Investigator Cho Cheong Sook

Topic: Sobering Mission Experience

Key Events

- Taught Cho Cheong Sook and saw promising spiritual interest.
- Later learned she had died unexpectedly.
- Reflected deeply on mortality and eternal opportunities for learning.

Lessons

- Spiritual opportunities can be brief.
 - Every teaching opportunity matters.
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8. Spiritual Self-Examination

Topic: Personal Conversion

Key Events

- Frequently questioned his spiritual progress.
- Worried about pride, laziness, discouragement, and faith.
- Made renewed commitments to prayer, study, and becoming more Christlike.

Achievements

- Demonstrated unusual honesty in self-assessment.
- Continued seeking improvement despite disappointment.

Lessons

- Personal conversion is an ongoing process.
 - Spiritual growth often comes through recognizing weaknesses.
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9. Transfer Call to Mission Home

Topic: New Opportunity

Key Events

- Learned he would leave 9th Ward.
- Received a call to serve as Public Relations Secretary at the mission home.

- Anticipated learning office, typing, and administrative skills.

Achievements

- Trusted with a responsibility beyond regular proselyting.
- Recognized by mission leadership for additional service.

Lessons

- New assignments often come unexpectedly.
 - Previous experiences prepare future opportunities.
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Overall Assessment of Jeffrey's Growth

Strengths

- Persistent
- Hard-working
- Honest with himself
- Mission-focused
- Willing to improve
- Deeply reflective

Major Challenges

- Discouragement
- Perfectionism
- Impatience with others
- Financial concerns
- Physical exhaustion
- Unrealistically high expectations of himself

Most Important Lessons Learned

- Charity matters more than criticism.
- Missionary success cannot be measured only by numbers.

- Personal growth often occurs during disappointment.
- Faith requires perseverance when results are unclear.
- Humility and self-improvement are continuous lifelong pursuits.