



Dr. Tai-Ki Chung and Mrs. Sung-ja Chung Pioneers in Counseling Education in Korea

Dr. Tai-Ki Chung is a prominent figure in pastoral counseling in Korea. He founded and served as the first president of the Healing & Counseling Graduate University in Seoul. After completing his second term, he holds the title of President Emeritus and chairperson of the board of trustees. His wife, Mrs. Sung-ja Chung, previously served as president of the National Association of Clergywomen of the Presbyterian Church in Korea. In 1997, she co-founded the Healing & Counseling Institute with her husband, significantly contributing to Christian healing ministries. Mrs. Sung-ja Chung also served as the institute's executive director. Dr. Tai-Ki Chung spent his childhood on a stunning island where the mountains, sea, and sky harmoniously coexist. This island was later voted one of the best places to live, and it was ranked first among 230 locations in the "LivCom Awards."

In 1973, when Dr. Tai-Ki Chung began his studies in the United States, he had to leave his wife and two young daughters in Korea due to family visa issues. In 1978, he completed his Master of Divinity degree at Northern Baptist Seminary in Chicago. He later enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program at CST, a prestigious degree among the best theological schools in the United States. In 1980, after seven years of separation, Dr. Chung was reunited with his family in Claremont, and his two daughters enrolled at Sycamore Elementary School in Claremont, which further deepened their connection with the city of Claremont.

From 1981 to 1983, Dr. Tai-Ki Chung completed a two-year clinical internship at the Kentucky State Mental Hospital. After returning to Korea in 1983, he was appointed as a professor of pastoral counseling at the Theological Seminary of Hanshin University, where he served until his retirement in 2004. Dr. Tai-Ki Chung and Mrs. Sung-ja Chung were pioneers in the pastoral counseling movement in Korea. Starting in 1984, Dr. Chung was a popular guest on radio and television programs, inspiring Christians and non-Christians alike. This movement evolved into a transformative movement for pastoral counseling and healing ministry throughout Korea.

In 1997, Dr. and Mrs. Chung founded the Healing & Counseling Institute. Over the past 28 years, the institute has produced 5,400 graduates, and more than 26,000 people have participated in its two- or three-day spiritual healing and marriage enrichment programs. These efforts led to the establishment of the Healing & Counseling Graduate University, which was officially accredited by the Korean government in 2014. Currently, the university has 14 full-time professors, 150 students enrolled in the master's program, and 20 students in the Ph.D. program, all dedicated to their studies.

Dr. Tai-Ki Chung has significantly impacted pastoral counseling in Korea. In recognition of his contributions, CST awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) degree in May 2012. He was the first-time recipient (along with David Lincoln) in CST's 130-year history. Dr. Tai-Ki Chung and Mrs. Sung-ja Chung's generosity made an endowment scholarship fund in their names for future leaders in Korea and the United States.

