

Godly Worship Service
Raising Workers for the Kingdom
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing the World
Loving Neighbors

The Biweekly Choong Hyun

For to me, to live is Christ
and to die is gain.
(Philippians 1:21)

Chairman: Sung Kwan Kim Publisher: Kwang Hun Nho Chief Editor: Sun Keun Cho

International Thanksgiving Food Festival
To Be Held on Sunday, November 21

1999 Church School Teachers Conference

District Outreach Projects Continue

Laypeople's Missionary Training Course
Second Semester Intensive Course Completed

The Mission Committee completed the second semester intensive 6-week course on November 3rd. The course was held every Wednesday from 8:20 pm to 11:00 pm. There were fifty applicants who successfully completed the course, including 6 members of other churches. All students were instructed in mission theology, language training, team ministry building, mission work, the world mission movement, short-term missions, and apologetics (defense of the faith). Those who successfully completed the training program are now eligible for short and long-term mission opportunities around the world. The Mission Committee will continue to provide this type of training to more laypeople, so that the gospel may be brought to the ends of the earth. Those who have a heart for mission work are encouraged to attend next year's program to receive training.

REFORMATION SUNDAY
Remembering The Reformation
482 Years Ago

Romans 1:17 says, "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" This was the foundational verse Luther used to defend his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenburg Church. Luther's call to the church to reform continues today, as we should examine what areas we are not trusting in the Lord by faith, most especially in regard to our salvation.

Service Information

Sunday	Services in the Main Sanctuary 7:00 am, 9:00 am, *11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, and 5:00 pm <i>*The 11:00 am service is simultaneously translated into English, Chinese and Japanese.</i> <i>The English Service is held in the Welfare Center (Dioconal Bldg. B 1) at 9:00 am.</i>
Wednesday	Services in the Main Sanctuary 11:00 am and 7:00 pm
Friday	Prayer and Praise Service in the Main Sanctuary 7:00 pm
Daily	Early Morning Prayer Meetings in the Main Sanctuary 5:00 am

Evangelism Department for Foreigners

Wednesday	Teachers Prayer Meetings - 8:30 pm
Sunday	Service in Amen Hall - 9:30-10:30 am Bible Study in Amen Hall - 10:30-12:00 noon Service in the Main Sanctuary - 1:00 pm

***Fifth Evening of Praise to Be
Held in the Main Sanctuary
Friday, November 19th, 7:00 pm***

Choong Hyun Church will hold an Evening of Praise on Friday, November 19th. All twelve of the church choirs will be participating in this extraordinary event, including the orchestras and the Men's Chorale. The focus will be upon the season of Thanksgiving. All the choirs will combine together to sing the Hallelujah Chorus by Handel at the end of the service. All members are encouraged to attend to bring praise to our Lord, Jesus Christ.



by **Sung Kwan Kim**
Reverend

GENUINE THANKSGIVING

(John 6:35)

As you know, the Psalms in the Old Testament continually speak out praises and thanks to the Lord. In the New Testament, Paul tells us, "I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day" (2 Tim. 1:3). From the beginning, Paul really thanks God; he constantly remembers that you have to thank God. The primitive church gave great thanks to the Lord. Although our tribulations appear different on the surface compared to the early church, like IMF, Y2K, nuclear power disasters, high healthcare costs, child pornography on the internet, global economizing, family structure breakdowns, high divorce rates, etc., underneath we share the same burdens. Because all kinds of problems and sins pervade human history; how is it possible to give thanks to the Lord?

Today's Bible verse answers that question, "Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst' (v. 35). Jesus identifies Himself as "the bread of life"; he tells us who He is. As a matter of fact, this is the first of seven great "I am" revelations given to us in the book of John. The point is that God not only watches over you but also protects you. He gives you the greatest gift, the gift of Jesus! Through Jesus Christ you grow; you mature physically and spiritually because He is the bread of life. God stretches His arm anywhere! There's no such place where He can't reach. No matter where you live, you live in His territory. Just from this Bible verse alone, you can give thanks to Him!

The Bible mentions some 642 times for you to come to the Lord. Everywhere and in every place of Scripture you see God's grace and the proclamation of His redemption. As such, you don't rely or depend upon your emotions and feelings to praise God. Genuine thanksgiving is not about personal and private matters. Your recent business success, or new house, or kids college acceptance, etc., is not the same as your spiritual breath. People have a tendency to think in terms of personal worldly things. You need to think about your relationship with the Creator. You need to concentrate on your position in Christ as a God's child. As a Christian, you are a child of God. Jesus is the bread of life! Think about this, for this is the real key to thanksgiving.

There is a pastor, standing next to a hospital bed which is occupied by a man dying of some terrible cancer. This very sick man is about to take his last breath. Family members surround the room with tears of sadness. The pastor views this crucial situation as a matter of eternal life and eternal death. He speaks to the dying man the Words of God, the truth and life. He preaches the Gospel message and assures the man that without Jesus there is no eternal rest; Jesus is the only bread of life—eternal life. For death is a real thing, a real truth, that can only be overcome when you look for and receive the real bread—Jesus!

Christian thanksgiving is an expression of faith, "And not only this, but we also exult in our

tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope" (Rom. 5:3&4). You can find real enjoyment even in the biggest sufferings. God is love. He knows you don't like to suffer, but only this is the way. As a pastor, I become scared when I meet someone who doesn't know of suffering or hardship. For it means that they don't have a clue as to the means of suffering Jesus took at the cross. When everything is your way, do you really know that Jesus died for you? Think about it. Do you know how much awful pain He endured to pay for your sins? Through the course of suffering you understand the love of the cross and why it is that Jesus practiced and acted out His love for you on the cross. You should give thanksgiving to the Lord God for it.

There is great thanksgiving when Christians proclaim the Gospel. When you declare Christ, you will find many things to be grateful for to the Lord. If you have your own things, only your stuff, then that's your thanksgiving to God. It's true, you pay an awful lot in sacrifices, endure all different cultures, just to enter His kingdom. But your tears, your heart shows that Jesus loves other people. When you proclaim the action of real life; the evidence of salvation appears. There are a few American missionaries who died in our land some 100 years ago. Today this country has about ten million Christians—ten million of God's children reside here! One can only imagine the huge celebration in heaven.

There is a famous American football player, Bob, who had a younger brother. His father and mother were big and bright, and with their combined genetic traits this guy came out huge and smart. He was 6 feet eight inches tall and 290 pounds as a high school freshman! He found God through the game of football. All through high school he was worshipped as a star. He held the best high school score for some football achievement throughout the United States. He received free food, cars, clothes, and the best treatment wherever he went. He had plenty of money and fame which prevented him from any hard times. His whole life was football practice.

He loved his brother. When he became a national football star for the Baltimore Colts, he was able to get his brother, who was five years younger, a job with the team. It was a great opportunity for them to spend time together. One day his younger brother came to him with a complaint about some bruising on his back. The older brother looked at it and sent him to John Hopkins hospital. The diagnosis came back that he had terminal cancer, and only about six months to live. Bob's life became void of peace. His family consulted all the famous doctors, and they decided on chemotherapy treatment. After five months, Bob's younger brother requested to go home.

On December 16th, a week away from Christmas, Bob's younger brother came home. All their family gathered together, and that first night Bob sat down and realized that his god couldn't help him. The next morning, his mother asked him to wake his brother so

that he could eat. Bob went into his younger brother's room and found that his hands were cold; he had died. Bobby cried. His team lost their next football game because Bob didn't do a good job. His coach went into the usual upbeat talk of where his heart should be and how important the game was, and so on. For the first time, Bob realized that there wasn't any truth to his words; they were a bunch of baloney.

That night, one of his friends mentioned the Bible verse from Matthew 11:28, "Come to Me, all who weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest". Bob found Jesus. His life changed. Sorrow left and real peace filled his heart. He began to preach the truth to all his football friends. He joined Billy Graham's crusade and helped many disabled people. He proclaimed that Jesus is the bread of life. Through suffering, he found Jesus and was able to tell others that He's the only one who can give eternal life.

It's exciting to hear of God's work in the lives of others and my prayer is to see these stories duplicated many times over so my question to you today is something I want you to ponder carefully...is your thanksgiving to the Lord God genuine? How is your thanksgiving to the Lord going? Maybe your answer is 'not so great' ... or, "I'm just talking it a little easy right now." You may be struggling with the demands of family, work, or school. Social or financial pressures may be nagging at you even as you read this sermon. The daily concerns of life often hang over us and obscure our vision. I find myself there sometimes too. The danger we face in our spiritual lives is not sudden collapse so much as gradual atrophy and apathy. In today's message, the Lord compares Himself to food—the bread of life. Without this bread you can't survive. Are you eating this bread?

We're so great at complaining, but living a life of genuine thanksgiving takes something different. It requires eating the bread of life. The type of relationship God longs to have with us requires this essential spiritual nutrient. Living a life of love and commitment takes spiritual food. Eating the bread of life leads to a life of growth, of deepening commitment and understanding. Of companionship, of selfless surrender. Very often keeping our genuine thanksgiving gets to be the hardest part of the Christian life.

The land of Korea has many terrible situations, but in today's service this church is the body of Christ. You should give thanks. Why? Because of the bread of life. Why should you eat the bread of life? To grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ. When you calculate your own things, the final goal is the grave—vanity of vanities! It's a horrible situation like at Calvary where Jesus paid for your sin. The son of God died, rose again, and now sits in victory with God in heaven. His victory brings righteousness to those who believe in Him. Jesus gave thanks to God and blessed the bread. He then broke the bread and blessed you. He asks you now to take it and eat it (see 1 Cor. 11:23-24). Proclaim Jesus Christ and you will find a thanksgiving heart there!

Daniel's Story: A Modern Pilgrim

Forwarded by Senra Henrique (From Brazil)



It was an unusually cold day for the month of May. Spring had arrived and everything was alive with color. But a cold front from the North had brought winter's chill back to Indiana. I sat with two friends in the picture window of a quaint restaurant just off the corner of the town square. The food and the company were both especially good that day. As we talked, my attention was drawn outside, across the street. There, walking into town, was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was carrying, a well-worn sign that read, "I will work for food." My heart sank. I brought him to the attention of my friends and noticed that others around us had stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief. We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind. We finished our meal and went our separate ways. I had errands to do and quickly set out to accomplish them. I glanced toward the town square, looking somewhat halfheartedly for the strange visitor. I was fearful, knowing that seeing him again would call some response. I drove through town and saw nothing of him. I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car. Deep within me, the Spirit of God kept speaking to me: "Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the square." And so, with some hesitancy, I headed back into town. As I turned the square's third corner, I saw him. He was standing on the steps of the storefront church, going through his sack. I stopped and looked, feeling both compelled to speak to him, yet wanting to drive on. The empty parking space on the corner seemed to be a sign from God: an invitation to park. I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor.

"Looking for the pastor?" I asked.
 "Not really," he replied, "just resting."
 "Have you eaten today?"
 "Oh, I ate something early this morning."
 "Would you like to have lunch with me?"
 "Do you have some work I could do for you?"
 "No work," I replied. "I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to take you to lunch."
 "Sure," he replied with a smile.
 As he began to gather his things, I asked some surface questions.
 "Where you headed?"
 "St. Louis."
 "Where you from?"
 "Oh, all over; mostly Florida."
 "How long you been walking?"
 "Fourteen years," came the reply.

I knew I had met someone unusual. We sat across from each other in the same restaurant I had left earlier. His face was weathered slightly beyond his 38 years. His eyes were dark yet clear, and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling. He removed his jacket to reveal a bright red T-shirt that

said, "Jesus is The Never Ending Story." Then Daniel's story began to unfold. He had seen rough times early in life. He'd made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences. Fourteen years earlier, while backpacking across the country, he had stopped on the beach in Daytona. He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment. A concert, he thought. He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert but revival services, and in those services he saw life more clearly. He gave his life over to God.

"Nothing's been the same since," he said, "I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking, and so I did, some 14 years now."

"Ever think of stopping?" I asked.

"Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me. But God has given me this calling. I give out Bibles. That's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads."

I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless. He was on a mission and lived this way by choice. The question burned inside for a moment and then I asked:

"What's it like?"

"What?"

"To walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and to show your sign?"

"Oh, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone tossed a piece of half-eaten bread and made a gesture that certainly didn't make me feel welcome. But then it became humbling to realize that God was using me to touch lives and change people's concepts of other folks like me."

My concept was changing, too.

We finished our dessert and gathered his things. Just outside the door, he paused. He turned to me and said, "Come ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you. For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in."

I felt as if we were on holy ground.

"Could you use another Bible?" I asked.

He said he preferred a certain translation. It traveled well and was not too heavy. It was also his personal favorite. "I've read through it 14 times," he said.

"I'm not sure we've got one of those, but let's stop by our church and see."

I was able to find my new friend a Bible that would do well, and he seemed very grateful.

"Where you headed from here?"

"Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon."

"Are you hoping to hire on there for a while?"

"No, I just figure I should go there. I figure someone under that star right there needs a Bible, so that's where I'm going next." He smiled, and the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission. I drove him back to the town square where we'd met two hours earlier, and as we drove, it started raining. We parked and unloaded his things.

"Would you sign my autograph book?" he asked.
 "I like to keep messages from folks I meet."

I wrote in his little book that his commitment to

his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong. And I left him with a verse of scripture from Jeremiah, "I know the plans I have for you," declared the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a future and a hope."

"Thanks, man," he said. "I know we just met and we're really just strangers, but I love you."

"I know," I said, "I love you, too."

"The Lord is good."

"Yes, He is. How long has it been since someone hugged you?" I asked.

"A long time," he replied.

And so on the busy street corner in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced, and I felt deep inside that I had been changed. He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, "See you in the New Jerusalem."

"I'll be there!" was my reply.

He began his journey again. He headed away with his sign dangling from his bed roll and pack of Bibles. He stopped, turned and said, "When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?"

"You bet," I shouted back, "God bless."

"God bless."

And that was the last I saw of him. Late that evening as I left my office, the wind blew strong. The cold front had settled hard upon the town. I bundled up and hurried to my car. As I sat back and reached for the emergency brake, I saw

them... a pair of well-worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the handle. I picked them up and thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay warm that night without them. I remembered his words:

"If you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?"

Today his gloves lie on my desk in my office. They help me to see the world and its people in a new way, and they help me remember those two hours with my unique friend and to pray for his ministry. "See you in the New Jerusalem," he said. Yes, Daniel, I know I will...



Operation World

The United States of America

The United States of America is the world's third largest nation in terms of land and population. It is a nation made up of immigrants with the largest diversity found on earth. In recent years, the fastest growing immigrant population has been among Asian/Pacific Islanders, making up 42% of all

immigrants in the 1980's. At this time, the US economy is the most powerful and influential in the world. Freedom of religion is guaranteed by the Constitution, yet over the last few decades the misuse of the separation of Church and State has greatly diminished its long-standing Christian heritage.

With the immense amount of influence the US has today in so many areas around the world, the need for prayer has never been greater. This is certainly emphasized by the recent internal downward trends in morality and other external religious and philosophical influences, even within the Christian community. The relativistic and post-modern philosophies of the day have rapidly eroded away the influence of Biblical teachings.

Many Americans today are quite suspicious of confessing Christians, despite a growing interest in spirituality, although this is usually directed toward Eastern religions and philosophies. Spiritual practices developed on one's own, are not quickly disregarded and may even be highly respected. This has reduced the perceived need for community fellowship and

accountability. Pray that the truth of the gospel will be made unquestionably clear to those who are seeking spiritual truth through the Holy Spirit. Some positive news is the recent need for more pastors to serve in churches of most denominations. Pray this need will be fulfilled by wise and insightful pastors who will be most likely ministering to many people with very little, if any, background in Christianity. This is especially true for those approximately age 40 and under, who may have never attended church before and may find the environment disconnected from their daily lives. Pray that church members and leaders will find ways to build practical life bridges that will lead these ones to Christ along with modeling a strong commitment to Christian fellowship in the church.

The United States still maintains a large portion of the best Christian training institutions in the world. Pray that those preparing for mission, pastoral and other Christian-related work, that they will be prepared to serve their Lord Jesus faithfully and with discernment, whether they remain in the US or serve Christ abroad.

Report from Missions Committee**1. LMTC (Laypeople Missionary Training Course)**

Currently most missionary candidates regularly have their classes on Saturdays, 5-7 pm. Others who are not able to make the Saturday classes join intensive course on Wednesdays, 8:10-11:30 pm. Nine candidates, who will be finishing their coursework in this semester will leave for their mission fields, such as Surinam, Sudan, Uganda and Sri Lanka during December, 1999 and February, 2000 to serve as short term missionaries.

2. Short-Term Missions in Process

We will send about 90 people to 9 different countries for short-term missions during the period of Dec. 1999 to Feb. 2000. Each team members have weekly gatherings to prepare for their mission work. They have prayed and discussed each member's tasks that they need to do in their mission fields. Most of the countries where our missionaries intend to go are Muslim countries. So there are few benefits that could help with sharing the gospel of Jesus, but many obstacles against proclaiming the gospel of Jesus such as the weather, lifestyle and living environment. Some 90 members will stay in their mission fields at least for a year. Your prayers will be of great encouragement to these short-term missionaries.

3. You Can Be a Missionary

The Evangelism Department for Foreigners within the Missions Committee is looking for volunteers to serve foreign employees in Seoul. Currently there are about 90 foreigners who are working in Seoul and Kyonggi areas attending Sunday worship services. They are from eight different countries including Sri Lanka (Buddhism), India (Islam and Shik), Indonesia (Islam), Uzbekistan (Islam), Bangladesh (Islam and Hinduism), Pakistan (Islam), China (Buddhism and Atheism) and Mongolia (Lama and Atheism). Most of them had never heard about the gospel of Jesus until they came to Korea and connected with our evangelism project. However, since they regularly join the service on Sundays, they sincerely listen to the gospel and open their hearts to Jesus. The purpose of the department is to introduce Jesus to them and train them to be witnesses for Jesus. When they return to their own countries, they can be good witnesses for Jesus Christ to their own people. Our prayer is that all of them may receive Jesus, who is the way, the life and the truth, as their personal savior.

The department is actively looking for volunteers who are willing to serve as leader of small group Bible studies, leaders of praise songs, helpers in the kitchen, drivers who will pick them up on Sundays, administration assistants and those who can visit with them on a daily basis. If you are a member of our church who has a missionary mind and you have been baptized you can apply for these jobs. It probably even better if you plan to complete the Laypeople Missionary Training Course in our church. For further information please contact the Mission Committee.

**Report from The Sooncheon Prison Evangelism Project
God's Overflowing Grace**

By Joo Han Park (Elder, Head of 7th Area in 11th District)

The Esther Evangelism Division in the 11th District and the Prison Evangelism Department cordially held a conference in Sooncheon Prison on October 21st. There were 35 members from both departments. We left for the prison at 6:30 am from church. All members united in prayer and praise while heading to the prison in the church bus. We prayed that the Holy Spirit would empower the attending prisoners to receive the gospel of Jesus and confess that Jesus Christ is the only Savior.

The conference started at 1:30 pm with 250 prisoners, including prison guards. We felt in the beginning, that the air was cold and fearful. Then an amazing miracle happened during the praise time. Everyone felt that the conference hall was changed to a cozy, lively and friendly environment. The Holy Spirit broke the ice between the evangelism team members and prisoners. He also led all the attendees to prepare their hearts to listen to the gospel of Jesus. After the praise time we had a service led by Elder Young

Su Kim. Rev. Kyoung Han Park gave a message on John 2:1-11 and Elder Shin Duk Cha prayed for the service. The Prison Evangelism Choral offered graceful praise. After the preaching about 60 of the prisoners decided to receive Jesus as their personal Savior. Some of them held tears back.

We donated 6 televisions and some snacks. We all were very encouraged by the work of the Holy Spirit through His people. We did not even feel tired during the long ride both on the way to Sooncheon and on the way back. We thank all the members who sacrificed their time for the gospel and to encourage people in the prison. I, as an elder of my church, had a great time with the prisoners and it strongly challenged me to look back upon myself. I have nothing to boast. When I seek the grace of the Lord, I see that I am not any better than those who are in the prison. I took my glasses off and closed my eyes to hide my tears. Gracious Father, I cannot help praising and honoring You. I exalt your name for your forgiveness.

Members from the Prison Evangelism Department and the 11th District posed for a picture after the conference for the prisoners.

