

GOALS

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

The Biweekly Choong Hyun

I love you, O LORD, my strength.
(Psalm 18:1)

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

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

Pastors and Elders Annual Prayer Meeting Hands United with Love and Faith

The Pastors and Elders Prayer Meeting for the year 1999 was held at the Choong Hyun Prayer Garden on March 1. The purpose of this prayer meeting was to be encouraged to serve the church with united enthusiasm and love. It refreshed all the participants of the meeting to serve the church with stronger spiritual unity among them and with more true and faithful leadership.

All the pastors and elders left for the Garden at 9:30 am. After they arrived at the Garden, all of them faithfully participated in the program. They particularly recognized how important true and faithful leadership is in the

church through the services and special talks. They also had a great opportunity to research "a clear reason to stand as faithful heavenly workers for the Gospel" and "the true leadership of the church revealed in the Scriptures."

During the prayer time, all the members prayed for their co-workers and church members. It became clear that all of them really want to serve the church with their true heart as they would serve their own body. They also experienced the Lord leading them to dedicate themselves to work more sacrificially for the church as they prayed hand in hand.



All the members renewed their commitment to pray for the pastors and elders in their daily prayers, that all of them

may be able to serve effectively in the church and proclaim Jesus Christ who is the head of the church and faithfully follow His will.

Mission Research Institute Begins New Semester

The Mission Research Institute began its new semester on Saturday, March 6th. Since 1991, many people who have had a heart for missions have completed the layperson's missions course offered there. The course was recognized and certified by the General Assembly last September 1998. So, the people who complete this course are now certified to be missionary laypeople by the General Assembly.

Information about the course:

1. The course consists of three

semesters and each semester is three months in length. The lectures focus upon the vision of missions and language training. The lecturers are the assistant pastors at Choong Hyun Church who have been trained in missions. The second semester began last Saturday, March 6th and this is the eighth time for this semester to be offered since it was established in 1991.

2. Classes are held at 5 p.m. on Saturdays. The Mission Vision course is held from 5-7 p.m. and the language training courses are held from 7-9 p.m. (including English, Chinese, Sri

Lankan, Hindi, and Mongolian).

3. The second semester courses will be held in the Senior Deacon's Room. The first semester courses will be held at Bethany Hall.

4. All the applicants should submit all required essays, read all the required materials and have an attendance record of at least 90%. If the requirements are not sufficiently completed, the course must be repeated to receive certification.

5. The registration fee for all three semesters in total is only 20,000 won.

6. The language trainers are: English — Intern Pastor Benjamin Kim, Sri Lankan and Mongolian — Gamini from the Foreign Worker's Mission Department, Hindi — Sung Ja Kim who did mission work in India,

and Chinese — Deaconess Ryu Hwa Kang.

1999 First Semester Choong Hyun Sosuk Student Scholarship Awards Ceremony

The Sosuk Scholarship Awards Ceremony will be held during the evening service today, March 14th. All those receiving awards are requested to be in their specially assigned seating area in the Main Sanctuary by 4:40 p.m.

English Worship Service Winter Retreat BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

By David Berry

(Staff reporter, English Worship Service)

In the place and beauty of the Choong Hyun Prayer Garden, members of the English Worship Service held their tenth annual Winter Retreat. The main focus of the retreat was "Becoming Like Christ." This focus was reflected in the thematic verse of: "Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:2). Reverend Bong Rin Ro and Intern Pastor Benjamin Kim were the speakers.

The 45 members that attended included 7 teachers, 6 high school students, plus 32 university students and working people. Most arrived at the Prayer Garden by means of a church bus on Sunday night, Feb. 28. We praised God freely in the opening service led by the Praise Team. During the service, Rev. Ro introduced and reviewed the book of Colossians. Afterwards, everyone separated into four different small groups and discussed Colossians 3:1-17, using a "dig-in" study

technique. Then, prayer, fellowship and games ended the evening.

As this winter retreat was going on, a group of 40 elementary students, 10 teachers and 10 parents held their own winter retreat in the Choong Hyun Education Building. The newly-assigned elementary Sunday School teacher, Michael Gare, from Australia joined this retreat and delivered a message for the opening service. This brought the total number of people participating in the retreat up to 105 members.

Back at the Prayer Garden, most people woke up to join the early morning prayer meeting and exercise. After breakfast, we joined the Praise Team to praise and pray. While we praised our Lord, we experienced the oneness and harmony only found in Christ. We also prayed to become more like Christ in our daily lives. Some members prayed in silence, while others prayed aloud. All the members participated in petitionary prayers, led by Benjamin Kim. To help everyone further understand Colossians, we broke into small groups again to discuss how to practically apply this book to everyday Christian living.

The highlight of the retreat was after lunch when each small group prepared a short drama skit based on

Colossians. All the small group members worked hard at thinking up exciting and funny drama skits. We came back together as a large group as we played a thoughtful version of "Spin the Coke Bottle" and then a dartboard version of "Wheel of Fortune" to review some of what we learned from Colossians. Later at 3:15 pm, each group performed their drama. One skit had a humorous quartet musical, a couple of others were comical in their interpretations and one even included the dramatic washing of feet and conversion of a drunken man. The retreat was brought to closure by an expository sermon about the Colossians by Rev. Roh.

All good things must come to an end so did this retreat. After taking some pictures, all the members waved goodbye as they climbed aboard the bus back to Seoul. On the way home, several members said they felt encouraged and refreshed from this retreat. They said they thought they could live a better Christian life because they now knew how to practically become more like Jesus. We pray that all the brothers and sisters who went on the retreat, and readers of this article, will learn from Colossians how to become more like Jesus Christ.



by Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

BE STILL

(Mark 4:35-41)

After a very long and hard day of preaching, Jesus rested on the boat that was traveling to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. The crowd that gathered to Him by the sea was so great that day that he had to preach sitting in a boat away from the water's edge (v. 1). Many people surely sat on the sand or on driftwood, while others probably stood knee deep in the water, and still others most likely surrounded Him with their own boats trying to get closer to Him. They all wanted to hear Jesus.

Jesus taught them that day in parables. Parables were told by Christ usually to make the truth more

38). How often do we panic or experience anxiety during a storm? The disciples were weak but in their weakness they knew who to wake up for help.

So many people want to travel with Jesus to the other side. Those who accept will arrive safely. They will receive their heavenly stored treasures and countless other blessings of eternal life with God. Until that day, all Christians must weather the storms of daily Christian life. But you can't persevere alone, no one has enough strength, courage, or righteousness to survive, since Jesus is the only hope of survival and thus safe arrival.

faith. "And He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith?'" (v. 40). Truly there are lots and all types of storms. There are invisible and visible storms. There are short and long storms. There are life threatening and life taking storms. There are storms from above and storms from below. Human life and most especially Christian life experiences storms.

The key is that Jesus was with the disciples in the storm. If you are a Christian in a storm, Jesus is with you too! "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable" (Is. 40:28). That's right. Jesus never tires. He always stays with us. Whether we're in a distant land or asleep at night in our beds. He is indeed there! He takes away our weariness and gives us the energy we need to keep going on the journey.

When the disciples awoke Jesus, He arose and rebuked the wind with the words "Peace and be still" (v. 39). Immediately there was complete calm; the waves ceased, the sea flattened, and the moon broke through the clouds. The only sounds on the water that night were the movement of the boat and the swift heartbeats of the disciples' hearts. What kind of Man can make everything calm?

Only the Man of God, the Son of God, the Lord of all has the power. Dear friend, let's think of Jesus and today's storms. Is Jesus with you in your storm? Do you believe Jesus can calm your storm and give you peace? Often we indeed believe that Jesus can give eternal life. The problem is that we say it, but we

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engaging and clear to those who were willing to hear (Lk. 15:3) but sometimes they were used to make the truth obscure to those who lacked spiritual sensitivity (vv. 11-12). Some of the many parables Jesus gave them that day were: the Sower (vv. 3-20), the Lamp on a Stand (vv. 21-25), the Growing Seed (vv. 26-29) and the Mustard Seed (vv. 30-34). Everyone heard about the Kingdom of God. So many people surrounded Him that day by the sea that later it was necessary for Him to be alone with His disciples (v. 34).

"On that day, when evening came, He said to them, 'Let us go over to the other side'" (v. 35). Jesus invited His disciples to join Him on the journey to the other side. He wanted to be alone with them. His invitation brought a great storm, "And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up" (v. 36). Obviously, the disciples' time with Jesus wasn't all peaches and cream. They were probably all fired up and excited about their private time with Him until the big winds came. So many people think that union with Christ is trouble free. They envision this grand life with total joy and victory, without any sufferings or afflictions. They don't understand the storms and the reasons for the storms. So, many people begin to wonder what's up with this Man whose association causes storms?

Jesus is the Man whose invitation is loaded with promises. He promises fellowship during the journey, safe passage to the other side, and wonderful blessings that await on the other side. On this side, we can see the tired and wearied condition of the disciples. All day they had served, cared, and ministered to the large crowd. Now their energy was low and now was the time that the wind blew. We see their lack of faith and hear their scared voices, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" (v.

Jesus is the Man who is with us in all the storms of life. His fellowship is mandatory. Without Him there is no peace, no chance for eternal life. We know today's story, we can relate to the great storm of the wind. We understand that high winds, rolling thunder, and huge waves are nothing to laugh about. We know how powerful nature can be. We've all seen or heard about the havoc of earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, snow and hail storms. So many types of dangerous and disastrous things happen on this earth. So many things occur that we ourselves cannot handle.

"For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now" (Rom. 8:22). The disciples' travel experience with

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Jesus contains a very important lesson for us. A storm comes to the disciples, not happiness. Even though they experienced nothing serious all during the day, the storm still came. Though you are His child, you still must pass through the storms of life. With Jesus, you can experience the peace that passes all understanding. Even though everything around you may appear to be in chaos or turmoil, there is no need for despair. Knowing that you are in Jesus' hands and under His total protection gives you inner peace. Jesus is the Man of safety and peace.

Every storm is different and every storm has a different meaning. Like Jonah, his storm was meant to return him from backsliding (Jon. 1:4). Paul's storm opened up the door of witnessing to many Roman soldiers on an island (Acts 27&28). Here in today's message, the disciples' storm was meant to test their

don't call upon Jesus during every step of the storm. To live the life of faith in the face of its hindrances requires Jesus. Wake Jesus up! Let your relationship with Jesus define the essence of your life and faith.

Do you practice your faith? The very storms of everyday life require that you wake Jesus up and get together with Him. Exchange your weak and totally insufficient strength for His. He can calm your storm and give you peace right now. This is what's happening in Mark 4 my dear friend. Those that practice their faith truly experience the 'Be Still'. Peace, true peace, inner peace, peace beyond your imagination, peace that passes all understanding - this peace can be yours with Jesus. Pray to Jesus and wake Him up now! Receive the peace He so much wants to give. Let your life reflect the 'Be Still' moments of knowing Him.

Gospel Church And Leadership

The Church in the Old Testament

By Dr. Peter Enns

(Westminster Theological Seminary, Professor of Old Testament)



The local church has a great mission as an ambassador of Christ by fulfilling the covenant of the Old Testament, while maintaining its purity in Jesus Christ.

The idea of the Church is not just from the New Testament. We can find the root of the Church in the Old Testament. In Exodus 19, it is clearly explained about the meaning of the People of God, in other words, the Church in the Old Testament. The main story in Exodus is about the promises given to the leaders of the tribes. The people who received the promises had to respond to God's commandments. God delivered the Israelites from Egypt because of his promise to them. He also proclaimed that the Israelites were His own people and He made them into a Holy Nation. Because of this, it was expected that the Israelites should live differently from the other nations as a testimony to bring the news that God is the Creator. In a sense, the Israelites were the missionaries of the Old Testament to bring the news that God is the true King of Kings. We can also see the same mission requirements in the lives of Abraham and Adam. However, Adam failed to effectively deliver the news, but this doesn't mean that God's plan failed. God ultimately fulfilled His plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. Therefore, now the Church in this century has the great mission to proclaim the Gospel of salvation in Christ as His ambassadors. This is the mission of the local church today. This is clearly explained and summarized in I Peter 2:4-10: "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God

that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." It is time for the local churches to stand firm as the Light and Salt of the Gospel to declare the work of the redemption through Jesus Christ.

The Message of Daniel for the Modern Church

By Dr. Tremper Longman, III

(Westmont Theological Seminary, Professor of Old Testament)



The modern churches are required to be maintained in the light of Christ. They should reflect Jesus Christ who has been resurrected as their ambassador, and who also ultimately broke away from the idolatrous culture of Babylon.

The book of Daniel reveals the great faith of God's people and their decision to remain faithful to the Lord even while in the midst of powerful idols in the foreign land of Babylon.

As God was with Daniel and his three friends when they were thrown into the fiery furnace, He will be with the churches that have been established through the blood of Jesus Christ. He sanctified and justified the Church to reveal his ultimate authority over all the nations. Not only is the Lord with his Church, but He also shows that he is the ultimate ruler of the whole world who alone has the victory through Christ.

Leadership

By Rev. Sung Kwan Kim

(Senior Pastor of Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church)



True leadership can be revealed by the confession of sin.

Wherever community exists, leadership is required. The church which has been established in the name of Jesus Christ is a community of God's chosen people. Therefore, the church needs leadership. There are obviously many seminars about church leadership, however most of the seminars copy the ideas of worldly leadership.

The church's leadership should be different from the world's leadership. The world's leadership is based upon titles and abilities. But, the church's leadership has to deal with confession of sin. None of us can be free from our sin. Sin can twist and distort human relationships and true leadership. When we realize this secret through Jesus Christ, we can come to the Lord and confess our sin, "Oh, Lord, I cannot do anything because I am a sinner." Our confession paves the way toward true leadership.

Paul was a person who had great passion and love and was a faithful servant of God. Since he met Jesus Christ, he confessed his sin and became a great leader of the church. In Philippians 2:1-5, he introduced Jesus Christ, who was obedient unto death, as the ultimate model of church leadership. So, Jesus Christ is the foundation of true leadership in the church, and a true leader in the church should follow in His footsteps as a servant. This is what church leaders are supposed to model.

The Community of the People of God and Its Leadership

By Rev. Young-Tark Yune (Adults II)

The prophets in the Old Testament were not chosen by people, but they were chosen by God Himself to be the leaders of His people. Their mission was to proclaim what they were told by God. Haggai and Zechariah were chosen to



be leaders of the Israelites while they were building the second temple, after their return from captivity. They proclaimed the word of God, accused the people of their sin, and served as faithful ambassadors, all according to the will of God. They also proclaimed the eschatological judgement and the message of hope and restoration of the coming Messiah. Both Haggai and Zechariah can be relevant models for modern church leaders. The modern church needs leaders who can deliver the message directly.

The Gospel and The Church in Ephesians

By Rev. Hyung-Yong Park (Adults I)

The Gospel includes the suffering, death, resurrection, ascension, personality and ministry of Jesus.

We have received grace through the Gospel. We were called to be the People of God to proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In John 17, Jesus reveals his expectations of the church: unity, love, holiness, missions, and being centered on God's Word.

This ideal matches what was seen in the church in Acts and in the church of Ephesus.



Fundamental Problems in the Asian Church

By Rev. Bong Rin Roh (English Worship Service)

The majority of Asians haven't heard the Gospel. They have been prevented from hearing the Gospel. The current spiritual situation in Asia is getting more complicated and is facing increasingly difficult situations. The few churches that have been established are

desperate to find faithful and true leaders. They don't have enough leaders who can stand firm in the light of Christ for the sake of the Gospel. Therefore, the Korean Church has a great mission to train young Christians to be good leaders of this Asian generation. It is necessary for the Korean Church to put itself into a revolution of faith and mission movement. It is also very important to train indigenous Christians in other Asian nations to become leaders in their homelands. God is commanding us to pursue this mission.



The Republic of Haiti

Reaching the Unreached

(from Patrick Johnstone's *Operation World*, 5th edition)

Haiti is one of the most densely populated countries in the Americas, having only 28,000 sq. km. and an estimated population of 7.1 million people. Its capital is Port-au-Prince. It is located on the western third of the island Hispaniola, which is also shared by the Dominican Republic.

Haiti is primarily populated with Afro-Caribbeans (90%), but Mulatto (9.9%) and Euro-Americans (0.1%) are also there. The official language is French, but only 10% can speak it. Haitian Creole is the dominant language. Literacy is at a critical level of 33%.

In 1791, Haiti was officially dedicated to Satan. This is still strongly reflected in the practice of Voodoo, which is a pervasive evil throughout every level of society in Haiti. In 1991, this dedication was renewed as part of its so called, "cultural heritage". As a result of this spiritual degradation, over-population and political instability, Haiti has economically become the poorest state in the Western hemisphere.

Prayer points:

1. Pray for Christians in Haiti to be bold in their proclamation of faith in Jesus Christ and strong in their denunciation of Voodooism.
2. Economic recovery is desperately needed, as 85% of the population lives below the poverty level. Malnutrition is widespread.
3. Praise God for the continuing growth of Protestant churches, which are struggling against poverty, illiteracy, and church divisions. Pray that they will be better equipped and unified.
4. Pray for Christian leaders to be trained and have maturity in their faith, despite the great need.
5. Praise God for Christian broadcasting's effective impact, especially for those who cannot read. But, they also need special prayers for spiritual protection and wisdom for the broadcasters, since one wrong word could bring about dire consequences.

Reflections upon the Conference for Foreign Workers in Korea

By Kyong Hee Oh (Teacher, Young Adult I)

I have come to realize how important the Foreign Missions Department is through the Sri Lanka Short Term Mission. This encouraged me to participate in the Foreign Missions Department Winter Conference at the Choong Hyun Prayer Garden, from Feb. 14th to 16th. The foreigners' sincerity was shown while they practiced a praise song, "Christ Thy Lord Is Waiting Now," for the Sunday Evening Service, which deeply touched my heart. I was pleased to see Sooshilo, whom I met for the first time during the last summer retreat. I was also surprised to know that not only had his Korean significantly improved, but his faith, which was reflected through his sincere praise, has grown stronger as well.

Sometime during the Winter Retreat, one of the Chinese team members came to me and started to talk. She said that she had to leave her husband and children to come to Seoul to get a job. I can only imagine how hard it is to stay away from one's own family to work in a foreign country. However, I did not see any sadness on her face, but a joyful smile in the Lord. I saw the love of God that dominates her heart and life here in Korea. I was not only encouraged by her joyful heart, but inspired by her faith in the Lord. When Senior Pastor Rev. Kim visited us on the second day of the retreat, we were greatly encouraged by his interest in the Foreign Missions Department.

A few of the leaders were seriously talking with some of the foreigners for a long time. I did not quite understand how those leaders could do that since most of them were not fluent in Korean. It was certainly a big challenge for me.

One of the greatest events of this winter retreat was the international presentation. I led the Sri Lankan team.

We played some Sri Lankan traditional music for our presentation. I saw their faces became brighter while they sincerely participated. When they came to me after the presentation, they said, "Thank you very much. You worked so hard for us." I once again realized that they really put their hearts into it.

I have another surprising story to tell. It was just a few minutes past midnight when two Chinese girls got together and knelt down, and they began to praise the Lord and pray. The schedule of the retreat for the day was over and no one told them to do this. Everyone was already in bed by the time they started their prayer. I was astonished by the work of the Holy Spirit in them.

Once again I found my heart longing for the foreign workers in Seoul. It is not because of my compassion for them, but rather that the love of our Lord Jesus Christ has greatly encouraged them to live in this foreign country of Korea. Since I myself have been to the foreign country of Paraguay, I can more easily relate to their cultural-related problems which can be a big stumbling block for them. It is an essential matter for us to know that they do not need people who desire to dominate and rule over their lives using false leadership, but instead they need partners with whom they can share their painful sorrows and problems, and just be with them.

It is true that a good partner may be enough to lead them closer to the Lord and encourage them to be His ambassadors when they return their home countries. We must consider how to pray for them and do things for them as Jesus himself would.

This Winter Retreat was very worthwhile for me to experience the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ which has been revealed for His people who are from all over the world.

Sri Lanka Short Term Mission Report:

The People Received the Gospel with Pure Hearts

By Ji Soo Shin (College Group)

When the short term mission team arrived in Sri Lanka, the temperature was supposed to be cool. However, as soon as we landed, we realized that the weather was not at all like what we expected. It couldn't have been worse. All the members of the team had to fight against the unexpectedly hot weather while exploring the land for the Gospel. We started our ministry in three different groups: visitation, survey and nurturing. First of all, we visited the Briantty family and had a service with all the family members. We explained to them the differences between Catholicism and Protestantism, that there is no hope for salvation in Mary, but only through Jesus Christ. We told them we came because of the love of Jesus Christ. The entire family was quite big, six sisters and one younger brother and they all sat in the living room with us during the service. We could feel the tension in the room while we introduced Jesus Christ to them. During the service, we hoped and prayed that a miracle would take place in this family. After the service, we held a Bible study in two different groups. I taught the children under 15 years of age the story of Noah's Ark. Ms. Bu Young Lee had a Bible study with all the girls. The Bible studies continued until 11pm that night.

The next morning, Bu Young Lee awoke with something wrong with her throat. She couldn't talk or swallow. Our translator, Nishanti, also had a

sore throat and also couldn't talk and was coughing continuously. But, we had to continue our mission because the people we met wanted to have a Bible study. It was really amazing — the people were so willing to have a Bible study with us! We recognized this must be the will of God for us to be teaching these people the Bible, so we persevered despite our physical ailments. This Bible study continued until one o'clock the next morning.

Then, a miracle happened! Bu Young Lee, who had the sore throat, completely recovered and was able to lead a Bible study for the children in a hot, steamy room. Many children made a decision to attend church regularly to learn more about Jesus Christ. They stayed with us until the closing service.

Now we have returned to Korea and our concern is about these children who decided to attend church regularly, since they could face serious consequences with their family members. Sri Lanka is primarily a Buddhist country, so it is very difficult for the children not to follow their parents' religion. We thanked and praised our Lord that we were able to meet these precious children who come from such a powerful Buddhist background and to have the opportunity to minister the Bible to them. Even though we are in Korea now, we know our mission in Sri Lanka is not over, as we must continue to pray for these children with all our hearts, that one day soon they may know and follow Jesus Christ.

