

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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Today is Parents' Sunday

Sunday School Departments Will Hold Special Events

The Sunday School Departments will hold several special events to remember their parents' love for them. The Nursery Department will invite the fathers to attend their services, while the Preschool Department will have their students draw picture love letters to their parents. The Kindergarten Department will give their students single flowers to give to their parents. The Elementary Department will have their

students write letters to their parents. The Junior High Department, 8th grade, will invite parents to attend their service, while 9th grade students will write letters.

This is a good opportunity for all the children in each department to learn how to honor and respect their parents. It is intended that they will learn how to do these things for their parents in Christ's love.

Cheon An Prison Conference

To Be Held May 11th

The Prison Evangelism Department will hold a conference at Cheon An Juvenile Justice Center, on Tuesday, May 11th. The department has been in contact regularly, approximately 3-4 times a month, with teenagers there who are preparing for their school exams, plus providing many of them training for school band. Around 70 students total have been participating in the programs offered by the Prison Evangelism Department.

Intern Pastor Yang Duk Park and Deacon Yoo Kang Kim, who are in charge of juvenile ministry, organized this conference for 300 teenagers, with 50 staff to assist them. All the staff members from the Prison Evangelism Department, the Cheon An

Ministry Team and the Yobel Chorale will join together to coordinate this special conference. The department has also made opportunities available for general members of Choong Hyun to volunteer with them. If interested, please call 552-8200, extension 207. Volunteers will be limited to 40 people, so please contact the office immediately if you desire to participate.

The main speaker will be Rev. Kwang Jin Seo. This conference for young people will be a tremendous opportunity for them to hear and receive the Gospel. Please keep all the staff, students and volunteers in prayer that the Holy Spirit may work mightily among them all.

Evangelism Training Institute Holds First Semester Graduation Ceremony

The First Semester Graduation Ceremony was held on Wednesday, April 28th at 4:00 p.m. It was held in the International Meeting Hall of the Missions Building. There were 34 students who successfully completed the first semester, including course and field work. The second semester will begin this Wednesday, May 12th.



Jesus' Invitation For Others to Come: Will You Bring Them?

The Special Invitation Months of April and May

During April and May, the Sunday School Departments have been holding Special Invitation Sundays.

Every department has been especially busy with the logistics of planning, calling, making invitations, personal visitations and other strategic details to make these Special Invitation Sundays successful for the Gospel.

The amount of participation has been especially encouraging this year, reflecting a large percentage of the Sunday School membership. Each department began with contacting registered members who have not attended in a while and then focused upon others they could invite.

The Preschool, Fifth and Sixth Year Elementary, First Year Junior High, and the High School Departments held their Invitation Sunday on April 25th. The Somang Department, for the elderly, is having their Invitation Sunday today, May 9th. The Third and Fourth Year Elementary will hold their Invitation Sunday on May 30th.

Choong Ju Central Police Academy Conference May 11th

The Police Evangelism Department will hold a conference at Choong Ju Central Police Academy, this Tuesday, May 11th. The main speaker will be In Shik Kim. The team will leave from church for the academy at 1:30 p.m.

There are about 3,200 young people at the academy, including those in training to become general and riot police officers, and young men who are fulfilling their military duty by serving in the police force. Please pray that at this conference many of those in attendance will come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Choong Hyun Neighborhood Evangelism Day

To Be Held Thursday, May 27th All Choong Hyun Members Invited

Both the Evangelism and District Area Committees will combine their efforts to share the Gospel with neighbors of Choong Hyun Church, on Thursday, May 27th. The First through Seventeenth Districts will evangelize the Eighth through Seventeenth District Area. The Sixth and Seventh Districts, however, will go to Songpa to evangelize there.

Whether members participate or not, it is imperative that all members pray for this evangelism effort, that people may not be spiritually hindered from hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is hoped that efforts like this will be expanded throughout the year, rather than be restricted to a once-a-year, one-day event.

May: The Month of the Family Parents' Sunday Celebrated Today

Last Sunday was Children's Sunday. This Sunday is Parents' Sunday. These two holidays, both celebrated in May, support the remembrance of the family.

On Children's Sunday, the Sunday School Departments held several special events to encourage the children to grow up in their faith. One of those included the Elementary Group presentation of praise music during the Friday, May 7th, Prayer and Praise Service.

Today, May 9th, is celebrated as Parents' Sunday, to reflect upon the sacrificial love the parents have given to their children. It is also a time to challenge the children to be thankful for the provisions of love and care provided to them by their parents. In Korean society today, children are generally becoming more demanding and less respectful of their parents. Instead, Christian children should honor their parents in the love of Christ. Through the various departments of Choong Hyun Church, this challenge will be presented to both children and parents to reflect upon their biblical roles, that they may last a lifetime.



by **Sung Kwan Kim**
Reverend

MY DETERMINATION

(1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

In today's Scripture passage, the apostle Paul's determination is clearly stated, "For I determine to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (v. 2). Paul resolves to empty his mind of all human wisdom. He consciously decides to fill himself with only the crucified Jesus. Isn't this a peculiar thing to do? From a human standpoint, wouldn't it be better or perhaps more effective to combine human wisdom with godly wisdom? Aren't there times when both are necessary? Paul was indeed a scholarly man, well versed in Old Testament theology and the Jewish religious traditions. Why in the world would he want to discard all his learning in favor of only one concept: the crucified Jesus Christ?

Not only does Paul determine to know just this one thing but he also reminds the Corinthian church that his conversations with them were completely devoid of worldly knowledge, "And when I came to you brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God" (v. 1). Paul's preaching was plain and pure. His method of proclaiming the redemption and salvation of mankind found only through the word of the cross of Jesus is indeed God's method. Through his deep and loving faith in Jesus, Paul discovered the power of God found only in the cross of Christ. Of course, he knows that the cross of Christ is utter foolishness to the perishing but to those who believe, Paul also knows it is an overflowing fountain of eternal life. He determined that the power of God and the wisdom of God were the only things necessary to preach, teach, and live.

Generally speaking, most Christians don't catch the overwhelming importance of Paul's determination. Sadder still, most Christians don't practice God's method of proclaiming His testimony. Our society emphasizes and teaches the importance of properly structured and well thought out public speaking. Wisdom is viewed from a perspective that looks at the technical and mechanical mannerisms of each individual. How often do we search for just the right word or that special phrase that will capture the attention of our listeners? How often do we use our own convincing and motivating words to persuade others to follow us? We teach our children early on certain behaviors and methods of public speaking, human wisdom, and gospel proclamation; in hopes of expanding their human wisdom.

Paul takes a different stance; a totally reversed position. The people who use human wisdom to get others to change, listen, or follow them do experience popularity and respect. They can honestly take pride in their accomplishments; like John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan. Without a doubt, human wisdom is a top priority and even dream for most people. All over the world people search, study, and seek to obtain human wisdom. Both you and I can honestly admit our desire to gain human wisdom. Our culture demands that of us. Nearly all his life, Paul sought to attain human wisdom. After he met Jesus Christ, his determination changed. Then, he had a new determination.

Paul doesn't emphasize worldly things. He realizes that the eloquence of speech is not found in human wisdom. He understands the power of God's Word.

Just look at how John the Baptist's beautiful proclamation, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 3:2) is the same as Christ's own proclamation, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 4:17). Sadly, John was beheaded and Christ was crucified. They used godly wisdom to get others to change, listen, or follow them. The response to their method was not popular or widely respected. They couldn't even take pride in their works because it wasn't their works being accomplished; but rather God's. Paul stresses that he made his own choice, 'I determined.' His decision wasn't based on his extensive theological knowledge or even through all the human wisdom he had obtained. His determination to know nothing but Jesus came through the cross of Jesus. Paul underscores the crucified Jesus. He knows that worldly wisdom is the very antithesis of the wisdom of God. Jesus died on a cross for the terrible sins of all mankind. He paid the price, as only He could do, once and for all sin. He sacrificed His life so that all mankind may be reconciled to God. Through the cross, all believers are justified before God as righteous. Paul determined to know only the crucified Jesus.

He even mentions that his determination was 'among you'. His determination wasn't just for himself but for 'you and I'. What is this all about? This is a true confession of his faith. Not only does Paul make this decision for himself but he also wants other people to know. Whenever we get together in various social groups, the opening questions of acquaintance are never centered on the question of knowing Jesus. We always ask people their names, who their friends or parents are, what they do for fun or work, and their relationship to whoever we know. We like to ascertain their financial position and reputation. We like to inquire about their kindness and their generosity. We are so interested in other people because of this and that, which may lead to some benefit ourselves.

Paul came to his acquaintances "in weakness and in fear and in much trembling" (v. 3). As a minister of Christ, he approached these people in weakness and foolishness. The wisdom and power of the cross, which seems to be foolishness and weakness to men, is the avenue he determined to follow. He wasn't interested in fame, fortune, or fancy. He knew the truth and he knew that the only way to proclaim this truth was through godly wisdom. This is very interesting because Paul understood that there was only one approach towards others. He couldn't mix his wisdom and God's wisdom because they don't combine. Therefore, he had to give-up one in favor of the other. He had to approach people with a total confidence in Christ alone. Of course, once he did that, then God could use Paul's foreknowledge for His glory.

Paul wants us to make the decision to know nothing but Jesus and Him crucified. Why? Because of the power, because of the demonstration of the Spirit, "and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (v. 4). What kind of power? The power of eternal life, the power of healing, the power of miracles - God's power - God's authority! Because that is the wisdom of God. That is the Lord of glory. Belief in the message comes about not by human wisdom or eloquence, but by means of the

demonstration and power of the Spirit.

Paul grasped this power. He understood from where it came. Faith in this proclamation results in trust in the power of God, "so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God" (v. 5). Paul declares the gospel to be "the power of God" - not merely a witness to, but an expression of His power. The gospel is no bare word but is laden with the power of the Holy Spirit. The gospel effects the salvation it announces and imparts the life it promises. Paul truly did not want the Corinthians' faith to be placed in clever arguments but in the power of God.

There is no genuine proclamation where the Spirit of God is not at work. He is the one who changes the lives of His people. The power of God urges, reproves, rebukes, insists, encourages, appeals, teaches, convinces, motivates, and persuades others to observe His commands. The only way to be a faithful servant, like Paul, is to really know nothing but Jesus. Just think, how many minutes and hours did you spend with the Lord this week? So often people respond to this question with the number of times, "I prayed three times today," or "I read my Bible four times this week." How much shame should come on us that we use the word "times" and not "hours"? All of life should be nothing but Jesus Christ. Every day and every minute and every moment of our lives should be nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified!

Willingly or unwillingly, we cannot escape our responsibility to proclaim the Gospel because it is a responsibility that has been committed to each and every Christian (cf. Mt. 28:18-20). Voluntarily, fulfillment of our responsibility has a reward, "What then is my reward? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:18). In other words, the more you know the Gospel the more you don't want anything else. Just to know the Gospel that is wisdom. That is such a great deal of wisdom! Paul doesn't look for his reward because he didn't do anything - that's how big the gospel is! Paul doesn't search for worldly things. He has determined to know nothing except the crucified Jesus!

Isn't this so powerful? "I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it" (1 Cor. 9:23). That's how much my determination is important. Because Paul knows Jesus Christ and the cross he can say, "but I beat my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:27). Paul warns us to keep our sinful nature in check. The self-control that Paul here declares was his practice as a Christian and it is the responsibility of each Christian to yield to the Holy Spirit. In other words, one is not passive but very active in the development of the fruit of the Spirit.

Paul was not interested in the quality of his oratory. He cared nothing about praise for his brilliant speech. Rather, his great concern was to make the message as clear as possible. He wanted to be sure that he did not obscure it and that the faith of those who believed rested on the proper foundation. He knew the only way in which to do that and he wants us to know it too. My determination is to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. May every Christian proclaim this and practice this for the glory of God.

Child Rearing

Through The Instruction
and Training Of The Lord

By Rev. Chil Soo Cho

(13th District, Pastor for Newlyweds)

I have three children. I don't know about other children, but it seems to me that my children really like me. Everyday, as I approach my home, my children are waiting for me, calling for me from the third floor. They do this at the same time everyday, whether they actually see me yet or not. When I enter the doorway of my home, my children express their joy of my arrival with yelling and jumping about. This is especially true of my youngest one, who continuously calls, "Abba! Abba! Abba!" until I pick him up and hug him. This time of the day, when I come home is the happiest moment I know. It is certainly a form of stress relief for me after a long, hard day.

I am continuously thankful to God for these wonderful gifts of my children. Whenever I think of them, I feel the weight of my obligation as a pastor and father for them. Whatever I teach my children, it is based upon Ephesians 6:4, "Bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." This is my principle to teach and

nourish my children because since God gave them to me as gifts, I should respect this honor with all my heart before the Lord.

However, this is not easy for me because the general education system today is not based on biblical principles. I am tempted at times to follow the earthly forms of education that surround me and my children. So, I often pray for my children, according to my own thoughts that they will be very successful and achieve greatness in society. Yet, whenever I look back upon what I have done for my children in this manner, I am grieved before God.

I am now regularly challenged to remember that these children are not really mine, but gifts from the Lord. They need to be raised as God's children, with the ideas and principles He has for them, not according to the lesser ideals I have for them.



A Joyful House

By Jae Min Jeon (Junior High, 2nd Year)

I come from a large family. Four generations live in my home. My great-grandmother and grandparents live on the fourth floor, my uncle and aunt live on the third floor and on the second floor are my parents, my older brother and myself. Another aunt and uncle live nearby as well.

Whenever I mention all this about my family, people often express amazement and maybe even some envy. The best part about all this to me is how we can cook and eat together. When I arrive home after school, I have a wide variety of choices of where to get a snack I can choose from any of the four floors! When dinner is ready, it is very easy at my house to gather everyone together, since everyone is within hearing distance. This is what makes my home a joyful place to live. Recently, my mother cooked mul naeng myun (cold noodles) and the taste was so delicious,

not so much because of the food itself, but rather because of the company shared while eating it. I fully enjoy the relationships I have with all these family members. When I am asked to help my grandparents or others, this is quite convenient for me. We are also fully aware of how each of us are doing and we can knowingly keep each other in prayer. I am especially proud of all the talent that exists within my family, especially in singing. My mother is an alto, my father a tenor, my uncle a bass. I assist my father by singing bass, while the rest sing soprano while my grandfather conducts us all. During a Friday Prayer and Praise Service last year, my entire family sang before the congregation. This was a special honor I'll never forget. I feel so blessed by living together with all my family members and I pray and trust we will continue to maintain our blessing of relationship in the Lord.

Small Blossoms of
Thankfulness
and AppreciationWouldn't It Be Wonderful If
Everyone Believed in Jesus and
Lived in His Peace?By Hyea Lim Im
(Elementary, 1-2 Year)

Dear Jesus,

I have done many bad things in my life, such as quarrelling and shifting blame to my sister, beating up on my younger brother and the like. But, now I want to be a faithful daughter and not do these bad things as I used to do. Jesus, wouldn't it be really wonderful if everyone believed in You? I want to follow You and help meet the needs of others. I want very much to bring my friends to church. I know that although my parents have a difficult time looking after me, they and my Sunday School teacher are all looking after me to teach me about the Bible. I am so thankful they still are caring for me in this way, despite my poor behavior. I love you, Jesus!

I Really Like To Go To
Choong Hyun ChurchBy Sung Woo Bae
(Elementary, 1-2 Year)

Jesus,

I am so proud of the fact that I go to one of the largest churches in the world. I'm not

proud so much of the church, as I am of the people, such as the pastors, Sunday School teachers and the choir members. I like what I see and what I am doing at Choong Hyun Church. I pray that a lot of people will believe in Jesus Christ and that if there is anyone with false faith, they will attain genuine faith through the members of Choong Hyun Church. When I grow up, I want to be just like Rev. Sung Kwang Kim, to honor and glorify You! Jesus, please look after me.

Bringing Joy to Jesus By Bringing
Friends to HimBy Hyo Sun Park
(Elementary, 3-4 Year)

Dear Grandpa,

My church has a checklist to keep a record of what books of the Bible we have read. I'd like to see my list remain at the top. But, I have a problem. Whenever I read the Bible, I have difficulty understanding it. But don't worry Grandpa, I am continuing to try. Many of my friends at school believe in Buddhism. Even my best friend at school is a Buddhist believer too. However, I feel nervous telling her about Jesus Christ, because I am afraid she will ask, "Why should I believe in Him?" and I won't know how to answer. Grandpa, please pray for me that I will be able to witness for Jesus to my friends at school with a confident heart. I know that if I do this, I will bring joy to Jesus' heart.

I Pray Today Too

By Sara Han
(Elementary, 3-4 Year)

I don't read the Bible very often these days or memorize scripture. Instead, I like playing with my friends during the Sunday services. However, in reflection, I find this embarrassing, considering what Jesus did for me on the cross. I do hope I will become more disciplined in my school and church life. So, I pray again today, "Lord, help me to be a more disciplined child, that I may be pleasing to You. I want to be a faithful child." I believe Jesus will hear my prayer.

My Mother's Encouragement for Me:
Trust in the Lord During DifficultyBy Sun Ah Yoo
(Elementary, 5-6 Year)

My mother has always helped me to solve my problems. She is like a good friend, I enjoy her so much! Her strategy to help me solve my problems is to view them in the light of Jesus Christ and His love. She has always encouraged me to seek the Lord and I am learning to be faithful in doing this. So, I am now eager to pray to the Lord when I have problems and I sincerely feel that He is my friend. I love Him so!

In the Mission Field

News from Suriname

By Sok Yeol Ahn
(Missionary in Suriname)

The biggest problem for the natives in Suriname is the intestinal worm. Their lack of sanitary awareness allows them not to wear shoes and eat whatever they take from the trees. There are many people suffering from the worms. Some of them have even lost their loved ones. Therefore there is a big need for the missionaries to have medicine for treating mawworms. I admire Deaconess Myung Oak Kwon who has sent a lot of medicine, including anthelmintic drugs. I can give the medicine to those who really need it.

When I visited a village, Pikinsharon, on March 5th, one of the village people came to me and informed me of the news that intestinal worms were coming out from two children's (a 1 - year and a 3 - year old) mouths. I went to visit the children's house and gave them the rest of the anthelmintic drug. After the children took the medicine I shared the word of God with the whole family and with the other people gathered there. Please pray for the people here in Suriname, that they might see the glory of God.

News from Sudan

By Young Dae Kim
(Missionary in Sudan)

Kartume University Christian Fellowship recently built a sale counter for Christian books with full permission from the school board. Unfortunately, however, some Muslim students poured petrol on it and burned all books and the counter.

Some of the Christian students who tried to prevent the book burning were badly beaten by these Muslim students. Stoning and knife wounds seriously injured some of the Christian students. Bootorus, one of the Christian students, had to stay in the hospital for three weeks for his head and back injuries. His head was injured by a thrown brick and his back was stabbed by a knife. His backpack was also stolen by the Muslim students.

I would like to encourage all of you to pray for the Christian students at Kartume University to stand firm in their faith and to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.



A letter from the USA

A Donation for Missions with Many Thanks

Dear Sir,

Greetings in the Lord.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thankfulness for what you have sent to us the Korean Choong Hyun Weekly, English Biweekly, and Choong Hyun Manna. It is a big encouragement for us to receive your packages.

The materials you have sent are very helpful for us to learn of the Christian's responsibility and to grow in our faith. Especially, the Biweekly is a very good Christian newsletter for the Korean second generation here in the States to read and grow in their faith.

I enclosed an offering to support your mission work. I also pray regularly for your church, which is doing a lot of good work for the gospel.

I thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Bong Chun Koh
From Lansdale, USA

Short Term Missions

Special Frontiers of the Gospel

Short-Term Missions are a Bridgehead of Mission Strategy

For more effective short-term missions it is essential to have long-term plans and prayer.

Is it a mission trip team or just going to visit a frontier of the gospel?

Some say that the short-term mission is "a mere mission trip," in which anyone can join the team and enjoy traveling abroad with a joyful heart. They may put much less emphasis on it and say, "It is a waste of money and the mere pleasure of traveling abroad." Fortunately, however, many people who are involved in this mission explain that the short-term mission is the light of hope for the people in Korea to shine their love for Christ, or in other words, to participate in the special frontier of the gospel.

Current Situation of the Last Mission Fields

There are some countries that have "unreached tribes," "limited mission fields," and "creative access areas." In these countries, it is no longer possible for the long-term missionaries to stay in safety and spread the gospel to the people. The governments in these countries are traditionally based on Communism, Buddhism, Hinduism or Islam, which prohibits Christianity. However, there are some tentmaking missionaries in these countries and they are working very hard. Tentmaking missionaries are Christians who work regular jobs while seeking opportunities to naturally share the gospel, much like the apostle Paul, who made tents for his livelihood.

Why Short Term Missions?

Since it is impossible for the long-term missionaries to stay in these countries and reach out to the people, the short-term mission is a very worthwhile strategy for these countries because of its flexibility of length of residence. The short-term missionaries can do some work that is impossible for long-term missionaries.

Long-term plans are necessary for Short Term Missions

It is necessary for the short-term missionaries to do long-term research to find possible mission opportunities and to learn about the culture. It is also very important to make a clear and specific plan for effective mission work to take place in the field. Training and support by prayer are very important. Otherwise it is too easy to just waste time and miss the Lord's leading of vital opportunities.

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 (Deaconal Bldg. B 1) at 9:00 am.</i>
Wednesday	Services in the Main Sanctuary 11:00 am and 7:30 pm
Friday	Praise and Pray in the Main Sanctuary 7:30 pm
Daily	Early Morning Prayer Meetings in the Main Sanctuary 4:40 am

Foreign Workers Evangelism Department

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