

GOALS
 Godly Worship Service
 Raising Workers for the Kingdom
 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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'99 Christmas Celebration Worship Praise "Happy Birthday to Jesus"

Sunday Evening Worship Service, December 19

There are two weeks left until the final Christmas of the 20th century. For this occasion, the Gabriel Choir is preparing a performance for Sunday worship service on December 19th. The name of the hymn is "Happy Birthday to Jesus." We look forward to the enthusiastic participation of the congregation.

Uganda Short-Term Mission Team Departs on December 1

**Lay Missionary Soon-joo Lee
 to Serve for One Year**

On December 1, the Uganda short-term mission team (leader: Rev. Seung-soo Lee; members: Choong-gyoon Chang, Tong-gae Yim, Ok-kyung Cho, Seok-jin Kim, Jin-hee Choo, Jung-seop Um, So-young Sohn and Eun-a Choi) started their mission service which will run until December 15. They were selected among trainees who have already completed or are still taking Lay Missionary Training Courses (LMTC). It is an opportunity for them to learn about first-hand actual situations on the mission field. They will participate in various training courses on LAMP (language training), cultural adaptation and other courses, putting into practice what they have learned through the LMTC and helping the churches there as well.

Meanwhile, Lay Missionary Soon-joo Lee is planning to stay Uganda for one year in order to complete her overseas mission and work as an administrative missionary in the RTC (Reformed Theological College) near Kampala (f0Δ>δŪ?). Uganda. Let us all pray for their health, safety and productive training.

Give Our Neighbors Love This Christmas!

The Relief Committee will send Christmas gifts to 320 street cleaners from the Kangnam Ward Office, 35 street cleaners in charge of the church area, 70 officers in local police stations and district (dong) offices, and 75 welfare families in Yoksam-1-dong.

Three Lay Missionaries Headed for Suriname

On December 22, Kyoung-jin Oh, Soo-kyoung Lee, and Jung-eun Han will be sent to Suriname as lay missionaries. They will stay for one year assisting Missionary Seok-ryul Ahn. Missionary Ahn is currently surveying the target area and local residents for their future mission plan.

Prayer Requests...

1. For their deeper relationship with God, stronger faith in Him and spiritual abundance.
2. For their spiritual and physical health, cultural adaptation and prepared souls there to receive the gospel.
3. For a beautiful mission in accordance between our missionaries and the natives.

Prison Evangelical Association

Special Evangelical Rally at Chang Ho Won Military Prison

The Prison Evangelical Association is now planning the '99 Fourth Special Evangelical Rally at the auditorium of Chang Ho Won Military Prison on Thursday, December 16. 220 prisoners and 50 guards are stationed there. Let us all pray for soul-changing work by grace of the Holy Spirit.

Military Evangelism Committee Christmas Gifts for Brothers in Army

As Christmas is rapidly approaching, the Military Evangelism Committee is planning to send Christmas gifts and letters to 277 military servicemen. Let's pray that they may be spiritually and physically strong and, more importantly, maintain their faith in Jesus during their military service.

Police Evangelical Association Evangelical Rally for Police Special Force

The Police Evangelical Association will have an evangelical rally for Police Special Force on December 20.

December 5th was "No-Tardy-Sunday"—Seeking the Worship in Truth and Spirit. executed in all departments under The 1st Education Committee

Over the last month, all departments in the 1st Education Committee have launched a campaign against tardiness to increase punctuality for Sunday worship in cooperation with teachers, students and parents. Being on time for worship is the reflection of an entire church's liveliness, as well as of our Sunday schools.

Christians prepared for worship with confession, thanksgiving and hope, in addition to the work of God's spirit residing among them. They also lead the worship through truly spiritual inspiration, reveal the glory of God that is divine, and bring the worshipers into the grace of God. Through such worship, our faithful forefathers used to experience the holy glory of God, had their wounded souls fully restored, and acquired the heavenly strength to defeat the forces of evil that exist.

Today, few Christians can truly say, "The worship service I attend is something like that." Many modern-day worship services are no longer spiritually prepared or inspired, but improvisational and formal.

Teaching about worship in truth and spirit must start at an early age. More important, being on time to attend worship service indicates a Christian's preparedness for worship. Therefore, the 1st Education Committee declared last Sunday as "No-Tardy-Sunday" and will continue such a campaign not only in our Sunday schools but also throughout the entire congregation, praying for prepared and blessed worship. If we prepare to leave for work on time everyday, doing the same to attend worship service must not be any different.

Workers for the Year 2000

"Whoever Can Be Trusted With Very Little Can Also Be Trusted With Much"

Ceremony for the Appointment of Elders and Deacons, Sunday School Teachers,

Choir Members, Offering Assistants and Worship Guides of Second and Fourth Sunday Worship Services

Today, church workers for year 2000 were officially appointed. Appointed workers comprise elders and deacons, parish leaders, the second and fourth Sunday worship services choir members, offering assistants, and worship ushers. Other choir members and assistants for the first, third and fifth Sunday worship services will be appointed on December 19.

Those selected to serve must recall Luke 16:10, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much," and prepare themselves with the grace of the gospel, the wisdom of God, and the strength of the Holy Spirit.



by Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

“FATHER, FORGIVE THEM”

(Luke 23:34)

Today's message is about forgiveness. In order to understand, and thus experience forgiveness, we must apprehend the cross. Unless we go to Calvary, we don't know how the Lord God forgives us. What kinds of things can we learn from there? Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (v. 34). Forgive who? Jesus was referring to His tormentors. — the men who had crucified Him. When we face Calvary, we have to see who we really are in comparison to who Jesus really is. Forgive them for what? Jesus was talking about their sin,

stinging throughout His body. His labor of love to save His enemies and give His love to sinners enables us to see His beautiful endurance.

What else do we find when we go to Calvary? We see His appearance as love. How does Jesus show His love? Through prayer. His prayer, every word of it, is pure love. He's dying and the pain of His death is excruciating. He has no strength as His life is slowly slipping down to the point of death. Even so, He prays. Despite His physical torture, He proclaimed to the criminal who confessed his faith, “Truly I say to

dying for them—in agony He asks for Him to please forgive them. What is real love? Forgiveness. Without forgiveness, there is always guilt. So, when we go to Calvary we know His forgiveness. We know how wide it is. We know that it has no limitations. The place where they hit, spit, insulted and pierced His waist is the same place He immediately forgave them.

Complete forgiveness came at Calvary, when Jesus cried, “It is finished” (see Jn. 19:30)! Amazing! Is there one thing that He cannot forgive them? No! Absolutely NO! John the Baptist preached, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (see Jn. 1:29)! Jesus' forgiveness has no restrictions. Let's hear His command, “Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions” (Mk. 11:25). No one has a right to claim the Christian spirit who refuses to forgive an enemy. Each Christian must forgive those who have trespassed against them, just as their Heavenly Father has forgiven them.

Let's remember Stephen, “Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them!’ Having said this, he fell asleep” (Acts 7:60). Can you believe he set free his enemies? As the stones hit his face, head and chest, he calls out to God to not hold this sin against them. Then, he just fell asleep. He was relieved because he forgave them. He had total peace within himself. His glory was God's glory of His love through Jesus Christ on the cross. This love understands that forgiveness is necessary.

Jesus was referring to His tormentors, the men who had crucified Him. When we face Calvary, we have to see who we really are in comparison to who Jesus really is. Forgive them for what? Jesus was talking about their sin, noting they did not know what they were doing.

noting they did not know what they were doing. When we go to Calvary Mountain, we have to clearly find our sins—that's the real objective!

How can Jesus forgive them for killing Him? How can He love His murderers? Even though they nailed His hands and feet to a cross, He still loved them. It was this love for mankind that enabled Him to pray for their forgiveness. How does His mercy and grace confront sin? As He was suffering and dying, experiencing tremendous physical pain from hanging by a tree, His voice sounded the words of love. We still hear His voice! Let's really look and learn from Him—learn more about His lovely confession and find out more about His awesome love.

First, we find at Calvary Christ's endurance of love. He endured cruelty, the most despicable death. Through extreme shame, He still patiently said, “Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8). The Son of God came to this earth as a man. Do you know how humble of an act that is? Not only that, but He was obedient to the point of death—death on a cross! Back then, nothing entailed more shame than crucifixion. The suffering of Jesus made Him qualified to be the leader of man's salvation, “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2). He is the perfecter of faith because He endured the cross and despised the shame for the joy of bringing many sons to glory. Amazing! He never complained as He felt the tremendous suffering and pain and throbbing and

you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise” (see Lk. 23:43). Isn't that a lovely voice? Although in great pain, He reaches out to another. And yet, this is only one of His seven cries from the cross.

Jesus' prayers seek to give us the most blessings. He is still praying for us for His love, “Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us” (Rom. 8:34). Jesus wants to intercede for us. “Therefore He

Through extreme shame, He still patiently yield, “Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8). The Son of God came to this earth as a man. Do you know how humble of an act that is? Not only that, but He was obedient to the point of death—death on a cross!

is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Heb. 7:25). Always—Completely—Permanently! This is His daily prayer. This is what shows on the cross.

How does Jesus show His love in prayer on the cross? What were His words? What statement did He make? “Forgive them!” Forgive their sins. That's the climax, the basis of blessing. Because of sin, we can't stand in front of God. Jesus prays forgiveness from God for them. He is letting God know that He is

My dearly loved Choong Hyun friends, we are all sinners, masters of sinners. Let's go to Calvary! Let's hear Jesus' prayer as music to our ears—as the Lord's singing. What did He sing? “Father, forgive them!” Amen! We must focus on the cross of Calvary. Don't go looking for blessing in worldly places (money places, popular places) wasting precious time and effort on worthless and temporary things. Let's go to the cross and pray, praise, and cry out “Lord Father, forgive them—especially for You and me!”

The Lord Answered My Prayer

Eun-hyae Chun (7th grade)

At first, only my little sister and I came to church every Sunday. My parents were Buddhists. Every day and night, I prayed with my sister that Dad and Mom would come to church.

My Christian life began when I was a first grader in elementary school. A friend of mine brought me to a church, and, later, I brought my sister. It was very difficult to find a Christian relative among my family and relatives. Yet, there was a couple of relatives going to church. They prayed for my family, too. There were two things that I envied: an entire family going to church, and 'home worship service'. Then, I thought it wouldn't be very long and kept waiting.

Once my parents told me not to go to church. I cried a lot, as I remember. I kinda imagined that ... that my tears ... they were not simply mine, but of God. There is one verse carved in my heart: "Whoever calls the name of the Lord will be saved." It was like my prayer. I longed for the moment that my parents would cry out the name of the Lord and be saved. Through my tough days, the Lord stood by me all along, guiding me to the correct path.

Finally, my parents allowed me to go to church when I was in fifth grade. Then, a more amazing thing happened! Mom came to the second Sunday worship service! I was filled with joy and thanksgiving to my Lord and many teachers who also prayed for me. Now, I know all that suffering was only the prologue of 'today's glory.' These days, I receive God's blessings through Mom's changed life. At last, I'm praying that Dad and other relatives may know the Lord. Here goes my confidence: family evangelism is only a matter of time! From now on, I will be a missionary - a missionary evangelizing my family members.

"No Such Opportunity When We Were Young ..."



Eleven members of the Uganda short-mission team, including lay missionary Soon-joo Lee (pictured above), who will stay for one year, departed on Wednesday, December 1. Sending them away in the airport, many of us felt wistful: "We had no such opportunity when we were young." Such sadness moves our hearts to pray in tears and love, so that many

young people today could be dispatched all over the world. Thinking of that, we can feel a deep thanksgiving is becoming an aching sensation in our souls.

We look at our little children growing in our church's Sunday schools, and say that we would like to become a foundation of the further 'Acts of the Missionaries' when they are grown up.

The Uganda team plans to return on Wednesday, December 5 and Soon-joo Lee in December 2000. Please pray for them.

(The Mission Committee)

"Because of My Son's Marriage"

Young-sim Chung (New Family Class)

The reason I came to church was because of my son's marriage. Speaking of my son, he became a strong Christian during his college years, and finally decided to become a pastor. I didn't like it at first. Although I wasn't a church member yet, I'd heard a lot about it. I already knew how tough being a minister might be.

Besides, he was the only one who wasn't married while my other children were. Working as an intern pastor, he seemed to just hang around here and there, and I was very anxious if he was working okay to feed himself.

Suddenly, he said, "I'm getting married with a daughter of some church's elder." Then, we set up an appointment to meet the future bride's parents. My son begged us to just follow whatever his future father-in-law would suggest: "If he says 'let's pray,' then you and Dad just pray together, OK?" Of course, my husband and I were in total agreement with my son. When meeting us, the elder - the father of bride - said: "We won't place any conditions on this marriage. All we ask is that you two accept Christ and go to heaven." Actually, we had been thinking about going to church. We even abandoned ancestral worship because of my youngest son's suggestion. Then, the decision to join the church was made faster because of my son's marriage.

Last February, the elder brought us to Choong Hyun Church. We registered in 100% and started attending services every Sunday. Everything was strange and difficult. However, our instructor's help and fellow Christians' love have made us grow this much. It's still not easy for me to read the Bible and sing the hymnals. Nevertheless, these days I memorize Bible verses and read the Bible early in the morning. My husband feels peaceful when listening to praises. The grace of salvation has come upon us like this, because of my son's marriage. He says it's all God's blessing. My husband and I are yet weak in faith, but wish to be God's servants in his precious mission, and go home to God when our lives are through. Praise God!

Afflicted ... then, Restored by God

Myoung-ja Baek (Young Adult)

I used to believe that God's blessing was through His physical healing and material prosperity. In fact, I used to have them. I was active in everything such as serving, praying and evangelism. When my husband quit his old job and started to study to for his architectural license, God made me pray for his soul from that point. One day, the passage in Mark 10:29 struck my heart: "Throw away your possessions for the gospel." For example, I stopped my tutoring job. Unfortunately, the economic crisis struck my family.

It was the winter of 1994. I had no doubt he would pass the architectural licensing exam. However, he failed. Then, the building that we were renting was about to go into auction. We were forced to move out soon. Yet, we found a humble place in front of the church. It was, however, only the beginning of God's strike to humble us. My husband was working but not properly paid. Besides, our debts rapidly increased because of our repeated attempts to overcome this. I had never thought about praying to pay for phone and electrical bills, but that was my reality. I couldn't even buy candy for my child, or give an offering for Sunday worship. God was the only one I could depend on. Every day, I took my little girl to church and prayed as I cried for days and nights. Then, my eyes were open to Jesus who I hadn't been able to see because my eyes had been covered with secular interests. My husband, who had used to say 'prayer is no help' started praying. From that moment, God began to unshackle our difficult lives as gradually my husband kneeled down before God.

In 1996, my husband didn't pass the test again, and I had a unexpected pregnancy. My symptoms were quite serious. In addition, our refrigerator broke down, but we had no money to fix it. As a result, we had to use an ice box. Even though we were living in difficulty, that was still our thanksgiving. During the fourth month of pregnancy, I had a natural abortion,



and my physical condition was extremely weak. Consequently, I couldn't go to the morning prayer service, and had to stay in my bed. Then, I read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 — "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I saw everything was lost, but God told me to give thanks. I obeyed and cried giving my thanks to Him. I truly realized that I was only a 'jar of clay'. My life belonged to God, even if it was slowing down. Then, I decided to give my life to the Lord and go to a theological seminary. There was no money for tuition, but God allowed me to go to school and

finish my studies. It was just like God's promise in the Bible: "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matt. 6:33)."

God took away all of mine, but still demanded that I be grateful to Him. During winter, I had to sit in a cold room and eat simple meals. Even then, the Lord sat by me and showed me Jesus who came to earth in the most humiliating manner possible. God never permitted me to have anything that blocks my eyes to Jesus. God takes away all secular desires and gives me the most precious Jesus, because He loves me. When we stay in Christ, God restores us with much better treasures, for He is faithful to us. "It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees (Psalms 119:71)."

This year, our longstanding problems were resolved, and God gave us a beautiful son. My husband finally passed his exam and received part of his unpaid wages. If we rightly stand in Christ, there would be nothing to lose or gain. For Christ himself is most fulfilling of all. Recalling the command of God to Israelites in Deuteronomy 18:13 — "You must be blameless before the Lord your God" — when they were entering the promised land, now I am to carry out my duty according to God's will and to continue in thanksgiving in every way.

Epilogue: International Thanksgiving Food Festival "Let Us Come to the Lord with Thanksgiving!"



On November 21, the International Thanksgiving Food Festival was hosted by the Choong Hyun English Ministry and Evangelism Department for Foreigners. About 200 foreigners and 350 Koreans attended sampling various foods and watching cultural performances from 10 nations: China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Korea, Mongolia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, North America (the U.S. and Canada) and Uzbekistan. Participants gave positive evaluations of the festival's cultural diversity and fellowship with brothers and sisters both from Korea and abroad. They also cited the traditional costumes from Mongolia and Sri Lanka as a highlight of the festivities.

A song of unity concluded the afternoon. Although the festival lasted only one afternoon, it was a unique and blessed event to meet and learn about various people and cultures in addition to giving their thanks to God and have meaningful fellowship.

Leaving For Uganda

Soon-joo Lee (Short-Term Lay Missionary)

On December 1, I'm going to leave for Uganda on a one-year, short-term mission. Long ago, 'mission' was a strange word to me. Now, it has become a part of me, and I think all my experiences of growing and learning were for the mission.

It was last August when I decided on participating in the Uganda mission, right after a short-term mission in Kenya. Well, a bit of anxiety came into my heart, making me worry if my decision was because of momentary emotion. However, God granted me consistent faith and joy, and stayed with me all along.

Just like Abraham trusting God's word and leaving his hometown, I will trust God who leads me in every way. I hope that I may be able to throw away my accustomed culture and learn the idea and life pattern of other people. Most of all, I wish to continue my profound relationship with God, carrying out my duty as a commissioned watcher. One year in Uganda is only a fraction of my life until I see God when all things are through. Longing to see his face after all my days, I pray that I always listen to and follow God.

"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light."

Col. 1:9-12

The above word will live in me, for not only the next year but also my entire life.

Overwhelming Blessing in LMTC

Kyoung-hee Kim

My memory is still vivid about the moment when I applied for the training course. My heart was pounding in a mixed rhythm of joy and curiosity. How fast time flies! I have already finished the entire course of training. At the Lay Missionary Training Center!

I used to carry tons of books on missions in my arms on the way home. I didn't even know the sun was rising, for I was intensely studying late into the night, sitting in front of my computer. My narrow perspective about short-term mission was changed and corrected by many passionate lectures.

Unforgettable moments include my time in Sri Lanka (for field training), overnight prayer meeting and training in Chong Hyun Prayer Mountain, an incredibly punctual '7 o'clock snack' right after the lecture finished (I had bread and yogurt), language training classes, and the flaming passion of Bethany Hall. I still have a vivid recollection of them.

Super-sincere lecturers, super-nice mission center's staffs — they gave all the possible administrative assistance for a flawless lecture schedule, and silent workers who served us. I give my thanks to all of them. Well, the flame in Bethany Hall will probably continue at 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

Now, I think about the Lord who blessed me with all these precious things. There comes a whole new expectation for what will come next! All going to do, I'm in gaze on the Lord's hand.

Evangelism Evaluation Whole New Way of Evangelism '99 Parish Evangelism

Parishes are at the forefront of evangelism. In past, they were active supporters for The Evangelism Committee's ministries in rural and local communities around the church. This fall, however, they had their own evangelical rallies and events inviting potential believers around them. Thanks to the efforts of parish members, the outcome was successful. Let us now take a closer look at the parish evangelism rallies held in 1999.



Relationship Evangelism

The core feature of this year's evangelism is 'relationship evangelism'. They selected as their evangelical targets people, such as their families, relatives and close neighbors and built a human relationship with them in order to get closer and tell about the gospel. This is impossible without living a true Christian life. It takes time, love and patience to show the true power of the gospel through our lives. Therefore, the chance to practice 'relationship evangelism' not only inspired evangelism toward unbelievers, but also challenged us in regard of a life according to the word of God.

Cooperative Evangelism

Not all parishes conducted evangelical rallies. Instead, many parishes united with one another to hold evangelical rallies and events. They shared resources such as choir and orchestra members and other assistants at the events. Such cooperation brought about a more natural and comfortable atmosphere for newcomers which enabled them to quickly adjust and interact with fellow church members.

Festive Evangelism

Most parishes prepared their rallies in a festival format. For example, they prepared drama presentations, musical performances, and banquet meals. In some cases, some had a mini-olympics



creating a more natural environment for newcomers to have fellowship together and listen to the gospel.

Pastoral Care Evangelism

Since this year's evangelism is mostly based on relationship evangelism, anyone who has been invited can receive constant pastoral care. During the event day, an environment for a comfortable and natural fellowship was prepared for participants. They were then joined in parish services and other various group meetings, so that there could be further opportunities for them to receive consistent pastoral care and assistance.

Loving Evangelism

Some parishes had beautiful moments to visit their poor neighbors who need their attention and support. The objective of evangelical rallies was to further to strengthen their love toward their neighbors.

We pray that these beautiful services may not only continue in 2000 but also grow spiritually to bring more passionate love toward all souls.