

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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Foreign Workers Sports Festival

In order to Share the Gospel



The Foreign Workers Evangelism Department, a division under the Mission Committee, will have the Bi-Annual Sports Festival for foreign workers in Sundong Elementary School and Choong Hyun Prayer Garden on September 25th, Saturday. This was to establish stronger fellowship with them in Jesus Christ. The department decided to invite all the foreign workers in Seoul who already received the gospel through the sacrificial work of many volunteers from the department and others who had not heard the gospel yet.

Many foreign workers come to Korea with a dream of making a lot of money and then returning home, yet many of them face terribly unexpected cultural problems here in Seoul. Some of them are

working for very long hours, 10-12 hours a day to achieve their dream of richness in a short time period within a poor work environment. Shortly, they find out that it is not as easy to succeed as they thought. They have to face cultural and linguistic problems, which are not very helpful for them to pursue their purpose.

The festival is a wonderful opportunity for them to see their friends from their home country and others from different countries. Even for a day, they can enjoy and encourage each other while they share their difficult situations. It is also a very good opportunity for the department to encourage them in Christ and share the gospel during the festival. There have already been many foreign workers who accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior and returned their home countries with the richness in faith instead of only the richness in finance. The department regularly contacts them to encourage them to stand firm in their faith and spread the gospel among their family members and around to their neighbors.

Many volunteers have been great supporters for the festival each year. Many people have already volunteered to serve the foreign workers during the festival. Actually it is not easy to volunteer for this event during the special Korean traditional holiday, 'Chuseok.' All the family members are required to gather together to celebrate the harvest with their families. The department is so thankful for all the volunteers and hopes many foreign workers will join this festival to establish good fellowship in Christ.

Raising Workers for the Kingdom

Granting '99 Second Semester Scholarships

Church Awards Scholarships for '99 Second Semester Students

Choong Hyun Church awarded 398 scholarships at the evening service on September 12th. Those who received the scholarships ranged from junior high school to graduate level students. The number of students that received awards is the total for the entire year of 1999, including both spring and fall semesters. Among the awards, there were 12 full-time scholarships (which increased by 4 this semester), 167 received general scholarships and 15 ministerial candidates also received scholarship awards. The total amount of money awarded for the second semester was 138,600,000 won. The total scholarship amount awarded for 1999 was 275,500,000 won. There were 20 full-time scholarship applicants, but those who were selected had completed a six-month training course. All those who received scholarships will have weekly prayer meetings and spiritual training throughout the coming year to help mature their faith and put it into action. We ask the church members to

pray for those who were honored by the scholarships, that they may remain faithful workers for the Kingdom. We pray that more students will be eligible for additional scholarships in the future.

Two More Countries Added for Short-Term Missions

The Missions Committee has decided to add the countries of Sri Lanka and Uganda for mission trips to be held in 1999-2000. To Uganda, 10 people will be sent from December 1st to 15th in 1999. The team members will be students from the Layperson's Missionary Training Course for practical experience at field work. The information about the Sri Lankan missions trips will be announced soon.

Helping Earthquake Victims in Turkey

Our church service committee requested that we help assist some of the earthquake victims in Turkey. The church session has approved the decision to donate \$5,000 to the Turkish Embassy here in Seoul. We pray for those who lost family members and homes that they will be encouraged by the support they receive from others and even more importantly, by the love of Christ.

We sincerely consider the Turkish people to be our neighbors and we will keep them in our prayers. We also continue to pray for those around the world that have recently had natural disasters occur in their homelands.

Choong Hyun to Publish Mongolian Bibles For Local Mongolian Residents

The church has decided to support the publishing of 5,000 copies of Mongolian Bibles to give to local Mongolian residents here in Korea. This is with the intent to have more effective ministry results among this important group of people.

We are thankful for the short-term mission team who went to Mongolia last summer and brought Mongolian Bibles with them so that they could be used for publishing purposes. This arrangement was approved by the Mongolian Bible Association. The Korean Bible Association has agreed to do the publication work to make these Mongolian Bibles possible.

Wanted:

Goods for Missions To Be Shipped to Sudan

The Missions Committee is collecting goods that would be suitable for Sunday School and Youth Ministry in Sudan. The intent is to help improve the ability of the missionaries who serve there with material goods.

It is suggested that the following items be donated: second-hand computers (over 30 needed, with the most up-to-date features such as 486 and above), and second-hand sewing machines (at least 5 needed).

Please contact the Missions Committee for more information (World Missions Center Building, ext. 356).



by Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

JACOB'S LADDER

(Genesis 28:10-22)

Before Jacob departed from his home in Beersheba he received a really wonderful blessing from his father, Isaac: "May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. May He also give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your descendants with you, that you may possess the land of your sojournings, which God gave to Abraham" (see Gen. 28:3-4). Even with this lovely blessing it was difficult for Jacob to travel alone through the wilderness to reach his uncle Laban's distant land. Jacob was a tender young man who was not accustomed to physical stress. He was what we might term a houseboy, someone who is good at cooking, cleaning, and washing, but not hunting and fighting. The journey to his uncle's home in Haran was far, and covered by mostly desert. As such, Jacob had to overcome many obstacles in order to survive. His two biggest liabilities were his physical weakness and his brother's wrath. His two biggest assets were his belief in God and his parents' blessing.

Alone in the desert that first night, Jacob settled in a place called Peniel which was about fifty-five miles away from his father. He had to concern himself with the real possibility that his brother, Esau, might be following him and trying to kill him. He needed to hide himself from this danger. He was scared. He was tired. He was lonesome. There was no one to give him a bed. Even though he received a lovely blessing, his whole outside world was heavily burdened. As he rested underneath the stars, inside he prayed for the Lord God to lead and guide him. He confessed his sins, he acknowledged his fear, he brought all his worldly troubles before the Lord.

That very night he had a dream. This wasn't an ordinary dream. He dreamed about a ladder, a ladder that connected heaven to earth. He saw angels of God climbing up and down the ladder. He saw the Lord God stand above the ladder. Not only did he see these things, but he heard the Lord God speak to him and say, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. Your descendants shall also be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you" (vv. 13-15). Amazing!!! God introduced himself to Jacob in a dream. He identified Himself as the God of Isaac and Abraham. Without doubt, Jacob knew who was speaking to him because he was familiar with his father's family history and religion.

God confirmed to Jacob the Abrahamic covenant, and added the promise of His presence with Jacob wherever Jacob would go. Even though Jacob wasn't married, God promised him that his descendants would be like the dust of the earth. Even though Jacob

was leaving his father's land, God promised him that he would bring him back. Even though Jacob deceived his father, God heard his sincere prayer, forgave his sins, and blessed him. God promised Jacob His very own presence and protection wherever he went. God promised Jacob that He would not leave him until His covenant was fulfilled.

My dear friends, this is God's sermon! Jacob heard God's sermon. He listened to the voice of God proclaim that He would be with him, and bring him back to the very ground he now slept on. Of course, this was a long-term blessing. Jacob wanted and needed some earthly things now, but God said not right now. Instead, God promised to be with Him. The idea is that Jacob need not be anxious. This promise was also given to Joshua (see Jos. 1:5), but more importantly it is given to all Christian believers wherein God tells us, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you" (see Heb. 13:5). That's our God! He is the One who is faithful and true! He is the only One with the power to fulfill His promises.

For Jacob, this dream was his first time meeting

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and confronting God. He knew before about God through his father's faith and religion, but now he really had faith. This faith was in his own God. He said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it" (v. 16). He hadn't realized, he didn't know the Lord God before, but now his eyes were opened. Now, he was able to worship God. He took the stone that he had slept on, anointed it with oil, and truly worshipped his God. He understood that he was not alone. He now had a personal relationship with God. His father's God had truly become his own loving God.

Jacob dreamed about a ladder. He actually saw the most special ladder of this world. What specifically did he see? He saw angels coming down and going up this beautiful ladder. He saw angels stepping down from heaven to earth, and climbing up from this world to heaven. Heaven and earth were joined together by a ladder, and above the ladder God was there. This is the way God gave to Jacob. That ladder, that spot, shows us the New Testament cross. If you look closely, Jesus is there. He is the connection between heaven and earth. When humans come to the cross they can go to heaven. God has provided a way for Himself to come down and for humans to go up.

We can see the way to heaven right here in today's passages.

Jacob didn't have any friends or relatives to give him refuge in the desert. God gave him refuge, God gave him rest, and God gave him a permanent covenant. Though Jacob wasn't even married, God still promised him Abraham's blessing, and to bring him back to this land. Jacob was a terrible young man. He was a deceiver and manipulator. He was not innocent, he was guilty, but by the grace of God he received the covenant promise, and the coming blessings. Because he was to come back to this blessed land he changed its name from Peniel to Bethel (v. 19).

Later in Genesis, chapter 32, we read of Jacob finally returning home after many years. He comes back with his huge family and abundant material blessings. We see him giving up his material blessings, and leaving his family. When he is completely alone, we find him fighting with an angel, holding on for dear life to this angel until he receives a blessing. God educated Jacob towards the meaning of real blessing. Before, God was his father's God. At Bethel, that first night, God became his God, but Jacob didn't have a full understanding for he vowed, "If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, and I return to my father's house in safety, then the Lord will be my God" (vv. 20-21). This is one of the dumbest vows! It really shows how immature and stupid Jacob is because he asks only for earthly blessings from God. He totally misses the big picture!

Jacob calculates his own circumstances and satisfaction. He is like doubting Thomas who wouldn't believe his fellow disciples testimony of seeing Jesus. Thomas wanted to actually see and feel Jesus' wounds in order to believe. That's like our faith today. We always calculate, test, and many times fail to recognize the full deity of Jesus Christ. But still amazing generosity and patience is given to us. Upon seeing Jesus, Thomas cried out, "My Lord and my God" (see Jn. 20:28). Jacob cried out to the Lord God, "I will not let you go unless you bless me" (Gn. 32:26). Jacob finally realized the importance of heavenly blessings.

Still, God meets us. He still gave Jacob and Thomas the conditions they needed to fill His promise. All the people at Babel wanted to reach God through the tower (see Gn. 11), but they couldn't see God that way. When we humbly cry and pray, like Jacob, God hangs down a ladder. Whenever God's salvation time is prayed for, He reveals Himself, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (see Ps. 46:1). Jacob was able to recognize how awesome a place he was in. He said, "This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven" (v. 17). What a wonderful message! Even though humans are so terrible, God meets us when we sincerely pray. Jacob really prayed that night, and God heard his prayer. God still meets us.

A Prayer for CEM

By Bu Sung Lee

(Senior Deacon, Vice-Director of English Ministry)

Our Gracious Father,

We praise your name for you have called us to come here today to worship you. We come from many different cultural backgrounds and languages and yet we are sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ, who is the head of the church. We have gathered together to honor and worship you. Let us open our hearts and worship you with all that we have and all that we are.

We thank you for keeping us safe under your graceful wings. We find a confident rest under them. We also thank you for Jesus who died on the cross to grant us forgiveness and eternal life. Father, we are seeking your forgiveness. We have been proud, thinking only of ourselves rather than giving you the glory you deserve. We have been selfish and greedy rather than considering each other's needs. We say, "Father, we are so sorry, please forgive us."

You have blessed us in many different ways. You sent missionaries to Korea about hundred year ago. Now we are blessed to have many seminaries and churches here in Korea. There are many young people who are willingly volunteering themselves to go abroad to spread Your Word. There are also many missionaries who have been sent from Korean churches to other nations around the world. We praise Your Name for the endless blessings you have given us. Let us take these blessings as encouragement for us to stand firm in our faith to spread the gospel throughout the world. We also pray for the relationship between South and North Korea. Recently, there have been many meetings and negotiations between them. We thank you for the opportunities to talk with people from North Korea, to help improve the current situation that South and North Korea face. We hope and pray for the day when people from South and North will gather together and establish fellowship together and worship the Lord God Almighty together in harmony. We pray for the earthquake victims in Turkey. Bless those who lost family members and places to stay. We pray for their rapid recovery from this natural disaster. Lord, we also pray for the leaders in our church. You have sent many leaders to this church. Bless the leaders to lead this church as you would lead it. Let the leaders be good instructors to teach your grace and love, which you have shown on the cross. You gave your life for all of us to deliver us from evil. We bow down before you to praise your name and to worship you. Let us be instruments for your ministry to spread the Good News to our neighbors nearby and far around the world. We pray for the many missionaries around the world. Strengthen them with your mighty power so that they may be able to carry all the burdens they may have in their mission fields. Guide them with your invincible wisdom so that they may overcome all deceitful thoughts and evil powers.

Heavenly Father,

Bless us to open our hearts to listen your word and be humble to receive your word. Help us to understand the power of the cross and be humble before your throne. Lead us to lean on you and trust you with all our hearts and minds. Encourage us to follow the Holy Spirit's leading in our daily lives. We pray all these things in Jesus Name. Amen.

Courage: Where can we find it?

Many of us face job stress and other storms throughout our daily lives. They can be full of trials that test our abilities and integrity. We may often try to find courage from some special book or item or from special persons such as fortunetellers and others we consider to be wiser than ourselves. However, finding courage in the midst of difficult circumstances can be much more commonly obtained than we may suspect.

To find courage, it is a very essential thing for all of us to ask, "Where is my source of courage?" and "Where does it come from?" Once we know the source of our courage, it will be much easier for us to be strengthened and encouraged by it. What then is our source of courage?

Many of us understand the source of courage to be within people who have some sort of supernatural power, including an assurance the future and prediction of a successful life. However these powers are not where we as Christians should be looking to obtain courage. Something or someone had to provide that supernatural power to them. So, these powers do not really come from those who claim to have them. They merely received the supernatural power from another source. This ultimately means that courage, which is provided to those who have the supernatural power is only temporary, and therefore does not assure us of what we are looking for because it is not from the original source. It is only second-hand



information at best! In addition, the ultimate source these fortunetellers and others depend upon, may very well be our adversary, Satan, if not just human imagination. So, in any case, for Christians to depend upon these types of sources for courage is foolish and unwise.

If we keep seeking to find the original source, we will also find courage that never fails us. The original source is Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for us. Could just someone who died on a cross be our source of courage? The answer is "No." Those who died on a cross were executed because of their crimes. However, the crucifixion and death of Jesus is a different event. He did not die because of His own crimes, but because of ours. He died on the cross to grant us a new life. He is the original source of our new life. He is not only giving life to us, but He lives in us as the primary source of courage and life. Hence, whoever believes in Him will have the courage to face life because he lives within the original source of courage, Jesus. He had the courage to face a painful death after living a human life. He endured until the end and now lives again. Why did he have the courage to do this? He knew the sovereignty and love of His Father would endure and nothing would change that. So, He had the courage to face difficulties without depending upon any other source but His Father. Do we live confidently in that type of courageous thinking? May we meditate more upon who Jesus is and allow Him to be our source of courage.

Learning to Write in the Sand

Forwarded by Henrique
(From Rio de Janeiro Brazil)

Two great Arabian merchants, known as Amir and Farid, were best friends and always traveled around markets together to sell their merchandise in their caravans as their slaves and employees followed along. During one of their journeys, they happened to pass by a river. The water was so clean and cool and it was a hot day. Farid decided to take a bath to beat the heat. He jumped down into the river. All of a sudden, as he was relaxing in the water, he was dragged away by the rapid water current. Amir, seeing that his best friend's life was at risk, ran and dived into the water, and with unprecedented effort, he was able to save his friend Farid. After this episode, Farid called one of his slaves and ordered him to carve in a rock by the river the following phrase: "Here at the risk of his life, Amir saved his friend Farid."

On the way back home, they returned to the same place where the carved rock was. They decided to take a break to see the rock and reaffirm their friendship. They stopped for a short break. While they talked about business, they began to quarrel. Amir got really upset and frustrated by the hotly-opinionated Farid. He couldn't bear it any more and he slapped his friend Farid. This seemed to be the end of their

friendship. They felt this was the end of everything they have done together and the script in the rock had become worthless. However, Farid again commanded the same slave who wrote the script of the greatness of Farid in the rock to write this next phrase in the sand. "Here, for futile reasons, Amir slapped Farid." The slave asked: "Sir, when you were saved, you ordered me to carve the fact in a rock and now you are commanding me write in the sand of the insult that you received. If I may ask, why did you do this?" Farid answered him: "The acts of love, goodness, and self-denial must be recorded in a rock so that everyone can read it. Then, when they have a chance to practice their love in their real life, they can. They can at least imitate what we wrote in the rock. In contrast, however, when we receive an offense, we should write it in the sand beside the water. Then, when the smallest of waves come, they will erase what we wrote in the sand. It disappears just like a daydream. Nobody will notice it or learn from it. Likewise we should not carve things in our hearts against our brothers and sisters, but instead write them in the sand of forgetfulness. All our heartaches will then disappear just like a daydream.

(Author Unknown)

Spiritual Warfare
in Matta, Suriname

By Seok Yul Ahn
(Missionary in Suriname)



Greetings in the Lord,

I recently started early morning prayer meetings in our fellowship in Matta, much like many Christians throughout Korea attend now. I hope and pray that the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit will occur in Matta, just as it did long ago in the Upper Room during Pentecost.

Matta doesn't have a water system available. So, they get their water primarily from rain water and they are careful to save all they can. Electricity is only available from 6 p.m. to midnight each day. The mosquito netting is useless there because the mosquitos can easily get through it. However, this is normal life for all of us here in Matta, so we don't complain. Since we started the early morning prayer meetings, there have been distractions and interruptions in our ministry from different groups in the area, including the tribal chief and some Catholics. Many church members have seen a heightening of family problems, especially among their non-Christian members.

My hope is to lead all the church members to a closer relationship to the Lord, so I request your prayers for me that I might lead them wisely to win the spiritual war we are currently facing.

Let the Whole World Acknowledge God
as the Only Ruler

By Joseph Huh (Missionary Layperson in Alexandria, Egypt)

Greetings in the Peace of Jesus Christ from Alexandria,

Our God is the true God whose name is Jehovah, the Lord. He is the only one who made the whole world and will be honored by all people and creatures. However, in the Middle East, there are many Islamic countries that worship Allah without question. They kneel down and worship Allah without any conscious reason, but only because they were led astray to believe that Allah is the creator. Please pray for the people of the Middle East that they will know the true Creator God.

From July 9-11, I visited a village located in southern Egypt. I learned that church has grown there, since I last visited two years ago. I was pleased and encouraged by this growth. The church is not strong enough to support a full-time minister yet. The congregation members total 300, but the total offering in this economically struggling area is approximately only 40,000 won per month. In this village, there are about 2,000 Christians, but most are not practicing their faith regularly. On the first day of my visitation, I did door-to-door evangelism under 40 degree Celsius weather, so as you might imagine I had to continuously drink water. The evening brought no relief of the heat and the flies kept flying around me. Yet, my heart was full of joy seeing these dear brothers and sisters of mine in Christ. I talked with them late into the night about the love of God which cannot be restrained by borders or nationalities or language or culture.

During this trip, I preached in Arabic for the first time. I have led Bible studies before in Arabic, but this preaching experience was new for me. It wasn't easy, but I am thankful to the Lord for His encouragement. I hope and pray that His wisdom will guide me to improve my spoken Arabic so that I may more clearly communicate the good news to the ones who are so ready to hear it.

Operation World: Russia

Guaranteed to Preach the Gospel for Now

Russia today remains the largest country in the world, due to its immense geographical size. In 1995, its population was estimated to be 153,646,000. The population is mostly spread toward the western European side, while a third remains scattered throughout Siberia. The entire country has 11 time zones.

Since the fall of Communism in 1991, many of Russia's prayer needs have dramatically changed. Please pray for these needs:

- 1) The disillusionment, fear of the future and feelings of helpless anger that have arisen since 1991. The shaky political and economic policies, plus the backdrop of the religious vacuum that was enforced for so long, have allowed many Russians to open their hearts to true and false forms of the good news. Pray for wisdom and discernment among the leaders and many people groups that they will seek the truth and find it in Jesus Christ.
- 2) The gospel now has the constitutionally-guaranteed freedom to be preached throughout

Russia. The long-standing influence of the Orthodox Church has re-emerged and been strongly reaffirmed throughout many parts of Russia. Many Orthodox leaders remained faithful and kept their integrity during the reign of Communism, while others appeared to compromise their faith and assist the Communists. This has brought about a certain measure of skepticism about the faith. Pray for the continued renewal and strength of the formerly persecuted church leaders, Orthodox and others, that this unique opportunity to spread the gospel can grow grounded in Truth.

3) Russia is made up of several autonomous republics and regions. These areas are often related to particular ethnic groups, languages and religions. Even now, some of these groups are being accused of having connections with the recent bombings that have occurred in Moscow. Pray that the gospel can communicate true peace in these regions suffering turmoil, including the Republic of Dagestan, which has been under heavy Islamic influence and political assault.

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	Prayer and Praise Service 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