

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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Finalizing the Schedule for Local Missionary Training Course

A Must for all short-term mission volunteers Starts on Mar. 4

The schedule for short-term missions 2000 has been finalized. From Apr. 11 to Uzbekistan to Mongolia on Aug. 15, the Choong Hyun church will send 109 short-term missionaries to nine different countries. In addition, it will also send Evada missions (for the hearing impaired) to Japan this summer so that we can target the hearing disabled. All short-term volunteers are required to take the LMTC course in order to be qualified for the missions. Therefore, the Missions Department urges those who have not taken this course to do so beginning on Sat., Mar. 4. The summer short-term missions and LMTC schedules are as follows:

Short-Term Summer Missions

Country	Schedule	# of Participants	Ministry Focus
Uzbekistan	Apr. 11-22	Seven	Short-Term
Pakistan	Jul. 18-28	Seven	Short-Term
India	Jul. 18-29	Five	Short-Term
Bangladesh	Jul. 20-31	Five	Short-Term
Sri Lanka	Jul. 26-Aug. 9	20	Short-Term
Japan	Aug. 1-11	15	Hearing Impaired
Rwanda	Aug. 2-22	15	Medical
Sudan	Aug. 5-29	20	Medical
Mongolia	Aug. 15-29	15	Medical

LMTC Training Schedule

Eleventh year, first semester
(Mar. 2000-June, every Sat. 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Bethany hall)

Dates	Topics
Mar. 4	Lesson 1 "Abraham Connection"
Mar. 11	Lesson 2 "Unchanging Plan of God"
Mar. 18	Lesson 3 "Message for All People: Jesus Christ"
Mar. 25	"Missions and Language"
Mar. 31	Lesson 8 "Culture and Evangelism"
Apr. 8	Lesson 9 "A Prepared World for the Gospel"
Apr. 14	One-Day Retreat
Apr. 22	Lesson 10 "Mission Complete: A Big Picture for World Evangelism"
Apr. 29	Lesson 11 "Church Planting"
May. 6	Lesson 12 "The Missionary, Church and Organization"
May. 13	Lesson 7 "The Final Frontier"
May. 20	Lesson 13 "Mission Ministry of a Local Church"
May. 26	"Investigation of Local Missionary Relics"
Jun. 3	Lesson 4 "Korean Missions"
Jun. 10	Lesson 5 "Introduction to World Missions"
Jun. 17	Lesson 6 "Four People, Four Eras"
Jun. 24	One-Day Retreat

Language training will be provided in English, Mongolian, Sri Lankan, Hindi, Chinese and Russian.

Short-term Mission to Vietnam

Departed Feb. 14



The short-term mission team (Captain: Elder Kwang Nam Kim; Leader: Rev. Kwang Jin Seo and seven members) to Vietnam departed on Feb. 14. Members completed the LMTC program of our church and as trainees, when they in Vietnam, will receive LAMP language training, explore missions and establish the strategic possibility for future missions. The team will visit some local homes as part of their missions.

Vietnam consists of numerous small tribes and their language is difficult to learn. Vietnamese are generally hostile to the gospel. Therefore, any short-term missions in Vietnam require a creative and strategic approach. Intercessory prayers are needed and we should pray for the team's safety, health, leading of the Holy Spirit to guide the team to all the right places and find ways to approach the people.

Evangelism Department to Support 51 Rural Churches in Kyonggi, Chungchong and Kangwon Provinces

The Evangelism Department has announced that it will support 51 financially suffering churches nationwide. 35 churches will be supported by various church districts, three by the Senior High School Department, six by the First Young Adult Division, four by the College Group and three churches will be sponsored by the Second Young Adult Division. The department will not only support these churches financially and materially but also through medical missions during the summer and winter, barber and hair salon services and their outreach by holding retreats.

The entire congregation, not only those districts that are involved, should show concern and prayer support for those churches and their ministers. Our efforts will provide a light to these churches and result in building acceptable and solid churches in Korea.

2000 Winter Retreat for Choong Hyun English Ministry on Mar. 1

On Wed., Mar. 1, the Choong Hyun English Ministry will hold a one-day winter retreat. This year's guest speaker, Rev. Steve Nicholes, will give a message entitled, "Walk Thru the Bible." Rev. Nicholes has extensive experience from his involvement in youth ministry and leadership. His enthusiasm and compassion for preaching the gospel message will bring enlighten participants through a brief review of the Bible. Rev. Nicholes said he will try to show the Bible through various hand-motions, in addition to the message presentation, so that participants will benefit from and better relate to the Bible. The retreat will be held at the second floor of the Second Education Building from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. On the same day, the CEM's Elementary Sunday School Department will hold their one-day retreat in the nursery room. Their theme is "How to Please God" from Hebrews 11

First Evangelism Training of 2000 International Conference Room, Starting Mar. 8

For eight weeks on every Wednesday from 2-5 p.m., Evangelism Training seminars will be held. Rev. Hong Sung Lee and other speakers will provide lectures and examine subjects such as "The Meaning of Evangelism," "Content of Evangelism," "Meaning and Message of Dedication," "Practical Methods for Evangelism" and "Evangelism Practice." Last year, about 100 workers were trained through the seminar and they are continually reaching out to their neighbors in teams throughout the week.

The Evangelism Training course will play an important role in reaching out to the unreached around us and eagerly awaits the congregation's participation to win those lost souls.



by Rev. Sung Kwan Kim
Senior Pastor

POOR WIDOW

(Luke 21:1-4)

As the poor widow entered the Temple, no one gave her much attention. The people really didn't care much about her. Jesus saw her and He paid very close attention to her. He loved this poor widow. He knew everything about her. We don't know everything. These four verses don't tell us her name, age, appearance, or whether she even had children, but we do find that she was poor, her husband was dead, and she was a woman of faith! Jesus commended her for her faith! The favor of Christ endures my friends, but the favor of the world passes away. This poor widow didn't concern herself with worldly stuff, the things that many people all too often place above their faith, like food, shelter, and clothing. She demonstrated true faith, and we should learn from her faith by asking, "What caused her to be remembered?"

This poor widow's faith brought her to the place of worship, the treasury chest in the court of the Temple in Jerusalem. Some people with her circumstances might find excuses to stay away. They might think their clothes aren't suitable enough and feel ashamed, or perhaps knowing many rich people would be there that their gift wouldn't be large enough. Some people may feel, after laboring all week for small wages, that they are too tired to go. On the flip side, some rich members may stay away because they don't want to give away their money. Their greed keeps them at a distance. Or maybe worship time interferes with their lucrative business operations. By faith, whatever the plea, both these groups are not rich but spiritually poor! The poor widow was rich in faith! Her shortage of funds didn't keep her from the Temple, nor did her life's circumstances. She still went.

"And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins" (v. 2). The widow's faith moved her to give. Many people have little money and think they can't afford to give because their money is needed for daily living. She didn't think this way, and because she didn't her contribution was better than the wealthiest gift givers. How sad it is to see those who cry out, "Not me, I need it!" The poor widow considered giving an act of worship. Jesus considered her giving

to be spiritually significant. She couldn't give much, but she also couldn't keep from giving. She gave but two copper coins. Jesus said that was better than anything else. It was important to the widow to give

In Mark, we find the same story of the poor widow (Mk. 12:41-44). Here, Mark notes that after Jesus observed how the people were putting money into the treasury, He called His disciples to Him (v. 43). Only Jesus

receive Jesus. Think real deep here. This gift was given to an enemy, not an ally. For no one can be united with God except through Christ. As such, God's gift surpasses all gifts, including the poor widow's.

Giving everything meant she would have nothing left. Still, her faith moved her to give it all. When we read Matthew 6:11, "Give us this day our daily bread," we realize that the poor widow really believed this. That's all she needed. Today, people spend countless time and effort deciding on a summer house or boat. Having one of something isn't enough anymore! How many people do you know who have more than one television, VCR, clock, telephone, computer, etc. in their home? Excess in technology abounds beyond the limits of modesty. Jesus reminds us, "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him" (Mt. 6:8). This poor widow believed what Jesus taught. She believed that God was going to take care of her.

Jesus warns us, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions" (Lk. 12:15). Too many people place too much emphasis on their possessions. The poor widow wasn't like that at all. Let's remember, "Whoever speaks is to speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (1 Pet. 4:11)

My dear friends, ask yourself first, "For what purpose will this or that serve?" Our life and everything it encompasses is solely for the glory of God. Don't be deceived into thinking that apart from Christ anything is worthwhile. It's not! God knows your needs and will provide everything you need. Faith receives God's good gift. Faith gives to God even when funds are low. We may be poor in money but we are rich in life! Let's practice our faith and be remembered. Let us remember that God gives us everything! Join your hearts to love the Lord and give to Him. Faith brings love, hope and eternal life. Amen!

*"Whoever speaks is to speak, as it were,
the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so
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the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen"*
(1 Pet. 4:11)

because she truly wanted to give something to the Lord God.

The lovely widow's offering was given in humble pleasure, not with internal or external pride. Just above today's verses we read, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love respectful greetings in the market places, and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets, who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation" (Lk. 20:46-47). The scribe's external actions sometimes appeared humble, like in the form of long prayers. They were educated to think that wearing long robes and occupying places of high social importance were in themselves honorable. Their internal actions, loving the attention their position afforded and purposefully using the financial vulnerabilities of widows for their own pleasure, were not always visibly apparent to others, but they were quite clear to Jesus. His despised such behavior.

recognized the spiritual significance of what was happening. That's why He wanted to share this truth with His disciples, and now with us. No one gave thought to what was happening, no one but Jesus. Now, we can see that our offerings to God are private, not for public exhibition. God values our heart, not money. He asks us to give for our benefit, not His!

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Mt. 22:37). This widow loved God! She gave all she had. It was the largest gift of the day! In heavenly calculations, she gave more than all the rest, "for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on" (v. 4). God measures our gift by our ability to give. Maybe others gave huge amounts of money but the widow held nothing back. Faith giving is revealed by what we keep. Think about God instead of the poor widow for a moment. God gave His only Son! Who else could give more? His gift provides eternal life to those who

In Search for a Lost Sheep

Jung Jean Lee

(Grade Three Teacher, Middle School)

In my class, there are two friends who have stopped coming since last year. I was new a teacher to this class but, after finding that their attendance last year was 'zero', I knew that I needed to encourage and pray for them. Meanwhile, I lost track of one of these two 'long absentee students' whose existence was known only through dispersed phone calls. Finally, the recorded message came from the phone number, "We're sorry, the number you have dialed is no longer in service." I could not give up on my search. Just like a shepherd who is in search for lost sheep, I went out only with his address and tried to find him. Through phone conversations, I learned that he comes from a non-believing family, and had came to church couple times by his friend's invitation. I prayed "God, help me to meet Joon Sang. Help me to say kind and encouraging words so that he will promise to come to church." With little fear and trepidation, I went to the security guard office at his apartment and asked where the boy lives. The guard said that the family moved to the U.S. "They left a couple days ago. I think they won't be back for couple of

years."

I felt sorry to God that I did not come earlier for an opportunity to share the love of God with Joon Sang. I sincerely pray that wherever he is that he will discover God and come to worship Him wherever he may be.

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." (Luke 15:4-7)

I will find this lost friend will carry him on my shoulders.



Student Visit of 5th department, 2nd division

Jung Min Kim

(Teacher, Elementary Sunday School)

"Woong, how have you been?" "Well, I'd like to visit your house." "Would that be okay?" "No." "Why?" Then, why don't we meet outside and talk while having dduk-bok-kki?" "No, I'm not coming." Woong was a special kid who attracted my attention from the beginning. While the other kids would joyfully play and laugh, Woong would not join them. My jokes did not make him laugh nor did my compliments impress him. White skinned, one eye with a double-lid I

later realized it was an injury. "How did that happen?" I wondered but did not ask him. I passed out a prayer journal to all kids. I asked them to share their prayer requests and will pray over the week. Woong prayed, "I wish my dad would not drink so much alcohol." I felt as if a part of my heart was torn out. That's why I wanted to visit Woong. But, he rejected my requests. I was disappointed but I had other kids as well so I called them. We were at a snack house eating duk-bok-kki and talking.

Young's parents were in Japan so she was staying with her uncles. She seemed bright. I asked her some questions as she was busy talking about her life. "How often do you read the Bible?" "I don't." "Who is Jesus, Young?" "I guess he is a good guy." "Do you think you can go to heaven when you die?" "I think I will know that if I measure my life before I die." I tried to hide my surprise and awkwardness before her with a smile and looked at her. I was thinking on my way back home, "How can I teach and show them who Jesus really is?" At the beginning of my Sunday School class, I turned in a teaching plan sheet. But, I knew that I needed to be more specific and more practical. I am already wondering how the kids will be changed in 10 months. Nonetheless, I am happy.

College LMTC

Hoping for a Revival

Hyun Koo Kwak (College Group)

A college retreat was held from Feb. 8-10. On the first day, an announcement about the LMTC program was made and I registered for it without much preparation on my part. At first, dozens of college group students also signed up. The lectures are well-designed and very relevant about world missions. I learned many things through the 16-hour lectures spanning three days.

Most important is that the church is able to have a relationship with God through doing missions. I also realized that we should be ambassadors of the gospel to those who are dying without knowing it. I came to feel the love of our Father to those dying spirits. Also, throughout learning the history of the missions, I

learned how various people have responded to God's calling so faithfully. I confessed how I have been in my life. Missions is God's calling: we ought to obey this calling with

thanksgiving, not running away like Jonah. This year, there will be many short-term mission opportunities in July and August. I believe that anyone who wishes to go a short-term mission trip should not go without a vision in their heart. Therefore, I am planning to restore my relationship with God so that He is pleased with me. I am also planning to check my spiritual walk with God and will gradually extend my quiet time with Him. I pray that the Holy Spirit will bless His mighty works throughout various short-term missions of the Choong Hyun Church.



First Young Adult Division's Kangnam Station Street Evangelism Proclamation of Jesus Christ and His Saving Works

By Eun Ah Choi

Last Saturday at 5 p.m. the First Young Adult Division group gathered for street evangelism which was held at the Kangnam subway station. All pastoral staff, elders and leaders attended. With the objective to

"expand God's kingdom through proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ," participants fought a spiritual war against worldly appearances. However, contrary to the efforts and zeal of our members, the response was negative. Is there a place for gospel in this land? A big concern confronted the team but I felt God's love and His abundant grace through wholehearted praises of the group. Through prayer,



all wished that those who receive the gospel tracks will find Jesus in their heart and will seek to know Him. The group will visit hospitals and Kangnam station twice a year. Many prayers and much preparation is need to make future street evangelism a success.

We have many prayer requests. First, to love every soul one by one when we go out for street evangelism. Second, when approaching someone, we ought to have a desire to care for that soul faithfully. Third, for a continuous outreach ministry. And, last but not least, that all members will participate in street evangelism in the Holy Spirit's love.

Short-Term Missions to Sri Lanka

by Rev. Moon Chan Cho
(Pastor, Senior High School)



Sri Lanka is a beautiful land known as the 'Tear of India' and famous for its Ceylon tea. However, my first impression was somewhat gloomy. 17 years of internal conflicts brought about national bankruptcy and prejudice between castes is oppressive. This is a devout Buddhist nation where their pride rests with a Buddhist temple located in the center of the Island (they say Buddha's teeth is stored in this temple). Wherever you go, one can find the statue of Buddha and you awake every morning by resounding of a Buddhist invocation an unreached and godless nation.

However, to my delight, I found God's hands working on these people after our short-term missions. I thought the love of God for the people of Sri Lanka is evidenced by the people's receptive heart for the sharing of the gospel.

Our church's initial mission to Sri Lanka had started by coming into contact with Sri Lankan foreign workers in Korea. Now, we are establishing the missionary foundation based on short-term and long-term lay missionary efforts. The senior high school students formed the core of this short-term mission. Contrary to many people's skepticism about whether young students can carry out evangelism successfully, when students boldly shared the loving message of Jesus Christ, surprisingly, many had responded to our outreach. What a beautiful scene where young students and young Sri Lankans come together in hand in hand to pray and receive Christ as their savior! At parks, schools, buses, and wherever they went, their effort to share the gospel was truly a beautiful scene.

The highlight of our short-term missions was on evangelism feast at Srijayaden Napura University. This school is the nation's most famous Buddhist school. However, our evangelical feast was held at the height of their most celebrated Buddhist holiday in the heart of the school! Two days prior to our feast, we had started street evangelism and invited many students to come to the feast on noon, Thursday the 20th. Our team prepared the evangelistic feast through funds we had brought separate from the church's support. It totaled about twenty thousand rupees (about 340,000 won) in preparation of prayer and their favorite food. On that day, our team served including the participation of eight high school students about 200 university students. Through their mouths, the praise of Hosanna our Lord was uplifted. It was a spectacular picture to see them praising God instead of Buddha. Moreover, what surprised us was their joy that overflowed. It was beyond our imagination. It was a reaffirming moment that there are God-prepared souls, people who are called to come to Him. Sri Lanka mission is God's will and we dedicated ourselves for God's calling.

Our eight-member team led by Rev. Seung Soo Lee and Elder Ui Chul Kim departed on Jan. 15 for Suriname and arrived at missionary Suk Reul Ahn's house the next day. We opened Bible Schools at the Mata church for three days, one day each at the Clenopocaci and Lepomaci churches and three days at the Bicinsaron church. The major focus of our missions was children's Bible schools, barber and hair salon ministry and door-to-door visitation evangelism.

The Bible school ministry consisted of praises, messages, pantomimes and puppet drama. For praises, we prepared them in English and Dutch. Messages were delivered in Korean to English and then, translated into Dutch. For pantomime, we played "Hands" and for puppet drama, "Nazareth and the Rich" and "Return of the Prodigal Son."

For our barber and hair salon

Evangelism Department's Winter Retreat for Foreigners in Korea:

"Times That Pleased Our Father"

by Eun Ah Choi



A winter retreat was held by the Evangelism Department for Foreigners in Korea during the Lunar New Year holidays from Feb. 4-6 with the theme, "Experiencing Jesus' Trait." Despite the holidays, about 40 teachers and 100 foreigners gathered in Amen Hall.

The retreat started off participants taking a shower at the Rehabilitation Center. Afterwards, international fellowship with people from eight countries followed through playing recreational games. Sporting activities popular in each country was presented and participants attempted to play new games. For dinner, bibimbop was served to provide a taste of Korea. One of the highlights was the praises, led by the praise team, and message delivered by Rev. Byung Hee Ryu. Deaconess Hee Sook Kim sang a special hymn in Russian that was well-received and appreciated by those from Uzbekistan. The family musical orchestra performed by Deacon Kyung Jae Lee not only touched foreigners but the teachers also. Foreigners who spent a day at the church started off the second day with worship. During the Bible study, every member was very interested in learning the Bible. Participants were given chance to try traditional Korean hanbok, performed sebae (bowing to elders) and to introduce different traditional holidays in their country. Because of their heavy workloads from their jobs, some may have wanted to rest on such a holiday. However, I was impressed by their sincere attitude towards Bible study and by their changed attitude those who desired to receive to those who are able to share. I am confident that our heavenly Father was so pleased to receive all the nameless people in the kitchen who prepared breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as those who served for these "humble" people.

Short-Term Missions Report to Suriname:

"Sparkling Eyes"

by Ulysses Chung (Second Young Adults Division)



ministry, a professional hair stylist accompanied our missions: an assistant hair maker and assistant joined her. They dyed and cut hair for an average of 50-60 people daily. Door-to-door evangelism was done mainly during the morning hours; our team was divided into three sub-teams accompanied by a native centered around the church. One impression that I got from door-to-door visitation was that people welcomed their Indian native "Takitaki" more than Dutch. For example, when we greeted them in their dialect, "Hayoutang" their response was much open than in Dutch. One of the most unforgettable things for me, after leaving these Suriname Indians, was the eyes of the children. Dark-skinned with big double eyelids; to me, their eyes looked at me as if they were crying out for spiritual thirst.