

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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Passion Week Special Early Morning Prayer Service All Church Members Invited Bathe in the Grace of the Cross

*From this Monday, March 29th to Friday, April 2nd,
Early Morning Prayer Services will be held in the Main Sanctuary*

This year the church committee decided for Passion Week to hold special early prayer meetings to encourage all members to attend to bathe in the grace of the cross. This will be a unique opportunity to reawaken our spiritual lives while we remember the wonder of the cross. Senior Pastor Sung Kwan Kim, will lead all the services.

During these special prayer meetings, all attendants will hear of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On Good Friday, a particular emphasis will be upon Jesus' death on the Cross and members are encouraged to fast on this day. The Amen Choir will present an anthem of the Stations of the Cross during the Friday night Prayer Meeting.

Jesus' Final Work During Passion Week

Sunday - Triumphant Entry

Monday - Fig Tree Cursed and Temple Cleansed, The Attraction of Sacrifice

Tuesday - Withered Fig Tree Testifies, Sanhedrin Challenges Jesus. Answered by Parables: Two Sons, Wicked Vine-Tenants and Marriage Feast, Tribute to Caesar,

Sadducees Question the Resurrection, Pharisees Question Commandments, Jesus and David, Jesus' Last Sermon, Widow's Mite, Jesus Tells of the Future. Parables: Ten Virgins, Talents, The Day of Judgment, Jesus Tells Date of Crucifixion, Anointing by Mary at Simon's Feast, Judas Contracts the Betrayal.

Thursday - Preparation for the Passover, Passover Eaten, Jealousy Rebuked, Feet Washed, Judas Revealed, Defects, Jesus Warns about Further Desertion; Cries of Loyalty, Institution of the Lord's Supper, Last Speech to the Apostles and Intercessory Prayer.

Thursday-Friday - The Grief of Gethsemane, Betrayal, Arrest, Desertion, First Examined by Annas, Trial by Caiaphas and Council; Following Indignities, Peter's Triple Denial, Condemnation by the Council, Suicide of Judas, First Appearance before Pilate, Jesus Before Herod, Second Appearance before Pilate, Mockery by Roman Soldiers, Led to Golgotha, Six Events of First Three Hours on Cross, Last Three Hours on Cross, Events Attending Jesus' Death and Burial, The Tomb is Sealed and the Women Watch.

1999 Summer Short Term Missions to Kenya, Sudan, Mongolia and Pakistan Seeking Devoted Volunteers

The Missions Committee has planned to send short-term mission teams in July and August to four countries: Kenya, Sudan, Mongolia and Pakistan. The Presbytery Committee has approved the Missions Committee plans for these short-term missions.

The plans for Mongolia and Pakistan include sending 12 volunteers to each country for 10 nights and 11 days.

For Kenya, the plan is to send 20 volunteers for 15 nights, 16 days to assist Missionary Eun Bin Go in constructing an educational building.

For Sudan, five volunteers will be sent to serve for two months, helping with medical needs, library arrangements and local evangelization while Missionary Young Dae Kim takes medical leave.

The Mission Committee is diligently seeking volunteers to help meet the needs in each of the countries. More specifically, in Kenya they need many male volunteers, especially in the medical profession, including doctors, nurses and pharmacists.

In Sudan, the need is for a nurse and a pharmacist, plus an experienced librarian and two male young adults.

The Mission Committee prefers to consider church members who have already completed the missions training provided within the church. Applicants will need to provide letters of recommendation from the leaders of their district and department. For more information, please contact the Missions Committee (ext. 356).

Military Evangelism Department Held Conference for Military Chaplain Candidates on March 23rd Baptized 2,500 Members of the Military on March 27th

The Military Evangelism Department held its 15th annual conference for military chaplains in the International Meeting Room on the fifth floor of the Missions Center Building. It was important to have the conference since the chaplains are directly over the young people serving in the national military. They have a special service to encourage the soldiers with the good news of the Gospel. It is also a unique opportunity for the soldiers to hear the Gospel through the chaplains.

Pastors and elders, choir members and members of the Military Evangelism Department baptized 2,500 soldiers at the 2nd Military Training Camp. Through this widespread baptism, they trust that many will become true members of God's Army as they serve their country with their military service.

Elections for Elders and Senior Deacons

To be held after the 4th service today

The election for elders and senior deacons will be held after the fourth service today. All voters should be in the Main Sanctuary to cast their ballots. Last week, all the candidates were announced in the Korean Choong Hyun Weekly. The voters are strongly requested to pray and deeply consider how they will vote, so the best selection can be made. A godly manner is to be kept in this process at the bequest of the church.

Missions Prayer Meeting

Thursday, March 25th, 7:00 p.m.

The Missions Committee will hold a prayer meeting for missions at Bethany Hall, on March 25th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Before the meeting, they will have dinner at Manna Hall at 6:00 p.m. This prayer meeting is especially for Mission Committee members, financial supporters, teachers of foreign workers, students of the Missions Research Institute, and candidates for short-term missions for 1998-1999. The speaker will be Rev. Sung Soo Lee.

'99 Choong Hyun Sosuk First Semester Student Scholarships Awarded March 14th

The Choong Hyun Sosuk Scholarship Committee selected students to receive scholarships, which were awarded to the students on March 14th after the evening service.

The committee selected 207 students to be eligible for the scholarships, totalling 136,990,000 won. Eight students received full scholarships, while 197 received partial scholarships and two honorary scholarships were also awarded. Among the partial scholarship recipients there were 16 post-graduate students who received a million won each. Others include: 89 undergraduate students (800,000 won each), 57 high school students (300,000 won each) and 35 middle school students (200,000 won each).



by Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

TELL PETER

(Mark 16:7)

In today's chapter, we find three women Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bringing spices to Jesus' tomb (v. 1). The Sabbath day was over! This meant that now work could be done. These special ladies woke up very early that day because they wanted to properly prepare Jesus' body for permanent burial. As they were walking towards His tomb they began to worry about how they were going to be able to roll away the huge stone placed in front of its entrance (v. 3). Their hearts had a deep love for Jesus. They earnestly wanted to serve Him and they sincerely wanted to see Him. Fortunately, as they approached His tomb they saw that the heavy stone had been rolled away (v. 4). Good news, their problem was solved! Their worry was in vain!

Surprisingly, of all the many people that followed Jesus only these three women came early to visit His tomb. Everyone else was gone. As they entered the tomb to begin their tasks, they saw an angel sitting to the right. They heard, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him" (v. 6). Wow! This is even more good news for them! This is big news! Jesus is alive! His body is not there! The angel tells them to come in and look around and see this. He's not there. He has risen!!! This simply stated fact is the foundation of the Christian faith.

The angel tells them, "But go, tell His disciples and Peter, He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you" (v. 7). The angel basically gives them a direct command. He wants them to announce Jesus' resurrection to His disciples and Peter. That's right, His disciples and Peter. Sometimes we breeze over this specific command. Today, let's look closer at the details. Let's pay attention to Peter. For the angel's order did not come from himself but from God. Angels from heaven only follow God and this angel is obeying his order from Jesus.

Why is Peter's name given distinction from the rest of the disciples? Why did the angel tell the three women to go and tell the "disciples and Peter?" Why does Jesus distinctly mention Peter? When we look back a little in Scripture we find Jesus telling all His disciples, "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered'" (Mk. 14:27). Jesus informed His disciples that indeed He would die and indeed they would all fall away. He also told them, "But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee" (Mk. 14:28). So, Jesus not only told them that He was going to die but also that He would rise and go to Galilee. As such, the angel's instructions were a reminder, a follow-up of Jesus' prior conversation with His disciples.

Peter, during this fellowship gathering, doesn't grasp the fact that he can fall away. He thinks that it may be true for everyone else but not him. Never him!

He doesn't believe Jesus, he believes himself. He has followed Jesus for three years and he knows that there is no way that he could not follow Jesus. To him, falling away is an impossibility. Jesus tells Peter, "Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times" (Mk. 14:30). Peter adamantly disagrees. He insists, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" (Mk. 14:31).

Right before this conversation took place, Jesus and His disciples celebrated the first Lord's Supper (Mk. 14:22-25). Jesus told them to remember His body and His blood. He told them that He would take the cross. Jesus gave His disciples all the information they needed. He told them to remember Him. He told them that He would die, they would fall away, He would rise again, and together they would meet in Galilee. Peter denies everything. He doesn't get it - he doesn't want to get it because his mind is set on his way of thinking. Yet, as the time came, Peter ended up following Jesus at a distance (Mk. 14:54). He mingled by the fire with the very people that wanted to kill Jesus. He denied Jesus three times (Mk. 14:66-72). He failed. He failed miserably.

*Jesus wanted Peter to
know that his failure was not
eternal failure.
The love of God looks for the
failed man.*

Jesus wanted Peter to know that his failure, his one big failure, was not eternal failure. The love of God looks for the failed man. The cross shows us the resurrection from His love. The angel told the three women to go tell Peter that Jesus knew he would fail. Jesus told him that he would fail, and most importantly that now He forgives him. Jesus wanted Peter to know right away that He forgives him. Even though Peter sat by the warm fire with His enemies, even though he followed Jesus at a distance, and even though he denied Him three times; still Jesus forgives Him. That's why the angel told the three women to go tell Peter!

Not only that, but Peter knew that Jesus knows everything. He knew that Jesus would know what he did. Jesus wanted the three women to go tell Peter that He knows that he's not perfect. Remember when Peter first met Jesus? Peter was trying to catch some fish without any success. Jesus told him where to cast their nets. Even though Peter was an experienced fisherman and knew that conditions were not right for a catch, he obeyed Christ's command. Sure enough their nets were

so full after following Jesus' direction that they tore (Lk. 5:6). Peter realized Jesus' ability. This miracle demonstrated to Peter his own sinfulness and Jesus' deity (Lk. 5:8). Peter completely knew that Jesus knows everything and that's why he left everything to follow Him (Lk. 5:11).

So, after all the bad deeds and wrong turns, Peter truly understands that he is not qualified. He experienced the sin and guilt of denying Jesus. He is so sad. Jesus never forgets. That's why Jesus told the angel to tell the three women to go tell Peter. Jesus wanted Peter to know that He knows everything. Jesus wanted Peter to know that it's okay - He has risen! Remember when Jesus met Peter after His resurrection, again by the water? Yes, once again Jesus instructed Peter, the fisherman with no fish, to cast his net to the right. And once again, the net came up full but this time without tearing (Jn. 21:6)!

After all this took place, after Peter finally met the resurrected Jesus in Galilee, he was able to proclaim, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Pet. 1:3). Here begins Peter's recital of the blessings of God's redeemed children. After Peter met the resurrected Jesus, he finally and completely understood that you have to be born again in order to follow Jesus. Before he was not born again and therefore could not follow Jesus. Even though he knew Jesus, he wasn't ready. Jesus never gives up. After being born again, now -- only now -- Peter fully understands living hope!

God never, never gives up. Even though you may fail, He wants you to meet the resurrected Jesus Christ. What does that mean to you? Is it your living hope? Even though Peter failed, Jesus has a loving heart. He wanted to see Peter. He ordered the angel to tell the three women, "Behold, He is not here -- He has risen; go and tell His disciples and Peter to meet Him in Galilee." Most especially Peter -- "go and tell Peter to meet me there." Peter was totally depressed and Jesus knew everything. Jesus asked Peter not to give-up, even though he failed. I'm asking you, even if you fail and fall short of the glory of God -- don't give up! Jesus knows everything!

Don't worry and distress yourself by going to His tomb -- go to Galilee! There you will see Jesus sitting at the right hand of God our Father. He reigns over all the world from heaven. He is our Master. Don't give up because God never gives up on you. I challenge you to seriously think about what the message of Jesus Christ means to you! Please, don't give up but go and tell your brothers and sisters about the resurrected Jesus. Tell them about the first day you met Him and the living hope that now lives within you eternally. Just share with them what it is that has been given to you by our Lord, Savior, and Redeemer!

The EWS Good Friday Meditation and Easter Celebration

*Good Friday April 2nd,
Easter Celebration April 4th*

By Heidi Vande Voort

(English Worship Service, Young Adult)

The English Worship Service will have Good Friday Meditation in room B1 in the Deaconal Building on Friday April 2nd at 8:00 p.m. The Easter Celebration will be held at the same place on Sunday, April 4th at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to join these events to remember what Jesus Christ has done for us while we remember His death and celebrate His resurrection.

The Good Friday Meditation and the Easter Celebration are parallel services. The Good Friday Meditation will have seven Scripture readings focusing on the suffering of Christ before the crucifixion. Each reading will have a musical response—either by the choir or the congregation. The Easter Celebration includes seven short scenes, each followed by a musical response. During the Good Friday service we will extinguish fourteen candles to represent the suffering of Christ and the friends who abandoned Him. One larger, white candle represents Christ Himself. This candle never goes out, but it will be carried out at the end of the Good Friday

Meditation and hidden until Easter morning. During the Easter Celebration, we will bring the Christ candle back to the front of the church to remind us that Jesus is the center of all the activity.

The Good Friday Meditation is intended to prepare our hearts and minds for Easter. It will be a solemn time for prayer and reflection. Participants in the Meditation will be asked to leave the church in silence, and will be encouraged to keep the Church's fast.

On Easter, we will celebrate, singing lively hymns and enjoying the drama which our brothers and sisters have prepared. It will be a time for fellowship and rejoicing. The Easter Celebration will be followed by a light lunch on the first floor.

This Easter play might seem unusual because it begins after Easter. The first scene depicts Jesus' appearance to the disciples after His resurrection, and the following scenes fly forward through history. So what makes this an "Easter Play?" The theme of the play is that the resurrection of Christ is the center of history. It changed the world—forever. In each of the scenes, the characters discover what Jesus' death and resurrection means for them in their situation. Each scene is presented by a narrator who interprets history in the context of his or her personal experience.

In Scene One, we meet Mary Magdalene, who has been the risen Christ. People think she's just imagining things, but she knows that she is a witness to the greatest event of history, and she is determined to spread the news that Christ is risen.

Scene Two is brought to us by a townspeople who witnessed the stoning of Stephen. He is not sure whether to believe in Jesus or not, but he is amazed at the power of God as it demonstrated itself in Stephen's life.

Scene Three introduces us to the apostle Paul just before his conversion. He recounts his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Ananias reluctantly goes to tell Him about who Jesus is and to open his eyes, physically and spiritually.

The next scene leaves the New Testament behind and moves ahead to the fourth century, where we find Augustine, one of the church fathers. The story is told by Augustine's mother, Monica, who has been praying for Augustine for years. But Augustine was a rebellious boy. After meeting a charismatic minister named Ambrose, Augustine discovered Jesus, accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior, and went on to become the most influential theologian of his century.

In Scene Five, we visit the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century. Several pilgrims to Wittenberg discover Martin Luther nailing the 95 Theses to the door of the church. Luther explains that Christ alone can save us from death.

Scene Six takes us home to Korea during the Korean War. Reverend Son Yang-Won forgives the murderer of his sons because Christ calls us to love our enemies. His daughter, Don-Hee, is uncomfortable with his decision, but he assures her that Jesus is alive, and lives in her, and will give her the strength she needs to obey His commands.

The final scene shows us four contemporary characters who are struggling with their lives and with their faith. Each of them comes to the realization—because of the death and resurrection of Christ—that God loves them and has the power to turn their lives around. The play ends with a commission to tell everyone everywhere the good news: He is risen indeed!

A Christian Family

Jesus is the Father of the Family

By Insuk Yang (College Group, 5th District)

My brother and I had an especially big fight one day. My mother called us together and we knelt before her. She started to cry in front of us. We had never seen her do this before and we felt truly awful. She said, "As your mother, I have always lived with a thankful heart. You know I must be both your mother and father."

But, I have never complained, because God has always helped me. After your father passed

away, I had only two reasons to live: to do good deeds to honor the Lord and to nourish and educate my two children with the Word of God. But, you both greatly disappointed me today." It was a big shock for me to see my mother crying like this in front of her two sons. My mother did nourish us with the Word of God regularly and she continues to do this, such as in what is taught in Matthew 6:33, "But, seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well." Even though we disappointed her that day, we are continuing to strive to please her by pleasing God first.

God has been developing visions for ministry



The focus of our family life is to honor and glorify God.

among my family.

My older brother has a vision for missions and he will visit China, particularly areas inhabited by Korean-Chinese, as a participant in a student exchange program. His plan is not only to learn about another culture, but to research and prepare for his future mission. I am interested in mass-media communications and urban culture. I found that these areas

are not focused upon so much here in Korea in spreading the Gospel. My vision is to use mass-media to share the Gospel around the world. To prepare for this, I entered the Culture and Journalism Department at Handong University. I intend to train myself to stand against the corruption found in urban culture and journalism, so that I might establish a Biblical world view in these areas. I sincerely believe this is our responsibility to change the world and become more effective witnesses.

Missions education and providing help to others is the goal of our family. Even though it is not easy to glorify God in this life, our family will continue to strive to stand as God's witnesses to His work.

After the Newly-Married Couples Retreat

Give Thanks to the Lord, Who Established the Family and the Church

By Joon Hong Jung and Jung Yun Park

(Newly-Married Couple)

My husband and I finally made it to this retreat. My husband used to make excuses whenever I asked him to join the Newly-Married Couples Retreat. He always claimed he was "too tired" to attend.

The sermon title for the opening service was "Couples and Their Finances." This reminded me again that I am not the owner of material things or money, but rather a steward of what God has given to us. This led to my own confession of being the master of my finances. Through the fellowship training, I was challenged by the leaders' godly example. I was also humored to see my husband participate in a game that required funny body-language to express multiplication tables. During the second day of the retreat, Elder Shin Duk Cha gave a talk about Biblical family life. This opened my husband's heart to offer his tithes with a grateful heart and he changed his view of his work, that it should be joyful and a blessing from God, not just an excuse to be stressed.

Since this was the first retreat I attended with my husband, I came away from it full of good memories and a thankful heart that God established the family and church. I would like to express my appreciation to those who worked so hard to make this retreat possible. I am already anxiously anticipating the next retreat that will be held this summer.



Jesus: The Only Way to Salvation

Foreign Workers Department Held First Winter Retreat

By Tae Yang Park (Missionary-In-Training)



△ Senior Pastor Rev. Sung Kwan Kim gave his message in English and the interpreters translated it into Chinese — Joo Hyun Ahn, Sri Lankan — Khameenee and Mongolian — Sook Bhat (from left to right).

The Foreign Workers Missions Department held their first Winter Retreat from February 14th to 16th at the Choong Hyun Prayer Garden and at the church. The theme was "Plant the Gospel." We shared the grace of God among the 116 attendants,

including 72 foreign workers and 44 Missions Department members.

This retreat focused on sharing the Gospel with the foreign workers during the Lunar New Year holiday. Rev. Sueng Soo Lee was the main

speaker and the thematic verse was Romans 10:10.

The participants of this retreat praised the Lord in their own languages and all the seminars and talks were interpreted into various languages as well. We studied about sin and what Jesus Christ did about it. During the prayer time, groups were formed according to nationality. The second day, we watched the movie, "Jesus," which was also translated into various languages. Some brothers from Pakistan confessed they learned much more about Jesus Christ from the movie.

Many volunteers from the Missions Department worked to support this retreat. Some worked in the restaurant, while others worked to arrange transportation. Senior Pastor Rev. Sung Kwan Kim also visited during the retreat to encourage us.

It wasn't easy to manage such a large conference during the Lunar New Year's holiday. It was a challenge to find available volunteers at this time. But, the Lord was faithful and He sent enough workers to allow the retreat to flow smoothly. It was a great opportunity for all the volunteers to reconfirm their missions calling through their work.

There were some brothers and sisters from Mongolia who had never been to church before at any time in

their lives. They decided to go home after the first day of the retreat. Of course, we were grieved by their decision to leave, but we encouraged them to stay for another day. A miracle happened the next day — they attended the early morning prayer meeting and Bible study and watched the movie, "Jesus." These Mongolian brothers and sisters actually stayed until the retreat was completed. The following Sunday, they also attended church.

The biggest challenge during the retreat occurred with six Bangladeshi people. The second day of the retreat they left the Prayer Garden for home. The three teachers assigned to help them fasted and prayed with tears for mercy that they might return to the retreat. After spending an extensive amount of time in prayer, the teachers went to where the Bangladeshi people lived. They found out they had all fallen ill. They started to talk to the teachers about what happened after they left. They said, "After we left, we all got headaches and stomachaches — some of us even vomited several times." They decided to return to the Prayer Garden to participate in the retreat. But, they were embarrassed and thought they might be burdensome. After much discussion that evening, the Bangladeshi people finally returned to the Prayer Garden. This became an important opportunity for them to re-evaluate their faith.

Return From Bangladesh Short-Term Mission

Just Beginning

By Sung Min Jung (College Group)

Although our mission was short, God showed us many things during the nine days we were in Bangladesh. For me, my own earthly obstacles were demolished. I wanted very much to go to Bangladesh last year, but it didn't work out. So, this time I wanted to be sure to go, since I felt I wouldn't have another chance for a long time, because I was going to start my studies at college very soon. I feel confident that this chance to have gone Bangladesh is just the beginning of what God is doing with my life. During this trip, I was convicted about my intentions. We were to go to places that needed basic supplies such as blankets and to help have wells dug for water. However, during the flight there, the Lord spoke to me through Scripture, telling me that we weren't going there just to serve the people with our good works, but that God wanted to speak to them about Himself. The people in Bangladesh need the Gospel first, not only social help, since they don't know Jesus Christ. So, even though we were there only a short time, we felt we should focus upon sharing salvation first, not just supplying physical needs. I am only a mere human being, and I spiritually fail. But, God is with me and holding me — this provided a great deal of encouragement for me. I could tell you more about what we did in Bangladesh, but personally I was



struck more by my own weakness and inadequacy. Somehow I thought these negative features about myself would be left behind in Korea, but they came with me to Bangladesh! Just because I changed cultures didn't mean I miraculously became a better person. Instead, I recognized more deeply my need to depend upon Christ and to rest in his strength and

power. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to those who continue to pray for the short-term missions teams.

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