

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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Worship Service for Young People
Seeking Lost Sheep, Extending Love to New Members
Invitation Sunday Service To Be Held Today

When parents lose sight of their children, they make great efforts to find them again. There are many large churches here in Seoul and many members are faithful in praying and fasting throughout the night. Many programs have been developed to encourage spiritual growth. Yet, somehow the responses to our outreach efforts have been dwindling. It seems that as churches get bigger, it is easy to let many members unknowingly slip through the cracks.

One person's spirit is worth more than the whole world. There is no comparison to the joy that is felt when one who was lost becomes found. Normally, a whole family will take great care to make sure a lost one is kept safe. Yet, unfortunately, many new families in large churches in Seoul today often feel neglected or even ignored. Many regular members get comfortable hearing sermons Sunday after Sunday, but too many feel little obligation to live out what they are learning in the sermons.

We give thanks to God that the Junior and Senior High School, College and Young Adults I have combined together to hold a special Invitational Sunday Service today at 3:00 pm. They have been putting their focus on inviting those who have heard the gospel before, but are not living practical Christian lives.

All the members who have been involved in organizing this service have been praying hard, that many will come and that they will feel comfortable during the service. It is requested that all members remember to pray for this event and welcome the newcomers who will be among us. Through this, we pray that they may truly come to know the love of Christ.

Love Concert 1999
Held this Past Tuesday,
October 19 at 7:00 pm

A concert was held last Tuesday at Kangnam Civic Hall for residents of Kangnam-gu. The Emmanuel Choir and the 3rd District members worked with Christian members of the Kangnam District office to make this concert possible. The purpose of this concert was to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ to the people of this neighborhood through the gospel music performed. The concert included instrumental pieces, solos and choir performances and a short message. After this, snacks were provided to encourage fellowship.



Short-Term Missionary Candidates Appointed

The Session has appointed eight short-term missionary candidates to be sent to several different nations. It is very important for the church members to keep the candidates in their prayers while they are completing their training. Prayer support is the most crucial element for them.

The candidates are: Kyong Jin Oh, Su Kyong Lee, Jung Eun Han, Young Il Kwon, Suin Park, Hee Youn, Kyong Sik Hwang and Soon Joo Lee.

***Conference for Short-Term
Mission Candidates
Friday, October 22***

A conference for short-term mission candidates will be held overnight at the Choong Hyun Prayer Garden on Friday, October 22, beginning at 10 pm.

The candidates are expected to attend the Friday Prayer Meeting and then afterwards they will be taken by bus to the Prayer Garden.

Free Haircuts for Foreign Laborers

Evangelism Service Department

The Evangelism Service Department has decided to provide a free haircutting service, every other Sunday from 2:00-4:30 pm. This service will be provided for foreign laborers on the second floor of the Welfare Building. The department is also planning during the weekdays to serve people in the church neighborhood and those recommended by the District Office.



“Good News for Parents”

Sunday Afternoon Programs for Children Looking for Volunteers

Sunday morning programs for children usually start at 10:30 am and finish at noon. Even though this meeting seems to be an hour and a half, it really comes out to less than an hour, with all the movement and arrangement to get things settled. It has become an urgent need for additional programs to be available for children after this children's service is over. Many children come to church with their parents and the parents continue to have meetings throughout the afternoon. This leaves the children with little supervision and nothing to do. This is an opportunity for the children's spiritual growth that should not be ignored. Hence, the Elementary School Department decided to start a special program for children during Sunday afternoons. The program will begin at 1:00 pm and continue until 6:00 pm. This program will be held in room 208, the Audio/Visual Room, in the First Education Building. The main emphasis will be upon providing a place to play, for group work to take place and for the use of visual aids.

Currently, the Education Department is looking for many volunteers to help with this special program. If you are interested, please contact the Education Department Office in the First Education Building, room 103 (ext. 471).



by Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

ANTIOCH CHURCH

(ACTS 11:19-26)

The beginnings of Christianity are amazing! God's gracious design for His church first came to the Jews in Jerusalem, then to the Samaritans (semi-Jews), then to a few selected Gentiles (semi-proselytes), then to the majority of Gentiles, and finally it spread to the uttermost parts of the world. Today's Bible passage records the start of the first Gentile church in Antioch. Spiritually, as well as historically, it is an incredible occurrence! The intricate workings of the Lord caused wonderful things to happen in Antioch. When we look at God's mysterious and lovely plan it brings awe and

Peter not only preached to Gentiles, but he also witnessed to the circumcised Jews about God's plan of salvation for the Gentiles (see Acts 11:1-18). All these great events led to the preaching of Christ in Antioch. The names of the men of Cyprus and Cyrene who preached Christ to the Gentiles are not mentioned in Scripture. They are not written down in any human history books. In church history, we so often find the names of Christian disciples highlighted. Here in today's message, these faithful men's names are not written down anywhere. The start of the very first Gentile Christian church was

recognized that the movement there was the work of God (vv. 22-24); (3) he and Paul were sent by the Spirit on the first missionary journey (13:2); and (4) he defended the work among Gentiles at the Jerusalem council (15:12, 22, 25). Barnabas had the biggest heart in the church at that time!

Barnabas was the perfect person to send to Antioch. He encouraged them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord (v. 23). He was born a Cyprian (see Acts 4:36). He was a man who truly loved God. He even sold his land in his hometown and gave all the money to the apostles (see Acts 4:37). That's the kind of lovely heart of Barnabas had.... He knew the perfect person for the job of pastoring the flock in Antioch. Five years prior, Barnabas and the apostles sent Paul to his hometown of Tarsus (see Acts 9:30). Remember that it was Barnabas who defended Paul's conversion before the apostles (see Acts 9:27). Barnabas left Antioch for Tarsus in search of Paul (v. 25). He not only found Paul in Tarsus, but he brought him to Antioch!

When they both returned to Antioch, "for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (v. 26). These people had Christ preached to them but they didn't know the whole Bible story. They knew Christ was their Lord but they didn't have the full impact of what that meant. Barnabas and Paul gave them the full understanding of God's great plan of redemption. They explained to them from the Old Testament what the Anointed Messiah really means to God's people. They taught them how the Messiah of the Jews became their Messiah. For the first time these people were called Christians! Isn't this truly wonderful?

The Jerusalem church was the center of the Jewish believers worship. The Antioch church was the center of Gentile worship. The promises of the

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Yet, this city replaced Jerusalem as the number one Christian city and was the center of the early missionary activity of the church.

reverence to our hearts for Him and strengthens our faith in His ultimate plan for our salvation.

After Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was stoned to death outside of Jerusalem for preaching Christ, many Jewish believers left the city because his death caused a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem (see Acts 8:1). They moved to Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. There they spoke "the word to no one except to Jews alone" (v. 19). You'll recall that over six hundred years prior, Israel fell to the Babylonians and Assyrians. Their captivity brought them to such places as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, where they set-up synagogues to worship God. These Jews would come to Jerusalem once a year to celebrate the Passover. So when the Christian Jews moved in they were able to proclaim Christ to their brothers. They were able to spread the news that Jesus Christ was indeed the Messiah they had waited so long for, and they were able to preach the Gospel message to them.

There were also some men "of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus" (v. 20). Besides the Jews witnessing to their brothers, we have some nameless men who also started preaching Christ but not to the Jews but to the Gentiles in Antioch. From whom did these men find Jesus? When we look back a couple of chapters in Acts we find Philip evangelizing the city Samaria, an Ethiopian eunuch, the city of Azotus and all the cities he passed through until he came to Caesarea (see Acts 8). We find Stephen, who had a Hellenistic and Greek background, preaching to Cyrenians and all those in attendance at the Council in Jerusalem (see Acts 6:9; 7:2-53). We also find Peter being called by God from Joppa to a specific Gentile's house in Caesarea, where he baptized a whole assembly of Gentile believers (see Acts 10:44-48).

made by nameless people who only made God's history. Their names are recorded in the permanent book of life!

The church itself also had no name. We only know of its location in Antioch. Antioch was the third largest city in the Roman Empire with Rome being first and Alexandria being second. It was a beautiful cosmopolitan city located about 15 miles away from the Mediterranean Sea. It was filled with luxury and immorality. It was known for its famous chariot races. It was also known for its deliberate pursuit of pleasure night and day. Their temple of worship included a statue of Daphne, the lover of the Greek God Apollo, and the priests and priestesses would secretly have sex there. In terms of character, Antioch was an

incredibly depraved city. Yet, this city replaced Jerusalem as the number one Christian city and was the center of the early missionary activity of the church.

When the news that Antioch was turning to the Lord reached the apostles at Jerusalem, they sent Barnabas there (vv. 21 & 22). Barnabas "was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith" (v. 24). He played an important role in the early life of the church on four occasions: (1) he convinced the apostles of the genuineness of Paul's conversion (9:27); (2) he represented the apostles at Antioch and

The greatest thing happened in the worst place, all because of God's great plan of redemption. A new church was born and for the first time they called them Christians because they received Jesus Christ.

Lord came true in Antioch (see Acts 1:8). God's great design for Gentile worship started in Antioch with no church name or no name of its true founders. Let's remember that our church name, Choong-Hyun, is only an unimportant label, the real meaning of our church is only Jesus. When we look at the start of the very first Gentile Church, we see how God prepared all the people in perfect position for His will. The greatest thing happened in the worst place, all because of God's great plan of redemption. A new church was born and for the first time they called them Christians because they received Jesus Christ.

Thought for The Day

By Steve Kim
(Resident, Internal Medicine)

Hi Mom and Dad,

Today is my day off, so I am emailing you. Being a doctor is fun. I like taking care of people. But, I have had several people get really sick. One man came in for a blood transfusion, because he has prostate cancer and was bleeding in his urine. After he did the blood transfusion, he had a heart attack and went down to the ICU. He came back to me and will go home today, but his cancer will kill him in 2-3 weeks. It was completely unexpected. I had a to declare another patient dead yesterday who had lung cancer which the doctors tried to remove by surgery a month ago. She came back last week because her arm was hurting, and everybody thought she had a pinched nerve in her neck, but we did MRI scan and saw that she had tumor in her spine. A few days later she quickly developed difficulty breathing and began coughing up bright red blood. We first thought she had pneumonia because a previous chest xray did not show any more tumors, but this time we did a CT scan and saw she had lung cancer throughout her chest. I have been giving her morphine for the last several days. She died yesterday afternoon. Her family was there. I went in to listen to her heart and lungs and check her eyes. I told them she was completely gone and one of her daughters started crying uncontrollably, kneeling down by her mother and clutching her hand.

I always do my best as a doctor, but there are too many things that I cannot do. They are all in God's hands. Everything, particularly life and death, is in His control.

I think about my family a lot. I pray for you. Mom, I am glad Dad is taking such good care of you. I love you, my wonderful parents.

A Gift from the Holy Spirit

By Jae Sung Yoo
(Young Adult II)

It is not unusual for us that when we give something to someone, we expect something back in return. There is One who is always giving without any expectations in return. He even gives good things I never even asked for. It is a response of His unconditional love. Who is this person? He is Jesus Christ, our Lord. Jesus promised us as He ascended that He would give the Holy Spirit as a gift. I have struggled for a long time with this promise. I didn't understand who the Holy Spirit was and therefore, ultimately what kind of gift Jesus was giving. But, now I know that since I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, the Holy Spirit has come to live in my heart. The Holy Spirit leads me and protects me from the spiritually polluted world. When I am tempted to follow my own desires, the Holy Spirit is still there to guide me away from that temptation and to overcome it. I am so very thankful for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the gift of faith I have been given through Jesus Christ.



Living God

Sung Youn Yang (Young Adults I)

I have learned what it really means to be "born again" over the last two years. During this time, I was unemployed, but amazingly God healed my spirit, providing me with a new found spiritual freedom.

I have two sisters. I am the second child in the family. After my mother gave birth to my younger sister, she couldn't have any more children. But, since there were only girls in the family, my father really wanted a son. As a second-grader in elementary school, my father brought home my half-brother, who was birthed by a woman who was not my mother. Knowing this as I grew up, my feelings of distrust toward men grew deep in my heart. As an adult, I tried to cover this feeling by working hard at my career and becoming materially successful. I was regularly depressed and unhappy with no knowledge of how to escape. It was at this time that the Lord allowed me to lose all the material security I had accumulated. I felt strongly impressed by Him to seek Him alone. I studied in a discipleship training course. Through this study, it became clear to me that I had many stumbling blocks in trying to follow Christ. I also found that my pain that came from my childhood was preventing me from truly receiving the love of God. I was very much deceived and darkened in my heart, with thoughts of even killing my father for his deed. So, because of this dreadful sin I could not come before the Lord. I was



so afraid of the presence of God. Yet, God encouraged me to remember my childhood experience and He waited for me to put all my heartaches and hatred at the foot of the Cross, where Jesus died for me. God wanted me to be honest before Him, pouring out who I really was to Him, my ugly sin and all. I couldn't avoid God in this. This was a very difficult time for me. Early each morning, I would rise and pray, pouring out my burden, but it was not lifted from me.

I couldn't believe that all these things had actually happened to me and I blamed God who seemed to be so silent through my agony. One day, while I was praying and crying out to God, I heard the small and tender voice of God saying, "Your family accepted Jesus Christ because of this situation in your family." After hearing this, I was able to truly unload my heavy burdens. I was then able to acknowledge God as not being silent, but working mightily in my life. I also now understood why my mother was crying whenever she prayed at church, bearing her grief before God.

My family situation is no longer a heartache for me. I met the Lord personally through this family matter. I also was able to put all my burdens before the Lord. Now I am praying that I will be a good witness for the gospel. God also has led me to know sisters and brothers at church who carry similar burdens to the ones I once bore. The Lord taught me through the worship service that there are many people around me who need this spiritual healing and to come to know what forgiveness truly is. He also opened my eyes to see His patient love, that is always waiting for so many people, that they might receive His true forgiveness and accept the love of Christ. I pray that through this small testimony of mine, that other brothers and sisters will lay down their burdens and allow Christ to heal them.

Reflecting Upon Bangladesh Guided Through His Timing

By Kyong Hee Baek (College Group)

I have recently returned from Bangladesh this summer on a short-term mission that was held from July 16-28. During this time, I clearly learned that God does not always work according to our timetables. He is working according to His own plan to produce the success He desires to see done through His people.

We booked a place to stay during our mission trip in Bangladesh. Yet, the family who had agreed to accommodate us had to cancel their agreement. Other families came forward to house us and we were able to share the gospel with them. Each subteam in our group had made arrangements to meet, but somehow we were misinformed about the time. So, we waited and waited. During this waiting time, we met a Chinese fellow, who was a Christian, but weak in his faith. We were able to talk at length with him and encourage him to renew his faith in Jesus Christ. We had been tempted to complain about missing team members, but here God provided a unique opportunity to minister. We were impressed by the arrangement God had made for us to meet this Chinese fellow and serve him in the name of Christ.

Before I arrived in Bangladesh, I learned that my luggage had been lost. Of course, I was so frustrated and discouraged, since all my important things were in the lost baggage. Throughout the trip, my negative feelings continued. Two days before we left to return to Seoul, I woke up to the lesson that God wanted to teach me. God taught me that if I had had my luggage, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to depend upon the service of my team members as I did. I learned that without the great love of God, who gave His only Son for us to deliver us from our sins, I can do nothing. After beginning to realize all this, I began to thank God for losing my luggage.

I still remember the
many faces of
the people
I met



while sharing the gospel. I couldn't communicate very well, but I did my best to communicate Jesus Christ to them, that He is not just a wise man, but the Messiah. Many people in Bangladesh understand Jesus Christ to be one of the greatest men in history, but not as the only Savior. All I can really do is pray for them, that they may one day understand and accept Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior. I strongly believe that our prayers will make significant differences for people in Bangladesh, who currently deny Jesus Christ their Savior.

Now I am back in Korea, having finished my short-term mission. But, this doesn't mean I have finished my work in Bangladesh. There remains a great deal of follow-up work, including my need to pray for the people there. I believe this is actually more important than the physical mission work I did while in Bangladesh. I would like to ask all the sisters and brothers who joined me on this summer team, as well as those interested in Bangladesh to pray more regularly and sincerely for the people we met there.

Operation World: Switzerland

Switzerland is located in the central part of Western Europe. It is best known for its mountains, the Swiss Alps, which are among the greatest tourist attractions in the world. This mountainous country is made up of mostly Swiss Germans, French, Italians and smaller populations of Retho-Romans and Gypsies. The official languages are reflected by the diverse population, with literacy at 99%.

Switzerland is a healthy and strong industrial state, with most of its foreign exchange taking place in banking and tourism. There is freedom of religion and in 1993, 92% claimed to be Christian. However, this high percentage is very hard to find in practice, since only 6% on average regularly attend church. Despite the great spiritual history that has taken place in Switzerland before, especially in the days of Calvin and Zwingli, very few people today have any interest in or understanding of what real Christianity is. Materialistic comfort and wealth have bred indifference to religion to such a great degree that this has become the norm.

Yet, all is not lost. There are signs of hope. Many denominations and Christian outreach associations are laboring hard in prayerful expectation that the Holy Spirit will move once again over Switzerland and stir people to come to know Jesus Christ as their true Savior and Lord. Pray that these organizations and churches will be blessed and strengthened in their work. Also pray that their leaders and pastors will not fall into the ever-present traps of liberalism and neo-orthodoxy, which have already sapped the spirituality of many churches. Pray that the young people of Switzerland may also be instrumental in receiving God's message of love and grace and extending it to others around them.

A Letter from Suriname

God Shows His Healing Power

Dear Prayer Supporters,

I recently learned that I had contracted dengue fever, which is much more serious than malaria. I went to the doctor and he asked me many questions, because I had a high fever and my eyes were painful. I asked the church members to pray for me. I decided to rely upon God's healing power. One Sunday morning, I was able to lead the service and preach. I also met with candidates to be baptized that day. Later that day, I remembered I had forgotten to take my prescribed medicine. Yet, I had forgotten in part because I was beginning to feel better.

I thank God for His great love and miraculous power. I also want to thank all the prayer supporters.

God bless you all,

Suk Yeol Ahn (Missionary in
Suriname)

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 7:00 pm
Friday	Prayer and Praise Service in the Main Sanctuary 7:00 pm
Daily	Early Morning Prayer Meetings in the Main Sanctuary 5:00 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