

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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Missions Committee To Visit the Mission Field of Suriname From April 14th to 23rd

The Missions Committee has decided to visit Suriname from April 14th to 23rd. This in order to support and encourage Suk Yeul An, a missionary from Choong Hyun Church, who is currently working there.

Suriname is located in South America, on the northeast coast between Guyana and French Guyana. Almost half of the population is either Muslim or Hindu. Suriname also has one of the most remarkable amounts of ethnic diversity found anywhere in the

world. Suriname has a population of which over half is Asian, the other half is mostly Afro-Caribbean, and dozens of other small ethnic groups are there as well.

Suk Yeul An is diligently preaching the Gospel among the peoples there. He is visiting villages and teaching children and adults at Sunday School. He is grateful for this opportunity to serve the Lord in this way, since the doors are currently open there to preach and share the Gospel freely. The Missions Committee is sincerely looking forward to assisting him.

Disabled Persons' Day is April 20th *April 18th is Disabled Persons' Sunday*

Choong Hyun Church will hold a service for the disabled on Sunday, April 18th. People generally make judgements about others based upon what they see on the outside, but the Lord looks at the inside. It is also very common for us to want to pursue honor and power, but Jesus commanded us to love those who are weak or those who don't have power and authority. He himself showed us how to love the weak and the poor throughout his daily life. We may find it is a good opportunity for us to learn of the love of Jesus Christ from these weaker ones. The Choong Hyun Welfare Center will participate in a ceremony for the disabled and hold a physical exercise competition for them. The Ebath & Love Department will serve tea and coffee in front of the Main Sanctuary to share the love of Jesus with other Choong Hyun members. A special praise service will be held for the disabled during the Sunday Evening Service.

All Choong Hyun members are warmly invited to join the service to share their love with this special group of people. It is also requested that members support and participate in these additional events held for the disabled and to keep them in our prayers.

Conference for Elders Seeking the Uniting Grace of the Holy Spirit



The Semi-Annual Elders' Overnight Conference was held in Hwa Jin Po, Kang Won Province from April 5-6. It was held to establish stronger unity in Christ among the elders while seeking the grace of the Holy Spirit. All elders read the whole book of Ephesians to prepare for the conference. They learned more about how to build stronger unity among them and remain in the grace of our Lord as they serve in the church. They also learned how to be humble servants through studying the book of Ephesians.

Military Evangelism Department 2,723 Soldiers in Training Baptized

Military Evangelism Department held a baptism ceremony for the soldiers at the Military Training Base Church in Non San. Many pastors and elders of Choong Hyun Church went to Non San to perform the baptism ceremony. Receiving baptism at the base is a unique opportunity for the soldiers who are undergoing tough training. They are easier to target to introduce the Gospel because their hard physical training helps them to open their hearts when they hear the gospel of Jesus, the true Soldier of God. Prayer is needed for them to grow in the Gospel and to become true soldiers of God.

Korean Christian Opera *"Resurrection"* In Galilee Hall, April 15, 17

The opening ceremonial opera concert of the Korean Christian Opera will be held in Galilee Hall of Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church on April 15 (Thursday) beginning at 7:30 pm and April 17 (Saturday) at 5:00 pm.

More than 60% of the members come from Choong Hyun. All are invited to join this free concert to celebrate the establishment of the Korean Christian Opera.

Easter News

Easter Sunday *He Arose a Victor from the Dark Domain*

April 4th was Easter Sunday. The early morning services which the church held during Passion week, was in preparation for Easter Sunday. The Amen choir performed an anthem 'Seven Words on the Cross' on Good Friday to meditate upon His suffering on the cross. It was also a prelude for remembering the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

All Choong Hyun members celebrated the glorious resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ on Easter to remember His victory over death. The Immanuel choir presented an anthem 'He is Risen Indeed!' to celebrate the glorious victory of our risen Lord on Easter.

The Easter Play Celebration *"He Is Risen Indeed!"*

"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20).

The Choong Hyun English Worship Service celebrated the resurrection of our Lord with the second annual Easter Play, 'He Is Risen Indeed!' on Easter Sunday. Many Choong Hyun EWS members and their friends participated this celebration to share the glory of the risen Lord. The Play consisted of seven different scenes: 1. The Resurrected Jesus, 2. The Stoning of Stephen, 3. Paul's Conversion from the Perspective of Judas on Straight Street, 4. Monica's Reflection on Her Son, Augustine, 5. Martin Luther and the Reformation Era, 6. Christianity in the Korean War, and 7. Today.

The scenes of celebration were deeply felt while all were challenged to consider how Jesus' resurrection from the dead has affected all mankind. At the end of each scene, the performers and audience members proclaimed, "He Is Risen Indeed!"

The audience was encouraged to participate by singing hymns in between the scenes. After the final scene all the performers and the audience participated in expressive gestures of praise as they sang, "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord."



by Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

NO CHOICE

(Hebrews 9:27, 28)

From the moment you are born, two predestined and therefore unavoidable things will happen to you. You will die and you will appear before God. You have absolutely no choice about these two matters. God appointed these two things to happen to every human being! He also appointed Christ to die once for all sin and to appear a second time for salvation. God has already appointed these two deaths and after death, these two appearances. This is the announcement of today's message, "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered

is no second chance because the death experience never recurs. Let us stand prepared for it! It is a journey that is traveled only once with only a one way ticket. There is no return flight back. Let us be ready for it!

The death of Christ was appointed by God because God wants to save mankind. Jesus died as a sacrifice for sin. He offered His life to bear the sins of the world. In His heart He had such a deep sense of the wickedness of human sin as was possible only for a being of perfect holiness. He moaned over sin with the deepest sorrow. He condemned it as ugly and

seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10). Believers will be judged in a review of their works for the purpose of rewards, unbelievers will be judged in a review of their works for the purpose of punishment. The divine government of this world and the inequality between the characteristics, conduct, and circumstances of man are so many and so remarkable at present that it truly points us to the necessity of such a day. The Bible declares its certainty! Everybody will stand before Christ (Mt. 25:31-46; Ec. 12:14; Rom. 14:10-12). Every believer should have an awareness of the future judgment.

Jesus will appear again! The angels told the disciples, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). This is a promise. Jesus promises, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also" (Jn. 14:3). Jesus is coming again, "Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen" (Rev. 1:7).

Jesus comes again to perfect salvation for His people. Our stance in relation to Him must be one of waiting and expecting. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself" (Phil. 3:20&21). Our present state of mortality is a lowly one. We now live away from the place of our citizenship. But the day is coming when every Christian's position will change

*If at first you are not prepared,
there is no second chance
because the death experience never recurs.*

once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him" (vv. 27&28).

As such, each person will die once. Although many people have died and will die, death is not a repeatable experience for anyone. It is a one time event! It is not a continuous thing for any one particular individual. So, even though people have died and are dying all around the world, each person's death is a single and separate occurrence. The event of death is the separation of soul and body, "then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it" (Ec. 12:7). Man's body returns to dust and man's spirit will return to God for judgment. That's the inevitable and inescapable truth! The event itself will lead you to the great and momentous change in the mode and condition of your life.

There is real certainty to this event! It is appointed unto every man. No one can prevent it and no one can escape it. Nobody can find an excuse or run away from it. "No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind, or authority over the day of death." In essence; no man has the power over his spirit to retain his spirit (Ec. 8:8). Death happens just once to each and every human being. It's not something that can happen again, again and again. It doesn't and it can't repeat itself. That's why you should think very, very seriously about it. That's why you should prepare for it!

Of the many actions that take place in your lifetime, those done early which were not done satisfactorily, usually later can be improved. Most often there is a next time. Take for example the idea of cooking. If while learning to make rice, you don't cook it long enough or you add too much or too little water, over time you can learn to correct and perfect it. In between you may have awkward moments but with continued practice you will get it. This is not the case with death. If at first you are not prepared, there

wicked and He sought to deliver man from it. "He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (1 Pet. 2:24). Isn't this really great news?

"But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him" (Is. 53:5&6). Amen! Jesus died and sacrificed Himself for the sins of all men. Why? "So that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life!" (Jn.

*The clear declaration of truth is
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3:15) Jesus died for many, many men. His death can never be repeated. Repetition is impossible because His death was once and for all! A man can die only once and Christ can only be offered in death once. The repetition of Jesus' death is unnecessary because His offering was perfect in itself and its efficacy. Moreover, His death is perpetual - it touches each and every believer. Heaven asks no more and man needs no more! Jesus' precious blood never loses its power. The power of His blood continues until the ransom of sin is no more.

Let us fully understand what God has appointed for man and Christ. For He has also appointed after man's death his appearing at the judgment seat of Christ. "For we must all appear before the judgment

from low to high, from earth to heaven, from temporal to eternal. We must look for our Savior with desire and expectation of His coming.

The clear declaration of truth is that God has appointed two deaths and two appearances. God has appointed for you and me these wonderful two deaths and wonderful two appearances. My beloved, the sin that entered this world through Adam and Eve results in death. God wants to save us from death, that's why Jesus died on the cross. That's why we all will stand in judgment. We are enthusiastically looking for His coming. We have an appointment. It can't be canceled. Let's prepare for it now by living and loving through faith in Christ Jesus. There will be no second chance. There is no choice after death.

SCRIPTURES TO LIVE BY

Vision

Part I: Seeing God's Plan

It is far better for us to have a vision because if we have a clear vision we may be able to know where to stand and what to stand for. It is very easy for us to fall for almost anything if we don't have clear vision. If we have no vision it means we have nothing to stand for. Vision is not something apart from our everyday life, but rather central to it.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5, 6) Vision is not something dependent upon our understanding. Vision is totally

looking up at what the Lord has done and shown to us. The most important thing for a Christian's vision is to acknowledge God. Paul, before his conversion, acknowledged God according to his own understanding. But, after his conversion, his perspective of how to acknowledge God completely changed. He understood that he was not to persecute Christians, but to gird them with the Truth of the Gospel. Through all this, his vision changed and he devoted himself to it. His new vision captured him,

which was completely directed toward Jesus Christ. Because he was so completely focused upon his vision, he consistently used the opportunities given to him throughout his life to reveal his vision. As he did this, he saw the plan of God. This plan was the practical outworking of his vision, which included his calling to be a preacher, teacher, rebuker, and encourager. Paul is a good example of one who had a clear vision of Jesus Christ. Paul understood how to apply this to his practical everyday life and to those around him.

What about us? What is our vision? Your vision? How is it evident in your everyday life?

Sister Hwai Jin Lee Prepares for 3-Year Mission

Tithing During One's Young Adult Years

By Soo Kyong Lee (Reporter)



The young adult's years are precious because they are fresh like the morning dew. This interview was held with Hwai Jin Lee regarding her preparation to serve for 3 years as a missionary. I noticed her giving letters to friends at church, asking them and other church members to pray for her and her preparation. I received one of the letters from her and decided to ask her some questions about it.

How did you decide to go?

I joined Mission Korea in 1996. I also attended Urbana '97 in the United States. During Urbana, I was personally challenged to consider missions. God waited for me to prepare and then He led me to commit my life to missions. In 1998, I devoted myself to a 3-year commitment with Mission Korea.

How did your parents respond?

When I told them my decision, they didn't say a single word. Even I felt a bit confused, because around this time I was preparing to go to graduate school. I wasn't sure then if I should give up my plan to attend graduate school or not. A few days later, my father called me and said that missions is choosing to die to yourself. Once you make this commitment, you cannot just stop in the middle. You must persevere. Can you do this? I responded with a confident heart that I could. This response from my father reaffirmed my commitment very deeply. It turns out my parents are my biggest prayer supporters.

When will you begin your mission work and where will you go?

I have been undergoing training since November 1998. Sometime in April, I will go abroad for further training for 5-6 months. My mission work will officially begin in September later this year. I am personally praying about going to the Ukraine to spread the Gospel there to those who are Orthodox Christian, to deepen and solidify their understanding of the Gospel.

The issue of missions is not just a personal topic. I strongly encourage others to pray for my work in this area. I also want to encourage other young adults that if they have the opportunity to go abroad to share the Gospel, don't hesitate! This is the most wonderful way to spend our young adult years serving the Lord. We should tithe our years to the Lord. Doing the work of the Lord will bring you closer to Him. You will also see and understand His work more deeply.

for you early every morning. Jesus Christ is the only Way." It was strange, since my parents were very quiet this time and they listened. They didn't respond as they usually did. I could tell that the Holy Spirit was working among us. I made arrangements with the local pastor to have a service the next morning. However, the next day I found out that my father broke his promise to me. He said he would be home the next day but instead he left. Eventually my father returned home, around 4 p.m. I called the pastor again and he came with an elder of the church. When the pastor asked my father, "Have you ever called God your father?" My father answered, "No." The pastor responded, "When we pray, show that you agree by saying 'Amen' at the end of the prayer, like your daughter."

My father knelt and did this, saying "Amen" at the end of the prayer. When I heard him say the word, I could feel Heaven rejoice. Praise the Lord! The next day, Sunday, instead of returning to Seoul, I went to the local church with my parents. My mother told me as I was leaving, "My dear daughter, don't worry about us. We made a vow to attend church when we said 'Amen,' so we will do it." Again, I praise our Lord that He answered my prayer.

Letter from a Soldier

An Unexpected Letter of Meaningful Love

From Yeo Hoon Yoon, Private

Dear Rev. Sung Kwan Kim,

I received a meaningful parcel for the first time ever while I was at the military base. My gratitude is very deep. As I reflected upon how someone at church cared for me, peace enveloped my heart. It reminds me that Jesus Christ is always with me in my heart. These two books you sent to me will always be precious to me. I will diligently read them so I can understand them more and more. Your letter also greatly encouraged me as I read it.

I was a member of a small church before I became a member at Choong Hyun. At that time, I thought I was a good Christian, however, I was badly hurt from some experiences that occurred at my former church. That's why I left and came to Choong Hyun and joined there. Since that time, I didn't live a consistent Christian life. My parents had to strongly persuade me to go to church every Sunday. This happened in part because I had a hard time making new friends at such a huge church. Usually, I just attended the main service, so I felt like I only stepped inside the building and then left. Nothing lingered. I was very envious of the young adults and college students there who seemed to be close and supportive. But, I was too timid to take the chance to meet them. My Christian life continued to weaken.

Now, I have deeply realized the Lord had not forsaken me, despite my lack of fellowship. I have received a letter that tells me the Lord cares for me and is watching over me. I also know now that someone at church is praying for me. How wonderful this news is! When I complete my military duty, I am now confident that I will join a young adults group at Choong Hyun Church. I believe this will continue to reaffirm my faith and help me grow as a Christian. I sincerely hope to meet you when I return. May the Lord grant you good health and that His blessings will always remain upon you and your ministry.

In Christ,
Yeo Hoon Yoon

The Unlimited Power of God
The God who saved my parents

By Jae Kum Shin
(Deaconess, 15th District)

I used to notice people who came together to church with their entire family. This gave me a rather empty feeling, since my parents did not attend church with me. I began to pray much more fervently for them, with a burdened heart, knowing their time on earth was very limited. Fifteen years have passed since I began to pray for them.

My parents did not see any serious reason to attend church. They used to say, "There is no Heaven or Hell — people made them up to live as good people. Some Christians are worse than non-Christians!" Earlier this year, I visited my hometown with my younger sibling and we stayed overnight to persuade my parents to accept Jesus Christ. I said, "Father and Mother, I pray

The Lord God Who Works in India

"We Came Because of Jesus"

By Jong Tae Lee (Intern Pastor for Young Adults)

Going To A New Land Nervously, but Solemnly

We arrived at the New Delhi International Airport at 1:30 am on January 29th. I joined this mission team by chance since a member who intended to come could not. Since I participated, I also went through the 2-month training period to prepare. When I arrived at the New Delhi Airport, I found myself becoming quiet, reflecting upon this opportunity to share the Gospel in this land. Ahmit and Mintu met us there. They both became Christians earlier during their time in Korea, under the guidance of the Choong Hyun Missions Department. Another missionary came with them to greet us. We went to the YWCA that night to stay and rest. In the morning, we heard strange music, which serves as a type of alarm clock for the Hindus signaling for them to pray. This strange morning greeting immediately impacted our understanding of how strong Hinduism is there. We left that

morning on a six-hour journey to Chandigarh, where we were to do our mission work. When we arrived there, we went to our accommodation, the Catholic Center. We had a devotional time together to get spiritually refreshed.

The next day, we began our mission work. We researched the area and visited several colleges. We were able to get a good map and this made our planning much easier. On January 31st, Sunday, we worshiped at Christ Church in both Hindi and English. Rev. Sung Hak Lee, who was the leader of our team, was invited to give a message, while Bolaga translated it into Hindi. All the team members sang in English the hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross."

From February 1st-4th, we had early morning prayer meetings to prepare ourselves with the Word and prayer. Day by day, we found things to be challenging and difficult, but we were able to continue by God's grace and through our team's unity and support. In the morning, we usually

visited the universities and colleges to share the Gospel with the students there. Most of the college students we met had never heard the Gospel before. We had to face them honestly. We said, our lives back in Korea are very busy like yours. But, we made the time to come here for only one reason, that is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We had to pay a lot of money to come here, which by Indian standards, only would be equivalent to one year's pay of the upper-middle class in India.

In the afternoons, we had Bible studies with the neighborhood children. We could see the work of God in our mission, particularly at this time. The children who came were happy to sing praise songs to other children watching nearby. Most parents of the children there were Sikh or Hindu, but the children came anyway. Many of these little ones opened their hearts to the Gospel.

Continuing to See God's Providence

February 4th, Thursday, was our last night there. We invited all 353 people with whom we had shared the Gospel to come to the local church to introduce them to the local pastor. This way they could continue under his care after we left. However, we were very suspicious of the Indian tradition of saying they will accept an invitation, but then not arriving. Our concerns were unfounded — we felt great joy when 96 people arrived, after expecting that 30 would arrive. The local pastor preached the Gospel to them and got contact information from them.

I must confess that mission work is completely dependent upon God's work, from beginning to end. He even worked through us, who came from so far away, to share the Gospel with people who had never heard it before. We praise God for He did this through us during our time in India.

In review, we realize that we need to prepare better for the next short-term mission there. First of all, our time there this time was too short to share the Gospel properly. We also would have benefited by having brochures to give out to the college students and young children. We felt we were barely prepared for the practical issues we encountered there. This would include being more familiar with cultural issues, including politics and economics, whether from a Korean or Indian perspective. We found that the Indian college students for example, knew more about Korea than we did about India. We realized we needed to be better prepared with appropriate Bible study material for the children. I think it would be wonderful if some people at Choong Hyun developed some Bible study materials specifically for children that could be used around the world.

It is essential to pray for the people who were touched the Gospel, that it may truly become part of their lives. Among the mission team members, we now hold prayer meetings every third Friday of the month at the Choong Hyun Prayer Garden. We continue to pray for those that we met in India by name. We also are writing many of them letters to encourage them to remain faithful to the Gospel.



Singing praise songs during Bible studies in a local church.

A Letter from India

Love Comes Through Jesus Christ

Dear Reverend, Elder and Members of the Mission Team:

How is everyone there? We trust all of you are well in Christ Jesus. Ahmit, Mintu and I and my family are fine here in India. I would like to send my thanks again to everyone. Sometimes these days I feel lonely, because our time together went so very fast. However, I thank our Lord, Jesus Christ because according to the providence of God, the Reverend, elder and others came here to share the Gospel. It was so exciting that we were able to share the Gospel with over a hundred students. This was the most memorable experience in my Christian life. I still pray for these students.

I am trying to get my passport as soon as I can, so I can visit Korea and meet all the team members there. I would love to meet other Christians in Seoul, too. Even though we spent a short time together, we became close brothers and sisters in Christ. I trust our relationship will continue through Christ. I am awaiting your letters and photographs. I expect I will see you next in Seoul. Please pray for me, as I pray for you, that we will keep each other continually in prayer.

Looking forward to hearing from you,
Bolla

The Land of Turbulent History

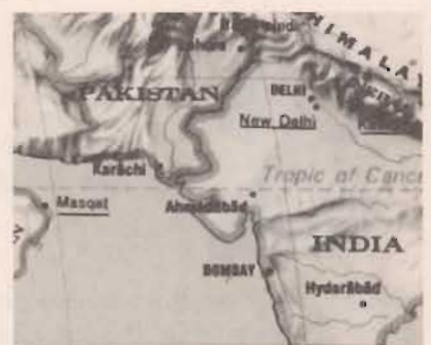
The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Pakistan has had a turbulent history since it gained independence from Britain in 1947. It had a strong Christian missionary influence from approximately 1833 to 1930.

But especially since 1988, the increasing rise of the Islamization movement in Pakistan has caused Christian missionary work to become dangerous, with many believers having been imprisoned or even martyred.

Please pray for:

- the people not to be fearful since the government has yet to effectively deal with corruption, social, economic and ecological problems.
- Christians' protection from accusations of violating the Islamic "sharia" law, which says that they have "disrespected the Prophet" and



therefore must be given a mandatory death sentence.

• the fear and dismay that has gripped the Christian community, that instead they may regain their confidence in the Lord and maintain their fellowship so that they may bear a pure testimony to those who oppress them.

(from Patrick Johnstone's *Operation World*, 5th edition)