

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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## Pastoral Spiritual Growth First Annual Pastoral Short-Term Seminars

“The modern church: the gospel and leadership restoration”  
February 22 through 24

The Korean churches are suffering from slow growth and deep stagnation at the threshold of a mysterious new millenium. We repeatedly tried to overcome this problem. However, most Korean churches ended up with temporary measures which always fell short of their cursory and ineffective seminars. It is hard for Korean churches to deny the competitive nature between churches. Therefore, Choong Hyun Church is inviting all the pastors in Korea to attend this seminar to help restore their leadership.

This year's seminars will be divided into the international and domestic perspectives. For the international perspective, the speakers will be Dr. **Tremper Longman**, Professor of Old Testament at Westmont College speaking on “An Overview of the Old Testament through Daniel,” and Dr. **Peter Enns**, Professor of Old Testament at Westminster Theological Seminary speaking on “The Church of God in Exodus.” These two professors have graciously accepted a second invitation based on the popularity of the Stewardship Training last year.

For the domestic perspective, there will be five speakers: Dr. **Chang In Kim**, the Emeritus Pastor of Choong Hyun Church, will be speaking on “The Quality of Pastors;” Reverend **Sung Kwan Kim**, the Senior Pastor of Choong Hyun Church will be speaking on “Leadership;” Dr. **Young-Tark Yune**, Professor of Old Testament at Hapdong Graduate School of Theology, will be speaking on “Leadership

and Unity of the People of God” (focusing on Haggai and Zechariah); Dr. **Bong Rin Ro**, Professor of Missiology at Torch Trinity Graduate School of Theology, will be speaking on “The Evangelical Mission of the Modern Church: Focusing on East Asia;” and Dr. **Hyung Yong Park**, Professor of New Testament at Hapdong Graduate School of Theology, will be speaking on “An Overview of the Gospel and the Church through Ephesians.”

This seminar is designed for all pastoral staff members throughout Korea including senior pastors, assistant pastors, intern pastors, evangelists, and missionaries. Translations will be done by Reverend Sang Geun Kim from Un Yahk Church in the United States.

All these seminars will be held at the main sanctuary of Choong Hyun Church from February 22 to 24, Monday through Wednesday. The fee is 30,000 won per person. The fee will be 20,000 won for each pastoral assistant who comes with their senior pastor. Furthermore, if you are coming from outside of Seoul and need housing, the first 150 applicants will be able to sleep over at the church. All other applicants must seek other housing facilities. All materials and meals will be provided for all applicants.

For further information, please contact the church at 552-8200, extension 473, or feel free to visit the church's main office on the first floor of the first education building.

## Second Nationwide Choir Leaders Conference

Choong Hyun Church held its second conference for choir leaders in Korea from February 3 to 6 to train the choir leaders who are serving in churches throughout Korea without the opportunity for proper education. Many participants had an opportunity to listen to seminars from professional musicians. The conference was a huge success. We praise the Lord with all our hearts and minds as these choir leaders will remind us throughout the coming years.

## Return from Countryside Evangelism Conference with Countryside People of Keojae, Kangwon, and Choongbook



The 14<sup>th</sup> district visited Youngkwang Church in Keojae island to share the gospel while having a winter retreat and conference. There were seventeen members including Reverend Hyung Joon Jeon who participated from January 26 to 29.

This evangelism team had early morning prayer meetings not only for the adults but also for the children to inspire the people to stand firmly on their faith as model Christians who might pass on the gospel to the next generation. So, they prepared various programs to teach the joy of faith in Jesus Christ, particularly to young children. Also, they prepared basic medical services and door-to-door visitations to invite the village people to the church to share the love of Christ through the conference.

The 4<sup>th</sup> district visited Kagok Church in the countryside of the town of Wonjoo in Kangwon province to evangelize people from January 27 to 28. The 17<sup>th</sup> district visited Jaechun Church in Choongbook province during January 25 to 28 where they held a winter retreat at Keumseong Presbyterian Church. They also had door-to-door evangelism. They took photos of the people who were seventy-years-old and older so that they might be remembered after they pass away. It was very successful. Sharing the gospel greatly helped the older people to share the gospel. During the evening meeting, they normally had 130 people. This had never happened before in the church.

With our prayer and deep consideration, this countryside evangelism will continue on to extend the kingdom of God.



Dr. Tremper Longman    Dr. Peter Enns    Rev. Chang In Kim    Rev. Sung Kwan Kim    Dr. Young-Tark Yune    Dr. Bong Rin Ro    Dr. Hyung Yong Park

### Our Mission Teams to Sow Gospel to Ends of the World

## Prayers and Offering

Choong Hyun Church celebrated January 24 as Mission Sunday. All church members participated in a special offering to support mission teams during each of the five main services. The members participated in this celebration based on their hope for mission to sow the seed of the gospel to the ends of the world.

From January 27 to February 6, a short-term mission team of eleven members visited Sri Lanka to focus on campus ministry and door-to-door

evangelism in Colombo, Mahatra, and Kendi. The short-term mission team for India left on January 28 and returned on February 8. They shared the gospel in Patiala where the Sikh originated. The Bangladesh team left on February 9. They will return on February 19. The twelve members of this team will be focusing on campus ministry and follow-up on the summer mission team to Bangladesh.

Please remember our short-term missionaries in your prayers.





by Sung Kwan Kim  
Reverend

# BLAZING FIRE

(Daniel 3:26-29)

After Daniel was promoted by King Nebuchadnezzar, he made a request that his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego be appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon. The king granted his request. Soon thereafter Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego had their faith tested. They underwent a big trial and experienced a big triumph. Their test of faith is a lesson in faith to all Christians. For their consistent faithfulness and continued obedience during a grave time of hardship demonstrates that it is possible to live a life of faith and victory with God's help. It also reveals God's supreme reign in heaven and earth and that those allied with Him share in His triumph.

What kind of trial did Daniel's friends face? Well, King Nebuchadnezzar made a huge image of gold (cf. 3:1). Because of his kingship he indeed held all the

***What a deliverance! After seeing four forms in the fiery furnace, instead of three, Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to come out. He addressed them as "you servants of the Most High God" (v. 26)***

authority and power needed to execute his demands. One of his demands was that everyone come to the dedication of the image that he had set up. This included the satraps, prefects, governors, counselors, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces of Babylon (cf. 3:2). The king desired everybody in his kingdom to attend this ceremony. When everyone was assembled, they stood before the image and listened to the king's herald proclaim that at the sound of certain music they were to bow down and worship the golden image (cf. 3:5). They also heard the herald proclaim, "But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire" (3:6).

The king had set-up an environment for great worship. He had the most important people, all the finest instruments, and his great golden image. He also had the fearful ordinance of bow or burn. It wasn't as if he were a king of some tiny or unimportant kingdom. Oh no, he was the king of Babylon. Babylon was the greatest country and as such gave him absolute power on this earth. There wasn't any outlet to his decree. Who could possibly stand against him? This is the trial that Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego faced. Nobody could pass this kind of earthly trial.

How stupid could these Jews be? They were not only prisoners in a foreign land but also minority children who stuck out like sore thumbs. Nevertheless, they disregarded the king and did not serve his gods or worship the golden image which he

had set up (cf. 3:12). They were now culturally and religiously different, as if one problem wasn't hard enough to overcome. Why? Because our Lord is different. Our God is a righteous God. He is a light unto this darkened world. His people live differently. Their lifestyles reflect His love. We are different too. We have been changed by the power of the Gospel. We are new creatures - we are born again!

Just look at what Paul says, "But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith" (Phil. 3:7-9). Amen! After Paul met Jesus, earthly things became so unimportant. He counted his impeccable ancestry as rubbish, even though he could boast in the rite of circumcision, in his race, in his religion, in his record of persecuting the church, and in his righteous life (cf. v.5-6). We are different, too!

When the king asked Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego what god there was who could deliver them out of his hands, they responded "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter" (3:16). Wow - what a response! They requested that the king not force them or educate them regarding this matter. They didn't think about it but rather preferred to take the risk and danger of their position. They were excited - they loved their God! What a contrasting difference to today's Christians. Just look at us. We are so careful that we don't witness when there's danger present. Sometimes we're so smart that we compromise. We are all too tolerant of the sin in this world. And we are so conservative that we hardly make any advance for Christ. We are supposed to be walking the walk of faith which is a daring walk.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego told the king that if he throws them in the furnace, "our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up" (3:17-18). No matter what the consequence, these guys were dedicated! They did not make any conditions with God: deliverance or martyrdom were equally possible in His plan. They would remain true no matter what avenue God chose! How faithful are we in times of strife? Even though God does not save your marriage, does not rescue your home from foreclosure, does not provide employment or does not save your children, are you still true? Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego were dedicated!

Notice their total commitment. Think of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. They are like Him. Jesus prayed that God take away His burden but either way Jesus said, "yet not as I will, but as You will" (Mt.

26:39). He remained faithful - he was dedicated. So many times we face trials in this world that are like blazing fire. We can't escape because we are Christians. Our heart is strong inside, stronger than anything outside. Inside our heart dwells the Holy Spirit.

What a deliverance! After seeing four forms in the fiery furnace, instead of three, Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to come out. He addressed them as "you servants of the Most High God" (v. 26). Here it is that the highest enemy gives praise to the Lord. Inside that furnace the Holy Spirit's fire was much stronger than the blazing fire. How much so? "The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials gathered around and saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them" (v. 27). There were no signs whatsoever that God's servants had been in a fire. Although they were placed in real hot fire, nothing burned because Jesus was with them. Jesus was with them in the fire, so that not one hair on their heads or eyebrows was singed. Why? Because they were already on fire! As new creatures, we too have the burning happiness, joy and energy that they experienced because in faith we have the Holy Spirit.

The effects of true faith are truly incredible. Nebuchadnezzar once an enemy of God now proclaims, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and yielded up their

***What does this mean? There is triumph in the man of faith! Faith is the key.***

bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God" (v. 28). Not only that but also, "Therefore I made a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way" (v. 29).

What does this mean? There is triumph in the man of faith! Faith is the key. If you trust Jesus you can conquer the world. There's nothing that can bother you. You can separate the Red Sea. To be born again means to go from death to eternal life! Amen! Let's pray that the knowledge gained from today's message will be granted to us as godly wisdom that we can recall in times of need and hold dear to our hearts in times of hardship. For we are in a war that has already been won, all we have to do is fight the battles in faith. The blazing fire within us is so much stronger than any adversity that may surround us. Trusting Jesus - that is all.



## SCRIPTURES TO LIVE BY

## Victory of Faith

As we have all seen, there are many challenges in our lives. The only way that we can face these challenges is to wear the armor of God as described for us in Ephesians 6:10-18. When the Israelite army under King Saul was facing the Philistine army and Goliath's taunting remarks, the young shepherd boy, David, volunteered to represent the people of Israel. All the people could not see this faith that David had. All they saw was a little shepherd boy who had no experience.

But David knew that God had been faithful in the

past. Consequently, he could have a faith that allowed him to see the victory even before he battled Goliath. Since David did not have his own set of armor to wear and since King Saul was sufficiently impressed with his courage, he clothed David in his own royal armor. But this armor did not fit David very well. He decided to fight not wearing the armor of Saul, but rather, wearing the armor of God.

We too, face many difficulties in our lives. How can we have the victory that God provides? How can we live a life of victory reflective of the victory of Christ over Satan and sin?

This is possible only by faith in Jesus Christ who had the ultimate and final victory over Satan. Just as Jesus told Jairus when his daughter had died, "Just believe in me." Christ is the author and founder of our faith. Therefore true victory is possible only by faith in Jesus Christ for every challenge that we face.

## Ezra Bible Academy

The Ezra Bible Academy has been established for the local people who dedicated their lives to expanding the kingdom of God in their country. They are learning the Bible to establish churches in their home countries to share the gospel to their own people. Twelve of the graduates have already established churches. Choong Hyun Church is subsidizing this school by providing for their nine teachers - Moses, Bernard, Samuel, another Samuel, Eli Jae, Paul, Wilson, El Bino, and Cory. We hoped through this school that many local people will be trained to stand as the army of God to fight against Muslims.

Bible Academy teachers



## Army for Evangelism

This evangelism army is for those who want to build a church in the local area. They go out and help the local congregation members. They have three divisions, and the leaders are Jah-Gee-Rah, Dah-Nah-El, Abraham, Metrich, Buh-Too-Roose, and Nee-Yahk. Pray for these six leaders.



Two members in the evangelism army

## Lay Leaders School

This school is established to help lay people be effective leaders in their local churches. There are six teachers. They are Yushim, Roman, Sehvit, Alyson, Morris, and Rooka.



Lay leaders school teachers

## M·i·s·s·i·o·n·f·o·r·A·f·r·i·c·a

*from the land of war and famine  
to the land of peace and blessing*



## School of Practical Theology

For this school, they have teachers from western society who are retired missionaries. They are training ministers in the local area. Currently, there are three teachers - Samuel, Anderson, and Aiman.



Professor at school of practical theology

## Churches of the Local People

Ministers serving in the local churches.



There are already twelve local churches which were established by the ministers who completed their studies at Ezra Bible Academy. The church names are Yeon Hap Church with Pastor William, Noo-Air Tribe Church with Pastor Peter G., Jandi Tribe Church with Pastor Martin,

Jabaharuilia Church with Pastor Alexandria, Merawee Church with Pastor Gabriel, Shinja Church with Pastor James, Methany Church with Pastor Isaac, Khartoum Church with Pastor Peter K., Kareema Church with Pastor Patrick, Port Sudan Church with Pastor Comboni, Soba Church with Pastor David, and Juriat Church with Pastor James.

## Special Mission

This mission organization was established for kindergarten, teachers, adults, and language education and as a juvenile center justice mission. The workers are Grace Mary, Miriam, Ip Hap, Nazila, Peter, Richard, Thomas Tutu, Abraham, and Mahumod. The Arabic language course is federally subsidized by the Sudanese government. Missionaries can also get visas through this mission organization.



Special mission workers

Jesus Christ, the Son of God Indeed  
First Bangladeshi  
Baptized

A Bangladeshi brother was baptized in Choong Hyun Church on January 19. The baptism ceremony took place with the decision of brother Soo-Bee-Teel, a pseudonym, before he left for his home country. He responded to the question regarding the identity of Jesus Christ by saying that Christ died and rose again as his personal Savior. He grew up as a Muslim throughout his life. His confession is considered blasphemous according to Muslim law. He was converted and confessed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

He stayed in Korea for eight years. During that time, he worked diligently to earn money. Last spring, he attended Choong Hyun Evangelical Physical Exercise Festival where he heard the gospel for the first time in his life. Since the festival, the foreign mission department and some volunteers from church visited the factory where a lot of Bangladeshi workers labored. Later on, they had enough members to have Bible study and praise time while building fellowship with the foreign workers. Some of them have a very negative perception of Christianity. Soo-Bee-Teel was among them. But he came to church regularly on Sundays and he volunteered for baptism in less than a year.

After the baptism, someone asked him, "Soo-Bee-Teel, can you tell your family that you became a Christian?"

He answered, "Yes!"

"Don't you think your family will be angry and feel sorry for you?"

"Of course, they will. But I made up my mind," he proudly responded.

We've often heard that our Bangladeshi brothers who became Christians in Korea return to their home country only to be excommunicated from their families. Therefore, it is difficult for Soo-Bee-Teel to be able to answer these questions affirmatively. Clearly, there are many trials that lay ahead for Soo-Bee-Teel and his family. So, the entire Choong Hyun family has a duty to pray for Soo-Bee-Teel to be able to stand firmly in his faith against the powers of darkness.



## The Republic of Gambia Open for the Gospel

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



Gambia is comprised of a narrow stretch of land about 11,300 square kilometers next to Senegal and the Gambia River. The population is about one million people comprised of over 25 intermingled ethnic groups. About one-fifth of the population lives in the capital city of Banjul. 25% of the people are literate in the official language of English. The languages of trade are Mandingo and Wolof. There are a total of 21 languages of which ten have at least portions of Scripture translated.

The Gambians have a subsistence economy with a per capita income of about 1% of that of the United States. Gambia was granted independence from Britain in 1965. The current ruling party in their multi-party democracy is virtually unchallenged.

Though Islamic influence has continued to grow in Gambia, Christian missionaries have some freedom to share their faith. 95.4% of the people are Islamic. African traditional religions comprise about 0.3%. 0.6% of the people are Baha'i. 3.7% are Christians.

Of the Christians, 1.4% are Protestants and 2.3% are Roman Catholic.

### Prayer points:

1. Islam is the dominant religion of the land. Nevertheless, the field remains open to the seed of the gospel. Pray for continued freedom for Christianity. The greatest field is obviously among the large and continually growing Muslim population.
2. The churches are highly nominal. They are not living responsibly as bearers of the gospel. Pray for continued spiritual growth even within the church.
3. The Anglicans, Methodists, and Catholics are the primary missionaries, though they had largely been limited to a few people groups. Pray for the expansion of the field of people groups touched by the gospel.

## Missionary Nam Soon Pan

By Sharon Park

On February 7, after the worship service, English Ministry had a special time to hear the testimony of Missionary Nam Soon Pan. She met Jesus Christ in her youth during her days in Pusan. While she was working, she had an opportunity to transfer to Seoul in 1992. From that time she came to Choong Hyun English worship service. In 1994, she left Korea to study theology at Calvary Chapel Bible College (CCBC). Now she is undergoing missionary training at Operation Mobilization (OM). After several months of training in Africa and Europe, she will start her missionary work in Kazakhstan.

God's work in her life is apparent; God used the different events in her life to help her commit her life as a missionary. God was with her when she first started to believing in him against the wishes of her adamantly Buddhist mother. It is clear that God was walking with her, helping and guiding her throughout her years of study of CCBC. Through a short-term mission trip to China, she experienced God working there and cherished a hope for the people.

The women's Bible study members of the English worship service decided to make a commitment to support her in prayer. I hope that the entire Choong Hyun congregation will get involved in this beautiful ministry through prayer.

### Prayer Requests:

1. walking in the Spirit each day
2. faithful service to God and the people of Kazakhstan
3. unity and harmony with other team members

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## Dispatch from Lady Caroline: Myanmar (Burma) The Homeless Church of Myanmar

(reprinted with permission from *Christianity Today*, p. 94, October 5, 1998)

by Baroness Caroline Cox

Please come with me to one of the most beautiful parts of the world. Holiday brochures promote package deals in fliers with dramatic pictures of high mountains, lush jungles, and ancient monuments.

We are headed for Thailand and will pass through countryside where the mountains soaring above the dense, green jungle are far more dramatic than anything the travel brochures can portray.

But be warned! We are about to leave the tourist trail and travel overland to Mae Sot, near the Thai border with Myanmar (Burma)\*. We are headed for refugee camps where tens of thousands of innocent Karen and Karenni civilians - people groups from Myanmar, many of whom are Christian - have fled to save themselves from the ethnic cleansing being carried out by the brutal military junta.

In 1990, after decades of cruel military regimes, democratic elections were held in Myanmar, and the National League for Democracy party won with over 80 percent of the vote. The military ignored the election results, seized control, and has set up the illegitimate (and wrongly named) State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) government. Since the overturned elections, the SPDC and units from the Democratic Kayan Buddhist Army (DKBA) have systematically brutalized millions within their own country (over 2 million remain internally displaced), forcing them to seek refuge across the border in Thailand.

The SPDC has been systematically attacking villages of the Karen and Karenni people, rounding them up for forced labor and for use as human mine sweepers, killing those who do not comply or who are too weak to serve. Others are sent to relocation camps, which are little better than death camps. They believe death is inevitable from disease (there is no medical care), or from contaminated food (they claim that the Burmese authorities mix sand with the meager rice rations).

On our journey we will meet some of these people who have fled for their lives from Myanmar and now live in camps inside Thailand. You will hear how they suffered in their homelands at the hands of the SPDC and suffer still in the camps they presently inhabit.

For example, in the blackened and charred embers of

what is left of their home in the Wangkha camp, you might see a group of Karen children playing, seemingly with hardly a care in the world. Around them lies a scene of devastation, dust, ash, the partial remains of broken crockery, a solitary eating bowl, and plastic bags blowing in the breeze.

On March 11, about two hundred armed men from the SPDC and DKBA attacked the camp at 1:00 A.M. A 34-year-old pregnant woman, a 7-year-old boy, and a 15-year-old girl were killed by shells fired from the military

units as they ran through the camp shooting randomly and shouting that if residents failed to return to Myanmar they would be in for worse treatment in the future. Sixty people were injured in the attack, thirty of them seriously.

During another of the raids, 38-year-old MaSu was injured by shrapnel, which also destroyed her fragile home. Her neighbors in nearby homes were killed. "I don't want any more fighting, and I want to leave here and move somewhere safe with my family," she said.

The recent brutal attacks on these camps in Thailand have left thousands of Karen and Karenni civilians terrified and homeless. About 12,000 people are estimated to be living out in the jungle, having fled from their villages and/or from relocation camps. If they are caught by government troops, they

believe they will be tortured and killed.

Just when we feel as devastated as the landscape, we will have one of those amazing, redeeming experiences that so often occur during visits to our suffering brothers and sisters. Displaced from their homes and living in poverty and fear in exile, we will meet many gentle, gracious people who are enduring their suffering without complaining, without bitterness, without any trace of hatred toward those who inflict such pain on them.

MaSu said, when we asked if she had any bitterness towards the perpetrators of this outrage, "I have no hate for them. I love them because I am a Christian. The Bible tells us to love our enemies, and I forgive the soldier who injured me."

When our journey is over, we will return to the comfort and security of our homes, deeply humbled and inspired, I hope, to remember Saint Paul's letter to the church at Corinth: "When one part of the body of Christ suffers, we all suffer."



**Military units ran through the camp shooting randomly and shouting that if residents failed to return to Myanmar they would be in for worse treatment.**