

◆ GOALS ◆

Godly Worship Service
Raising Kingdom Workers
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing World
Social Service for Local Area

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)

Place of Publication : Choong Hyun church
665-1 Yocksam Dong, Kangnam Ku, Seoul Korea ☎ (02) 552-8200

Publisher: Kim, Sung Kwan Editing: Kim, Eun Ho Chief Editor: Cho, Sun Keun

Stewardship Training was Finished in God's Grace

Gospel Celebration With a House Full of Hearts Longing for Word of God



Choong Hyun's passion for the Word of God never stopped even the schedule of Stewardship Training was more like a forced march. Choong Hyun and the speakers were amazed at our church members who attend this training as they take time from their business and work.

Numerous people slept at church in order to attend every hour of the training. For the first night in the opening service, more than 3,000 members attended and the total number of people who attend the training were more than 20,000 members. Especially, there were

hundreds of young people attended every hour and showed their concerns and love for the Word of God.

The professors from Westminster Theological Seminary agreed and said that it was an incredible experience to feel such a passion for the Word of God. Westminster professors were impressed not just by the unexpectedly large number of people who came but their attitude longing for the Word of Truth. Inviting three worldly known theological scholars by a local church was not an usual event at all in Korean churches. Especially, all the lecture schedules of this training was focused only on Jesus Christ, the Center of Word. A seminar like this was a significant attempt when we think about the spiritual reality of the world which loses the essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Choong Hyun has confirmed that the pulpit of every worship service must be the place proclaiming the gospel of Jesus and nothing else. The fifth service for the young people of our church will also bring the revival of spirituality which comes through the gospel.

Opening of Bible Institution Opening Service at 7:00 p.m. February 28th(Sat.) in Galilee Hall

The first half of Bible study from Bible Institution which opens in March every year starts from March 3rd (Tues.) to June 18th. The goal of this year's Bible study is to raise church workers who are full of Holy Spirit with a good qualification. Choong Hyun hopes to see many members of our church join for this program to become a balanced worker in the Word of God.

Evangelical Business Group Daybreak Prayer Service to Overcome the Times of Crisis

Date : After Daybreak Prayer Service on Every Thursday
(5:40 a.m.-6:00 a.m.)

Place : Evangelical Business Group Office
(Educational Building #112)

Speaker : Rev. Hong Sung Lee

In Chicago, six members of Christian business men and professional workers gathered for prayer meeting in order to overcome a deadly recession which came to America in 1930 and they made the opportunity to recover by the prayer. Korea had a similar meeting during the Korean War in 1950 as Korean Christian business men gathered for a prayer to overcome the war crisis. We believe that an advancement of country and an economical growth can come only through God eternal plan and esta-

blishment of sound Christian philosophy and ethics. Just like our forefathers have overcome the crisis in prayer, Choong Hyun's Evangelical Business Men Group wants to gather together for a prayer as we face an era of IMF. Our Father God said to us in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Evangelical Business Men Group is expecting to see many business men and women in prayer meeting every Thursday morning.

Relieve the Poor with Daily Commodities with Love Revised Plan for Aid

There has been a big increase of the budget for aid fund. The goal of Choong Hyun's helping aid is to fulfill the words of Jesus who said, "Help least of these brothers of mine." Church has decided to give daily commodities rather than cash so that our aid can be realistic and actual. Visiting people with immediate needs and provide them with daily commodities by parish pastors gives a chance to share a fellowship and love in Christ Jesus. Also our church is encouraging the members to make their visitation and see who needs a help and report to parish pastors for them.

Let's Make a Change (1)

'Food Culture'

Food is Required
when the Word
is Optiona

We are facing a national crisis. The spiritual crisis came before an economical crisis. While we were enjoying spending our money, we started to feel a heaviness of our economical burden and it got heavier everyday. But it's never too late! We can change things around. Let's begin with our unreasonable food culture. We must end the meetings which require eating to make that meeting possible. Is it too much to say that a huge left over pile of food in from of a refuse heap every Monday morning may reflect our spirituality?

All meetings of every departments should not be reluctant to change our food culture so that our meetings can be substantial.

The Preacher

(Ecclesiastes 1:9-11)

The book of Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon. He was the son of King David, who is remembered as the man after God's own heart. Even so, God chose his son to build His temple. God gave Solomon the special opportunity to ask for anything from Him. He requested wisdom. His reply pleased God so much that He blessed him with a wise and understanding heart that no one before him or after him could ever possess. In essence, Solomon is the wisest man that this world will ever know. God also blessed him above all the kings of his lifetime with both riches and honor. And God promised him that if he walked in His ways and obeyed His commands as David his father had done, He would give him a long life and establish his royal throne over Israel forever.

Ecclesiastes is interpreted to mean "The Preacher" or related to "assembly" or "congregation". In other words, gather the people together and I will tell them the real truth. Solomon refers to himself as "the Preacher" and writes this book from the point of view of human experience and reasoning.

The book of Ecclesiastes begins with the poetic expression, "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity" (vs. 2). Everything is meaningless! This bewildering concept is philosophically underscored in several thoughts. The first is that, "What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun" (vs. 9). An awareness that everything circulates under the sun is brought to light. There is nothing new a person can add or subtract under the sun. Without the sun, which furnishes the warmth necessary for life, is death. The earth and all God's creatures depend upon the sun for everything.

The second thought is that, "Is there anything of which one can say, 'Look! This is something new?' It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time" (vs. 10). People can only discover things which already existed long before our finding them. People can only obtain knowledge or awareness of something not known before. God alone creates, for He is the Creator. We can only learn of His creations.

Sadly, the third thought which reflects the understanding of life's meaningless is that, "There is no remembrance of men of old, and even those who are yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow" (vs. 11). Time fades our memory. The foolish man and the wise man are both forgotten in time. Just think how far back you can remember your ancestors of old.

Solomon's wise perception that everything is meaningless is an honest and true concept. The great sages, masters, and scholars of old all came to the same understanding. Even Buddha's top goal is the discovery of no meaning.

We can picture Solomon as a man who had everything. He had happiness, health, wealth, and honor. In all his glory, he proclaimed it vanity of vanities!

He called himself a preacher, to publicly declare that in a breath of air all is vanity, empty, and worthless.

In my life, I have witnessed the last breath of many people, including my mother and best friend. I prayed for them and shared their heaviest burdens, their sincerity, their authority, and watched it all be exchanged in one breath. The transformation from life to death is unduly cold. In one wisp of air life returns to dust. Solomon emphasized this fact in stating, "I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men" (vs. 13)! It is a heavy burden, an unavoidable burden in God's plan.

Solomon saw that all the things that were done under the sun really meant nothing, "a chasing after the wind" (vs. 14). He was also aware that life's activities; birth and death, planting and uprooting, killing and healing, tearing down and building up, weeping and laughing, mourning and dancing, scattering and gathering, embracing and refraining, searching and giving-up, keeping and throwing away, tearing and mending, silence and speech, love and hate, war and peace all have a proper time. "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven" (3:1). Sadly also, "God will bring to judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time for every deed" (3:17).

An interesting point the book of Ecclesiastes brings to light is the fact that man cannot figure out God's plans. "When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future" (7:14). It concludes this thought by stating, "No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all his efforts to search it out, man cannot discover its meaning. Even if a wise man claims he knows, he cannot really comprehend it" (8:17).

God's plans are a mystery. "As you do not know the path the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things" (11:5). However, we do know that we must stand before God in judgment for all things. "Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment" (11:9).

The book of Ecclesiastes also calls us to, "Remember your Creator in the days



of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, 'I find no pleasure in them' " (12:1).

The conclusion of the book of Ecclesiastes is to, "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including

every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil" (12:13-14).

Solomon's final closing is really sad. There's not a lot of hope and joy in his concluding remarks. As a matter of fact, it's downright depressing and appears totally hopeless. How many people truly have more good deeds than bad? The good news is that in the New Testament we have a great preacher - Jesus Christ, who came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. Jesus introduced another world, not the one under the sun but the one above the sun - the Kingdom of God! No longer do we have to live 'under the sun' like Solomon, in a whole world of sinfulness. Jesus gives us New Life and makes us new creatures and enables us to live 'under the grace of God'!

How do we receive this New Life? How do we live under the grace of God? Jesus tells us, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you" (John 14:1-2). The answer is faith (trust) in our Lord and Savior! Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6)! Jesus offers us New Life and a new home in heaven. God's grace is truly amazing grace!!!

The Apostle Paul tells us of the unsearchable riches of Christ and explains the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence" (Eph. 3:10-12).

At Calvary, the place of Christ's crucifixion, the final deed was accomplished when Christ declared, "It is finished"! (John 19:30). Isn't it wonderful? Solomon could only claim vanity of vanities. Jesus proclaimed, "It is finished"! The sins of the whole world were taken by Christ. God's only son came down in human form to fulfill God's plan for man's eternal salvation. He suffered so that through Him we may become God's children.

Solomon was unable to figure out God's hidden wisdom in Christ. We Christians are able to "speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began" (1 Cor. 2:7). Paul tells us, "None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" (1 Cor. 2:8). We Christians are able to speak of it because "God has revealed it to us by His Spirit" (1 Cor. 2:10).

When Jesus ascended unto His Father, God did not leave us as orphans but sent His Holy Spirit to abide in us through faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit gives us comfort, teaches us, testifies to us, convicts us, guides us and most importantly He hears God directly and speaks to us of what He hears. All this He does for us through faith in Jesus Christ. He enables us to do God's will and follow God's pathway for our lives.

For many years I had difficulty reading Ecclesiastes. Sadly, at the end of Solomon's life, in all his wisdom, he disobeyed God's commands and did not walk in His ways. He lived a short life and ten of Israel's tribes were given to another, only one remained with his son for the sake of David. I prayed to God to help me understand His Word. My discovery of God's strong message of the precious value of new life, hope, and joy in Christ furthered my comprehension and appreciation of God's amazing grace. The greater Christ is in your life, the bigger the cross grows, the closer you become to God.

The secret formula is to seek the Kingdom of God. Jesus promises, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened" (Luke 11:9-10). Once you have the key, hold on to it by being a humble servant of God, continually repenting of your sins, and letting yourself be motivated by His grace in all you do. This way, wherever you go, and whatever your calling, you will be able to discern the Spirit's directions and serve the Lord.

For those who do not seek the Kingdom of God, life is vanity of vanities. There is no hope, joy, or value in God's judgment of the unrighteous. Righteousness only comes in one way, righteousness only comes in one truth, righteousness only comes in new life, and New Life only comes in Christ!

Christ is the head of the body of His church. He is the great preacher! Every Christian is a member and has a place in the body of Christ in which to serve and minister to others. Corporate worship, prayer, fellowship and service strengthens and nourishes our faith to stand firm in Christ. Let's go to church on Sunday with a Christ-centered understanding of who God is, the church and world. Let's live our daily lives with a Christ-centered focus that glorifies God in the highest!

New Covenant

(Jeremiah 31:31-34)

The time is coming, declares the Lord! Time is obviously a very important and critical element to this passage, for God directly mentions it. The time in history that Jeremiah wrote this message was a time of hopelessness. He had served under five kings, all who didn't listen to God's commands and fell to sinfulness. The house of Israel fell some 100 years before to the Assyrians and the house of Judah was very close to its own demise with the Babylonians.

It was at this particular time that God spoke to Jeremiah. As a prophet, a man who received direct truth and revelation from God, he understood the doom his nation was facing. After the constant rejection of God's word, Jeremiah knew there was no hope for the house of Judah. "The time is coming" were God's words of hope - God's assurance of His unending love.

Up to that time, God's chosen people lived under the 'old covenant', better known as Moses' laws or The Ten Commandments. This covenant required the shedding of animal blood, burnt offerings and a high priest to temporarily restore a right relationship to God. The people of Israel and Judah (kings, priests, prophets, men of Judah and people of Jerusalem) constantly turned their backs and not their faces to God. If they had lived according to the 'old covenant', they would have received God's blessings. Instead, their rebellion caused both the house of Israel and the house of Judah to fall.

Jeremiah repeatedly warned the house of Judah of their wrongdoings but their stubbornness and disobedience persisted. Even in their sin, God still loved them. It was a relationship that God patiently endured, for their sins were left unpunished (Rom. 3:25). Together He would bring up the people of Israel and Judah and restore their relationship to Him through a 'new covenant' - the covenant of Christ. This new covenant is God's greatest demonstration of His unending love for us - it is the amazing grace of God!

It's incredible to see that more than 600 years before Jesus'

arrival - His purpose was already clearly foretold. "Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law" (Gal. 3:23-25).

This new covenant removed the cumbersome rituals and sacrifices required of Old Testament saints. "When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled

God gave Moses the 'two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God', and 'directed him to teach God's decrees and law' (Ex. 31:18 & Deut. 4:14). The people of Israel and Judah broke the old covenant, even though God took every measure to help them understand obedience, 'though I was a husband to them'. They failed to obey God.

God's third declaration, 'after that time' refers to the end of the 'old covenant' and the forever beginning of the 'new' covenant. It means that God comes directly into our hearts, whereas before the High Priest was the only one

desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).

The last declaration is of equality. The least to the greatest will know the Lord - there will be no discrimination. Even a person with minimal intelligence will know God. God will teach man directly - the need for prophets to reveal His words is no longer necessary.

And the greatest news, the last verse, tells us that this 'new covenant' makes all sins forgiven and forgotten in the eyes of God. This is something the 'old covenant' couldn't provide. This is what is so spectacular about the 'new covenant' - the complete forgiveness of sins - the ability to maintain an everyday relationship with God.

We Christians have the greatest blessing - the fellowship with God the Father and God the Son through the Holy Spirit. This wonderful truth is given to us by God's 'new covenant', in which Jesus himself said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22:20).

"The time is coming, declares the Lord", is a time we Christians are now living in. We are living in the 'last times' - the time that lies from the finished work of Christ on the cross until His ultimate return in glory. God has provided the necessary change in people, in nature, to make them capable of obedience. Christian man has spiritual knowledge that the natural man does not, 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts'. The Holy Spirit enables men and women to see and to understand something of the glorious nature of salvation.

Since we live in the new covenant, 'let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful' (Heb. 10:23). Our hope is salvation. God promises us and eternal relationship in the 'new covenant' - Jesus Christ. Through faith in Christ we live under God's grace - He is our God and we are His people!

"The time is coming, declares the Lord", is a time we Christians are now living in. We are living in the 'last times' - the time that lies from the finished work of Christ on the cross until His ultimate return in glory. God has provided the necessary change in people, in nature, to make them capable of obedience. Christian man has spiritual knowledge that the natural man does not, 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts'. The Holy Spirit enables men and women to see and to understand something of the glorious nature of salvation.

the scroll and all the people. He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Heb. 9:19-22). Thanks to Jesus, His sacrifice was once and for all - requiring us to seek only Him for forgiveness.

God's second declaration further illustrates the distinctions between the old and new covenants. This new covenant wasn't going to be anything like the 'old covenant' - the covenant that was made with the Israelites' forefathers during Moses' time.

allowed in The Most Holy Place - the temple of the Lord. Now, the temple of the Lord is permanently established in our hearts. Paul continues this thought, "You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (II Cor. 3:3).

The 'new covenant' will be placed within man's heart and mind. It will be there for them to always remember - a permanent inscription, unlike the stone tablets. It will permanently restore the relationship between God and His people, 'I will be their God and they will be my people'. And it is only available to Christians, to those who have faith in Christ. As David so eloquently put it, "I

Mission Journal #3:

Mission Investigation

The Light of Gospel That Shines in the Land of Spiritual Darkness

Rev. Paul S. Lee
(Pastor of Mission Committee)

Tribes of Massai

After we visited the tribes of Trucana in the Northern part, we had a chance to visit the tribe of Massai in Southern part of Kenya. They are classified as an unique tribe among 49 other tribes of Kenya because Massai is a nomadic tribe. They move from the southern part of Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, to the southern part of Tanzania over the boarder line. Their ancient culture distinguishes the rich people from the poor by the number of animals that they possess and this tradition still exists even today. Their lionhearted independance and the technics to use the sharp spear for the hunting are famous. But since the government pressured them to settle down in one place and to do farm, their traditional nomadic life has been threatened just like other nomadic tribes in the world.

We had a privilege to meet two missionaries whose ministry was for tribe of Massai in Kenya. The first place we visited was missionary Chan Ho Ann's place who was sent by Emmanuel Methodist Church and the second place was lay missionary Eun Bin Koh's from our church.

Missionary Chan Ho Ann

Missionary Chan Ho Ann preached at our church on April 13, 1997 and we remember how he shared the grace of God with us. The Massai tribe is a very traditional group so that even though there had been many missionaries for them but the gospel did not spread among them effectively. But missionary Chan Ho Ann came to the Massai tribe in the eternal plan of God whose power has been revealed through the gospel that was preached by missionary Ann. He confessed and said, "It was God who did all of glorious work and I was only His instrument." He was without any knowledge of language or culture of Massai when he first came to them.

When he first went to them seven years ago, they rejected every kind of modern culture as they put on the head of lion which they hunted. Only a few months before when he went to Massai, a number of tourists from Europe were caught and almost killed by them. Their tourist bus was burnt and only the frame of the bus was left there. The chief of the village, who later became an important member of church, tried to kill missionary Ann and hang him on the tree. But by the eternal plan of God got him through serious difficulties as he earned the faith from the Massai tribe which gives a beautiful chance to preach the gospel



of Jesus Christ. His unceasing passion for evangelism started eight churches already and establish three schools and hospitals. And he is also raising 12 native future pastors.

His mission strategy was very unique. He started four churches in the East, West, South, and North within a radius of 25 km after he implanted a mother church in a center. He is now trying to start new churches within a radius of 50 km. The center church was constructed with financial support from Emanuel Church in Jamshil. But seven newly started churches were founded by the center church and other local churches. This is a good exemplary mission church which became financially independent.

We attended their Wednesday afternoon service and we saw people of the Massai tribe who were living generation to generation without God crying out for one true Father in heaven as they gave praises and worship to Him. The gospel of Jesus Christ has changed their hearts and culture as it penetrated deep into their lives. Their jingoistic attitude became meek as a sheep. They used to leave old parents and sick children and went for a long journey which takes a

▲ Only a few months before when missionary Ann went to Massai, a number of tourists from Europe were caught and almost killed by them. Their tourist bus was burnt and only the frame of the bus was left there.

several months with cattle and sheep and wait until they die naturally. However, now they truly respect their parents and take care of the poor and the sick people. Missionary Ann emphasizes the importance of tithe and keeping the Lord's day holy and teaching the way of Christian life to 1,500 native Massai. He makes his light shine through Christ to those who used to live in the land of darkness and brings a spiritual revival. His service extends to the ministry of elementary schools and local hospitals. We gave thanks and glory to God for the beautiful works which He has done for Massai through missionary Ann. We headed to the place where missionary Eun Bin Koh ministers.

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16)

❖ Testimony

Let's Open Our Minds

Sug Oh
(Direct of Youth Group)

It was quite something to find the right word which in turn puts obscure concepts and unexplained emotion into clear and consolidated image conducive to systematic understanding and relieved belief. The stewardship seminar was the very moment I could not put an end to the entangled doctrine and nondescript concept on spiritual experiences including salvation, unacceptably authoritative God's works through Moses, Isaiah and other period time, and Christ Ministry.

We Christians have sorrow, agony, pain, and rejection from the world so that God be the One we can rely on. Whenever I have those predicaments, I used to open the Psalms where I could get a reflection of myself, giving comfort and relief. Dr. Longman gave

me confidence that I am doing O.K.; I mean most of others also use Psalms as their companion as a prayer I felt all the time I used to read and meditate Psalms as a mirror of myself, my situation. What a wonderful work it is! We could have the same comfort and encouragement at 21st century as the Psalmers had long long time ago and breathe the same air of cry and emotional upheaval, telepathic communication leading together toward ultimate thanksgiving. Hallelujah!

How about new creation? Born again - hard word - is impossible in physical term. As a doctor, I had a chance to study genetic engineering whose development runs unlimited speed even to the point against God's order. I would say, however they will

never find a way that a human being can be born again. The more we try to understand the literal meaning of salvation, new creation, born-again, the earlier we fail to do that. We don't feel it and know that we've changed into new life out of the blue or at a snail pace without our knowledge. There is no scientific term or description. That is God's grace to His people. Let's open our minds and see the blessing. You, brothers and sisters know how wonderful to know Him and get an understanding while reading the Bible.

We have closed our minds and tried to find faults or formulate salvation in physical terms. Once there are those people who are not free from freedom, it would be very hard like nuts to crack; who can never find Him. Jesus is standing outside of our door and knocking at it. It is easy to say I opened it but hard to take that word in true honesty and humility. If you can not do that easily, please pray on humble knee and come to the Lord. He will help you by Holy Spirit.

Let's be free in Christ and enjoy a new creation! Thank you, Lord. We

have you here in us and we are joyful because of you. We pray your name be glorified through us because we are the temple as you The Temple. Let us become your word and shine the light through the darkness. Praise you the Lord, today and tomorrow as our forefathers had done and been doing.

English Ministry Department Winter Retreat

English Ministry Department will have Winter Retreat Feb. 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Camma Hall in Deaconal Service Build. All the members of English Ministry Department from kindergarten group to adult group are more than invited to come and share the blessings of the Lord. This winter retreat is a perfect chance for the people who were hesitated to come to English worship service even though they wanted to see you there!