

GOALS

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)

Place of Publication : Choong Hyun Church
605-1 Yoksam-dong, Kangnam-gu, Seoul 135-080, Korea (TEL: 02-552-8200 ES, 348 FAX: 563-3932)

Chairman: Sung Kwan Kim Publisher: Kwang Hun Nho Chief Editor: Sun Keun Cho



Our Race to Run Must Continue in Year 2000

On January 1, the world ushered in a new millenium. The transition from the previous millenium to the present might cause us to simultaneously feel anxious and hopeful. During such moments, we must pay attention to our responsibility of faith - by running a race toward the day. It was last year when we started to have the Eucharist on the first Lord's day of the year. We were blessed to have it in all the main services last Sunday. This means that our New Year's Resolution must be to live in obedience to the Lord and being united with Christ. Let us all look forward to the day of the Lord when we see his glory at last, and run the race with all our effort.

Winter Short-Term Mission To Remote Areas of the Earth in 2000

Starting from Jan. 11, 69 missionaries will be dispatched to seven different nations

During the winter, we will again carry out short-term missions to tell the gospel of Jesus Christ worldwide, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We are sending our missionaries to seven countries (see below). Let us all pray for our missionaries to be filled with the Holy Spirit, witness the gospel and safely return all after their works.

Countries	Mongolia	Sri Lanka	Suriname	India	Sudan	Bangladesh	Vietnam
Date	1.11-25	1.14-24	1.15-28	1.20-2.2	1.29-2.6	2.7-22	2.14-23
Team size	9 (people)	11	10	12	8	9	10
Leader	Cho In Je	Im Moo Chun	Kim Eul Chul	Kim Young Soo	Um Pil Sung	Jeon Hong Ryool	Kim Kwang Nam
Instructor	Kim Hee Soo	Cho Mun Chan	Lee Seung Soo	Jeong Hae Seong	Chung Gab Shin	Cha Byeong Joon	Seo Kwang Jin
Main Work	Medical mission Home visit & training for returned laborers	Researching on native youth mission	Supporting currently active Short term missionaries Native Indian evangelism	Campus mission. Home visit & training for returned laborers. Bible school for children.	Medical mission. Supporting Ezra Bible School.	Campus mission. Home visit & training for returned laborers.	Researching mission field (LMTC Training Course)

Prison Evangelism Association Holds Winter Vacation Bible School in Chuncheon Juvenile Prison

Jan. 10-14

The Prison Evangelism Association has been evangelizing to 20 prisons in Korea, and most of its attention is paid to Shinchun Middle School, located in Chuncheon (Kangwon Province) Juvenile Prison. Vacation bible school has been held twice a year in the summer and winter, and the association has seen much success. To sustain such success, more young teachers are needed to closely counsel kids, and the church would like to encourage as many young people as possible to participate. Please come and visit the Prison Evangelism Association (Room 103, Main Sanctuary) or call Ext. 207 for further questions.

New Frontier for Our Mission

*Finding New Coworkers
in Rwanda*

Missionary Young Dae Kim, who has served in Sudan for the last five years, is planning to go to Mu Coma, Rwanda in January, in order to establish a new church there and expand his mission territory. Other short-term missionaries will visit Sudan and take over Missionary Kim's work and, for awhile, he will frequently visit Sudan to help their settlement. Meanwhile, the church decided to construct a church building in Hazosef, Sudan, for more effective mission and evangelism.

Additionally, the North Korean Mission Society will send 400 bibles and hymnals for refugees from North Korea.

Let's Spread the Gospel!

2000 Stewardship Training for Church Workers

The 2000 Stewart Workshop will be held in the main sanctuary from Jan. 26 (Wed.) to 27 (Thur.). Its objectives are to equip our church workers with the word of God, make them the witness of the gospel and establish a true body of Christ. Anticipated participants are all church workers newly assigned for the year of 2000, including all pastors, elders, senior and junior deacons and deaconesses, parish directors and managers, choir members, Sunday school teachers, members of all evangelism associations, committee members of young adult and college groups, church employees, Parking Management officers, main worship services' guiding assistants,

offering assistants and any lay people who desire to participate the program. The schedule is as follows:

	Jan. 26 (Wed.)	Jan. 27 (Thur.)
7 - 8 p.m.	Wednesday Evening Service (Lecture I by Rev. Sung Kwan Kim)	Lecture III
8- 8:20 p.m.	Break	Break
8:20 - 9:10 p.m.	Lecture II	Lecture IV



by Rev. Sung Kwan Kim
Senior Pastor

ENCOURAGEMENT

(1 Thessalonians 4:18)

Throughout the world, people are facing very difficult circumstances. This is partly due to the Y2K problem. We hear of terrible disasters befalling nations such as cold weather. In some places, natural disasters are so severe that the survival rate is virtually nothing. The lack of electricity in these areas have caused many people to freeze to death. Lack of drinking water has caused many people to dehydrate and perish. In many of these situations, people have no hope of staying alive. Paul strongly says, "Therefore comfort one another with these words (v. 18)." He encourages the saints in Thessalonica by teaching them the things that concern the dead in Christ (see vv. 13-17). He comforts them with the Christian hope of resurrection, which is in sharp contrast to the hopelessness of unbelievers in the face of death. His words are directed toward our ears today because we need to hear the reassuring affirmation of God's great redemption plan. We need the encouragement that comes from faith in His promises.

My dear brothers and sisters, if we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied (see 1 Cor. 15:19). If our hope is only for our present existence, then we have totally missed the heart of the gospel. Unless we believe that our language and confession, praises and singing, repenting and prayers for witness, and teaching of the gospel news is much, much better than this present life, our faith is useless. Does your faith and hope reach beyond this earthly life? Those who place people or things above Christ are truly to be pitied. If you believe God's word, by attending services every Sunday here at Choong Hyun it will represent a little Easter Sunday for you, every hallelujah song will echo with the hope of resurrection. For as Christians eagerly wait with expectation for the revelation, they look expectantly for Jesus' return and desire their resurrection bodies.

Our baptism into Christ means that we died with Christ for our sins and that we are resurrected in Him. The celebration of Holy Communion anticipates the heavenly celebration — the day Jesus and you eat together. Sadly, not many people really believe that. Today, this message and sermon is the only reality in the world that applies not only to worldly things, but to hope for eternal life — RESURRECTION!

The problem is that we comforted. In order to find comfort in a difficult situation, we have to understand and believe in the hope of resurrection. Y2K disasters stem from public communication, belief in scientific solutions, politics and overall lack of trust in the Lord God. This results in broken families where the husband or wife don't trust each other, parents who don't trust their children, and brothers and sisters who turn on each other. All grieve in this lovely world and the sad thing is that most grieve in vain.

No one can escape from the suffering and pain of this world. Moreover, no one can escape from death. This world has limitations and these limitations do

bring sadness. "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus (1 Thes. 4:13&14)." The certainty of a Christian's resurrection is based on Christ's resurrection. Jesus did not escape death and we also cannot escape death. We have to confront it. We have to die before we can be resurrected. We must grieve things, but the gracious thing is we have the promise of life after death.

Jesus made this way successful because He took death first. He took death through encouragement. Even though Jesus experienced victory and resurrection, He still had to go through death. If you believe this, that means your death also gives way to life. We must pass through death in order to enter into glory. Right now, what we have in this situation is nothing. We grieve for nothing. When you really believe, you're not scared anymore. "And on this

will be the first to rise. There was no need for them to worry about it and there is no need for us to them to worry about it.

As an example, let's look at Joshua in the Old Testament. Joshua was a man of God. Before he died, he revealed the history of God's great love towards the Israelites, and then preached a fantastic sermon. In his sermon he told them, "Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord (Jos. 24:14)." He further declared, "Now therefore, put away the foreign gods which are in your midst, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel (v. 23)." My dear friends, we have such a hard life right now and many want to seek worldly answers. We need this Bible verse. We need to be reminded not to go to gods for food and water. We need Jesus much more than we need food and water. Through your life your heart must go to the Lord, the Lord of Israel. Jesus died on the cross so that you could go to

Comfort each other with these words. Know for certain that if you have completely died with Christ you will not rely on your own things, your own self righteousness.

In Christ there is a peace that overcomes every tribulation

mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken (Isa. 25:8&9). "Amen!" The veil of death which covers us will be removed. Just think, "and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away (Rev. 21:4)." Isn't this a powerful biblical passage? When you read it, it makes you so happy. If you accept, Jesus will wipe away your tears. In order to have tears you must have a problem. You have to take the pain and suffering, that's why God gives you comfort.

Before we arrive in glory, we have to pass through this grief. We will love to grieve because the promise is immense. Our shadow and sorrow is big but our joy is precious! The early Christians didn't have their faith tempted by the disasters of the end time. The Thessalonica church believed that they were living in the end time — the day of the Lord (see 1 Thes. 5:8). They were expecting Christ's return to be imminent. As such, they wanted to know whether the death of a believer before the Lord comes causes him to lose all hope of sharing in the glorious reign of Christ. Paul answered them, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first (1 Thes. 4:16)." The first dead

Calvary Mountain.

All Christians really hope for the future heaven. The story of the ten virgins in the New Testament reminds us of this truth. Ten virgins awaited the arrival of the bridegroom and five of them were not prepared. These sorry five still had worldly concerns. Some people have real oil and some don't. You cannot mix true oil with any other oil. When the judgement call comes, you can enter through the narrow or wide door. The choice is yours. Those who enter through the narrow door can only do so through the blood of Jesus. If you select worldly things, you can't have godly things because the two do not go together.

A lot of Christians really want to go to heaven, but they are not prepared. "Alas, you who are longing for the day of the Lord, For what purpose will the day of the Lord be to you? It will be darkness and not light (Amos 5:18)." The day of the Lord is the last day — the day of judgment. Many think the day of the Lord will bring judgment only on their enemies. This is true, but remember that the day of the Lord will include you. Be careful. God is not only love but righteousness. You have to cleanse your sin. Throughout your life do not compromise — do not look for worldly things. Do not sin. Confront death at the cross of Jesus, and you will be a completely born again Christian. God is love and He has grace and mercy. God is also righteous and He has judgment, and there is a hope that encourages every believer. Trust the Lord God and do what He wants.

What would a five-year-old kid know about Jesus? How could a kindergarten kid understand God's love? These questions were answered as I observed the Sunday School's Kindergarten class filled with little kids between four and six years old. It's the age when humans can barely start to verbally express their thoughts. As I was observing, I noticed a beautiful teacher reciting a phrase in a clear voice and also using body language. Then, the kids shouted out with loud voices repeating what the teacher says, "Today's word! Matthew 6:11! Give us today our daily bread!" The way they opened the bible, the way they ate, and the way they memorized the verse ... Everything was adorable, everything. I also noticed, there were some children not paying attention to the teacher. They are wrestling each other, playing around, clapping and laughing loudly, etc. However, who could dislike them for playing around? I could only smile.

It's now time for "the fun learning of the word of God." I looked at Fruit Class 7, where Soo Youn Kang and little students were studying the bible together. "How has everyone been last week?" asks the teacher. Everyone says at least a sentence, "Teacher! Teacher! I wrote a letter to my grandma last week," says a proud Ji Yoen. The teacher says "good job" and today's Ji Yoen is now fully confident. "Well, who can say the memory verse?" The kids

Bible Study in Kindergarten Class

Can You Hear the Sound of Our Future Workers Growing?



looked confused. Most of them barely memorized last week's memory verse with the teacher's help. Could they body worship along the memory verse?

Today's God's word is about God who gives us food. A question is asked: "What did God give to the Israelites in the desert?" Chan Yong confidently says, "Popcorn!" "Excellent! That's right. In fact, it looks like popcorn. We call it 'manna.' They also ate quail there. Who gave those manna and quail to the Israelites?" Well, this time, all the kids got the right answer. They shouted, "God!"

God, who gave the Israelites manna, is now handing out chocolates to the kids. Then, it's him again. Chan Yong prays for the snack. "God, the Father, thank you so much. We thank you for the word of God. And let us enjoy our chocolate." Kids, such as Ji Yoen, Chan Yong, So Mang, Hana, Joo Eun, and Yae Hyun, are the future of our church. Can you hear the sound of our future kingdom workers growing?

Teacher Kang received Jesus when she was an adult. She appreciates these kids who can learn and understand the word of God at such an early age. In fact, her precious confession is that she experiences God's blessing through these kids. I see the wonderful teacher and the kids shining like morning stars in the sky. How lovely they are! (Su Kyeong Lee)

He Knows I'm Poor and Weak

Faith that Overcomes All Suffering and Pains

Hyae Jung Kim (Deaconess, First Young Adult Group's Bible Teacher)

My previous life could be described in one word: poverty. I didn't look different from a beggar. One day, I asked God, "Lord, if you are a living God, please look upon my needs. My desire is to turn away from sins and live only by faith. Please trust me!" It wasn't the type of prayer that most people usually pray for. I just kept mumbling and talking to God, repeating the same thing. Some time had passed. God allowed me to meet a gentleman named Doo Hee Lee, who is now my husband. It was like Cinderella meeting a prince: I was a humble lady and he was the second of four sons in an affluent family. I truly loved him and wanted to marry him. However, my poor condition was a stumbling block for me to do as I wish. Then, I asked God again. "Please, let me marry him. Then, I'll bring my life his life, and our children's lives in front of you, God Almighty." God answered my prayer. I had nothing at all, but I could marry him without preparing anything for our wedding.

My husband's parents didn't know about my background, let alone my poor family and Christian faith. They supported this marriage simply by evaluating me. When we returned from our honeymoon, I was forced to participate in an ancestral worship with my husband's family. That was when the struggle began: the battle to keep my pledge before God. I rejected their orders and my in-laws harshly accused my action. I imagined my life with them would be a total disaster. However, God didn't ignore my situation. He gave a chance to separate from my parents-in-law. The house we used to live was built to endure for a lifetime, supposedly. Nevertheless, a raised platform of the front yard and house garden collapsed. As a result, they sold the house and my family was given an opportunity to live separately. This was another of God's many

blessings.

My husband's family didn't help us with moving out, because of our faith in Jesus. It didn't matter, though, because we were only joyful for our freedom of religion. Though we were poor again, it didn't trouble me at all. God gave me the strength to fight against all hardships. I prayed in the early mornings and did house work in my parents-in-law's house during the day. Yet, I was never tired, for my faith was the source of strength that sustained me. I believe that God makes miracles happen for his people who seek only his face and righteousness in their grounds. There's none like Him in this world. The secular world cannot offer such blessings. Only God can. I am so thankful to God, who saved a wretch like me and made me a righteous person before his eyes.

When I married, there was only one Christian, except for us, in my husband's family, but now his entire family has accepted Jesus Christ. My parents-in-law are now deacons in Choong Hyun Church. I don't want to boast about this too much, but I am happy and joyful for their faith. A poor girl has lived by God's grace and love. An uncountable blessing of God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit is the only thing that I want to share with everyone.



Unforgettable Person

Two Heroes Who Walked With Me Over Troubled Water

Bu Ryu Yim (Sophomore, College Group)



I recall two men who walked with me over my troubled waters, when I had my most difficult and painful moments.

I started attending church when I was a little kid. Eventually, I got sick of it and stopped going to church when I was in the sixth grade. Later on, I felt spoiled during middle school. Reflecting on this, I felt 'spiritual pandemonium'. I did all kinds of nasty stuff and my mouth was a 'cursing machine'. One day, my best friend told me to go to church with him: it was when I was a seventh grader. Since my friend asked me, I went with him. However, I saw other kids talking and paying no attention to the service and was disappointed. So, I stopped going to church again.

Nevertheless, my friend never gave up. I returned to the church next year. It was one year since I last attended service there. There I met a man: my bible teacher. He started melting down my heart, which was filled with arrogance and hatred. His words and actions were true and humble. He overcame my misconceptions of God through actually living in faith to follow Jesus. I was brought into a prayer room, and learned how to pray. I also tasted true fellowship in Christ. This was how I got back into the truth of God.

Yet, it wasn't the defining moment in my life. There were some changes in my life from sadness and poorness into joy and richness in Christ. I give thanks to my friend and bible teacher for helping me out. They walked with me in the days of suffering and helped sustain hope in myself. They are my heroes.

Mission Committee's Advice to Young People with Vision from Short-Term Lay Missionary

We are pleased that the number of those who have decided to become short-term lay missionaries is increasing, after experiencing the live mission through our church's short-term mission program. However, there is concern that in the new millennium, as people might grow further from the Lord, our young Choong Hyun members are going west when the evil goes east, going against the secular current. For those people, we would like to give some advice.

1. More Fellowship with God

We notice some people who are busy preparing for missions and are concerned that there seems to be no place for God's intervention. Usually, they are too busy getting ready and establishing themselves by using human means. Of course, it is necessary to prepare everything for practical reasons. However, the source of our strength is God. Please try to have more time to meet Jesus in order to be spiritually supplied.

2. Lead a Simple Lifestyle

There are many things that young people have to accomplish or want to achieve. However, if people lead a complicated life style, it can possibly take away their fellowship with God. It is sometimes necessary to adjust your lifestyle into a much simpler way so that you may have more time understanding God.

3. Participate in a LMTC Course

It is definitely helpful to join a LMTC program to obtain God's calling, and learn basic missiology and abroad training.

4. Meeting with foreigners

At our church, Amen Hall is virtually a mission field. There are various foreigners from eight countries, gathered on every Lord's day. They study the bible, sing praises and have Christian fellowship. It is also a good place to learn their cultures and languages.

5. Caring for Fellow Workers

People will not be working alone. It is definitely necessary to have friends with different gifts and talents that can complement your shortcomings. Please look for such people and continue to pray together.

6. Reading Books About Missions

It may be impossible to experience first-hand the various environments of different mission fields. Yet, reading many books - written by countless missionaries - about such activities will help you to understand their situation from their perspective. It will also be useful to compare what is written in various books against your personal ideas about missions.

Cry of Sorrow Turns into Singing for Joy



James Lee (third from left), team member

It was last December when we left for a yam-shaped land in Africa. There in Uganda, we met so many different people on our way for mission. Among many incidents I experienced, the most unforgettable event was a meeting with the Karamo tribe, which is often called "Masai" in Uganda because of their aggressiveness and hostility. As we distributed snacks to children in Moroto Rainbow School, we ordered all kids to stay in their classrooms and handed out the snacks one child at a time. Kids, who already received their snacks, came back and surrounded us as more children were crowding us. Almost immediately, chaos erupted as children randomly picking grabbed food or fought each other for it. Some kids, who didn't get a snack, started crying. The loud sounds were an echo of starvation which resonated in my eardrums for a while. Watching the fighting was so painful to me, but soon I realized how long God had to endure watching them even before we arrived here, and how much He was waiting for us to come to this land. Such thoughts gave me hope and strength, filling me with a new brave heart to go even further as God calls on me. "I'll go and proclaim His word. Then, I'll hear the cry of sorrow turn into singing for joy! Amen."

Where God is Pleased

Woon Kyung Kim (Teacher, First Young Adult Group)

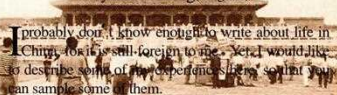
As usual, Myong Dong was crowded. Yet, I could recognize my friends even from a distance, and could see who was eagerly evangelizing or feeling embarrassed about this outdoor evangelism. As our praise team was singing, we sang along with them and gave out small evangelical handouts. I tried to talk to a couple of people, holding out some handouts in my hand and saying "Believe in Jesus." Then, a sudden sorrow overwhelmed my heart, wondering what they were really living for. I could see some passersby carrying shopping bags, some looking at their receipts as if they just had paid by credit card; others hanging around and laughing aloud. I wondered where they were headed and whether they were really happy as they looked. Maybe, they might have emptiness in their hearts, even though they were smiling. Then, I wondered how God would feel about them: it must be painful for him. I could almost feel what kind of pain that might be, and remembered Psalms 2:7, "You are my



Son; today I have become your Father. Then, I asked God, "God, what are you going to do with them? Aren't you also their Father? Are you going to just watch them?" As if wrestling with God, I prayed for them, having those questions in my mind. Eventually, I realized God is still God who searches for the wounded, the hopeless and the burdened. The king of kings, God almighty sent his Son, Jesus Christ who died for us. Are we really something for God? "Of course," answers God. Now, I want to shout out toward those in unbelief: "I am a truly happy person, because I've met my true father and now am living with him." I want them to find their forgotten father. I desire to tell them how good and loving he is. Well, we couldn't really check if our outdoor evangelism was fruitful or not, but we prayed on the way home that in Jesus' name God would shackle the evil forces covering in Myong Dong, so that this place can be reclaimed as God's kingdom.

Life in China

Hyae Sil Chung (our pastor)



I probably don't know enough to write about life in China, for it is still foreign to me. Yet, I would like to describe some of my experiences and share some of you can sample some of them.

Let's start with school life. In Korea, the school year usually begins in March, but in China it starts at the end of September. Therefore, they start one semester later compared to Korean schools. The school I used to attend has a two-hour lunch period after morning classes. So, most kids go home to eat lunch, and, afterwards, have four more periods in the afternoon.

After second period, they have a simple stretching exercise. It was very weird at first, but soon I got used to it. Another strange thing about the school is their funny looking school uniform. It's not like what you'd see in Korea. The uniform looks more like a training suit. You could see it's very country-like. I didn't feel like wearing it at first, but later I figured out that it wasn't too bad because I had to wear it only on Mondays.

I cannot forget to mention my Christian life in China. People there also carry on their Christian faith as if we do in Korea. By the way, a few foreigners could cause some problems if they build their own church and behave as if living in their own homeland, because Chinese are anxious about any possible misconduct by those foreigners in China. Such anxiety is in fact a reason why many Chinese people resist Christian faith which is introduced by foreigners. So, I decided to serve the church as much as I could, for I wanted people to understand that the church is a really beautiful place.

It isn't easy to live as a Christian yet. The only way to do so is by continuing to pray for positive changes in the conditions of Chinese Christians.