

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,
665-1 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

Special Service for Pentecost

"He Who Has an Ear, Let Him Hear (Rev. 2:7)"

The church held a special praise service for Pentecost last Friday June 9, 2000. Rev. Sung Kwan Kim led this special service and proceeded with worship similar to that offered on Good Friday. Scriptures related to the descending of the Holy Spirit was read, hymns and special music were sung. Rev. Kim also delivered message on the Spirits coming. The scriptures read on this special service was Acts 2:1-11; Genesis 11:1-9; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:22-27; Romans 8:14-17; Isaiah 44:1-8; John 15:26-27; John 16:7-15; 1 Corinthians 12:3-13; and John 20: 19-20. The congregation also sang hymns 175, 172, 169, and 180. Several special music was presented by Bethel Womens Choir, Soprano Hee Sook Kim, Baritone Joon Sung Seo, the Pastoral Singers and Hallelujah Choir. It was truly a time of meditation and prayers.

All Congregation Morning Prayer Meetings for Spiritual Enrichment

God Will Help Her at Daybreak (Ps. 46:5)

During the past week, the church held special morning prayer meetings for spiritual enrichment as Pentecost Sunday drew near. For Christian living the spirit filled life is a must. We pray that all Choong Hyun members will continue to kneel down at the dawn prayer meetings in prayers for the ministry and goal of the church, remembering these verses:

"Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to

acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth"(Hosea 6:3).

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place"(Mark 1:35).

Full-Scale Usage of the Second Education Building

"Where the True Workers of the Kingdom are Nurtured"

The Second Education Building, where many young Choong Hyun members gather, finally began its full-scale usage. Until now, many leaders of the church sought ways to maximize the utilization of the building by visiting famous churches in and out of the country. From last May 21, the Senior High School Department had already started to use the building for their small group Bible studies and meetings. The College Group started to use the building for their Saturday meetings and Group Bible Study. The Young Adults Group will commence their use of the building on Jun. 18 for their Group Bible Studies and meetings. In this new building, there are teachers' lounges on each floor in hope for a better teacher-student communications. All who use this new facility should maintain the vicinity clean. Please pray for this new education building that this will be where the true workers of the Kingdom are nurtured.

Vocal Music Night

Vocal music groups, who minister within our church, will hold a night of praises sponsored by the Praise Department on Sept. 22, 2000. Presently, there are about 20 vocal music groups in Choong Hyun church. They are faithful servants who minister through song on Fridays and Sundays. About 15 groups are expected to participate for this night of praise. Please pray for this spirit-filled praise night.

SUMMER RURAL EVANGELISM

The Evangelism Department finalized this summer's plan to evangelize the nation. The first, for evangelization of the rural community. Institution Evangelism Staff and Young Adults will be sent on a Rural Evangelism Mission. Also, the date and place for the summer spiritual retreat for Choong Hyun Evangelism Teamist Choong Hyun Prayer Mountain on Fri. Jun.

Appointing Short-Term Missionaries

The Missions Department wishes to appoint some short-term missionaries for world evangelization. This is to assist or to succeed the short-term missionaries who are sent. Regions to send missionaries are Suriname, Sudan, Sri Lanka, and Uganda. Other selected countries are Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Guyana. For each countries, two or three short-term missionaries will be sent to minister for one to two years. Please earnestly pray for fruitful missions in these foreign countries through dedicated workers.

Ready to Send Summer Flood Relief

The Service Department decided to send summer flood aid to repeated flood-stricken areas to share the love of Christ to heart-broken residents. The floods occur almost every year so it is almost certain that there will be homeless people. For this, there is need for practical plans. The Service Department should prepare for this important ministry in prayer so that they can be effective ambassadors of Christ to their fellow neighbors.

Service Information

Sunday	Services in the Main Sanctuary 7:00 a.m, 9:00 a.m, *11:00 a.m, 1:00 p.m, 3:00 p.m, and 5:00 p.m. *The 11:00 a.m. service is simultaneously translated into English, Chinese and Japanese. The English Service is held in the Welfare Center (Deaconal Bldg. B 1) at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday	Services in the Main Sanctuary 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Friday	Prayer and Praise Service in the Main Sanctuary 7:30 p.m.
Daily	Early Morning Prayer Meetings in the Main Sanctuary 5:00 a.m.

Evangelism Department for Foreigners

Wednesday	Teachers Prayer Meetings - 8:30 p.m.
Sunday	Service in Amen Hall - 9:30-10:30 a.m. Bible Study in Amen Hall - 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Service in the Main Sanctuary - 1:00 p.m. *Simultaneous interpretation in Sri-Lankan, Chinese, Mongolian, Hindi and Indonesian are available.



by Rev. Sung Kwan Kim
Senior Pastor

“Reimagining the New Testament Church”

(Acts 2:41-47)

“Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart”

Today, many churches—including ours—have little to no impact. There are too many spectators! Members have gone from serving to demanding service. This ungodly change has caused numerous churches to focus on pleasing their congregations instead of God. Now, churches think methods are more important than messages. Church leaders are more interested in the ways to lead a church than they are with the reason for leading. They’re more concerned with the public audience than with Christ and the Bible. Also, a large majority of believers are showing less and less concern for the lost ones. It’s a sad, but true, current state of church affairs. In Acts 2, we find a New Testament church that has tremendous power. What’s the difference between this church and ours?

The first thing that stands out is that this church stood on the Word of God, “So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls” (v.41). Because of the preaching of the Gospel, the Word of God, 3,000 people repented and were baptized. When we look to the beginning of Acts, we read that this church started with 120 believers, who continually prayed for 10 days until they received the promised Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:14&15). Coincidentally Pentacost occurred on the 50th day after Christ’s ascension, and Christ’s time on earth after His resurrection was 40 days, hence 50 - 40 = 10. On the day of Pentacost, the believers in Jerusalem became witnesses of Christ because of the Word of God (see Acts 1:8).

Right now, we’re losing our ability to teach of the Word of God because we’re not satisfied with Jesus Christ alone. We want new things, things that have very little to do with evangelism. Let’s get on the same page here by understanding that this poor, dark world needs the Gospel, the Word of God. It’s the Word of God, not people, that changes and transforms humans

from darkness to light! Listen to Paul’s preaching, “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3 & 4). My dear friends, it’s the Scriptures and the Bible, from which we learn and teach the Word of God.

This New Testament church truly had holy worship services, “They were continually devoting themselves to the

manifested His glory.

“Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were being taken place through the apostles” (v. 43). This New Testament church perceived the holiness and glory of Christ’s presence. The presence of Christ within His church should be something no one can mistake. Believers should experience it and unbelievers should wonder over it. Although God is omnipresent, there is a special sense of His being within His church. The joy and excitement of

mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart” (vv. 44-46). The intimate love between believers is so obvious in this passage. Their daily sharing united them together. Christian fellowship is such an important element of church. The neglect of it causes severe disparity and the breaking apart of oneness in mind.

Day by day, this church praised God and had favor with all the people, “And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved” (v.47). Amen! Day by day, this beautiful church kept growing and growing because of God’s blessings upon their faithfulness. Day by day, they remained true witnesses. Day by day, their praise and love of God was heartfelt. Day by day, their worship evidenced the power of the Gospel. The Bible doesn’t say week by week or month by month, but day by day this wonderful church praised God.

This New Testament church had the Word of God and continually worshipped, fellowshiped and witnessed to God’s grace. My dear Choong Hyun congregation members, do you have in your heart the Word of God? Do you appreciate the Gospel? Do you have personal and family devotions all the time? Do you care for others? Do you want to become one? Are you a member of the body of Christ? Choong Hyun is the body of Christ. Let’s join together through the Word of God and the empowering of His Spirit for true fellowship and worship. We can’t do it ourselves, we need the Holy Spirit to guide us and use us.

Today is Pentacost, and because of it this new church started. Take a new look at the intricate details the Bible gives us about this church. Let the Holy Spirit change your perspectives and open your heart to hear and submit to God’s Word. Please humble yourself. We are not great or smart, but we know Jesus loves us and gave His life for us. Let’s confess, “Jesus forgive my sins and become my Lord”. Amen

*Today is Pentacost, and
because of it this new church started.*

*Take a new look at the intricate details the Bible
gives us about this church. Let the Holy Spirit
change your perspectives
and open your heart to hear and submit to God’s*

Word. Please humble yourself.

*We are not great or smart,
but we know Jesus loves us and gave*

*His life for us. Let’s confess,
“Jesus forgive my sins and become my Lord”.*

Amen!

apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (v. 42). Here we see the inner-workings of those who know God’s love. The apostles continually preached, and their teaching brought learning to believers, so that all were able to come together at the Lord’s Table and to prayer. Amen! Their worship wasn’t a formal ritual but grew from their pure faith. They became spiritually new. They came together, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with [their] heart to the Lord” (see Eph. 5:19). Their hearts experienced the grace of God, and thus, their worship

believers worshipping God in Spirit and in truth shines forth the amazing grace of God. Today’s churches lack awe. People come and go as if nothing is different. They don’t feel anything is special about church. They don’t appreciate the blessings of the church. Their faith is dangerously lukewarm!

True fellowship was another outward sign of this New Testament church’s inward love of God. They cared for others more than themselves, “And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one

You Are Christ Letters:

Hole in the Socks

By Yon Hee Chung, Reporter

On the way to Sunday service, I met two deaconesses in the subway. One of them was an acquaintance who served the church in various capacities. But, I had no personal fellowship with her so I was just following her. While we were walking, I took a look at her feet.



Oops! She had a hole in her socks the size of a fist. It was odd to see white heels through black socks. Moreover, the shoes she wore were so old that its laces were all worn out and the strings barely held them together. But, the deaconess did not pay attention to it. I heard that she is in her sixties. She had some gray hairs but she walked with the confidence of a young person.

What do the holes in her socks mean? It didn't matter to her. At that moment, I felt a strong moving touch from my heart. I guess that deaconess had only the slightest idea how deeply she had impressed me that morning. Our sincere Lord speaks to me—even through such holed socks.

About Mental Laziness in the Classroom

By Yon Hee Chung, Reporter

The Bible does not save exhortations against the lazy. Proverbs 10:4 says, "Lazy hands make a man poor but diligent bring wealth." So, people repeatedly commit themselves to live a diligent life. A diligent life is so beautiful. But many times, people would forget what is really important about awareness of mental laziness. While many people are critical about physical laziness, mental laziness is often overlooked. Moreover, at times, mental laziness takes a cover of faith and, thus, is beautified. Mental laziness impacts us deeper than on the surface.

When our hands are lazy, many poor people have to rely on others help to make their living. Likewise, mental laziness requires help from others. It would be fortunate to meet nice people along the way to get help but, when a lazy person encounters an evil person, the result could be detrimental. An extreme example would be falling into trap of heresy. This is the price for being mentally lazy. Now is the time to stop our mental laziness. Let's find some time to reflect our mental laziness from the Scriptures.

Looking at the World through the Bible "Trap of Sin: Honor Killing"

By Rev. Dong Ha Kim

How far can man's depravity go? Man's sorrowful depravity can be observed even in Muslims who take a great pride in their religiosity. In muslim countries, such as Pakistan, Egypt, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey there is severe physical abuse of women in the name of 'honor killing'. This honor killing is physically abusing women even to their death by the male family members—by husbands, fathers, or even brothers—in the name of saving their family's honor.

For instance, on Dec. 28, 1998 a woman named 'Perbin' was severely attacked on her face with a razor by her husband whom he accused of sexual misbehavior. Her nose and ears were cut off and eyes were pluck out. What is more serious is that the offenders committed such a crime without any guilt. This is because Islamic law provides a right of 'honor killing' to those male family members. For defending the family's honor, they are justified. That's why, says human right activists, hardly any women goes to the court for such abuse.

Sin defiled man to be evil and destructive. However transcendent a man may be, man is enslaved to sin and potentially prone to sin. Man can never lose their sinful nature without the Holy Spirit's transforming power to change us from our sin. Thus, even to moral Muslims, Jesus Christ and His cross is indispensable. Their depravity cannot be remedied by religiosity. The transformation by clean water after acknowledging one's sin is needed. (Heb. 10:22)

Word that Changed Me

Restoration of Faith

By Chang Ha Choi (Deacon, First Young Adults' Teacher)

When the Lord sent Jerub-Baal, Barak, Jephthah and Samuel, and he delivered you from the hands of your enemies on every side, so that you lived securely. But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was moving against you, you said to me, No, we want a king to rule over us even though the LORD your God was your king" (1 Sam. 12:11-12).

Those were the words which changed my career. As was in the case in critical moments, I was drawn into fear and trembling. As people seek God in moments of weakness and fear, I tried to overcome my fear by reading the book of Ruth and Samuel. This passage came to me and challenged me profoundly.

It was the visible strength of gentile nations that Israel was afraid of, not an invisible God. Israel wanted to elect a king like those gentile neighbors instead of a sovereign God. In place of putting their trust on God to escape their fears, Israel wanted to establish a king—which really was an escape for their problems. I realized that I was just like this Israel. I saw that I was earnestly praying because of present problems. But, I found the same ignorance of Israel in me that I was crying out for a humanly king while the true King was overseen. I was only aware and afraid of upcoming changes and opportunities—not knowing the heavenly King who can give or take it away. I came to realize that what I really need is not an earthly king who can provide for me but to restore my relationship with the true God in faith.

"Now here is the king you have chosen, the one you asked for; see, the LORD has set a king over you. If you fear the LORD and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the LORD your God—good! But if you do not obey the LORD, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your fathers" (1 Sam. 12:13-15).

Through this message, I came to a clear conviction that God does not answer to our needs according to the circumstantial prayers we give but according to our faith. I thank God for allowing His restoration of my faith that now allows prayers not in fear and trembling but in thanksgiving.

True Love

By Kyu Suk Kim (Deacon, Sixth District)

What makes man a man and to live eternally? The Bible teaches that from faith, hope and love the greatest is love. In church, there are various ministries: some serve as apostles, prophets, teachers,

miracle performers, healers or who speak tongues. Among so many gifts, Paul says the greatest is love. I understand why love is the greatest. A loving church and faith is valuable but, without true love, this can also be a motivation to do cruel things. Jesus was hung on the cross because of fundamental Jews. For example, after the reformation, thousands were killed because of misapplied faith. Misplaced faith in Adolf Hitler led to the death of six million Jews.

Whatever it may be, without motivation of love, even faith can be very destructive. But, proper motivation based on true love is an important key to solve any problems. Love can solve complex problems that money, fame or power cannot solve. For flood victims, the most needed thing is clean, drinkable water. To our ears, many people talk about loving our church; sing love songs; love stories in dramas and films. However, there is no true love, agape love found anywhere. As the true love of our Lord Jesus does, true love not only surpasses evil but good as well. This is because true love gives life to man. Thus, Paul teaches that love does not desire for selfish benefit but love loses and surrenders. Some of us may have experienced the richest spiritual blessings and happiness when all things are given up for loved ones. Absence of love means a dead person and church. When man lives without receiving love from others, it means that man is already a dead person. What makes man a man is the true love of Jesus Christ.

After Missions at Uzbekistan:

Reflecting on the Holy Spirit's Special Work

By Suk Jin Kim (Mission Team Member)

Korea established diplomatic relations with Uzbekistan in 1992. Currently, dozens of Korean businesses have their operations in former Soviet republic and Uzbekistan are, thus, very fond of Koreans. Right now, about 99% of Uzbekistanis are Muslims but most of them are ignorant of the Koran. The government is very sensitive about non-Muslim religions becoming a dominant force but recently, there has been an Islamic movement in neighboring countries. Therefore, there are present dangers for Christian missionaries to work in such an environment and most Christians went underground.

When we were left for Uzbekistan, we planned rather moderate spy missions of major cities. It was truly God's special grace for our team to visit those mountains and hills where the radical Islamic anti-government protesters are seen in the world television broadcasts. Our Uzbekistan friends tried to stop us from going to such dangerous places but after praying, with God's heavenly inner peace, we went to the mountains and gained satisfactory results.

Azamsi, who was our host during our stay at Samarkan, is an open-minded person. He had three daughters and as we got closer, he

allowed us to teach his three daughters gospel songs and the entire family participated in morning devotions.

Through God's grace, his daughters accepted Jesus as their personal savior and they committed to study the Bible



and memorize Apostles creed and the Lord's prayer even after we departed. Furthermore, Azamsi and his friend Komil, promised to read and study the Bible which we gave as a present to them. After conducting home visit of our brothers from Uzbekistan, who attend the Choong Hyun's Foreign Workers Mission, I am confident that God indeed laid a heart to every soul an ability to know Him and revere Him in their hearts. When we approached people telling them that we were Christians and that our mission is to witness Jesus Christ, most of them wanted to know more about Jesus. Towards the end of our mission, I remembered Jesus words: "Look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35) How so many workers are needed for the harvest here!

It has been only six months since the Uzbekistan mission began at Choong Hyun. Seeing such rapid growth, this is truly the special work of the Holy Spirit. This fact was reaffirmed through our visit to Uzbekistan. Also, I was convinced that the FWM is a very fruitful and important ministry in reaching various people from many countries and developing them as soldiers of the gospel.

Words to Think Together:

"The Towel"

By Doug McClasian



Still wet in water and dirt of those eleven feet, a towel hangs along the basin in the corner just like before. But, this night is different. This towel was not placed there by a little maid. That man, who was called Lord" or "Teacher" by them, put there. Could it be the teachers concern for his students? It can't be. Or, perhaps, that might be the very thing. For a moment, eleven pairs of eyes were halted on the towel and the basin. All night long, the towel will be a heavy burden in their hearts. Wait, he is saying something. What? Wash each others feet? What good will it do when such a small group like this sincerely accepts the Teacher's words? What difference will it make for the rest of our lives even if the Teacher would voluntarily wash the disciples feet? Tomorrow, as soon as the morning comes, the cold reality will reveal

tonight's silly behavior. But, tonight, what is this heat that grabs hold of them so fervently and is blazing? Is it likely that the towel, what only the servants would carry, can be a banner to lead to a new life? No, it can't be. If we know the limit of man; but, if... What if.

From "Heal, Success, and Leadership" by
Team Hansell

Truly Valuable Life

By Hyong Soo Lee (Elder, Chair of Elementary Division)

Where could the true value of our life be found? Is there value to our life on this earth? How can we make life most meaningful and valuable? To a Christian, God is the supreme being. But, many times we do not know how to live according to God's will. Consequently, many Christians worry. In other words, that is the very way to live accordingly to our calling and grace.

Meanwhile, we do not know what our talent is and where God calls us. Therefore, some of us do a test to check what our gifts and talents are. But, gifts and callings cannot be found in such a way. When we grow into spiritual maturity, then gifts and talents are revealed. When a person lives boldly with a clear sense of vocation, at the end, they can confess like Jesus. As Jesus said in John 17:4 "I have brought

you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."

So, even if our calling and gifts are not clear right now, what God has entrusted to us TODAY is what is most important and we should be faithful to it. That is what God asks of us for the year 2000. Whether God has called you to be a choir member, district leader, member of evangelistic fellowship or Sunday school teacher, God asks us to be sincere and faithful in serving Him. If we do not strive to do our best in our present responsibilities, we might think the year 2000 has been wasted. When we are faithful in doing our best to serve in the present ministry, there will be spiritual maturity brought by a clear sense of God's calling. Once we understand God's calling clearly, then our life will be truly valuable.