

◆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)

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'98 Stewardship Training Stewards who Correctly Discern the Word of Truth

Speakers are Rev. Kim and the Professors from Westminster Theological Seminary.
All the servants of Choong Hyun are subjected to come, from Feb. 2nd to 5th.

Our church opens '98 Stewardship Training from Feb. 2 to 5 in the main sanctuary. The program of '98 Stewardship Training will be different from previous years for there will be 12 hours straight lectures for 4 days. The goal is to equip all the servants of the Lord in our church with the Word of God to be a spiritual worker, Gospel-centric person, and a witness of Jesus Christ. The theme Bible verse is from II Timothy 2:15, "Do your best to present yourself to

God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." Therefore the pastors, evangelists, elders, senior deacons, senior ladies, temporary deacons, leaders and staffs of parish, workers of department, members of committees, teachers, choir members, each executive members of evangelism groups, nurturing group leaders, leaders of college and young adult group, members of vehicle administ-

ration, employees, and all the members of our church are strongly recommended to come to Stewardship Training. For the strength that we need comes only through the Word of God.

The members of Bible Research Institute and executive members of this training expect to see the members of our church be equipped with the grace

of God that is coming only from His Word. This training will help the stewards and stewardess to understand the will of God as they learn a right perspective on how to read the Word of God. Lunch and supper will be served at church.

Activation of Daybreak Prayer Service

Daybreak Prayer Movement arises in Parish Groups
Earnest Prayer for Country and Church

The cooperation and service of chief, staff, and pastor of parish groups make the fire of Daybreak Prayer Service glowing. This is the time for us to pray all the more for our country which faces the worst economical crisis and for a spiritual revival of our church. More than 1,800 people are attending every early morning.

Parish group number from 1 through 7, which are located near church, attend everyday while the parishioners from far distant attend at least once in a week. Church hopes to see that the people who come to Daybreak Prayer Service hear the living Word of God and receive the grace which comes above.

Attending Daybreak Prayer Service gives a chance to taste the sweetness of prayer. The fire of prayer will continue to blaze even after 23rd of January. Rev. Sung Kwan Kim is exhorting the book of Second Epistle of Peter.



English Biweekly Choong Hyun Has Been Launched

The Planning Committee decided to publish English Biweekly Choong Hyun from this year. The first edition came out on Jan. 4th. Publishing an English news paper is a brand new field for our church and there were many insufficiencies and lack of profession. But we hope that Biweekly Choong Hyun will improve fast to be an sufficient journal which will profit many young people of our church and the world mission. Biweekly editing committee is waiting for English written articles and self-testimonies.

Mission Committee From Sudan Mission Exploration



Sudan mission exploration team from Mission Committee (elder Kwang-Hyun No, elder Chon-Kwan Kim, elder Dae-Sun Ha, Rev. Paul S. Lee) left Seoul on last December 22 and came back on 31st of the same month. The team looked mainly after the mission field in Sudan where Missionary Kim Young-Dae is ministering and observed the possibility of evangelism

in Sudan. This exploration was followed by Kenya investigation as to show our church's vision for Africa mission. Our church prays for the young people of Choong Hyun so that they may arise for African Mission. Elder Dae-Sun Ha's reports on Sudan mission exploration will be published in Biweekly Choong Hyun.

Message By Rev. Kim, Sung Kwan

Living Stones

(I Peters 2:4-12)

What are living stones? Jesus himself gave Peter the concept of living stones. When we read of his beautiful confession of Christ, we discover Peter's special understanding of living stones. Jesus asked Peter:

"'But what about you?' he asked, 'Who do you say I am?'"

Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living

God,' Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for

this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in

heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I

will

build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it "

(Matthew 16:15-18).

Jesus refers to Peter as a rock! He essentially blesses him as a rock on which His mission will be carried out. This revelation that Peter received explains his acute perception of who Christians are, what their purpose is, and how they are to live in the world. His writing reflects this strong and direct revelation.

And so he does in illustrating our faith and life in Jesus Christ as living stones. He begins this story, "As you come to Him, the living Stone - rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him" (vs. 4). Peter describes Jesus as a Stone - a living Stone! This special stone was not only chosen by God but held as precious. Man rejected this stone. They looked at God's stone and saw only a stone - not God's grace.

Peter continues this story by stating, "you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (vs. 5). As Christians, Peter refers to us also as living stones. Like Christ, together our faith builds His temple and we become part of the royal priesthood. We are able to glorify, worship and proclaim God's grace through Jesus Christ. In Christ's name, we can offer our spiritual sacrifices and have them accepted by God. This is the full picture of Christian living. Unlike the Old Testament saints, who needed sacrificial animals in order to worship God; Christian saints have direct access to the altar through their faith in Jesus Christ.

He explains this incredible picture of living stones that are being built into a Church by referring to Isaiah 28:16, "For in Scripture it says: 'See, I lay a

stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame'" (vs. 6). Jesus Christ is the precious cornerstone that God placed in Jerusalem. Anyone who trusts in Him will never be disappointed or disgraced. Jesus Christ

is the precious cornerstone of our faith. He is the foundation on which we build. Every single living stone that wants to build must have Christ as its cornerstone! Without Christ, there can be no church. We are the body of the church and Christ is the head. The church belongs to Christ; just as your head belongs to your body.

"Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, 'The stone the builders



belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light" (vs. 9). Our faith in Jesus turns us into living stones; which are part of a royal priesthood and a holy nation. Our purpose as God's children is to

proclaim His grace and peace that changed us from sinners leading to death to saints and sinners leading to eternal life.

"Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (vs. 10). Without faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior you are lost to eternal damnation. With faith in Jesus Christ you become part of His chosen people

wherever we go. The world needs us in order to truly taste and experience God's grace.

We become living stones because "Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit" (I Peter 3:18). Jesus was perfectly blameless and became the dirtiest person in the whole world when He took all the sins of the world upon Himself. Christ died for you and me, so that we could experience God! Without Christ, we have absolutely no access to God. Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:51). The Jews argued about this and many of them concluded that it's impossible to eat flesh from Jesus. How about you?

Do you understand the need for His flesh? Jesus' reply to the Jews was, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:53-54). Christians feed on Christ. His flesh is living bread that nourishes us with eternal life. His blood sustains our faith by cleansing us within from all wrong doing.

To those who obey and have faith in the living Stone and therefore are living stones, Peter encourages us to unite to form God's holy temple. As our faith comes together in Christ, we become a royal priesthood - a holy nation - that can worship, glorify and serve God in the highest. Our commissioned task is to keep building Christ's body by witnessing to the world until His return. To become a living stone - a building block for God - requires strong faith in Jesus Christ as your cornerstone. 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" (Mat. 7:7-8). Jesus excludes no one and blesses everyone who obeys God's word and comes to Him in faith. God's marvelous grace transforms all who believe He is the living Stone into living stones - Amen.

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rejected has become the capstone', and, 'A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the message - which is also what they were destined for" (vss. 7-8). The stone that the builders rejected was Christ. The builders were the top professionals, the highest educators, the experts of expertise; they were the high priests and teachers of the Word. They were the ones who should have known better than anyone else the priceless value of Christ. Because of their lack of faith, their beliefs and practices became like the top stones of a building without a foundation. With nothing to balance them in place, their faith make men trip and fall. Faith and obedience of the Word of God turns you into a living stone. Disbelief and disobedience of the Word of God turns you into a dead rock!

Peter tells us that we are different, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people

and receive His forgiveness of sin and blessing of eternal life.

"Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us" (vss. 11-12). The world views Christians as foreign outsiders. Satan uses this element of isolation as an avenue to trick you into thinking you want the things the world wants, i.e., fame, fortune, success, and happiness. Peter warns us to withhold these desires because they lead to death. He encourages us to live our Christian life faithfully, so that our neighbors, friends, acquaintances, and even strangers we meet might be touched by God's grace before Christ returns. We are the true salt and light to the world. It is our responsibility to sprinkle and sometimes pour God's grace onto whatever we do or

Message By Rev. Kim, Sung Kwan

Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones

(Ezekiel 37:1-14)

How powerful is the word of God? Ezekiel reveals the answer in today's scripture passages by sharing a vision he received from God regarding a valley filled with dry bones. God used Ezekiel as His prophet to uncover the future restoration of His people - Israel. At the time, Israel was in captivity as punishment for their disbelief and disobedience. Their lives were in despair and their situation was virtually incurable with no possible remedy in sight. Through Ezekiel's vision, God made known His plan for His people through His word. In hearing His word, we receive a glimpse of the meaning of Almighty. We become more deeply aware of the power of God's word alone.

Ezekiel begins by explaining how he acquired his vision and where it took him, "The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones" (vs. 1). God touched Ezekiel and opened his eyes to a frightening awareness. He didn't place Ezekiel in the middle of a beautiful garden but rather in a valley full of bones. God brought you into their backyard and there was a single human skull lying in the grass. Ezekiel was carried into a valley (not an open meadow but an enclosed area) with thousands upon thousands of human bones.

Here he was given a complete view, "He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and they were very dry" (vs. 2). God showed Ezekiel the destitute surrounding and Ezekiel was able to perceive the utter hopelessness. The bones were dry - they were sterile, devoid of all human life. Death had totally consumed these human bodies; so that there wasn't even a 0.01% chance for recovery.

After Ezekiel saw this detailed image of numerous and dry body pieces, God asked him a question, "He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' And I answered, 'O Lord God, You know'" (vs. 3). Ezekiel's response displays his true faith in God. He

doesn't answer yes or no. He knows that only God knows.

Standing amidst these dry bones, God asked Ezekiel to talk to them, "Again He said to me, 'Prophesy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord'" (vs. 4). Imagine for a moment Ezekiel's situation. He is a servant of God, a priest, a prophet who is used to speaking to real people - people who are alive. And now God wants him to preach the future to a bunch of dead bodies? It doesn't make any sense!

The truth is that no sense doesn't mean nonsense. Quite the contrary, Ezekiel prophesied the word of God to the dry bones. He told the bones that God would

word of breath, "So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army" (vs. 10). This is the true power of God's words! Ezekiel faithfully listened to God and the results were that dry bones turned into thousands of living human beings. Not frail human beings but human beings that comprised an exceedingly great army! God's powerful words produced from nothing a powerful army!

In Ezekiel's vision God relates His vision, "Then He said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and

to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken and done it", 'declares the Lord'" (vs. 14).

This last passage really connects with the New Testament. It reflects our hope in Jesus Christ. Paul talks of us as broken olive branches that have a chance to become rich olives in Christ (Romans 11:17). He states, "indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead (II Cor. 1:9). And Timothy confers that only through Christ's abolishment of death are we brought eternal life (II Tim. 1:10).

John tells us that only Jesus is the way, truth and life (John 14:6). "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes" (John 5:21). John understands that the word of God gives life and those without Jesus have no life (I John 5:12). I think his opening passage in the Bible says it all, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

Ezekiel's vision should catch our attention. His specific references to the power of the word of the Lord are so important. We today, like those of yesterday, are no better than dry bones. We are not great - only God is great! His greatness brings life to all those who believe in His word. God's almighty word is manifested in His Son - Jesus Christ - who is the word of God. By faith in Christ we are transformed from dry bones to life eternal. Through the word of God we become exactly like Ezekiel's vision of a strong army!

The absolute power of the word of God alone is beyond our understanding. All the science and technology in the world can't duplicate or even come close to the workings of God's word. The story of the valley of dry bones should wake us up to the reality of God's transcendence. Why? Because His word is literally a matter of life and death. Like Ezekiel, our actions need to reflect our faith. We need to carefully listen, faithfully obey and always follow His word. ■

We are no better than dry bones. But God is great! His greatness brings life to all those who believe in His word. God's almighty word is manifested in His Son - Jesus Christ - who is the word of God. By faith in Christ we are transformed from dry bones to life eternal. Through the word of God we become exactly like Ezekiel's vision of a strong army!

restore their breath, muscles/tendons, flesh and skin so that they would come alive and know that God is indeed the Lord (vss. 5-6). Why would Ezekiel spend time prophesying God's word to dead bodies? Because he understood the power of the word of God. He knew that man does not live by bread alone but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4). Just as Jesus explained Himself to His two disciples, beginning with Moses and the prophets and using the Scriptures, Ezekiel being a prophet had this experience (Luke 24:27).

He wholeheartedly did as God asked and really prophesied the word of God to the dry bones. Then a miracle happened. While Ezekiel was prophesying the bones came together and the sinews, flesh and skin covered them (vss. 7-8). Then God asked him to prophesy His

our hope has perished. We are completely cut off" (vs. 11). God's words reveal that His chosen people are dry, hopeless and completely terminated from His presence. He asks Ezekiel, "Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God, Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people'" (vss. 12-13).

Because of God's words His chosen people will enter His chosen land. Why? Not because we are great. We are nothing but dry bones - dead and hopeless. The power of the word of the Lord for His people is meant for them to know that He alone is the Lord. "I will put My Spirit within you and you will come

Mission Journal #2:

Mission Field Investigation in Egypt and Kenya

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

Kenya was occupied by England from 1888 until she proclaimed her independency in 1964. Kenya located in central-west of Africa in where the high and dry land cover the most of area. Fertile and hill district is only in south-west area which became a residential area. We were welcomed and led to the place of our staying by deacon Lee Jong-Taek of Nairobi Korean Church. Although Nairobi is located near the equator, the weather was cool because it is placed on a plateau.

North Trucana Area

Next day we headed to Rodwa, 700 km North-West from Nairobi. Our guide was Rev. Heung-Soon Park who was sent to Kenya by Shin-il Church as a missionary for a language training. The road conditions were very bad. Eventhough we were on a national road of Kenya, there were many holes or rocks on the road which made our car vibrated severely and our heads bumped into the roof of the car many

times. We almost got into accident but by the grace of God we arrived to Rodwa safely.

Rodwa is located in a desert of low altitude and the weather was very hot. We were told to be very careful not to be bited by the mosquitos for there are more than 50 different kinds of incurable Malaria in Kenya. But it was just impossible to avoid all the mosquitos. As we spent a night in motel where an air-conditioner was not available, we thought about the 12 spies of Israel who were sent to explore the promised land in the book of Numbers chapter 14. As we prayed we reminded ourselves that we ought not to be like 10 spies who gave negative reports which brought an anger of Almighty God, but to be like Caleb and Joshua who had a positive perspective by the faith in Omnipotent God.

As we drove for 40 minutes on roadless road from Rokicha, we found a church which a Korean church donated \$30,000 U.S. for the



construction. A native evangelist led Sunday worship service and there were about 150 members gathered there. They were very poor and most of them traveled a long way to come. We were sitting next to African women (they were like the senior ladies of Korean Church) but it was hard for us to endure the smell of them. Numerous flies flying over them. They may not be rich materially but they are rich spiritually.

Kenya was a colonial under England, therefore, their official languages were English and Swahili. They used Swahili during the worship service with a Trucana interpreter. We could not understand either language but we were deeply touched by their attitude of receiving grace from God through worship service. During the offering time, these poor people gave the best of what they had. We were blessed to watch a lady who help her child to give offering. That reminds us a poor old lady who gave a small but

heartful offering in the sight of the Lord Jesus.

Kenya was occupied by England, therefore, their language and religion were influenced by English Christianity but it does not mean that Christianity is flourishing. They need a great help spiritually and physically. They did not have enough power to propagate the gospel and build churches for themselves. There are more than 50 different tribes without a church. Native evangelists, foreign reverends and evangelists are very scarce that an evangelist like Samson Akru has to take care of 7 different churches. They need gospel, education, and daily commodities. Raising spiritual leaders and educating children in the gospel are needed immediately. We watched these surroundings with sympathetic eyes. The words of the Lord echoed in our hearts "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35)

English Worship Ministry Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Foundation

Lee Bu-Sung

(Senior Deacon, Supervisor of English Worship Ministry)

Olympic Games were held in Seoul. Korea was the second country which opened Olympic Games next to Japan. The Seoul Olympic was very successful for the first time in history 160 countries participated. Most communist countries including Russia, Eastern Europe countries, and China also joined for Seoul Olympic Games. The members, athletes, and tourists of non-Christian countries rushed to Korea

Our church believed that this was the greatest chance for us to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. On August 28,



▲ English Worship Service.

1988, English Worship Service Ministry in Choong Hyun was started to greet the people from 160 countries. Rev. Young-Tak Yoon and elder Ha-Woo Chung were the first leaders of this ministry. There were only 30 members gathered for the first worship service

but now we have more 200 members attending every Sunday for the worship.

Right after the establishment of English Worhsip Service, English Sunday Bible School was also launched. In the beginning of 1989, Winter English Bible Retreat was successfully finished and it became a yearly event.

English Bible Study has four different groups, Elementary, Youth, Young Adult Class with bi-lingual class and English speaking all-around class. About 200 members are studying English Bible in first and second basement floor of the Deaconal Service Building from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Sunday morning. There are 32 teachers in English Worship Ministry including bi-lingual and native speakers.

English Worship ministry has many activities for foreigners including, foreign theological seminary students at ACTS, adopted children to America and their parents, and foreign laborers. The news of Choong Hyun English Worship Ministry is carrying on The Korean Herald in Religious section every week. Hoping that more people, both foreigners and natives, will join for the English ministry in Choong Hyun church.

The first basement of Deaconal Service Building creates very new but friendly environment by the people who came from all over the world. The people from America, Canada, England, German, France, Nigeria, Kenya, Netherland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippine, Pakistan, India, Singapore, etc. who have a various kinds of jobs including, multi-international business men, students, teachers, soldiers, ministers, etc. gather together to worship the Lord God in the Truth and the Spirit. Hearing the messages of God through gifted preachers like Rev. Young-Tak Yoon, Rev. Bong-Rin Ro, Rev. Hauzinger is such a blessing. And enjoying a glorifying praise by Zion Choir is one of the thing that you don't want to miss. The International district was founded in 1994 to help parish group meetings which motivated the English Worship Ministry.

English Worship Ministry was founded when the whole world's attantion was focused on Seoul Korea for the World Olympic Games that were about to open in Seoul. The year 1988 was a big turning point for both Korea and Choong Hyun Church. National-wise, Korea accomplished a true democracy and established a non-military government which Korea was longed for many years. And the