

GOALS

Godly Worship Service
Raising Kingdom Workers
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing the World
Loving Neighbors

The Biweekly Choong Hyun

I love you, O LORD, my strength.
(Psalm 18:1)

For to me, to live is Christ
and to die is gain.
(Philippians 1:21)

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1999 Stewardship Training

Fully Equipped with the New Covenant as a Steward of our Lord

January 13-14 Evening 7:00 in the Main Sanctuary

Our church will have a stewardship training for all workers in 1999. It is a time to gather together and prepare for this year to work for the people in unity. It is also an opportunity to be trained as a faithful servant to establish a church which is the body of Christ.

For this training, the educational training department is going to organize seminars on the following three titles: "My Identity as a Steward of Our Lord as it Relates to the Gospel," "Fully Armed with the Right Attitude as a Faithful Steward," and "To Live as an Eyewitness of Jesus Christ and to Build the Church Which Is the Body of Christ." Through this training, we are expecting that all trainees will learn about the responsibility of being a faithful Christian with the heart of a servant while fulfilling the five goals of Choong Hyun Church. Senior Pastor Sung Kwan Kim will be the main speaker.

So, the church would like to encourage all the church staff (pastoral staff, elders, ordained deacons, church mothers, and all other deacons, and deaconesses), Sunday school teachers, choir members, as well as any other church member who wishes to participate in this training. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the unity of the church in Christ. So, we would like to encourage all the members of Choong Hyun Church to participate in this training.

This training will take place in the main sanctuary on Wednesday and Thursday, January 13 and 14 from seven o'clock to nine o'clock.

For Pastoral Spiritual Growth First Annual Pastoral Short-Term Seminars

"The modern church: the gospel and leadership restoration"

The Korean churches are suffering from slow growth and deep stagnation at the threshold of a mysterious new millenium. We repeatedly tried to overcome this problem. We found that it is necessary to restore our first love for the gospel and the spiritual leadership of the church. Therefore, Choong Hyun Church is inviting all the pastors in Korea to attend this seminar to help restore their leadership.

This year's seminars will be divided into the international and domestic perspectives. For the international perspective, the speakers will be Dr. **Tremper Longman**, Professor of Old Testament at Westmont College speaking on "An Overview of the Old Testament through Daniel," and Dr. **Peter Enns**, Professor of Old Testament at Westminster Theological Seminary speaking on "The Church of God in Exodus."

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

School of Theology, will be speaking on "Leadership and Unity of the People of God" (focusing on Haggai and Zechariah); Dr. **Bong Rin Ro**, Professor of Missiology at Torch Trinity Graduate School of Theology, will be speaking on "The Evangelical Mission of the Modern Church: Focusing on East Asia," and Dr. **Hyung Yong Park**, Professor of New Testament at Hapdong Graduate School of Theology, will be speaking on "An Overview of the Gospel and the Church through Ephesians." This seminar is designed for all pastoral staff members throughout Korea including senior pastors, assistant pastors, intern pastors, evangelists, and missionaries. Translations will be done by Reverend Sang Geun Kim from Un Yahk Church in the United States.

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

Winter Retreat in Choon Chun Juvenile Justice Center January 11 to 15

Choong Hyun's prison ministry department will have a winter retreat at the Choon Chun Juvenile Justice Center from January 11 through 15 to share the love of Jesus Christ for teenagers in prison. There are about 350 to 400 teenagers in Choon Chun Juvenile with about 65 guards. They are looking for volunteers to help in this winter retreat. Reverend Chul Soo Cho and Intern Pastor Young Deok Park will lead this retreat. About 40 teachers and 10 department members will participate in making this retreat possible.

Returning from Sudan

by Hyung Geun Park

(a member of the winter Sudan short-term team)

It took about thirty hours to arrive in Sudan on Choong Hyun's frontier for the entire Africa mission. We arrived at an area called Shinjah. As soon as they arrived on Christmas Eve, they began their mission, treating them medically and sharing the gospel and the blessing of the birth of Jesus Christ on that wonderful night. A lot of natives came to see the team. This was a good opportunity to share the gospel and serve them medically. It seemed that they were eagerly awaiting the coming of the Christians bearing medical gifts for the body and the soul.

During the first few days, we focused on medical service to the needy. We saw the passion of the missionaries and many young Sudanese Christians to share and bear the gospel. It was a Christmas blessing that we were able to serve these people in Africa where idols were prevalent and malaria was endemic.

Although we were not able to meet all their needs, it was fruitful for us to see the love of God and share what little we had. All we could share with them was a tiny pill. But the people who received this medicine expected to overcome all their pains as if it were some sort of panacea. Our work was to sow the seed of the gospel into good soil. God will harvest the seed in his time. It was good to have medicine and missions working hand in hand to serve one purpose.

*Africa: Malaria endemic; idols prevalent;
the gospel and medicine -
a Christmas blessing*

Christianity existed in Africa since the time of the Old Testament. Somehow, there are many countries that never heard about the gospel. It is ironic for us these days. However, we cannot stop our mission to reach out and share the gospel with people who have not heard the gospel. As Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, today, we need many people to go into Africa to dedicate their lives to share the gospel to save the unreached.

Prayer from many people provided the strength and courage necessary for us to go to Sudan. We now hope that our short-term mission work will bear some fruit to establish a foundation for mission throughout Africa. Our prayer will continue for the people in Africa and for the kingdom of God in Africa.





by Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?

(Matthew 27:46)

As a Christian, you know the meaning of God's grace. You know that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life and that only through faith in Him you receive eternal life. You know that it is at the cross that you recognize Jesus as God's divinely appointed Savior of the world. You know that the cross is the means by which you finally and fully understand the work of Christ on our behalf. As a Christian, you love Jesus Christ more than anything or anyone. As such, you cannot ignore His words spoken upon the cross. You cannot pass over what He said there in the midst of great sorrow, pain, and distress. In his last moments of his suffering, His words are truly heartbreakin "About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?'" (v. 46). His consciousness of not just the physical pain and the shame of the crucifixion, but the reality of what it meant for Him to be the suffering servant is revealed.

Who can understand these words? Even though you are baptized in His name, even though you take His cup, how can you fully understand? No one has ever experienced the depth of torment, desertion and affliction He suffered because unlike you or me, He was totally blameless, sinless, and perfect. Perhaps Jesus expected His disciples, His mother, or His people to chase and choke Him but how could God forsake Him? All His life He followed His Father's will. He was innocent. He was so clean. He was pure. He did everything the Father asked Him to do. How could God forsake Him? Why? Even when the sun eclipsed God's face, He cried out 'Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani?'

Fortunately, you can find this verse in Psalm 22:1, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" Here you find David crying out the very same words that Jesus spoke on the cross. You have a human crying out to God and Jesus crying out to God. All humans experience at one time or another some type of physical, mental or spiritual suffering. Today's message reveals several important things that you can learn in order to persevere and overcome these difficulties. Jesus shows us the answer to all suffering. However, you cannot learn the answer from just the knowledge of Jesus Christ. You must follow His example.

What examples can you find and follow here? Well, among all the various tests and trials that hit, collapse or even destroy you, you still must look to God. Despair is lacking in Jesus, who in the forsakeness of death places His confidence in God. As He was losing His life on the cross, with the wrath of God toward Him, still Jesus cried out, 'Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani?' Look at Job, wonderful Job. He also understood the absolute need for God, even when facing serious strife. "Though He slay me, I will hope in Him" (Job 13:15). Even though God would kill him, he would not place his hope in anyone else. Job loved God no matter what. His hope, like your only hope, is always and under all conditions, in God. There's no other hope. There's nothing or no one but God. For God, even seen through the worst of circumstances, is forever sovereign and holy.

Therefore, you must look to Him, you must put your face towards Him during your times of suffering.

So often Christians look to the world and towards others in their time of need. Jesus had everyone as His enemy - even God. The angels didn't help Him. The Romans and Jews, with their powerful earthly authority, abandoned Him. He still called on God, not people. Just yesterday, the people called out to Him, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest" (Mt. 21:9)! Now, these very same people are His enemy. The disciples slept during His time of need. Where was His beloved John? And His mother, brothers, and friends? Not one person was there to help. Furthermore, God's wrath was there. Yet, Jesus still called out to God. He didn't call out for any other - just God. Only God has the power, love, and mercy to heal, to save, to redeem.

"About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?'" (v. 46) He cried out 'It is finished'! At this point Jesus knew the answer to His question.

Jesus never gave up or even rested His hold on God. He still held on to God. He called out, 'My God, My God'. Twice He called out. A lot of Christians call out to God when they are happy, joyful, and experiencing sweet fellowship but seem to forget His almighty Greatness when terrible situations arise. All of a sudden they turn towards the world and other people. It's in terrible situations that you must hold on to Him. Jesus called out, 'Eli, Eli', which means, My strong, My Mighty One. Like Jacob, you must never let God go. Jacob wrestled and wrestled with God until He blessed him. Jesus' words on the cross say the same thing. Why? Why does He still call on God? Because the Lord gives and the Lord takes away and still blessed is the name of the Lord (cf. Job 1:21). Jesus never rested from God. He still cried out and He still held on to Him. You, too, must always hold tight, especially during troublesome times, and never lose His grasp.

Even among all His crying, God was silent. Through the deep anguish and bitter sorrow this must have caused, Jesus kept silent. Even though it was Jesus, the very Son of God, suffering, God the Father was silent. Jesus didn't curse Bethlehem. He didn't scream out that God was raising bad people. As an honest, innocent, and absolute saint, He remained quiet. He didn't say, "God, you've made a mistake; You can't let me die at the hands of this stupid Pontius

Pilate.' Jesus had the wisdom to understand His situation. "I have become mute, I do not open my mouth, Because it is You who have done it" (Psalm 39:9). Indeed, even David comprehended the truth that God is always in charge. Jesus totally relied on God. Inside He was silent, even as God was silent. During hardship, you don't complain. Remaining silent is understanding that God is in control. Keeping quiet helps you to experience His peace.

Without doubt, Jesus displayed strong faith. Strong faith is a necessary key to overcoming adversity. Jesus believed in God. He prayed and received an answer. He believed that He would receive victory. This was His Father's way. He obeyed God all the way on the cross. He obeyed God until the very end. As a Christian, you need strong faith to see you through the storms of life. Without faith, you can't weather the storms. You need faith, strong faith, to carry you through to victory. It's during your times of conflict that your faith needs to shine. You can truly witness someone's faith by observing their actions in times of strife. You have Jesus' example on the cross to follow.

Lastly, Jesus received a clear answer. How do you know? You want proof? The Bible tells us that Jesus' very last words before He died were, "It is finished" (cf. Jn. 19:30)! What does this mean? It means victory. It means paid in full. The price for our redemption from sin was paid in full by our Lord's death. The whole Bible speaks of redemption and salvation that is found in Christ. Jesus got a clear answer. He received the victory. Just moments before he experienced total agony, He cried out 'Why? Just moments later he experienced total peace, He cried out 'It is finished'! At this point Jesus knew the answer to His question. He cried out in total conviction and was able to commend His Spirit to God because He had received God's peace.

The good thing about this part of the story is that because Jesus received an answer, because of His beautiful conviction, you can share in the same success, the same victory. You can possess the same peace. How? Like Jesus you can say, 'It is finished'. The victory is won - the battle is over. It doesn't matter what affliction you suffer from, there is victory right here at the cross. Praise be to God that Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. This is our affirmation of His Lordship but you must always remember that the victory came at the cross. It was here that Jesus overcame His suffering and it is here that you can receive His peace. You can receive a clear answer - you can have true conviction - through your faith in Christ Jesus.

My beloved, whatever sadness, pain and suffering you experience in this short life, there is a sure way to make it through. Jesus showed us the way. Look to God (don't despair), hold tight (don't ever let go), keep quiet (don't complain), show strong faith (don't give up), and receive His answer (victory). There is a cross and Jesus is there. Come, hear His voice. Follow His example. You can't experience victory by just knowing about Jesus Christ and His way. You must follow - you must always follow Him.

SCRIPTURES TO LIVE BY

Foundations of Faith

This is the beginning of 1999, the last year of this millenium. When we begin something, we all need a proper foundation. This right foundation can be found through faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith is being sure of what you cannot see. Faith is what allows you to see and accept the righteousness of God. If we live by faith, then our walk and our talk will be one. By faith, we can understand what it means to be born again. It is faith that grants righteousness to the unrighteous - faith in Jesus Christ. Let us all begin this year with a proper foundation in faith.

You can have a wonderful building, like the Sampoong Department Store or the Sungsoo Bridge.

But without the proper foundation, they will collapse as these two structures did in 1995. Even though you begin with a weak foundation, if you are willing to change it, then you can buttress the weak points. For instance, the Dangsang Bridge is being repaired because of a weak foundation. We need to work on our foundations day by day.

What are your foundations? Your money, marriage, career? These are foundations in our lives, but these are not the ultimate foundations in our lives. These are only visible things. They do not last long. They fade away. There is no strong glue to hold

these things together. We need the glue which the Bible describes as faith. Faith is the glue that can hold your life together. It is a strong glue because it is based not on material things, but on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

When you build a bridge or any structure, you need to make plans. You need to work on it. But, Jesus Christ offered himself to be the foundation of our faith. This is described well for us through various Scripture verses such as John 3:1-16 and Romans 3:21-24. As our foundational faith, Jesus Christ is holding our life together as our glue - as our Lord and Savior. So, let us stand on Christ the Rock, our solid foundation in this new year.

Finishing the First Semester of Mission Training**Seeing the Whole World through the Word of God**

by Seok Jin Lee

(8th Term Mission Trainee)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:18,19). "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The first semester of mission training which is based on these passages has finished on December 19.

I registered for the mission training course because of my curiosity for the mission and discipleship training. I realized that mission is the ultimate command of Jesus Christ. All the believers are supposed to proclaim the gospel to the people around the world who do not know Jesus Christ.

Before this mission training, I thought that mission was only for some select missionaries. During this training, I realized that this was only an illusion. All Christians are supposed to be missionaries wherever they are. In order to be

**Give thanks to the Lord
who prepared me
to respond to God's calling.**

missionaries, a certain training is required. I learned a very important thing through this course. During this course, I dedicated my life to be a missionary. I thank God for the mission committee and the mission training that they do, for all that they do for the kingdom and for me. I was able to prepare myself to respond to God's calling. I hope and pray that more people can join this course and be trained to be missionaries as spiritual warriors.

For the India short-term mission team, we need good clothing, medicines, and stationery. Please make your donations by January 10 to the Mission Center Building Room 406. The short-term mission team for India will leave on January 28 and remain until February 8.

Testimony from Brazil

by Henrique Pedreira Senra

I write this testimony to share the love of the living God which led me to Jesus Christ. Before I was born again through the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit, my life was miserable. My life was in chaos. It had turned to great uncertainty giving me a thirst to find a solution to this confusion. I faced a fear that even though I found an out, it might lead me to the end of my life. Somehow, I began to search for the true way to live on. I traveled to a lot of different places and met many different people. I read many religious and scientific books.

However, I can now see the animals and the plants, the sky and the universe, all testifying to the existence of God, the Creator of all things. I can see the stars and I can feel the universe speaking to me about the glory of God. I can also see the extreme intelligence and love of God. I felt that this was a wonderful opportunity for me to share the love of the living God.

All the other religions in the world are filled with a void, as my own heart was empty before I met Jesus Christ. But now, I have eternal life in my heart through Jesus Christ. Actually, the message which I heard for the first time about eternal life stirred my

mind so that I could realize that I was wasting and destroying my precious life. I could not help myself but to say, "God, please help to find my way and have eternal life." He showed me the way to receive eternal life in Jesus Christ.

I was born in 1960 in Brazil. I was born again twenty years later in January of 1980 when I had experienced the love of God. Since then, the Holy Spirit has encouraged me to testify that there is a living God ever present throughout the years. God changed

my mind. I was not the same person that I used to be. I began to understand his holy word. I was baptized on August 24, 1980. Then I started to evangelize the people around me. I went to university in 1983 where I completed my studies with honors as a Teacher of Mathematics in 1987. I got married to my wonderful wife, Lucy in 1989. God blessed us with our first son, Paolo, on January 27, 1991, and our daughter, Debora, on February 1, 1996. Throughout my life, since I met Jesus Christ, my life has been organized and clear. I experienced the blessings of God by which I could provide for the needs of my family.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! - 2 Corinthians 5:17

for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." - Romans 10:13

With a Vision for Mission in Our Hearts

By Sharon Park (staff reporter)

Thanks be to God who has been with the English Ministry for the past 10 years. Many young adults and youth remember the special blessing God poured out on us on last Christmas Eve. In order to share the joy of the birth of Jesus Christ, we visited five police stations in the Kangnam area. We went carolling and shared hot coffee, presents and cards. We received the gift of awareness that God's love and grace multiplies as we share it.

In this year, 1999, the Elementary Department will focus more on implementing a vision of mission in the children's hearts at EWS. They plan to visit "Angel's House" (a home for the physically and mentally disabled) to practice God's love on January 16.



△ Many young adults and youth members of the English congregation visited five police station in the Kangnam area to share the joy of the birth of Jesus Christ this past Christmas Eve.

We have a nine o'clock English Service every Sunday. The Elementary Group will have a service at 12:30 p.m. Youth, college, young adult, and adult Bible studies will start at 10:30 at Cana Hall B1 in the Deaconal Building. We welcome all of you who want to grow your vision of mission here!

The Republic of Djibouti God Wants You!

from Patrick Johnstone's Operation World, 5th edition



Djibouti is a tiny country of less than half a million people and about 23,200 square kilometers wedged between Ethiopia and Somalia. About half of the people live in the capital city of the same name. Djibouti is reputed to be the hottest country in the world. Most of the people of Djibouti are Issa Somali and Afar. There are also a significant number of Arabs as well as Ethiopian and Somali refugees. Only about 34% of the population is literate in the official languages of French and Arabic or the trade languages of Somali and Afar. Of their four languages, two have complete Bible translations and one has a New Testament.

Djibouti had been plagued by drought and limited natural resources. Their economy is closely tied to that of Ethiopia. The French military base and economic assistance help Djibouti. Nevertheless, about half of the people are unemployed. Their per capita income is about 2% of the per capita income of the United States.

After independence from France in 1977, there has been constant political tension between Afar and Somali ethnic groups. After the civil war in 1991, the

Afar guerillas and the aid donors pressured the Somali-dominated government to legalize multi-party elections in 1992. Nevertheless, this only provided for cosmetic changes further causing the government to lose credibility.

About 95% of the population is Muslim, predominantly among the Sunni people. The Christians comprise the majority of the other 5%, predominantly among the Europeans and Ethiopians. Most of the Christians are Catholics. Only about 0.07% are Protestants. There are only about 25 missionaries to Djibouti through three agencies.

Pray for:

1. Praise God for the opening of this mission field in 1975. Pray for continual strength and growth.
2. More missionaries are needed in this hot land so that the people may become hot for the Lord.
3. The few Somali and Afar believers are pressured by relatives. Furthermore, most are jobless and illiterate. From these native believers, pray for a group of dedicated and good leaders.

Short-term Winter Mission Trips

by Soo Kyung Lee (staff reporter)

This winter, we are sending mission teams to Bangladesh, Sudan, Sri Lanka, and India.

The Sudan team was comprised of three medical doctors, a nurse, and a pharmacist as well as five others who were able to help Choong Hyun's long-term missionary to Sudan, Youngdae Kim. While in Sudan, they also searched for a suitable site for a church building where we could establish our church's headquarters for the Africa mission.

The Bangladesh team will leave on January 25 and return on February 3. Most team members are college students. Their plan is to meet about 150 students who made a commitment to know Christ during last summer's short-term mission. They will stay with local people to learn their culture and understand their lifestyle. It is good for them to be able to share the love of Jesus Christ while remaining with the locals. They are also planning to investigate other areas where they could not visit this past summer. This team is preparing for their mission and learning the language on Thursday and Sunday evenings.



The Sri Lanka team will make visits in pairs to the local people who accepted Christ while in Korea. They will focus on Bible study within the local family context. They are also planning to get some information about the culture and the lifestyle for a future mission.

The India team plans to leave on January 28 and return on February 8. Their focus will be the college students and personal contact rather than massive

ministry. They plan to visit slums in Punjab. They also have a plan to meet local pastors in order to establish good and supportive relations. Every Saturday, they have a meeting to learn the language and culture. Also, they pray for the mission.

Our prayer is required to support these mission teams to share the gospel. They also need the guidance of the Holy Spirit in accomplishing their mission.

Please Take Pictures

We encourage all the newly appointed deacons and deaconesses for 1999 to take pictures during the month of January in the Mission Center Building Room 408.

Available times on Sundays are 8:30 - 16:30 except during the 11:00 service and the district meeting times. Also available are Wednesdays from 12:30 - 19:00 except a half hour for dinner at 17:30 and Fridays from 18:00 - 19:00.

CUT

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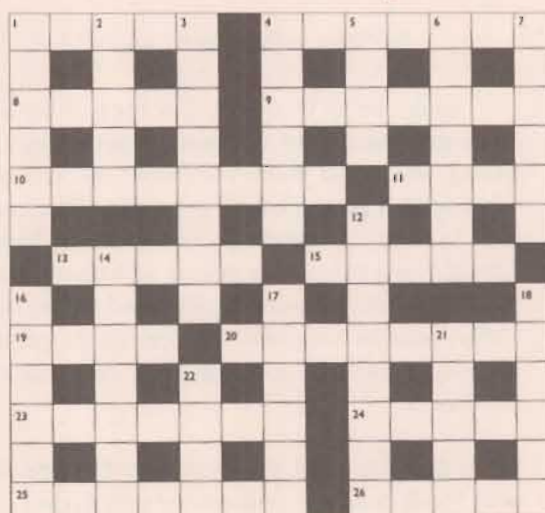
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Old Testament Occupations



ACROSS

1. "___ a child to choose the right path, and when he is older, he will remain upon it" (Prov. 22:6)
4. Money institution worker (Isa. 24:2)
8. Hometown of Hebrew Temple attendants (Neh. 3:26)

9. Cloth makers (2 Chron. 2:7)
10. Animal group tenders (Gen. 13:7)
11. Carpenter; half brother of Jesus; N.T. author
13. Secret information gatherers (Gen. 42:8)
15. Maker of bread, cakes, and pastries (Gen. 40:1)
19. O.T. author who saw Jerusalem tested with a plumbline
20. Counselors (Acts 25:12)
23. Improve in value (Esther 2:13)
24. One to whom something belongs (Exod. 21:28)
25. Ones who shape and harden clay (Matt. 27:7)
26. "My strength evaporated like water on a ___ day" (Ps. 32:4)

DOWN

1. Prize gained by a victory (1 Thess. 2:20)
2. Loathe; reject (Ps. 5:6)
3. Ship steerers (Ezek. 27:8)
4. Archers (Jer. 51:3)
5. First boat builder (Gen. 6:13,14)
6. Carry out a function or task (Exod. 12:12)
7. Regular order; set of procedures (2 Chron. 34:9)

12. Custodians (Esther 1:5)
14. Spokesman for God; foreteller of future (Deut. 18:1)
16. Fabricated; fictitious; 2 words (Jer. 23:32)
17. Deadly snakes of Middle East (Isa. 11:8)
18. "A curse on those who lead ___ the godly. But men who encourage the upright to do good shall be given a worthwhile reward" (Prov. 28:18)
21. Owner of threshing floor that became Temple site (2 Chron. 3:1)
22. "At the name of Jesus every ___ shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Phil. 2:10)

Please submit answers to Mission Center Building Room 303 or fax to 02-563-3932 by January 20, 1999 to be eligible for prize.

