

## 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)

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## Lets Awake the Dawn and Pray

*God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.  
My heart is steadfast, O God,  
My heart is steadfast;  
I will sing and make music.  
Awake, my soul!  
Awake, harp and lyre!  
I will awaken the dawn.  
(Ps. 46:5; 57:7-80)*

## Choong Hyun Medical Practitioners Mission Night; Dedicated to Bring Cooperative Effort for Missions

On Tues., Mar. 28, the first Choong Hyun Medical Practitioners Meeting was held. After the worship service, elder Jong Suk Lee, who serves as president of Medical Missions, introduced the purpose and background of the meeting. A slide presentation was shown and personal testimony of medical missions to Sudan and Rwanda was given. About 60 people attended, including about 20 doctors and 25 other medical professionals. Elder Eui Chul Kim, president



of the Missions Department, stressed the importance of the first medical practitioners meeting. He encouraged the participants to come dedicate themselves toward the church's mission - minded goal. They also decided to participate in short-term missions during year 2000 or 2001 when their schedules allow. The Missions Department hopes to see all 130 medical practitioners of Choong Hyun church will come to join this cooperative effort to become pathfinders of future missions.

## Semi-Annual Spiritual Training for Districts To Be Held Apr. 6 Jun. 1 Revival and Fellowship Through the Gospel; Two Districts to Merge

The semi-annual spiritual training session, held every spring and fall, will soon begin. As spring is upon us, all district members will regain strength through the training session to be held at the Choong Hyun prayer mountain. The spring session will from Apr. 6 Jun. 1. From this year, two districts will merge and train as a combined fellowship. This is to seek harmonious fellowship and spiritual revival in the church. The joint fellowship is expected to bring an active and continuous communion in the church. Spiritual training topics will include worship and seminars, table fellowship, lectures by district pastors and an environmental clean up around the prayer mountain.

## Military Evangelism Committee Military Base Baptismal Ceremony



The Military Evangelism Committee performed baptism ceremony for 150 soldiers on March 30th at the Ulchi army camp, a forefront base on mid-eastern border. The service was very graceful and warm with 15 deacons and senior deaconesses singing in the choir, and other members of MEC participating in the ceremony. The Choong Hyun congregation should continue to pray for the continued military base baptisms to reach the unreached soldiers. Also, we should remember to pray and to take interest for those soldiers who were baptized that they may continually grow in the Lord during and after their military duty.

## Change in Worship Time

As spring is finally underway, the Second Wednesday Worship Service and Friday Praise Worship will be held 30 minutes later.

The Second Wednesday worship service on Apr. 5 and Friday Praise worship on Apr. 7 will begin at 7:30 p.m..

## Contest for Testimonies to Be Held ; Deadline Near

The Bi-Weekly Choong Hyun is holding an open contest for all Choong Hyun members to submit their testimonies entitled, "Jesus Who Came to Me." Members may write about the person who shared the gospel to them, how they came to find Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, tracing their family's faith at home and about how Jesus entered their lives. Jesus does come to us and He will be with us in the 21st century. Through this contest, we pray that for the strengthening of faith and God's richest blessings upon all Choong Hyun members and their families. We pray for enthusiastic participation from all members.

## "Jesus who came to Me"

Contest Title : "Jesus Who Came to Me"

Topics : The One Who Led Me to Christ,  
Tracing Your Family's Faith at Home

Essay Title : Any title will be accepted

Deadline: April 9, 2000

Amount: A4 paper, 1-2 pages

Who: Any Choong Hyun congregation member

Awards: First, second, and third prizes and honorable mentions will be awarded

Send to: Editorial Room, The Bi-Weekly Choong Hyun (Missions Rm. #303)

Administration Office  
(First Education Building, First Floor)

Contest results will be announced in the Apr. 30 edition of The Bi-Weekly Choong Hyun. If you have any other questions, contact ext. 348 for more information.



by Rev. Sung Kwan Kim  
Senior Pastor

## WONDERFUL WORDS

### (1 Timothy 1:15 & 16)

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance :  
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst."

Born in the city of Tarsus, the chief city of the Roman province of Cilicia, Paul was a Jew in terms of his circumcision, Benjaminite lineage, Hebrew ancestry, and Pharisaic training. He religiously studied and obeyed the Law. He was a top scholar among his contemporaries. More importantly, he was a heartfelt Jewish believer who truly loved God. Without doubt, he was one of the most ethical and pious men of his day — a super clean guy! From his mouth came these wonderful words, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all" (v. 15). From youth, he accepted and practiced God's every command; yet, he claims this trustworthy statement applies to him. Why would Paul consider himself to be the worst of all sinners? What is it that makes him think this way?

Throughout human history, every imaginable evil deed and word has occurred. You and I know that in the world today there are some really bad people, many behind jail for the crimes such as murder, rape, kidnapping, robbery, extortion, etc. Everyday, you read in the newspapers or hear on the news of the heinous sins people commit against others. As such, you tend to think that you aren't so bad. You are inclined to believe that there are worse sinners than you. It's hard to even contemplate how Paul could be the foremost among sinners. It's difficult to believe because you often don't feel what is your own sinfulness. You don't fathom the value of sin! Actually, you are not shameful for your sin. How awful it is not to know how very wrong you are! Have you thought about how bad you really are?

I hope we have the tears that manifest Paul's repentance. He really understood the depth of God's mercy. He knows the grace of God. He grasped the cleanness of the Holy Spirit. He comprehended that the Son of God died for Him, and that all sin deserves the wrath of God. Even though he was the master of sin, Christ forgave him and made him an apostle. That's why he declared, "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in

me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life" (vv. 15 & 16). What encouragement! Only the Lord God's absolute perfect patience saved Paul from his sinfulness. And the good news is that we still live in a time in which it is still available.

Do you recall the kind of man Paul described himself to be before he experienced the grace of Christ? He said, "I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I

only in Christ Jesus showed him the truth. How do these words of his conclude the Gospel? By the mere mention that "it is a trustworthy statement." That's what this Bible verse is about! It is a trustworthy statement! Paul conclude by beautifully saying, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all." He saw the light and the light showed him his darkness, and his desperate need for salvation.

My dear brothers and sisters, what is the real Gospel? Jesus came into this

he is the foremost of sinners, he's talking in the present tense — not the past. He didn't say, "I was the foremost of sinners" but rather "I am" the foremost of sinners. Sin continues to grip even the redeemed. Even though Paul killed Stephen and God forgave him for that, he couldn't forgive himself. He wondered, "How could I have killed him?" He understood himself to be the most terrible sinner. Isn't that a trustworthy statement? Even if you are the most sinful of human beings, God will forgive you in Christ. He has perfect patience for eternal life. Just listen to Paul's words. "To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8). Amen! To the least, His grace extends and empowers. This is the Gospel, my friends. This is the only hope of life!

Peter also tells us, "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). God doesn't view time as we do. The seeming delay of Christ's return is because God desires for more people to repent. Isn't this a trustworthy statement? Paul says again, "It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance" concerning godliness above bodily discipline (see 1 Tim. 4:8 & 9). And again he tells us, "It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him (2 Tim. 2:11). Whatever regards the Gospel, it is really trustworthy.

Paul's words in today's message are truly wonderful. If you don't understand these wonderful words, then you don't understand the Gospel. As a Christian, when you look upon the lost you must think to yourself, "But by the grace of God there I go." If it wasn't for Jesus and His cleansing blood, your position would be no different than theirs. All sin is terrible, and the price for any sin is death. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Isn't this the very best of news to hear that Jesus came into the world to save sinners — such as yourself ■

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*He showed up on this earth so that whoever accepted*

*Him would not perish but receive eternal life.*

*That's the Gospel! That's the secret of God!*

acted ignorantly in unbelief" (v. 13). Without Jesus no one gave him or could give him mercy. The pious Jew from Tarsus was nothing like his outer image. He was ignorant, not smart. He was an enemy of God, not a lover of God. He was an unbeliever, not a believer. Finally, Paul from Tarsus changed! Amen! Now, he recognizes that he is the foremost sinner of all. He saw and accepted the cross. He understood why Jesus went down and down. The churches of Judea heard, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy" (Gal. 1:23). Not only that but Paul tells us, "And they were glorifying God because of me" (Gal. 1:24). Isn't that amazing? That's how much the law — abiding Paul changed!

Paul's wonderful words really finalize the Gospel. He really confessed through his own experiences the dramatic turn around of his belief system. His ignorance turned to wisdom through the way of salvation. The faith and love which are found

world for sinners, and sinners apply to everyone, not just the people who make the headlines. Everyone is a sinner and stands guilty and accountable before God. From murder to gossip, all sin is detestable to God. If you believe this trustworthy statement—that's it! It really appears in the revelation of God. Jesus came into this world. He abided in the Word. Actually, He showed up on this earth so that whoever accepted Him would not perish but receive eternal life. That's the Gospel! That's the secret of God! He came to this earth of His own will. He came as a human being. God's will came down to people through suffering and obedience. So, the method of salvation is the same for us. We Christians must suffer and obey, knowing full well that our pain is great but our joy is greater.

Sinners need salvation. They don't deserve salvation, but whoever accepts Jesus, whoever believes in Him, he can be saved. This is a trustworthy statement! When Paul mentions that

Jesus Whom I Met:

## Gods Love Towards Our Family

By Sun Young Kum (College Group)

When I was a child, every Saturday my grandmother would hold my hand to go visit Samsin grandmother and on Sundays I visited the monks at a big Buddhist temple. As a second grade student in elementary school, our family moved and I heard about Jesus from a next door neighbor. My mom and I hesitated going to church but because of the lady's earnest request and invitation to church, we decided to attend church. But when I went, I found peaceful faces from my peers and warm-hearted people. I found there were differences from that I found from Samsin grandmother and the monks at the temple. Since then, I went to church more often beginning from. On that day, from the pastors sermon, I realized that Jesus really loved me and died for me on the cross to call me His child. From thence, I memorized Bible verses and sang praises and hymns whenever I had time. But, my grandmother and dad did not like to see my mom and I going to church. We could not, however, desert such a good friend we found. We met Jesus late but Jesus is better than anyone. So, we began to go church secretly and began to pray for my dad and grandmother.

One day, my grandfather was hospitalized, so we went visited her. My uncle was driving and my mom, sister, I, and the lady who led us to the church were in the car to visit my grandfather. The roads were congested that day and my uncle began to show his frustration about the slow traffic, and alas, we bumped into another car. Due to the accident, our hospital visitation was further delayed so we decided to go there next time and headed back home. The uncle, who was not a believer, continued to vent his anger and we sat quietly and fell asleep. I was sitting in front seat without a seat belt. But somehow, I felt I needed to buckle up. So, I did and fell asleep again. While sleeping, I sensed the car was tumbling and shaking violently. The car was rolling down a cliff! It was rolling down the valley of a mountain... I was unconscious for a moment and then, felt pained going to church but because of the lady's earnest request and invitation to church, we decided to give a visit of the church for one time. The way home was uncomfortable after such an accident. A uncle, who was not a believer, continued his anger and we sat quietly and fell asleep. I was sitting in front seat without a seat belt. But somehow, I felt I needed to buckle up. So I did and fell asleep again. While deep into sleep, I sensed the car was tumbling and shaking violently. I examined my body first. They seemed all right. Fortunately, besides some minor bruises I was okay. My mom and aunt in back seat were bleeding in their forehead and in their elbows. Uncle was bleeding in his forehead also. He asked if we were okay. We were really all right. When I saw up the cliff there were already many people looking down at us. When the crowd saw that we all walked out of the car without any serious injuries, they claimed, a miracle! We all gave a prayer of thanks to God. Without Gods grace, it was impossible that we were alive. My dad came to the scene and burst into tears. I saw dads tears for the first time. We told him it was God's grace that we are still alive. Since that day, my dad came to believe in God and accepted Jesus as his savior. We thank God who loves our family so dearly.

Hello, Brother and Sister!

Profile: Alice and Einstein Lavina



Alice



Lavina

Einstein and Alice Lavina teach the Adult English Sunday School Class at Choong Hyun English Ministry. They are from the Philippines. Einstein was born in Mindanao while Alice was born in Negros. Alice and Einstein grew up in Dumaguete City, a small place but with a big Christian community. They both went to school at Silliman University (a sister school of Yonsei University) founded by American Presbyterian missionaries in 1901.

The Lavinas have lived in Hawaii, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, and are now presently living in Seoul. The Lord has blessed the Lavinas with a daughter who now teaches at an international school in Bangkok, Thailand, and a son and daughter-in-law in Sydney, Australia.

Einstein teaches at the Seoul Academy International School and Alice is a teacher at the Seoul Foreign School. They are active leaders in the international academic community in Korea. Since their childhood, Alice and Einstein have been raised in a caring Christian family and community and they would like to share their Christian heritage and their faith with others through teaching, praying, and by glorifying God.

Come to their Bible class and enjoy their harmonious teaching!

On Mar. 18, at 2:30 p.m., buses full of police officers are pulled in front of Choong Hyun church. After getting off, they lined up in two rows. People were wondering what this was all about. The Seoul Police Headquarter Police Pastorate and Church-Police Cooperation hosted the meeting and Choong Hyun Police Evangelism Committee sponsored the evangelism crusade. Hundreds of police from many districts of Seoul attended. The crusade started by singing hymns together and worship was led by elder Kap Jae Lees prayer and Rev. Chang In Kims message titled, God is Love. Rev. Shin Kee Lee then invited participants to receive God and 48 police responded to receive Jesus as their savior. After the service, elder Dong Kyu Choi gave his personal testimony followed by Polices (mission praise team of Seoul police) praises.

## Evangelism Crusade for Combatant Police Unit and Student Police

By Han Sook Jung (Deaconess, 16th District)



What could be the most valuable thing in the world? Jung Rae Kim, a senior deaconess, gave her personal

testimony of leading her family to Christ since she visited reaching 150,000 police of this nation to Jesus.

After instrumental praise from the Seoul Military Band, elder Choi invited participants to receive Jesus once again and 17 more accepted the calling.

The Police Evangelism Committee thanked God that they were able to provide a place to worship and for the meals to share with those who came. Their hands were busy serving food; yet, they prayed that more police officers would accept Jesus in the future. The PEC have been praying mostly for the evangelization of the police and went to assist in reaching out the police.

This year, they are seeking more opportunities and effective ways to invite police and reach them with the good news of Jesus Christ. The Choong Hyun congregation should assist them in this important evangelical endeavor.

Behind the Story of a Missionary (1)

## God Has Replaced the Good in the Place of the Misery

From the Missions Department



A missionary completed the necessary training to participate in field missions. He had a burning desire for missions in Africa so he fervently prayed and prepared himself. Unfortunately, he was seriously injured in a traffic accident and lost his leg. The accident, however, did not put cause him to despair. He went to Africa for missions and evangelized to the most remote tribal people. During his ministry, he was mistaken as an enemy. As a result, attacked him some primitive natives. Poisoned arrows flew toward the missionary and an arrow hit him on the leg. He fell and the primitives thought he would soon die. Fortunately, when he woke up, they all fell down in amazement, saying that he was a god incarnated.

When the missionary stood up and pulled out the poisoned arrow, the fear and trembling of the aborigines was even greater for they all shouted he was indeed a god from heaven. Through this incident, the missionary reaffirmed what God's will for his rubber leg was and he embraced his rubber leg for thankful prayers. This incident brought an opportunity to tell the good news of Jesus Christ to the entire tribe and through his faithful service, many people in the tribe became believers. Misery may happen to us. But, when we meditate about how God can bring us out of misery, God will surely bring blessings in place of misery.

## "Missionary Letter from Uganda"

From Short-Term Missionaries Soon Ju Lee and Kyung Sik Whang

On Feb. 11, the fourth commencement of the Uganda Reformed Theological College was held. The ceremony thrilled us all—the missionaries, graduating class, students, and short-term missionaries as well as of the missionaries' children. The instrumental orchestra, composed of children ranging from seven to 13 years of age, started the ceremony and filled the RTC hall. The participants cried out their traditional African praise—yelling upon seeing those black-gowned

graduates marching towards the stage. The presence of over 40 graduates and professors was overwhelming. We also felt strong emotions, not usually seen in Korean graduations, when we saw the graduates. These folks are those who will carry the gospel to win the lost souls of Africa! After such a busy and emotional graduation, malaria swept through our complex. Among the 45 missionaries, missionary children, and short-term missionaries, all—except for one or two people—have suffered malaria severely once or twice. While travelling to a hospital for a blood test, we thought it would be nice if we didn't have to travel far just to find a microscope. Malaria inflicted the missionaries after it bypassed the natives. Fortunately, we endured the illness through prayers and love towards others. Most of the missionaries have recovered. This illness had brought a renewed understanding that we are at the forefront of missions and it was truly a time awaiting for God's special grace. We thank God for allowing us to comprehend so much through the illness. Please continue to pray for the ministry members that they may win over Satans evil confusion that the situation is so dreadful and tempting to forfeit everything—after overcoming the physical weaknesses. Also, pray for the conviction that God takes care of the RTC and its missionaries to overcome the impossible. Please remember to pray for us that we may acknowledge God's will in the midst of such difficulties and His wisdom in the situation. May we experience humbleness in our life so that we may become obedient to Gods word.

Sri Lanka Day ended with much grace and edification to everyone who participated. Afterwards, preparations for Mongolia Day began. At first, I worried that if we could do this event with the same enthusiasm and participation like Sri Lanka Day but by the grace of God, Mongolians actively participated. We intended this event to be a self-participating and exposure experience to worship for the Mongolian community. The Mongolians came up with ideas for decorations, praises, skits, testimonies and instrumental plays. Preparing for the event brought about unification of Mongolian Christians. The praises were so well-organized and performed that even the Mongolian teachers were astonished. The skits were also well-prepared and showed how hard they rehearsed. Instrumental play, featuring the flute and violin, warmed foreign workers who came from eight other countries. Evangelist Byung Yoon Min gave a powerful message in Mongolian. We all came to be convinced that God is working His will on many Mongolians. A

## Mongolia Day

By Mi Hee Lee (Teacher, Foreign Workers Mission)



Mongolian brother named Chaschihehu gave his testimony. He was a Muslim when he first came to

Korea, but when invited to Choong Hyun church, he came to know Jesus and came to trust only on Him. What

a marvelous saving grace! I became convinced that Korean churches can facilitate world evangelization through helping foreign workers residing in Korea. I have not participated in foreign missions yet but I pray that God will prepare my heart for the missions in Mongolia as I am trained through the Choong Hyun Foreign Workers

Missions. Also, as part of Mongolia Day, the brothers and sisters from the eight countries who attended, gave a special offering for those suffering Mongolians due to the harsh weather in their homeland. The amount was not a lot but nonetheless sufficient. It was a small beginning but God's presence led to major blessing. Throughout the event, I believe that some worshipers came to accept clearly what the gospel message is really about. I thank God for His wisdom and guidance from the beginning to the end. I also pray that the Mongolian team members will come to experience the powerful work of the gospel and come to spiritual maturity.