

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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Renovations Completed at Choong Hyun Prayer Mountain; Dedication Service Held on Apr. 25

Renovations at the Choong Hyun Prayer Mountain, which started last December, have finally been completed. A dedication service was held at Daniel Hall on Apr. 25 with the participation of Choong Hyun and Construction Committee members. It now has a glass front that allows more sunlight from the outside, which makes the hall much brighter. Besides reconstructing its basic foundation, the renovations have changed the rooftop, windows and doors to each room.

Currently, Daniel Hall has 15 small and large rooms. Participants prayed that the renovated hall would provide comfort to those who visit the prayer mountain and contribute to igniting a spiritual fire in the church. With renovations at Daniel Hall complete, Esther Hall will soon begin reconstruction in the near future.

National Prayer Meeting for Elders and Pastors Held May 8 to 11; Dawn Prayer Meetings, First Wednesday Service and District Leaders Training Sessions Maintained

The 37th national prayer meeting for elders and pastors was held at Choong Hyun from May 8 to 11. We should continue our intercessory prayers that there will be renewal and revival on this land by true repentance of spiritual leaders. Meanwhile, the dawn prayer meetings were continued as usual.

1,2,3 Education Department: Church Exploration

The Education Department will explore churches in Korea on May 14 and 21, churches in U.S. from June 10 to 19 for a comprehensive research on church education and administration. This field study will bring a direction for Choong Hyun church's education and provide a fruitful outcome to the ongoing goal of the church—to nurture workers of His Kingdom.

Come and See!

2000 Medical Missions Parade

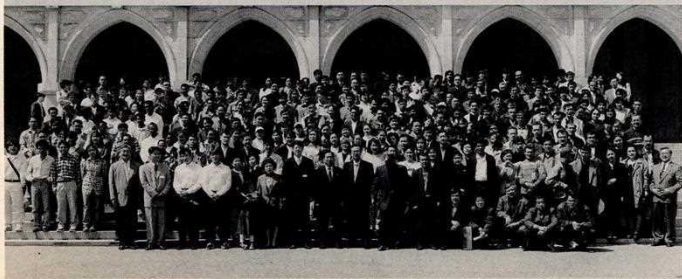
On June 4 (Sun) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Medical Missions Committee in Missions Department will hold a medical check-up parade in free of charge to those attending the Foreign Workers Mission in Choong Hyun church. This is to carry out the goal of the committee, to serve others by practicing their specialties and to provide opportunities for evangelism. The medical parade will

be held on June 4th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the east gate parking lot (if rain, in 4th fl. of Mission Center). Examinations will be open to attendees of Foreign Workers Mission in dental care, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, internal medicine, and ophthalmology.

New Teachers Needed for Foreign Workers Mission

The Missions Department is seeking teachers to fill vacancies in the Foreign Workers Mission. Its numbers have seen a sharp increase recently and, therefore, needs more manpower. All foreign workers, who have a world vision and will assist their brethren in Korea in love and in Word, please come and join this exciting ministry.



Baptismal Study for Foreign Mission Department

The Foreign Mission Department will hold baptismal study for the foreigners. This is to encourage and strengthen and to provide opportunities to confess their faith for those foreign workers who are attending our church faithfully and who show evidence of spiritual growth. The baptism opportunity will also support a ground for those foreigners when they return their home and continue in their faith. Baptismal studies will be carried out in correlation with the International District and the baptism ceremony will be done in accordance with our church regulations at the main sanctuary.

Mission Field Visit

The Missions Department will visit and observe the missionaries that we have sent and support and several mission fields. The department will go to Sudan, Rwanda, and Uganda.

Providing Lunch

The Service Department will support 12 middle school students for 10 months. These students suffer harsh family economic condition and are, thus, not getting their lunches at school. This is part of their effort to show brotherly love to our needy 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

Forbearance of GOD

(Romans 2:4)

“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing the God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?”

Do you think lightly of the riches of God’s kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? This is the question presented to us in today’s Scripture verse. It is a serious question. At first glance, you may respond appropriately with “Oh, no! I take God’s forbearance very seriously.” But do you really? Does your daily life reflect the grace of God? This biblical question asks you to reflect upon your understanding of God’s forbearance, so that you have the opportunity to gain wisdom. Too many of today’s Christians forget, ignore or distort the real meaning of God’s enduring mercifulness. Moreover, they completely take it for granted. The consequences are condemnable! Recognizing and honoring God’s kindness, tolerance and patience personally leads you to repentance. It doesn’t just save the lost, it saves you.

God loves you so much that He sacrificed His only Son. For what? Why did Jesus Christ die for you? There’s just one answer: He died for your sin! He had to die so that you could live. “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). Amen! God desires human beings to live, and He has provided the way to salvation for them through faith in Jesus Christ. Sin is forgivable and eternal life is possible in Christ. Sadly, your mind and heart are born sinful. Even born again Christians, people who have repented, accepted Christ, and received new blessings, need to continually repent of their sin. Let me explain. Before Christ, the power of sin was able to control you. After Christ, the power of sin is no longer able to control you, but its after-effects still hinder your being. It’s like a tree that has a huge vine spiraling up, in and all around it. After the main shoot is cut the vine dies, but its overgrowth, which has spread and entangled all the branches, still remains. Hence, the need for sanctification — the removal of all the dead vines for proper growth.

The point is that sin is deadly and dangerous. It takes away God’s glory. Adam and Eve’s one sin caused the

whole world to fall. My dear friends, God takes sin seriously! The fact that He sacrificed His only Son just for the forgiveness of sin should awaken you to its significance. Yet, you often continue to needlessly sin every day. Sometimes, barely even thinking about it. You talk to God and of God without even contemplating His grace. All the while, He’s patiently waiting, forbearing His righteous judgment against sin, but you still lack respect and reverence His grace. Why? Do you think you deserve it? Do you think God owes it to you?

Throughout Scripture, God purposefully asks us questions that are similar to today’s because He wants us to learn wisdom (see Is. 1:5; Je. 3:4&5; Ezk. 33:11). Let’s look at Ezekiel 33:11, “Say to them, ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?’” God doesn’t want you to die. He is a loving God who wants to spare you from death. He has provided the cross for sinners to repent and be cleansed. “Come now, and let us reason together. Says the Lord, Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool” (Is. 1:18). God really wants you to be pure. He rejoices to accept you when you turn to Him. The mere fact that he lowers Himself to reason with you should open your mind to His kindness. His forbearance is something you should solemnly take to heart.

God’s loving kindness surpasses all. His compassion and grace extends from heaven to earth, “But He, being compassionate, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them; and often He restrained His anger and did not arouse all His wrath” (Ps. 78:38). Having every right to eliminate the entire human population, God instead forgave His people. He is a forgiving God. His forbearance was and is great. Many are tempted to postpone or avoid their need for repentance because of this. Such acts show contempt for His forbearance. God

“has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities” (Ps. 103:10). Why then would you be unappreciative of His forbearance by denying His grace?

Those who don’t understand God’s kindness take it lightly. They contradict its very purpose. They don’t repent. They don’t recognize His awesome love. God says, “Why?, Why?, Why?” Why don’t you recognize it? God’s grace isn’t merited or earned. It is given to the undeserved, the sinner — freely. When you rebel against repentance because it hurts your pride, you despise God’s forbearance. “It will come about at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men Who are stagnant in spirit, Who saying their heart, ‘The Lord will not do good or evil!’” (Ze. 1:12)! Don’t reach the point where you abuse and desecrate God’s loving kindness.

Let’s understand God’s patience, tolerance and kindness. He wants you to repent and He wants to abide with you. When you look at Revelation 2, you find Christ’s letter to the seven churches. In it, He asks each church to repent, so that at the end of this world they can receive life. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev. 2:22)! Don’t be cruel to Christ! Receive His peace. He calls each one of us individually. Softly, he asks, “Do you love me?”, and gently He urges, “Feed My sheep”. Oh sinners, listen to Christ. Look at His patience. Hear His cry. He wants to give His kindness, prayers, and love. Why are you trying God’s forbearance? Don’t be irresponsible and indifferent about something so wondrous!

Listen to the beautiful words of Romans 3:25, “whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed.” Faith in the blood of Christ redeems you, places you in Christ, gives you the gift of righteousness, thus enabling God to truthfully declare you righteous

because you are in Him. “He who did not spare His own son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?” (Rom. 8:32) Amen!

His kindness leads us from hell to heaven. His forbearance guides us from sin to holiness. How can you be carefree and careless about such things? God is tender, truthful, and forgiving, yet He must punish those who sin against Him. “They refused to listen, and did not remember your wondrous deeds which you had performed among them; So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But You are a God of forgiveness, Gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness; and You did not forsake them” (Ne. 9:17). That’s the God you are taking lightly when you fail to repent.

If someone goes against the law, he may be called brave. If someone goes against love, he is called a coward. If someone goes against righteousness, he is called a justifiable fool. And if someone goes against mercy and kindness, he is called evil. Anyone who pushes away the grace of God, who takes advantage of His forbearance, is sinful. You can liken the situation to a dog that is given food and bites his master. Who would ever blame the owner for exterminating the dog?

Please understand God’s kindness and be ever so thankful that He has made a provision for you to be rid of the stain of sin. Pray that He help you to daily confess your sin and receive His forgiveness. “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more” (Is. 43:25). He forgave Mary Magdalene of the seven demons. He forgave the adulteress woman. God forgives you whenever you repent. He truly wants to give you eternal life. Don’t take His forbearance lightly. Go to the cross, deny yourself and let Christ rule.✠



A Hymn in My Lips "Carry Your Cross with a Smile"

Ji Hyun Dong (Deacon, College Group Teacher)

When I was in the second grade of elementary school, I stopped by a neighbor's house. The owner of that house, a middle-aged lady, was always cheerfully humming - when doing laundry, dishes or cleaning the house. I asked her, "What is that song?" She sang even louder and cheerfully and said, "If you go church, you can learn these songs and tell wonderful stories and you will find much more. Why don't you come to church this Sunday?" I immediately replied "Sure" not knowing that it was God's special invitation. From that point, the Lord Jesus Christ gradually changed my prideful and boastful life. Then, one day, the hymnal that I knew well suddenly shined so brightly and caught my eyes.

*Though your heart may be heavy with sorrow and care, You may others to gladness be grieve,
If a face like the light of the morning you wear, And carry your cross with a smile.*

Carry your cross with a smile, carry your cross with a smile.

You may others from sadness to gladness be grieve, If you carry your cross with a smile.

I knew that I have to carry my cross as a Christian, but it always came as a very heavy burden. But, the song says to carry the cross with a smile, like the light of the morning you wear! I opened my eyes and read it through over and over. Oh, what a joy! When we carry that cross with cheerfulness and gladness, our hearts find the comfort of God. I thank Him so much that my neighbor led me to church. How marvelous is God's design! The Holy Spirit enabled a confession in my mouth that I will lay down my stubbornness and thoughts. That's why I sing this hymn with joy and gladness. Praying that I will become as such.

The First Personal Testimony Contest:

"Miss, Believe in Jesus"

Winner: Hae Ja Lee
(Senior Deaconess, 12th District)

It was before my marriage. The day was bright; birds sang and bright rays just a beautiful spring. I came home early from work and was shopping around in the market place. At that moment, there was a cry from a corner. "Miss, believe in Jesus. Believe in Him and He will save you." I also took a brochure that was given to me. I replied, "I am too big a sinner." I was indulged into this secular world. The person who gave me the tracks said, "Jesus came to call on the sinners. Please read this and come to church." Even before she finished speaking, I was long gone. It was the first time in my life to receive a gospel track. The lady who gave me the track had left a big smile on her face. She was a typical type of old-time evangelist and seemed to be about in her fifties.

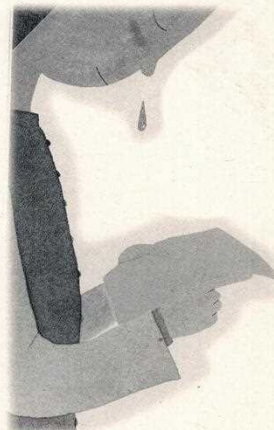
At my meeting with the in-laws before my wedding, I was shocked to discover that my mother-in-law was the woman who gave me the gospel brochure to me at the marketplace! My family had no religion; when asked, I would say Confucianism. Later, I found that my mother-in-law was staying at my husband's, then a bachelor, and she was on streets

to evangelize. Finally, I got married and my mother-in-law frequently visited my home. Strangely, wherever I went, there was a church nearby. Only much later in life did I realize that this was God's provision for me to be near church an answer to my mother-in-laws prayers. Even after her prayers for my salvation, seven years had passed without my conversion.

One summer night, my husband came home slightly drunk and we began to fight over vacation plans. I ended up going bed in silent tears. In a dim light, I heard over the radio a hymnal that spoke to me very convincingly - "Nearer, My God, to Thee." I also saw beautiful angels singing and saying comforting words to me. I

can still hear and see that marvelous sight. When I woke up, I immediately began to follow my mother-in-law to church and began my spiritual journey. All our children started attending church also.

My mother-in-law has seven children and raised them all by herself after her husband had passed away rather early. She cares so much for everyone and prays for our family everyday. I thank God for His calling and allowing me to serve Him in my life.



God Who Always Helps Me

Yu Jung Song (Fourth Grade; Elementary School, Class Four)



I believed in God from my mother's womb. I guess God first called me and told me to believe Him only. So, I never missed church: in the infant's room, toddler's class, kindergarten class and in elementary school. When I was in kindergarten, I had a bad fever having body temperature of 39 degrees Celsius but because I hated missing church, I laid down on the floor and participated in the service. All our relatives believe in God too. So, in our family, there are no events scheduled for Sundays. When I was younger, I envied those friends who would go out to play on Sundays but I thank God for helping me to come to church on every week. My entire family serves one way or the other in the church. So, God always looks

after our family. Whenever we have difficulties, God always helps us. For example a couple of days ago, my sister lost her violin bow at school. Mom notified the school's "lost and found" and told her she should give up because once an instrument is lost it hard to find. Mom, my sister and I prayed for this and asked my aunt to pray for this too. Somehow, we found the bow. The school said it was good luck but I believe God answered our prayers. When our family is in danger, God helps us. In school exams, I get good grades when I pray. When I pray, I can run faster too. God is always there when I am studying or eating. Like our ancestors Adam and Eve, we have sinned but when we confess our sins He forgives us. But when we do not repent, God punishes us until we do so. There are people who commit sins but do not repent the unbelievers. I will bring such people to God and will please God in my life.

A Letter to God

By Bin Han (Second Grade; Elementary School, Class Six)

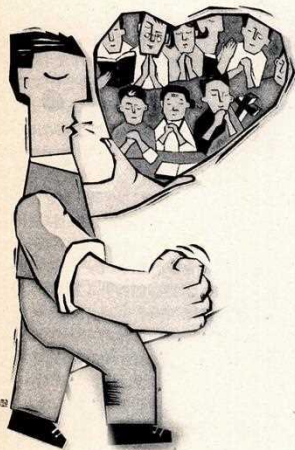
Hello God,
I am a second grader in Elementary School, Class Six. Thank you for giving me a happy home and keeping us safe. Thank you for the world we live in. Thank you for our parents who take care of us. God, keep me and be with me always. You have embraced me and thank you for your big hugs. Thank you for giving faith. You died for me on the cross. God, I want to be a pastor when I grow up. I want to preach God's word when I grow up. I want to bring people to Jesus. God, sometimes I disobey my parents. Sometimes, I do not pray. But, from now on, I will listen carefully to my parents. I will pray everyday. I will give praises and sing more in church. I pray in Jesus name.

From Bin Han

Behind the Story of a Missionary (Part Three)

Importance of Prayers in the Mission Field

From the Missions Department



This is a true story about a women's mission called the International Aglow Missions in Russia near Moscow. They were passing gospel tracks in Red Square. However, people would not receive them at all. People walked straight away from them as if they did not see or hear them. One missionary felt that the situation was bad and they immediately knelt on the ground and began to pray. Russians enjoyed receiving magazines or booklets when they were distributed; even gospel tracks. But, on that particular day, people would not take their tracks. They asked the Lord, Lord, what is the problem? Instantly, 2 Corinthians 4:4 came up to them. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.

They realized that Satan has blinded the eyes of people. So, they began to pray earnestly and fervently against Satan's power. Praying for some time, they commanded Satan to lose the blindfold in the name of Jesus. After their prayers, they went out to distribute gospel tracks and, this time, the brochures were gone quickly. The missionaries thanked the power of prayer again. It was another affirming experience that the Lord's glorious light outshines Satan's dark powers.

A Letter from Sri Lanka

By Short-Term Missionary Jin Hee Chu



Shalom!

Greetings, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to all Choong Hyun members. Thanks to your prayers, I am recovering from lung cancer. During this time, I came to realize that I am not alone in Sri Lanka but God has surrounded me many coworkers. Apr. 12 - 13 was New Year's Day in Sri Lanka. Nirmali and I were invited to spend time with other families. Recently, I explained the gospel to Miss Hansi, who is showing interest about the Way. Her brother is a student and expresses future hope in studying about Islam, Hindu and Christianity. They are not believers yet but I pray that God will open their eyes and hearts. Somehow, I am convicted of their salvation so I continue to pray fervently. Please pray that Hansi and Kasun will find Jesus and be used as tools of God. Also, pray for Nirmali, who lives with me and is growing spiritually. What I do here is to live together with Sri Lankans. It is perhaps the easiest job in the world but I find it is very difficult at times because I find that my ego is still too strong. I pray that my stay here in Sri Lanka will be, like training in the wilderness. I pray for God's richest blessings to all whom hope for restoration of His kingdom.

The First Personal Testimony Contest:

"Jesus Whom I Met"

Winner : Young Sook Moon (Deacon, First District)



We loaned a large sum of money to a friend but their business went bankrupt. We then opened a small shop but our inexperienced business skills brought piles of unpaid debt bills. My husband was drinking severely, which resulted in a terminal ulcer. Doctors said he could not live more than six months. My daughter cried to me and asked me to believe in Jesus. But, I refused God because if there is a God, I thought, He could not be so unfair to allow such sufferings and difficulties to such a self-righteous and honest person like me. Prolonged hospitalization of husband left me nothing but debts and he later passed away. Before the situation was settled and our condition improved, my daughter got married and my son was called for military duty. A deep depression and huge debts just never seemed to go away.

I could not endure anymore suffering so I went for a checkup at the National Mental Hospital. Through mental treatment, I recovered mentally but my financial situation was so bad that I began to work as a maid just to survive. Then, in appreciation of those good Samaritans in the church who came to my husband's funeral and helped out so much, I decided to attend church to pay back their love. I began to attend the choir and I started to provide lunch to Sunday school teachers. Later, God established a small cafeteria near Choong Hyun church and I began to settle down.

As God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt through Moses and provided Manna because He loved them, I thank God for calling me into His church through my daughter. As I registered at the church for the newcomers Bible study, the Holy Spirit guided me to receive Jesus as my Lord and I carried on my faith. However, there was a big trial before me. Last March, I was given a notice to close the shop. My tears were dry and I could not cry any more seeing such a heartless world. I pitied myself that I had to be driven out without any rights. But, I know that there is a Father in Heaven who is the Master and Owner of the universe to whom I can pray. I asked a few fellow Christians for their intercessory prayers about this matter. I started fasting and I began reflecting on my life. Why is God giving me so many difficult challenges? Then, the Holy Spirit spoke to me in my inner heart: my unfaithfulness in attending worship services; excuses to miss Bible studies; asking God for material possessions without giving Him what is His; and blindness in loving my neighbors - all these passed in my mind as snap shot pictures. Everyday at dawn prayer meetings, I went in for confessions, always bursting into tears. Then, God gave me peace and comfort in my heart.

When I gave everything to God and concentrated in prayer, there was God's provision working for me. Someone suddenly suggested me to take over a shop he owned; I changed this shop into a cafeteria. It was so beautiful. I thank God for giving me this store to earn a decent living. I boldly confess that only Jesus is my comforter. I always thank those who helped me when I was just a beginning believer.

I was born and raised in a Buddhist background. Knowing that idol worship is everything. My life began squeaking and lurking as I prepared to enter into an arranged marriage. Time flew and I became a mother of two children but my husband's abuse and constant affairs drove me to seek for all kinds of human efforts to solve the problem. Fortunately, my children grew well in church and I gained stable financial life from full-time work; but not for long.