

◆ GOALS ◆

Godly Worship Service
Raising Kingdom Workers
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing the World
Social Services for the 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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Choong Hyun Arises and Shines Choong Hyun's Goal for World Mission One Step Closer Foreign Laborers Department Plans Activities for Evangelism



Choong Hyun Church has a great vision for world mission. There can be many ways to achieve this goal, but the church is trying to reach out to international laborers in Korea. These foreign laborers in Korea have a great potential to be the most effective missionaries when they return to their home country.

Our church wants to use this ministry as the core of its world missions effort. We have sent seven different short term teams this past summer and foreign laborers who were trained in our church took a very important part in the success of those mission teams. That is why the church opened a new department for foreign laborers, along with a worship service on Sundays and a provision of meals and fellowship. We are also willing to do whatever we can to help these foreign laborers, such as finding jobs and homes.

The church will have a sports event for foreign laborers on October 3 prepared by parish 17 and the mission committee. The church will invite more than a hundred foreign laborers for this event with a clear purpose - to evangelize foreign laborers as we share the love of the gospel of Jesus Christ so that their spiritual eyes may be opened for world missions. Choong Hyun must realize the necessity of training these foreign laborers and must not hesitate to invest material and spiritual resources.

Whenever we see these foreign laborers in our church, let us greet them with a warm heart and smile. Most of them are very lonely, living apart from their families and home towns, especially during national holidays such as "Choo-seok". Most foreign laborers used to spend their holidays gambling and watching television. This increases our urgency to provide a sports event with a spiritual interest. Our entire congregation must pray for these foreign laborers so that they will accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and be a great instrument for world missions.

Sending Mission News to Missionaries

During the past week, the mission committee of Choong Hyun sent the 1998 mission news of Choong Hyun to those missionaries who contributed through financial and spiritual support to the success of the missionary efforts this year. The church is hoping that these newsletters will help the ministry of those on the mission field. Financial difficulties are not just a national problem, but a personal problem that we can feel in our everyday lives. We thank those who did not lose their vision for world mission and gave financial support. The mission committee felt the need to send the newsletters to those supporters so that they may be encouraged by the visible sacrifices of their friends at home. The mission committee expects to have more supporters who would share the joy of doing kingdom ministry in world missions.

Choong Hyun Children's Park Slated for Completion Mid-November

Choong Hyun Church has five major goals. The fifth of these is to provide social services for the local area. To live out this goal, the church is making the "Choong Hyun Children's Park" on the east and west sides of the church. There will be benches, exercise tools, playing equipment, and trees which people can enjoy. We are not just providing these social services for the local area, but this also has the purpose of sharing the love of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mission Institute Lectures Began Vision to Be a Lay Missionary

From September 12, the Mission Institute of Choong Hyun Church opened courses for lay people who have a vision to be a missionary. There were more than sixty trainees. This was much more than the church expected. This program was designed by our denomination and the General Assembly of our denomination and the Missionary Training Institute (MTI). They cooperated with each other to provide an



effective training program and open a bright future for world missions.

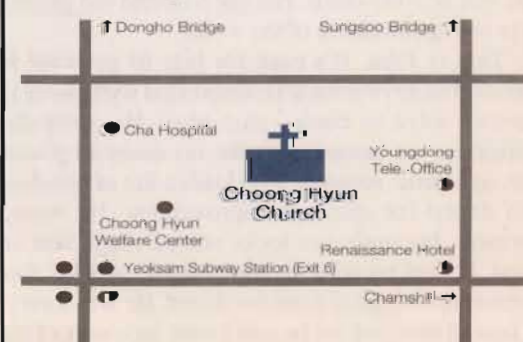
This program starts from five o'clock for two hours of lectures and two hours of language training every Saturday. There are thirteen courses including "the Abraham Connection". The language training includes Chinese, Mongolian, Sri Lankan, and English. The languages are held from seven to nine o'clock in the evening except for the English class which is held from half past two.

The Door for Mission Choong Hyun Open through Prayers and Interest

The Mission Committee of Choong Hyun Church provides world mission information to those who are interested in world missions including church members and seminarians. The church expects to have individuals who are willing to share their own information on world missions with other people. The church also expects to hear edifying criticism in order to be able to improve the selection and distribution of such information. Even in Choong Hyun Church, so many different people have different talents. When they get together to offer their talents in service to one another, world missions comes one step closer to completion. The Choong Hyun Mission Committee is open for everyone at all times. If you want to see the information on world missions you can come to the fourth floor of the Mission Center Building. If you have some information you would like to provide regarding world missions, you can drop by the mission committee office or send email to gwwj@unitel.co.kr.

Choong Hyun Church English Worship Service

- 09:00 worship service in English (Cana Hall, Welfare Center Building)
- 10:30 praise (Cana Hall, Welfare Center Building)
- 11:00 Bible study (Welfare Center Building)
- 11:00 worship service with translation in English (Main Sanctuary Building)
- 13:30 small group time (2nd floor, 2nd Educational Building)



John the Baptist's Manner of Life

(Matthew 3:4)

This is indeed a strange passage! Why is it included in the Bible? Think about it. What is it about knowing the details of John's peculiar lifestyle that is going to draw you closer to God? The bottom line question is: what's the meaning? It's clear from his manner of dress that he isn't much into fashion and style and his food choice is not only limited but leaves much to be desired. It's all too obvious that he isn't a man who desires luxury. This much can be ascertained without further ado but in order to discover the mysterious wonders of today's message it's important to focus in on a few other things the Bible says about John the Baptist and his life. This will shed the light needed to grasp the Holy Spirit's intention here and bring to view its significance for your life.

Well, the Old Testament let us know that his type of dress was just like Elijah's (2 Ki. 1:8) and also that his food selection of locusts and wild honey were clean to eat and natural for his environment (Lv. 11:22; Dt. 32:13; 1 Sa. 14:26). All his life he lived in the desert and yet his desert lifestyle is part of the Word of Life. Jesus even says, "Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Mt. 11:11). It's true that the greatness of John the Baptist in the old dispensation of the law before the Cross fades in comparison to the high position every believer has had since Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection and the descent of the Holy Spirit but the fact that he is given such prominence should really catch your eye.

The whole story of the announcement and advent of the birth of John the Baptist is recorded in Luke 1. You read about how old his parents were when he was conceived, the story of his father (Zacharias) losing his ability to speak and the importance of his special calling and upbringing in the desert. Why is John a star in the New Testament? Well, the answer is that the Bible is the Word of God and John is the voice of God. He became "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ready the way of the Lord, make His path straight" (Mt. 3:3).

He was born famous but what he became never involved the fame of the world. He dedicated his life to talking with God and obeying His will and way. He didn't care about his clothes and what he had to eat. How much time do you give to thinking about clothes? How much time do you spend on decisions of what to eat? John prepared himself outside of the world's rules and regulations so that he could communicate with God and follow His rules and regulations. God's provisions were sufficient for him.

What's really amazing is that after secluding himself for thirty years in the desert, when he made his public appearance to Israel they were there. That's right, all the Israelites came to the Jordan River to hear what he had to say. His reputation proceeded his actual preaching. Just imagine this scene. John hasn't talked with people for his entire life. He's not at all familiar with the do's and don'ts of proper etiquette. Yet, when he appears to talk people are there. Wow! This is remarkable and unheard of today. It's clear that God's calling was in him and that he followed it. His life reflected the priorities of God over and against those of the world.

This is John. It's easy for him to get wild honey and locusts. His environment is surrounded with plenty of both. He doesn't have to cook - just pray. His own desires and selfishness are strewn aside for his desire to please God. He was an ascetic; someone who leads a life of self-discipline and self denial for spiritual improvement. He wore a rugged garment, his unshaven locks waved rough and long in the wind, he had no wine or strong drink, and his food was the commonest supplied from the desert. He was a very poor man in human eyes and yet he was a very high saint of God!



By Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

"John's manner of life truly shows you his deep conviction and love for the Lord. It shows you the unimportance of worldly things and the great importance of godly things."

His dwelling was in the wilderness so that he could be raised to exercise his ministry. John explains himself from the word of Isaiah as the voice (Jn. 1:23). Jesus is the Word. John the Baptist is the voice. This voice arose out of desert silence. He's a man of Judean hill country - removed from the dross and luxury of city living. His physical looks take on the appearance of his way of life. He is a content man with such food as comes to hand. He eats the bounty of the soil of his region. His food doesn't come from people but from the grace of God.

His simple mode of life is evident with respect to both food and clothing. He is a living protest against all self-indulgence, frivolousness, carelessness and false security of those rushing toward their doom. "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come'" (Mt. 3:7)? John knew God and the power of His salvation and damnation, "His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Mt. 3:12).

The great majority of people's lifestyles reflect the chaff and not the wheat. Look at human history, "they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark and the flood come and destroyed them all. It was the same as what happened in the days of Lot (Lk. 17:27-29). Yes, this is how most people live. It's not these particular activities that are wrong but that the people were unprepared. Most people are unprepared. John is different. He's not only prepared but he is preparing the way for the Lord to come. How about you? Are you prepared? Are you preparing the way for Christ's return? "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah." (Mt. 24:37). This is powerful. The warning is given but the exact time of judgment is not. Christ is coming and coming soon.

"For just as the lighting comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Mt. 24:27). This is not something you can prepare for when it happens. No! This preparedness is a manner of lifestyle that you live now - not later. John prepared the way for Jesus. He didn't care about worldly stuff. He didn't care about what he ate or drank. People today focus heavily on what they eat and what they wear. It's become an important thing of life.

John the Baptist's manner of life focused on the message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 3:2). Are the members of our congregation focused on the gospel message? Do you know that the kingdom of God is near and that you can't go without Jesus? John is the greatest because his life prepared the way. Look at him, he's not selfish. He's free from the world and all its constraints. He concentrated on Jesus and focused on the message of the kingdom of God. So, what's the point?

You can be free too with Jesus! Through the Messiah you can enter the kingdom of God. Your manner of life doesn't have to match John's but it should emulate his desire to place God first. Jesus' manner of life was quite different than John's and yet both were rejected by the world. The key isn't what type of manner of life you are called to but that the manner in which you live reflects the heart of the Gospel. John's manner of life truly shows you his deep conviction and love for the Lord. It shows you the unimportance of worldly things and the great importance of godly things. This should motivate you to reexamine your lifestyle and make sure that the manner in which you live simply reflects the amazing grace of God.

Today's Christian Duty

(Romans 13:11-14)

It's my hope that today's message will be a real eye opener. It's meant to shake and startle some and to remind and renew others of their Christian duty and privilege to practice righteousness. Righteousness is a gift from God to those who believe in the new covenant of grace - the gospel of the Father concerning His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The righteousness of which Paul speaks, especially in his letter to Rome, is "the righteousness of faith" that exists and can be given only because of the sacrificial death of Jesus for sinners and His resurrection from the dead as the vindicated Lord of all.

Before we get into the specific Christian practices that these Scripture passages point out, I want to strongly emphasize that it's not the rules of obedience or the standards of Christian conduct that take center stage here. Yes, the rules and standards are important and you most definitely need to know them. They don't change. They are the same prior to and after your acceptance of Christ. What does change is your reasons for doing them. Prior to accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior, all your so called "holy" or "proper" activity was basically in vain. You did the right things for all the wrong reasons. Your motivation was self. After accepting Jesus, all your righteous activity finds its source in the compelling power of grace. You do the right things for the right reasons. Your duty is obedience to the Word of God and that is grace motivated!

Why? Because awe and humility are the responses to God's grace which in turn bring worship and obedience into their proper motivations and make the application of all biblical truth the fruit of thanksgiving, praise, gratitude, and loving service. You cannot do or be what God requires without the work of Christ in, for, and through you. As such, Christ's strength rather than your own provides the only hope of Christian obedience. The bottom line is that your hands must remain empty of self both before and after conversion if you are to experience the fullness of grace.

Knowing this, and I really hope you get this, Paul exhorts, "Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believe" (v. 11). Okay, Paul's first exhortation is to "do this". Do what? The future culmination of our salvation at the return of the Lord is nearer every day. Gradually His kingdom is making progress in the earth. His truth is gaining victory over error. Old wrongs have been redressed. Our King is coming - Jesus Christ! The Christian's call is a call to activity. Now it's high time to wake up out of sleep. This is what you must do - WAKE UP! The time is now - the hour to waken is here!

Many Christians are asleep. They are inactive. They are idle. They do nothing to prepare the way of the Lord. They are insensitive to the movement of the Word and to sin. The apostle emphasizes that we should know the time. We should know that the kingdom of God is at hand. The day of our Savior's coming is drawing nearer. Already we may hear the sounds of chariot wheels. Just look at what's happening around the world. The Yangtze River in China flooded and 140 million people lost their homes. In South America a 7.1 earthquake wrecked havoc on thousands. Air pollution is now a global problem. The wrath of God and the power of sin leave devastating sorrow. It's really time for all Christians to open their eyes and start living in His righteousness.

For the dark house of pain and sorrow will soon be over. Weeping may endure through the night but there is joy in the morning: "The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light" (v. 12). Here is the Christian call to amendment. Let's cast off the night and the works of darkness and let's put on the armor of light! They view the good things with dark thoughts. The spirit in which obedient and loyal

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conduct should be exercised is the spirit of reverence and honor; not despair and neglect. We should remember that our submission rendered to the powers that be is not only reasonable but divinely right.

Actually, when you become a Christian there is damage in this life. Terrible things do happen but they don't happen by chance. Everything is under His control. Although you may not understand the reasons why, you can rest assured that you are loved and that nothing (absolutely nothing) can happen to you apart from Him. But, as a Christian, you look to righteousness. There is no failure in the force of right. Failure is in the written forces of sin not righteousness. Those who think that the night is not far spent are wrong. The night is far spent. Jesus is coming!

The works of darkness included in the next passage, "Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy" (v. 13) are the very works we are to avoid. These are practices of the night. Sin loves concealment. A Christian's duty is not only not to do these things but to put on the light. Imagine yourself sleeping in a dark room and you wake up. What's the first thing to do? Turn on the light. You can't see in the dark. You need light to see. Well, it's the same thing in life. Jesus is the light and you need Him in order to come out of the darkness.

You have to know that the day is at hand? How shall you abide the day of our Lord's coming if you do not separate from sin? You must put on the armor of light. You are to wage war with your own temptations and with the evil in the world. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the only conquering weapon. Evil can't control good. As such, you should never do evil that good may come.

Finally, Paul exhorts us to the call of Christlikeness, "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lust" (v. 14). The flesh sets its desire against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. If you are clothed in Christ, you are clothed in His Spirit. That's the secret of strength. This is emphatically a call which Christians need to hear in the present age when so much that's going on in the church and world is contrary to the spirit of Christ. Remember, if you live by the Spirit you will also walk by the Spirit (Gal. 3:25).

Let's hear then the trumpet call of duty as we go forth and brace up our Spirit with inspiring thoughts that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Jesus Christ lives within each believer. He overcame the world, sin, and death. His victory places Him on the heavenly throne. He blesses each individual person who has faith and obedience in Him with the Holy Spirit.

We are currently facing the aftermath of terrible flood damage from heavy rains. We are still financially troubled with the IMF situation. The night is too far spent and the day is coming. Let's come to the Word of God. Let's hear the words of our Lord, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Mt. 11:28). Please let today's Bible words change us. Even though we are weak and simple, we know that Jesus loves us. Let's open our heart and hear His voice. The day is at hand. John the Baptist came preaching repentance for the kingdom of heaven was at hand. Let's repent and walk in the faith of our Lord Jesus and follow Him.

Let's thank God for the body of Christ we call CHPC. Let's all be brave and encourage each other to keep a clean church. Let's listen to His voice and evangelize this country, our society and the world. The night is nearly over and the day is almost here. Therefore, let us hear our call to activity and respond by waking up. Let us hear our call to change and respond by repenting. Let us hear our call to Christlikeness and respond by living in His grace!

Bangladesh Mission Report

"Brother, Everything Is Already Prepared for Us"

by Jung Won Lee

(a member of college group, a team member of the Bangladesh short term mission)

Hearts were strengthened by the Word

Reverend Sung Kwan Kim prayed for us who were about to leave Korea for Bangladesh for a mission trip. Reverend Kim strengthened us with the words of the Lord, "Not even a sparrow can land on the ground unless God allows it." We also remember our theme Bible verse of I Kings 8:60, "so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other." Even in the midst of the uncertainty of our journey, we could have the peace that God gives from above.

Delicious meals

We arrived at Zia airport in Bangladesh. As we stepped out onto the platform, heavy humidity fogged up my glasses. It was very hard for me to breathe and this is something I never experienced before. We worked in pairs and scattered to different areas. We gave full control to the Holy Spirit so that he may prepare the people that

we were supposed to meet and experience the testimonies that we were promised by God.

The first meal that I had at the home of a native was beyond my expectations. Actually, I did not like food with curry. Their native food was horrible for me at first! But as the days went by, their food began to taste so delicious! We spent two days in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. Then we went to the Bogura area which is about four hours away from Dhaka. The road was very difficult to traverse. We could only lean on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Propagation of the truth in Bangladesh

We worried about heavy rains in Bangladesh during the monsoon season. But, there was very little rain during our ten day trip. There were a few periods of heavy rain, but only when we were under cover of a building or inside a car. When we went outdoors to preach the gospel, the rain stopped.



Unexpectedly, we were invited by a member of World Vision to deliver the gospel to about twenty Muslims during some of their normal class time. We preached on the lordship of Jesus Christ and the Sovereignty of God. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." These were my favorite Bible verses which came into reality. The Bangladeshi were in emptiness and in deep darkness. The Holy Spirit was hovering over them until we arrived. Then the Holy Spirit used us as his instrument to create a new creation in the hearts of the Bangladeshi. We could not stop thanking God for his providence.

It is so safe to be led by the Holy Spirit

Three weeks before the departure, Pastor Kyung Han Park and Elder Joo Han Park said that we need to drop everything that we have prepared and give full control to the Holy Spirit. I did not like their policy. But I realized the accuracy and safety of following the guidance of the Holy Spirit rather than our own plans.

I still remember what one of our brothers said to me after a day's ministry. "Brother, everything is prepared for us."

This brother's confession applies to every short term mission team from our church. Hallelujah! Our God reigns!!!

Email News from the Mission Field

- Missionary Sung Ryul Ahn in Surinam

Pray for Me

Greetings from Surinam.

Thank you for your prayers for the evangelization of Surinam. But now, I need to ask you for an urgent prayer. I went to Bbeegin-shah-rohn to meet the village chief to get permission to start a ministry. He rejected my plea many times. But by the prayers which you lifted to our God almighty, the chief changed his mind and granted me permission to start a church. He also allowed me to use an elementary school building. Hallelujah! We were going to start a church at David Alexander's place, but our Lord had better plans for our ministry. I visited Bbeegin-shah-rohn village door-to-door almost everyday as I handed out Bibles. We started a church from Sunday, September 20. God was faithful to keep his promise for a spiritual victory.



The Republic of Cape Verde Nominalism on An Impoverished Island Nation

The Republic of Cape Verde is a collection of fifteen dry, barren islands 600 kilometers off the west coast of Africa. Their total land is 4,033 square kilometers with a total population of about 450,000 people. 82,000 people live in the capital city of Praia. About 71% of the people are Caboverdian Creole, a mixed race. About 28% are African, mainly from Guinea-Bissau. 1% is European.

The official language is Portuguese. The trade language is Portuguese Creole. Although 70% of the population is literate, 84% of the adult population over 25 years of age have had no formal education.

The Caboverdian economy is heavily dependent on foreign aid and remittances from Caboverdian migrants. Their islands have gone through drought, overgrazing and deforestation.

Cape Verde won its independence from Portugal in 1975 as a one-party socialist republic. A 1990 revision of the constitution led to multi-party elections with a peaceful transition of government. The privileged position of the Catholic Church ended with independence. Since 1975, Cape



Verde has had freedom of religion as a secular state.

Currently, the Christian population is about 98.6%. 95% are Catholic. About 3.5% are Protestant. The other 1.4% are non-religious. Although the Caboverdians are Christian in name, they are more influenced by superstitions and African fetishism. Most Christian literature is in Portuguese which they do not understand entirely. They need literature in Creole.

The new democratic leaders need prayers as they try to stabilize the economy. Evangelicals have been growing among the population, but the weak economy has been hampering the growth of the Protestant church. (from Patrick Johnstone's *Operation World*, 5th edition)