

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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PIETA

Mother!
 I could not escape.
 The anger of sin
 that needles me like pains of thirst
 just as the thorns of wild rose.
 The pain that cannot be ignored
 that break of flesh as the first and last.
 The promised time to be obedient before Father.
 Death is no meaningless
 New blossom of decay!

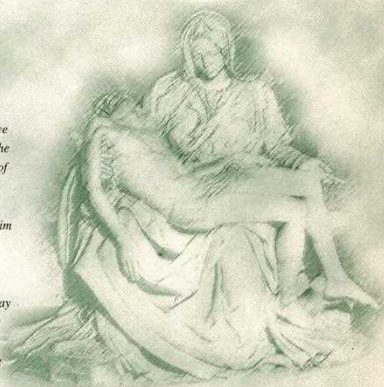
I did not escape
 Just as before
 Truth is stepped on
 Righteous distorted
 Just as now
 Those who know love will love
 Those who gain love will share
 When time comes,
 My prayer will be judgement
 My sword will be justice sword!

Lord!

My sorrow
 mother's cry who lost her son
 as you know I am but a human being
 full of tears!
 When will Death become new life
 The tears to joy!
 PIETA!

"You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God! In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. He saved others, they said, but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him (Matthew 27:40-42).

*What could be in Mary's heart to embrace the dead body of Jesus who died on the cross so miserably? Why didn't she say anything? Was she overcoming the painful hour with faith? And what could be her prayers?
 Could it be possible that she remembered the songs she sang when she conceived Him?*



2000 Handel's Messiah Oratorio by united choir

*During Friday Praise on December 22
 Towards the celebration of Jesus Christ and His holy birth*

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel (Luke 2:28-32).

Handel's Messiah consists of three parts: in part one, there is story of nativity and the birth of Jesus. The coming of Messiah and his birth is sung so the major theme of the first chapter is coming Messiah. In part two, under theme of Sufferings of Christ messages of Jesus' sufferings are delivered. Compared to Bach's 'St. Mathew's Suffering' Handel reveals a triumphant and coming victorious King in the songs. In part three, where conviction of resurrection is praised and sung with the famous Hallelujah chorus, enfolds the joy and glory of resurrection and the ministry that spreads to the utter most parts of the world. The choir will sing Amen to close where entire nations will come and worship Jesus Christ.

For this presentation, about 400 choir members and 60 orchestra members practiced every evening since Oct. 1. Let us pray that this Messiah presentation will lead us to confess the salvation of Jesus and joy and peace that changes our soul just as it did to Simeon.

Decision for strict discipline for those wrong willed words and actions against church At the sessions meeting on December 6th

During the last session meeting on Wednesday December 6th, after general session meeting disciplinary session meeting was held. During this disciplinary session, there was discussion about recent slanderous articles and actions against the church and decided to enforce strict chastisement for such

actions. Such decision was reaction against recent confusion and division caused by published articles in "Dawn Dew (newspaper)" and slanderous letters sent to church members. The church will establish order through decided discipline.

Theology Column

The teachings of Jesus Christ

By Rev. Byung Joon Cha (Missions Department)

Among many teachings of Jesus, I'd like to point to His teaching where Jesus says, Be aware of men. The writer of Psalm says the blessed man does not follow the evil man's scheme. In other words, this also warns us to be careful of people. It instructs us to discern them. If we do not discern and are not careful of other people, we could listen to an evil man's wisdom and unknowingly, we could fall into sin. Therefore, ultimately we could be judged.

Jesus also comments on this matter. He warns us to be careful of people. In particular, Jesus teaches us to be aware of evil teachers. They are disguised as sheep but are actually wolves are inside. Therefore, it is extremely difficult to determine who they really are. They deceive others and kill sheep. They steal away the lives of sheep.

How, then, can we distinguish the true teachers from false and evil ones? We can see them from their fruit. The evil speakers and evildoers may speak sweet words and lies but their fruit cannot be hidden. They do not lead sheep to a narrow path. They may say sweet things publicly but their way is to destruction and condemnation.

Be aware of men! This is a serious lesson. Why? Because this has to do with life. If we do not take careful actions toward people, we can lose our lives to destruction and judgment. But we too often begin by listening to people with little knowledge. Therefore, before we listen to people we must first examine what kind of fruits they bear. We must be awake and carefully see what they have. We can easily overlook this important teaching of Jesus but because it has to do with our lives directly, we must be careful.



by Rev. Sung Kwan Kim
Senior Pastor

Greatest Discovery

(Ephesians 3:1-7)

"In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ."

Paul was a happy man! Even though he was imprisoned in Rome, under the terrible persecution of King Nero, he was able to rejoice. How is it possible for such a man to be so joyfully content? There's only one answer: he found the greatest discovery! He found faith in Jesus Christ! No one, no matter how accomplished an actor, can show true delight in such dire circumstances without having found the greatest discovery. Look around you and see the kind of people that despair in hardship and the kind of people that have delightful peace in spite of it. I'd venture to say that everyone you find with gladness in their hearts, in the midst of suffering, will be a Christian. Look at Paul, he was a Jewish man who was hated by most Jews, for that matter, most Romans hated him too. He had a lot of different people who wanted to kill him. He was jailed because of their hate. Nonetheless, Paul was one of the happiest men on the face of this earth. Why? Because he was given a great privilege. He was imprisoned because of Jesus Christ. He suffered for the sake of God's grace.

Paul definitely had two different addresses, one for the jail and one for heaven! Normal people saw him as a prisoner of Rome, but Paul said that he was a prisoner of Jesus Christ. "For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus." He never thought of himself as a prisoner of Nero's, only a prisoner of Jesus Christ. Even though he was jailed, he never expressed sorrow or distress. He looked at his situation as a privilege! How about you my friend? When you face suffering for Jesus Christ, when you get insulted because of Jesus Christ, when you lose money because of Jesus Christ, at that time, are you thinking you are a prisoner of Jesus Christ? Are you thinking you are a winner, like you have victory?

From today's Bible verses, Paul tells us that he discovered the greatest thing, the revelation of God, the secret of God! The secret of love, mercy, and grace was transferred into his heart by God. The "stewardship of God's grace" was given to him by God. When Paul met Jesus Christ in

Jesus came to Paul and changed him from a sinner to a minister of God's Word. Jesus not only came to Him, but sent Him into the Gentile land to share God's secret. Now, all humans can be forgiven of sin and become God's children.

Before Jesus, Gentiles hardly

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Damascus, he experienced the wonders of God's secret. He was called to proclaim that secret to Gentiles, not Jews (see Gal. 2:7). He shined Jesus Christ's light into the darkness of the Gentile's place. From where the power of Satan thrived, Paul brought in the power of God. The Gentile's place changed dramatically to a place of forgiveness and holiness. It became sanctified by trust in Jesus Christ. Look at Acts 26:18, "to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me." Amen!

existed in front of God. The Greeks, the popular Gentile nation, were so proud of themselves that they thought all other people were stupid. The Jewish people also took great pride in themselves, and thought all Gentiles were stupid. But under the cross everybody is equal, both Jew and Gentile. This is what Paul discovered in Christ, "that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel." Before Jesus, Paul thought only the Jews would rule, "For the nation and the kingdom which will not serve you will perish, And the nations will be utterly ruined" (Isa. 60:12). After

Jesus, Paul understood that only Israel's God was God, and He was available to all people who believed in Christ (see Isa. 45:14).

Every nation has its wall of pride. They think they are better than other nations. All nations have their own world vision, and their vision is the right vision in comparison to anyone else's. Actually, the nations of this world are in a cultural prison, confined under the terms and conditions of moral law. None really thinks that God's special grace is for everyone, every nation, every soul. Paul found this great discovery. That's why he boasted, "I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles" (v. 1). Paul wrote boldly on some points to remind us of the grace which was given to him from God (see Rom. 15:15). Without Paul, these wonderful words could not expand. Right now, without Jesus, without Christians, these words cannot spread to the ends of the earth.

Paul received a revelation, "that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery", a universal revelation which is God's grace. God showed to him this truth and beauty. Paul experienced its awesome power. That's why he proclaimed this gospel. Amen! He became an agent of God. He had to do some very hard, dirty, and dangerous work. Without Jesus, he would have been a very, very sad person. With Jesus, he was able to be a very, very happy person. He look at his work as the best kind of work. He taught and preached God's grace under some of the most trying circumstances. He joined Christ's suffering in all kinds of service to God's kingdom. He never thought it was easy. He knew that this way involved many hardships, but he also knew that all the hardships he encountered, all the suffering he faced was a privilege in Christ.

Tomorrow is Christmas Day, and today is Christmas Eve, my dear friends, what have you found to be the greatest thing in this world? I hope you, like Paul, have found the greatest discovery. Amen! 🕊

Upon Ending Uganda Ministry

By Soon Ju Lee (Short-term Lay Missionary)

Unlike other African countries, Uganda has rich soil. Lake Victoria is quite extensive and bananas, sweat potatoes, potatoes and beans are easily found here. Just like other African countries, people regard the highhorn buffalo as the most valuable property. A man wishing to marry woman must provide at least seven buffalo to the bride's parents. Although a Christian man can have only one wife, many unbelievers have multiple wives. This recounts for the reason that there are so many AIDS patients in this country.

Under British colonial rule, the nation used to be heavily Anglican but now, there are mix of Hindi, Catholic, Buddhist, Islam, Seventh Day Adventist and other religions. The most powerful religion is Islam and with their abundant materials they are rapidly winning many people from north. In Lake Victoria, there is an abundance of fish but due to polluted water people suffer with illnesses. Many people die because there isn't enough money to pay for medicines.

I served for one year at the Reformed Theological College, which is located on the outskirts of the capital. Majors offered include Theology, Music and Children's Education. The school has about 150



students.

Seven missionaries from overseas live together in one complex and serves as a professor, administrator and teaches missionaries' children. There are many students from Kenya and Sudan and unable to provide tuition but they provide manual labor to the school to continue their studies. I worked as a librarian in the school and administration and also helped street evangelism.

Many RTC students will go out in the streets on Saturday evenings to witness to passersby. Shortly

before returning to Korea, I went to a poverty stricken area to minister with RTC students. We would prepare food on the truck and go into the capital's slums with praises and prayers. While riding on the truck, we would sometimes bow our heads and hold our hands to pray together. When I first went for outreach, I was afraid to meet people with severe leprosy but God helped me to look their poor spirits instead.

I was surprised at what I discovered. There are numerous children wondering streets due to the deaths of their parents contracting AIDS.

They survive by begging or stealing. They constantly play with empty bottles. When asked what they are doing, RTC students told me that they are inhaling a strong glue-like substance to stay awake. They tried to take them away from the kids but were unsuccessful. I prayed for those poor children.

After our street evangelism, our spirits are uplifted and full of joy. We sing in English, sometimes in Korean and Ugandan. After coming back to school, we go off to bed. I ask you to pray for the poor, street children and RTC students. I thank God for calling and using me over the past year.

Who will come today?

By Yong Ku Hur, Su Jung Hong (Short-term Missionary to Rwanda)

them to us. We also have a daily Campus Dawn Prayer Meeting where about 15 members faithfully come for prayer including a local pastor. What a blessing it is to come to pray to our heavenly Father every morning! I wake up at 4:40 a.m. and walk about 40 minutes to the church. I sing and praise God while like along the road. This is a good way for me to faithfully attend dawn prayer meetings.

We are so close with those college students now. There are some who would ask us to come to their dormitory room to pray for them. Today, we went to Olivie who is suffering from malaria and prayed and comforted him. What a joy to meet these friends! When they are sick, I visit them; when I am sick they will come and pray for me. They also set a mosquito net in my room. I thank God for sending so many precious souls.

Please pray for Planka (a law school student), Amon (Business Administration major), Olivie (B.A.), Christine (Computer Science major), Julius (law school professor), Crod, Kaind, Ashunta, Willi, Azen, Jennifer and Josephine among many people. God sends us so many people to our house. Yesterday, I met an Indian Business Administration professor named Joseph and invited him to our

house. When I told him my father-in-law is an economics professor, we instantly became good friends. Although he is Catholic, we began praying that God will work powerfully for all of us.

Last Friday night, we held a special College Student Praise Meeting at our house. My wife prepared lots of food all day to have 'breaking the bread fellowship' first and then we sang English praises with a guitar. I read the scriptures and a brief message was given. At first, their prayer was silent but as my wife played her keyboard louder, they prayed very enthusiastically. It was the first meeting but God's grace and His hands were with us. I asked my wife how prayers and praise time were and we both said, It was like fire. We asked if any students felt the same. Several of them came and asked us to have more meetings like that. As a result, we scheduled to have a special praise meeting this Sunday and next Friday. We ask for your prayers. We pray that the Holy Spirit will come mightily to our meeting and change all of us. We pray for your well being in the Lord, always.

Thanks

By Yea Ran Kwon (Children's District)

In these days, I am so happy in all things at school, at home and in church

I think it is because I came to know Jesus. I was a lousy and noisy kid in Sunday worship. But these days, I go to bed early every Saturday and go to church on time, serving as an offering usher and listening to messages with gladness.

Now that I can understand more messages, I seek Jesus evermore in all situations. Before, when my friends asked me to go play, I would go with them but now I think twice before I make decision. I thank my Lord always.

I thank God most for saving a sinner like me and making me God's child. At school, I remember that among faith, hope and love, love is the best. I try to love my friends. My school life is much more pleasant and I have a lot more friends than before. I also thank Jesus for a better family life. I used to fight a lot with my little brother. Not anymore thanks to God! Also, when anyone is sick we pray in one voice to God for healing and God answers our prayers immediately.

I can feel God's love always. But at the same time, I too easily forget His love. From now on, I will not forget God's love and Jesus' love.



By the grace of our Lord, we are living day by day, experiencing His guidance and praising Him. The Lord sends to us many souls especially those who desire to listen His gospel message. We have so many things to be thankful for. Every Tuesday and Thursday, we hold English Praise Worship services. We have 'Peace', 'Emmanuel' and 'Juliet' praising God with us. Our house is open always. Many college students, neighbors and those who want to praise God come by at their convenience.

Because we don't have a car, we cannot bring worshippers to our home but the Lord brings His beloved to us. How thankful we are for His love and mercy. We are very happy! Everyday, we are curious whom God will send

Tears of a district leader

By Joseph Kwon (Staff Reporter)

ago, I was criticized about how an entire district could be worthy of praise. But what can I say when all district meetings are worthy to receive positive complements. How can I criticize them? Of course, I started visiting the districts to find out whether there are any things that need to be changed. But what if there are districts that rarely meet?

That district refused my request of visiting saying, not ready. They constantly stalled when, suddenly, they decided to meet. I remember it was so difficult to find where the district meeting was held. I called asking for more directions and the reply was, Well, it's late already; perhaps, you can come later? I was a little upset and visited their meeting about 30 minutes after their meeting had started. But there were two people! The leader was surprised. She did not know if I would eventually find them. Worship did not start yet. She made some phone calls quickly as if to bring in some more people. Eventually, one more person reluctantly came.

The district leader seemed angry. We sat and sang according to the written order of worship in Choong Hyun Manna but no one answered any questions found in the booklet. The district leader still managed to continue the meeting. Everyone was so motionless and the district leader felt embarrassed. Her face turned red and she abruptly ended the meeting. Normally, when a meeting is over there is fellowship but no one moved. The district leader quietly said, In fact, I am not the leader here. I was asked to lead the meeting today. Then, she burst into tears. Because of her request, that week's 'District Visit' in weekly Choong Hyun was unpublished. They prayed that they would revive the district.

I wonder what would have happened if I published that report on that week. If I pointed their laziness and lack of participation. While the visit was unpublished, I know that the district should have been praised. In the end, I will go to all Choong Hyun districts and praise them. The Lord promised us that when one or two gather in His name there He will be. May all the Choong Hyun districts find favor in the eyes of our Lord.

The high calling guiding a soul before God

By Sun Hae Whang (Deaconess, 6th district)



Evangelism could be an easy or difficult thing to do but it is undoubtedly very valuable ministry. The joy that is laid in my heart because of Jesus rejoices together to meet other souls who desire Jesus in their life. When I go and share this joy through Jesus Christ, there are some who will decide quickly but other souls who will not even listen. I feel sad when this happens.

After a district meeting, I returned home when a lady knocked. I am Hee Jung's mother who just moved next door. I saw that you are a Choong Hyun church member by looking at the tag on your door. I would like to go to church. Oh, really? Come in. She never went to church before but in her heart I found nothing unusual about her. I thought such a clean-hearted person would receive Jesus easily. The following Sunday, Hee Jung's mother and her husband came to church together. That Sunday was communion Sunday. What is that?, she asked. Have you heard of the painting called 'The Last Supper'? Yes. This is to commemorate that

moment. She nodded and didn't ask what it meant. She seemed to know nothing about the Bible or Jesus but promised that she would come to church from now on. Later, she registered at Choong Hyun church. I remembered what Jesus said, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent (Luke 15:7). I could feel that God was smiling at her. I felt very pleased. Mrs. Kum Ok Choi came by herself and wanted to come to church; what a blessing! I was just so delighted that I was able to lead her to church.

But soon problems arose after she registered at church. Her father died. Then, a building in Kangnam was flooded with water and her business was virtually ruined. She began complaining that just as she decided to go to church these things just happened. I did not know what to tell her. God, please help Mrs. Choi to come to church.

I believe that she will come to know God's calling and submit her life to Jesus. I am sure she will come to find the true peace and understanding that Jesus offers through forgiveness of sins. I am praying for her spirit today that she will come to accept Jesus and be a good Christian.

Thanksgiving Day of Sharing and Giving Thanks

By Missions Department

On Nov. 19, the Foreign Workers' Mission prepared two events. First, we held a competition for memorization of the Lord's Prayer. Contrary to previous Thanksgiving holidays that devoted to prepare food and spent time in material sharing, we planned a spiritual Thanksgiving this year. After the meeting, a brief fellowship of rice cake and fruit was provided. Then, the competition began. We were concerned that it would be boring. But it was a blast! The leaders of nine different nations Indonesia, China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Iran, India and Philippines came up and memorized the Lord's Prayer. The various languages made it sound like a sermon. Those who participated in this competition

showed dedication and it was more than mere memorization. To us, memorizing the Lord's Prayer is a very common thing but to those who have never heard of the Gospel it is a major development. For example, the Holy Spirit moved us when a couple of Muslim friends came up and memorized the Lord's Prayer while trembling and shaking. This was an opportunity for us to witness that God is so pleased and delighted when all nations and peoples worship Him.

The second event prepared was Love Clothing Sharing. For a long time, we announced to the church that many foreigners need clothing and different districts and committees in the church graciously

donated lots of clean and used clothing to Mission Department. Many foreign workers are in financially difficult situations and lack enough clothing. Due to their outdoor work and not being fully accustomed to Korean weather, many of them were concerned about the lack of appropriate clothing. Good clothing shared among believers became a hearty present to them. Going through clothing displayed in Luther Hall, our foreign workers shared blessings. It truly was a time to remember the meaning of sharing in Thanksgiving both to Koreans and foreigners. We thank the congregation for their gracious donations and prayers.