

◆ GOALS ◆

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

The Biweekly Choong Hyun

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

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

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Winter Short Term Mission

Preparing to Sow Seed of Gospel into Frozen Lands

From December to February, 60 Missionaries to 6 Countries including Myanmar (Burma)



Last summer's short term mission in Bangladesh

The seeds of the gospel which were sown

We were curious what happened to the seeds of the gospel which were sown last summer. Maybe some seeds were taken by the birds. Maybe some seeds grew quickly but died because of lack of nutrients and water. However, we strongly believe that God has prepared good soil for the seeds that were sown last summer and they are still growing somewhere in Bangladesh.

Now we are going to go to the land again. We are going to the land with our entire trust in God beyond our own abilities. The target countries for this winter are Sudan, India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Maybe some of our members will go there with the mentality of the spies who had entered Canaan to get a report. We are going according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit to see the miraculous work of God.

With obedience to the word and faithful prayer

Last summer's short term mission trip was not a traditional mission. The traditional style of mission is to go to

the mission field to help missionaries who are already there while developing mission strategies on the field.

So when we compare our summer mission trips, we went without heavy weaponry, without our own plans. We only had a few people who could speak the language of the host country. Also, when we considered the Korean economy, it was a great expense. However, we sent our young Christians who are faithful in prayer and obeying the word of God. We started this short term mission, not with our own plans, but with God who will work with his people who believe in the power of the cross.

To the field again

For the winter short term mission trip, the teams are Sudan ('98 Dec 20-28), Suriname ('99 Jan or Feb), Myanmar ('99 Jan or Feb), India ('99 Jan 9-20), Bangladesh ('99 Jan 16-26), and Sri Lanka ('99 Jan 27 - Feb 6).

So we would like to encourage all the church members to pray for the teams and the seeds of the gospel which will be sown in these fields so that the seeds of the gospel might grow up and bear fruit.

Amen Choir Preparing for Thanksgiving "Te Deum"

The Amen Choir is preparing diligently for the 3:00 service. The conductor is Soe Chul Lee and the pianist is Hyun Shil Chae. The Amen Orchestra and 180 choir members are preparing with their hearts and minds for the afternoon service of Sunday, November 15. The song they will be singing is "Te Deum" which means Thanksgiving praise. This song was written by Anton Bruchkner, an Austrian. This song is comprised of five parts of which "Te Deum" is his last church composition.

The words of the song translated: "We praise you, oh God. Help us forever with the saints and deliver your people. We believe in Christ." The main theme of this song is

confession of our weakness and praising and glorifying God while thanking him for the many blessings that we have received.

As the Amen Choir is preparing this particular anthem with their whole hearts, we would like to encourage all the members of our church to prepare for Thanksgiving with their heartfelt prayers, giving their heartfelt thanks to him.



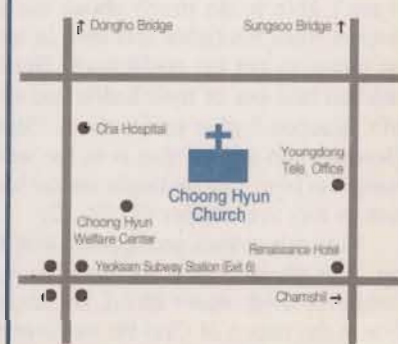
Notice

Practicing When Parking the Love of Christ

1. We would like to encourage you to park your car with the front of the car toward the wall.
2. Please park in appropriately designated areas. If you leave your car blocking others, then please return as quickly as possible so that others will be able to leave without frustrations.
3. Please follow the direction of the parking attendants. They are working very hard and doing their best to allow for an environment conducive to the worship atmosphere.
4. If you stay at church all day on Sunday, please use the B3 and B4 levels of the 2nd Education Building underground parking lot.
5. If you park your car right behind another vehicle, then please remove your car as soon as the service is over.
6. Please be patient and remember the love of Christ. Be kind and generous to others.

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)



Reuben

(Genesis 37:21, 22)

The Holy Bible starts with the book of Genesis. It reveals how the world we live in and the human race we belong to came to be through God's creation. It tells of how humanity (Adam and Eve) began in paradise and yet lost its hold on the tree of life through disobedience. It communicates the seriousness of sin through the destruction of every living thing that was upon the face of the earth except for Noah and those in the ark by the great flood of God's wrath. It informs us of the first congregational meeting at the tower of Babel where man acknowledged God's power but again continued to defy it, which caused God to scatter them over the whole earth. This is the beginning of our history and nature without salvation.

Yet God's disposition to save is greater still. He chooses Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to redeem a people. His covenant promise to Abraham blesses all the nations of the earth (12:3). Abraham's descendants (Isaac not Ishmael and Jacob not Esau) bear the responsibility of the covenant God made with their father. Here is where we are able to hold God's promise. Salvation is now available! We are children of Abraham! Oh how important this blessing promise is to us. We know Jacob's story and how God changed his name to Israel's twelve tribes. This is the beginning of the nation of Israel - God's children.

From that story comes another very important story about one of the youngest of these tribes, Joseph. A lot of people pay little attention to the measure of significance of Joseph because of Judah's immeasurable blessing (49:8-12). But in Genesis we cannot ignore Joseph's story. He is the eleventh son of Jacob. He is the firstborn son of Rachel, whom Jacob loved so dearly. You'll recall that Rachel could not bear children for some time - so Joseph was extremely special. He captured his father's attention and was Israel's favorite. His name means 'may the Lord add'. He was a spoiled child and well known in his family as the favorite because of the special coat of many colors his father gave him.

Joseph was smart. He knew God's character and through his ancestors' blessing, God's love and grace manifested through him. Moreover, he was a dreamer. He was a master of dreams. He was a representative of his family's blessing. His dreams were not his own. His dreams were not family or worldly dreams but God's dreams. They had glory and power. That's why his elder brothers didn't treat him as a brother but rather as an enemy. That's why they wanted to destroy him. When he went at his father's request to check on the welfare of his brothers and their flock, his brothers plotted to kill him. They wanted to kill his family dream - God's blessing dream. His dream gave him control not only of them but their father and mother as well. They reasoned that if they killed him the family battle would be over and his dream business would be finished. His dreams couldn't possibly come true if he were dead.

This serious situation brings light to Reuben, the eldest son of Israel. He acts like a responsible and reasonable man. Inside he thinks he should get the major family blessing. After all, he is the firstborn. We know from earlier on that he is unclean. He had an affair with one of his father's concubines (35:22). His father was very old when he heard of this news and therefore wasn't able to do much about the situation. Reuben lost respect from his father and here in today's Scripture passage he wants to get his credit back. But Reuben heard this and rescued him out of their hands and said, 'Let us not take his life.' Reuben further said to them, 'Shed no blood. Throw him [Joseph] into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not lay hands on him' that he might rescue him out of their hands, to restore him to his father (37:21, 22)

Now this sounds and appears as if Reuben is on the up and up. The phrase 'shed no blood' is important. Reuben knew 'whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed. For in the image of God He made man' (9:6). He didn't want



By Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself in love. God's children need to join in God's love. How much do CHPC members really love Jesus Christ, our church, country and world?"

the shedding of blood but rather just the throwing away of Joseph into the wilderness so that he could rescue him and bring him back to his father. So, the one hand gets credit. But what about the other hand? Reuben wants to be the leader of his brothers. His deed inside wants to get blessing - his own blessing. He doesn't want to show that he is a bad man. Actually, he's not a murderer and will appear to everyone as a sincere good man. But the truth is that he is a coward and wants to destroy God's blessing. What's important to him is his blessing. He still needs two altars - self and God.

This problem recently happened in our church. We know what to do - we know our responsibilities. Just like Reuben, we feel some responsibility to try to save Joseph but we are absent at the time of the sale. We discover that it's too late and too hard to rescue him. Through lack of encouragement we became paralyzed. A lot of churches in this area made two altars. They tried to compromise in order to survive. We want to be rich and happy. Through compromise we ignored the little and poor people. Jesus Christ is different. He came into this world with one altar - God's will! he was sincere. His purpose was to unify us with God - to turn death into eternal life. He practiced with one altar. He took the cross. How about us? We see real problems and we escape but still want honor and glory. Jesus did things differently. He gave up worldly honor and fame. He just wanted to give love and His life.

Reuben and his brothers did a very sinful thing by throwing away their brother and lying to their father. Yet, God can take evil deeds, troubling circumstances and bad situations and turn them into major blessings (45:9). Although Joseph suffered for awhile, in the long run he received God's honor and glory. This teaches us that even though our current living responsibilities may be difficult and appear burdensome at times, they are truly worth all the effort! Burdens will come in this life but they will be light if we have Jesus' approach to life. If we can just stop thinking about our own welfare and leave this burden in God's hands and start living our daily lives in His service, then and only then can we faithfully fulfill His commission.

God made Himself known to Joseph and Joseph made himself known to his brothers and family. God's children received abundant provisions and blessings. God has made known to us in Christ the mystery of His will, he made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him (Eph. 1:9). We become His children, the descendants of Abraham through Jesus. Our responsibility is to accept Jesus, to believe and obey in faith that He indeed is our personal Savior and Lord. God's grace is a free gift given to believers. It's the only thing we have worth any value. It's the one thing He asks us to share and give to others.

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself in love. God's children need to join in God's love. How much do CHPC members really love Jesus Christ, our church, country and world? We stand for the poor and lost soul. Our purpose is to give them the light of the gospel that we have received through Christ. We are talking about eternal life - the everlasting glory of being in our Father's presence! We delegate to other people what is our job. We have too many excuses that it's just too hard, too time consuming, or too much for our hands to hold. Nonsense!!! It's just the other hand wanting to serve the self and not the Lord.

This church just finished celebrating its 45th anniversary. We want to worship sincerely. We want to raise leaders of the Kingdom of God. We want to evangelize our country. We want to evangelize the world. We want to help poor people. These are the five major themes of CHPC. With God's love bestowed upon us, let us honor Him. Let's worship only one altar.

The Lord's Visitation

(Luke 24:36)

After the Emmaus disciples recognized Jesus, they immediately return to Jerusalem to relate their experiences with Him to other followers. Some of the other followers were Mary Magdalene who seems to be the first to have met the resurrected Lord, some women who found His tomb empty early that Sunday morning and spoke with two angels who related that indeed He had risen, the eleven disciples, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. In the midst of their discussion Jesus shows up. That's right! Even though they didn't invite Him, nor expect Him and most especially not deserve his visit, He came in their midst - He stood in their midst. It is here that they are gathering for the sole purpose of talking about Him and it is in the middle of their conversation regarding Him that He comes into their midst and begins leading them with these words, 'Peace be with you' (cf. John 20:19).

This whole scene has a very strong and important spiritual message. It reveals the power of Christ's presence that is evidenced by the type of peace that passes all understanding. This is so cool because it truly lets you know whether or not Jesus is in your midst. His peace gives you assurance of His presence. Of course, the dark aside is that where there is no peace there is no Jesus. Wow! The implications of today's biblical message should really open your eyes to a lot of areas within your own life and within our church's life that need drastic transformation.

But before we dive into the practical applications of all this, let's underline some key concepts that will help expand our understanding and therefore increase our awareness of just what Jesus' presence means. First, let's look at when He appeared. When did He appear? Jesus came when they were acting unworthy and undeserving. Their sad and guilty feelings arose from their denial, betrayal or basic unbelief. Just think of how Peter felt with the knowledge that He had denied Christ three times. And how they all felt about their lack of power and in some case lack of motive to help prevent this horrid event.

This reminds me of the many church meetings that are required at Choong Hyun to help plan and carry out its many functions. Members come with sad and depressed attitudes to attend what they consider an unimportant meeting. Sadder still, are those who leave as they came. But consider this. If Jesus is the center of each and every meeting - if His presence is in our midst - then His peace prevails and sadness or depression or anger cannot exist.

Jesus came among His followers when they were unprepared. They weren't ready - they never expected Him to show up. Their unbelief caused them to be sad and depressed. Their unbelief covered up the welcome invitation that should have been on the door of their hearts. Jesus' disciples doubted His express promise to return. They refused the testimony of His messenger (Luke 24:11). Instead of being His witness; most especially after spending some three and a half years with Him, they were acting like His adversaries and not like His followers. Their doubt led to confusion. And here, Jesus arrives. After all their experience with Jesus they are still lost - like sheep without a shepherd. They haven't a clue as to what they should do or where they should be. They greatly need Him and yet to them He is dead. They desperately need His presence and yet they can't figure out where He is. And it's in this context that He appears.

In their gathering they were exercising little faith in a

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loving assembly. They were talking about their need for Jesus. So, yes their assembly was with love and concern. There was good news to share. The women spoke of the empty tomb and the angels who reminded them that Jesus had risen. The Emmaus disciples actually related their experience of meeting Jesus, as did Mary Magdalene. In the gathering of all this good news, Jesus comes.

In this gathering together, there is lamenting over Jesus' absence, thus proving their desire for Him. They truly begin to admire Him. They truly begin to miss Him. He showed up at that time.

Lastly, their concern as to how to testify about Him - what they should say to others when asked about Him - brought Jesus into their midst. All the conflict and interest issues were on the table. Do we not experience similar conditions? Here at Choong Hyun church we have so many difficult meetings that take place without Jesus. How can we change this situation? How can Jesus come into our midst?

Now that's the background on Jesus' appearance. Now let's focus on what He said. What did Jesus say? He said, "peace be with you" (John 20:19). During this entire group situation with all the yelling, crying, arguing, good news, bad news conversation, Jesus appears in their midst and says 'peace be with you'. What does this mean?

It is a benediction - a blessing. Jesus wishes them to have peace. When He was born the angels said glory to God and peace to man. Jesus' words were a declaration that they were at peace with God. He inspired them with peace. His words were an absolution. He blotted out all offenses which might spoil their peace. He washed away the trouble and brought with His presence the antidote - Peace! Peace! Peace!

The presence of Christ brings wonderful peace. Jesus makes you calm. When your mind becomes perturbed, Jesus' presence relieves it of all care and discharges all sin. He delivers all spiritual conflict. He gives immediate and perfect peace. His presence brings to you this incredible and miraculous peace that cannot be found by anyone or anywhere else except in Him. It truly is a peace that passes all understanding.

Okay, so far we know when Jesus appeared and what it was that he said to His gathered followers. What was it about Jesus' presence and peace that changed things? Well, we know right off that He vanquished all doubt. Even Thomas with his obstinate unbelief proclaimed, 'My Lord and my God' (John 20:28). Jesus revealed and sealed His love upon their hearts. He showed them His hands and feet. He let them touch Him and see Him eat. There was no doubt as to who He was. It wasn't their imagination but the truth which stood before them. Jesus refreshed their memory about all that was written about Him in God's Word (Luke 24:44). He revealed what the whole Bible shows about Him. He opened their understanding (v. 45) and He showed them their position (v. 48) - their position as witnesses.

Do we have Jesus among us in our meetings? Is He present in your daily life? Are we true witnesses? He breathed upon them 'Peace be with you'. Did He breathe this transforming blessing on you? Let's wait for His blessing before we put ourselves into various meetings. Let's welcome Him and let's love Him with all our hearts. Let's confess that we truly need Jesus to abide with us. Without Him there is only confusion, turmoil and pain within our life. Lord Jesus be with Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church.

Egypt

Crowds Exceed Palau's Expectations

by Patricia C. Roberts

Adapting technological methods developed earlier by Billy Graham's Global Mission (*Christianity Today*, April 24, 1995, p. 36), Luis Palau preached to more than 600,000 Egyptians last month in the country's largest evangelistic outreach in modern history.

Palau preached from Cairo's Kasr el-Dobara, one of the largest Protestant congregations in the Middle East, from March 12 to 15. The church immediately edited and copied the videotaped services, then sent couriers across the country to 570 primarily Presbyterian churches, which televised the videos the next day. One service ended early due to a bomb threat. Organizers earlier expected only 200 churches to be involved. "It's reason for people who have been praying to rejoice," Palau told *Christianity Today*. Because overflow crowds attended, many outlying locations plan on immediately rescreening the videos.

Egyptian Christians face a climate of legal restraint and are also being victimized by Muslim militants in many parts of Egypt (*Christianity Today*,

Aug 11, 1997, p. 44). Palau initially planned to address nominal believers with the intent of avoiding unnecessary offense to Muslims, but church leaders encouraged boldness.

Menes Abdul Noor, pastor of Kasr el-Dobara, requested that "Christians in the West keep pressure on all governments because it works to the protection of fellow believers."

Leaders are enthusiastic about reaching cultural and nominal Christians. Traditional Orthodox teaching and custom have kept Orthodox and evangelical groups from significant partnerships in the past. This campaign brought cooperation as some smaller Protestant churches held their overflow gatherings in larger Catholic or Coptic churches. Several churches reported this was the first time all seats were filled.

Evangelical leaders from six Arab countries came to observe. Many reported they will duplicate the videos, along with printed materials, for use within their own countries.



"I see the same trigger points that were in Latin America 35 years ago," Palau says. "In the next 30 years, the Arabic world will be saturated with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Abdul Noor, whose congregation numbers more than 4,000, concurs. "The time to reach the Middle East is now."

(reprinted with permission, from *Christianity Today*, April 27, 1998)

Evangelism Testimonies

Schoolyard Evangelism

One Life is
More Important
than the Whole World

by Myung Sook Joo

(Sunday School Teacher, Class 4-4,
Yeoksam Elementary Mission Team)

We planned to invite friends to go to school to evangelize.

"Deaconess Joo, can you come this Saturday?"

When I heard this question from the chief of my department, I thought that school evangelism was not part of my duty. However, I had to say, "Yes, I can." I showed up on Saturday while I thought that this would be my first and last time. But I couldn't stop because I thought that it would not be a good testimony for the children who showed up for the evangelism. That one Saturday, I got to know the children. Also, the children recognized me. But, the school teachers guided the children to the main gate of the school and they didn't let the children come close to us. Before we finished the words, "Believe in Jesus Christ. Please come to church," the children ran away yelling, "My mom told me not to talk to anybody on the way home from school." Even though some children gave us their names and phone numbers, the phone company told us that the number is out of service. This was a big discouragement. Some deacons and deaconesses went to the appointed place to meet children.

But no children showed up. That means that on "invitation day," no one showed up. It was our first time. We know that we make mistakes and we are not perfect. However, we decided to continue this school mission until winter break. We believe that as long as we prepare and pray and go to preach the gospel, there will be some fruit because we know that God loves each one and one life is more important than the whole world.

After the Hakdong
Elementary School
Evangelism

by Hyang Rok Seong

(Sunday School Teacher, Class 6-5,
Hakdong Elementary Mission Team)

Saturday, at 11:30 AM, is when the third and fourth grade students of Hakdong Elementary School get out and meet the Sunday School teachers in front of the school. We brought signs and sashes of Choong Hyun Church along with evangelism tracts. It wasn't easy to reach out to the children because we were strangers, but we asked our students to bring their friends. We started to tell them about Christ. At first, it was uncomfortable, but as the time passed, the uncomfortable hearts changed to hope that some of these children might remember what I said about Jesus Christ and become Christians. I could do this because there are many people who supported me from behind. Some of these people are very busy with their work. They made it and showed up to this evangelism. There are also some teachers who never missed a week. There were also some teachers who came occasionally to encourage the others. Still others could not come at all, but they encouraged through word and prayer. Even though this was a very short evangelism, I believe that a little seed of the gospel will remain in the hearts of the children who heard us. Also, the children who joined this evangelism might have zealous hearts for Jesus Christ to preach the gospel.

While I'm Evangelizing in
Front of the School, I
Consider My Duty

by Young Shim Kim

(Sunday School Teacher, Class 2-1,
Nonhyun Elementary Mission Team)

Acts 1:8 says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Some Sunday School teachers are standing at the back of Nonhyun Elementary School. There are children coming toward the teachers. Most of them used to attend church. When they preach the gospel, the children's eyes are filled with joy. But the children who do not have the joy in their eyes ignore the teachers. It was a good time for me to preach the gospel, even though it was very short. I hope that some of the children will remember our bright eyes. I experienced that it was very difficult to bring even one child to church. I also remember that helping my classmates know the gospel is very important work. One day, I believe that I will be a person who has the heartfelt joy and cannot resist preaching the gospel to others.

