

◆ GOALS ◆

Godly Worship Service
Raising Kingdom Workers
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing World
Social Service for 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)

Place of Publication : Choong Hyun Church
665-1 Yeoksam Dong, Kangnam Ku, Seoul Korea ☎ (02) 552-8200

Publisher: Sung Kwan Kim Editing: Eun Ho Kim Chief Editor: Sun Keun Cho

1998 Evangelism in Remote Farming and Fishing Villages Reach Out for the People of God in Remote Places of Korea



This photo is from last year's ministry

Evangelical group for remote farming and fishing villages under the direction of the Evangelism Committee is getting ready to send the ambassadors of Christ to the remote places in Korea. The theme of this year's evangelism in remote places of Korea is spreading the wonderful news of Jesus. The Holy Spirit has been poured on us so that we may reach out for the poor with the good news of Jesus. It is our task "to bind up the brokenhearted," and "to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners" (Isaiah 61:1).

We must remember the Great

Commission of Jesus right before his ascension. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel and behold, I am with you always." There will be forty-five different teams from parish groups and Sunday School groups.

Just as in previous years, the Evangelism Committee plans to send these groups during the month of July. The people of Choong Hyun must pray for our mission teams who are going overseas and to the remote areas of Korea. Our prayer will bring God's mercy for many small churches in the remote places of Korea which are suffering financially as economic crises devour the entire land.

Weekly Prayer Request for World Missions

A focused prayer is requested for short-term missions teams from June through August.

Monday: the spark for missions may be lit in our entire church through short-term missions

Tuesday: each team which prepares for short-term missions may be well-prepared by the leading of the Holy Spirit

Wednesday: the hearts of those who will be receiving the Word of God from our missions teams

Thursday: the high school, college, and young adult groups on the short-term missions teams so that they may bring a hundred-fold harvest

Friday: the success of the leadership training in Egypt for Egyptian pastors to bring spiritual revivals

Saturday: send volunteer workers to help foreign laborers so that the gospel may be delivered effectively

CHEWS Memorial Day Outdoor Worship Service

Choong Hyun's English Worship Service (CHEWS) commemorated this year's Memorial Day, Saturday, June 6, at the Salvation Army Academy in Kwacheon. The day began with an outdoor worship service. There was also time to get to know one another a little bit better during the lunch and the different games including tri-bond, volleyball, joku, and dodge ball. Over seventy people attended this outdoor worship service. It was a blessing and enjoyable time for the congregation as well as a few visitors.

Let us remember the freedom that we have to celebrate and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus

Christ as we look to his creation with awe and wonder. This freedom came at the expense of those who gave their lives during the Korean War and throughout the history of the world to fight for freedom in our Land of the Morning Calm as well as around the world.



Choong Hyun English Worship Service

How wonderful it is to have English worship service in Choong Hyun Church? About 200 English speaking people gather together each Sunday to worship our God at 9:00 a.m. in Welfare Center Building. It is very important to reach out for the foreigners who are staying in Korea because the children of God must worship God wherever they go. It is our privilege to provide English worship service for them.

Many gifted preacher including Rev. Ro and other pastors bring a wonderful message of God every Sunday morning. Pastor Paul Lee from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia started to serve English congregation from the beginning of March this year and makes English worship much more fruitful.

Regardless of our ethnic background, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. Choong Hyun Church ought to be a very friendly place for our international congregation where they can come freely and feel the same sweetness to praise and worship our Father God. Choong Hyun must continue to pray for English Worship Ministry so that God's beautiful plans may be accomplished through them.



Dry Ground

(Joshua 3:17)

The crossing of the Jordan River is a historical and biblical event of major importance. It reveals a couple of very special meanings. The first is that God can work with or without people. The second is that people can't work without God. In today's message, you can see that God uses Joshua and the Levitical priests to complete the Israelite's final goal of entering the Promised Land. Joshua receives the Word of God directly from the mouth of God and the priests serve to carry out His words. Joshua and the Levitical priests are working with God but God is not working with them. He is working alone. And it's here, in God's working alone, that you discover the significance of faith; the key to walking on dry ground.

The way of passage into the Promised Land was through the Jordan River. Their time of departure was Spring (April), when the Jordan's banks were overflowing and the waters were at their deepest from the melting of winter's snow (v. 15). It is here that the Israelite must let go of their former ways and enter into a new way of faith. From the beginning of their exodus from Egypt, to their encounter with God on Mt. Sinai, through their forty years journey in the desert; their faith and obedience to God rested on His signs. They always had God's signs before them; the ten plagues, pillar of fire, manna and quail, and drinking water from the rock, etc. Always God's signs were before them.

Now, Moses has disappeared and here at the crossing of the Jordan River there are no signs. Only God's spiritual presence exists in the ark. Although God's presence itself is permanent and everywhere present, its identification with the ark is now manifested. The Israelite must cross the Jordan under the guidance of the ark and of the ark alone - only that way and no other. God's presence remains with them but the sign of it is withdrawn. No more manna, quail and water - no more faith by sight.

Life is different at the Jordan River. Joshua is the current leader of God's people. He has no signs in which to lead them. God worked with Moses but He is not working with Joshua. Joshua must lead the Israelite to trust in the love and faithfulness of God's character and His presence alone. Under his preaching, they were ready to venture without their signs into the Jordan River. They were willing to walk by faith and not by sight unto dry ground.

In the New Testament, the Jewish people are always asking for signs (cf. 1 Cor. 1:22). You can constantly hear them shouting, show us a sign! They always need and require signs. Many people today want some assurance of acceptance over and above what the Gospel word declares. They think their different from other human beings and that need something extra in order to believe; i.e., a rapture or some other mystical experience, a whispering voice, or perhaps something special happening in the stars above. They want something that is not granted to others; some special sign from heaven that will assure them of God's presence. Many Christians even want some type of leading of providence in addition to their sense of duty before they will be comfortable or start on any new course.

In general, it has become so important for people to think that they need more, something extra, than that which has been given to them. God gave us His Word - it's called the Bible. We have full guidance in the Word of God, just as Israel had full guidance in the ark of the covenant. The true God is a God of mercy but at the same time He insists on duty. The ark



By **Sung Kwan Kim**
Reverend

*"Choong Hyun will pass
over the Jordan on dry
ground ..."*

*"There is only one way to
get through the valley of
derbus ...
by trust Jesus alone ...
Because God's work of
salvation is completed in
Christ ..."*

proclaimed the God of mercy and righteousness, of gracious promise. It taught them that the table of stone (the ark) was all that they needed to be led. So when the priests took the ark and stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan River - all God's people experienced His revelation!

God controls all nature! The supernatural character of this event, the crossing of the Jordan on dry ground, is something to be taken beyond all reasonable doubt. Think about it. Consider the condition of the river at the time. It was overflowing, gushing with strong currents, impossible to humanly cross. God not only stopped the rushing waters from all its various sources but He dried up the ground for them to walk on. It is so incredible that the Israelites, all the Israelites (woman and children) actually crossed over it.

Now the Lord said to Joshua, this day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you (v. 7). This really shows us the power of the presence of God with the ark. God is going to honor Joshua and recognize him to His people as His servant. He is going to magnify Joshua's standing so that they will continue to follow and obey Him. His working alone at the Jordan will be credited to His working with Joshua after the Jordan crossing.

The dark river also rolls between you and the land of the promise. How should you cross it in safety? Let us hear the voice of the captain of our salvation and we shall not be afraid! The ark will open for you as sure a pathway through the deep as it did for the Israelites. God's divine presence in the ark functions similarly but better for us in Christ.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me (John 14:6). Jesus is our only pathway through death to eternal life. It is He that has made the pathway open to us. But God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgression, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God (Eph. 2:4-8). God's saving power is through Jesus Christ. He has conquered death! He is resurrected. He is alive!

Every member of the Choong Hyun congregation will face the Jordan River. I don't want you to get caught in the flood. I want you to pass over the Jordan on dry ground, to have a strong victory and receive a glorious blessing. God's work is complete in Christ. He uses people and He uses this church to proclaim the Gospel only! It is my duty, as a preacher, to introduce the cross (the ark) that's needed for you to pass across the Jordan on dry ground; without a sign. That's right. Not through signs, but through the hearing of the Word of God. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (cf. Rom. 10:17).

No matter what course you're on, no matter what new situation you are experiencing, no matter what difficulty you are currently facing, pick-up your cross and follow Jesus. I know that families are struggling and hurting financially. I know that there is real pain. But I also know that there is only way to get through it. Don't hesitate, don't doubt, don't look for special signs - NO! Trust in Him, rely on Him, follow Him, obey Him. He is LIFE! He is REAL LIFE! So, stand on dry ground.

The Stone

(Genesis 28:18-22)

As Jacob departed from Beersheba and headed towards the vicinity of Haran, he came to a certain place and spent the night. The pitch black darkness that the fallen sun had left behind caused him to stop his journey. He was traveling alone, fleeing from the deathly anger of his brother Esau. He was totally isolated in this strange and dark place. As he lay down to sleep, he felt around in the darkness for a stone to place under his head. Upon this stone, he had a dream. Not an ordinary dream, but a special dream in which God touched Jacob in a splendid way.

Jacob's godly dream is normally the focus of this chapter in the Bible. The significance of the stone gets little attention. Surprisingly, it's the stone which has the utmost meaning! For Jacob wakes early in the morning and sets up the stone that he had put under his head as a pillar and consecrates it with oil (v. 18). That's right, the stone is a really strong word here. It has deep meaning. The pillar with the special stone at the top represents the temple of God - Jesus Christ. The head stone that Jacob poured oil over symbolizes the head of the church - Jesus Christ! That's the stone he slept on, that's the stone he worshipped, that's the stone!

In order to fully grasp the significance of the stone, you must realize that true life is that which starts from the place of fellowship with God and commits the future to Him. Jacob's true life really starts at this special place. After his dream, in which God confirmed to Jacob the Abrahamic covenant and added the promise of His presence with Jacob, wherever he would go; Jacob realized how awesome the place in which he slept really was! He called the name of that place Bethel, which means house of God (v. 19). In other words, providential care, religious privilege and special communications of the Spirit were in that particular place. Jacob recognized the house of God and made his pillar with the consecrated stone a temple.

The house of God is something we call the church. It is a place where those who have been touched by the hand of God want to go. It is a place where commitment to God can be realized through Jesus Christ - the head of the church. It is a place where the New Covenant is preached and practiced. It is a place that accepts your pillar as a needed part of the body of Christ. It is a place where worship and fellowship in truth and Spirit really happen. It is a holy place built upon the Living Stone (Jesus Christ) with living stones (Christians).

It's important to keep in mind that you, too, can always find a pillar of last memorial and consecration. It's just that you didn't realize it. You can find a stone anywhere, just as Jacob grabbed in the dark for a stone and found one, because Christ is not hard to find. Jesus Christ stands for God with us. That night there was nobody but God and Jacob. Your pilgrimage of Bethel is all right there. Humans are weak and God is mighty. He really cares for you. He wants your pillar to be Jesus. Outside there are a lot of stones. Those stones which have been consecrated with oil represent God's temple - that is Jesus Christ.

Jacob took his stone and built a pillar as a testimony of his experience. The true testimony is that which erects a stone of witness of Bethel where others can find God. Those who know Him have a personal base in which to share. All Christians should have an answer for those who want to know about Jesus. The really good thing is that Jesus can be found anywhere. If you want to meet me you have to make an appointment and it has to be for a very important reason;

"The church is the body of Christ - God's holy temple - that grows from each living stone added to it,

...

Jesus is always there for you in ways that no one else in this entire world can be. God's glory is in the stone that lasts forever."

otherwise it's a no go. That's not the case with Jesus. Where ever you are - in a hospital, at home, at work, on an airplane or in a car - if you humbly approach Him you will find Him. He will come! You don't need an appointment, you don't need an important reason, you don't need anything except a humble heart that seeks His presence.

The stone has deep meaning because it is a true covenant. You can see Jehovah's promises being kept, guided and fed. You can see Jacob's blessings coming out of his fellowship with God. You can also see the blessed exchange of gifts and the confirmation of love. Jacob's vow, if God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, and I return to my father's house in safety, then the Lord will be my God (vs. 20-21), reveals the other side of the covenant. Here is the pledging future at the house of God and inside the insight of divine revelation. Jacob knows God's promises and in return makes his own promises. His fellowship with God, his testimony of faith, is all realized in this true covenant. Jacob takes the Word of God to heart and promises with his heart to be faithful and obedient to God's promises.

This Old Testament picture of the stone found in the beginning book of the Bible is given its overall importance in the New Testament. In the New Testament you have the living Stone (cf. 1 Peter 2:4-12). Jesus Christ is the cornerstone, foundation, and head of the church. There can be no temple without the living Stone. The house of God is built upon the living Stone by living stones. The members of Choong Hyun are living stones. You become a living stone by the touch of God's hand upon your heart and your acceptance of His most wonderful gift - Jesus Christ. God's new covenant is in Christ. His promise of eternal life and fellowship with Him can only be fulfilled in Christ. Your end of the covenant is faithful and obedient service to Christ. It is a hope in the promises of a loving God.

Jacob's name was changed to Israel and from him the twelve tribes of Israel were formed. The Israelites became God's people. The members of Choong Hyun are now the Israelites - God's chosen people. Jacob was a coward, sneak, robber, and overall bad, bad, bad person. He was a heavy sinner who picked-up a stone and there God made His fellowship with him. Jacob confessed You are my God. Jesus Christ is the living Stone, chosen by God to bear living stones that will build a spiritual house that can offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God. Jesus Christ is the stone that you need to pick-up and consecrate. He is the stone that you need to live by, with, and for. He is the only link to eternal fellowship with God.

The church is the body of Christ - God's holy temple - that grows from each living stone added to it. God resurrected His Son - Jesus Christ - from the cross so that you and I could have everlasting fellowship with Him. God's grace, gift, and covenant are in Jesus Christ. You can find Jesus easier than you can find a stone. He's right here, now, beckoning you to come to Him with all your heavy burdens because He's the only one who can remove them. Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21). Jesus is always there for you in ways that no one else in this entire world can be. God's glory is in the stone that lasts forever.

Burkina Faso

Pray for Literature Ministry in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is a small landlocked country of 274,000 square kilometers. Its capital is Ouagadougou with almost half a million people. The national population as of 1995 was about ten million. Almost two million people of Burkina Faso have migrated to other lands, mostly to the Ivory Coast. There are over 72 distinct ethno-linguistic groups in four major language families. Though French is the official language, only ten percent of the population uses it. Literacy is at thirteen percent. The languages of commerce are More (the language of the Mossi), and Jula in the south.

83% of the population is dependent on subsistence farming. There has been much famine and malnutrition since the 1970's. Though they had gained independence from France in 1960, economic instability led to six coups since 1966. The military regimes that came to power were generally quite "revolutionary" and "secular."

Though former regimes had been unsympathetic to Christianity, the current climate favors Christian outreach. 33% of the population is animistic. 48% are Muslim. 19% are Christian. Among the Christians, 5% are Protestant. 14% are Catholic.

In the midst of all these struggles, the church has managed to grow by the grace of God. Nevertheless, there are still many unreached people groups in



Burkina Faso. Many are Muslim. Many are also under the power of the occult. Catholic converts often do not experience challenges to their idolatry and fetishism within their hearts.

Illiteracy is high; church leaders are too few; and economic hardship is widespread. Non-Christian leaders continue to make their demands while the Christian leaders are pressured by the idolatrous practices of a tribal society. The younger people are more educated than their parents. Yet, church programs directed towards them are ineffective and they are disillusioned.

The missionary force needs to be encouraged physically and spiritually. More Bible translation work is also necessary. Pray for a literature ministry that may lead to a literate and well-read church in Burkina Faso.

(Patrick Johnstone's *Operation World*, 5th edition)

Part 3 of 3

Prayer of an Elder

By Hag-Gi Kim (Elder, Ordained from other church)

... Thank You, Lord, that no matter how sinful or hopeless we seem to be, You still love us and patiently wait for us to come to Your warm bosom for restoration. Gracious God, let the Holy Spirit awaken and lead every one of our government officials, whether high or low in their post, to their strong and deep awareness of their grave responsibility for the calling of their brotherly and sisterly taxpayers! Please help, O Holy Spirit, every one of the salaried workers of this Republic of ours which God helped to found and granted to us, not to fall into the temptation to nurse a perennial, wicked desire for their unearned income only to bring ruin upon ourselves in the even tenor of their promising life!

May God grant that merely a tiny rootlet of bean sprouts, a single cake of bean curd, one leaflet of perilla, and that of lettuce; every bit of these foodstuffs be reared and provided to us human children by and through the strict, merciful and wise providence of the Creator Father, never by any petty tricks or artifices squeezed out from the brains of those wicked and greedy sinners of us all! Lord of love and power, give us a child's heart and a grown-up's head. Help us, Holy Spirit, to realize the profound truth that never until we become transparently honest and sincere will this Republic of ours grow prosperous evermore!

Dear Lord Jesus, what the Korean people imperatively and desperately need, before everything else, even in advance of the restoration of our poignant economical crisis, is our very honesty and sincerity, and our steady and cheerful respect and obedience to the national law. Lord of love, help all 45 million of us to be aware of our desperate needs, and grant us a blessed day that we might repent of our sins and undergo a glorious resurrection by leading our faithful lives obeying the Word and will of the Father Almighty. O Lord, only by Your holy grace can we secure our long-cherished national reunification of the land of our ancestors that has been divided into North and South for over half a century.

With Your living and active Word sharper than the double-edged sword, dear Father, reforge our sinful hearts by dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow! Bless us from all evils, and pour down Your grace and richest blessings upon our earnest and consistent efforts to restore our Republic of Korea, so as to make it one unified Republic of hearts and hands, justice and divinity for the whole dear race of Korea all together evermore, unfortunately now abiding in the North and the South of the peninsula separately by the Armistice Line! May the wisdom of Your Word fill our hearts and guide us in Your way of life and truth for Your everlasting glory!

In the name and spirit of Jesus Christ, who fed and now feeds hungry people in the North, we pray, Amen!

Gazing at Isolated Islands in Korea

by Bo Eun Chun
college freshman

About five members from "isolated" evangelism team in the college group is gathering each Friday night at six o'clock throughout the year to pray for the evangelism of Korea's remote islands during their summer and winter vacations.

We are going to Koheung in the southern province of Chun La as in previous years.

Applications for this mission will be accepted until June 14. There will be four weeks of preparation and training scheduled.

Even if we may have to send only a few people to Koheung, we would rather send well-prepared members.

This is the only difference that we have from previous years. For this reason, we are very diligently training the younger members of the college so that they can become team leaders for these isolated islands.

Pray for us so that we may have a serious attitude towards this ministry with a burning heart for the gospel.

Pray also to God so that he may prepare the hearts of the people who live in Koheung so that the seeds of the gospel may be sown to bring a hundred-fold harvest. We have been there twice a year for many years but we have not reaped any significant harvest.

This year's summer evangelism in Koheung is August 10-14.

The evangelism for "isolated islands" came to me as a new challenge as I waited for the results of my application to university. "Isolated islands" - unreachable by ferry. I have been to many different church camps with different kinds of services but evangelism to isolated islands was very new. Something drove me to go to these isolated islands. I knew that it was the leading of the Holy Spirit which caused my heart to burn for isolated islands.

I have not really witnessed the gospel to other people. I did not know the joy of proclaiming the gospel. But as I begin to evangelize in these isolated islands, I had the privilege to go door to door to deliver the greatest news of Jesus Christ. However, I came to realize that there are so many things I do not know about Jesus.

I could say that I was a Christian from my mother's womb, and I assumed that I would have a fair knowledge about Jesus. I was wrong. My misconception was caused by arrogance. Jesus Christ broke down my arrogance through the ministries of isolated islands. He drew me nearer to him with a humble heart.

I do not know much about ministries for isolated islands. But one thing that I do know for sure is that the Lord has chosen me even though I am unworthy to handle this kind of important work. Jesus is sending me to this remote place and he will accomplish his own will through a worthless sinner like me. The Lord Jesus is also calling the members of our college group to participate in this ministry.