

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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Choong Hyun Church's 46th Anniversary

Let this Church Stand in the Mystery of the Cross and Power of Resurrection

Forty-six years have already passed since Choong Hyun Church was first established. We give thanks and praise God, for it is not a history full of what we have done, but of what God has done among us. It is not a history full of what our church has done, but instead it tells us what the Holy Spirit has done through His people. God has established this church through his people who have dedicated their lives to Him.

Choong Hyun Church was begun with the goal of raising godly workers for the Kingdom. In the 1970's, other goals were added, including the evangelization of Korea and the world. In the 1990's, the goal of maintaining and supporting godly and scriptural worship services was added. We have been taught by God in numerous ways since the church was established to continue to pursue the goals we have been given. All the church members have continued to carry these responsibilities with full hearts, so that these goals can be achieved successfully. In 1998, these goals were made even more clear and organized. These goals were finalized to be: 1) Scriptural and Godly Worship Services, 2) Raising Workers for the Kingdom, 3) Evangelizing Korea, 4) Evangelizing the World, and 5) Loving Our Neighbors. God is continuing to work through our church members, who have sincere hearts and diligent hands, to fulfill these goals.

Choong Hyun Church has organized many

projects to fulfill these five goals. These include establishing praise times before the services and special services for young people on Sunday afternoons. The church has also established short-term missions programs, which are held each summer and winter. The church is holding training seminars for teachers, and seminary and missionary candidates. Many scholarships are also regularly offered to junior high school to graduate school levels. We also hold special evangelism projects in rural areas, to primarily assist with local churches there. In addition, the church is encouraging practical outreach and evangelism to our neighbors around the church area. Laypeople also have the opportunity to be trained to become short-term and full-time missionaries. Our church has also just recently finished renovation work on the Welfare Building to continue to effectively serve those who are mentally and physically limited in their abilities. The budget for ministry to the needy was also recently increased. All these practical efforts are in concordance with the five stated goals for Choong Hyun Church.

For the 46th anniversary of the church, a special praise service was held on September 5, during the evening service. The Siloam and Bethany Choirs and orchestra members joined together to praise the Lord during the service for what He has done these last 46 years. The choirs together sang about the story of Creation in 13 pieces by Franz Joseph Haydn.

The Second Bi-Annual Pastoral Conference

Successfully Completed

*The Assurance of the Work of the Holy Spirit and
the Power of God for Our Witness*

to be held in February 2000.

Many pastors who came commented on the conference. Usually, conferences for pastors focus on techniques that can be immediately used or sometimes easily forgotten. But, this conference went much deeper, exploring the deeper facets of the gospel, so that the pastors' preaching would be foundationally more gospel-centered. Many expressed appreciation for what our church did for these pastors throughout Korea. Many pastors also said they hoped these bi-annual seminars will continue well into the next millenium.

The church also would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all the volunteers who assisted during the conference, since they contributed their valuable time. The conference would not have been able to run so smoothly without their faithful assistance.

The Third Bi-Annual Pastors Conference will be held in February 2000, having the thematic title of "The Transforming Power of the Gospel" The talk will given by Dr. Steven Childers of Reformed Theological Seminary, where he is well-known for teaching practical theology.

Welfare Center Building Renovation Completed

The renovation of the Welfare Center Building was completed this past August 25th. A dedication ceremony was held the next day. The Center has been expanded by 365 pyong, which added third and fourth floors and recreational and bathing areas. The Center now has facilities, including a barber shop, a changing room, a fitness center, lounge areas, job training rooms and many rooms for work, such as for assembling parts and constructing items. There is also a small swimming pool for the disabled students and children to have swimming lessons. The job training offered is to give the students with limited abilities some useful skills so they can go into society and work productively.

The Chief of the Board of Directors of the Welfare Center, Reverend Sung Kwan Kim, gave a message for the Dedication Service on August 26th. After the service, an open house celebration was held for a first look at the new renovation work that was completed. It is requested that prayer be given for the leaders and teachers who use this building, that it can be an effective tool for ministry, especially to the mentally and physically disabled people who come there daily to experience God's love and provision for them.



The Second Bi-Annual Pastor Conference finished successfully. All who attended agreed that establishing this set of conferences was wise, going quite well and should be continued. The pastors who attended were immensely impressed by the conference. They were faithful in their attendance until the closing service. Compared to the first conference held last February, the attendance at this seminar exceeded expectations. This was especially impressive considering the fact that other churches were also holding pastor's conferences in Seoul.

All the pastors who attended were greatly impressed by the speakers and by the volunteers who made the conference run smoothly. Most of them were already anticipating attending the next seminar.





by Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

SCATTERED CHRISTIANS

(Acts 8:4)

Each Sunday the beautiful congregation of Choong Hyun gathers in Christian fellowship to glorify God. Thousands and thousands of people come together to worship God in Christ Jesus. It's a marvelous sight! We worship in Spirit and truth through prayer, praise, and biblical preaching. After our worship time thousands and thousands of Christians walk out the church doors, and go in different directions; some head north, some south, and still others go east and west. Some people proceed home, some call on family, others go to visit the less fortunate, and some must go to work. We scatter everywhere! We apparently know what to do when we're together, but do we know what to do when we scatter? We shine ever so brightly as an assembly, but do we shine as individuals living in a dark world?

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In Acts 8 we view the start of the early church. The new church officially began on Pentecost (see Acts 2:1). On that day, tremendous power was entrusted to all those who believe in Jesus. That's when human beings became Christians; when the Holy Spirit came down to indwell within the heart of each believer. A vast difference between Christians and other people took place. At that time, everyone that surrounded the saints "were amazed and astonished, saying, 'Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?'" (Acts 2:7). All the world wondered at them. Christians were different than normal people.

Often times believers convene for worship professing their Christian position and heritage, but not really knowing what to do outside the church walls. They know how to worship! They know their inside church responsibility, but they don't know their outside church task. The unbelievers that encircled the early Christians looked at them with amazement! Shouldn't people also look at you with amazement? Is there a visible difference between you and a non-Christian?

Today's Bible verse says, "Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word" (v. 4). Today you gather for worship, but what did the early Christians do? They worshipped our Lord God in prayer, songs, reading the Bible, and listening to a sermon. Don't you, too, do such worship? The early Christians scattered about preaching the word. What do you do? You should think about this issue seriously. God values your worship, and also your witness.

The early Christians were scattered by great persecution (see Acts 8:1&2). They scattered throughout the regions of Jerusalem because of the ravaging actions of unbelievers. You would think that

they would be in deep agony, right? But, they weren't! Luke wrote his book of the gospel while they were scattered. Instead of separating from God, they drew closer in union to Him. My friends, that's God's reign! From darkness to light, from death to life — this is God's original plan. It started in an upper room in Jerusalem, and now it spreads everywhere. It's doesn't make a difference where you are, "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

What does a Christian do when he is scattered? The early Christians didn't agonize! They could have groaned about many things. They could have complained about all the trouble which came their

way as believers. They could have moaned that their sacrificial giving made them financially poorer. They could have grumbled about their giving of love to others while receiving hate back. They could have doubted their whole system of belief in that one of their leaders was jailed and then martyred. They had every human reason to be miserable, but they continually worshipped and praised the Lord.

The early Christians did not complain about their leaders. They didn't blame their leaders for all the strife that befell them. They didn't tell them that they should probably be more dogmatic in their speech or

that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's" (Mt. 22:21). Christ recognized the distinction between political and spiritual responsibilities, as did the early church. We, too, have to keep in mind that this earth is not Jesus' kingdom (see Jn. 18:36).

So, what did the early Christians really do when they were scattered? They preached nothing but the Gospel. They proclaimed Jesus Christ wherever they went. Why? The Bible says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). All people are born lost. All humans have sin, and therefore fall way short of God's glory. Christians have the good news — the Gospel! We've got to get the message out! Under earth or under heaven, only Jesus Christ can save, "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). That's the Gospel, that's the message we need to spread, that's salvation!

What will you do when you scatter about after this service? Agonize over the daily struggles that encompass you? Criticize your fellow believers? Politicize this country's religious and economic problems? Or evangelize?

Living the life of a Christian is evangelizing! Some are called, at times, to plant the seed of the Gospel, some to cultivate the seed, and still others to harvest the seed. The Holy Spirit works in us differently every day! The point is that if your light doesn't shine, you're not evangelizing! If you're condemning, criticizing, and complaining, then you're not shining — you're not evangelizing! If you don't reflect Christ's love in your life, you can't witness to His amazing grace!

Think back on how many years you've been a Christian. Ask yourself what you've done to reach the

*Worshipping and evangelizing are the key actions
of both gathered and scattered Christians.*

more diplomatic in their actions. They didn't do that. How do our church members stand today? Recently, many within our church criticize the leaders, and each other. Actually, negativism robs believers of their power. Amen!

Also, when they scattered they didn't politicize. The early church did not have a political agenda. Their goal was to preach the Gospel and change the world one person at a time. They didn't march to Rome, they didn't rebel against their leaders. We know from our own church history the dangers of mixing religion and politics. Our history during the time of the Pope and Roman government proved disastrous. Whenever the church becomes political it exchanges the eternal message to a temporary message. Jesus tells us, "render to Caesar the things

lost people of this world. How many lost souls has your light touched this week? Are you a believer? Jesus died for you! You were once lost, and now you're found! My beloved, Jesus specifically calls each one of us to reach out to the lost (see Mt. 28:18-20). He empowers us for this reason (see Acts 1:8). I'm so glad that Choong Hyun's first goal is to worship, and then to reach out in missions to the world (evangelize). Just like the early church, let's worship and evangelize so that everyone will wonder in total amazement about how wonderfully different we are. Let's become true believers. When we pray, "Our Father who art in heaven," is God really your Father — are you really His child? Worshipping and evangelizing are the key actions of both gathered and scattered Christians.

The Second Bi-Annual Conference for Pastors

Held at Choong Hyun Church August 23 to 25

The Second Bi-Annual Conference for All Pastors in Korea was recently held at Choong Hyun Church.

It was certainly a wonderful opportunity for all the pastors who attended to benefit from the speakers' instruction.

The speakers' approach to the subjects, "Preaching the Gospel from the Old Testament," and "Keeping God's Power in Your Preaching" will be remembered for a long time to come. Here are the summaries of the conference and some responses from the pastors who attended.

Summary



"Preaching and Teaching the Gospel from the Old Testament"

Dr. Richard Pratt

We as pastors always face the question, "How can we preach the gospel in more effective ways to our audience?" We have to preach the gospel not as just passing information, or transferring our feelings or emphasizing the law only.

When we try to pass on a lot of information to the audience it is easy to fall into intellectualism, and when we transfer mostly our feelings it is easy to fall into emotionalism. When we emphasize commands or law it is easy to fall into Judaism. It is very easy for all of us to fall into one of these categories when we preach the gospel from the Old Testament. Hence, it is a very important requirement for pastors to understand the gospel in the Old Testament. The word, 'gospel' in the Old Testament is related to a word describing war. For example, if our enemies are defeated by us, then our enemies are destroyed and we are prosperous, and if our enemies are dead then we are alive. This is good news for us. The meaning of the gospel in the Old Testament was finally completed through Jesus Christ. The believers won the victory over their enemies through Christ. Jesus proclaimed this victorious news to his people through his life and the cross. The main focus of His proclamation was the Kingdom of God, where God is the ruler.

In the Old Testament, we see many priests, prophets and kings. They respectively presented offerings to God, delivered messages to the people from God and ruled over the nations. They were all appointed and anointed by God and received their authority from God to perform their duties. The Old Testament described Jesus as the Messiah who is anointed with oil, who officially has three functions as Priest, Prophet and King. Jesus as the Messiah, was anointed as the final Priest, Prophet and King who will complete all of the official functions of each office. He completed His official obligations as the Messiah on the cross and He became the first fruit of all that believe in Him. He chose people to spread this good news around the world. He also chose us to spread this good news of the Kingdom. Our mission is to proclaim the good news of what the Messiah has done for us on the cross from the Old Testament and the New Testament.

"Keeping the Power of God in Your Preaching"

Rev. Richard Craven

Jesus mostly emphasized the Kingdom of God in His ministry. He performed many miracles, cast out evil spirits and preached about the Kingdom of God. He used many parables to teach about the Kingdom of God. A good example of the parables is the parable of the sower. The main focus of the parable of the sower is 'sowing the seeds,' which means spreading the Good News, to teach the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is revealed through the word of God, which pastors preach to their congregations. Preaching the Word of God is the only way to introduce the Kingdom of God. Although the times have changed, there has been nothing else that can replace preaching the Word of God. Hence, it is very important for pastors to know their weaknesses while they preach the Word of God. This is because it is very easy for all pastors to admire their own abilities and to be proud of their strengths. In fact, many pastors believe that God will use their strengths rather than their weaknesses. However, God will use their weaknesses to reveal His power and will strengthen them with in the power of the cross. It does not mean we need to put our effort into what will make us weak and deny what God has given to us. The weaknesses we have are not something we do morally wrong, but something like what the Apostle Paul had in his body, a 'thorn of the flesh.' Our weaknesses are something that can make us unimpressive people in front of others and reveal us to be unattractive people.

It is very important for preachers to put their reliance upon the power of the Holy Spirit rather than upon their own achievements, such as that education, career and rhetorical ability. The Apostle Paul chose to be weak to be a good instrument for the Kingdom of God. He chose not to use his ability, but to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. He learned what it meant to be a weak instrument of God's grace before the church and the world. Paul understood that the power of God in the gospel is primarily the power to change people's hearts and lives. It is the power to bring people out of darkness and into the light of the Kingdom of God.

We need to have deeply rooted convictions and consideration about the centrality of our preaching in God's plan. We also need to be weak instruments of the Kingdom of God to bring the gospel power to the world.



Some Responses from the Pastors Who Attended the Conference



By Rev. Seong Hyun Jang
(Pastor, Narkwon Jeil Church in Incheon City)

One of my friends who attended the first conference was immensely impressed, so he invited me to attend this conference. I truly thank my friend. I learned how to catch fish rather than just get cooked fish through the conference. It was different from other conferences that usually give instant knowledge, which pastors can use instantly in their ministry. This conference opened my eyes to see how to apply the gospel and how to interpret it. It also gave me a framework to preach the gospel from the Old Testament and how to keep the power of God in my preaching.

I also thank Choong Hyun Church for having managed and organized the conference so very well.

the gospel from the Old Testament, while keeping the power of God. I truly believe that the things I learned during the conference will strengthen my ministry and guide my preaching. The thoughtful hospitality and generosity of the Choong Hyun Church members who volunteered to serve for the conference also impressed me. I would like make a strong suggestion to Choong Hyun Church to keep having the conference for many more years to come. I am now looking forward the next conference. I thank the speakers and Choong Hyun Church again.



By Rev. Chang Won Bae
(Senior Pastor, Kwang Yeom Church)

I heard about Dr. Pratt before through one of my friends, who was impressed by his previous seminar. When I saw the advertisement about the conference in the newspaper, I promptly decided to attend the conference. Although, it was very intensive and short, it was truly worthwhile. It opened my eyes to get a clear idea about how to approach to the Old Testament regarding preaching the gospel from it. It also taught me the responsibility to preach the gospel by keeping the power of God in focus. It was a good opportunity for me to remind myself of my mission as a preacher. I would like to express my appreciation to the speakers and Choong Hyun Church. Thank you very much.



By Rev. Sang Chon Lee
(Senior Pastor, Seo Gok Church)

I was glad that I was able to attend this conference with all my co-workers. My heart and spirit were refreshed during the conference. The conference reminded me that I am a witness of the gospel. It also gave me a clear picture about what is Christ-centered preaching and how to preach

You Will Be the Foundation of Blessings

By Kyong-Jin Oh (Member of the Kenya Short-Term Mission Team)

I went to Kenya for two weeks to spread the gospel to members of the Maasai tribes. We researched the mission field and held children's evangelistic meetings and offered medical treatment to them. We arrived in Kenya on a Sunday, so all the team members hurried to get to church to participate in the Sunday service. When we arrived, we found the members singing hymns in their own language, with their own rhythms and tunes. I felt so odd hearing this kind of music. One singer would sing a line and then after that the congregation repeated after him. Yet, all were singing with sincere hearts. Once they started singing, it seems to continue for hours. It seemed they couldn't stop and some even danced. The freedom of worship there seemed to express their new-found liberty in Christ. Some came forward to tell their testimonies of what God had done in their lives. Some testimonies got the congregation so excited they had to sing again in praise. This cycle repeated itself many times, as people read scripture, preached and offered testimonies with songs inbetween. I could not get any kind of clue what was going to happen next. There was no program or bulletin and no specific time to finish. But, their sincerity was unmistakable. The service was so full of thankfulness and joy, honoring the Lord Almighty. Many members had to walk two or three hours just to come to the service. The worship lasted over two hours. It felt as if we had arrived at some kind of important ceremonial banquet.

The Maasai tribes have a rather simple life, not as

an agricultural group, but rather as one of herding animals such as cows and goats. They get all they need from these animals, so wealth is evaluated upon how many animals they have. But, surprisingly they are not worried about being wealthy. Their main meals are made up of "chai," which is black tea and milk boiled together and "oogali," which is something like mashed potatoes made from corn powder. Another important dish is "japati," which reminded me of Korean "hottock." They only eat twice a day. They build their houses with the droppings of cows and in one house there is usually an entire family of about 10 people. It is hard to get water there, so taking a bath is a rarity. I had a challenging time adjusting to the different scents around me!

The lifestyle of the Maasai today is so rudimentary compared even to life in Korea 100 years ago. However, when I saw these people I understood so little, worshipping God, I had to bow in humbleness of heart toward the missionaries who worked and sacrificed their lives to be with these rather different people. When these missionaries left their home countries to go to different places for the sake of the gospel, the blessings of God poured upon them and then to the countries in which they worked. I haven't seen anything in this life more miraculous than this. We have received many blessings from God here in Korea, since the first missionaries came here around 100 years ago. I feel strongly compelled that we should share this unspeakable blessing with other nations and continue to pass this on to them.

A Letter From Malaysia "Sola Gratia"

Hallelujah!

I praise our Lord God Almighty who calls all the nations to himself. Now I am writing this letter to greet members of Choong Hyun Church, most especially the Missions Committee members, from the country of Malaysia.

I can clearly see the passion for the Lord among the members of the Missions Committee. I understand more day by day how important are short-term missions and laypersons missions and ministry to foreign employees.

It is very hard to convert people here in Malaysia, because of the strong influence of Islam. Yet, many Malaysian people working in Korea have a much better chance of committing their lives to Christ. The Foreign Workers' Ministry is encouraging a marvelous thing, by introducing these hard-working employees to Jesus Christ. I pray that this outreach program at Choong Hyun will grow stronger and be able to spread the gospel to other people working in Korea from abroad.

I recovered from my previous illness and I am thankful for all the love and encouragement I received while I was at Choong Hyun Church. In addition, I want to sincerely thank them for their financial support. The first time I went to the hospital, I thought I would just need a simple appendectomy. However, it ruptured. So, my case was actually very serious and life-threatening. The doctor told me that I was in serious danger and when I heard this, I again realized that the Lord was watching over me carefully.

As the Apostle Paul said, whatever you do, do it for the glory of God. I want to use my new life for His glory and honor. I'd like to proclaim the gospel to the children in Malaysia who are neglected by their families and society. Please pray for me, that I will be well-prepared for this mission project. Again, I would like so much to express my sincere appreciation for all the members at Choong Hyun Church.

In Christ,

Kyung Hee Park

August 26, 1999

Report of the Short-Term Mission Trip to Sri Lanka

"I Look Forward to the Day When the Gospel Is Spread Throughout the Country Like Yeast"

By Jin Hee Chu

(Young Adult I)

The meaning of the name, Sri Lanka, is "Beautiful Land." It is an island located to the south of India, shaped like a falling teardrop. This island has received the most beautiful news and this will one day spread throughout the country like yeast. The Lord has prepared everything for us and He is always waiting for us. When I stayed behind with my Korean friend to remain a little longer in Sri Lanka, after the other team members had already left, we had no idea what the Lord had in store for us.

While we stayed a few days longer, we were able to meet again with Delani and Nerumali. They were able to help us in our ministry. We managed to visit the Dazut family and while we were there, we had a

Bible study and family worship service. We had a wonderful time of fellowship with them. The most memorable part of the ministry was while we stayed with Delani and Nerumali and help them to learn more about the Bible and grow stronger in their faith. When I first met Delani last winter, she was confused between her background in Buddhist theology and her new Christian theology. But, this time, Delani showed a much deeper confidence in her salvation than she did before, and she also showed a much more genuine interest in the power of scripture. This was a privilege I wouldn't have known about if I had left earlier. However, because of some family problems, I saw her, lost in her thoughts, as if she were somewhere else, on several occasions. Yet, when we studied scripture together, a transformation took place. She brightened up with a smile and felt motivated to do housework and other important tasks. She even began to joke around with us after a while.

Nerumali also showed her interest in having a more sincere relationship with God and desired to hear other Christian people's testimonies. When we spent time singing hymns, she suggested, "Jesus is All the World to Me." Both Delani and Nerumali helped us with the visitation of the Burrianti family. They helped our ministry in many ways, but most especially in translation for the children's ministries. Delani is very good at understanding the Bible and

interpreting its messages. She is an outgoing and cheerful lady. But, Nerumali had a more soft approach, quietly serving others around her. I really hope that both of them will personally meet God more often and to continue to grow in their faith. I believe God will nourish them and that through them and other believers the gospel will be spread throughout Sri Lanka, so that the Kingdom can be firmly established there.

