

◆ GOALS ◆

Godly Worship Service
Raising Kingdom Workers
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing the World
Social Services for the Local Area

The Biweekly Choong Hyun

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

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

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The Time of Prayer ... Autumn

Let the Will of the Lord Be Done

Every Department of Choong Hyun Prays for 1999



This is already the second week of October. There are only about ten weeks left before the end of the year. It is time for us to conclude our 1998 ministries and provide a smooth transition into our 1999 ministries. At times like this, we need to take a step back from our busy schedules so that we can hear the voice of God.

There are many people in Choong Hyun Church who participate at the daybreak prayer service, the Friday evening prayer service, and Sunday evening praise worship in order to intercede in prayer for other people. But the church expects to see even more people join in this prayer movement as this year draws to a close. Choong Hyun Church eagerly prays that 1999 will be the year that the will of the Lord be done in each and every department and committee of the church. Every department will have special programs to spark the light of prayer. All the plans for 1999 are supposed to be ready by the end of this month.

At such a time as this, all the people of Choong Hyun must pray even harder as they participate in every public service including daybreak public service in order to intercede in prayer for all the bodies of the church.

Choong Hyun Church has five major goals: first, godly worship service; second, raising kingdom workers; third, evangelizing Korea; fourth, evangelizing the world; and fifth, providing social services for the local area. These goals will never be accomplished without prayer. When we pray, God works. We must especially pray for the young people of Choong Hyun so that these five goals can be achieved through our young people. The fall of 1998 does not have to be filled with fancy programs, but quiet and eager prayer is what we need. Let this autumn season be a beautiful time because of our deep conversation with God in prayer.

Evangelism in the Fall from each Sunday School Group

Many Evangelism Activities on October 25
Second Young Adults Group Evangelized
Homeless around Seoul Station

The Sunday School groups of Choong Hyun Church have two major evangelism activities each year - one in the spring and the other in the fall. Evangelism activities of the Sunday School in the fall started in September and will run through the first week of November. The third and fourth grade elementary departments had fifty newcomers through evangelism celebration on September 27. The second young adult group went out to Seoul Rail Station with food and drinks to meet about three hundred homeless people and they delivered the gospel of Jesus to them. It was a wonderful time for these homeless people to realize that their primary problem was not the fact that they lost their job, but the fact that they did not have Jesus who died for them on the cross. The second young adult group also visited Central Hospital and Seoul Rail Station to tell them the love that Christ has for them.

On October 25, the nursery and infants department will have evangelism activities to invite the fathers of the children. The high school group is preparing to invite all the registered members of tenth grade students while the middle school focuses on the evangelism around their school areas. The college group is giving their all to do campus evangelism through 'fisherman and shepherd' evangelism teams. The first young adults group will have evangelism activities during the month of November. All the people of Choong Hyun must pray for these evangelism activities of our Sunday Schools so that their activities can be very effective to save lost souls.

Army Evangelism Committee Mobilized to Evangelize Army Campuses Planning an Evangelism Program: Gideon Movement

During this past September, the army evangelism committee had a revival meeting for the Korean Augmentation Troops to the United States Army (KATUSA) in the United States army base. The army evangelism committee also had a water baptism ceremony for soldiers from two divisions. The army evangelism committee is preparing to have a joint retreat with the businessman's evangelism group on October 12 and 13. On October 15, there will be a service to commemorate the completion of a cross tower. During the month of November, the army evangelism committee will have a water baptism ceremony for another division. The army evangelism committee targeted those who received water baptism

during their military service and whose residence is around the Kangnam area to be members of Choong Hyun Church - the Gideon Movement. These target people are the people who have not registered to any church as of yet. The church expects to see the ministries of the young people of our church to be even more activated through this Gideon Movement so that the kingdom of God may be advanced and the kingdom workers can be raised.

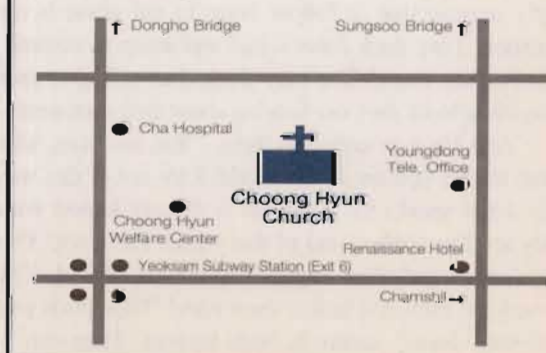
Joint Junior High Sunday Schools Celebrate Jesus '98 Night of Psalm and Praise Last Day of October

The three junior high groups (seventh, eighth, and ninth grade groups) are having a joint worship service to have a night of psalm and praise on Saturday, October 31. The title of this year's program is "Jesus Who Is There." The whole program focuses on Jesus Christ who walks with us and blesses us even in adolescence. There will be choir, solo, orchestra, poetry, drama, prayer, and praise and preaching focused on this theme.

The problems of many middle school students is getting much more serious. More and more students report trouble with student gangs who are assaulting them. The junior high groups want to invite as many middle school students as possible to let them know that the Lord Jesus is with them always. To realize the presence of Jesus Christ is the starting point of real revival in the hearts of our junior high students. All the people of Choong Hyun must pray for this activity so that something wonderful can happen on this day. This year's united program is organized by the seventh graders.

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)



His Warning

(John 8:21-25)

Warning! Warning! Warning! There is danger in unbelief! For those who think this caution doesn't apply to them - think twice!!! Today's Bible message applies to everyone - most especially you! Pride is the number one repellent against God and there's not one person in our congregation who doesn't battle this problem. Believing in Jesus is such a serious matter that you can't risk the peril of not knowing the way of faith - you can't risk the harm of not knowing what it truly means to believe in Him. Everyone who hears this message will walk away with the truth and it's my prayer that you take this truth to heart and believe - believe - believe!

The sin of unbelief kept the Jews from discovering the treasured Messiah. Their pride brought bitterness towards Jesus to the extent that they killed Him. In today's Scripture passages, we find Jesus the Messiah preaching in the temple to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. This Jewish audience is in direct communication with their long sought Messiah and yet there is no real communication. They question who He is instead of worshiping Him and praising God for finding Him. Why? What is it that keeps them from recognizing that they are in the presence of the Lord? How can they possibly not see that indeed Jesus Christ is the Messiah? Where is their faith? When will they open their hearts to His truth?

Well, the answer to those questions are found right here in John 8:21-25. It begins, "Then He said again to them, 'I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come'" (v. 21). The unatoned, unsanctified and unreconciled will have no glim of light to play over the darkness of the grave. This is so sad that Jesus said where He goes they cannot go. He is love, the son of God! His words to these people that where He goes they cannot come are really sad. These are God's people. Jesus is telling them that they can't go to the eternal home of their Father's love. He is going but not them. Only through Him can they go and their hearts are eagerly searching for their own worldly Messiah.

That's why the rejection of Christ closes heaven against them. They could not possibly enter into rest on account of their unbelief. Jesus' death was a matter fixed in the foreknowledge of God. Through death he is to pass upward into the Kingdom and Glory. They cannot come. The Jews search after Him but their end result is fruitless. They cannot find Him because they don't operate in the way of faith. Even today, they are still searching. The separation between Jesus and these Jews is perpetuated by their sin. Jesus puts it very plainly 'you shall die in your sin'. Unbelief is a sin.

The sin was unbelief from departing from the living God. Jesus is standing right in front of them. Because they continually look for worldly things - the heavenly things pass by them. They grow more and more angry. "So the Jews were saying, 'Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'where I am going, you cannot come'?' " (v. 22). They gradually and slyly suggest that to follow Jesus to the grave is out of the question. They think Jesus is bad and wants to commit suicide. That's their curse! The very thing that will save them is the stumbling block they use to bring about their own death.

"And He was saying to them, 'You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world'" (v. 23). Jesus speaks the truth. He is directly honest with them - they are from below and of this world. He's not! This makes them more and more angry. They don't believe. Their pride covers the truth and makes them blind. Their pride strengthens unbelief. Jesus' nature is from heaven. They can't see the



By Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

"This is His warning. You will die in your sins unless you believe that Jesus is the Messiah. He doesn't point the way - He is the Way!!!"

heavenly Messiah because their worldly nature looks for the earthly Messiah.

The fatal effect of this worldly nature is to refuse to recognize essential divinity. These people know that the Messiah is expected to come from David. They can tell that His words are different - powerful. They saw, heard and experienced all His miracles: the dead come to life, the feeding of the 15,000 people, the blind given sight, and the lepers made clean. He preached only the Word of God. Yet, they still look for the worldly Messiah. They are separate from Him, the true source of life. They are doomed to die in their sin. "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins" (v. 24). This remark from Jesus doubtlessly infuriated the Jewish authorities, since it ranked them with sinners. You can just imagine their outrage. How could they be sinners?

But it's these very people who ignore the truth. Their anger is so red hot that they renew their scornful question, "So they were saying to Him, 'Who are you?' Jesus said to them, 'What have I been saying to you from the beginning?' " (v. 25). What did He say earlier? "Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, 'I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life'" (v. 12). Jesus told them that He was indeed the Light of this world but their unbelief, their pride keeps them asking Who are you? Who are you? These pious Jews walk in the darkness - they walk in death not life. It's amazing how much you can tell about someone just from the type of question they ask!

Jesus is the Messiah, the son of God, the Savior of the world. That's who He is. God's ultimate plan of salvation is fulfilled in Him. He is the way, truth and life! No one - absolutely no one comes to the Father except through Him. All our congregation comes to worship and praise Him here at Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church. Do you really believe in Jesus? Or are you looking for the worldly Messiah, someone to help you get your own worldly things? All the people in today's message love God but they can't find Jesus. They keep asking 'who are you'. He told them - I'm from above and you are underneath.

If there is anyone still out there who can't relate to the terrible pride of the Jew - who think they are better than them and couldn't possibly reject Christ in such a way; you missed the point. You're probably worse and need to hear this message more than they did. Refresh your memory - even for just today. How many actions did you perform for Christ? Well, how many actions did you perform with Christ? Apart from Christ you can do nothing (John 15:5)! What a humbling thought.... As long as you follow and walk in the Light you have the Life. You can't walk in the darkness if you're following Jesus.

This is His warning. You will die in your sins unless you believe that Jesus is the Messiah. He doesn't point the way - He is the Way!!! You don't head off onto the highway of life. No! You're not the leader - you're the follower. Don't be fooled! Don't think Jesus just points to you and says, "Here go this way". Please listen. You can't go where He is going that way. Everyone who thinks in terms of the worldly Messiah can't go to heaven. Only those who believe and follow Him can enter. These Jews were all for the Messiah. The problem was that they weren't with Him. Take notice! Pay attention! The warning is served!

How Easy to Lose Focus

(2 Timothy 3:16, 17; John 5:39)

Indeed the whole of Scripture fully and clearly points directly to Jesus Christ (John 5:39). Eternal life is available through the study of Scripture as they relate to Him. The church recognizes that the Bible is a gift of grace to humankind, who otherwise would forget, distort, and even destroy God's revelation of Himself in space and history. The purpose of Scripture is to preserve for all people, in all places, the revelatory Word God has spoken. Its function is, in the fullest sense, evangelistic. It makes us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (2 Tim. 3:15). It is Christ and His work, not the Bible and its inspiration, that saves according to Scripture's testimony. The Bible is our guide to the way of salvation and from Genesis to Revelation it leads us to Christ - who is the way, the truth, and the life.

Every church has a unique focus. Some highlight different aspects of our Christian faith while others underline specific biblical principles. All churches are a gathering of one big focus group. Sadly, not many assemblies gather with the one true focus. Many have the outer appearance of godliness without its spiritual dynamic. They focus on certain Scriptures but don't look at all Scripture. As such, they lose the one big focus. The danger of such apostasy is viewed in 2 Tim. 3:1-5:

"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these."

Here the caution for a soldier of Christ is given the specific actions to look out for and avoid! Please note that the expression in the last days refers to the time we are living in. It is the period between the writing of this letter from Paul to Timothy and the Lord's return. These characteristics are intensifying as time passes within the Church. They are creeping in through the cracks made by the lack of truth.

Just look at how some churches operate. They hire professional (often non-member) interviewers to locate the right pastor. They want a pastor who can dish out a real spoofed mission statement. They want special committees designed to update their image by adding and dropping certain church programs. They develop and implement current business marketing strategies for growth and progress. Their desire is to meet people's needs, most especially if the need is unmet elsewhere. Indeed their practices of democracy in action will make their church grow! But at what price?

Those who let the people decide and not the Bible are at high risk. To ignore the Bible, to fail to obey its instructions is wrong! To have one big focus group that focuses on inspirational church activity that provides contemporary music, a lively atmosphere, beautiful settings, plenty of programs and activities, beautiful schools, accessible facilities and anything else that will bring success and make the people feel good is something we as Christians need to take a double look at. Anything that is people inspired and not led by the Holy Spirit through Scripture is suspect.

The apostle Paul really worried about such focus groups. He feared this type of mentality in the church. He specifically asked Timothy to please hold on to the Scripture. Today, people just don't like plain Bible believing churches - they're not much fun. Whether the times are favorable or not, Scripture alone must dictate our direction - not people. This is a very serious matter that is not being addressed in our churches today. The breakdown of law and tradition in favor of people pleasing, the loss of truth in all Scripture, are like

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...

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bulldozers tearing away the foundation in which the Church is built on.

Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church just recently celebrated our 45th anniversary. How did we grow? Is our small group ministry larger? Is our membership high? Is our church atmosphere and setting more pleasing? Are our choirs more beautiful sounding? Do our Sunday schools have the newest educational tools? What is our real focus? Try, please people try and open your hearts to the real thing. Politically wise and market smart approaches don't work for the church. A lot of people can be involved in respectable church activities but without Jesus there is no mighty God. The most esthetically looking church is not the best church. The largest church in the world is not the best church. The best church in the world is the church that focuses on Jesus and Him alone!

I am sincere about this church. Let us listen to the Word of God carefully. "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). The purpose of the proper use of Scripture is "so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:17). It's so we can be proficient and prepared. This is so important - hear it again: "All Scripture is inspired by God." Inspired means God-breathed. The Bible is the final authority. Not people. No not people. Our words don't have power in and of themselves. God's Word manifested in Christ through the Holy Spirit gives power to the words we speak.

Frankly, if the church does not exist to please people then why does it exist? 2 Timothy makes it quite clear - to hold fast the truth of God in Christ. Whether people want to hear or not, sometimes this means you lose and are not successful, but the truth still must be told. I deal with the truth - the whole truth. What is that truth? God has made us all one through His divine love made known through Jesus Christ. Through trust in Him we receive the promise of His eternal love. We are empowered in Christ through the Holy Spirit to bear witness to Him through our daily living in work, home, and in loving our neighbor. This is our focus. This is the truth!

Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church is one big focus group centered around the Word of God - the presence of the incarnated One - Jesus Christ. He is in our midst, presence, work, and lives. Justice and peace are in the Word!!! Today, many churches' telescopes are turned the other way and looking at self. It looks so large and so important an issue. Our fleeting insecurities make us think that our word is what really counts. We become the word. What a tragedy! The truth slips away and we so easily lose focus. We so quickly put down the precious Word. Through history we have many times side stepped for our own benefit. Our focus slips so that we can use God's word for our own benefit. We must remember that Scripture wrongly interpreted is no longer God's Word - as Jesus' confrontation with Satan in the wilderness underlines (John 10:34).

How can we be sure that we focus on the Word and not self? There is no easy or simple answer. We cannot find the answer ourselves. We must rely on the Holy Spirit. We must pray for the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to the life of God's Word. Today, this is especially hard to understand when so many stand by themselves. The best answer is Mark 8:34, "And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.' " We can't lose focus when Jesus is at the center of everything we say and do. Let's keep focused and turn our whole lives over to Him and trust solely in Him to lead us safely into the Promised Land.

Mission Report from the Sudan Team

"Jesus Is All We Have. I Hope Jesus May Return Soon."

by the Sudan Short Term Mission Team

Delay of Baggage by the Will of God

It was forty-five minutes after midnight on June 27 when we arrived in Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan. It was thirty hours after our departure from Kimpo Airport in Seoul. The Sudan team members had physical training, but when we arrived in Sudan, all the members were physically exhausted. On top of that, none of the twenty-one bags that we sent from Kimpo had arrived in Sudan. We did not know where any of them were. We worried and could not realize the will of God in delaying our baggage.

It was Sunday when we arrived in Sudan. We had Sunday worship service together and went to the villages near Khartoum. We visited a village where the entire area was an open field. Every household had a sick person. They did not have any food to eat nor any clothes to wear. Dust was everywhere as the wind blew. The flies were resting on the faces of the children. Most of the people who were Muslim said, "In-shawl-la" meaning, "everything is the will of God." They have neither birth certificate nor death certificate. All they have is sickness, starvation, and loneliness. There was nothing we could do for these people. The clothes we collected at Choong Hyun Church to distribute to these villagers had not yet arrived. We could only say, "Yesu whah, bee-hick-bah" meaning, "Jesus loves you."

As We Drank Mud-Water from the Nile

On the fourth day, the team was divided into two groups. The first team went to a village named Shinja seven hours south of Khartoum. The other team went to a village named Mehrahwe eleven hours north of Khartoum. Especially treacherous, the path to Mehrahwe ran through the Sahara - there was no paved road. We could feel the sand in our mouths just from traveling in the desert. By the time we got to Mehrahwe, we were so exhausted that we could not even eat. The villagers drew water from the Nile and used it as drinking water. The team members were hesitant to wash their hands in the Nile. At night, we started to drink it. We spent four days in that village and we drink from the Nile River as much as we wanted. No one had a stomachache. It was totally the grace and guidance of God.

At Mehrahwe Refugee Camp

There were many refugee camps in Mehrahwe. These people came to this place to avoid persecution from the Islamic government of Sudan or to avoid the war in the southern area. The refugees were having an unimaginable life of difficulty. The team members visited door-to-door to deliver the good news of Jesus Christ. For those who have heard the good news of the gospel before, the team members clarified the gospel and the salvation that comes through it. The team members were trained in Arabic. When the refugees



A dying child lives by the prayers of the short term mission team

heard the gospel in Arabic, they rejoiced and received the gospel with open hearts. It is not easy to believe in Jesus in Sudan. According to Muslim law, when a person becomes a Christian, he or she must be excommunicated from the family and the community. To ask them to believe in Jesus is to ask them to lose their daily bread. But, many Muslims received the grace of God as they received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. We were there when the Holy Spirit converted their hearts.

"Jesus Is the Only Hope"

There was one old lady who received Jesus before. We visited her to encourage her to remain in the faith. With tears flowing down her cheeks, the old lady said to us, "Jesus is all we have. There is no hope in this land. Jesus is the only hope here. I hope Jesus may come back here soon." What a disastrous life this old lady must have lived to make her long so dearly for the return of Christ. We became reverential as we heard her confession.

The Message of the Gospel instead of Relief Aid

On the seventh day, we finally got our baggage from Korea. We had a lot of relief aid to distribute to the villagers, but we did not distribute them until we finished our ministries, for we realized that we came here not to distribute relief materials, but rather to witness the gospel of Jesus Christ. We preached only Jesus Christ because we did not have any relief aid for the villagers - that was all we had. Reverend Hee Soo Kim said, "We do not have anything except Jesus Christ. We must accept the fact that the baggage had not arrived with us because it was the will of God."

The team members became more humble and sincere in the proclamation of the gospel and the response from the villagers were amazing. There were tens of people who wanted to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior at once. When we pray for the sick people, the healing hand of God was there. All the people of the village gathered together in one place to listen to the good news of Jesus. The team members experienced the working power of the Holy Spirit.

We left all the relief aid to Missionary Young Dae Kim so that he could manage the distribution. As we came back to Korea, all the team members expressed their thankful hearts to God. There was an irresistible manifestation of the grace of God during the Sudan short term mission. We remember Elder Chang Ho Lee in the front lines, washing the feet of the villagers and Reverend Hee Soo Kim became a server rather than a commander. Deaconess Gae Hwah Kim took care of young people as their own mother. The team members had an undivided heart in one spirit in proclaiming the truth of God. We also remember the kingdom workers that we met in Sudan and the villagers who decided to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. May the grace of God be with all these people always.



Adults and children join together to hear the gospel

Comoro Islands

A Flame in a Dark Land

These four volcanic islands between Madagascar and Mozambique had been French colonies until 1975 when the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros declared their independence. But one of the islands, Mayotte seceded from Comoros to remain a French overseas territory though Comoros still claims Mayotte.

The Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros

The Comoros islands are 1862 square kilometers of poor agricultural lands surrounded by rich marine life. They have a total population of just over half a million people with 23,000 people in the capital city of Moroni. Almost all the people are Comorian. 46% of the people are literate in the official languages of Arabic and French. Three dialects of Comorian Swahili are also widely spoken.

The economy is underdeveloped and poor. Demand for their main exports of vanilla and perfume oils have dropped, further depressing their economy. Unemployment is at 36%. The per capita income is about 2% of that of the United States. Comoros was a one-party state until 1990 when a multi-party democratic government was instituted. Since then, they have faced many coups, attempted coups, including some incidents involving mercenaries and French military intervention.

All open witness is forbidden in this Islamic state where 98% of the population is Islamic. There are 780 mosques. Only 0.6% are Christian. Of these, 0.16% are Protestant and 0.46% are Roman Catholic.

The Territorial Collectivity of Mayotte

These islands, of which Mayotte is the largest make up 373 square kilometers. The capital is Dzaoudzi with 5400 people and the capital designate is Mamoudzou with 7325 people. Almost all the people are Comorian. 32% of the population is literate in French, though shiMaore and Malagasy are also widely used. Though Mayotte also has limited natural resources and exportable commodities, they are more prosperous than the rest of the Comoros through French aid. Though French rule is challenged by the Comorian government, neither the local people nor the French administration have shown much enthusiasm for change. There is no freedom of religion. 97% of the people are Muslim, though mosque attendance is low. The Christian population is about 2.7%. Of these, 2.2% are Roman Catholic and 0.4% are Protestant.

Prayer for the Comoros

These people were almost completely unreached before 1973. Though direct evangelism is permitted, it is not well received by the Muslim majority. There have been various missionaries who have had success in evangelism on a small scale. Pray for more opportunities to effectively share the gospel. The early church in the islands have been persecuted and are not legally permitted to have open meetings. Pray for the leadership. Pray also for the witness of the two Protestant churches on the islands as it is difficult for them to be effective in reaching the others. Pray for the right church-planting strategy as they share their flame to others in this dark land.