

◆GOALS◆

Godly Worship Service
Raising Kingdom Workers
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing the 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)

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Guidance of God with Short Term Missions Teams

We Are Missionaries Who Are Sending Young People of Choong Hyun



▲ Mission Team One in action. Here, two members are evangelizing in their target area. Their methods varied according to the situation.

Short term mission team members are giving special praise during each Friday night worship service. These team members were trained in their indigenous languages in order to sing praises in different tongues - English,

Chinese, Middle Asian languages, and Bangladeshi.

They were not just trained in language, but spiritual preparation was also strongly emphasized. They know that it is a spiritual battlefield, especially in the places where the gospel of Jesus Christ had not been proclaimed. They gathered together often for prayer meetings. They could share the same goal and the same vision to win lost souls for Christ. Their hearts are burning to deliver the greatest news of salvation to the

people who are lost in darkness. The teams to China One, Bangladesh, and Sudan have returned with many blessing testimonies.

All of the members had to suffer physically in order to adjust to their

new environments. The water was polluted. The temperature was too hot. The different foods were not as palatable to the Korean tongue as native Korean foods. In a country like Sudan, the temperature often rises to over 45 degrees Celsius in the afternoon. Bangladesh has high humidity which adds to the heat index, making for a hotter and harder experience. China Team One suffered from diarrhea because of the water and meals that they had.

Choong Hyun Church will continue to send young people to the world as missionaries. But, their mission work will not be accomplished without our prayer. If the young people of Choong Hyun are missionaries who are sent, then the rest of the congregation are missionaries who are sending them. The missionaries who are sending other missionaries must be supportive support. They have to pray for the missionaries who are in the field. There are many church members who say that they do not know how to teach as a Sunday School teacher. Many say that they do not know how to sing in the choir. Others say that their health is not good so that they cannot participate in cleaning up the church. Nevertheless, there is one

thing that everyone can still do for the church and world missions. They can pray. In fact, prayer is the greatest weapon that we have in fighting against Satan's minions. The people's prayer is like long range missiles. We need to soften up the enemy's position through early barrages of artillery fire.

We have to remember that the Antioch church prayed and fasted for Paul and Barnabas when they sent them away as missionaries. The fasting of Choong Hyun Church will be the greatest encouragement for our missionaries who are going to the field. It is also important to give encouraging words to our missionaries and let them know that we are praying and fasting for them.

Choong Hyun Church must continue to support these young short term missionaries so that they can develop a vision for world missions and become a mature servant of God. The Church must be ready to listen to what they think, providing their needs, and praying with them.

There are four more short term mission teams which are leaving within the next four weeks. Remember that all the members of Choong Hyun are missionaries who are sending these seven teams.

CHEWS NEWS

'Seeking His Face' Summer Retreat

This year's Choong Hyun English Worship Service (CHEWS) Summer Retreat will be held on July 16 to 17. The retreat will be held on the second floor of the second educational building. The sleeping quarters will be in the Welfare Center building. Together, CHEWS will focus on "Seeking His Face" in one another from 2 Chronicles 7:14.

It will be a time to worship together, examine some Christian issues through seminars and debates, as well as some spiritual and physical games and exercises.

Small Groups

Starting next Sunday, July 19, CHEWS will begin Small Groups at 1:30. Compared to the 11:00 Bible Study there will be greater emphasis on getting to know the needs of one another. There will be time to pray for one another's needs while fellowshiping in light of the Word of God.

Also, even people who are not able to attend the 11:00 Bible study, such as the Zion Chior members will be able to participate. Because Cana Hall is being used at 1:30, the new small groups will meet on the second floor of the Second Educational Building in the same hall where the college group holds its Group Bible Study (GBS).

Joy and the Grace from God Doubles When We Share with Other People

We receive the grace and love of God just as we breathe in fresh air every day. The guidance of God is always with us. Therefore, there is no Christian without a testimony. Even if we do not have a great testimony, there is joy in feeling the wonderful and tender hands of God in our daily lives.

There is a way to make double the joy and grace of God. It is by sharing the blessing through testimonies with other people. There are many people who gave their testimonies to the Choong Hyun Biweekly who later reflect that though it was uncomfortable to share at first, there are people who were strengthened by these testimonies. The joy and grace of God doubled for those who wrote their testimonies. The Choong Hyun Biweekly wants to share the joy and testimonies that you experience in your life. Remember that there is no testimony to small when it comes to sharing with other people. Remember that God wants you to share His grace which has come into your life so that others may be able to be blessed as well.

If you would like to share your testimony, then please contact the Choong Hyun Biweekly at (02) 552-8200 extension 342 or 350. Faxes can be sent to (02) 563-3932. For calls from the United States, dial 011-82-2- followed by the seven digit phone number or fax number.

Blood for Atonement

(Leviticus 17:1-16)

Blood for atonement was the most religiously significant element in the life of the Israelites. The reason for this is clearly stated in today's Scripture passage. "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement" (v. 11). This is God's order to the Israelites. It is His instructions for how Israel is to use the tabernacle concerning animal sacrificing for the forgiveness of sins. It is His gracious provision for His sinful people. It is His Law for fellowship with Himself.

The sacredness of blood is marked everywhere in Scripture. In the Old Testament the importance of blood is particularly highlighted. To even eat blood then was to invite excommunication and to be totally cut-off from God's people (v. 10). That's the significance of blood! This rule applied not only to the Israelites but to everybody who lived with them. There were no exceptions to this rule. Even the blood of edible game caught during hunting had to be poured out on the ground and carefully covered with dust (v. 13). Probably this was an indication of respect to which all blood was to be held.

In respect to the blood of sacrifice, any animal killed for food was to be brought to the doorway of the tent of meeting so that the priest could sprinkle its blood on the altar and offer up the fat in smoke as a peace offering to the Lord (vv. 5-6). Once again, this applied to Israel and to the strangers living among them (vv. 8-9). Remember also, during the process of their redemption from Egyptian slavery, God's children were instructed to paint the blood of the lamb on their doorposts (cf. Ex. 12). Their custom of handling blood as food was strictly forbidden. The two reasons God gives for His command not to eat blood are that the life of the body is derived from it, and it is the means by which atonement for sins is made (v. 11; cf. Gn. 9:4).

Why are we talking about the significance of blood in the Old Testament? Because it is important to our understanding of what Christ did on the cross which is the heart of our Christian faith. Atonement is critical; it is the central doctrine of Christianity! The need for atonement arises from the universal sinfulness of mankind and our inability to deal with the problems posed by our sin. God is righteous and pure. After Adam all human beings are born sinners. This is clear from specific expressions in Scripture (e.g., 1 Ki. 8:46; Ps. 14:3; Rom. 3:23). But perhaps more important is the whole thrust of the Bible. It is clear throughout Scripture that we do not measure up to the standards God lays down. Further, this is serious, "for the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). The Bible makes it plain that sin excludes from the blessing of God (Is. 59:2; Hab. 1:13) and Jesus specifically said that blasphemy of the Holy Spirit can never be forgiven (Mk. 3:29). The sinner is in a desperate situation.

In order for God's people to go before Him, there is a crucial necessity for atonement. The blood of atonement is first. Then the act of worship can be acceptable. That's how much blood is important for life! Only through the blood can humans stand before God. God, in His love and mercy has always made provision. The Old Testament tells of a complicated system of sacrifices which God gave Israel so that atonement might be made. The killing of animals had no intrinsic worth that availed to do away with sin (Heb. 10:4). These blood sacrifices were temporary and availed only because God chose that they should. They were a foreshadowing of the eternal atonement of sin.



By **Sung Kwan Kim**
Reverend

In order for God's people to go before Him, there is a crucial necessity for atonement. The blood of atonement is first. Then the act of worship can be acceptable.

We can repent through prayer and the shed blood of Christ will completely wash away our sin. Jesus' sacrificial death, His life, is truly our salvation.

He stood in the place of sinners and since he bore their punishment it no longer falls on them. The wrath of God is exercised towards sinners but Christ has turned that wrath away from sinners. Through faith in Him we are saved.

It was impossible for the blood of animals to put away human sin permanently but the willing offering of Jesus does this (Heb. 10:10). Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant and His blood speaks better than the blood of Abel (Heb. 12:24). That's mighty powerful! In the New Testament Jesus' death on the cross is often referred to by the phrase "blood of Christ." This phrase communicates that Jesus' death was far different from any ordinary death. It was a perfect sacrifice made to God. It was a once and for all sin sacrifice. Because Jesus, the sinless Son of God, obediently submitted Himself to a cruel death on a cross, His death secured the expiation of all those who believe on Him regardless of race, gender, or social status (cf. Phil. 2:6-11; Heb. 5:7-10).

For as the writer of Hebrews says, and according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (Heb. 9:22). The death of Jesus interpreted in terms of the Old Testament sacrificial system is far better because His shed blood releases us from our sins immediately through prayerful repentance (cf. 1 Pet. 1:18, 21; Rev. 1:5). We do not need a human high priest or the continual blood of animals. We can repent through prayer and the shed blood of Christ will completely wash away our sin. Jesus' sacrificial death, His life, is truly our salvation. Through Jesus' blood all believers are reconciled to God and rescued from the wrath of God (cf. Rom. 5:9-10).

Throughout the New Testament it is clear that it is what God has done in Christ that enables sinners to approach Him and enter into his blessing now and in the hereafter. The plight of sinners is many sided but view it how you will, Christ has saved His people by His atoning death! Christ saves us! How? Through the cross! He won the victory over all the forces of evil. He took our penalty upon Him. He stood in the place of sinners and since he bore their punishment it no longer falls on them. The wrath of God is exercised towards sinners but Christ has turned that wrath away from sinners. Through faith in Him we are saved.

Therefore, the members of Choong Hyun must take seriously Jesus' order to partake in the Last Supper (cf. 1 Cor. 11:17-34). "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:54). Partaking in the Eucharist carries the promise of eternal life and participation in the final resurrection. It is through our faith in His blood and our obedience to His commands that we receive eternal life. The bread represents Christ's body and the cup his blood. We proclaim the Lord's death and look forward to His second coming when we take this holy communion.

Through faith in His blood our sins are atoned for. We are able to pray and worship to our Lord solely because of the blood of Christ. If we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 Jn. 1:9). Choong Hyun must know the power of Jesus' blood. Christ's blood for atonement is the most significant element in your life. The reason is that it atones for your sin and provides you with eternal life. The blood of Christ is God's gracious gift to those who believe in its power and have faith in it. The blood of Christ is the only means of access to fellowship with God. Because of the blood of Christ we are reconciled to God! This blood atonement is a priceless and perfect gift. Let's accept it and respond by living our lives wholeheartedly in the power of His blood.

Follow Jesus

(John 21:18-19)

The true meaning of being a Christian is something that many so called Christians do not understand. It is the way of life that few people follow. Many times I have preached "let go" (dying to your will and way). True, it is a simple message but the very heart of it is misunderstood, ignored, or pushed aside. Today, I want to proclaim the true heart of Christianity so that you can place it or reaffirm it at the center of your heart. For it is truly a matter of life and death. And I hope that today's Bible message assures you that there is no such thing as a self-centered Christian. Absolutely not! True Christianity is a wholehearted adventure that is Christ-centered. It is a narrow pathway and Jesus is the only one who knows the way! You must follow Jesus or else you will be lost. There are no exceptions! None! zilch!

Sure, our tendency is to want to do our own thing. Many people disguise their self-centeredness in Christian practice. They profess their faith but in reality do what they think is right. They do not follow Jesus but instead follow their own will and way. In fact, it is not Christ who rules their lives but they themselves. If they would take a moment to think about their life decisions, they would have to conclude that they do not really need Christ because they handle life's daily decisions themselves. It is not natural to want to do the things that Christ requires. That is why our natural tendencies are overridden by our new nature in Christ. True Christians die to themselves and live in Christ.

This is what today's Scripture passage reveals. We find Peter meeting the resurrected Jesus. Previously, Peter had spent three years eagerly, honestly, and strongly thinking that he was obeying Jesus. He slept, ate, traveled, ministered, suffered and prayed with our Lord. We read in Scripture that many times he did his own thing instead of what Jesus wanted. He cut the ear off of the Roman soldier, fell in the water, corrected Jesus' teaching and denied Christ three times. He suffered and cried over his guilty feelings. In other words, he was a lot like many so called Christians of today.

After Peter met the New Body of Jesus, he still does not follow Jesus. Instead, we read of him at the Sea of Tiberias wanting to fish just as he was doing when Jesus first met him at Galilee. Jesus prepares him and six other disciples' breakfast. After breakfast, Jesus speaks directly to Peter. He asks him three times, "Do you love Me?" Peter answers three times, "Yes Lord, You know that I love You!" Each time that Peter responded, Jesus in essence tells him to, "Feed My sheep." Peter was grieved and feeling so guilty because Jesus had to ask him three times whether or not he loved Him. Peter's three denials are here offset by his three protestations of his love for Christ.

Then, all of a sudden, Jesus formerly and strongly talks to Peter. "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go. Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, 'Follow Me!' " (vv. 18-19) This is the prophecy of the martyrdom of Peter. This is the truth of what really happened in Peter's life. Now, at this time, Jesus commands him to follow Him! His life time changes right here. His time is now in Jesus' hands!

The Lord has fixed the time of Peter's life. The number of his months are with Him and He has appointed the boundaries that Peter cannot pass. Now, Jesus has Lordship over the life and death of His disciples. If we die, we die unto the Lord.

He cut the ear off of the Roman soldier, fell in the water, corrected Jesus' teaching and denied Christ three times. He suffered and cried over his guilty feelings. In other words, he was a lot like many so called Christians of today.

Peter was strong-willed and childish. Now, after meeting the resurrected Jesus, he is different.

Let the center of our heart constantly ring with the words, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21)!!!

Therefore, follow Jesus in everything you do.

Jesus is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living (Rom. 14:8-9).

Now, Peter's life is just like that. The Lord's disposal of His disciples lives make them immortal until His work is done. The Lord determined the manner of Peter's death. I hope that my life is like that completely and totally in His hands. It was to be a death of violence. He was to become a martyr for the Christian faith. Peter understood the exact nature of this prediction, knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me (2 Pet. 1:14). Peter knew and accepted his fate. His death enhanced the meaning of the glory of God!

In today's Bible passages we see Jesus truly ordering Peter to "follow Me." It was a solemn thought to the apostle to know the end of his labor as an apostle. This knowledge would intensify his inner zeal to work without prose during the term of his life that remained to him. So what does Peter do? After receiving the order "Follow Me," Peter makes up his mind at last. He throws away his ideas and pride. He gives up his will for a new and better way of life. He dies with Jesus on the cross. He learns Jesus' will and does His commands. His will dies and Jesus' will controls. He walks in the footsteps of Jesus' holy life.

Peter was strong-willed and childish. Now, after meeting the resurrected Jesus, he is different. Now, after hearing the serious and crucial message of "truly, truly, I say to you his life is in His hands." He really changed. I hope that the members of Choong Hyun do not place their lives in their own hands. I hope that you place your very soul in the hands of Jesus. Our time here on earth is in His hands. I want our nation to be part of the Kingdom of God and the Holy Spirit's domain so that He can lead us to Lordship. So, let us give up ourselves and seek His glorious will! He is our Creator. He is Mighty. He is our Counselor. Let the center of our heart constantly ring with the words, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21)!!!

I have to say this one more time, "to live is Christ and to die is gain!" Do you really get it? There is a clear distinction between the work of Christ and self-help. The members of Choong Hyun can not do whatever the Bible requires of them as though they could fulfill those requirements on their own. No way - never! Only as a consequence of the saving power of the cross and the indwelling, sanctifying power and presence of Christ in the person of the Holy Spirit can we really believe that to live is Christ and to die is gain! When you really place your life in Jesus' hands - your will and way will die. When you do this, outward conformity to biblical standards and the pursuit of human self-worth will be scrapped in favor of a desire to please Him. Obedience will not be mere duty; it will have about it an expression of praise in which the words "to live is Christ and to die is gain" will truly and freely ring.

Therefore, follow Jesus in everything you do. Wake-up with Him in the morning; live with Him during the day; sleep with Him at night. Pray and talk to Him throughout your waking moments. Feed yourself on His Word - the Bible. Let Him teach you His will and way. Know His voice and listen for His direction. Let yourself follow Him in all manners of life. Follow Jesus and your life will be in His hands. Follow Jesus and He will lead you to the Promised Land of God's eternal glory.



Mongolia

Time to Spread the Kingdom



Mongolia is over 1.5 million square kilometers of forests, mountains, and desert, populated by less than 3 million people. About 650,000 people live in the capital city of Ulaan Baatar. Most of the peoples are Mongolian, though there are others such as Turkic, Chinese, Russian, Japanese, and Koreans. 90% of the country is literate in the official language of Halh Mongolian. In 1995, there was a switch from the Russian Cyrillic to the Mongolian vertical script and traditional spelling system.

Up to now, Mongolia had largely been an agricultural society. But they had been severely underdeveloped due to several reasons including their distance from the sea and their dependence on the former USSR. With the collapse of the USSR, Mongolia has suffered from economic chaos, massive shortages, and rising unemployment. Their per capita income is estimated to be about 1% of that of a person in the United States.

At the height of its power in the 13th Century, Mongolia stretched from China to Central Europe. In

1921, a Soviet-backed revolution led to a repressive Communist government. Communism was renounced in 1990. In 1992, a multi-party democracy was instituted. In a later election, the reformed former Communist party won a landslide victory.

Marxist ideology vigorously suppressed Lamaistic Buddhism. There was a resurgence of Lamaistic Buddhism after the fall of Communism. Freedom of religion is guaranteed in the constitution. It is estimated that a quarter of the population is Lamaistic Buddhist. Another quarter is non-religious. About half of the Mongolians are shamanistic or animistic, fearing and appeasing spirits. The Christian presence is estimated to be about 0.03% of the total population.

Democratic and religious freedoms are a new luxury for Mongolians. Pray that these freedoms can be maintained. New converts are won every week. Pray for the preservation of the Mongolian church in the face of opposition, their growth in grace and maturity, their unity and genuine love for the brothers, already under threat, their discernment of error from confusion by other religions and sects, and the rise of wise and humble leaders from among the Mongolian Church.

Older people have returned to Lamaistic Buddhism. Young people cling to materialism. Crime and alcoholism have exploded due to the economic hardships. Nevertheless, God has opened up Mongolia for Christian ministries. May the missionaries be able to integrate into the culture, able to adapt to the harsh living conditions with spiritual effectiveness.

Pray for Sri Lanka

Not even 1% of the total population is Protestant Evangelical. This 1% must be the seed of the gospel which establishes the kingdom of God by sowing in the land of Sri Lanka where over 70% of the population is Buddhist just like a small mustard seed or yeast.

The church of Sri Lanka had a glorious Christian era until 1722 when 21% of the total population was Christian but as the indigenous Christian church began to abolish acts of faith it turned to nominalism. As a result, 21% became 7.4% (0.9% Protestant) in 1985. Therefore, the Christians in Sri Lanka gathered together to make up an isolated community without witnessing to others. They are still losing Christian members from their community. The desire to win souls for Christ is now dead in Sri Lanka. The more serious problem is that the people who are leaving the Christian community are converting to either Buddhism or Hinduism. But in recent years, the movement of repentance for the failures of the past began to rise ultimately leading to winning new souls by the preaching of the gospel. Pray for this movement so that the Holy Spirit may work through the land of Sri Lanka and turn people's hearts back to God.

We must remember 24,500 areas in Sri Lanka which have not heard the gospel in a meaningful way with over 12 million lost souls in farming and poor urban areas. They are isolated from the daily diet of the gospel. Is it not our responsibility to share the hardships of our brothers and sisters in Christ in Sri Lanka?

I am thankful that God has allowed me to return to Korea to learn more about the Korean churches as well as Korean culture. About 110 years ago, our fathers in the Protestant faith set foot on this peninsula. How gracious God was to have given his law to a people entrenched in Confucian thinking.

Because of the heavy drinking by so many Koreans, the early missionaries made laws such as the absolute rejection of any alcoholic consumption by the Korean Christian. They themselves toasted to that law with some alcohol because of their freedom through the grace of the gospel.

The early Puritan settlers in America also had some strict laws. The faith in America has developed for several centuries since their arrival in the New World. Now, as Korea enters a new millenium, with over a century of Christianity, I pray that Korea would also be subject to the grace of the gospel rather than the judgment of the law.

I thank God for allowing me to serve Him at Choong Hyun Church's English Worship Service. I hope and pray that people will not debate whether something should be done the Korean way or the American way, but focus more on the Christian way.

There is a Korean culture and an American culture. Indeed, both have their good points. For instance, Korean cultural respect for elders is a very Christian idea. The Bible says that we are to obey our parents. American open-mindedness and respect for the rights of other people, regardless of age is also a very Christian idea. According to Philippians 2:3, we are to "consider others better than yourselves."

I pray that we would cling to our distinction, not as Koreans, or Americans, but as Christians. We live in a global economy where you can travel around the world in a single day. Let us look to our cultural

A Korean-American Christian in a Korean Church

by Hoochan Paul Lee

(Intern pastor in English Service Department)



▲ Some members of the English speaking congregation spending time together. Intern pastor Lee is sitting on the lower left.

distinction as Christians so that we will not bicker among ourselves over relatively insignificant points of methodology. Let us turn once again to the true gospel of Christ and worship him in Spirit and in truth.

Each culture has its good and bad points. But as Christians, we have a greater culture to which we can look - that is a Christian culture. You and I can be people who follow the principles of the Bible rather than arguing whether one method is right and another is wrong.

I believe that it is time for the church in Korea as a whole to grow up. In the early Korean church, it may have been necessary to set laws by which Christian people were to live because they were still young in

the faith. But now, after over a century, Christianity in Korea has passed into adolescence. We are now to struggle through our faith. Those things that we did not know and understand before as a young church, we can now understand as a more mature church.

As mature Christians, let us no longer focus solely on numbers. Let us redirect our attention to the needs of each individual Christian. Christ as the good shepherd did not worry about the masses of sheep. Rather, He went in search of the one lost sheep. Let us direct our material, emotional, and spiritual resources where it is most needed - each individual sheep, whether it is lost or found.

My parents have been a great source of encouragement throughout my life as a Christian. They have been Christian parents trying to raise Christian children. They lived their lives with sincerity as Christians. Though they were hurt by many other Christians throughout their lives, they maintained their faith - not by looking to other people, but by focusing on God Himself.

On the first night of their honeymoon, my parents dedicated their children to the service of the Lord through prayer. They promised God that if they had a son, they would raise him to be a pastor. If they had a daughter, they would raise her to be a church accompanist. Today, they have a son and a daughter. Lord willing, I will be an ordained pastor one day. My sister is a church accompanist. I thank God for honoring the requests of my parents.

My mother will be visiting Korea for about a month from mid-July to mid-August. I thank God for allowing me to see my dear mother so soon. In November, my sister will be getting married in the United States. Perhaps I too, will find a wife while in Korea.