

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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Third "Seminar for All Pastors in Korea"

Held Feb. 21-23:

"When the Cross Gets Bigger, True Revival is Begun"

The third "Seminar for All Pastors in Korea" was held from Feb. 21-23. This seminar was more interactive than previous ones with listeners and lecturers better interacting in a way that the messages were accepted and blended among participants. The seminar completely restored the privilege God gave to His chosen ones through the gospels and came to a heartfelt agreement on the centrality of the cross and Jesus Christ that they are the only way to bring revival in churches.

Rev. Harris defined pastors as "the trainers of a congregation making them and disciplining them to be true ministers." He brought up the fact that Jesus' command to model after Him was in the context of the foot washing of His disciples. Dr. Childers gave seven powerful lectures on the gospel's transforming power. He critically discussed the limit of pastoral programs and nominalism on the surface without the gospel's message.

At the same time, many church workers volunteered to make this seminar a loving experience for the pastors who came. Choong Hyun members should pray that the centrality of the cross and the gospel's message is restored in all of Korea's churches through the seminars.



Youth Mission Training Held at Choong Hyun Prayer Mountain on Mar. 1.

Sunday School Teachers, Parents, Middle and Senior High School Students Among Many Participants

The Missions Department acknowledged that in order for the church to sustain interest in missions in the church despite its continuous challenges, the need for training the next generation is vitally important. To meet this crucial need, the "Junior Local Missionary Training Course" was established and the first training session started on Mar. 1. Courses that were offered included World Mission Trends and Mission Mobilization, History of Missions and Preparation for Short-Term Missions and Ministry among others.

Young students who participated in this program are entitled to participate in our church's ongoing short-term missions and can be continually trained for the General Assembly's other mission programs to serve as a short-term missionary. Our church should pray that the Holy Spirit would revive us through training our young students and encourage our youths to participate in the courses.

First Baptismal Questionnaire of 2000

This year's first baptismal questionnaire was held in the main sanctuary on Feb. 27. 209 people participated in the ceremony. They committed themselves to profess Jesus Christ as their Savior, live as His disciples, and to confess these things before God and the church. Of the participants, there were 70 people listed as 'trainees', 52 people each listed as baptized and registered, 32 infants and three transferees. The entire church, along with those who participated, should rejoice and pray for them that they may firmly and deeply establish their faith.

Senior High School Hosts Retreat for Rural Children from Feb. 27 Mar. 1

The senior high school department hosted a retreat from Feb. 27 Mar. 1 for about 60 rural children from three churches in Tongyoung and Koje Island, South Kyongsang Province. Last July, the department assisted residents in those areas by providing volunteer service and labor. This retreat was intended to continuing reaching out and serving them. During the retreat, department members trained these children on how to reach out and evangelize so they may return and be used by God as His workers.

JLMTC Held on Mar. 1. Large Turnout Exceeds Expectations

The first JLMTC meeting was held at Choong Hyun's Bethany Hall on Mar. 1. About 200 junior and senior high school students and 60 other members attended. Throughout the program, there was a genuine interest to learn about world missions. Turnout far exceeded the Missions Department's expectations which indicated that there is growing interest among young people for missions. Thus, the department will continue to train our young people for missions so that their pure and true dedication will carry on the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Contest for Testimonies to Be Held

The Bi-Weekly Choong Hyun is holding an open contest for all Choong Hyun members to submit their testimonies entitled, "Jesus Who Came to Me." Members may write about the thankful one who shared the gospel to them and how they came to find Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, tracing their family's faith at home and about how Jesus entered their lives. Jesus does come to us and He will be with us in the 21st century. Through this contest, we pray that for the strengthening of faith and God's richest blessings upon all Choong Hyun members and their families. We pray for enthusiastic participation from all members.

"Jesus Who Came to Me"

Contest Title : "Jesus Who Came to Me"

Topics : The One Who Led Me to Christ,

Tracing Your Family's Faith at Home

Essay Title: Any title will be accepted

Deadline: April 2, 2000

Amount: A4 paper, 1-2 pages

Who: Any Choong Hyun congregation member

Awards: First, second, and third prizes and honorable mentions will be awarded

Send to: Editorial Room, The Bi-Weekly Choong Hyun (Missions Rm. #303)

Administration Office

(First Education Building, First Floor)

Contest results will be announced in the Apr. 23 edition of The Bi-Weekly Choong Hyun. If you have any other questions, contact ext. 348 for more information.



by Rev. Sung Kwan Kim
Senior Pastor

GOOD NEWS FOR BURDENED PEOPLE

(Exodus 6:1-8)

God called Moses from Midian and sent him to Egypt. He commanded for him with specific words to speak to the sons of Israel and to Pharaoh. To the sons of Israel, His words promised to bring them out from under the burden of the Egyptians, deliver them from their bondage, redeem them, take them for His people and become their God and bring them to the land of Canaan to give it to them as a possession. To Pharaoh, His words were simply, "Let My people go." The Israelites accepted God's invitation and followed Moses. Pharaoh refused to let God's people go; he resisted God and was forced to do what God wanted. God sent Moses to both Israel and Pharaoh - an ally and enemy. His purpose was to renew His pledge of deliverance! Amen! Why? Because God cares for His children.

God truly cares about your burdens. He knows about your pain. He is aware of your sufferings. Just as He saw the afflictions and heard the cries of the Israelites (Exodus 6:5), He also sees your hardships and hears your weeping. His promise to bring the Israelites out from under their burden (v.6) is a promise carried forward to you through His grace and mercy found in Jesus Christ, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Mt. 11:28). When Moses first encountered Pharaoh at God's request, Pharaoh not only disobeyed God's command but greatly increased the work involved in making bricks by requiring the Hebrews to gather the straw themselves from fields that were undoubtedly some distance from where the bricks were made. Extra labor was caused by this call for freedom. The Hebrew slaves were required to maintain their production, and foremen of the sons of Israel were beaten if output fell below their quotas. Pharaoh reasoned that more pain would cause the Hebrews to be more humble toward him. Oh, but God's grace comes when we come in our time of need, and not until. "Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16). Your physical pain and mental struggles are important. If you handle them yourself, you have no need for God. However, if you lay your burden before His throne, He promises to give you His grace and mercy. Amen!

God cares about your bondage. He delivered the Israelites through Moses and delivers you through Jesus Christ. What's controlling you? Is it alcohol, sex, drugs, smoking, your temper, selfishness or fears? These things limit your usefulness. They enslave you toward sin. It ties you to misery and death. It strangles and suffocates and takes what's good away from you. Everyone born from Adam and Eve is born into bondage. Nothing can free you from this bondage except the Lord God. From the very beginning of human sin, God did not abandon His creation, although He easily could have but instead He instituted His plan of salvation (see Gn. 3:15) to free you from the bondage of sin. Under His refuge, the power and influence of sin are broken. His love

for you is beyond measure, so rest assured in it and let His love control your life.

God cares about your freedom. Just as the sacrifice of the Passover lamb set the Israelites free, Jesus Christ's one death for all sin now sets you free, "knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you" (1 Pet. 1:18-20). Jesus died for you! There's no other way to receive salvation except through Him. Who controls your life? Is it you, the world, or perhaps Satan? Our Lord came to set us free, "If you abide in My word, then you are

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Mt. 11:28).

"If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (Jn. 8:32).

truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (Jn. 8:32). Jesus is the truth! He is the way to freedom. "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (Jn. 8:36). Amen! If the Holy Spirit controls your life, you are free. If you control your life, you are not free. "Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Cor. 3:17). If you, Satan or the world has control, then freedom is missing and sin is present. To know freedom is to know Jesus Christ and let His Spirit possess you.

God cares about your fellowship. He promised the Israelites to take them for His people and be their God (Exodus 6:7). The assurance of His presence guided them night and day in the cloud of fire toward the Promised Land. He wants to be your God and through His Holy Spirit lead you to heaven. He provides all you needs; your only duty is to follow. Those who want to drive themselves aren't allowed on the pathway. Only Jesus can navigate the path toward eternal life because only He, as only He could, traveled from here to there and back again in the glory of God. The whole idea of salvation and the death of God's only Son centers on God wanting to establish a permanent relationship with you. He wants perfect harmony and has provided the way for His being and your being to come together for His glory in Christ.

God cares about your future. He promised the Israelites, "I will bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession; I am the Lord" (Exodus 6:8). God established His covenant with Israel's forefathers (see Gen. 13:15; 17:8) and kept His promise as Lord to the Israelites. God keeps all His promises because He is faithful and true. He has promised those who believe in Jesus Christ eternal life (see Jn. 3:16). In Christ, your inheritance is guaranteed, it "is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Pet. 1:4). Why worry?

God cares so much for His children that He sent His only Son to suffer for the penalty of all sin upon the cross. He now sends Jesus to you! Are you Israel or Pharaoh? Do you accept and follow or refuse and resist? No matter what, every knee shall bow down to God. Those that bend in humble acceptance of His deliverer will be saved and blessed with eternal life. Those that bend in prideful resistance of Jesus Christ will be damned and judged with eternal death. All will bend in honor of God! Will you bend out of love or compulsion?

Many may think that "bending" refers to only at the end. No! Bending refers to here and now. If you've truly accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and are thus born again, you understand the need to die to self and live for Christ. You know your need for Jesus is so great because you are nothing and can do nothing without Him. You experience the daily death of self in lieu of letting Jesus control. Oh, how many try and try to do what they think is right in the sight of God and fall short. Oh, how many try and try to live godly lives, only to falter. Oh, how many try and try to control their lives and those of others, under the auspices of God's authority, only to fail and many times hurt the ones they love. Oh, how many try and try to be God and bend! It's so sad and so common. You can't try to bend, my dear friends. Living and loving Jesus is letting Jesus do His work while you just let, live and love Him. So simple, yet so misunderstood. So easy, yet so hard for those who hold on and refuse to let go.

Isn't it wonderful that there is good news for burdened people? Without such news, life would be meaningless void of the One true God. God expressed His love in a special way toward the sons of Israel and His love for you today is revealed in the ultimate way-Jesus Christ. With the good news of God's great love found in Jesus Christ and manifested through His Holy Spirit you can live in peace and joy with the hope of eternal life in His presence. The key to life is trusting the Lord God. Placing your complete faith in Him and allowing Him to do His work through you, with your whole heart in trusting obedience to His will and way, is such a blessing. Don't try to be God or manipulate God; just let God be God and you His trusting child. Lay your concerns before His throne and let His grace and mercy fill your need!

A Hymn in My Lips "Wonderful Peace"

By Jeong Hyup Lee
(Deacon, English Ministry)



There are times when I feel so helpless. To a degree, it is because we live as 'pilgrims in this world' and experience misunderstanding and favoritism. Moreover, such helplessness comes from the result of failing to honor one's own promises. In times of despair, it is because of the "treasure I have in this wonderful peace" that enables "a melody sweeter than psalm."

When I cannot bear it any more, the "blessings of heaven" and through the peace that "covers like fathomless billows of love", I gain new strength that my soul is restored. I pray earnestly that my family, friends and neighbors will all find true peace by "making Jesus as their friend."

*Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight
Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;
I celestial-like strains it unceasingly falls
O'er my soul like an infinite calm.*

Hymnal 469 delivers the message of heavenly peace clearly. Not much is known about the composer, Cornell, except that he was a 19th century evangelist in America. In the fall of 1889, he was attending a Methodist evangelistic crusade while he was in deep meditation. He was experiencing true peace with God in his mind. He jotted down the messages he meditated about but, as he walked out of the crusade, he slipped over his notes. Even worse, he forgot that he wrote something. Sometime later, a gospel singer named George Cooper was leading an outreach there and found Cornell's meditation note. The message was very intriguing. Cooper went over to the organ and composed a hymn to praise God in his crusades.

Leading Bible Classes at 'D Middle School'

By Sung Kyeum Kim
(Evangelist, Assistant Pastor; Second Grade, Middle School)

It is an exciting thing just to imagine an opportunity to teach the Bible at a local middle school. This excitement comes from realizing that this could be a great chance to lead unbelieving students to the Lord. However, the reality is not that simple. I am thankful such a chance was given to me but going into the classroom is one thing and trying to teach those students is another thing.

I was given an opening to teach the Bible at 'D Middle School' every week. I had hoped to make this opportunity to be a fruit-bearing and edifying experience but soon, I discovered there are obstacles in a classroom environment and students' attitudes. The students' disrespect towards their teachers and behavior in class was beyond my imagination. Most of them talk during class, some run around the classroom and play with their belongings. No matter how loud I shouted, they would not listen. Moreover, the students only regard the Bible class as 'just another class' they are required to take.

I noticed that I was inexperienced and far from having control of these kids. As time went, I even started to dislike going there to teach those undisciplined kids. Beyond my attempts on how I should change my teaching methods or ways to gain control, I soon came to realize, from my heart, that the kids who come to church and are growing so well in faith at Choong Hyun Church are angels.

I am not trying to speak about-well, actually not qualified to-how to improve teaching methods at a secular middle school. But, the struggles I experienced from those students is influencing my view on my kids at our church. I began to appreciate those kids whom I embrace at church. I believe our goal is to reach out to those lost souls out there with those who are entrusted to me to love and lead.

Interview: English Ministry- Where Missions Begin

By Yeun Hee Chung



A marvelous branch sprouts out from the mother trunk at Choong Hyun Church. The Choong Hyun English Ministry-this is where mission work is done and where the dreams of missions are nurtured and ripen. In 1988, the CEM was established at about the same time the Seoul Olympics occurred in order to reach out to the international community and spiritually assist those who reside in Korea. At the outset, worship services were held in Bethany Hall with about 20 members who wanted to help foreign residents. Now, services are held in the basement of

the Welfare Building at 9 a.m. with about 150 regular members.

The English Ministry's bible education-comprising the Elementary Sunday School, Youth group, College group, Young Adult, and Adult Sunday School classes-are held on Sundays.

Rev. Young Tark Yune serves as Adjunct Pastor; Rev. Joseph Joon-hee Chung as Assistant Pastor; Elder Sohn Chul as director; and Deacon Bu Sung Lee and Deaconess Chung Soon Kim as assistant directors. Their dedication and effort to the CEM is continuing to strengthen the ministry.

This department consists of various nationalities and people. Thus, a sense of community and oneness is of utmost importance in the CEM. In order to achieve unity and bonding love, the ministry provides various services such as monthly home visitations, annual picnics, newcomers' welcoming party focusing on younger members, and tea fellowship after Sunday worship services. In addition, adopted children from the Holt Association are invited to various members' homes and adopted Koreans are invited to participate in home-stays. On Thanksgiving, in cooperation with the Foreign Mission Department, the CEM holds a charity bazaar to help foreigners. They also go on evangelistic outreaches to Itaewon, Kangnam station, and Yonsei University. At the same time, they place English brochures introducing Choong Hyun in various Seoul hotels.

Thus far, about 200 foreigners from 32 countries have attended our services. For example, Mr. & Mrs. Einstein Lavina from the Philippines are the first foreign deacons in the English Ministry.

When worshipers return to their native countries, many continue maintain contact with CEM members so that spiritual fellowship is retained.

The hope and goal for the ministry is to support the missionary vision to those who come for worship. Acquiring language training for missions is very crucial. In order to provide English language training through the ministry, cooperation with other church departments is needed understanding mutual partnership. Mission volunteers will also benefit from realizing their visions in the English Ministry. Its doors are always open. Anyone can come and join the community of Christ's disciples. The CEM is the mission scene for today and tomorrow. I pray for the Lord's blessings on the English Ministry.

Missions in North Korea:

A Quenchless Flame

By Jung Sub Um



"I wish that the suffering North Korean refugees could attend the Choong Hyun church so that we can pray for them together." One early Sunday morning, I met Elder In Ja Cho in Rm. 301 at the Mission Center. He led a prayer meeting called the "North Korea Refugee Prayer and Mission" where his heart for North Korea is burning. He was involved with North Korea missions for the last 10 years and, recently, reaching out to North Korean refugees became the primary focus of his mission. The NKRPM prayer partners and Amen choir members gather every Tuesday at "Peace Church" located in Daeban-dong specially dedicated to reach the refugees. Three refugees, who reside in Seoul, were introduced to our church and are worshipping with us. The sudden death of Kim Il-sung in 1994 and severe floods since 1995 worsened the situation. The people of North Korea began to depart from their settlements in search for food in neighboring towns and cities. At present, it is estimated over 300,000 North Korean refugees are scattered in China, Russia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Mongolia. From 1995-1997, about 2,100,000 North Koreans are believed to have died from starvation. Numerous Korean missionaries are involved in helping these runaway refugees who are faced with hunger, harsh weather and covered with scars and wounds due to their suffering. Through these missionaries, many refugees are taken care of and find faith growing in them.

I asked what was the motivation for initiating this prayer meeting. Elder Cho said, "I am confident about the Biblical truth that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character, hope will provide a motivation for those refugees who came into faith in God after intense suffering and difficulties to committed and dedicated workers for world evangelization. We are not here to sympathize with their difficult situation; but we pray that they will grow in Christ as refined gold and be agents of expanding God's Kingdom. They have sufficient potential to do so." The ultimate goal of this prayer meeting is to assist the refugees in solving their basic needs and helping them become mature Christians so that they may return to North Korea and become fervent missionaries. Elder Cho believes looking after the poor and oppressed in faith. It is his sincere prayer that the Choong Hyun congregation will come to listen our Lord's calling to participate in this ministry.

Vietnam Mission Report:

Golden Banks for Evangelism



The short-term mission team to Vietnam visited various cities from Feb. 14-23. In the Communist nation, its population totals 78 million and, in the city of Ho Chi Minh alone, there are about six million people. During this mission trip, we were able to visit only a small number of places but were able to witness that underground churches are strong and healthy in the central and southern parts of the country. Enduring Communist rule and dictatorship, the churches here were giving Sunday worship services at 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. and we witnessed the power of the gospel from those who presided over the worship service.

Vietnam is currently taking a political stance in the spirit of cooperation with even those who were enemies of the Communist regime in line with hope for the future. They appear receptive to Christianity but they continue to be internally vigilant. Therefore, a creative and sincere approach is desired for evangelizing in Vietnam. The rapid wave of modernization has swept the cities and changes are constantly happening. However, there are many old temples called "Banter" in various city markets, houses and villages. These include Shamanistic wishes for prosperity, when combined with Buddhism, results in a heavy search for present blessings. It is high time to save the lost souls and lead them to salvation in Jesus Christ and His path of living. This is because when this country opens its doors wide open, it is possible that people will be focused on secular desires and worldly pleasures rather than on God.

There are 273 churches nationwide and about 40 recognized churches in Ho Chi Minh. We were told that, due to the lack of ordained ministers, some churches were forced to close. We actually saw a bible school closed down in Najang and what used to be the dormitory of this seminary is now used as a motel; seeing this made us feel sorry. We prayed that the bible school would be rebuilt soon. In contrast to the situation in the south, churches in the north are strictly controlled by the communists. They said only 15 churches are permitted to give services regularly. Our mission team discovered that Vietnam is an optimum place for mission research ministry. This is because of diverse factors existing in modern Vietnam: rapid economic growth; coexistence of old and new; a blend of socialism and capitalism; Shamanism and Buddhism; Catholic influence under French colonization and persecuted Christians in the midst of changes all add to this diversity. These contrasts call for the need to continue evangelism and missions. Our team prayed that there will be continuous efforts by the Choong Hyun church to reach the Vietnamese people.

Brother Dae Keun Park made up his mind to begin attending a church on Jan. 1, 1999. He then met Deacon Jin Kyu Lee of our church and he led brother Park to our church early last year. At first, Park merely participated in Sunday services without an intention to register as a member of our church. This was because he insisted that he was baptized when attending a Catholic school. After his graduation, however, he no longer attended Catholic services but continued his good deeds so that he would 'maintain' his salvation by balancing his moral scale. He would visit orphanages on a regular basis and participated in environmental protest rallies. He did his best to live a good life.

He started attending our church but his precepts and fixed ideas were difficult to change. However, for about seven months, he attended Sunday services and Bible studies and he found that there is truth in Jesus Christ so he committed to follow Jesus' teachings. Brother Park decided to convert to Christianity and,

A Meeting with the First Convert to Christianity in Year 2000

By Suk Jin Kim (Reporter)



therefore, to follow Christ's ways. He came to realize it is not good deeds or sound ethics that one can be saved but only through the blood of Jesus Christ. As

he found Jesus in his heart and accepted Him as his savior, he found joy and peace in his heart. So, brother Park volunteered to serve in the church and witness Jesus Christ in his life-by registering with the Police Evangelism Committee. He devoted himself to studying the Bible in second Adult Group and attending district meetings.

Overflowing joy of salvation in his heart drove him to witness his peace and love of Jesus to others. Now, brother Park has three new 'froits'-three new comers have registered through his evangelism to Choong Hyun church. This year, for brother Park, is a year to evangelize the lost souls. He is a taxi driver and the would greet all passengers with sincerity and love of Christ to witness Him. We are thankful that God had sent such a well-prepared soul as the first convert to our church. It is truly the grace of God that our brother Mr. Park, has the ability to share his faith given to him freely through Jesus Christ to those souls in the darkness.