

◆GOALS◆

Godly Worship Service
Raising Kingdom Workers
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)

Place of Publication: Choong Hyun Church
665-1 Yeoksam-dong Kangnam-gu Seoul, Korea TEL 02-552-8200 Ex. 350 FAX 563-3932

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

Reformation Week

Real Gospel and Word Peeled Out From Religion and Tradition

We must be very decisive to the truth just like 481 years ago

What was in Martin Luther's mind when he headed to Wittenberg University with 95 articles on indulgence in his hand? He was probably in a deep meditation on what apostle Paul said in Romans 1:17, "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" He was not hesitant to post 95 articles on the front door of the chapel. That was the moment that religious tradition was broken down in order to reveal the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Roman Catholic Church had a serious financial problem caused by corruption and compulsive construction of church buildings. The Catholic Church wanted to solve this problem by selling indulgences, certificates for the forgiveness of sins in the name of Pope. This was a great sin which stands against the truth that the forgiveness of sins can only be done by the blood of Jesus Christ. But most of priests and Christians did not do anything about this corruption except Martin Luther. Martin Luther read the Bible with his mind and heart as the Holy Spirit caused him to see the truth of salvation. He came to realize that the righteous will live by faith alone. Luther also pointed out the falsehood of the inerrancy of the Pope. Luther peeled off the false traditions of the Catholic Church to see the truth of our salvation at the risk of his life.

We need to have the same attitude as Martin Luther as we face the modern church. We must examine ourselves and see if we are clothed with any religious tradition that hinders us to live only by faith. Choong Hyun is a gospel-centered church and all the

ministries that we have in Choong Hyun are focus on the gospel.

All the people of Choong Hyun must wake up to remind the spirit of reformation to live a biblical life in Jesus Christ.

Fishers of People

Sunday School Groups Have Evangelism Activities Today

**The Three Junior High Groups will have a
joint meeting on Oct. 31**

Most Sunday school groups are busy for evangelism activities today including "inviting new friends," and "gathering all registered members." It is so blessing to see little kids from the kindergarten group, or the elementary school groups witnessing the gospel to their friends.

The three junior high groups will have a joint worship service on Oct. 31 (Sat.) from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.. This will be a night of Psalm and Praise with other programs like drama, poetry, orchestra, choir, solo, duets and quartets. Raising Kingdom workers is one of the five goals of our church.

We must continue to pray for the little ones of Choong Hyun so that they can be effective fishermen to win people's souls for the glory of God.

Choong Hyun Pastors Retreat from Oct. 26 to Oct. 28 at Choong Hyun Prayer Garden

The pastors of our church including the woman evangelists will have a fall retreat from October 26 to 28 at the Choong Hyun Prayer Garden. There will be seminars, prayer meetings, Bible studies, and many other spiritual activities. People of Choong Hyun must pray for the all the pastors, especially for the senior pastor and emeritus pastor, so that they can build a community that Jesus Christ wants to build as the church.

#6 Parish group had an Evangelism Celebration Many beautiful results were produced

#6 parish group had an evangelism celebration on Oct. 17 at Manna Hall. Manna Hall was packed with

more than 330 people. They celebrated the new believers who joined their community and cheered up for more evangelism. #6 parish group members prepared this celebration with the heart of God who waits for His lost people. #6 parish group members had a relay prayer schedule just for this activity for a long time. All the people of Choong Hyun must remember that the most important thing for us to do is to win lost souls for Christ.

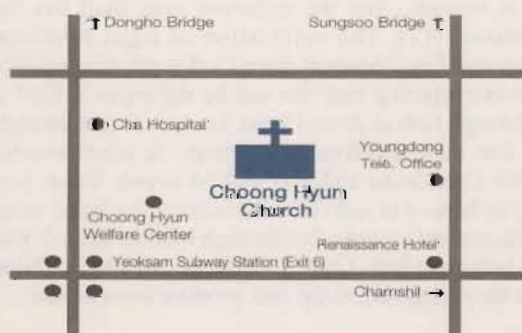
Army Evangelism Committee A cross tower is erected in front-line area

The army evangelism committee had a service to commemorate the completion of a cross tower in the front-line area of Yang-ku in Kangwon-do on Oct. 15. Our church supported the erection of this cross tower to shine the love and truth of Jesus Christ not just for the soldiers in the Korean armed forces but also for the people who see the light of the cross from North Korea.



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)



The Proud One

(Habakkuk 2:4)

Throughout the world most humans are born into a culture which stresses the concept of being proud of yourself. Whether from parents or school children, they learn at an early age to be themselves. They hear the phrase 'be proud of yourself' so many times that it is engraved deeply within their minds. In the English language the pronoun "I" is always capitalized. This is yet another reminder that "I" is so important. You are taught early on to have a vision and to look to the future so that you can be proud of yourself in your accomplishments. All this training produces a self-assured attitude. Just think of how often you congratulate people with "You did it!" or "You should be proud of yourself!"

Actually, this self-assured attitude has a deep downside. Today's Scripture passage reveals a great fault with pride. "Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith" (v. 4). Wow, what does this mean? Pride, the essence of sin, resides and swells in the human heart as it flaunts its lack of dependence on God. In contrast, the righteous who "live by faith" that is, in continued faithfulness, do so not by choice or external action but by an internal transformation of their desires.

What constitutes a proud person? A sinful individual who shifts ultimate confidence from God to self. The proud are very distinct from the righteous and humble. This distinction isn't always visible to us but it is without doubt quite visible to each individual and the Lord! If there's anyone and I do mean anyone who thinks they don't have a pride problem - let me say quite clearly - YOU DO! Everyone has a pride problem. There's not a single person in this congregation who doesn't struggle with pride. What's important for you to walk away with today is whether or not you live by faith or live by self.

Believe it or not, it is natural to be proud. We are born into pride and sometimes are raised in pride. We hear about, grow in, and practice its many varied forms. For example, appearance is a real pride getter. Think about how much time you put into fixing your hair and face, choosing and buying clothes. Here are two really popular ones - education and occupation! People truly take great pride in their education and occupation. They think that the more money you make or the higher degree you earn, the better. Knowledge for its own sake is a popular learning mode. And of course occupational success is the top winner. Pride makes you think that you've made it when you have reached the top ladder of your profession. Made what? The only thing that comes to mind is that those who spend so much time trying to reach the top have truly made a fool of themselves.

Until you've come to realize your purpose, life is meaningless. All your work is in vain. We should work for Him. His time is priceless and eternal and our time is numbered and spent. When we repent and humble ourselves before Him and accept His gracious gift of Jesus Christ our pride is broken. When we totally place our broken life in His hands, He transforms it so that we can come back to Him. God doesn't let the proud work for Him, only the broken and humble.

In every case pride displeases God. God opposes the proud (Prov. 3:34). Especially when it interferes with the sovereign liberty of His own grace. Pride always makes us rebel God. It makes us go against God. It makes us question His will and way. Let's look at Romans 9:20, "On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, 'Why did you make me like this,' will it?" If a potter can do what he wishes with his vessels, certainly God can with His. We always interfere. Even though we are the work of His hand, we always want to change something. How come?

Pride is always against good. It screams and betrays. The proud one does not seek light. Their heart is not upright. Their affection is perverted. They have a bias toward conceited views of self and they don't want to set it right. "The



By Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

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arrogance of your heart has deceived you. You who live in the clefts of the rock, in the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, Who will bring me down to earth?" (Obadiah 1:3). The very soul of man is put out by vanity. He will not endure the test of waiting (no patience). He will sin in his haste to be delivered. He will rush from God to other confidants. His life will show that he is not right with God. His willful ways boast that no one can change him. Oh, how sad...

Finally, pride discovers a serious opposition. One who is proud grows tired of the Gospel. He becomes adverse to the exercise of the faith which it requires. In other words, his pride makes him reject salvation by grace through faith in Jesus. He is too great to consider it. Why deny self? He is too wise to believe. Too good to need it. Too advanced in culture to endure it. Most of the objections to the revealed truth rise from a mind thrown out of balance by pride of intellect or pride of heart.

Pride shows itself in many ways, some visible and much invisible. So you act humble and modest but inside you know whether your actions are true. Others may not be able to see the darkness within but you can - you know. And so does Jesus! Jesus said to deny yourself and follow him. What He said is exactly what he did - without pride. He was a true servant of God. His desires were to do God's will not His own. Pride always brings the self to the surface but God's grace breaks the self. God's grace really changes believers. Most especially when His grace penetrates deep within through your denial of self. What beautiful things happen when believers believe. They become new creatures - new vessels through the blood of Jesus.

So, who is Sung Kim? Not himself but a new creature. "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Cor. 5:17). The grace of God not only justifies but also makes a new creation, which results in a changed style of life. Truly, truly if you are not born again you can't go to heaven. As Christians we pray for God to destroy us, especially our pride and to mold us and feed us as His instruments. A lot of people have difficulty here. They don't get the need for brokenness. Why should they be broken? It's got to hurt and after all they really aren't that bad. Wrong! Everyone is bad, really bad! Everyone needs to be broken and remolded (born-again). Let me say again that the essence of sin is pride and we are all born into sin through Adam. Without death to self, Jesus can't enter. The Holy Spirit has no room to work. You die in your sins because you've closed the only avenue for salvation.

As Christians our lives are meant to serve God in Christ. If you're living for your own pride, your own glory, remember who God is and why it is that He made you. You are His. If you harden the clay with pride, He can't mold you in His image. You can't become His servant. Let's pray that the Lord takes us from our time and places us in His eternal time. His time is forever - our time is temporary. Pride is faulty, betrays sad evils and opposes God. We have a way to break pride - through faith in Jesus Christ. He can make us God's beautiful instrument.

The Apostle Paul highlights today's message in Romans 1:17, "For in the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'But the righteous man shall live by faith'" (Romans 1:17). The restoration of right relations between man and God proceeds from God's gift through His Son. Paul is emphasizing that one can be righteous in God's sight only through faith in Jesus Christ. He who is just through faith shall live now and forever by faith. In other words, believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. When you have pride you believe in self. True life is not to be found in an arrogant, self-assured attitude, but through faith in God. If you are weak, believe God. God's choices, no matter how inexplicable they might be, in the end, produce what is best.

The Will

(Hebrews 9:16, 17)

"For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives." (Hebrews 9:16, 17)

A covenant is very much like a will. It doesn't take effect and the value of it isn't received unless the party who made it dies. There is no inheritance while the one who made the will lives. You can't receive possession of the fortune until its maker is dead. God made the kind of will that Christians have? Well, God made a covenant with mankind that whosoever believes in His Son shall inherit eternal life. Jesus made and fulfilled that will. His sinless life qualified Him to be the suitable sacrifice for sin but it was His death that made the payment for sin. So, through Jesus' death Christians receive an eternal inheritance - eternal life. Those who believe in Him have permanent eternity.

Let's explore the concept of a covenant a little bit further. When we look back to Genesis, it is through faith and obedience. There are many avenues of thought regarding the concept of covenant. As pertains to today's message, let's explore the sacrificial and ceremonial elements. In the Old Testament to Genesis 15:10-18 and Jeremiah 34:18 we see the ancient method of ratifying a covenant through sacrifice. In the former verse, a covenant that was to bring great blessing to humanity was made by God to Abraham through sacrificial ritual. In the latter verse a variation of the same pattern is seen again. The animals are to be cut in half representing the idea that may the same be done to the one who breaks this covenant.

Life has to be sacrificed in order for the will to be effective. Already in the Old Testament we find the promise of a new covenant, "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their father in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity and their sin I will remember no more" (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

God initiated, determined the elements, and confirmed His covenant with humanity. Persons are recipients, not contributors; they are not expected to offer elements to the bond; they are called to accept it as offered, to keep it as demanded, and to receive the results that God, by oath, assures will not be withheld.

This future new covenant was necessary because the first covenant had been broken. There needed to be a change for the future - there needed to be a better covenant (Hebrews

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8:6-12). Who could mediate such a new covenant? The answer is Jesus Christ. "The Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me. In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me'" (1 Corinthians 11:23-25). These are the words spoken by the maker and mediator of our covenant will.

These are God's Words - God's Order for the new covenant. This is the ceremonial communion that we are to partake in until Christ's return. People didn't make this ceremony and people most certainly didn't plan it, nor plan to receive the results that God made this holy ceremony for our benefit. Those who don't take Holy Communion seriously are committing a sinful act because it is a direct insult to God our Creator. He created this world and it is run by His order. Our job is to follow His procedures - to respect His command - to give thanks and praise for His undeserved loving and merciful kindness. When we take comfort and grace through Holy Communion, His will is effected. He commands us to eat the bread (which represents His body) and to drink the cup (which represents His blood) in remembrance of Him. This command obviously isn't for non-Christians but it is for every Christian - every Christian! Everybody who believes in Christ must partake because of their sin.

We must understand the vital significance of Holy Communion. This ceremony is God's Word - His Truth. The bread, wine, and God's truth combine to form the very heart of this ceremony. That's why we call it Holy Communion. Unlike any other connection we have with God, this connection, this communion is not found in any other combination. Holy communion is a special time and necessary time for all believers. It unifies us as a people that belong to God.

Because Holy Communion focuses us to look back on Christ's life and death and look forward to His Second Coming. This act, in and of itself, influences the seriousness of our commitment and responsibilities to Him. Everybody kneels down in confession and fear of the Lord. We examine ourselves to make sure that there is no unconfessed sin before we humbly accept and take the bread and cup. In accepting the bread and cup everybody proclaims that this is His body and blood. We believe in His promise.

Everybody who partakes in Holy Communion says that this is the Word of Christ- this is His Word. The New Testament means Word of Christ. This is His word - He said I forgive sin. He said that He died for your sin. He paid for your sin with His life. You are His. Everybody who shares in Holy Communion does so in faith. You believe in the Word of God - you believe in the Gospel. Let's come together in His love and jointly participate in receiving His blessing upon us.

In order to keep up with the terrific pace of modern life, we need, at times, some delightful break to recharge. First of all, we ought to praise the Lord for being able to say this without vanity or hesitation today: Of our two needs, rest and food, the former is more urgent than the latter. There seems to be little need to repeat our hungry forefathers' prayer to their own dear respective tutelary gods, "Let me be neither rich nor poor, but give me only as much food as I take now on Choseok."

What we want is, as a matter of fact, a change. We need a mental recharge. We now hunger for a complete change, a change of scene before everything, and no need to think about anything in the least for a few days. We badly need some quiet place far from the crowds and the noisy world of economics and politics and nukes as well.

I know well that kind of place we have in mind. Surely it is not, however, a cowardly escape from reality, but merely a short recreational trip.

I am one of those who have their ancestral homes in North Korea. I came to Seoul right after the 1945 liberation of Korea on the fifteenth of

A Choseok Picnic (part 1 of 2)

One Christian's Choseok

by Hag-gi Kim (Elder, retired professor of Korean Bible University)

August. So with neither home nor ancestors' graves to visit, I have never had to make such a mad fuss about going home on the annual occasions of Choseok and the Lunar New Year. Instead, on Choseok day, I have often set off for a couple of nights' outing, carrying a knapsack with a sleeping bag and a wash-hand outfit in it.

I usually take the train for Chunchon at Chongnyang-ni railroad station, getting off at the sixth station. It is Chongpyong. Then I set out again for a hike toward the Chongpyong Dam. It is about an hour's walk.

Arriving on the splendid autumn afternoon at my favorite glade in the dale of the yellowish green turf, I lie down, buckle myself to the knees into my sack and pull my cap over my eyes to enjoy a most peaceful afternoon's nap until the most glorious harvest moon begins to dance on the ripples of the lake. Then I jump to my feet and set out to take a careful walk slowly

down to the lake along the steep, rugged, winding, tree-shaded valley lane. There is nothing but the blessed deep silence of the backwoods. Now and again in the turf at my feet are some crickets chirping, which merely adds to the stillness reigning all around. I could hardly imagine anything more wonderful than the fact that I was there to ramble in the glorious moonlight of another Choseok night!

In the meantime, with the night far advanced, the church bell peals out. The distant sound of the bell is heard ringing over the valleys and woods and lakes and fields far away down the dam-bridge. To be exact, it is not the church bell, but the prayer-house bell. There is a prayer-house on the steep hillside in the valley where my favorite glade is. The bell is the call to midnight prayer.

I sometimes feel an irresistible yearning for that sweet and welcome

sound. I like hearing the sound of the church bell. I used to love to give ear to that deep-toned bell ringing out melodiously, ding, dong, ding, dong ... How much I miss those solemn, melodious peals ringing out from the steeple ever since they were hushed out by the hysterically importunate demand of some liberal moderns!

At the muffled sound of the distant bell, I come ashore and make my way back to the encampment in the glade. My open bed-chamber is within several minutes' walk of the main hall of the prayer-house. Thus, I can hear the peal of the loud voices raised to God in prayer until well past midnight.

Upon the sound of the prayer-house bell dying away into the air, there comes another bell to my ears. This time it is far more deep-toned. It peals out from the small Buddhist fane perched at the head of a narrow, deep valley. This muffled sound of the distant heavy bell tolls for the death of another day.

I have not the slightest idea of what it is that moves my heart to such a mood, but my copious tears fall incessantly in blissful, deep gratitude to Providence.

Letter from Kenya

The Zion International Children's Programme Children Suffering in Kenya

by Reverend Julius Mungania
(director of the Zion International Children's Programme)

The districts of Tharaka and Nyambene, both in an eastern province of Kenya, have been fighting since 1992 due to political instigation and so far, 6,000 families have been displaced, over 2,000 people have been killed, and over 2,000 children left as orphans.

The area is dry, hot, and sand covered where people are pastoralists. All the animals were stolen during the fight leaving the entire population of over 200,000 people homeless, without food, medical service, or any form of livelihood.

The Zion International Children's Programme is a local programme which has been providing humanitarian assistance to the displaced families and orphaned children. As the Director, I got a chance to travel to South Korea in August to discuss with well wishers and those who love humanity in difficulties for help.

By the grace of God, I was able to attend an English Sunday Service at Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church where I met Intern Pastor Paul Lee with whom I shared the problems of the Kenyan children.

The children, currently numbering 2,000, have no shelter, no food, and no access to medical care and education. The roads are impassible during the rains and even though there is one health clinic, there are no drugs at all. A recent malaria and cholera outbreak

has killed over 200 people and 24 orphaned children.

The local community which has been experiencing drought and famine has been donating some of the scarce food that they have though this is very difficult because 80% of the Kenyan population lives below the poverty line. The other 20% is in control of the economy. The child mortality rate is close to 70%. The primary school dropout rate is 70% in the rural areas due to the poverty and the fact that education is very expensive in Kenya. There are 5,000 malnutrition cases of children below six years of age reported every year while most of the population suffers from general malnutrition. Furthermore, the majority of Kenyans are illiterate.

The Zion International Children's Programme, a local project assisting orphaned children and displaced families is requesting the members of Choong Hyun Church in Korea to donate food, second hand clothes, medicine and funds to build a Children's Center. Your kind donation will go a long way in helping children now exposed to risk of cold, malnutrition, and many other ailments.

Thank you, looking forward to your help.

Your brothers in Christ,
Reverend Julius Mungania
Director

The Kingdom of Morocco

Resistance to the Church

The Atmosphere of Morocco

Morocco is located in the northwest corner of Africa surrounded by fertile coastal areas, barren Atlas mountains inland and Sahara Desert to the south and the southeast. 65% of the people are literate in the official language of Arabic. Three main languages including Tachelhait, Tamasight, and Tarafit are also spoken among 35% of the people. The economy is dependent upon agriculture, tourism, and especially phosphate mining that are important foreign exchange earners. Morocco and the Western Sahara have 70% of the world's phosphate reserves.

Religions of Morocco

Islam (99.8%) is the state religion of Morocco. The government is committed to the preservation of Islam as the religion of all Moroccans. Other religious groups including Jews (0.05%) and Christians (0.16%) are tolerated so long as they confine their ministry to expatriate communities. The decline of Christianity is about 4.7% but Protestants are growing at 3.9%. So The Christian population is about one thousand.

Prayer for Morocco

1. Pride in Morocco's glorious past as a centre of civilization and Islamic learning and prejudice against the truths of Scripture are barriers to the acceptance of the



gospel. Pray for individual hearts to be opened for messengers of the Cross.

2. The government refuses to recognize the legality, or even the existence, of an indigenous Moroccan Church. Pray for the king and those in authority, and for a radical change of the situation that will give greater freedom and legal recognition to Christians.

3. It is hard for leaders to be trained and openly recognized in the hostile environment. Those who obtain training abroad rarely return for ministry in Morocco. Pray that there may be God-given, Spirit-gifted leadership for every group of believers.

4. There are over 150 Christian workers whose ministry is directed towards Moroccans. Pray that the way can be opened for other Christians to enter to replace the many who have had to leave. (from Patrick Johnstone's *Operation World*, 5th edition)