

◆GOALS◆

Godly Worship Service
Raising Kingdom Workers
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing 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)

Place of Publication : Choong Hyun Church
665-1 Yeoksam Dong, Kangnam Ku, Seoul Korea (☎ (02) 552-8200)

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

May - Family Month Love of Christ in Hearts of Parents and Children True Spirituality Begins at Home



their parents in the Lord, because it is the first commandment with a promise. The Bible also commands parents not to exasperate their children. Instead, bring the children up according to the training and instruction of the Lord. Children are not the possession of parents, but they are a gift from the Lord. Therefore, parents must be good stewards and stewardesses of these precious lives which came from God. Parents provide a way to show the love of God to their children - unconditional love.

May is the month to celebrate family. We must meditate on the importance of family. Family worship services are one of the best ways to bring the family together as one. Through home worship services, children will be brought up according to the instruction of the Lord. Furthermore, parents will also be encouraged by the prayers of their children. The love of Christ in the hearts of parents and children is what we need. In order to bring true revival in the church and society, the family must be revived. Let the family be the place where the children and the parents get mutually encouraged.

Today is Parent's Day. Last Sunday was Children's Day. Let us remind ourselves of the unconditional love that we received from our parents and promise ourselves before the Lord that we will honor and obey them.

The Bible talks about the importance of family. "Family" started from the beginning of world when God created male and female and ordered them to multiply. Therefore, having a family is not an option, but a mandate of our Creator God. But what is the Christian family supposed to be like? This is a very crucial question for us to think about in modern society. Families are breaking down; so too, is society. For the family is the smallest molecule of society.

Korean families are breaking down fast as we face the hardest and the darkest time of the IMF era. Numerous children and parents are taking their own lives. The children do not trust their parents anymore and the parents who have lost their jobs do not get any encouragement from their families. The Bible commands children to obey

35th Annual Prayer Conference for Pastors and Elders Throughout Korea May 11-14 at Choong Hyun Church

Prayer conference for pastors and elders throughout Korea is held in May each year. This year's conference will be held from tomorrow, the 11th through Thursday, the 14th at Choong Hyun Church. The expected attendance is more than 4000. All the members of Choong Hyun must pray for the pastors and elders of our

denomination who are taking a big part in leading the Korean Church so that they may be able to humble themselves before the Lord and give sincere prayers for the church and the nation. Let this annual prayer conference be the place they can revive their passion and love for the kingdom of God.

Confirmation of Short Term Mission Trip

The schedules and the list of names for short term missions has been approved by the session on May 6.

This was prepared by the mission committee in conjunction with the high school, college, and young adult groups. There are eight different teams which will be sent to Sudan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Mongolia, and China. The earnest prayer and concern of the church as a whole is desperately required, especially in the process of preparing to go. Let them have a united heart in Christ through brotherly and sisterly love.

The church will also have to pray for those people who have not been selected for this year's mission teams so that they will not be discouraged from considering missions in the future. The more specific schedules and the list will be posted on the next *Bi-weekly*.

Communion Service Held Last Sunday First Through Fifth Service

Communion service was held last Sunday during the first through fifth worship services. The people were so blessed by uniting with Christ through eating and drinking the bread and the wine. The people were so discouraged emotionally and spiritually as they face this economic crisis.

Through the communion, people could refocus their eyes on Jesus and find a renewed hope in his expiatory death. We are the followers of Christ who ought to sacrifice our lives to serve other people. We have the words of encouragement for others because of Christ who lives in our hearts.

Pastoral Staff Retreat Full of Unity, Thankfulness and Devotion

The semi-annual pastoral staff retreat was held from April 27 to 29 at the Choong Hyun Prayer Garden. The purpose of this pastoral staff retreat was to experience the oneness in Christ so that their services and hardships would be more effective. On the afternoon of the first day, there was a time for intercessory prayer for others. There were special lectures by Senior Pastor Sung Kwan Kim and Emeritus Pastor Chang In Kim on the two evenings. These lectures were followed by more times of intercessory prayer for the country and the church. There was also a time to read the Bible and a number of seminars to study the Word of God. They also had time for group activities. All the programs during the pastoral staff retreat were filled with love and joy. A few elders of the church provided food through the hand of their love for the church and the members of the Choong Hyun Prayer Garden provided sincere service for the pastoral staff. All the people came together with one mind to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice

Our brothers and sisters who were adopted to foreign countries are visiting their mother country in order to search out their roots. Our church wants to help these adopted people so that they can experience Korean culture and home life. Our church wants them to have pride as Koreans and to be able to live their lives positively. The church is looking for places where these adopted people can sleep overnight.

The Invitation Dates

1998 July 4 (Sat) 2:00 PM
- 1998 July 5 (Sun) 2:00 PM

How Can I Become a Host?

Call the Mission Committee at 552-8200 extension 356 (Mission Center Room 406) as soon as possible.

Message 1 by Reverend Sung Kwan Kim



The Night of Jehovah

(Exodus 12:42)

Although Christians know that God is ever present in all places, all powerful, and all knowing; a lot of people still have a tendency to think that nighttime is bad because it is filled with darkness. Probably, this conclusion is reached from the knowledge that Jesus is the light of the world and day is light and night is dark.

However, today's Bible message clearly shows us that God's light continues to shine from morning through evening, twenty-four hours a day, everyday, always and forever. Not only that, but this particular night, the night of Passover, is indeed the night of Jehovah! For it is the night that our Lord God redeems His people in fulfillment of His great plan of salvation for mankind. It is a night filled with grace beyond our imagination!

Observe the striking words of the text: it is a night to be observed for the Lord for having brought them out from the land of Egypt; this night is for the Lord, to be observed by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations. It was this night in which God specially appeared and called on the heart of Israel.

The time of visitation was midnight, when all were wrapped in their deepest slumber and not withstanding the warning which had been given. It was a busy night filled with dreams. There were none so high that God's hand did not reach them and none so low that they were overlooked.

It was Israel's happiest moment and at the same time the world's saddest. After the anguish of nine natural plagues, the tenth proved to be purely supernatural. The night of Jehovah was the experience of redemption for Israel and death for all firstborn of man and beast who did not have the blood of the lamb upon their entrance doors. Only those who believed in Jehovah and thus obeyed His instructions would be released from His judgment.

Jehovah blended His mercy with warnings and then withdrawal. There was no opportunity or second chance

at midnight. The world would be surprised with its false security. There was nothing to protect them from the hopeless sorrow they would encounter. Their grief would not be able to bring back their dead. The judgment that night was final, there was no place for repentance.

After the night of Jehovah, the Lord gave Israel favor in the sight of the Egyptians. The Egyptians gave the Israelites all their treasures. So not only would they experience the death of their firstborn but also a total loss of battle (cf. Isa. 60:5-17).

there was no home where someone had not died. Every Egyptian household felt the pain of death. Every Israelite household felt the joy of life. As such, God required Israel to sanctify to Him all firstborn males of both man and beast (Ex. 13:2). It was understood that this dedication meant that they now belonged to God. This sacrifice made known the seriousness of the instituted Passover.

The completeness of victory in the night of Jehovah is expressed in Pharaoh's submission. Though Pharaoh manufactured rationalizations

training prepared their hearts for obedience. The Egyptians, on the other hand, placed their power and hope in other gods. The night of Jehovah was a night in which God executed His judgments against all the gods of Egypt to declare "I am the Lord" (Ex. 12:12). The hand that smote Jehovah was smote with His own hand.

The night of Jehovah is the heart of God's grace which serves as a beautiful illustration of the redemption Christ accomplished at Golgotha. Jesus suffered and died on the cross once for all sin.

He died for you. He was the begotten Son of God who was sacrificed for the world. Christ is our Passover lamb (1 Cor. 5:7)! For every soul deserves condemnation but those in Christ are forgiven, sanctified, and justified by His love.

It was love - obedient faithfulness - not the nails, which kept Jesus on the cross. God's grace is what that singular moment in history at Golgotha is all about! Unlike the Israelites of old, we have a better covenant. We have the eternal Lamb of God - Jesus Christ. What they anticipated, we received! What was prophesied was totally fulfilled in Christ.

The night of Jehovah represents God's one great plan of salvation that we now find in Jesus Christ. Jesus' precious blood protects us from death and provides us with eternal life. Through our faith and obedience in Him, we experience the power of the blood. Today, as it was on the night of Jehovah, there is no second chance, no time for repentance, when death calls or the Lord returns.

As we go through this holy week in remembrance of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection, let us recall the night of Jehovah and His merciful love for His people. Let us celebrate the Lord's Supper in the new covenant in much the same way that Israel celebrated the Passover in the old covenant. Let us open our hearts to God's grace and praise Him eternally. Amen.

God's glory was made known to both Israel and Egypt. The distinction between Egypt (non-believers) and Israel (believers) was visible.

During Israel's long captivity, they placed their only hope in God. God made them the perfect slaves.

Their 430 years of discipline and training prepared their hearts for obedience.

You see, Israel had experienced terrible suffering and painful lives as slaves to the Egyptians for over 430 years. They had no right to possess home, freedom, happiness, enjoyment, worship of God, or anything else. But this night Israel received their many possessions as the proof of God's faithfulness to Abraham. That night, God's faithful eyes also fulfilled the prophecy of judging the nation who held Israel captive (cf. Gen. 15:13-14). God's faithful eyes were keeping His promise to Abraham.

When we look at the victims of the firstborn of man and beast, we see that

for the other plagues, he could not reason away the trauma of the death of his own son. He called for Moses and Aaron that night and gave them permission to go, this time without insisting on any concessions. Indeed, Pharaoh, who was thought to be divine, asked Moses to bless him (Ex. 12:30-32).

Wow! God's glory was made known to both Israel and Egypt. The distinction between Egypt (non-believers) and Israel (believers) was visible. During Israel's long captivity, they placed their only hope in God. God made them the perfect slaves. Their 430 years of discipline and

Message 2 by Reverend Sung Kwan Kim

Defense of Peter

(Acts 4:5-12)

Jesus Christ is the only name that brings salvation!
That proclamation is eternal life,
Jesus' name has all authority and all power.

There are a lot of names in the world today which people view as important. Depending upon your religious, political, economical and cultural outlook, these names will vary. Usually, people with authority are shown more social respect, i.e., your parents, employer, president, pastor, and so on. Do not misunderstand. Although Christians respect all human beings as important, there is a special element of respect due to these people because of their leadership position, and rightly so because their authority gives them a higher power. They are not, in any way, more important than any other human being, it is just that their position requires special respect in order to be effective. However, do you know that there is only one name under heaven that is all important to you?

The apostle Peter answers this question with a very strong and clear conviction. After healing a forty-year old man, who was lame from birth, an amazed crowd gathered around Peter and John in the Temple. Remember that this is the same crowd who witnessed the miracles and teachings of Jesus. They were looking at Peter and John as the one who actually healed the man. Peter quickly discerned the situation and confronted the crowd. He spoke out the truth and began preaching the Gospel message. About five thousand men believed and were saved that day!

As they were still speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees (people with authority) put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. They were upset because Peter and John were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. The Sadducees hated the idea of the resurrection that the apostles were preaching (cf. Mt. 22:23).

On the next day, all who were of high-priestly descent gathered to put Peter and John on trial (vs. 5-6). They placed them in the center and began to inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?" (v. 7). They were questioning Peter and John's healing of the lame man as a

crime. Peter and John were being persecuted because of a good deed. Take a moment to imagine yourself as helping someone for good and the police arrest you. Think about what kind of defense you would have.

Peter stood up among the mighty powers that surrounded him and filled with the Holy Spirit, he said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead - by this name this man stands here before you in good health" (vs. 8-10).

Wow! For those of you who are not familiar with Peter (as well you should be), he was the one who denied knowing Christ three times. He was a cowardly uneducated fisherman, and the one whom Jesus rebuked as acting for Satan. Yet here, we see a bold man standing up with wisdom and addressing the powers that be with perfect respect, extreme gentleness and tender love. He does not point an accusatory finger. His defense actually puts his hearers on trial. He calls attention to the fact that the miracle was a good deed, not a crime and that it was performed by the power of Jesus whom they had crucified.

The high priests knew what Peter was talking about. They had the opportunity to witness both sides. Peter connects the miracle of the lame man with the divine power that is present and connected only in the name and authority of Jesus Christ. He clearly announces to them Christ's fulfillment of Scripture when he recites Psalm 118:22 saying, "He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone" (v. 11). Jesus' rejection was predicted in the Old Testament, and He himself quoted this passage to make its importance known (cf. Mt. 21:42). Peter uses it to remind the high authority that its fulfillment happened in their presence! They experienced firsthand the before and after of Christ's power.

Peter's closing statement is the lightning and thunder of his whole defense: "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (v. 12). Yes, here is the answer to our question! Peter proclaims the Spirit of truth: Jesus Christ is the only name that brings salvation! That proclamation is eternal life. Jesus' name has all authority and all power. Peter warns about the Spirit of truth: there is no other name. Plain and simple: without Jesus, you die. Peter invites all people into the Spirit of truth: we must be saved through Jesus Christ.

People who hear the gospel and respond positively, call upon Jesus' name for salvation, put their faith in Jesus' name, are then justified and forgiven in Jesus' name, and are then baptized into Jesus' name. Having then, life in His name, believers are to glorify the name of Jesus and give thanks for and do everything in the name of Jesus. Jesus' divine name represents all who Jesus is as Lord and Savior. Now, can you think of any other name which is more important to you? Can you think of any other name that calls you to come with all your heavy burdens and promises to give you rest?

You have to live your life in Jesus' name! There is no other name that deserves your highest respect, obedience and faith. There is no other name that exists which holds the

promise and power of salvation. Jesus Christ is the only name that saves you from eternal damnation and brings to you eternal life. Jesus' holy name is the most important name to personally know, accept, and obey.

Peter's proclamation, warning, and invitation calls us to meet the resurrected Jesus Christ. He is alive. His name - only His name - is of true importance to the world. He has all power and authority. Eternal life, the complete victory, is in His name! I hope that the Choong Hyun congregation knows that there is only one name under heaven which is all important. I hope you know that Jesus' name is the only name which brings salvation to you. Your family, friends, work associates, teachers, president and pastor cannot save you from death. Only one name can do that and I hope today you believe that name is Jesus Christ!

The crowd and the high priests had all witnessed the miracle of the lame man. They had clear evidence. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, told them in the Spirit of truth in what name and power this happened. Jesus promised to give us (believers in His name) the power of the Holy Spirit. So that in His Spirit we can find God's secret - which is Jesus Christ. Over every single name in this world, over all names, we must know that the divine name of Jesus Christ will indeed make every knee bow to him and every tongue confess that He is Lord. He is the Lamb of God. Amen.



Mission Briefing : The Republic of Benin

Gospel Penetrating into Benin

Benin is a country slightly larger than South Korea and slightly smaller than North Korea, with 113,000 square kilometers. It is a long, narrow country wedged between Nigeria and Togo. The total population of Benin was about 5.6 million as of 1995. About 70% of the population lives in the south, closer to the ocean than the desert. They have two capitals: Porto Novo with a population of 188,000, and Cotonou with a population of 501,000.

The people are about 28% literate in the official French language. They do have two other languages of commerce: Fon in the South and Dendi in the North. Altogether, they have 52 languages of which only five have complete Bible translations, eight have New Testaments, and another four have portions translated.

The people live by subsistence farming. They are underdeveloped, highly resembling the stagnation of the Marxist economy of Nigeria, but they are changing to a free-market economy. The per capita income of a person in Benin is about two percent of a person in the United States.

Benin gained its independence from France in 1960. There were many coups after independence. Marxism came to power until the ultimate collapse of Communism in 1990.

This led to the first multi-party elections in March 1991. Benin saw the first democratic head of state on the mainland of Africa.

Marxism was not harsh in its view of Christianity in Benin, but it did lead to uncertainty which restricted evangelism. Now, there is complete religious freedom in Benin. Most of the people follow tribal religions, 17% are Muslim and 28% are Christian. Among the Christians, 4% are Protestant and 22% are Roman Catholic.

God has been working significant changes in Benin since the 1980's when the country was liberated from Marxism and the church has seen rapid growth since 1987. Pray for a new civil government which is not concerned with its own welfare before that of the people. Church growth in Benin has been a relatively new phenomenon. Pray for more leaders with greater maturity and vision. Pray for the vision to reach all unreached people groups in Benin.

(Patrick Johnstone's *Operation World* 5th edition, 1993)



Part 1 of 3

Prayer of an Elder

Hag-Gi Kim (Elder, Retired Professor)

Lord, God, You are great, and we honor You, adore You, and praise You, with our whole hearts. You are faithful to Your covenant and show unfailing love and affection to those who love You and do what You command.

Lord Christ, we thank You so much for filling our hearts with unselfish heartfelt happiness, our hands with plenty of things we need in our daily lives, our souls with unwavering faith and devotion, and our homes with everlasting domestic peace!

O Lord, we Korean people do not deserve redemption. We have lived our superstitious, squalid and wretched lives for more than fifty centuries on this peninsula without the true God. People in the remote mountainous countryside devoutly worshiped their sundry guardian evil spirits, kneeling down in prayer for blessings and fortunes all in vain on the floor of shabby village shrines or on the flat stone in front of a dark huge rock. Those living by the sea used to make sacrifices to the Dragon King, dancing madly to the clamorous music of gongs and hour-glass drums, who was firmly believed to live in the Dragon King's Palace so far away down at the bottom of the deep ocean and reign over their life and death, good and evil. Those villagers who were somewhat better-off in the plains would sacrifice a boiled hog's head to their guardian evil spirits under the old gigantic trees in the open field among their rice paddies or barley fields. But most of our forefathers were so poor that they could not afford to sacrifice anything to their idols. So they used to kneel down on their soy-jar terraces at the back of their grass huts. So with a bowl of fresh cold water on their tiny, round or rectangular dining-table, they used to kneel down in earnest prayer rubbing their hands together for a rich harvest, good fishing, a bumper rice crop, or any other blessings and good fortunes on the soy-jar terraces behind their thatched huts or in front of the dark huge rocks on the hillside close to their villages. (Prayer continues in next edition ...)

A Wonderful Thought of Choong Hyun

My Mother, My Hero

Samuel Park (Pastor of 7th Graders and Assistant Director of Choong Hyun Publishing)



My mother received a death sentence from her doctor because of her lung cancer during the Korean war. The day that she heard the death sentence from the doctor, and on the way home from the hospital, she had a desire to go to the church that she had attended once before when she was young. My mother had a hard time to convince her sisters, but she could get to the church as she said, "It is my last wish." She stayed at church for a week and she met Jesus Christ in her vision. It is an unforgettable spiritual experience. The Lord Jesus who met my mother healed her lung cancer completely and He commissioned her to spread the gospel. My mother is now 70 years old, but she continues to give sincere service and devotion for the body of Christ with good health. On this Parent's Day, the numerous memories of my mother pass through my heart.

I was a third grader in elementary school. My homeroom teacher asked me to bring two watermelons on Children's Day. It was early in May, 23 years ago, so that it was very hard to carry two watermelons. It was also hard to carry two watermelons for a third grader. Concerning these circumstances, it is sure that my

homeroom teacher told me to get two watermelons as a joke. Anyway, I asked my mother who was busy in preparing breakfast that I have to get two watermelons. My mother smiled and said, "Your teacher was kidding. You can go to school without watermelons." I asked one or two more times, and then walked brokenheartedly to school.

I heard someone running down to me while calling out my name. I was about to enter a marketplace in order to get to my school. I turned my head and saw my mother running, still wearing her apron and white rubber shoes. My mother never stopped praying overnight and gave daybreak worship service in order to carry on the mission that she received from Jesus. She had to endure the

persecutions and hardships which continues as a daughter-in-law and a wife in a non-Christian family. She bore four sisters and two brothers and was busy taking care of us. On that morning, she was tired and burned out as she prepared lunch boxes for six children, but she could not get rid of my downhearted appearance. And she ran down to me. She pulled out money from her secret pocket and bought me two watermelons. I carried these watermelons for a while. Then I turned my head saw my mother standing there still and watching me. I could still remember my mother as clear as the sky is blue and the way she looked at me. The look which only a beloved mother can give to a beloved child. I can not forget the smile of my homeroom teacher as I

walked into the classroom with two heavy watermelons.

We call someone who gives his or her life at once for others a hero, and we call someone who gives every bit of her life moment by moment throughout the lifetime, "Mother." Evangelist Ock Hee Kim ... she is our mother of six children. She is our hero who sacrificed her whole life for the faith and the blessings of her children. Evangelist Ock Hee Kim ... she is the one who endured inexpressible persecutions and hardships by faith and led the entire Park family to salvation. She is the one who prays as she wakes up early in the morning for the faith and the blessings of her children. She is our mother and our hero.

Every time I face a time of hardship and trouble, going through a dark tunnel of my life, I recall my mother's love in order to feel the love of God. "If earthly mother can love me this much, how much more my Heavenly Father would love me?" This gives me strength to recover. My four older sisters and one younger brother and I already received the greatest blessings from God, for we have Evangelist Ock Hee Kim, a giant of faith, as our mother. Mother, thank you very much. And we love you so much.