

◆ GOALS ◆

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

The Biweekly Choong Hyun

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

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

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Choong Hyun Celebrated 45th Anniversary of Foundation of Church Last Sunday

Let Jesus Christ Alone Be Exalted

Communion Service Was Held

Hallelujah Choir Performed Praise of Celebration at Afternoon Service



Forty five years have passed already. From the first week of Choong Hyun Church, godly worship service, authentic word of God and prayer, evangelism and social services, and raising Kingdom workers were the purposes that drove the church. Choong Hyun Church became a representative church of conservatism based on reformed theology. Our church started with eighteen people. Now, our church has a registered membership of over 20,000 people who are gathered every Sunday to worship the Lord. But this success was not without pain. There were times of hardships and trials and crisis. But by the grace of God, we overcame these difficulties and became a beautiful, biblical community.

Especially, we celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of Emeritus Pastor Chang In Kim's ministry. Reverend Sung Kwan Kim came to our church as the Senior Pastor as the result of the prayer of Choong Hyun Church as a whole. Reverend Sung Kwan Kim proclaimed at his installation service that he will preach only the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ever since, the pulpit of our church stands firmly on christocentric preaching. Reverend Sung Kwan Kim continues to pursue after the five major goals of our church set by Emeritus Pastor Chang In Kim - that is godly worship service, raising Kingdom workers, evangelizing Korea, world mission, and social services in the local community.

Reverend Sung Kwan Kim wanted to avoid the unbiblical traditions that have been established in the past forty five years in order to exalt Jesus alone in our church.

More than 1400 young people are gathered at the fifth worship service. Choong Hyun Church wants to raise these young people as a mighty instrument of God for world mission. Choong Hyun sent seven short term mission teams this summer and forty seven evangelism teams to remote farming and fishing villages throughout Korea. Godly worship service is

the fuel for evangelism and world mission. Our church is now newly established to start a new era of God's blessing.

We had communion service during the first through fifth service including the English Worship Service in order to remember the Lord Jesus who died for us to bring a great revival in Choong Hyun Church. Hallelujah Choir performed gracious praises to celebrate the forty fifth anniversary of the church. The whole congregation joined with the choir and sang the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God, with heart and hand and voices, who wondrous things hath done ..."

All the saints of Choong Hyun expect great things from God in the future and will attempt great things for God in the next half century.

Short Term Missionaries among the Laity Are in Training

Now Accepting Applications

Training for short term missionaries from among the laity of our church started yesterday, September 12. The training will be held at five o'clock in the evening every Saturday at the International Meeting Hall on the fifth floor of the Mission Center Building. There will be a number of lectures by the pastors of our church. Reverend Seung Soo Lee will be in charge of this training. There will be eleven courses including biblical missiology. There will also be language training for English, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, and Chinese. The mission committee of our church expects many people of Choong Hyun, especially the young people, to participate in this program. For information on application, contact the mission committee at extension 356, Miss Jinkyung Shin.

Opening of 1998 Short Term Mission Photo Exhibition

The photo exhibition of the 1998 short term missions began September 6 in the first basement of the main sanctuary building. There are seven different short term mission team photographs with detailed explanations. We can share the wonderful things that God has performed through short term mission teams by participating in the exhibition. Many thanks to short term mission team members who did not hesitate to spare time and effort to prepare all these photos in their busy schedules. The first basement of the main sanctuary building has no specialized lighting system or artistic walls, but each and every word and each photo contains the prayer, sweat, and love for the lost souls. Your prayer for world mission will be more effective as you share the reality of the mission field.

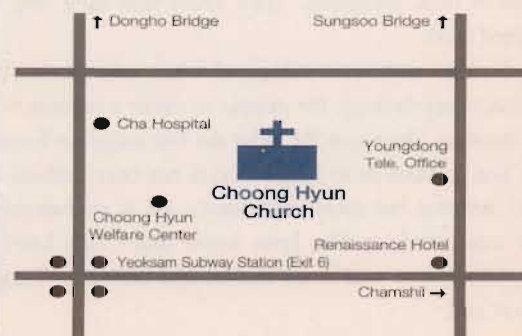
Notice

Use Public Transportation Rather Than Personal Cars

From today, September 13, it will be impossible to use the parking lot on the west side of the church at the "Jang-Ahn" parking lot because of construction to make a neighborhood park. Those people who have to bring their car and park them until the end of the praise service in the evening should use the third and fourth basements of the second educational building. Space for about a hundred cars will be lost to make space for parks.

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 Only Hope

(Lamentation 5:19-22)

As you step inside the grieving heart of Jeremiah, you will discover the only hope of life. This is not some academic or abstract matter - this message is vitally important for you and you must listen with the whole of your being because this really is going to help you to live! If you are alive today then you are confronted with the problems of life and this message is absolutely relevant to you! Open your eyes to the title of this sermon. Notice the word only and then connect it to the word hope. The "only hope" means that there is but one way to life. So wake-up and pay close attention!

Having witnessed the rejection of God's warnings and the consequences, Jeremiah composed five very sad poems. His deep anguish, suffering, and mourning cry aloud to your heart to hear the message of God. The first two chapters talk of the desolation and destruction of Jerusalem. The next two chapters talk of the distraught prophet and the defeated people of Jerusalem. The last chapter is a prayer for the people that is broken into two segments: confession (repentance) and petition (asking God to save). It's the latter part of chapter five that we are going to focus on.

You will recall that after the division of God's kingdom Israel fell captive first to the Assyrians and then later Judah to the Babylonians. Both kingdoms are conquered and all God's chosen people have become enslaved to their respective enemies. Jerusalem is occupied by Gentiles. The Jews believed in Jeremiah's prophecy that the Temple was permanent - it was God's holy dwelling amongst them but now it's gone - it's crashed and smashed. Just imagine how sad and how hard it was for God's people to experience this situation. After turning to other idols for help, they now realize that the real God is gone. They see that there is no hope without Him. And it's here that you find Jeremiah really crying. It's here that the consequences of the persistent rejection of God - the very sin of man - is brought to light through God's punishment. The truth dawns on them in their misery.

These horrible events cause Jeremiah and those with spiritual insight to lament and to turn their full attention to the only one who can do anything about it. At the end of this lamentation and after a complete confession (5:1-18), hope begins to rise in the heart of God's people. "You, O Lord, rule forever; Your throne is from generation to generation" (v. 19). All else may disappear but God remains. Here is ample ground for hoping. Since His throne endures eternally - God can't let His kingdom perish on earth. There is recovery and salvation only from God. Even though they knew only one God, they knew that in no way could any human being recover from this situation without Him. Even though God punished Judah - they knew if they repented they would receive final salvation. They knew that their one God was indeed God.

It does not seem illogical when one understands the Hebrew psychology, for people to make a request in the form of question like verse 20: Why do You forget us forever? Why do You forsake us so long? God is not only faithful, righteous and merciful but most importantly, He is unchanging. God is the true provider. The Jews knew this - they knew that the Davidic throne was to be eternal and that their lineage would never end.



By Sung Kwan Kim
Reverend

"God has every right to be exceedingly angry for we sinned against Him and rejected Him ..."

"But Jesus Christ came to forgive us and love us as He was crucified ... Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, He alone is our only hope ... Whoever believes in Him will be saved ..."

Desolation was the reality of Zion because the true throne of God was not there. But God lives unchangeable, unaffected by our laughs and losses and this is the last safeguard of hope. God is the same today as yesterday as tomorrow as forever. Yes, He is eternal but He is eternally the same. Unlike you or me, He is always perfect - always good - always loving - always God!

Coming to terms with this helps, you too then be able to sense when you are near or far from God. God is always present. This was the crown of troubles to some of the people that God seems to have forgotten and forsaken them. But when God remembers them and manifests His presence to all people in general, they are the ones who took His gift and thought nothing of the givers' will and purpose. What the people called forgetting is nothing but a different kind of remembering. What they called forsaking was only a closer presence. The quenchable hope of those who take the right view of God admits that the cause of all this desolation was sin; which is the proper method of turning away from God.

And now there is the petition which results from full self-discovery, "Restore us to You, O Lord, that we may be restored; Renew our days as of old" (v. 21). Inward weakness is discovered. This cry of the book indicates that the turning of man to God is a great thing to be desired. Not a restoration to earthly positions and comforts but a turning to God as a consequence of His turning to you. The result that comes from your being turned to God by His power will one day be seen to justify all the loss needed to bring this about. In other words, everything that you lose in drawing closer to God is not only worth it but will one day be disclosed to you in full and all the questions will be answered. The intricate weavings of your life will have full meaning.

In the very last passage of this book, the last cry, you discover repentant submission, "Unless You have utterly rejected us And are exceedingly angry with us" (v. 22). The request is made and the answer is in His hands. The power of restoration lies solely with God. God has every right to be exceedingly angry - they rejected His Word - they sinned - they turned away from Him. God also has every right to reject them - they broke the covenant. Their only hope is His acceptance of their repentance and His mercy and grace. Their only hope is fully in God.

"The adversary has stretched out his hand over all her precious things, for she has seen the nations enter her sanctuary, the ones whom You commanded that they should not enter into Your congregation" (1:10). From here, who can change? Surely no one can now think that any human has the capability? How can this situation be remedied? The answer is simple: return to God. The only hope you have is, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). You have got to believe this. It's your only hope!

The Bible specifically tells you that Jesus Christ is your only hope the way, and the truth, and the life: You have Jesus! Whatever the financial and political troubles of our country are today (i.e., IMF), whatever your particular difficulties of life may be, Jesus Christ is the answer. He alone is your only hope to living life eternally with Him.

Let Him Know

(Exodus 4:22-23)

Israel is declared to be Yahweh's firstborn son and Pharaoh's firstborn son is threatened with death. Should Pharaoh be disobedient to Yahweh's request? Obviously not, for we know the end of this story and it wasn't a good one for Pharaoh. All the firstborn of his kingdom, including the animals, perished! His stubborn reluctance to hold on to the sons of Israel was a big mistake. His interference with God's plan of salvation was a sin that carried an extensive penalty. All his wrong doings didn't stop God's plan for nothing can stop the plans of God. The truth is that God actually used Pharaoh's hardened heart for His benefit. God can do that and the Bible gives us plenty of examples: remember the stories of Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, etc... Even though the sins of others caused hardship to God's children; in the end those hardships were used to bless His children and promote His ultimate plan of salvation.

The end of human history is definite. Unlike Pharaoh, Christians already know that in the end God wins and Satan loses. Nothing can change that truth! It's God's Word: the unchanging, all powerful, and fully authoritative Word of God. The good news is that our victory comes to us now through the cross of Jesus Christ. That's right, all who accept Christ in faith as their Lord and Savior receive the ultimate gift of love - eternal life.

To help you better appreciate your answer of "absolutely not," today's message highlights the positive aspects of your special relation to God. From these two ingeniously compacted verses you discover just how totally wonderful God's amazing grace truly is to those whom He calls His firstborn. You experience the reverence and awe of knowing that through your faith in Jesus Christ you too become His child. Your spiritual insight into the vast richness of His glory will be magnified and your faith strengthened if you open your heart and mind to hear His Words. His presence is here for those who care to know Him and love Him.

From today's two passages come two great themes: (1) Yahweh's son is to be sent out and (2) the reason why is so that he might worship His divine Father. The incredible thing with the first theme is that God lovingly calls Israel His Son - His firstborn. He so sweetly calls them to Him; like a husband would call "Come here my dear woman" to his wife. His Son is called to be released while Pharaoh's son is called to death. Here is mentioned the final of God's mighty acts - the justice of His wondrous deed. Also, both these themes directly relate to your position in Christ. You are called out from amongst the world to be different. You are sent out as an ambassador of Christ with the message of the Gospel. Your purpose is to worship and serve God in Christ by proclaiming His message of salvation found only through faith in Him. Like Pharaoh, everyone who rejects the message is rejected; everyone who says no is called to death.

Now these two great themes bring about three very important points. The first is the condescension of God in the establishing of this relationship. Israel was a nation of slaves. They were slaves for more than four hundred years. In the Egyptians eyes they were little better than a nation of lepers. The world looked upon them with little to no value. Yet, Jehovah says of them "my son" and "my firstborn". What a manner of love? "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him" (1 John 3:1). Wow! God's greatness can touch you, even you. His gracious and forever enduring love transforms the very nature of your being into

"By our faith in Christ we become a special child of God. He will feed you, clothe you, protect you, comfort you, guide you, train you, chasten you, deliver you from your enemies and bring you to Him in eternal glory. ..."

"Let the world know who you are and why it is that you are who you are! Tell them the wonderful news of Jesus!"

something so beautiful that He is able to call you His son - His very own child. Because of Jesus, you can know God as a child knows its father; the future relationship no words can describe. Through faith in Jesus Christ you become His firstborn - His son - His beloved child.

This picture should really wake you up to the historical reality of your present situation. The world looks at you as a nut or someone with little value. You get laughed at and abused by their ignorance but here is where it is important for you to stand firm and know that their sin is stupidity. Those who don't know Jesus don't know real love. Those who don't know Jesus don't know eternal truths - the only kind of truths that matter. And here's the real kicker - those who do know Jesus know that they are children of God. And children of God are priceless treasures who hold more value than all the precious jewels, gold, and silver in the entire world. Those who have accepted Jesus and given Him their life know what true love is really all about. As a Christian, you know how special He is and how truly loved you are in His care. You experience and daily live in the power of God's grace. Therefore, your lifestyle doesn't reflect the world but the very light of Christ's love found at the cross. Your entire worldview is formed around a Christ-centered perspective which effects everything you say and do. You are a witness to Jesus' saving and sanctifying power!

The second point you need to hit home then is the tremendous privilege that is implied in being a special child of God. God led the Israelites out of captivity, He guided them, He fed them in the desert, He trained them through His chastisement, He delivered them from their enemies, and most importantly He gave them a bountiful inheritance and placed them in the chosen land. You, too, receive the Holy Spirit who enables, empowers, and equips you for your journey into heaven. He guides, comforts, counsels, encourages, and leads you on the straight path - the only path - to God.

Although everything mentioned above appears more than enough there's also one last point that needs to be made and that is the responsibilities that your relation to Christ imposes on others. Because Israel was God's firstborn Pharaoh was refrained from opposing them. If he continued against God's request he would bring harm on his own firstborn. As man treats God's children, so will God treat them. This clearly indicates that God's children safely leave all the avenging to God. It is not your work but His to avenge your enemies. "Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord" (Romans 12:19). Your relation with unbelievers is to repay good for evil and if possible to try and be at peace with them for in so doing you will heap burning coals on their head.

Don't be mistaken here that living the Christian life is all a bed of roses. Quite the contrary. A godly testimony will often result in ridicule, scorn, deprivation, physical harm, and even death. But your confidence is in Christ and knowing that in the end justice will prevail.

Jesus came for you - He chose you - and through your acceptance of His gracious gift you become His firstborn. You become a special child of God. He will feed you, clothe you, protect you, comfort you, guide you, train you, chasten you, deliver you from your enemies and bring you to Him in eternal glory. Let the world know who you are and why it is that you are who you are! Tell them the wonderful news of Jesus!

Mission Report from China Team One

The Lost Souls We Met in China

"Yesu-Ai-Nee" (Jesus Loves You)

by Hyung Joon Jun

(pastor of the second young adults group, district twelve, and the army evangelism group)

We did not have any specific plan for the evangelism in China. We just had faith that the Holy Spirit will guide us. The only weapon that we had was the word of the gospel. That was enough. Evangelizing China is very important for world mission because of the great population of China which is approximately a quarter of the world population.

We had two problems to solve as we entered into China. First, we had to take Chinese Bibles through Chinese customs and security. Second, we had to preach the gospel of Jesus in the street where propagation of Christianity is prohibited.

It took only an hour and a half to get to Shim-Yang Airport in China. Our hearts were racing with trepidation because there were many Chinese Bibles at the bottoms of our boxes and bags. But we started to have confident hearts as we reminded ourselves of the necessity of bringing the gospel into China and the Gracious God who caused our hearts to come to China. We all believed that the Holy Spirit will never leave us alone. The inspectors at the Chinese customs service searched all our bags and boxes. But they did not find any Bibles because the Holy Spirit blinded them. One of the inspectors found the Bibles in brother Sung Soo's baggage. We could do nothing about it except pray. We waited for him in the lobby for twenty minutes. Brother Sung Soo came out with other members and told us that not even one of the Bibles was confiscated from them. It was an amazing work of God. Our team was divided into small groups of two or three and scattered around the city. Some of us went into large marketplaces where we met a female Chinese student who worked at a cafe. We started a conversation with her as we walked together.

She was a college student majoring in English literature. We talked about some English literature that we knew. That opened her heart and we shared many common things and became friends. We started to have confidence that she will not report us to the police even if we deliver the gospel to her. I said to her in Chinese, "Yesu-Ai-Nee, Jesus Loves You. That is the only way to be saved-believing in Jesus Christ. Salvation is a gift of God that we can receive by faith." She knew something about Jesus and the Bible but did not believe in its truth. She said that she will try hard to believe in Jesus as she wrote her name, address and telephone number.

We did not hesitate to deliver the gospel of Jesus to many kinds of people including businessmen, overseas students, taxi drivers, salaried workers and people waiting for the subway. We also shared the word of God with Korean people in China and the children who escaped from North Korea. All these ministries were prepared by the Holy Spirit. Our team went to the Doo-Man riverside to gaze at Moosan City in North Korea. We prayed to Almighty God who controls the history of the world that he may bring the reunification of the north and south in the near future.

We actually saw the New Testament Bibles delivered to the underground churches in North Korea. We also heard that many North Koreans came to their northern border in order to look for something to eat. We must start a mission ministry in this area in order to give them meals with spiritual food, that is, the gospel of Jesus.

God's plan for salvation will reach the ends of the world without any chance of failure. God is looking for people who would join in his kingdom work.

My Best Experience in Korea

by David Berry

There are hundreds of exciting places to go and things to do in Korea, the Land of the Morning Calm. I have done some of these but the most exciting was climbing Mount Sorak (near the East Sea). In July 1995, a Korean friend and I ventured out from Taegu - where I was living at the time - and went north to Mount Sorak. Just the two of us camped in a campground near Mount Sorak for one day and watched some interesting M. T. (Membership Training).

The next morning we met another Korean man who went with us as we began to walk up the mountain. At first it was just walking until the path became steep and we ended up climbing up endless rocks and paths. Half-way up the mountain, we met four other Korean men and so joined them. I had started to climb with only one friend. Now, there were seven men climbing together. After feeling like I was going to die, we arrived at the top of the DaeCheongBong. It took us about six hours to climb up this 1708 meter mountain but it was well worth the climb. The view from the mountain peak was incredible. Surrounding us everywhere were wisps of clouds. When I looked down, I could only see a thick, white beautiful blanket of clouds. Above us was only sunshine and blue sky. I really felt God's presence on top of that place. God is such a powerful God. He made this mountain and can destroy it. It reminds of John the Baptist's words when he's announcing Jesus' coming

(Luke 3:5) "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth." If our God is so powerful that He can wipe out this 1708 meter mountain, our God is a powerful and awesome God. Amen!

This was the first mountain I had ever climbed in Korea. It is also definitely the most beautiful and majestic mountain I have ever climbed since. That first experience climbing Mount Sorak really impressed me and made me fall in love with Korean mountains. Now I try to climb up a mountain every Saturday. So far, I have climbed Mount Palgong (Taegu), Mount Surak (Seoul), Mount A-Cha, Mount Kwon Ak (near Seoul National University), and Mount Giri. But, to be honest, I only went half way up Mount Giri because it started to rain. If somebody reading this knows of other beautiful mountains or likes to walk up mountains, please tell me and let's go mountain walking/climbing together. From Monday to Friday, I can be reached at MTI at 593-8487 or talk to me at CHEWS Sunday morning. Let's experience together the beauty and majesty of God's creation.



The Republic of Cameroon

Ethnic Diversity and Political Uncertainty

Cameroon has 465,000 square kilometers on the "hinge" between West and Central Africa. The capital city is Yaounde with a population of 712,000 people. Douala has over 1.1 million people. Cameroon has 275 languages and maybe 500 or more ethnic groups. The Bantu peoples comprise about 51% of the population. The Chadic-Hausa account for almost 20%. About 62% of the population is literate in the official languages of French or English. Of their 275 languages, eighteen have complete Bible translations, twenty four have New Testaments, and thirty one have portions.

The economy is predominantly agricultural. In the 1980's, the economy was boosted by oil exports. Now, the oil has been depleted and their other primary exports of coffee and cocoa have also declined. The average income per person is \$1,010, about 5% of a person in the United States.

Cameroon had been a German colony between 1884 and 1919 when it was divided between Britain and France. In 1960, the French half of the country won independence from France and united with English-speaking West Cameroon in 1961. The first president was a Muslim Fulani. In 1982, he was replaced by a Catholic southerner. In 1992, there was much pressure for multi-party elections. However, because of various attempts to manipulate the results of the election, there is some political uncertainty.

Though the state guarantees religious freedom, the Islam-dominant north placed controls on Christian activities and the entire nation promoted Islam under the first president who was a Muslim. Then this religious distress was removed with the new Catholic president in 1982. Today, the Muslims comprise about 24% of the population. Tribal religions claim about 12%. Protestants number 22% and Catholics comprise 40% of the population.

Praise God for the present religious freedom, church growth, and localized pockets of revival. However, there is cause for concern. There is constant political uncertainty with the danger of civil war. This is in large part because of the government corruption and unwillingness to give up power through the election process. There is also widespread nominalism and liberal teaching among the Christians.

Presbyterian, Baptist, and Lutheran missionaries focused a century of effort on the central grasslands and southern rainforests. This is where most of Cameroon's Christianity remains. Yet, because of denominational and language barriers, the leaders have not established spiritual fellowship. The semi-arid north lands are predominantly Islamic. Christians are few. But there are some fledgling Baptist and Full Gospel churches in the north. Pray for their continued growth. (from Patrick Johnstone's *Operation World*, 5th edition)