

◆ 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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Returning of Short Term Mission Teams Burning Desire for Propagation of Gospel Continues

Meeting for Mission Reports on September 3



Evangelizing a soft hearted youth in Colombo Univ.

Short term mission teams for India and Mongolia returned August 3 and 4, respectively, following the Sri Lanka team on July 29.

The people of Choong Hyun need to greet them with warm hearts and encouragement for they have fought a good fight to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in barren lands where the gospel has not been planted. The church also needs to continually support them spiritually and financially so that each short term missionary can build up a strong vision to become full time missionaries.

Choong Hyun Church expects to see a few young people who volunteer to stay in the mission field for six to twelve months as tent-makers to take care of the people who were converted to become Christians. This passion for world missions will motivate our church to raise 7000 young missionaries. The church must be ready to train them and send them. Continual support and prayer is a prerequisite to fulfill this vision.

mission committee of Choong Hyun is going to have a meeting to consider the mission reports of 1998 on Thursday, September 3. They will invite all the people of Choong Hyun to share a vision for world missions. Several short term mission teams want to have winter short term missions and a regular prayer meeting geared toward missions to maximize the fruits of their labor on the mission field.

One of the great results that we earned from short term missions ministry is the possibility to do effective missions through international laborers in Korea. The ministries for foreign laborers which the mission committee carried out was to share the love of Christ and his gospel. Furthermore, it was to evangelize their families who are in their mother country. Choong Hyun Church must continue to pray for world missions so that our burning passion will not be smothered.

China Team II The Last Short Term Mission Team of Summer 1998

The last team for this summer's short term missions program is China Team Two (Elder Gab Jae Lee, Pastor Moon Chan Cho, Evangelist Yong Koo Huh, and eleven others - including four high school students). They left August 7 and will return on August 13. They will stay in a secret location in City X and do the work of the kingdom there.

All the members of China Team Two participated in a fasting and praying chain. They also studied the culture and the environments of the mission field along with forty sentences in Chinese so that their witness of the gospel might be more productive.

They also prepared praise and worship songs in Chinese. The people of Choong Hyun must pray for China Team Two so that they can follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We need to be courageous to approach lost souls with the grace of the gospel. All the members may work with one heart in the fellowship of Christ's love. The power of Satan which might otherwise interfere with their work will be bound up by the powerful name of Jesus.

CHEWS Celebrates 10th Anniversary on August 23

The English Worship Service of ChoongHyun Presbyterian Church began on August 28, 1988. With its humble beginning and 30 charter member, the congregation has grown to about 200. Many people have come to visit and have fellowship with us over the past decade. Many faithful servants have helped to make this ministry possible.

CHEWS wants to invite you to celebrate 10th anniversary as we worship our gracious God together on Sunday August 23, 1998. Especially, there will be a time to remember the servants of the Lord who helped CHEWS to established and grow.

Application Information for Choong Hyun So Suk Scholarship

Choong Hyun Church is accepting applications from among last semester's recipients of the So Suk Scholarship. Applications are available at the Education Department, Room 103 of the First Educational Building.

- forms to submit:
 - ① application form
 - ② academic plan for each semester
 - ③ official transcript of your first semester
- Deadline: Sunday, August 9, 1998
- For further information, contact the Scholarship Committee of the Education Department

Evangelism Team for Farming and Fishing Villages

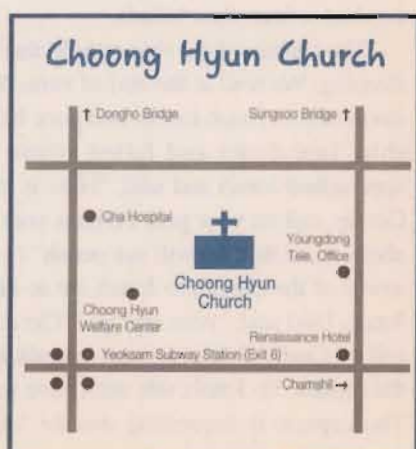
Seven More Teams Launched Last Week

Missionaries of the evangelism teams for farming and fishing villages is about half done. There are about 26 teams who have completed their evangelism. 7 more teams left last week.

These 7 teams are going to Wonju in Kangwon Province, Pyungchan and Umsung in southern Chulla Province, and Hansan and Tongyoung in southern Kyungsan Province. All the members of all the evangelism teams stayed at church late into the night to pray for their ministries and make gospel tracts and Bible School textbooks. We must remember that we can participate in these ministries with them by praying for them.



The ministry of 15th parish group in farming and fishing evangelism: team members opened the hearts of villagers by serving as hairdressers



Danger & Devotion

(Jonah 1:5-6)

This chapter begins with the Word of the Lord commanding Jonah to 'arise and go' to the land of Nineveh. Jonah is disobedient. He does not agree with God's orders and tries to escape from having to follow them. He heads in the opposite direction, taking passage on a ship. His attempt at escaping is, of course, useless because no one can escape from the presence of the Lord (Ps. 139:7-12). From here though, we see the development of a real emergency situation. God causes a strong wind which in turn causes a great storm on the sea; this causes the danger of the ship sinking. These three things happen because the man of God does not listen to God. The danger that ensues from these events also cause many things to happen.

Today's Scripture passages reveal the acts of conduct in the face of great danger of the sailors, Jonah, and the captain. The sailors are terribly afraid and each one calls upon their own god for help. When that does not work, they try to take matters into their own hands by dumping ship cargo into the sea to lighten the ship so that possibly it might have a better chance of not sinking. When that too does not work, we see further on that through divination they beseech Jonah for an answer. They are desperate - they want to live. Their actions show us that they fear death.

This type of conduct reminds us of our own powerlessness in the face of danger. Prior to danger, many people think and thus act like they are in control. When danger strikes, all of a sudden things change and reality sets in. In the presence of the great forces of nature (hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, lightning, hailstorms) man feels his own physical feebleness and helplessness. Danger reminds us of the certainty and brevity of human life. When the waves may swallow you, or the winds may blow you, or the ground may engulf you, or the hot lava may burn you, or the sky's energy may electrocute or pound you - the beauty and preciousness of life becomes apparent.

The treacherous sea, as in this narrative, threatens to overwhelm the sailors and passengers. Danger drives these sinners to seek God's mercy. When human help proves unavailing, then the godless call upon the real God. Although this is certainly right in principle, it is fruitless in practice. Access to God is solely through Jesus Christ. Those who believe in the Gospel know that God watches over them and cares for them for good. Danger draws forth the confidences and prayers of the pious. They may experience an unexpected deliverance from danger or they may face the perils of that danger. Whatever the case, it will be whatever the Father above decides. Their souls are eternally safe. As such, their conduct reflects their beliefs.

The captain of the ship noticed that Jonah was below deck sleeping. We read at the end of verse 5 that when this terrible storm struck, Jonah indeed had gone below into the hold of the ship, laid down and fallen sound asleep. The captain approached Jonah and said, "How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish" (v. 6). It is ironic that the words of the captain to Jonah are so like the words of God to Jonah. God said, "arise and go." The captain says, "get up and call on God". God's message is again heard by Jonah through the captain. To Jonah, this must have seemed like a nightmare. The captain is requesting that he 'call on God' - the very



By **Sung Kwan Kim**
Reverend

"When we are in times of trouble, we must go back to God and seek His face ... God is merciful and powerful who alone is able to forgive all our sins and deliver us from all dangers."

opposite of what he wants to do. Jonah does not want to call God because his very purpose for getting on this ship was to hang-up on God - not call Him!

I suppose the most alarming thing is finding Jonah asleep. His conduct is appalling. It reminds me of the story of the Levite man who finds his wife dead on his doorsteps and says to her, "Get up and let us go" (cf. Judges 19:28). The captain is asking Jonah for an action that like the Levite man who asks his dead wife is not possible. Jonah is not just physically sleeping but he is also spiritually asleep. As I look at it, his sleep is like a real depression. When God put Adam to sleep to create Eve, he did so, so that Adam would feel no pain (cf. Genesis 2:21). Jonah sleeps to escape the pain of disobedience but his efforts do not prevail. The captain is awakening him, disturbing his sleep, placing the phone in his face and ordering him to 'call God!'

Recently, in our churches there are a lot of spiritual leaders who are really asleep. Look at our country. It is in trouble - real trouble. We are experiencing terrible economic problems. The human solutions (IMF) are not working. The people of our country are in danger! The real problem is that we are spiritually dying. We are in a deep sleep - totally out cold. There is real depression - emptiness - blankness - darkness in our land. The answer to our problem is in God's message, 'Arise and go.' Does anyone hear the message?

The religious customs of the pagans at that time consisted of three gods: personal, family, and national. The captain says, 'Perhaps your god' will be concerned about us. Obviously, their gods were not concerned and just maybe Jonah's God would be. In desperate measures, he is searching for something or someone to change things. His hope is that Jonah's God will concede their peril and do something about the storm. Their gods could and did ignore people; they were not constantly watchful over worshipers (cf. 1 Kings 18:26-29). Whereas Yahweh was different - He could do things - incredible things like bring fire from heaven to consume a wet sacrifice.

God made these events happen. It was His plan. The whole story of Jonah reveals His redemptive power. When you are disobedient you cannot escape from God. You must go back to devotion - it's the only way to safety. Anytime our life is in danger, we are powerless. Everyone calls on God when they are in trouble. Not everyone can get an answer. Only those who know and love Jesus hear His answer. Our God starts everything - He gives answers.

We do not really look at the beginning of our political and spiritual strife. Let us go back to devotion to Yahweh. This is His plan. Let us get His blessing in the name of Jesus. Let us confess our sin. If we ask with repentant hearts-for He knows the desires of our hearts, in the name of Jesus - the Holy Spirit will bless us. He will bless our way and we will have victory.

Jonah's true devotion came in the three days spent in the belly of the fish. Even though he was disobedient, through his repentance, God still used Him. God is a merciful and great God. Let us repent and pray that God will use us again - this church - this country. Unlike Jonah, who was commanded to go to Nineveh - we are commanded to go and disciple all the world's nations. Let us hear the message of God 'Arise - Get up' and let us 'go!'

Not Far From the Kingdom of God

(Mark 12:34)

During Jesus' ministry here on earth, He encountered many various people. None were so opposed to Him as were the High Priests, Scribes, and Elders - the rulers of the Jewish Synagogues - the scholars of religion! They were blind to God's truth and could not therefore perceive His amazing grace found in His Son - Jesus Christ. It was their unbelief and anger at how he evoked amazement in crowds that caused them to hate and eventually kill Him.

Before killing Him, we find in the Scriptures that they continually questioned him while He was teaching in the Temple at Jerusalem, not to find truth but to find something that they could use against Him. And it is here in the twelfth chapter of Mark that the religious officials are at it again, questioning Him. This time, the truly influential and top of the notch scholars (Pharisees, Herodians and Sadducees) are sent in to trap Him (vv. 13, 18).

During the debate, a scribe (teacher of the law) of noble mind walks in and intently listens. He observes that Jesus is a Master Teacher and puts forth to Him an important question, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" (v. 28). Of course, drawing on the authority of Old Testament Scriptures, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:4-5 mixed with Leviticus 19:18. In essence, He tells them that there is only one Lord and He is God alone. Loyalty to Him calls for undivided love - love that embraces your total heart, soul, mind and strength. And in loving God completely, you will love each other (vv. 29-31).

Surprisingly, after hearing Jesus' answer, the scribe answers back that he not only agrees with everything Jesus said but that this whole concept of love is even greater than all burnt offerings and sacrifices (vv. 32-33). Unlike the other religious leaders, this scribe is different. He is truthful in Spirit, an honest teacher of the law, a candid student, and a fair controversialist. He is sincere, righteous, and spoke with great discretion to Jesus. He was not into ceremony and great honor. He was not a doctrinal freak or a moralist who forgets the heart. Rather, he appears to speak from his heart and obviously has a very high regard for holy things and a practical interest in them. His Scripture reading, meditation and other gracious habits brought him to ask his very pertinent question and to consent to Jesus' answer.

His reaffirmation of Jesus' teaching was right! When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God. After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions" (v. 34). Here is the message for today! How far are you from the kingdom of God? This scribe isn't too far, as a matter of fact, he's pretty close according to Christ. Many of you might think that being close isn't so bad, and that it's definitely better than being further away. There is partial truth or common sense in thinking that it is better to be closer than further away from the kingdom of God.

However, we must remember that God is not the God of the dead but of the living. In order to better grasp the significance of all this, we better take a look at some other Scripture verses. For example, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 5:21). Sin brings death and God's grace found only in Jesus Christ brings life. Simply put, sin is death and Jesus is life.

Knowing this, there's still one more important concept to pick-up. "And He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father - to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen" (Rev. 1:6). Believers are raised to a place of special divinity through faith in Christ. We are ministers unto God - we as believers are a kingdom. Why is this so important to understand? Well, this kingdom that we are talking about, where does the scribe stand? Where is his

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...

What is your duty? The Bible clearly tells us that it is to repent and be really close with Jesus Christ."

position in relation to this kingdom?

All the other inquisitors accused Jesus. Jesus said that this guy was right - he was not far from the kingdom of God. So, what's dangerous about him? Well, the bottom line is that no man is safe until he is in the kingdom of God. The border line or border land is full of peril! Think about it! What happens if you slip back from hopefulness, or rest and become content to stop where you are, or even grow proud and self-righteous? The scribe should have known that here is grace - Jesus Christ - standing right in front of him. If he truly believed in Jesus' interpretation, not just understood or agreed with it, but believed in the love of God that was spoken - how could he not bow down and accept and experience His transforming power permanently.

The members of Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church must not just understand and agree with, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in His shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). No! We can not just agree with that - we have to believe - we have to live it. "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). This has got to hit home. Without life, there's not just plain death but death and the wrath of God will abide on you. Faith and obedience found only in Christ are the key to avoid the wrath of God. Come on people, this is serious - this requires your full attention. We are talking about eternity - your eternity in heaven or hell! We are talking about the difference between eternal life and damnation death!!! Wake-up!!!

The question arises, what was the scribe's duty? The condition of rest knows many responsibilities but it is your responsibility, not others, to get up and take the step into the kingdom of God. His step was a little closer than the others - his step was not wet or gloomy but it was not in the kingdom of God either. His step was much better than the others but he didn't take the final step. What's the difference? The difference is life and death. It may be just an extra step but it's the step which is all important. The scribe really needs the Spirit of God to work effectively with Him!

Obedience without faith and faith without obedience are both inconsequential and, more importantly, totally ineffective. How can you find the key to faithful obedience? After four hundred years of silence, between Malachi and Matthew, we find John the Baptist proclaiming that the kingdom of God is near and most importantly for us that we must REPENT (Matthew 3:2). Like John the Baptist, Christ also preached the necessity of repentance before the messianic kingdom could be established (Matthew 4:17). Repent! Why? Because you are a sinner and it's only through the blood of Jesus that you can be cleansed and made part of the eternal kingdom of God. To repent and take up your cross and follow Him is your duty. It is your key to the kingdom of God.

How many people of Choong Hyun Presbyterian Church are not far from the kingdom of God? How many know that they are on the border line or in the border land? I can answer that question, too many! What is your duty? The Bible clearly tells us that it is to repent and be really close with Jesus Christ. Through faith and obedience in Him alone, you will step into the kingdom of God and become a born again Christian.

Know that not far is too far. Close is not good enough! Step into life through repentance and faithful obedience in Christ. His glory is eternal. He has won the victory over death by foolish means to the wise! But to those who repent and have faith, the cross is the only way to go for the end of the story has already been told. Only those washed in Christ's blood can enter!

The Republic of China

Building a House from Underground

China is the third largest country in the world with nearly 10 million square kilometers of land. Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao have separate governments although the Chinese consider them to be a part of China. By far, China has the largest population in the world with over 1.2 billion people. This is over 21% of the world population. The Han people number about 92% of the population. There are eight major languages among the Han people, although there is one common written language. Ethnic minorities make up 8% of the population.

73% of the population is literate. The official language of China is Putunghua (Mandarin Chinese), although local languages are spoken throughout the five Autonomous Regions. All together, there are about 142 languages. Among these, 15 have complete Bible translations, 13 have New Testaments, and 26 have portions.

Beijing (Peking) is the capital city of China with 10.8 million people. Other major cities are Shanghai with 13.3 million people, Tianjin with 8.8 million, Chongqing with 2.9 million, Guangzhou with 3.5 million, Shenyang with 4.4 million, Wuhan with 3.6 million, Nanjing with 2.4 million, and 34 other cities with over one million inhabitants.

The economy in China was slow because of the Marxist economic system. Since the dismantling of the commune system, agricultural yields have increased. Much of the economy has opened up to privatization and foreign investments with a 14% average growth rate in the 1980s. Because of political concerns, the growth slowed in 1990, but since 1992, the country's economic growth has increased with a more capitalist economic system. The per capita income in China is about 1.7% of that of a person in the United States.

For nearly two centuries, Japan and the western powers had overshadowed China. Since the Communist Party took control in 1949, the country has begun to return to its place of ancient renown. The Cultural Revolution of 1966-76 was the culmination of Mao's policy. This led to religious and intellectual persecution. 20 million Chinese lost their lives at that time. Deng was a more pragmatic ruler. The suppression of the student protest in Tiananmen

Square and the collapse of communism in Europe and the USSR left China diplomatically isolated as the oldest surviving Communist regime.

The Marxist government has always sought to eliminate all religion. In the 1950s, the government infiltrated and undermined all organized Christianity. All religious activity was forced underground, giving rise to the house church movement. It is commonly perceived that the collapse of Communism in Europe and Russia were due to the influence of religion. Therefore, religion is strictly controlled in China. In 1978, religious restrictions were eased to encourage the thousands of house churches to expose themselves through the Three Self Patriotic Movement and the Catholic Patriotic Association. This has been only partially successful because the house churches suspect that the government will use this control to ultimately control and eliminate Christianity from the surface and the underground of China.

Almost 60% of the people are atheists. There are about 50 million members of the Communist Party. The Chinese education system propagates atheism. Consequently, most young people have no concept of God. About 27% of the people have some blend of Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism and folk religion. 3% are Buddhist, 2.4% are Animist, 2.4% are Muslim, 6.1% are Christian, predominantly Protestant.

The growth of the Church in China since 1977 has no parallels in history. Researchers estimate 30-75 million Christians in 1990 as likely. Many of the barriers to the gospel have been broken down by the suffering and distress of wars and revolutions this century. Some of the concern is false teachings and persecutions which are easy to arise from a decentralized church. House churches are weak individually, but, together, they form a network of strength which the Chinese government cannot break. Missionaries as such are still not welcome in China. Yet, China's desire to improve trading relations with the world makes it possible for many Chinese and foreign Christians to enter as tourists, students, foreign experts, businessmen and Chinese family members.

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



Let Me Reveal the Righteousness and Wisdom of God During a Short Term Mission Trip

by Hyun-Jung Oh

(Team Leader of China Team II)

It is by the grace of God that I could join this short term mission team for China. I have experienced the providence of God these days. This has prepared me to be a stronger spiritual fighter. I could feel the burning heart of the apostles who began the Kingdom ministry through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Paul's missionary trips touched my heart and gave me a model as a missionary. In particular, I could identify my first trip to China as a short term missionary with Paul's first missionary journey. I pray that the righteousness and the wisdom of God will be demonstrated as God uses me as an instrument of his glory.

I am so thrilled to have prayer time, the times that I can give all my weaknesses into the loving arms of Jesus. I never tasted this kind of power in prayer. If we are to send our children to a place where we have never been before, then we would probably look for someone who can greet our children and make sure no detail is left unchecked. We would also train our children to speak the language of their host country and adapt to the food of their new environment.

I can feel our Father God who is busily working to prepare us to go to China. We are going to China by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We are looking for a hundred-fold harvest that our Father has already prepared.

CHEWS 10th Anniversary Worship

by Bu-Sung Lee

(Senior Deacon, Supervisor of English Worship Service)

August 28, 1998 will be the 10th Anniversary of CHEWS, the Choong Hyun English Worship Service. CHEWS began by the grace of God and with the blessings of all the people of Choong Hyun on Sunday, August 28, 1988. CHEWS will be having a homecoming celebration worship on Sunday, August 23, 1998 from 8:45 A.M. in Cana Hall, the first basement of the Welfare Center Building.

The ministries of CHEWS can be successfully carried out because many people do not hesitate to follow their passion with sincere and diligent efforts. There were hundreds of foreigners who came to Korea and returned to their mother countries. They are propagating the gospel that they learned during their stay in Choong Hyun Church in their homelands. They are from more than thirty different countries including the United States, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Kenya, the former Union



of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, Pakistan, Japan, Mozambique, Sudan, Bangladesh, Mongolia, China, India, Malaysia, South Africa, Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Nigeria. They were from many

different walks of life such as pastors, students, delegates, soldiers, teachers and businessmen. CHEWS is participating in many activities of Choong Hyun Church including the invitation of adopted children and their parents through the Holt Children's Welfare Organization, the invitation of foreign laborers for evangelism, and a number of bazaars.

English Worship Service starts from 9:00 to 10:10 every Sunday in Cana Hall in the first basement of the Choong Hyun Welfare Center Building. The Sunday English Bible School starts from 10:30 to 12:00 noon on almost every floor of the Welfare Center Building. There will also be a small group time from 1:30 to 3:00 beginning next month. CHEWS hopes that more people, both foreigners and natives will join the English-speaking ministry of Choong Hyun Church.