

GOALS

Godly Worship Service
Raising Workers for the Kingdom
Evangelizing Korea
Evangelizing the World
Loving Neighbors

The Biweekly Choong Hyun

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

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

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Following the Steps of Jesus Christ: To the Faithful Hills and Faithful Ones! Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

This year marks the 47th anniversary of the Choong Hyun church. Over the years, as the name "Faithful Hill" indicates, the church has been faithful in preaching the gospel and ministering the goodness of Jesus Christ to our neighbors. It has strived to establish a holy and acceptable worship service. Although this year marks the beginning of a new millennium, we still proclaim the clear and true gospel that is not man—centered but God-centered.

To raise workers for God's Kingdom, the church offers annual scholarships to 350 students totaling approximately 260 million won. God always gives a broad vision to His children and urges them to refocus their lives. For world evangelization, 153 Choong Hyun members visited 14 countries to proclaim His majesty. Evangelization—faithful Choong Hyun work teams went to help rural farms with the love of God during the summer. Loving other people—the church has established the Welfare Center to care for the handicapped and will continue to care for them in need as part of our community. The Choong Hyun Prayer Mountain has been refurbished to enhance the spiritual growth of the congregation. The Choong Hyun Garden will build a chapel and undergo remodeling to provide a fellowship atmosphere for the families of the deceased. The church is confident that these are goals given by the Lord and we must constantly pray to achieve them. These goals will not cease until the day of His return; they are Choong Hyun's answers to His calling and life.

To achieve these goals, the first group of elders for the Pilgrimage of the Holy Land departed on Sept. 11. The Pilgrimage was designed to train and educate church elders on how to achieve Choong Hyun's objectives by providing an opportunity to experience the land where Jesus walked and ministered to others. The church implemented ways to train the leaders of the church through speaking opportunities during Friday Night Praise Meetings and other events. Choong Hyun prays that the Pilgrimage will renew the dedication and lives of elders through following the steps of Jesus' life.

The first team of elders consisted of 36 people—15 elders and their spouses and six elders traveling alone—and will travel for 11 days. On Sept. 25, the second group consisted of 39 members—19 elders and their spouses and one elder traveling alone—will depart for Israel. To prepare for the trip, the elders met for two months of Bible studies and trace Jesus' steps where Jesus ministered. Let us pray that the Holy Land Pilgrimage will serve as a way to achieve the church's five goals and bring it one step closer to strengthening church leadership.

Search for Dream Team in Short-Term Missions

Currently, it is reported that 93 percent of missionaries are currently working in places where the gospel has already been sent or was sent but not spread. Only seven percent of missionaries are known to work in an unreached world. It is important to bring the Good News to places where the gospel is not accepted. However, for the past three years our church has focused on summer and winter short-term mission trips on sharing the saving grace of Jesus Christ to unreached people where the gospel has never been heard or known. Therefore, we are aggressively trying to send short-term mission teams to unreached areas. We eagerly await for those prospective servants who will confess "Not I but where Lord sends me."

1. Qualifications: Must have completed LMTC training or will complete it before the departure date for missions. Applicants must be at least high school age.
2. Documents to be submitted: a copy of the ministry philosophy (should address the specifics of the missions work in the field), financial affidavit (should specify the cost for the mission in details) and a list of prayer supporters.

3. Mission Field: the unreached mission team will focus on Southeast Asia, Central Asia and Africa centered around our short-term mission field.
4. Number of Applicants Sought: The short-term mission team needs five to 10 people while the short-term lay missionary team seeks three candidates.
5. Length of Missions: Short-term mission team will work for 10-20 days; short-term lay missionary team will work for six months to two years.
6. Team Organization: 1) Male/female ratio, 2) High School/College/Young Adults ratio, 3) Prospective teachers of Foreign Workers Mission and 4) if a high school student volunteers, their teacher will be selected.
7. Period: The mission period will be decided according to each team's proposed work plans.
8. Application Deadline: Sat., Sept. 30
9. Each team's application will be announced individually after the Mission Department's evaluation.

***Any questions? Contact the Mission
Department (ext. 356-8).*

Stewardship Seminar: May I Participate
in Your Cup
To Be Held Oct. 11-13 at the Main
Sanctuary

The Choong Hyun Church's Education and Training Institute is organizing a Stewardship Seminar to assist the spiritual growth for all church employees and staff. The seminar will be held in the evenings from Oct. 11-13 at the main sanctuary. Morning discussion panels will be held for the ministerial staff. We pray that these seminars will renew the spirits of all Choong Hyun members and strengthen their love of the Holy Spirit. Please note the following dates, times and seminar topics. We humbly ask for your prayers to insure the seminar's success.

Seminar Schedule

Date	Time	Comments	Featured Speaker
Wed., Oct. 11	7:00-9:30 p.m.	Replaces Wed. Night Service	Dr. Wilmer
Thurs., Oct. 12	Same	For Entire Congregation	Same
Fri., Oct. 13	Same	Replaces Friday Praise Service	Same

Choong Hyun's First National Praise and Vocal Competition

Open to All High School and College
Students; Scheduled for Tues, Oct. 3,
Fri., Oct. 6 and Fri., Oct. 13

The Choir Committee is holding a praise and vocal competition for all young church music leaders in the nation to highlight the musical abilities of local churches. This competition will not only evaluate the musical talents of participants but also the spirituality of the contestants through a Bible examination. Scholarships will be awarded as prizes. We hope that many young Choong Hyun members will participate in this competition.

1. Registration and Application deadline : by Sat., Sept. 30
- a) Documents Required (One copy each of the following):
b) Application Form Recommendation from Senior Pastor
c) Certificate of Baptism Verification of Study (or a copy of student identification)
2. Fee
a) 10,000 won for high school students
b) 20,000 won for college students (If a church has less than 30 members, a pastor's child or children are exempt from paying the fee.)
3. For additional information, contact the Choong Hyun Choir Committee at 552-8200 (ext. 259, 260).



by Rev. Sung Kwan Kim
Senior Pastor

Hardest Words To Say

(Luke 15:18)

"I will set out and go back to my father and say to him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you"

One of the most difficult things for a human being is not physical feats or intellectual achievements, it is, admitting that you are wrong. The words "I'm sorry" or "I was wrong" are truly the hardest words in the whole wide world to verbalize. Christians are terrible at accepting rebuke and admitting to wrong! In today's Bible message, the prodigal son decides to acknowledge his personal responsibility for sin by confessing, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight" (v. 18). Jesus tells us that heaven's response to this kind of admission is that "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (v. 15:10). Sadly, the least used phrase in the church is "I was wrong".

The Bible is full of examples about the reluctance and unwillingness of God's people to confess their wrongdoing. King Saul was commanded by God to destroy everyone and everything of the Amalekites. This included the king and all his people—man, woman, child, and infant—ox, sheep, camels and donkeys. Saul didn't carry out God's commands. He spared the king and the best of his animals. When confronted by God's prophet Samuel, as to why he didn't do as he was told, Saul responded, "for the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; but the rest we have utterly destroyed" (1 Sam. 15:15). Saul didn't say he was wrong, instead, he used God for an excuse.

When David told Saul that he had two opportunities to kill him and didn't, Saul was temporarily remorseful, he wept. He knew David was one of God's loving children, and that his actions toward David were immoral, but he didn't apologize and say he was wrong. Listen to his speech to David. "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. You have declared today that you have done good to me, that the Lord delivered me into your hand and yet you did not kill me. For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safely? May the Lord therefore reward you with good in return for what you have done to me this day." (see 1 Sam. 24:16-22). In both cases, it was hard for Saul to say he was wrong. In the first instance, inadequacy prevented him from confession, in this second instance, his insecurity stopped him.

Another example is found in the story of David and Bathsheba. David killed Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, in order to take her for his wife. He went

through tremendous turmoil over this incident, but didn't voluntarily say he was wrong. God's prophet, Nathan, used a parable to lead David to condemn his own actions and bring about repentance (see 2 Sam. 11 & 12). David didn't willingly concede until after he was directly confronted by God. In other words, his pride hindered his confession of wrongdoing.

In today's Bible verse, the prodigal son acts in self-will. No one points out his wrongdoing. He realizes his predicaments on his own, but only after he has no where else to turn. While in the depths of pig mush, hungry and lonely, he finally grasps the consequences of his actions. His immaturity obstructed his confession. Although he appears a bit better than David, he's still far from good. In all three cases, there are sin. Saul's was willful, David's forceful and the prodigal son's foolish.

Contrary to these three men is Daniel. He wholeheartedly confessed and prayed, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and loving kindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances." (see Dan. 9:3-19). Overtly, Daniel's life appears to be uncompromising and faithful to God. The Bible tells us how he refused the non-kosher food offered to him by his Babylonian captors, and denied the king's orders to bow and pray to a statue—which got him thrown into a lion's den. His prayer openly confessed "I was wrong." The Bible doesn't mention anything negative about Daniel's character/nature; yet, he prayed a sentimental prayer. He identified himself with the sin of his people, even though he had not sinned. He found it easy to say "I was wrong."

Saul was inadequate, David was proud and the prodigal son was immature. Some people will admit wrong they're generally, but never acknowledge the specific. Most people fall into the category. Usually, they admit they were wrong as long as the blame and shame fall on someone else. They make the other person(s) look like a fool. To do this is a curse. It cause problems for yourself and others. It impedes the development of spiritual grace. It renders one unable to deal with the problem in a biblical manner. It assures that one cannot be granted forgiveness. It makes it more difficult to deal with the sin. It hardens the heart against conviction, and makes one cold and indifferent. Moreover, it makes it very hard to truthfully say "I was wrong."

Now, if you have faith, you can look at this issue from a blessing viewpoint, and thus, gain a better perspective. First things first! Be sure your God is big enough! If God isn't Almighty and Awesome in your eyes, then you're not going to have a true outlook of yourself. In order to see yourself for who you really are, you need an all-knowing, all-powerful and ever present God. You need to be honest, and pray to God to show you where you are wrong. Resolve to admit you are wrong where God shows it. The Holy Spirit will illuminate the things you need to understand. Approach your admission of wrongdoing in a biblical manner. Sometimes, when you forget to say you were wrong, apologize. Every wrong requires forgiveness. You have to demand. "Please forgive me." The proper wording is, "I was wrong, will you forgive me? Amen!"

Fellow Choong Hyun members, the hardest words in the whole wide world to say are "I was wrong". When was the last time you said, "I was wrong, will you forgive me", especially to the Lord? Yes, it is hard to say. But when you know Jesus Christ, when you understand God's grace, when you realize that He came here to earth to deliver you from sin, it's not so difficult. If you really understand Jesus, then you really understand the cross, and you wholeheartedly know how much you are wrong. Examine your life, and see how often you neglect these hard words. Open your heart in prayer, "Lord, I was wrong, will you forgive me? You died for me. Your blood, only Your blood, washes away my sin. You suffered for my sin. I say deep from my heart. I was wrong, please forgive me. Oh Lord, make me a new creature. Your child. I want to be reborn, from my natural position to Your spiritual position for me. I want to be able to easily say "I was wrong, will you forgive me" to You and to others. I look to Your cross, Your blood, Your suffering, Your sacrifice, Your love, kindness and endurance for my burden of sin. Please let me confess deep inside my heart, I was wrong Jesus Christ, will you forgive me, Amen!"

Grace abounds. Hear again the words of Jesus, "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (v. 10). Isn't that wonderful? Let's confess, "I am a sinner. I was wrong, will you forgive me?" We need this kind of statement in our church. Our church needs to easily say, "I was wrong, will you forgive me?" If you follow this way, the kingdom of God has a celebration going on right now! God bless you.

The Joy of Group Bible Study:

Reason for Uniting as One

By Eun Suk Lee (First Young Adult Group, Class of '75)



The Young Adults meeting on Sunday at 11 a.m. starts off with praises, then a message of encouragement and spiritual challenge and is followed with GBS meetings. They are opened with greetings here and there. I can see Eun Mi, the captain of our team, already there and waiting for us to arrive. I'm the next person to arrive, followed by Hong Bae and then Yoo Young. This is our team. We share snacks that our group prepared and openly discuss the past week with each another; this is an example of love.

After these discussions, we study the book of Ephesians to see Paul's message and the problems he is addressing. We conclude the meeting after applying the message found in Ephesians to our lives followed by evaluating our own lives. Once the studies are finished, we share urgent prayer requests. I like this time the

most since this is an opportunity to get to know each other better. Yoo Young said she will commit her job to God; Eun Mi said she also will rely on God for her job; Hong Bae promised to live this week before God; and I said that I would share the burdens from my job. We pray together and, after this is finished, the GBS meeting is finished for the day. Throughout the week, we are strengthened by each other's prayer support and love. Because there is sense of community through this bonding, I look forward to the GBS meeting the next week.

Although we are separated from each other due to forming new teams, I always long to see the my old group members. I trust that each of us will be faithful to their new teams and thank God for allowing us to understand why God unites us as one. I still love my old members as if we were still together.

Dreaming of a New Captain: Building Up Together

By Mi Ahn Lee (First Young Adult Group, Class of '75)



"And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit (Eph. 2:22)"

These days, Ephesians is studied in Young Adult GBS meetings. The cover of the GBS study guide is entitled "Building Up Together" from Ephesians 2:22. This title gives fresh insight to me nowadays. I was elected as the new captain in the Young Adult Group. I also served as captain in the College Group but God granted me a new opportunity to serve in this position.

Until recently, I thought to myself that what counts most is my spirituality; devotion to God; and service for the Kingdom. But recently, through different situations, I came to see the community the church, First Young Adult

Group, my team, etc. Through this, I now have new hope and anticipation that God will mold me and enable personal growth. As the new captain, I am expected to stay late on Sundays for GBS meetings, reviewing prayer requests for team members and call upon some people on a regular basis. These demands might cause internal conflicts but through them, God will make me spiritually mature. I would like to witness how God changes the lives of Choong Hyun members. Through this community, I would like to witness how God will use us for His Kingdom. That building together in Jesus. I envision that beautiful community and commit myself to faithfully carry out my role as the new captain.

A Small Opportunity to Share the Gospel

By Kyoung Jae Lee (Deacon, Third District)

There is a female Assistant Manager, who is a business acquaintance of mine, and I had a chance to share the gospel with her. She explained that her in-laws are Buddhist so she cannot come to church but promised to send her son to church. Since then, we had not met very often.

I later found out that the company she worked for went bankrupt and after much difficulty in finding a new job, she worked as an employee at a local construction company in Seoul. I met her for a lunch to discuss business and found out she needed serious prayers. Her mother-in-law was hospitalized for a serious gallstone; her husband was involved in a car accident and was hospitalized for two weeks. Her father-in-law stayed at the hospital to look after her mother-in-law so she had to provide his daily meals. Moreover, the frequent complaints of her mother-in-law that she was not providing enough monetary funds to her were burdensome to the marriage.

She moaned, "I don't understand why I have to live like this. I can't figure out why they make my situation worse instead of understanding my problems. When I presented the good news of Jesus Christ, she attested that she went to church when she was young and would like to resume her Christian life again without her in-law's consent.

We had a lengthy discussion about gaining an affable relationship with her husband and finding favorable position as a wise daughter-in-law. I was a little late for a meeting but thanked God for granting a heart to love another lost spirit. I ask to those who are around me whenever I have opportunity: "Do you ask the court for its ruling when you have matters to solve? To whom can you ask when you have matters that trouble your heart? Talk to Jesus. Meet Him and talk to Him."

A Song in My Mouth:

Every Living Soul Praises the Lord

By Suk Jin Kim

(Deacon, Twelfth District)

Whenever I am praising God, I feel like a fish that swims freely in the water. Whenever I sing hymns, my heart is filled and afresh as if I am breathing clear heavenly air. I sing praises when I am tired and weary. I know that praising hearts and strengthens my soul. I used to love listening to Mozart and Haydn but can only hear hymns in my ear. I loved Brahms, Tchaikovsky and the Beatles but no longer I admire them.

Is it even thinkable that we, who live in an Information Age that moves at light speed, are so moved and blessed through old-time hymns that are written hundreds years ago? I'm always touched by it. It is amazing how it can be pleasant to listen to these hymns. I thank the Holy Spirit for leading me to sing one hymn after another. I can sense the presence of Jesus in praises.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord (Ps. 150:6). I was surprised when I came across the verse after reading Psalms. Of course, I read the Bible with an intellectual mind. God allowed me to understand the reasons to sing and that I may praise God at every moment. I truly thank God that there are continuous praises in my mouth.

The Difference between Bold and Rude

By Yu Keum Lee (Third Grade, Middle School)



Because my mother works in the Infant Class at church, I often meet many babies. Among them, there are crying babies, stuck-up babies, playful babies and many different others but I discovered a common denominator. No matter how fearful or scared the babies are, when their parents are present with them their fears disappear. That is why I occasionally heard the baby's toy—which I didn't mind at all.

Sometimes, I feel quite depressed. I think I can do something but I eventually realize that I cannot do anything. I try so hard to trust in God and be obedient to my parents but there are many instances that I cannot. It took me a long time to figure out that the difference between bold and rude is very narrow. Looking back, I was a rude and arrogant kid. I thought I had confidence that I could do anything. I trusted in myself and depended on my abilities.

Now, I want to be bold; just like the babies who know their weaknesses but can be bold because of God's strength. Just like those babies who absolutely trust their parents, I trust my Father in heaven.

Like Paul's confession that I can do all things through whom strengthens me, I also want to be bold for God's glory and Kingdom.

You Are the Letter of Christ



As a Prepared Bride

By Ji Hyeon Oh

In Yoido, where I work, there are many people who come to visit the area. During the months that the cherry tree blossoms bloom, Yoon Joong Street is very crowded. People come to swim in the summer and skate in the winter. I also see many people coming to protest; it's as if I'm reading the cover story of a newspaper. Among them all, what I notice most often are the by protesting foreign workers.

One day, toward the end of my lunch hour, I saw three sisters who looked like Indonesians on my way somewhere. They were making phone calls in a telephone booth and I decided to share the gospel with one of the women after they finished talking. I waited and one lady finished her conversation. After she hung up, she burst into tears and began crying out loud. I was surprised, knowing that it would be impossible to witness to her in such situation. I prayed a short prayer that I could meet her again perhaps tomorrow. But my heart was heavy. When I went to the evening worship service, I could not stand and pray to the Lord. I don't know the reason for her tears—whether it's being homesick, possible circumstances at her home or the difficulties of living in Korea—I could not forget her face. It was difficult for me to accept that I am enjoying peace and comfort in God but she doesn't and struggles so much without Jesus in her life.

The next day, I went to that telephone booth again hoping to meet them again, but they were not there. I still remember them in my thoughts. It was a missed opportunity to share the warm love of Jesus.

I've earned a lesson from the incident: just as a prepared bride is able to meet the groom at anytime, we need to be ready to present the good news of Jesus Christ to anyone, anytime to the lost souls without Jesus.

Police Evangelism Committee's Evangelism Feast

By Suk Jung Han



An evangelism outreach was held on Aug. 29. 28 Evangelism Committee members attended the meeting to introduce and lead the unbelieving policemen to Christ. I would frequently return home with an empty feeling inside of me after doing an evangelism outreach for the Police Evangelism Committee. We are given very little time to contact police officers and have to try to make the most out of this limited period. This calls for the Holy Spirit's leading and seeking for His wisdom. The opportunities to hear the gospel for those policemen are rare. We heard that many churches attempted to

evangelize to police officers but the doors were shut. We felt privileged and blessed for the opportunity. Our prayer is that Choong Hyun families would pray more for this ministry. I felt sorry for those newly committed Christians that they were given little chance to be led for further spiritual growth. We call out their names, one-by-one, in our intercessory prayers and ask God to bring more opportunities for them to come to know Jesus.

I ask for your prayers and participation for the upcoming evangelism event on Sept. 29 at the third division of southern Seoul.

A Short-Term Mission Report on Mongolia

By Nam Kyoung Oh
(Junior, College Student)



I went to Mongolia for 12 days with a group of 17 members including myself. Through this mission trip, I discovered that I saw vision for missions and gained more interest about medical missions. During home visitations, I met Mongolians who had never heard of Jesus before. How precious it was to build a bonding relationship with them! They are very precious souls. I was able to feel the

transformation in my heart through them.

The most memorable experience was the Chelsom ministry and hospital visit. I also heard the Lord's direction about the future ministry and was overcome with tears of thanksgiving. The team experienced many difficulties throughout our

stay but the Lord granted us His strength to overcome Satan's attempts of destructions. My responsibility is to pray for those souls and for Mongolia until the day that God's Word is preached throughout the country. As the waters cover the sea, may the land of Mongolia be covered by the good news of Jesus Christ.