

◆ 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 Yocksam Dong, Kangnam Ku, Seoul Korea ☎ (02) 552-8200

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

THE YEAR 1998 - GOD GIVEN CHANCE

FOCUS ON JESUS CHRIST THE ONLY HOPE OF ALL

Communion Will Be Held During I-V Services

This is already the 4th day of 1998. Another chance that is given by God. Economical situation is critical in Korea but we do not fall into a desperation because our hope is gathering to our Lord Jesus Christ. We know that there is a good purpose of God for the difficulties that we face. Therefore, our present crisis is rather a blessing if it causes us to focus on Jesus and Him alone.

Worship in Spirit and in Truth

There are two objectives for Choong Hyun to accomplish in 1998. Inwardly, we will bring our church in one heart as we take care of every nook place inside of our church. And, outwardly, we will take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the places where His gospel has not been preached meaningfully. In order to

accomplish these two objectives we must continue to make an emphasis on the importance of worship service that is offered to Him in spirit and in truth. Thus, church has decided to open a special praising time from 15 minutes before every service starts to help people to come to sanctuary early to prepare their hearts to worship Him. And rightful offerings, including tithe, will be emphasized continuously in this year. Choong Hyun has set a budget of more than 500 million won to take care of the poor people. Welfare Service Committee, therefore, will look for every remote corner of our church to deliver the love of Christ. Our church will prepare daily commodities rather than cash so that our aid for them could be actual and realistic. Thus, our church will be the place with a wide open door where the poor people can come

with joy and peace.

Revival of parish and young people

Revival of parish and young people are the most importance elements for the inner renewal of our church. Thus, Parishioner Committee will continually have Spiritual Training Program for parish groups at Choong Hyun Prayer Garden with the more fully prepared programs.

Inner revival of high school · college · young adult group and an activation of 5th service are directly connected to Choong Hyun's future. Consequently, all the pastors and related groups share the same vision of "Gathering All Young People in 5th Service and Fill the Sanctuary." The most importance prayer topic for Choong Hyun church as we face

21st century is for the young people to be equipped with the true gospel of Jesus.

Achieving the Great Mandate

The most immediate and important work for Choong Hyun to do outwardly is "mission". The church has set 1.2 billion won budget for mission in 1998 and ready to give our every effort to make mission possible. Mission Committee are getting ready to do mission in the most effective way and the young people of Choong Hyun must arise to shine with the gospel of Jesus to expand the Kingdom of God. All the members of church must not stop praying for this matter. Let's put our hope in Christ as we give a full control into His hand.

PRAYING CHURCH - CHOONG HYUN

YOUNG PEOPLE RISE TO SHINE

Fire of Prayer Kindled in High School
Colleg and Young Adult Group

'Awake!'

The Sleeping Churches. This is the most painful rebuke for the illness of modern church. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation" was our Lord's warning which was repeated many times. But the temptation came all of sudden while his disciples were sleeping.

Korean Church became very proud of her numerical growth as they start to forget the importance of prayer. Korea is facing a severe economical and political chaos but the churches just do not pray.

But there is still a hope for an intercessory prayer is arising among the young people of Choong Hyun. A strong and enthusiastic prayer movement has been started in high school, college, and young adult group. This fire of prayer is proliferating to all the posts of the church very quickly.

High school group is having a prayer meeting for parents everyday in morning time as the "Entrance Examination" is at hand. This prayer meeting brought a significant response from many parents as they started to form a regular prayer meeting on every Wednesday 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. More than 100 people are gathering together every week to give an urgent prayer for the spirituality of high school students. It is very encouraging to see many high school students at Daybreak Prayer Meeting on every Monday and Wednesday.

College group has been leading prayer meetings constantly in many ways. There are many kinds of prayer meetings in college group including "Ha-Sa-Ri Prayer Meeting" on Monday nights to pray for those who are in army, "Remote-Island Prayer Meeting" on Tuesday nights to pray for those who are in remote

island, "Open Prayer meeting" on Wednesday nights, "Seh-Kum-lee Prayer Meeting" on Friday nights to pray for the world mission. More than 150 college students gather together for 'Over-Night Prayer Meeting' once in a month. The torch of prayer is blazing up in college group and they are praying earnestly for 300 short term missionaries from college group this year.

This kind of prayer sparks are not different story at all in young adult groups. The executive members of the 1st young adult group are attending Daybreak Prayer Meeting everyday while all the mememembers are strongly encouraged to attend on every Wednesday. They have an intercessory Prayer Meeting on Lord's day right after Night Praise Service where more than 100 members come to pray for others. A holy desire for the world mission is burning in the hearts of young adults which will cause them to go to every corner of the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The young people of Choong



Hyun have a paramount interest for the 5th worship service as they pray for its expansion both in spirituality and numbers. 5th service is not just another worship service but it is 'our service' where the young people can gather together to share the same vision and love. Young people are strongly encouraged to come to sanctuary 15 minutes before the 5th service starts where beautiful praises are prepared to help an audience to knit their hearts. Let all the members of Choong Hyun be joining in this fire of prayer with young people!

The Best Gift

(Romans 6:23)

Human artist's by nature come from a dark and gloomy background. Likewise, all people originate from a dismal past. Just as an artist desires to compose the most beautiful picture possible; we too want to make our life the best it can be. The problem is that not even the greatest artist in the world can produce anything worthwhile; for everything under the sun is 'vanity of vanities'! Because man is naturally sinful and not naturally immortal, the curse of death makes all of life futile, meaningless, and hopeless without God.

God is never-dying because He is ever-living. Immortality belongs to Him alone (1 Tim. 6:16); although it is bestowed on believers as a gift, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). God loved this world so much that He blessed us with Jesus. Through faith in Him, we receive eternal life. There are three important concepts that we need to understand and appreciate regarding eternal life:

(1) Eternal Life is a momentous blessing! All of life is wonderful but this eternal life is quite different from mere transitory existence. It passes unharmed through the crucible of death and is untouched by earthly decay and corruption. As ordinary life involves pain, sickness, and suffering; the spiritual life of eternity realizes peace of mind and the power to do right. For if we abide in Christ, we will know the truth and the truth will make us free (John 8:32).

Although death marks a discontinuity between this life and the next, eternal life guarantees a continuity of relationship to Christ even through death. Because Christ's first coming has already inaugurated His kingdom, eternal life is experienced by the believer during the present life. Eternal life denotes not only the length of time that

God's favor extends to His people but also the quality of existence that they may enjoy as they worship and serve Him. Eternal life is a present possession in terms of its reality, efficacy, and irrevocability. Yet its full realization awaits life with the Lord in the age to come. Thus the perfect life of God's ultimate kingdom is the consummation of the life 'in Christ' experienced now.

(2) Eternal life is a blessing



who breathed natural life into man comes again graciously to inspire His creatures with spiritual life. God knows the need of His creatures, and the gift is preeminently suitable.

(3) Eternal life is a gift that comes only through Jesus Christ! Unless we believe in Christ, we will die in our sins (John 8:24). Jesus is the channel through which new life streams into us. Life in the abstract cannot compare to faith in Christ; nor can worldly

you were called into fellowship with His son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor. 1:9).

Today's Bible passage provides us with the top key to understanding the best gift - the free gift eternal life. Human artist's can't create, duplicate, or reform it. Eternal life comes to us by the cross, by God's grace that through faith in Jesus Christ human beings may not perish but receive it.

Jesus is the only way, the only truth, and the only path to life (John 14:6). In Him is life - our life is hidden in Christ in God. The chief condition on our part is sinfulness; on God's part it is righteousness. It is Christ who reconciles us unto God, putting away sin through the cross and investing us with righteousness of the Holy One

received as a gift! By faith we find Jesus and receive eternal life. To trust Jesus is to begin to realize what "eternal" signifies. Eternal life describes the salvation that God bestows on those who trust and serve Him. To live responsively before Him means to gain understanding, indeed induction, into "eternal life". Faith in Christ frees us from sin and sanctifies us (Rom. 6:22). Although the result of sanctification is eternal life, it does not earn eternal life; eternal life is still God's gracious gift.

By a simple course of action we married death. Just as a soldier earns his ration and pay, we that live by the law alone will die by the law and bring the sentence of death upon ourselves. Human weakness has been provided by God's plan of salvation. He

wisdom, which is the very antithesis of the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:20).

Jesus is the only way, the only truth, and the only path to life (John 14:6). In Him is life - our life is hidden in Christ in God. The chief condition on our part is sinfulness; on God's part it is righteousness. It is Christ who reconciles us unto God, putting away sin through the cross and investing us with righteousness of the Holy One.

Eternal life is the divinely bestowed gift of blessedness in God's presence that endures without end. It is the absolutely best gift anyone can receive. It is the free gift given by God to those He loves so very much, to those that believe in His Son, Our Lord - Jesus Christ. We place all our hope in Christ. Our assurance is based on the wonderful fact that, "God is faithful, through whom

Wonderful gift from above

There comes to my heart
one sweet strain
A glad and a joyous refrain
I sing it again and again
Sweet peace
the gift of God's love

Through Christ on the cross
peace was made
My debt by His death was all
paid
No other foundation is laid
For peace
the gift of God's love

When Jesus as Lord I had
crowned
My heart with this peace did
abound
In Him the rich blessing I found
Sweet peace
the gift of God's love

In Jesus for peace I abide
And as I keep close to His side
There's nothing but peace doth
betide
Sweet peace
the gift of God's love

Peace Peace sweet peace
Wonderful gift from above
Oh wonderful wonderful peace
Sweet peace
the gift of God's love

Elisha's Call

(1 Kings 19:19-21)

Elisha was a man called by God to be a prophet. He was summoned through Elijah (the well known prophet who was taken to heaven by special means) during a normal work day in a field. His response and actions to his calling, as recorded in today's scripture verses, are critical elements in understanding the nature of true faith. Elisha was called by faith to succeed Elijah and Elijah was commanded by faith to divinely choose Elisha as his predecessor.

The story leading up to Elijah's commission helps us to better understand and appreciate Elisha's calling. God instructed Elijah to go to Jezreel, present himself, challenge the Baal god, destroy the Baal priests, display His awesome power to turn the hearts of Israel towards Him, and to send the much needed rain. Elijah experienced victory in all accounts. He went to Jezreel, presented himself to King Ahab, successfully challenged the Baal god, destroyed the Baal priests, heard Israel cry out that the Lord is God and saw the rain fall from the sky. His spiritual encounter with God and His dealings was triumphant.

After all these miracles and his successful completion of God's workings, Elijah learns that the King's wife wants him dead - as dead as the four hundred and fifty Baal priests he had slain the previous day. In desperation, he flees to Beersheba where he leaves his servant and heads out alone one day's journey into the desert. It's surprising to read this, considering Elijah's past experiences with God; however, his fear results from not encountering God. His thought was that his mission was complete and everything would now be safe and sound. When that wasn't the case, he panicked. He looked to himself and saw trouble, he didn't look to God to find peace.

Tired, weak and depressed - Elijah rests under a tree and resigns his prophetic responsibility by declaring that he has had enough and wishes God to take his life. Twice an angel comes to him and provides him with food. Strengthened by that food he travels forty days and forty nights in the desert to the Mountain of God - Mt. Horeb. There the Lord challenges him twice and he in turn challenges God twice with his despondent replies that he is the only good prophet left and that now his life is in grave danger.

After this revelation of human and divine communication, God finally commissions Elijah to anoint

three people: a king of another country, a king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah as his successor. It's great to see how God can strengthen His children in weakness and comfort them and provide them with everything they need to accomplish His will and way. With God's help, "So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him" (vs. 19). Elijah went from 'there' refers from God's holy mountain. He came to God's mountain depressed, God met with him and strengthened him. Now, he has to leave God's powerful presence to complete his commissioned task. He moves from God's holy mountain to the presence of Elisha son of Shaphat,

with you..." (vs. 20). Here we discover Elisha's strong character. He immediately acts upon his calling, like a starving man who has found food. He runs to Elijah, leaving his farm work and animals behind. He tells his boss what he is going to do before Elijah even speaks a word. He doesn't bow down or humble himself in front of Elijah, he only speaks out his request.

Elijah replies, "Go back" and "What have I done to you?" (vs. 20). Elijah's words are challenging. Up to this point he has no word with Elisha. So he is basically telling Elisha to go back and do whatever he wants. He didn't ask Elisha to come with him and he certainly doesn't need Elisha to go about his business. Elijah's words reflect his thoughts that Elisha's request was like a delaying element - not truly devoted,

excuse for his needed delay. He also didn't wait or take into consideration Elijah's yes or no. He acted without permission.

Elisha did more than accept his calling. He didn't just follow after Elijah, like Elijah expected. His devotion to God went deeper than mere respect for mankind. This text tells of his sacrifice of his living (the oxen and plow equipment) for his prophetic ministry. His fellow village people shared with him in his witness to his ordination. He didn't keep it a secret but instead evangelized his whole community. After all this, he left Abel Meholah forever to become Elijah's apprentice until the end.

Elisha followed only one direction - the direction forward to God. He followed this direction without misgiving or regret. If he wasn't sincere, he wouldn't have been able to make the public commitment he did and would have stayed home with his live oxen. How many servants are there like Elisha? His strong character and boldness even shows in his reply to Elijah's question of what he could do for Elisha before he was to be taken up into heaven, "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit" (2 Kings 2:9). Which he did! And which is apparent in his very effective service for God.

Compared to Moses' calling (Exodus 3:9-15), Isaiah's calling (Isaiah 6:1-18) and Jeremiah's calling (Jeremiah 1:4-10) - Elisha's calling was different. Unlike Moses, Isaiah and Jeremiah, who were unsure of themselves, this critical chapter reveals that Elisha was waiting for his calling, he was certain of his calling, and he was ready for his calling! His devotion to God was pure! His dedication to God was sincere.

Elisha is a wonderful example of faith in action. His quick response and actions to God's calling display his strong faith. He brings to light our need to listen, follow and obey God in like manner. How often do we place Christ first in our life? Do we drop everything to obey His commands? Can you leave your livelihood and home at a moment's notice? Is your faith strong enough to let go of this world and its belongings and cling to eternal treasures? I pray today's message strengthens your faith and awakens your call to serve the Lord wholeheartedly!

Elisha is a wonderful example of faith in action. His quick response and actions to God's calling display his strong faith. He brings to light our need to listen, follow and obey God in like manner. How often do we place Christ first in our life? Do we drop everything to obey His commands?

I pray today's message strengthens your faith and awakens your call to serve the Lord wholeheartedly!

He finds Elisha. This in itself is amazing. Not only that but he waits as eleven pairs of oxen pass by to finally throw his cloak around Elijah, who is driving the last pair in the field.

Elijah had no formal knowledge of who Elisha was. He didn't even know what he looked like! And yet, he was able to discern the one whom God had called and gave him his cloak. Who is Elisha? It appears that he was a farmer and like King David who was a nobody shepherd, a person without recognition. As the son of Shaphat, he did not come from the Levites line of priests. He was a normal person that God chose for Himself. He is later referred to as 'a man of God' (2 Kings 5:8) and 'a prophet' (2 Kings 9:1).

After Elijah throws his cloak he starts to walk away. "Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. 'Let me kiss my father and mother good-bye,' he said, 'and then I will come

Our thoughts in reading this passage probably center on the story we read in the New Testament concerning Jesus asking others to follow him, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:61-62). This powerful passage makes me wonder whether or not Jesus was thinking about Elisha when he said those words.

Elisha didn't run back home to kiss his mother and father good-bye. On the contrary, "So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant" (vs. 21). Elisha didn't reveal his true intentions to Elijah but instead made a polite and subtle

Mission Journal #1:

Mission Field Investigation in Egypt and Kenya

Rev. Paul S. Lee

(Pastor of Mission Committee)

The church session decided to send four people to Egypt and Kenya in order to investigate the mission field in Africa. Thus elder No Kwang-Heun, elder Kim Kwang-Nam, elder Park Young-sik, and myself were told to visit Egypt and Kenya from October 13 to 29, for 16 days.

We first arrived in Cairo, the capital city of Egypt, as we spent 17 hours by way of Bahrain and Jeddah of Saudi Arabia. We were welcomed by Rev. Lee Joon-Kyu, a missionary in Egypt from our church, and stayed there for four days as we learn the present condition of evangelism around Egypt and Middle East area.

Serious problem of urbanization in Cairo made its population as many as 150 million people. Polluted air and diffuseness was the first impression of Cairo when we first arrived there. Pollution of Cairo is rather serious.

Religious Situation in Egypt

Egypt is a Moslem country. Legally, the freedom of religion is granted in Egypt. But this is merely saying, there is severe discrimination against Christians in choosing jobs, revenue, and marital process. Christians cannot be a high government official and their

children also have to face severe discriminations through educational system. Moslem temples can be built without a permission and, thus,



more than 80,000 Moslem temples were newly built since 1981. But, for Christians, to renovating a bathroom in an already built church needs an approval of the president of Egypt. This is a reality of religious situation in Egypt.

Witnessing to Moslems is prohibited in Egypt. Becoming a Christian for Egyptians is like falling down to low classed people. Therefore, in reality, it is almost

impossible for a Moslem to be a Christian unless they move to another country or receive a brand-new identity.

Churches in Egypt were deteriorated because of severe persecutions and discriminations. Most of Christians are the lowest classed people and illiterate.

Possibility of Egypt Mission

But it is rather surprised to notice that there are more than 8 million Christians living in Egypt. Thus, Egypt plays a very important role in Middle East for evangelism when we notice that there are only 2 million Christians living in whole Middle

East area, out side of Egypt. But most of 8 million Christians in Egypt are members of Egyptian Orthodox church which is very similar to Catholic, which is also called Coptic church. Pure protestants are less than 1% of whole population of Egypt.

We visited Rev. Gadala Nagiv's place who was sponsored by Rev. Lee Joon-Kyu and was invited to COM seminary of Choong Hyun

church two years ago. He was pastoring a church in a very poor area and he needs a support from somewhere to run the church because the members are just too poor to give any offering. We prayed for Rev. Gadala Nagiv and his family and encouraged them with a little sum of donation. As we came out from his house we heard that if someone reports to a local police station about our visit to his family, then Rev. Gadala Nagiv will be summoned to a police station to be investigated.

The Egypt Evangelical Bible College that we visited has many visa-students from all over Middle East countries. They are very precious servants of God who will be the Christian leaders of many Middle East countries when they finish biblical training at this institution. But many of these students abandoned their holy desire because of a poverty and other inferior situations. Living cost of one student is about 300,000 won per month including tuition fee, residence fee, and others expenses. How wonderful it would be if the members of Choong Hyun support these devoted students by families or by parish groups!

We are so amazed at what our church can do for the world mission. How thankful it is that Choong Hyun church has a burning desire for the world mission. We must remember how poor Korean church was until recent decades and, also, how God has blessed Korea so much with wealth. We must remember the purpose and the goal of His blessing. Now it is the time for us to give helps to the weak churches of the world where the Good News of Him has not been proclaimed.

We headed to Kenya as we pray for His guidance.

My God whom I met in the times of trouble

Lee Bu-Sung

(Deacon, Supervisor of English Education Department)

I was raised up from a family where a shamanism was deeply rooted. I was a completely selfish and ambitious person who gave every endeavor to achieve worldly success. I used to work at a bank until a large company scouted me as an executive member. I became a trustee of that company when I was 36 years old as my talents and ability were fully approved by many people. I became a very proud man. I was a maniac in achieving worldly success. My arrogance was tempted by another offer from even a larger enterprise to be an executive member. But this is where I started to face a problem which was caused by a different management style and structural running system. I started to suffer

from insomnia which had broke my life rhythm and I eventually became very ill with many diseases including gastroenteric disorder, skin disease, and etc. I had to quite my job and lay down for 10 months. My ambitious old self who did not know any failure disappeared as I became a very weak and worthless person without a hope for the future. I had to stay in a hospital otherwise I would become a confirmed invalid. I tried almost every drugs which were prescribed by famous doctors but nothing really worked at all. I was losing my life with my money and family. Now I understand that it was a flogging rod of God. But it seemed to me a death sentence at that time.

As I face a critical crisis of my

life, one of my wife's friends visited us and told us that my illness can be healed only by God. I would refuse her witnessing at once if I was a healthy and wealthy as I used to. But I did not have any choice to refuse anything at that time. As I was assisted by her, I came to the house of God for the first time in September of 1981.

It was very hard for me to open my heart in the first place even though I gave my tries. But by the grace of God which came through many people's prayer and love my heart was opened and I experienced an inexpressible joy and peace in my heart. I became to know that God lives. I was saved by His unceasing grace.

As I became a child of God, the peace of our family and my health were recovered very quickly. I could get much better and steady job than before. My family was like a family of Cornelius where the joy and peace overflow and, thus, we called our house "a house of Shalom." I was a blind man who was looking for vain

things in this world but now I see the truth in Jesus Christ with the cross that He bore for us. I became a literal CHRISTIAN. I gave all my strength for the His Kingdom ministry. I was a temporary deacon at a small church until I came to Choong Hyun church in August, 1986. To be honest with, I came to a big size church in order to hide myself in a crowd but God never leaves me alone. He gave much more works in Choong Hyun church. I really thank Him even for that.

After I receive Jesus Christ in my heart as my Lord and Savior, I came to know that everything was His grace and blessing. Obviously, I started to feel an inner strength ever since I gave my life completely into His hand. When my friends ask me for the reason of my health as they show me their white hairs, I answer them, "Because I believe in Jesus. You must receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior just like I did." I give thanks and honor for His love and mercy for my life. I will spend every moment of my life for His glory.