

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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Risen Lord, I will always serve Thee

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor. 15:55)

Hallelujah Choir's Easter Cantata

Today is Easter. This Easter is special to Choong Hyun church. It is because the church wants to stand up again after going through difficult times by the resurrected power of our Lord Jesus Christ. This desire was seen in the hearts of Choong Hyun congregation, witnessed through their fervent prayers during the dawn prayer meetings throughout the Passion Week. Numbers of people stayed at church for overnights in prayer and praise and then slept for couple hours at toddlers hall and then came for the dawn prayer meetings. We should all continue our prayers ceaselessly so that the church may gain new strength to carry the missions.

On the Good Friday, during the Friday Praise Worship, special communion service was held. The service was held for about two hours led by senior pastor Rev. Kim Sung-kwan, scripture reading by elders, special praises and then communion ceremony and intercessory prayers followed. It was a harmonious night of message and communion service.

Today, after the Praise Worship, Hallelujah choir and orchestra will present an Easter program 'Thank the hills of Golgotha' This Easter cantata, composed by Cloude Hinzmann, is consisted of 13 pieces. The choir will sing Hendels Messiah in the replacement of the last 13th piece. The congregation should participate in the Easter praises and joyful fellowship in active interest and participation.



Evangelism Department: Outreach During the Years First Half

The Evangelism Department will begin its evangelism outreach for this year. It is urging that the congregation to identify an evangelism target person and then the department will form an Evangelism Task Force based on those who completed the church's evangelism courses. Furthermore, the department will seek ways to generate interest for evangelism by initiating the "Seeking the Lost Soul Movement", developing one-on-one evangelist training (those who have a special gift for evangelism) and encouraging the congregation to participate in Evangelism Seminars.

Uzbekistan Research Mission: Apr. 18 - May 1

The Missions Department is sending a research mission team composed of teachers from the Foreign Workers Mission to Uzbekistan from Apr. 18 - May 1. Many newcomers from Uzbekistan are registering at the church. It was necessary therefore to investigate and find ways to efficiently help the new converts when they return to their homeland. Also, the department decided to send short-term mission teams to Uzbekistan in near future. Meanwhile, two of the five team members will stop by Sri Lanka to examine missionary Jin Hee Chus missions and seek ways for furthering future missions there.

Celebrating Easter Sunday: Hallelujah Choir's Easter Chorus

Apr. 23 is Easter Sunday. In each of the Choong Hyun Sunday School departments special Easter celebrations will be hold. For the occasion, the Hallelujah Choir has practiced and rehearsed special hymns. Composed of 13 hymns, this year's theme is "Thank the Hills of Golgotha". Your prayers and participation will encourage their effort.

Cherry Trees Planted at Choong Hyun Prayer Mountain

Following the plantation of 200 cherry trees at the Choong Hyun Prayer Mountain by the Senior Deacon Fellowship's on Mar. 25, the Evangelism Department planted 100 cherry trees on Apr. 6. The trees were planted along the road around the mountain's entrance.

Special Sunday Service for the Handicapped: Bringing Disabled Families Closer

Apr. 16 was observed as Handicapped Sunday. Accordingly, the Sa-Rang Department (Mentally Disabled Ministry) sang various hymns in front of the main sanctuary. During the time of praise, they sang along with the Ebatha Department (Hearing Impaired Ministry). They also sang hymns during the Friday service.

On Apr. 28 at 4:30 p.m., the Sa-Rang Department will hold an evangelistic session for the disabled community around our neighborhood. Please pray for its success.

The Sa-Rang Department teachers are preparing all the necessary things for the event. All people should be more open-minded and compassionate to the disabled and handicapped.



by Rev. Sung Kwan Kim
Senior Pastor

WORD OF SALVATION

(ACTS 13:26)

While on their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas visited a Jewish synagogue in Pisidian Antioch on the Sabbath day. Their purpose was to give the word of salvation to the Jews. When asked by synagogue officials if they had any message of exhortation for the people, Paul stood up and preached the word of salvation. In the midst of his beautiful sermon, he proclaimed, "Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent" (v. 26). The Word of salvation was sent out and specifically directed to God's chosen people. It's kind of disheartening to hear this knowing the outcome of their reception. You see, Paul and Barnabas had focused their mission on revealing the secret of God to the Jews first. The real Israelites were their primary audience. As such, they served them first with the most valuable of all words. Sadly, their pride caused them to reject the word of salvation. Through their shameful actions, they threw away the best gift anyone can receive.

Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles" (v. 46). Because the sons of Abraham's family refused the word of salvation, it turned to us. The great blessing of God came down upon Gentiles-to you and I. The Jews rejection of God's mercy and grace is a warning sign. It shows us that when the word of salvation is not received, when it is rejected, it is sent to another place. This is a serious matter which no one can afford to dismiss. If you're asleep, open your eyes! If you're awake, open your ears! Do you listen everyday to God's Word? Are you really serious about every Sunday? I pray your responses are in the affirmative because to us, to you, the word of salvation has been sent!

What does the word of salvation mean? Let's glean from Paul's sermon the answers. It means that Jesus is the promised Savior, "From the descendants of David, according to

promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus" (v. 23). It means that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is officially announced to you, "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you" (v. 38). It means that what the law could not do, justify a person or declare him righteous, Jesus Christ can do, "and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses" (v. 39). It means perfect salvation because Jesus died and God

began and we are told by God how everything will end. Today, we find ourselves living in the church age, known as the age of grace. Amen! Right now, Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God the Father in glory patiently waiting for His return. Through His blood, your sins are cleansed and you become righteous. Your part is so simple, to repent and have faith. All you have to do is confess your sins and believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. His message has been sent out, and all you have to do is receive it in faith.

send out our missionaries to preach it in different lands. Amen! Yet, still there are those who reject it. How about you? What is your situation?

We are so utterly blessed, "Blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear" (Mt. 13:16). Every place you go, you can see and hear of the wonder of Jesus. Are you really happy about it? When you look at Jeremiah, Isaiah and David, did they see and hear what you see and hear? No, they were longing for the day of salvation. They didn't see it but you see it. We are living in a blessed time. Do you realize how much we have of God's grace? The apostles saw it and they died keeping it. Today, we don't come close to the type of persecution the apostles faced. So, how can you live with this hope in your situation? Through faith in Jesus Christ! Through blessing other people with His message. Through daily prayer and devotion. Through worship and praise. Through hope in His promise of eternal life. Our responsibility is great, "How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation" (Heb. 2:3). Isn't it sad that so many turn away? Isn't it even sadder that so many live as if promised tomorrow?

Let's get serious and be responsible. You know why? Because you will accumulate blessings or be cursed. How are you going to handle the word of salvation? Do you honestly want it? Or, do you want to reject it or compromise it or use it for your own benefit? This, of course, would be an awfully terrible decision. Perhaps you want delay your decision and think about it more? This is a very dangerous decision because no one knows when this age of grace will cease or when their day of grace will end. Or, maybe you like pretending to receive it, or playing the role of a hypocrite or just being a temporary believer who changes at the next turn? Be serious - this is a wonderful blessing. If you don't accept it, you may never be able to even have the opportunity to accept it again. Once it leaves, there is no second chance. You will face eternal punishment - God's righteous judgement. Don't wait!

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raised him, "that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You" (v. 33). It means that salvation comes through the cross, "When they had carried our all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb" (v. 29).

My dear brothers and sisters, the whole Bible is the story of salvation. From creation to the New Jerusalem, from Genesis to Revelation, God reveals His one great plan of salvation. The story is slow in its progressive unfolding but it is real and it is sure. We are told by God how everything

How is the word of salvation sent out? Through the Great Commission (see Mt. 28:18-20). Jesus did not leave you to send out His message alone. He blesses each and every believer with the power of His Holy Spirit. His Holy Spirit guides, enables, equips and, most importantly, empowers you to carry His message to the ends of the world. How did you receive it? Through family, a friend, a preacher, the Bible, a church activity, television / radio, or perhaps through a miracle? There are all kinds of human activities available for the Gospel. Our beautiful country received the word of salvation from missionaries. Now, the Gospel is not only preached in our land, but we

Jesus Whom I Met:

I Pray I Can Work for Him All My Life

By Sung Ja Kim (Foreign Workers Mission, Indian Translator)

I was born in a Buddhist home so I went to church by myself. During my first year of high school, I began to participate in the Bible study run by the H.C.C.C. every Thursday. From that point, my parents opposed my Christian faith. This resulted in a delayed homecoming. When I was in college, I wanted to major in the fine arts. After working late at an art institute for art studies, I then went to Bible study. Consequently, I returned home late. My dad tore the Bible and burnt it. He stood at the front door and prohibited me from going to church. Even my mom, who would say Jesus is calling you when the church bells rang, objected. However, during the H.C.C.C.s Bible studies, I came to accept Jesus as my personal savior.

I came to really understand the verse, I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:5) and I acknowledged I was nothing and cannot do anything apart from Jesus. Jesus gave me faith to confess that He is everything to me and He knows my existence.

In 1980, I met Jesus for the second time. At the time, I was the owner of a small arts institute. But due to the political turmoil that banned all private institutions nationwide in the early 1980s, I could not continue my institute. Dismayed and depressed, I was led to the young adults' meeting of a church and a prayer mountain for prayer. It was the first time that I went to a prayer mountain. I was sitting on a rock as others were but could not pray. So deeply dismayed and even angry, I was just crying and held bitter feelings against God. But, then I remembered a deacon's words that we need to repent. I started to confess my sins and repented my behaviors. My spirit began to repent. I do not know how much time had passed. All was so silent and I could see some blood on my elbows and knees. It was Aug. 22, 1980. My spirit was transformed and I was different person than before my prayers. Afterwards, I wanted to live for God and decided to do anything for Him. Whenever I pray such dedication prayers, the Lord gives me Isaiah 6:8: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, "Here I am. Send me!"

I entered theological school and, in 1986, went to India. After 13 years of ministry there, I came back for more studies at a seminary and began serving in the Foreign Workers Mission. All my life, I desire this, working for God. I pray I can work all my life for Him as this hymn confesses.

A Hymn in My Lips

Be Not Dismayed Whatever Betide

By Young Whan Lee

(Deacon and Teacher, Third Grade Middle School)



My hometown is Okchon in the Chungchong Provinces.

My neighbors would say words of envy to my mother that I was a success considering that I was born in the countryside. I guess it was because of my Christian faith. I believe this indeed. What more success could there be in this world than being saved eternally? I come from a family of unbelievers. But, I was saved and so were my parents, aunt, and seven brothers and sisters. I really thank my wife, deaconess Soo Ja Choi, for her dedicated prayer and support. I was able to change stop our family's traditional Confucian memorial worship service and replaced it with Christianity in my household.

At work, I would witness to my colleagues and even to my boss. For over 50 years, I lived a life of witnessing Jesus Christ. I can confidently say that I was able to be so bold and energetic because of Jesus' blood shed on the cross to provide a new life to me. One reason that enabled me to walk victoriously in the wilderness is Hymn 432, "Be not dismayed whatever betide, God will take care of you and comforting promise of our Lord."

I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy (John 16:20). Remembering this word, until the day of His return, I will sing this hymn and will pray, evangelize and share fellowship of breaking the bread in Christ.

*Be not dismayed whatever betide, God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.
Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you.*

*God will take care of you, through every day, over all the way;
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.*

I Didn't Know You are a Christian

By Hyeuk Jin Kang (Second Young Adult Group)

I work at the Westin Chosun Hotel located in Sogong-dong, downtown Seoul as the manager for room sales and party management. I started this job back in Jan. 1994. It's been over six years already! At times, friends and/or relatives would ask me questions about my job and sometimes this made me feel uncomfortable. There are differences between visiting a hotel as a customer and worker. There is a saying that "the customer is always right." However, not many people understand how many people are needed to serve one customer. For example, if a customer stays one night, maids are needed in 24-hour shifts and must be on stand-by. For a single meal, waiters, waitresses and cooks are always busy also rotating in 12-hour shifts.

But, serving customers are much easier for those who love God and serve Him in their life because without love, serving is very difficult. There are many Christian workers where I work. For Christians, showing our love to customers always come first. Thus, they are held in high regard both by the company and its customers. At the same time,

working in a hotel can also be a difficult place for Christians. Due to the nature of the work, sometimes we are discouraged by irresponsible and unpleasant customers. In addition, unbearable and harsh criticism based on a self-centered mind befalls us even when a small mistake is made. Also, hotel workers suffer from relative poverty; how discouraging it is when a customer's evening meal bill is more than your monthly salary! If we only look at the material spending by customers, we may fall into a trap of comparing ourselves to others and then despair.

I remember a word from one of my colleagues: after my prayer at the employees' chapel, he approached me and said, "I didn't know you are a Christian." After thinking about what he said, I was ashamed of how carnal and worldly I was before others. I believe that spreading the gospel starts when my words, behaviors and attitudes follow the one who died on the cross. For that, I want to do away with my selfish behavior. I want to come before God more and more in my daily life.



Behind the Story of a Missionary (2)

A Spiritual Battle in Missions

From the Missions Department

The missionary organization that pulled out missionaries from China in the 1950s decided to send missionary Lillian Hamer to northern Thailand. At that time, the organization found that the natives were consumed by Satan. They held religious ceremonies at their homes everyday and a small temple for evil spirits were placed at each house. Moreover, instead of using the Thai baht, the natives were using opium as a means of exchange, which was their main agricultural product.

This meant that everyone was hooked on drugs. Even the babies were intoxicated by their mother's breast milk. Undaunted, the missionaries went to proclaim the gospel message to those lost souls in spite of such conditions. Steadily up the hills and mountains of northern Thailand, the missionaries carried the gospel through the prayer support of the loved ones back home. Lillian Hamer and other missionaries were killed by the enemy in disguise. The next year, missionary Roy Orpin was also killed. Needless to say, the missionaries became discouraged.

Mental discouragement is a powerful attack of Satan. The most critical offensive weapon of Satan is



Missionaries began to pray again in the face of such distrust, discouragement and death. After prayers, many volunteered to go to north Thailand. When they arrived where the previous missionaries were killed, they could not find any attack or restraint. When they came to the villages, the dying souls glanced at the missionaries but did not attack them. The missionaries began to proclaim the living God and Jesus' love. The land that was once covered with Satan's dark forces now turned into God's kingdom. This was a reaffirming experience that Jesus' work on the cross is always ultimately victorious.

perhaps discouragement. In fact, there are many spiritual giants who fell under Satan's attack of discouragement. Famous missionary J.O. Fraser confessed the following:

"A strange disbelief got hold of me. What I once believed and trusted, ended up in smoke. Satan seemed to mocking me that even my prayers do not get answered."

Praying to Walk the Walk of an Evangelist

By Ok Sun Seo (Deacon, Fifth District)



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Cor. 5:17)

The more I think of the grace that saved me from eternal death, the more I appreciate and praise my saviors precious blood

shed on the cross. I went to church from my early years, but there was no Jesus in my heart. But, once I got married, I decided to rededicate my life before the Lord. During a house visitation, an evangelist came and gave her testimony that moved my heart and I burst into tears. Since then, I have always thanked God's special love and His protection over my life. I diligently participate in worship services. There was a role model who is like a spiritual mother; my first district chief. She was a humble person and full of Holy Spirit; I still vividly remember her in my memories. I really thank God for giving me that special meeting with her. These days, I am praying for those souls whom I witness to and for those souls that I will meet in future evangelism. Since I started witnessing to others, there was great change in me: I came to confess that my daily life is a miracle and acknowledged His grace in my daily steps. I pray that I will walk a walk that will please God in witnessing Jesus Christ to others.

District Spiritual Training:

Life Transformed Like Jesus

The district spiritual training session began in early April. The day after Arbor Day, Districts One and 10 gathered in the Choong Hyun prayer



mountain. The prayer mountain was covered with newly budding leaves and spring flowers. The wind was still chilly but the spring sun was warm. Some members brought their children with them. After the opening worship, the first seminar was led by Rev. Sung Ki Yeo (District 10) and second seminar by Rev. Hong Sung Lee (District 1). A time for fellowship and lunch followed. Because many members attended the event, the cafeteria was jam-packed.

After lunch, deacon Seung Deok Lee was in charge of recreation and

games. Everyone actively participated; young and old, pastors and evangelists brought joyful moments. The main message of the day was Life of the Church and Power (Eph. 1:22,23). We, as

Christians, should live through the power of the Holy Spirit. God designated his called ones to live a holy and righteous living; thus, the saints should have oneness and bonding unity within us. This will then bring true Christian life. Therefore, we ought to live a life of proclaiming the gospel and the cross by changing our neighbors and friends. We pray that the District Spiritual Training sessions will bring about the power to change the lives for all Choong Hyun congregation members.

Research of church organization Ministry for the Disabled—Adulam

More beautiful created beings than the ordinary people

Cave Adulam is where David hid himself from Saul. This name is adopted by a supporting group for the disabled, consisted of several college students to help those who are in need. Assisting teachers who served in Sarang and Ebatha department formed the initiation of this supporting group. It was a small gathering but their vision was somewhat different from others. Normal people would view the disabled people as different, fearful, or pitiful people. Members of Adulam regretted that even some Christians would look at the disabled people only as a recipient of pity and sympathy. The disabled are also Gods created beings and perhaps, since they have purer souls, they must be more beautiful created beings than the ordinary people. At present, the major ministry of the Adulams focus is on the disabled people who stays at home. Since most of the members are still

students, they cannot visit many homes but on a constant basis, they are visiting two homes to share the love of God and to assist the needs of the disabled. Frequently, the disabled people who stays at home suffer inferiority complex severely. That kindles the members desire to find them and help them to socialize with others and to feed them spiritual nourishment.

Also, by help of the Ebatha department, Adulam members opened sign language classes in hope for more participation from other college students. The beginners class is already on their 4th term and intermediate class had started this month for the first term. Adulam members hope to see more college students who have zeal for Jesus and love for neighbors to participate in this ministry. The congregation should pray for their faithful ministry.