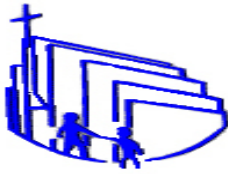


Jan-Feb 2005

Volume 1, Issue 1



A Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Seoul Union Church

SUCH CLARION

Church Pick Newsletter's Name

SUCH Clarion has been chosen as the name of this newsletter among 35 entries suggested by SUCH members.

What is clarion? By simple and straightforward definition, it is a wind instrument. Throughout history, the sound of the clarion horn signaled a call for attention. It pierced the air to hush the noisy crowd as they perked their ears to listen to the message. Metaphorically, it signals a good news or a call. SUCH Clarion will serve not only to provide news and information, but also to call on anyone when service at church is needed.

Congratulations to the anonymous name-giver!

Prince Steers SUCH Helm

The year 2005 opened with a sermon series "Living on the Edge" which is a call for a closer and deeper commitment to Christ. The theme came just in time when many Christians are preoccupied with a list of new year's resolutions--either to make amends for the past year's shortcomings or to improve further their level of accomplishments this year..

The series was followed by an equally pressing topic focused on Christian marriage. "Marriage by the Book" aims to offer some tips on creating lasting love and friendship between couples which is the foundation in building a healthy family life and a haven where couples can raise God-fearing children.

Prompted by statistics on



Rev. Prince Charles Oteng-Boateng with his wife, Princess Monica and son, Prince Josiah William

high divorce rates not only in Korea but worldwide, Rev. Prince Charles Oteng-Boateng, a professional marriage counselor himself, believes that the sermon can offer some wisdom on God's plan for couples. The topic ran through March..

As an addendum to the sermon, Rev. Oteng-Boateng has facilitated a Bible Study class on how to pick a mate and how to work on relationships.

Utilizing Dr. John Van Epp's famous lecture on "How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk", attendees were able to see a video-lecture which has been viewed and taught in about 45 states in America, seven countries worldwide, over 250 military bases, and thousands of churches, organizations, educational settings, and agencies. Rev. Oteng-Boateng believes that the lecture was helpful in dealing with baffling problems in marriages, families, and relationships.

The class, which opened in November and ended Feb. 13, was held using group discussions after the video-viewing. It was a prelude to another class which will also concern on marriage and relationships.

Rev. Oteng-Boateng, hailing from Ghana, and a missionary to Korea, took the SUCH helm last year after a long leadership vacuum. He had served the church as a volunteer pastor before the church council extended the call to him. He succeeds Rev. Julian Holdsworth from Ireland.

EDITOR'S NOTE

It's a great thing to see this first issue finally printed— after all these weeks of uncertainty! Thanks to the efforts of contributors who have helped filled up the four pages. It is hoped that this will set precedent to inspire SUCHers to share their thoughts, visions, and other information

concerning SUCH

As a background on the birth of this newsletter: No serious or tedious discussions were done so far. It all began as a voluntary act to serve the church. The main purpose of this newsletter is to inform members of what is going on at SUCH beyond what you find out during the service,

coffee break, or Bible Study hours. It also aims to foster greater awareness on Who's Who at SUCH and to spur better interaction among members. At some point, it offers some hints where your service at church is needed. This newsletter will come out every two months. We apologize for the printing delay of this Jan-Feb issue.

What's Up?

Mission Sunday Kicks Off

Mission Sunday kicked off at Seoul Union Church (SUC) on Feb. 27 as part of the regular visitations undertaken by local charities to give SUC members an opportunity to be informed on the ongoing programs for underprivileged members of Korean society.

Johan Kim, Mission and Benevolence Committee chair, led in presenting the groups. He said about 10 percent of SUC budget last year was donated to charitable institutions: six overseas and seven in Korea. The 10 percent, he said, was consisted of the same amount extended to the same institutions last year.



Angel's Heaven choir render a song at SUC

The seven local organizations include Deaf Ministries International (DMI) Korea, Lydia House, Holt Children's Services, Aeranwon, Angel's Haven, Jungshim Girl's Information School, and Severance Hospice.

Kim said his committee was able to organize some visitations to four of the said institutions last year. Although few were able to join him in this gesture

of support to the unwed mothers, orphans, and disabled, he said those visitations were precious time to show them God's love and concern. Those who joined with him brought some food and gave short testimonies.

During the Mission Sunday at SUC, children of these institutions, likewise, inspired members with their songs and music. The Angel Haven's choir, the MDI Korea choir, and the Holt

music ministry gave brief but spirit-filled Christian musical rendition. Bazaar for fund-raising was held at the the Fellowship Hall afterwards, along with lunch served for guests.

The six missionaries abroad which SUC have been supporting also include the Flickners in South Africa, the Schmidts who stays in the US at the moment, Helen Shepherd in Mongolia, Jung-yoon Kim in Uganda, the Gales in Thailand, and Neville Muir in Australia. These missionaries, Kim said, often request SUC to pray for their endeavors—often posted at the church bulletin.

Apart from the church budget, Kim added that his committee also

collected two special
(Continue on p.4)

Web Gets Facelift to Boost Interaction

The SUC website has been upgraded and expanded to spur online interaction among members and non-members.

Riding on the Internet boom characterized by speedy communication by just a click of the mouse, the website has taken a facelift with added features. Most notable is the board section divided into four categories: Announcement &

Events, Visitors Open Forum, Prayer Requests, and Praise Reports. All announcement of projects and events are posted on the first category. Discussions on various issues of any topic imaginable can be posted on the Visitors Open Forum. This category is open not only for visitors, but to members and non-members who want to exchange information or to swap opinions and experiences in their Christian walk.

For members who have petitions to God,

simply post it on the Prayer Request category, and for any petition answered, let members know it by posting it on the Praise Report.

The overall format and layout has been overhauled as well. Photos of members below the masthead and each page reflect a warm and joyful countenance. There are few and minor additions and revisions at Resources and Links, Who We Are, and What Do We Do, while the rest of the contents are taken from the old site.

For any question or suggestions on the website, contact webmaster at: ronald@webster.com



**Visit us on
the new web!**

www.seoulunionchurch.org

Join the Forum

Post your Prayer Requests

Drawing More Followers to Christ

By Rowena dela Rosa Yoon

Is it Beth Moore or Helen Rader? Who among these God-fearing women is drawing more and more followers—to get them closer to Christ?

Interestingly, Rader said she's only a Bible Study facilitator while Moore's study series-- which are deeply grounded on Scriptures-- are effectively presented in a very inspiring and moving way.

Moore's series have been a great source of inspiration to a growing number of SUCH members since Rader initiated to introduce her books and lectures three years ago—making her the most persistent Bible study facilitator at SUCH so far.

It all began with *Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life* which started in the small room near the entrance of the sanctuary in 2003.

A Bible Study group usually numbers around 10, more or less, but Rader's group has far exceeded that number. Followers have swelled more than the room can accommodate prompting the group to move to the main sanctuary which the study series have been regularly held.

Two years ago, Rader facilitated Moore's *Jesus, the One and Only*; and this year, her group has been studying *A Heart Like His: The Life of David*.

The latter involves an in-depth study of King David - focusing on his years as God's chosen king of Israel. Rader said the study

demonstrates how God loved and was able to use David despite his disobedience, and it offers many lessons for those seeking to have a heart like God's. Deeply grounded on Scriptures, she also finds Moore's addition of the video tapes for the end of each lesson to be very moving and inspiring as well.

Through the years of persistent study, it is quite intriguing to know what inspires Rader to go all the way through despite the hurdles she has to face preparing for the lessons.

At several occasions, she admitted that people have come to ask her if she personally knows Moore. She said that she had never heard about Moore or her studies before, but she became very curious about her work.

She gives credit to Debbie DeHaven who encouraged her to lead one of the studies for a Sunday School class at church and that is how things got started. It has been a personal challenge, not just to lead the class, but to be exposed to so much good Bible teaching, she admitted

Rader pointed out that as she only facilitates the study, she tries to encourage discussion based on the lessons in the workbook. "We have had some very good discussions if all of the Sunday School members have actually labored through the homework and are prepared to discuss the material," she said.

Much of her inspiration to press on can be drawn from the enthusiasm of her group. She confessed that she's happy to see people to come to the class and it is a blessing to hear what God is doing in their lives through this Bible study. The class she's leading, nonetheless, is equally beneficial as it pushes her to grow spiritual as well.

"Leading the class makes me accountable to do my own Bible study, therefore, I'm not able to slack off in my own devotions! I guess that is why I have continued to teach the class. I need to be pushed! I enjoy teaching the class because every Sunday God reveals more of Himself to me through the lessons," she admits.

Most of all, Rader thinks that Moore is a gifted Bible scholar who has a wonderful sense of where people have struggles in life. Moore is the author of many other books and Bible Studies.

Rader hopes to meet Moore one day and thank her for taking her and so many others at SUCH by the hand and leading us into a deeper walk with God.



Beth Moore is the author of many Christian books.

She said "Beth provides fascinating details from the lives Bible people. She explores important concepts, God's character, His promises, and how they forever can impact our lives."

She added that through her remarkable studies, participants will discover God's pursuit of relationship and the unfolding of His earthly plan. She shares how our holy and perfect God continues to seek us out, regardless of whether we are at our weakest and worst, or our best.

Rader thinks she will continue to be an avid student of God's word using Beth Moore Bible Studies as she believes God speaks to her through them.



Helen Rader is speaking before her

SUGGESTED DEVOTIONALS

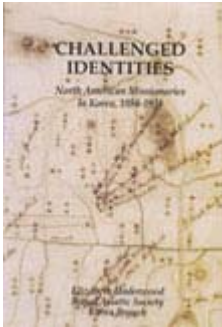
www.crosswalk.com

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—Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God... (Matt. 4:4)

Share your favorite devotionals!

NEW BOOK



Challenged Identities: North American Missionaries in Korea (1884-1934) By Elizabeth Underwood



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Join the Editorial Team! SUCHCLARION invites everyone to come and join the editorial team! As this first issue was made possible through members contributions, it needs a regular staff to work for its four pages—which we will eventually expand when contributions grow. Please contact Rowena dela Rosa Yoon at 016-891-2991 or e-mail: wendelrose@yahoo.com. Submission deadline for the Mar-Apr 2005 issue will be on the 15th of April. Thank you and God bless. (Note: Acknowledgment for Beth Carlson in proofreading this issue.)



Here's a note written by Jan Culkins, a volunteer from Holt Ilsan, during her visit to SUCH last February 27 on the occasion of Mission Sunday:

I enjoyed visiting with you today. I was so blessed. Here's a story I thought you might enjoy for your newsletter:

My mother and I went to a nursing home near her home in North Dakota to visit a friend of hers. As we left, I suggested that we pray. We held hands, closed our eyes, and I said, "Dear Lord, bless Muriel." My mother opened her eyes and whispered to me, "That's not her name!" I whispered back, "What is it?" and mom said, "I can't remember!" By this time, mom's friend, Mabel Parker, had heard us whispering, and I confessed: "My dear, I'm so sorry, I can't remember your name," to which she replied, "Oh dear, I can't either!" How we laughed. I did pray, "Lord, you know our names. Just bless us all!" Amen.

Children's Musical Raises Fund for Tsunami Victims

About 1.7 million won was raised during the children's musical held at SUCH on Jan. 30.

The children's musical dubbed as Jail House Rock was organized by Debbie deHaven and was assisted by Kelly Thompson aimed at raising money to help

the Dec. 26 tsunami victims in Indonesia.

About 150 guests saw the event.

The musical was originally planned by June Byrd in April last year before she was diagnosed with bone marrow cancer. Unable to finish it, the project was passed on to DeHaven for its completion.

Mission ...

(From p. 2)

offerings last year: one at Easter and another at Thanksgiving Day. The first went to Indonesia for the construction of a church building, and the other one was for June Byrd who is undergoing therapy from cancer.