Newsletter of the Seoul Union Church

First Quarter 2006

Vol. 2 |ssue 1



Church Calls for A Month of Intense Prayer

Pastor sets week-day service

A month-long prayer initiative is being undertaken at Seoul Union Church (SUCh) from March 1-31 in a collective effort to pray for various needs of the church body.

"Lift Up Your Voice...A Call to Prayer" is the theme, focusing on the faithfulness of God when his people cry out to him. Citing Isaiah 62:2-7, Rev. Prince Charles Oteng-Boateng said that when godly people gather and call on God, He is faithful to answer.

Prompted by various issues at church involving leadership, ministries, volunteer work, outreach, individual needs, and management conflict

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between SUCh and the Korean Centennial Church, Rev. Prince Charles urged the church body to join hands in a month-long period of prayer to seek God's wisdom in resolving issues and conflicts as well as prudence in dealing with such issues.

The prayer initiative is our lives— to evangelize and to an attempt to help the cultivate the passion to seek for congregation strengthen its the salvation of the lost as well relationship with Christ and build a stronger community of believers. It also aims to unite the families in our church in celebration of and thanksgiving for God's work. The prayer initiative is our lives— to evangelize and to cultivate the passion to seek for the salvation of the lost as well as to connect people in the church as agents of change in the community. The first week of the initiative centers on repentance, renewal and commitment. It

On a higher perspective, it is hoped that the call to prayer will develop each member's heavenly perspective—to be more keen on spiritual warfare in order to see through the enemy's earthly deceptions.

Capitalizing on the lessons learned through the 40 Days of Purpose Campaign held in the fall of last year, the prayer initiative also serves as a reminder of God's purpose in our lives— to evangelize and to cultivate the passion to seek for the salvation of the lost as well as to connect people in the church as agents of change in the community.

The first week of the initiative centers on repentance, renewal and commitment. It highlights the adoration and exaltation of Christ in every believer's life, the passion for intimacy with Christ, and the spirit of holiness. The second week focuses on SUCh

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What's Up?

Adult Sunday School Revisits ChurchSermon on the MountCalls....from p.1

Adult Sunday school classes opened at SUCh on January 8 using the resource kit taught by Pastor Lance Witt of Saddleback Church entitled *"What Jesus has to say about Living a Blessed Life."*

Adult classes

are divided into four subgroups: three English-language classes and one Korean, led by volunteer facilitators in the Fellowship Hall. A video viewing at the Sanctuary is held after the main worship service before members proceed to the Fellowship Hall for the small group study.

The booklet contains lessons derived from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:1-16. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" is the core of the lesson. The book is considered Jesus' longest sermon in the New Testament.

A spin-off of the 40 Days of Purpose campaign, the Bible study groups are aimed at fostering stronger bonds among believers to come to study and share their faith. Eventually, they also help members to grow, serve, and share their gifts to accomplish the purpose of worshiping and giving glory to God.

The lesson is a prelude to another series in which Jesus introduces a whole new way of life— Inside Out Living: *What Jesus Has to Say About Iving Beyond Yourself.*



The Sermon on the Mount is a blueprint for building the Christian life. It covers three chapters of the book of Matthew and includes the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, Jesus' teachings about worry, forgiveness, integrity, loving our enemies, storing up treasures in heaven, and many other topics.

Meanwhile, children's school classes Sunday simultaneously started along with the adults'. Classes are from preschool to kindergarten, and from 1-12th grades. Classes are held in the classrooms located on the first floor, in the library, and in See the basement. bulletin printouts for room details. ##

leadership and volunteers; while the third week touches on SUCh ministries and the needs of individuals. The final week involves supplication for God's wisdom on SUCh outreach, including a passion for evangelism, and the impact of SUCh on Korean Christianity in general.

In his sermon on March, "Calling on God's Name," Rev. Prince Charles relied on the Scriptures in Genesis 4:26 and Jeremiah 33:3 to underscore that God listens when righteous people call on him.

Along with the prayer initiative, Rev. Prince Charles has also called on the members of the church to attend prayer meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at SUCh from 7:30 pm to 9 pm. A member can choose any of the days mentioned.

As a culmination of the prayer initiative, the pastor looks forward to a Celebration of Praise on April 2 wherein he expects to hear testimonies and praise reports from faithful believers. ##

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school facilitators and coordinators are still needed for classes of all ages. Share your gifts by volunteering. See or contact Craig Gingerich at cgingerich@sfs.or.kr

Ministry Fair Invites Sign-up

SUCh held a Ministry Fair on January 22 to get members' active involvement in various ministries such as Congregational Care (led by Valerie Briggs), Pastoral Care and Relations (Tom Thompson), Christian Education (Craig Gingerich), Praise (Jon Hill), Hospitality (Brian Leising), Spiritual Life (Crystal Hardin/Alan Hoskin), Outreach and Evangelism (Chris Vaia), and Benevolence and Mission (Richar Briggs). Similar event is coming on April 2. It's not too late to join in. See the leaders now!

Covenant Plays Drama

Covenant Players rendered a three-act play at SUCh on Feb. 19. The group is an international professional theater company founded in 1963 with World Headquarters based in Oxnard, California, USA. CP is serving churches, schools, nursing homes, prisons, and other community groups throughout the world.

Prof. Nelson Speaks at SUCh

Prof. Marlin Nelson was the guest speaker of SUCh on Feb. 12 with the sermon, "Is God Faithful?" based on 1 Cor. 10: 1-13. Prof. Nelson was a mentor of Rev. Prince Charles Oteng-Boateng at the Asia United Theological University located in Yangpyeonggun, Gyeonggi-do.

Missions Update Church

Mission Sunday was held on Feb. 26 wherein charity organizations based in Korea and supported by SUCh gave updates and reports on their operations. These include Araewon, Angels' Haven, JungShim Girls' High School, Holt Service, Lydia House, DMI International, and Severance Hospice. Other missions supported by the church are located in South Africa, Kenya, Thailand, Mongolia, Uganda, and Ghana.

Praise Team Practice on Saturday

The Praise Team has been doing regular practice every Saturday from 7:30 pm to 10 pm at SUCh since January this year. The team comes to church on Saturday to spend some time for devotions and fellowship before taking song

Newsletter to Come Out Every Qtr

SUCh Clarion has been transformed into a quarterly newsletter starting this year from a bi-monthly circulation since its first edition last year. The newsletter is looking for editorial staff and contributors who are willing to work on and fill its pages since one of its editors will be leaving Korea in summer. E-mail: wendelrose@yahoo.com



rehearsals. The Saturday schedule also serves to get the team ready to set up the sound system which is said to be a bit complex—so save time from cramming up every Sunday morning before the church service.

New Rooms Assigned for Kids

Two rooms on the first floor, including the Nursery and Pre-school/Kindergarten at Rooms 107 and 108, respectively, will no longer to be used by SUCh after the Korean Centennial Church claimed them for their own purposes.

Nursery kids, pre-school, kindergarten, first grade to third grade are now assigned to Rooms 104, 105, and 106. Fourth grade can attend Sunday school at Room 201. Meanwhile, Middle schoolers can proceed to the balcony, while high school students will sit in the room located on the basement floor. Adult classes are all on the basement area.

Church OKs 2006 Budget

The congregation approved the proposed budget for the year 2006 in a unanimous vote held recently at SUCh. Proposed operating income for this year totaled 175 million won, slightly higher than the 2005 operating income of 171 million won aggregate. Operating income is generated through offerings, interest and miscellaneous, FOREX adjustment, Int Trf cemetery end., and special donations.

Proposed operating expenses are estimated at 175 million won, lower than last year's 176 million won aggregate. Expenses range from salaries and honorariums to office expenses, contingency fund, and other finances for various church ministries and missions.

MINISTRY Evangelism and Outreach

By Chris Vaia

Seoul Union Church (SUCh) held a Ministry Fair on January 22 to get members' actively involved in various ministries. An upshot of the 40 Days of Purpose Campaign held in fall last year, the fair was one of the ways where members are encouraged to take part for three important reasons: to grow, to give back, and to glorify God by sharing their gifts and time. The ministries include Congregational Care, Pastoral Care and Relations, Christian Education, Praise, Hospitality, Spiritual Life, Outreach and Evangelism, and Benevolence and Mission.

Evangelism is to tell of the Good News that Jesus Christ died for our sins as Savior. Outreach is the mission which tells others outside of the church of this Good News.

We had a formal training session in evangelism and outreach on Sunday, March 5, after our church worship service. Each Sunday is a time of praise reports on our outreach missions.

Our first resource is the Four Spiritual Laws. They are listed in this link: <u>www.greatcom.org/laws</u>. There are witnessing tools here. They have been used by Campus Crusade for Christ for a long time. They are effective as a tool when one talks with one who does not know Christ as his or her Savior.

A frequently asked question is: What do I have to be and do in evangelism and outreach? From my experience, I offer the following:

1. One must know Jesus as his or her personal Savior.

2. One must embrace the Great Commission to spread the Good News to those who don't know it.

3. One must be assured that the Holy Spirit is responsible to convict the heart of an unsaved person. Our role is to simply tell the difference Jesus makes in our lives.

4. One must have a simple and clear testimony of how Jesus made and makes our lives acceptable for His Plan of redemption. I handed



out my personal testimony last week.

5. One must join with three others to occasionally reach out to others and tell about Jesus' Love for all. We will decide on a good day to conduct our first outreach mission.

6. One must trust that Jesus is with us when two or more are gathered in His name. This is an awesome central truth provided to Christians.

I asked our pastor to have a supply of the Four Spiritual Laws tracts. We begin with teams of four. Ideally, we have couples of two men and two women. It is important to have at least one who speaks Korean. The park by our church is a great place to begin. Each team member has at least, three Four Spiritual Laws tracts that will be given to someone we talk to in the park. This is a real personal outreach where we start a conversation with someone and witness to those who express an interest in hearing more about Jesus. These sessions normally last for about fifteen minutes with one person. This outreach mission should last about ninety minutes. It is good to have a sign or whiteboard with the following questions:

Do you want to know the true meaning of life?

Why are men and women lonely a lot? Do you want to have everlasting peace? Have you heard of the four spiritual

í laws?

MINISTRY

When someone responds to the questions above, one of our team sits down and goes through the Four Spiritual Laws. The Holy Spirit may touch the person during the witnessing time. We then invite the person to visit our church. We simply tell of the peace and difference that Jesus makes in our lives. If the person does not wish to pray for salvation, we thank them and invite them to visit our church. We also ask if we can pray for them and thank them for their time.

Please read the Four Spiritual Laws and mark the Bible verses in your personal Bible. This is a wonderful evangelism tool and gives encouragement to those who want to witness to those who do not know Jesus as Savior and Healer and Friend.

So, let us all stay in the Sanctuary for about ten minutes and discuss our first evangelism outreach mission. We will invite the whole congregation and include Middle School and above students.

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



BE READY.. Because like a mom doing room checks you know not the day or the hour of her return.. neither do you know when Jesus will return. **BE READY**

Greetings to all!

We have a nice international mix of brothers and sisters willing to participate in Evangelism and Outreach projects. We include men and women from Korea, the Netherlands, America, Macedonia, Ireland, Germany, Japan, Spain, France and others.

Our teams will definitely be involved in projects involving intercessory prayer for each other and families, providing Bible tracts and invitations to Seoul Union Church and the English Conversation with Christ ministry and mission outreach.

The following websites are wonderful for suggestions, and I encourage everyone to find something that can edify our efforts:

www.evangelism.com www.livingwaters.com www.fishthe.net

When we smile, others may sometimes ask why? A great answer is: Because He lives. The song "Because He Lives" is a great witness of the salvation provided through Jesus. We can face tomorrows and todays and yesterdays Because He Lives. We will help each other on our testimonies which will include the act of: Publicly Recounting the Acts of the Incomparable Sovereign of Eternity

Our team members live in Seoul, Wonju, and even Arianne in southern Changwon. This is long distance evangelising and outreach. We are planning to visit Arianne this Spring for some Hallelujah Balloon visitations for various children missions and other agencies helping other people. —Chris

MEMBERS An Opportunity to Belong at SUCh

By Esther Marie Won

Having new "babies" is always an exciting event! Thus, to a church that celebrates similar occasion—like the welcoming of new church members to become an addition to the church family—it is always a great thing. Some are practically not really new as you had visibly seen them quite often for sometime now. They have been actively involved in serving SUCh ministries.

But every season, the church opens a membership class. The last class was held last fall and was attended by regular church attendees of whom seven (7) made it to the church's scroll. SUCh finally announced them as bona fide members by officially introducing them to the congregation during the Celebration Sunday, a culmination of the 40 Days of Purpose event.

Most of the new members are foreigners in Korea who need a sense of belonging. No matter where and who they are, every Christian needs a "home church." This is one of God's purposes in our lives—to be a member of a church. Members who are seeking church membership can truly give glory to God. For sure, God brought them to SUCh for a purpose. It wasn't an accident. God led them to SUCh to fellowship and come to His presence as a family, and to mold them more into His perfect image and for his perfect purpose. They, too, like other regular members, are tasked with working for God for His glory.



Let us see who they are...

Jon Hill (USA) is a science and math teacher at Seoul Foreign School. He has been in Seoul since August 2004. He sought church membership because he believes that it is a shared commitment between himself and other members of SUCh. With his membership, he is committed to support the church financially and to be involved in ministries like leading the Praise Team. From the very first time he attended the worship service, he felt that SUCh would be his home church in Korea. Thankful and blessed to have found a supportive church family, Jon is pleased to continue his praise ministry.



Lynette Kyle (USA) is a language arts and social studies teacher for Grade 6 at Seoul Foreign School. She has been in Seoul for about two years now. A third culture kid, her home is "where she hangs her hat." Lynette grew up in Brazil where her parents were missionaries for twenty years. She returned to the United States, attended college, and then started her overseas teaching career in Brazil, followed by Egypt, Kazakhstan, Argentina, Indonesia, and now Korea. Her family members all reside in Minnesota which she considers her home during Christmas and summer vacations. Just like other members, Lynette sought membership because it is important to have a church family and a place to meet with other believers. For her it was especially important as she did not have a home church in Jakarta, Indonesia, where she lived for three years, and she is very grateful for the opportunity to be a

MEMBERS

part of SUCh. She believes that God has great things in store for us as a congregation. The 40 Day's Campaign was very uplifting and it renewed her spirit and confirmed in her heart what God wants of her. Lynette looks forward to what God will bring us as a church family as we seek to grow in His Word. She is serving God as a reserve leader and vocalist of the Praise Team.



Esther Won (Philippines) is a practicing lawyer from her country. She has been in Seoul since October 2002, working as a foreign law consultant and a chief legal editor at an international intellectual property law firm. For her, having a home church is as essential as being a Christian. She feels there should be a sense of belonging within God's family to ensure continuous spiritual growth, wherein talents and gifts can be used for God's work or in special ministry- whether it is big or small. After attending the church for over a year, she realized that SUCh could be her home church in Korea. She found SUCh really special, a place where she could fulfill her desire for God's words and true fellowship with other Christians. She is presently our church librarian.



Eugene Coleman (Ghana) is an English teacher in Seoul. He has been in Korea for more that two years. He grew up with Christian parents back home in Ghana. He sought membership at SUCh because he longs for Christ's family. He realized that SUCh is where his heart is. God is using his ability and talent in drums and guitar. Thus he is a part of the Praise Team. Eugene is talented; he can play music without musical pieces in front of him. He claims that God leads him to worship Him through music in his own heart.



Paul Seo (Korea) is a university student and been living in Seoul for four years. A regular member of a Presbyterian Church, he decided to move to SUCh as a friend told him that SUCh is like a "secret garden." After attending for a few weeks, he decided to seek membership as he found the church wonderful.

Hes Lee (Korea) lived in Canada for a few years. When she returned to Korea, she wanted to have a church where she would feel comfortable and would have a real church family.

Ruth Maxwell (Australia) has been an English teacher in Seoul for less than a year. She plays piano and she utilizes her gift in serving the Lord with the Praise Team from time to time. She sought membership because she, too, needs a family and church while in Korea. However, Ruth unexpectedly called to go back home at the end of February. Http://seoulunionchurch.org



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> Easter 2006 Ash Wednesday, 01 March Palm Sunday, 9 April Good Friday, 14 April Easter Sunday,16 April

Contribute! Tell us what you see at church, what you feel about the people, what you enjoy doing, what you think the church needs, and how we can enrich our fellowship. Write a news, feature, poem, a series, or commentary. Share with us your child's art work. E-mail: *wendelrose@yahoo.com.* You may **join the Editorial Team** and share your valued journalistic skills!

SUCh CLARION Editors: Rowena dela Rosa Yoon, Beth Carlson



DAILY DEVOTIONS www.dailyword.com www.rbc.org www.gospelcom.net

So you hear FI a friend, a roommate, a colleague or even a child or spouse enter into a discussion of The Da Vinci Code, and you realize pretty quickly that he, she or they aren't treating the book as a novel --a somewhat frenzied but still entertaining thriller-- or



a movie that may or may not be a fun couple of hours at the theater, but rather as a work of history. You hear them treating fiction as fact. What to do? Click on to: http:// www.thedavincidialogue.com

LIBRARY CORNER

Please help update the SUCh library. We plan to dispose of some old books before the summer break. But we are hoping to replace those with new ones. Please feel free to donate your used books. We look forward to receiving a bit of newer editions. Books with values- non-violent, fiction or non-fiction for children, youth, and adults— are all welcome. Home video and CD products are also great collection.

For more information on the library updates and needs, please drop by the library after the worship service or see Esther.

ALTERNATE LIBRARIAN

Our library needs more volunteers— an alternate librarian or assistants— who can help to oversee the operation of the library. Please see Pastor Prince Charles.