The 40 Days Purpose Driven Campaign at Seoul Union Church (SUCh) will kick-off on October 9 and will run for 40 days, including seven Sundays, until November 20.

Committee leaders, who were assigned to take major responsibilities to plan, organize, and to carry out the campaign, are now wrapping up to implement action plans. Weekly meetings, announcements, and pre-campaign activities are now being made which is part of the warm-up of this historic event.

Although the campaign will officially start on October 9, the kick-off event will be held on October 8, Saturday at 6 pm—featuring a dinner party in the Fellowship Hall before members proceed to the main sanctuary to watch a Simulcast hosted by Pastor Rick Warren, author of The Purpose-Driven Life, the book that forms the basis for the campaign.

The book, divided into 40 daily readings for the campaign, will be distributed to everyone in the church during the Simulcast. During this inspirational time, Rick Warren will share his life message and set the stage for the campaign events to come. Having the opportunity to fellowship prior to the Simulcast is an opportunity for everyone to get involved more deeply in which is part of the warm-up of this historic event.

Continued on p.2
The campaign, not merely experiencing it vicariously.

A main event in the campaign is the opportunity to join small groups or home groups focused on interactive study for a deeper understanding of God’s purposes in life. This is also a time to build friendship in the church community.

Other events are the Ministry and Mission Fairs where people are encouraged to get involved in a church ministry or outreach by showcasing SUCH’s ministries, outreaches and missions, and welcoming new volunteers to serve.

“The 40 Days Purpose Driven Campaign is a spiritual growth event which is expected to give SUCH members opportunities to memorize scripture, participate in a small group and Sunday school fellowship, serve in a ministry in our church, share our faith, and learn to live a lifestyle of worship to the glory of God,” Rev. Prince Charles Oteng-Boateng said.

Following the announcement of this undertaking in April this year, campaign and committee leaders have held meetings to brainstorm and to galvanize overall plans. The first meeting was held at Seoul Foreign School (SFS) as early as May 29, followed by a sign-up of interested SUCH members to help in each committee in the Fellowship Hall on June 4.

Summer saw many church members temporarily on leave for vacations, but while summer is long over, and the church is back to the brainstorming table to concretize plans. Rev. Prince Charles, the campaign leader, named the committee leaders earlier in an effort to seek unwavering commitments. The committees are composed of Prayer, Communications, Weekend Services, Sunday School, and Small Groups, and Special Events. Craig Gingerich, campaign director, has been overseeing developments of the project as he collects weekly updates from each committee.

Meanwhile, “Grand Central” is now on the ground floor of SUCH, serving as an information center where people can pick up all kinds of printouts about the campaign. This pre-launching period is a hectic one with all the needed preparations being wrapped up. Still, there are many things that have to be put in place and the Campaign might not be carried out the same way other churches have done. Anyone who is interested in helping a committee may see or e-mail Craig at: cgingerich@sfs.or.kr

Anyone interested to help a committee may see or e-mail Craig Gingerich at: cgingerich@sfs.or.kr
The Seoul Union Church (SUCh) has a new librarian. Atty. Esther Won, a practicing lawyer from the Philippines, has volunteered to take charge of the library. The newly-structured library is now open for borrowings.

The new state-of-the-art audio-visual system has been installed in the church since July this year. The 100th Anniversary Committee of the Korean Protestant Denominations has initiated this major renovation project costing an impressive 25 million won.

The new system has already benefited not only the Korean congregation in which the project is mainly intended for, but also the SUCh congregation which holds fellowship on Sunday mornings in the same building.

The audio-visual includes a huge overhead projector in the main sanctuary, video players in some classrooms, microphones, and centralized sound systems on all floors. All florescent lamps were also replaced with new ones, while new folding chairs were purchased to boost seating capacity up to 400. The floors were also renovated with new linoleum covering to complete the church’s renewed image. In addition, a new office on the basement near the back door is now open, while a transparent roof and wall covering was built to provide a shed for the outdoor back stairs.

There are two services currently offered on Sundays in the chapel. The English service for SUCh expatriate community starts at 9:30 am and runs until 11:00 am. About a hundred people attend the morning service. The Korean service begins at 3:00 pm and consists of about 400 regular attendees—filling all the pews in the main sanctuary and the balcony. Others take seats on the ground floor and the Fellowship Hall on the basement. From September this year, the Korean congregation has plan to expand the afternoon service with an additional one at 5:00 pm.

The new sound and visual system will greatly help SUCh especially for its upcoming 40 Days Purpose Driven Campaign which is set to kick-off on the eve of October 9. The new technology will definitely amplify the impact of the campaign’s Simulcast in the main sanctuary.

Unreturned books from church members need to be returned for the new book inventory.

Church Has A New Librarian

The Seoul Union Church (SUCh) has a new librarian. Atty. Esther Won, a practicing lawyer from the Philippines, has volunteered to take charge of the library. The newly-structured library is now open for borrowings.

Since August, Esther and other volunteers have been cleaning up, making new catalogues and index cards, as well discarding old and outdated books. There are newly donated books that are now on the shelves.

A Baby Girl for Princess!

Princess Monica Oteng-Boateng gave birth to a healthy baby girl in a Caesarean Section on August 19, 2005, 1:43 pm, in the U.S. Josianne Jeslyn Oteng-Boateng weighed 6.7 lbs. Rev. Pastor Prince Charles Oteng-Boateng flew to the U.S. to see his wife and baby. The church congratulates the family on the arrival of a new member!
“It’s amazing how God blesses our church,” Edie Moon, an old-time mainstay vocalist, commented during her visit at SUCH last summer.

Noting how expatriate members in Korea come and go, she made this striking comment upon seeing new faces: musicians rocking the piano or beating the drums, and vocalists never seen singing in front of the congregation before.

Edie was referring to Steve Harris, a new addition to the Worship Team’s roster of pianists and Eugene Coleman, a new drummer who adds pulse and energy to the music ministry.

With the musical gift of the youngest bass guitarist, Jessica Hoskin, a ninth grader attending Seoul Foreign School (SFS), blessings have become all the more apparent.

The last summer has brought major changes to SUCH’s worship service. Jeff de Haven, one of the worship leaders, had to say goodbye, while many others had already left earlier in the year, including voice leader Susan Salg and guitarists Michael Buinning and Dave Nichols.

As old members go, however, new musically-gifted individuals come in—thanks to God’s faithful provisions.

Jon Hill, the lone team leader now, has taken over the church’s overall music ministry. He has been one of the guitarists since he joined the team this year, and major transitions have prompted him to take bigger responsibilities.

Since last summer, Jon has been planning and organizing things. He is up for a more dynamic and meaningful worship service where everyone in the congregation can come into the presence of God. He has a systematic mailing list of worship members with their corresponding roles in the team. He also proposed to rehearse songs every Saturday evening instead of cramming in practices in the early hours of Sunday morning. There are over 25 people on the worship team. Some are regularly involved; some help only on special occasions. He values everyone's contribution and emphasizes that the team needs to be enthusiastic about musical worship to lead effectively.

Notable changes to worship include the addition of drum sets. Jon himself sought donations and gifts from SUCH members. He even went to Insadong for the purchase. He believes the drums will make a big difference. He admitted, though, that drums are a mixed blessing: they can energize and unify a congregation, but they can also distract some people.

“Our goal will be to
use them appropriately and sensitively to enhance but not overpower the music. It is great having Eugene playing with us, and he looks forward to refining our ‘sound’ over the coming months,” he said. More recently, a newcomer, Ian Dunham, has volunteered as an alternate drummer.

The most recent addition to the worship instruments is a keyboard. “This fantastic instrument was donated by a church member and we will put it to good use,” Jon said. Thus, each Sunday, members would come to see either Judy Penick or Andrew Bramston playing the keyboard.

Jon came to Korea in August 2004 to teach at SFS. He attended SUCh for the first time in October that year.

When asked how he came to love music, Jon said he started playing guitar in high school, about 17 years ago. Interestingly, he admitted that he never really took professional lessons and cannot even read a musical score. But that did not stop him from learning to play praise and worship songs. He has played for youth camps and has been part of three other worship teams before coming to SUCh. His playing style is very simple and he tries to play songs in keys he is most comfortable in. He continues to improve and often wishes he could play better.

There are several contemporary Christian music artists who inspire him with their music and/or leadership styles. Among them are Mac Powell (who plays in the band Third Day), Chris Tomlin, David Crowder, and Matt Redman. He has also learned a lot from and admires the people he has worked with at previous churches.

One of the concerns these artists have, which Jon shares, is the amount of attention worship leaders and Christian musicians get. Worship leaders should not really have “rock star” status. Once they do, then the focus of the worship can move toward them and away from God. He tries to keep worship and his own contribution simple so that he is not "performing" for the congregation, but providing an opportunity for them to join him and the rest of the team in meaningful music for our God. It is one of the reasons Jon often has the instruments drop out for part of a song. When that happens, the focus moves to vocal music and everyone in the sanctuary plays an equal role. He finds it very moving.

In respect to worship style, Jon does not feel there is one "best" style. He encourages people to do whatever the Spirit leads them to do. Worship should be something we enjoy intensely, whether it is in the form of personal prayer, serving others, giving an offering, or group singing. At SUCh, Jon tries to mix new praise choruses with older choruses and hymns. The goal is to keep things fresh.
while not forgetting our past, much like the rest of our Christian life. If people want to dance, clap, or raise their hands during our services, he hopes they will feel free to do so, but he is not going to start asking people to do these things. Worship is meaningful when we can be ourselves unashamedly in God’s presence and for His glory.

With the newly-installed video and sound system, Jon is surprised and pleased. “As we learn how to best use the new tools, our worship should become more and more enjoyable,” he said.

For the 40 Days of Purpose Campaign which starts on October 9, the Worship Team will be learning new songs and planning music to fit in with the weekly themes of the campaign. The worship team has been meeting only just before Sunday services, but they will be holding extra meetings to practice and refine our repertoire of songs. He also sees new drums and other equipment as part of our preparation for the 40 Days. He hopes they will be able to use these tools to make the music during the campaign something special. He will also be encouraging members of the team and other members of the congregation to prepare special music offerings, as these can be powerful and moving testimonies.

Who’s Who?

Lynnette Kyle, soloist and staunch music partner of Jon, has been attending SUCh since August 2004 and teaches Grade 6, Language Arts and Social Studies at SFS. She has been singing on the worship team for about 5-6 months.

Lynnette believes worship is not just the act of singing; it is the whole service—from announcements to the preaching. It is the gathering together as a group of believers so that we can express our love and devotion to God. Worship is also personal, and that is what makes it meaningful. You are standing before God whether in a congregation or during your own devotional time.

Lynnette has enjoyed singing since she was about five years old. Growing up as a missionary kid, she spent a lot of time in church, participating and helping out in her parents’ ministry. She has no formal training except for the love of singing, but God has opened many doors for her to sing at churches, conferences, camps, and for various other ministries.

For the 40 Days Campaign, Lynnette has been mainly looking over the materials given to us and praying about what the Lord would have for us as individuals and as a church.

Worship Team:

Team 1 - First and second Sunday of each month
Jon Hill, leader and guitar
Lynnette Kyle, reserve leader and coach
Eugene Coleman, drums
Rowena dela Rosa Yoon, voice and reserve leader
Kelly Thompson, voice
Jong-yi Shin, voice
Colleen Hoskin, voice
Judy Penick, piano
Jill Fidge, piano,
Andrew Bramston, piano
Jessica Hoskin, bass
Dale Wood, guitar,
Hae-jin Wang, cello
Gloria Seo, flute

Team 2 - third and fourth (and rarely fifth) Sunday of each month
Jon Hill, leader and guitar
Lynnette Kyle, voice and reserve leader
Eugene Coleman, bass
Chung Soo Kim, voice
Joy Lee, voice
Pam Arzel, voice,
Ian Dunham, drums
Steve Harris, piano
Hannah Hwang, piano
Gloria Kim, piano
Ji-yean Ha, organ
Song Yi Lee, flute
Steven Small, electric guitar
Sally Han, guitar
The church was quiet during the summer months; so was the SUCh Clarion. Now, people are back, so we have resumed printing.

Every summer, SUCh bids goodbye to members who are leaving Korea—either for good or for a moment just for the holidays.

Goodbyes always bring sadness, but there are memories that are left behind, including the bond of friendships nurtured through the years, no matter how short or long, and the several Sundays of faithful service to the church.

SUCh offered a farewell service and a potluck party last June to the following members: Eric and Dianna Anderson, Jonathan and Soon-ok Borden, the Beekman family (Dress, Eipie, Elbert, Helmick, and Menno), the DeHaven family (Jeff, Debbie, Annesley, and Davis), the Nichols family (David, Tracy, Anna, and Emily), and Matthew and Leah Garey.

Short speeches were delivered by friends who have known them personally, citing those special qualities about them and those moments shared together in Seoul. They left brief notes as well as they said their final goodbyes.

Some tears were held back, but some simply let them fall. The farewell service was all the more special with former members rejoining the congregation, in Seoul for a short visit. Edie Moon and Michael Buinning, for instance, rejoined the praise and worship team like a re-enactment of their times at SUCh years back.

We will not see these friends again at church; yet as they said—many of us are expatriates in Seoul and there will come a time it will be others’ turn to say goodbye.

The church was quiet during the summer months. Now many are back and there are tasks waiting ahead. Whatever we are here for, it is always good to know we have this home in Seoul even though we’re away from home. Welcome back!

Events & Photos:

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Rev. Glenn Jent is a two-time speaker at SUCh in summer and fall

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Fall Potluck

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Spring potluck

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Farewell prayer to friends who are leaving...
40 Days of Purpose Committee Campaign Leaders

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SUCH Elect...from p.1

Care—Tom Thompson.

Other positions that are left void are: vice chair, worship, membership and evangelism, benevolence and mission, and pastor care.

Members who are willing to serve on the Council may see Richard Briggs or Rev. Prince Charles.

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Sunday School

for all ages needs facilitators and volunteers/Helpers. If interested, please see Craig Gingerich or call 338-1327

Join the Editorial Staff!

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