

CALVARY ENGLISH CHAPEL, 704 MCHENRY ROAD, WHEELING, IL 60090

# Calvary Courier

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## Thanksgiving Means Giving Thanks

Thanksgiving is a time that we are to reflect and give thanks for all that the Lord has graciously given us.

Looking around at this church, there is no doubt that God has blessed many of us with so much: healthy children, beautiful homes, financial security but

most of all eternity with him in heaven. We certainly have much to be thankful for. But "giving thanks" is more than

just saying a simple prayer or giving a special monetary offering. True gratitude is best demonstrated by giving to others who may not have as much to be thankful for.



Jhon Chong & Angela Choe serve food at the Marquard Center (see p.3)

As such, we as a church are sponsoring a number of different activities to "exercise" our

thanks. As you may have heard, CEC is running a food drive until November 21<sup>st</sup>, and we encourage everyone to

bring non-perishable food items that can be donated to the Wheeling Food Pantry. We will also be participating in a blood drive on December 5<sup>th</sup>, jointly with the Korean congregation – so please come prepared to donate. And lastly, our Outreach Committee is researching various churches and organizations where we can serve the community through soup kitchens, shelters and/or nursing homes. So please keep your eyes and ears open with a heart that is full of thanks and hands and feet that are ready

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## The Origin and Meaning of Thanksgiving

The earliest observance of Thanksgiving on this continent was with special services in Virginia as early as 1607. The first Thanksgiving Festival began on December 13th in 1621 at Plymouth, Massachusetts. It started as a harvest festival with the people thanking God for giving them sufficient crops. That first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days with the people enthusiastically participating. On June 20, 1676 the town of Charlestown, Massachusetts issued the First Thanksgiving Proclamation. By unanimous vote the governing council instructed the clerk, Edward Rawson, to proclaim June

29th as a day of thanksgiving.

George Washington issued the first national Thanksgiving proclamation in 1789, the year of his inauguration as President of the United States of America. He called for another Thanksgiving Day in 1795. With other presidents and state governors proclaiming days of thanksgiving at various times there was no effort to organize a yearly Thanksgiving Day until Mrs. Sarah Joseph Hale started her crusade in 1827. It took thirty-six years to achieve victory when, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln made his Thanksgiving Day Proclamation. The nation has cele-



brated the special day ever since.

But, it appears that Thanksgiving Day, like most other national and religious holidays, has been highly commercialized, to the point that many people forget what we are supposed to be celebrating. If we were to survey people on the street and ask, "What stands out in your mind when you think of Thanksgiving Day", we would probably get answers like: turkey, dinner, pilgrims, fall, pumpkins, corn stalks, etc.

But, how many people on Thanksgiving Day actually pause and do what the name of the event suggests? What por-

tion of the celebrators do stop to thank God for our nation and for all we have?

Psalms 105:1 commands us, "Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done."

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, let's not focus on the food, which are gifts. Let's focus on the giver. Let's thank God for all He has provided. Let's call on His name and invite Him to be present at our table. Let's celebrate Thanksgiving Day with grateful hearts.

*(Historical information gleaned from the following Internet publications: The Cleveland Free-Net-aa300 Distributed by the Cybercasting Services Division of the National Public Telecomputing Network; Prepared by Gerald Murphy-- and Christian Answers Network with Wall-Builders, by David Barton )*

# Deacon's Corner

## Sola Fide: Alone but Active

by Tony Kim

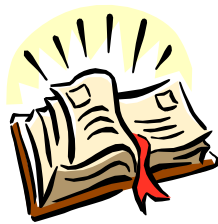
My daughter Helen, who has recently discovered the less cheerful props and paraphernalia of the Halloween season, asked me what was to her a very important question. She asked me in plain terms if I was afraid of anything. Without hesitation, I confidently told her I was not afraid of anything. Her eyes grew wide in admiration of me for a moment, and then with a tone of gentle skepticism, she pressed further, "Are you sure you're not afraid of anything?"

Actually, when I really think about it sitting here alone in the basement writing this article late at night, there are a few scary things that come to mind. Even now, I can think of a couple of scenes from "the Exorcist" that I still have to watch between my fingers.

There are also a few passages of Scripture that give me some consternation. One passage comes at the end of the "Sermon on the Mount," when Jesus tells his audience that "*many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*" One word: scary.

Another passage, which falls into the category of "scary", is Christ's description of judgment day in the story of 'The Sheep and the Goats.' Paraphrasing the text, Christ tells the 'goats', "*Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.*"

So please come out and join us for our next outreach event. Hope to see you



all out there OR else...Humor aside, the passage of 'The Sheep and the Goats' is just one of several sobering and fearful reminders in the Bible about the consequences of a faith without fruits. James, the brother of Jesus, dwells on this point in his letter to the Jewish Christians. In the second chapter, James begs the question, "*What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such a faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead.*"

The full completion of our faith then, according to James and the rest of Scripture, is our faith put into practice. As we know, justification or being declared righteous before God is by faith alone (*sola fide*). Faith in the finished work of Christ is what ultimately saves us. But, the faith that justifies us is not dormant. It is a faith that begins to work in us and radically changes our act, attitude, and nature. We are justified by faith alone, but as Martin Luther was quick to add, it is a faith that does not remain alone, it is a faith that is accompanied by good works. The implication of this idea is that when good works are present, our faith is alive and fruitful.

Sometimes I fear my faith lacks works. I wonder if I should be doing more than I am. After all, I don't want to end up a goat in sheep's clothing. But it's funny that whenever I start to feel afraid about my faith, I am always reminded somehow that I am not alone. I am comforted to know that my faith is a gift and He who began a good work in me will carry it on to completion. Not only is He the author of my faith, He also promises to help me perfect it. I suppose, when I really think about the faith I've been given, I don't have much to be afraid of. Of course, "the Exorcist" is another story altogether.

(Continued from page 5)

asked if we could talk. He said he was so scared after an attack a few weeks ago and that he really wanted to know that he would be "ok" if he didn't make it home. And yet he said he felt really guilty for turning to God and wanting to "do good" out of fear and guilt. We talked about God's amazing grace that gives us a chance to start over, even when we've turned our backs on Him for a time. I shared with him how I believe God uses circumstances like this to grab our attention and he shouldn't feel guilty but embrace God's hand reaching out to him. God has certainly used these circumstances to catch my attention and reveal sins and childish ways in my heart that he wanted to change. We've had several good talks and he came with me to small group the other night, and in what I know was God's divine sovereignty, we studied Eph 2:1-10. In a perfect explanation of God's amazing grace, He spoke directly to my friend's need.

In the toughest year I've yet had to endure, God has revealed his amazing love in very personal ways. I've learned so much and grown so much because of the trials of this deployment. I really struggle with fear. Please pray for God's protection and His peace. I often allow fear and stress rob me of rest and sleep. I must trust that the Lord is greater than my circumstances. I beg the Lord every day, to have mercy and provide a way for me to return back home to Jason and Micaela safely and as soon as possible. And while it is His will that I be here, that He would empower me with the Holy Spirit to do the work he placed me here in Iraq to do. Thank you all again for your love and prayers. I look forward with so much hope to coming home and being with my dear family and friends again.

Love in Christ,  
Erica Choi  
(Erica.Choi@vcmain.hq.c5.army.mil)



# CEC Outreach

## Researching Outreach Opportunities

by the Outreach Committee

On Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, the outreach committee, along with a handful of volunteers from CEC, visited a local soup kitchen in the city of Chicago called the Marquard Center. The visit was part of an effort to determine the possibility of establishing a long-term relationship with an existing outreach organization in the Chicagoland area. Currently, the outreach committee is looking into a number of local soup kitchens, nursing



Ed Park is a "gourmet chef"...we're not joking...he really is.

homes, and shelters. After visiting the different centers, the outreach committee will convene discussion about the feasibility of partnering together with one of the organizations.

Phase one, also known as the exploration phase, will likely take several months to complete. The outreach committee will continue to update CEC with future events and information.

The visit to the Marquard Center on the

eve of Halloween made for an interesting time. One patron came up and asked a CEC volunteer, "What is a skeleton's favorite instrument?" Answer: "the trombone." The icebreaker led to an opportunity to share a meal and a good conversation. In total, there were eight volunteers from CEC, including representatives from CYAM, the college group, and Noah's Ark. A brief evaluation of the visit was compiled and will soon be made available.

## Parting Letter from Sungjai Lee & Family

Hello Calvary,

It's been two weeks since we left Chicago, and I think we're slowly starting to emerge from our collective depression over leaving great friends, a great city w/ great schools, and most of all - a great church. The move has been most difficult for Hannah so far, who misses her friends at school, on the soccer team, and at church. As we were unpacking yesterday, she found a street map of Chicago and was so excited to locate Elk Grove Village, but then excitement turned to sadness as she softly sighed, "I miss my old home".

And that's what Calvary was to us - "home". It's where Jeny & I grew the most spiritually, and enjoyed the best times of our lives with some of the kindest & funniest people we've ever known. We both long to have those days back again, we miss Calvary & Chicago so much. I think back at those times when I was upset or disappointed at various people for petty, silly things - all because of my foolish pride - and wish I had that time back. So many wasted opportunities and time spent inefficiently. I'm comforted in knowing that any differences I may have had with anyone were

resolved long before I knew I was coming to LA; I

It isn't easy finding a church that even slightly resembles Calvary! Our scout team of Lisa & Kwang still haven't found a church yet in LA (Pastor Michael, could I interest you in a church plant in LA?). Last week Jeny & I tried a Korean-American church, but afterwards we agreed that we weren't quite ready to jump back into a KA service - in our minds we kept comparing things & people to Calvary, and not giving God the worship He deserved. It was like breaking up w/ someone you've dated for a long time & not wanting to make an emotional commitment for a while thereafter (at least that's how Albert Chang described it). It was like committing "church adultery" - as a good friend would've said.

I am so grateful to Pastor Michael & to "sahmonim" for how they cared for my family & I throughout the years. He disciplined me all these years, and taught me about God's grace, a servant heart, Christ's love, and the purity & holiness of God - and how He wants and deserves our very best. Pastor Michael spoke four words in a sermon many years ago that will always stick with me. When I would grow tired while serving, resist doing QTs, avoid

prayer meetings, or reconciling with someone...I recall these four words: "because Christ is worthy". Pastor Michael repeated that phrase one Sunday in his message, and they will always motivate me to do my very best for Him, because of He is worthy - for what He did for us on the cross.

So now we have to find a new life in LA and although we're sad & not quite settled into a comfortable routine, we know that God has a reason for bringing us out here to LA, and we're excited about how He will reveal those reasons to us over time. Please pray for my family and my parents, as I will continue to pray for all of you and for Calvary to become something great and pleasing in God's eyes. I'm sure we'll be back to visit often - maybe even before this is published - so be good Calvary, and we'll see you soon. As Mike Ha would say, this isn't "goodbye", it's just "see you later".

We love you & miss you so much,  
Emma, Hannah, Jeny & Sungjai Lee

See "7 Ways I Knew We Were Back in LA" on page 8.



## Shout for Joy: Worship, Candy & Fun had by All

by Pastor Jenni Sauer

You may have been surprised to have seen gorillas, unicorn's, princesses and even Paul and Barnabas roaming through the busy halls of our church on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The reason for the costumes, games and prizes was for Noah's Ark annual event Shout for Joy. Shout for Joy is a time to celebrate who God is through praise and also enjoy the many gifts He has given to us by participating in games and activities. By having this event on Halloween we hope to bring hope and light to such a dark and evil holiday. The event had a different twist this year being held outside instead of indoors. God provided a beautiful fall day with brisk air and surrounded us by



Lion and the Lamb? No it's the Gorilla and the Dog.

the magnificent colors of the fall season. Shout for Joy started with the kids filling themselves with pizza and the excitement of participating in activities that would lead to candy and prizes. The elementary kids took off for the mission field where the high schooler's were eagerly awaiting their arrival. The games began with their teachers leading them from station to station. Laughter and cheers of excitement were heard as the kids threw bean bags, tossed footballs and even arm wrestled. The preschoolers sang praise songs and listened to a gospel presentation with a pumpkin before their parents took them through many fun-filled games, to get their faces painted and even

make a craft with candy. The smiles and joy that was seen and heard was a true blessing not only to parents, teachers, and helpers but also to the Lord.

After the activities wined down the event ended with everyone joining together in the mission field for a closing praise time. Do Kim, Rob Lee, Michelle Kim and Pastor Kim all lead songs that were lifted up in praise to God by all who participated. This was a great time of celebration and thanksgiving.

Shout for Joy was a wonderful time of fun, fellowship and celebration. Thank you to all parents and kids who participated, to those who helped with games, crafts and administration and to all who helped plan this event and made it happen. We are so thankful that God has blessed us with this opportunity to shine His light! "O clap your hands all peoples; Shout to God with the voice of joy. For the Lord Most High is to be feared."

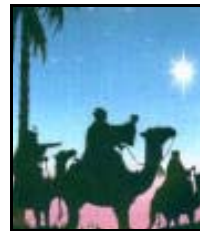
## "A Star Is Born" Christmas Musical Getting Ready

by Michelle Kim

As we approach the busy holiday season, we often forget the true joy of celebrating Christmas. This year, Calvary will be hosting our sixth musical 'A Star Born' and we hope that the joy of celebrating the season would be clear and touching to everyone's heart. A Star Is Born is a children's Christmas musical that teaches us to get down beneath ourselves in humility with God, so that God himself would be glorified through us.

There are a lot of shining moments throughout the musical via songs and

heart warming testimony of "My Life's Review" by one of the cast Mr. Spielman. When Sophia, the actress hired from 1-800-BIG-STAR arrives to play Mary, the director, Mr. Spielman, and the others try to help her understand that the "STAR" of



any Christmas production is on Jesus Christ and not on one's self. Just like "Sophia", it doesn't apply only to stage life, but we must check ourselves and

make sure our Christianity is not just what I am at church, or in front of people. Could God possibly say to us as He did to the Pharisees, "Woe to you, you hypo-

crite?" We hope and pray this Christmas that God will use this musical to teach us about His many truths- to 'get down' in humility and allow God to use us for His glory. Jesus can change our ordinary lives into something extraordinary, even today....just follow the STAR. May we celebrate Jesus' birth this 2004 in a new and refreshing way.

**SHOWTIMES:**  
December 11th, Saturday: 6pm  
December 12th, Sunday: 3pm



*"[the musical] teaches us to get down in humility with*



# Focus on the CEC Family

## Letter From Iraq: Continued Prayer & Thanks

Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for supporting my family and I while I have been deployed to Iraq. We are so grateful for your many prayers on our behalf. There are so many things I'd love to tell you about. As I sat in church this morning, I thought I might share with you what I observed as we worshipped. I pray that you might be encouraged and have a better idea of the needs only God can meet.



Erica Choi and cousin somewhere in Baghdad

This was our second service of the morning and I actually sat at the piano facing the congregation. We have grown so much that after the music is finished, there's no where else to sit, Praise God! We split into two services a couple months ago and are adding on to the building. When we first arrived, we began to put the praise band together and it has been such a blessing for me to be part of the team. Every Sunday I'm amazed at how God uses us in spite of a lack of practice and mediocre talent. Still, every Sunday, half a dozen people come and share with us the impact of the praise time in their particular walk this week. Pray that our hearts remain focused on giving God glory and that all we do and say in front of the congregation simply facilitates their worship at the throne of God. So many Sundays, I've looked into the crowd while we sing and I could literally watch walls of fear, anxiety, pain, loneliness come crumbling down as God touched people's hearts.

Emotions were running pretty high today, as is the norm lately. The previous Sunday, an attack took the life of one of my co-workers. Satan is really trying to burden us with fear. Before our prayer time, a Marine from my office walked to the front, with his wrist band-

aged, to give a testimony of God's grace. As he was walking back from lunch one day this week, he was shot in the wrist by "celebratory fire" from outside the camp. He said he was one step to the right from walking into eternity.

He encouraged us about the thousands of people back home who are praying for our safety. He shared that God's protection and provision are stronger than any weapons the enemy may bring against us. Moreover, we can know God is in control and that Satan cannot cripple us with fear.

There is a tough old general who faithfully comes to service every Sunday and brings his aide and driver with him. It's encouraging to see these three men, who spend nearly every waking moment together, choose to come to worship together each week. In military chapels, the front and center seats are usually reserved for general officers. This particular man insists that all the soldiers have a place to sit first and he finds a place to sit in the corner. Today as we began to sing "The Wonderful Cross" he broke down in tears. No one can know what specific pressures each person deals with, but I watched him give a "fatherly" pat on the knee to his aide sitting beside him and a smile to indicate they've been through so much here together. The leaders here have a lot of decisions on their shoulders that will ultimately mean that American soldiers will go into harm's way. Please pray for God's wisdom for them.

Finally, and probably closest to my

heart, I watched a friend from Washington serve communion this morning. He came to Iraq with so much pain and little hope. He works for my roommate who came to Iraq just beginning to understand God's amazing grace and the hope to which God has called us. As she learned, she immediately began to share with him and he accepted Jesus as God turned his life upside down for the better. The three of us have been part of a weekly small group. These two friends and several others came to the group as brand-new believers. They knew of the love and sacrifice of Jesus for them and were so thirsty to learn more.

At first very quiet and reserved, they began to open up and share their deepest needs with and we prayed for each other. I'm just in awe as I see what God has done in their hearts. When we studied James this summer, at least 5 people shared they had never read



Jason and Micaela wait patiently for Mommy to return

it before. By the first week, my roommate was so excited about what it said, she had chapter 1 memorized. God has planted His word on her heart! Another friend exclaimed "I love this, it's like Christianity for Dummies". In all seriousness, he is maturing in leaps and bounds. He

facilitated our discussion last week in Ephesians with the wisdom God has granted him in even a few months. It just makes me smile to think of his questions and timidity back in February and then watch him lead us through the study of the Word a few months later. And lastly, there is a co-worker with whom I had some great talks when we first got here and he was reading a Bible his wife gave him and was really searching. He became engrossed in work and stopped coming to chapel until a few weeks ago. He came to find me after service and

*(Continued on page 2)*



# Missions Focus

## NK: A Single Seed to Produce Many Seeds

(Names were omitted from this article to secure the identities of NK Christian workers.)

by Pastor Jared Park

We were sitting in the hotel dining room when our whispered conversation came to an abrupt halt. The room that had been empty except for our missionary hosts and the three of us Americans was being filled with a group of Chinese tourists and their tour guides. Dr. and Mrs. K had told us that the walls had ears here, but for me, it didn't hit home until they reminded us that we were speaking too loudly about some "sensitive" issues. Our time with them in NK was filled with such warnings. After the tourists had settled down for their breakfast, we continued to discuss with hushed voices about what brought them to China and eventually, here, to NK. As they continued to share, my thoughts wandered off to the past two days of experiences which filled my mind and heart...

Our taxi ride from the Chinese border to the port city of Rajin was unlike one I had ever taken before. I don't think it was because of the NK guide who was sitting in the front seat who was to follow us wherever we went. I don't think it was because of the eerie silence during the two hour trip. It wasn't unusual just because of the mountainous terrain or the rocky dirt roads that we drove on, which would have been better handled by one of our 4-wheel drive SUV's. It was because we were in NK. And I was trying to do something that I never usually do. After Mr. Park told me that photographs would not be allowed until the appropriate time, I tried my best to take as many mental pictures as I could of everything around us. We had been told that the land would look similar to the land of South Korea half a century ago. To me, it seemed that



almost every bit of dirt had some type of plant or vegetable growing on it. There were tiny buildings dotting the countryside. Some stood solitary on mountainsides overlooking acres of farmland. Others were clumped together to form small villages. Around these villages, we finally saw the people of NK.

Perhaps they were a bit shorter and a bit thinner, but they looked like they could be my mother, my sister, my brother, my relatives. What makes me better than them? I realized I wasn't. I could very easily have been on the other side of that taxi window

staring at the Americans driving by, if my own grandparents had missed a train or decided to remain in their home for one more day back in the summer of 1950. Along the road, some had stoic expressions, like ones I've seen riding home on the Metra train after a long day of work. Others were yelling at their kids, like parents I've seen at the local mall. Some children were walking home from school. Farmhands were returning from a full day out in the fields. I realized a simple lesson – they're people, just like us. These were the snapshots I was taking as we made our way slowly to our destination.

One of the memorable outings during our short stay in NK happened during a trip to the local market area. We had visited the base consisting of the medical clinic, kindergarten, and farm that the K's were running and had been very impressed with everything we observed. The final operation was to be the building of an orphanage closer to the city. We were admitted into NK for the groundbreaking of that very project. Yet, the weather threatened to put a damper on

our groundbreaking festivities which were to be held the next day. Dr. K had advised that we go along with our guides to purchase some umbrellas for the event, in case the torrential rains did come. So we made our way to the marketplace. Once there, it was like being in a flea market back at home. We made our way back and forth through the crowded aisles, observing the people, all the while keeping our eyes open for the umbrellas. Suddenly, I felt a tugging on my jacket. I turned around to see three little boys, dressed all in black. They said, "Ddon jom joo sae yo" (please, give us some money). The boy who had tugged my sleeve repeated the phrase a couple of more times. All of the sudden, I saw a hand fly down and strike the boy right across the cheek. He and the others turned and bolted away as fast as they could. It was one of our guides, Mr. Cho, who wanted to teach them a lesson not to bother us again. Mrs. K pulled us

aside and reminded us why she had told us to ignore all the children earlier. Although it may seem unloving, the best way for us to keep the children

safe was to completely ignore them. The beggars were street children who had made their way into Rajin to see if they could make a better living for themselves in the town of foreign tourists. We had seen many of them around the main square of the town. The NK officials had told the K's that these would be the children who would be given into their hands. Mrs. K told them, "We'll be more than happy to take them." We learned that these would be the very children who would fill the halls of the future orphanage. That incident broke my

(Continued on page 7)

***"If they live, I live. If they die, I die. They are my people."***

# International Day of Prayer

## The Need and The Call To Pray

by *Thomas Kim*

It's interesting how Jesus wanted the disciples to respond to the need. Picture it. He was moved to the very core of his being as he looked around and saw the crowds (Mt 9:36-38). The need was overwhelming and the sight was gut-wrenching. Multitudes of people, everywhere, in need of healing, in need of the good news, in need of a shepherd. So Jesus turns to his twelve followers beside him and begins to speak. Only this lesson would not be hidden in parables or analogized in stories. He tells it to them plain and simple: "There aren't enough workers."

The group of eager, willing men listen to Jesus speak of a need for workers that is so great that it aches his heart. Then, he gives them the mission. But surprisingly, he does not immediately deploy them and tell them to "Go!", at least not yet. The problem: "the lack of workers". The logical solution: "Go!" Jesus' solution:



"Pray." Here we see, by God's design and at His command, the place for prayer in the work of missions.

North Korea has a population of 22 million. Around 2 million people have starved to death in the past decade and an estimated 200,000 people are in political concentration camps. Newsweek International reported North Korea as the worst human rights violating country in the world today.

Perhaps you have heard these statistics, and perhaps you have heard individual stories, which make these statistics even more significant. They seem unreal, otherworldly, from a different day and age. Naturally, the shock of this unreal reality evokes a desire to take action: "Just tell me where! Let me at 'em!" If you've felt this way, have a seat. The doors are simply not open yet, so join the club.

In this passage, Jesus does not call us to roll up our sleeves; he asks us to get on our knees. And for country such as North Korea that is so closed to direct foreign aid, there could not be a more appropriate application.

Does the need constitute the call to the mission field? For ages, this question has been in contention. I do not know that we will ever figure out the answer to that question. But this we do know. The need constitutes the call to prayer. At the World Missionary Conference in 1910, Andrew Murray spoke of the need all over the world. Then said, "We shall need three times more men, four times more money, and seven times more prayer."

This week (Nov. 15-21) is the International Week of Prayer for North Korea. Please join me and many others around the world as we shoot prayer heavenwards on behalf of this nation.

*(Continued from page 6)*

heart and helped me realize that although they truly are people just like us, in many ways, we are so different.

That difference became most evident when we found ourselves having lunch in a little shack attached to a goat barn. After the meal, our guides departed, knowing that we were about to do something that no NK citizen had the legal right to do – worship God. As we sang some simple hymns and as Dr. K shared a brief word from Scripture, I realized we were sitting in a place where the people were not free to openly love a Loving God, to praise a Worthy God, to openly pray to an All-Powerful God, to freely share about a Saving God. There was not a dry eye as that realization hit each of us in a deep and profound way. And we came to understand, in the slightest sense, why these people were

doing this work – because they *needed* the people of NK to know this Great and Glorious God...

I will never forget what Mrs. K said back at that last breakfast in the hotel. She had shared her testimony of how they had felt led of God to minister in China and NK. As her motivation in His work, she concluded with this: "If they live, I live. If they die, I die. They are my people." It reminds me of one of my favorite verses, spoken by Christ himself, "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" (John 12:24).

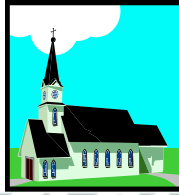
As we were crossing back over the bridge that separated NK from China, not knowing if I would ever return, I tried to think of a prayer big

enough to capture all that my heart was longing for. What could be uttered to do justice for the needs of all these people, for all of these broken families, for these starving souls? There was nothing. All I could pray was, "Bless this land, Lord. Bless this land." Maybe You'll bless it through us, Lord.

*Calvary's leadership and missions committee are working out the details of a second CEC trip to China/North Korea, to take place in the summer of 2005. All of CEC will be involved and will be impacted by this trip, but obviously, not everyone will go. As you consider what part you'll play, please take the time to pray, to listen, and to talk with your family and friends.*



## Postman Please Deliver To:



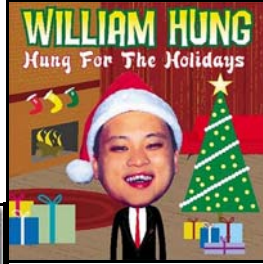
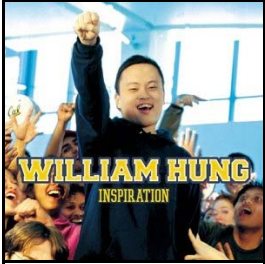
The "Calvary Courier" is the quarterly publication of the ministry of Calvary English Chapel. It's purpose is to help build a Christ-like community through communication. If you have any questions regarding our ministry or are interested in writing an article please contact Peter Cho (847) 275-6316.

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Calvary English Chapel exists to glorify God by

- Winning lives for Christ
- Nurturing them toward maturity in Christ
- Equipping them for the service of Christ

## Parting Shot:



## 7 Ways I Knew We Were Back in LA

by Sungjai Lee

- 1) William Hung was live on the radio, promoting his Christmas CD, "Hung for the Holidays"
- 2) My children had to get a Hepatitis A & B shot before being admitted to school (only required if visiting 3rd world countries)
- 3) My niece's UCLA diploma will have the embossed governor's stamp of Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- 4) I've been re-introduced to the phrase, "may I see your ID please" anytime I use my credit card.
- 5) The wall of bullet-proof glass protecting the teller windows at the bank down the street from our house
- 6) The gas pump asks for my zip code when I use my credit card, as an added security check.
- 7) The Dodgers want to trade for Sammy Sosa to bolster their Hispanic fan base (c'mon, Sosa?)

## A Word From Our Pastor



Dear CEC family,

I was so encouraged to see so many people came out for the flag football league. Seeing the mixture of college students, young adults & married men playing as a team really encouraged me. As the games progressed, I begin to notice something interesting. The college students and the young adults had much more speed and athleticism than the older married men. But the outcome of the games reflected other wise. The

teams with older men were winning. As I begin to analyze this phenomenon, the importance of experience begin to surface. The small ins and outs of playing flag football. A few simple plays which always seemed to work. The desire and the tenacity to win. The poise to 'see' the game as it was unfolding. The older men did not rely on their speed but in their experience. MATURITY.

The 2004-2005 fiscal year, CEC's theme is "Pressing On Toward Maturity." It is a call to persevere in growing in the knowledge and character of Jesus Christ. I want to encourage each one of you to get involved by learning (small group as we study through the book of 1 Corinthians, equipping classes) and serving others locally (outreach events to serve our surrounding communities) and globally (missions). Think about one area God

wants you to grow in this year or a particular sin God wants you to overcome. Think about how you can serve others this year to heighten the greatness of Christ in their lives.

I talked with the older guys following that Sunday. Many were still recovering from their soreness from the football game. Some couldn't go to work. One person couldn't even drive a car. We are all getting older, a bit heavier, a bit slower, a bit grayer. But hopefully we are also becoming more mature.

Someone once stated, 'He who ceases to be better will soon cease to be good.' What you do today (obedience) will affect who you are tomorrow (maturity). Let us press on together, toward maturity in Our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ!

Running with you by His grace alone,