

'One Force' for the Lord

2008 Summer Retreat

"The 2008 Summer Retreat" participated by all Manmin members took place by mission amidst overflowing grace.

The Nationwide Men's and Women's Missions held their Retreat at Muju Resort North Jeolla Province, August 4-6 and the Six-mission (Canaan, College, Youth, Paul's, Mary's, and Salt & Light) Joint Retreat was held at Hyundai Sungwoo Resort in Gangwon Province, August 4-7.

With a lecture entitled "God's Love Allowed Us to Experience Space" by Rev. Heejin Lee, the Nationwide Men's and Women's Missions participated in athletic competitions and the campfire led by Rev. Heesun Lee.



Dragonflies help Manmin members learn about spiritual space

Separately, the Summer Retreat for the Chinese Parish was held at Bearstown in Gyeonggi Province; the Hearing-impaired Mission's was at Mokpo National University and Muan Manmin Church; and the Foreigners' Parish's took place at Muan Manmin Church, July 28-30, 2008.



Lecture on 'Space'

Throughout the dates of the Retreats, extreme heat warnings were issued around Korea but the sites of Manmin's Summer Retreats were uniquely cool while the participants watched the movements of stars and dragonflies, experienced the theme "Space" firsthand, and had fellowships in love with one another.

We give all thanks and glory to God for pouring His overflowing grace in spirit and in flesh through "The 2008 Summer Retreat."



'Let's run for the glory of the Lord!'

was greater and the testimonies of healing and answers are received to this day."

On the first day of the Six-mission Joint Retreat, each mission had its own activities while an athletic competition and a "Prayer Meeting to be Filled with the Holy Spirit" with Mrs. Boknim Lee, President of Manmin Prayer Center, took place. The College Mission placed first in the athletic competition for the second straight year while the Canaan Mission won the "Cheering Award." On the third day, official activities came to a close with a lecture by Rev. Heejin Lee and a campfire.

Commented Elder Noh-Chul Park, Chairman of the Preparation Committee, "As members from Manmin Central and branch churches came together at one place, a sense of unity felt



'My passion only for the Lord...'

Chairman of the Operation Committee Jung-Mi Jang observed, "I thank all workers and mission members for their hard work done in harmony and peace. I only wish we had our own place for a retreat where we could call out to God in prayer without being limited by the time."

This year's Summer Retreat was attended by Manmin members from Canada, Japan, Belgium, and many nations in Africa to share grace with brothers and sisters from Korea, and the "Devotion" team from Brussels Manmin Church magnified God with a special performance.

Kristel on "Devotion" testified, "I have had firsthand experiences of God's wonders and signs. He is alive and is the same yesterday and today. I no longer doubt God's love for His children; I have always wanted to know His will for me and I have found the answer in Korea. That is to praise God and that is my mission."



A flame of hope launched while affirming unity

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ARISE, SHINE, (ISA 60:1)

MANMIN NEWS

Manmin Central Holiness Church with the Vision of National Evangelization and World Mission

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GCN Power Praise, Season 2 Festival of Heart-touching and Passionate Praise



The Most Cherished Possession

If you could take to heaven one thing that you treasure most, what would it be? One of the last wishes of Alexander the Great, who conquered all the known world of his time, was to have "both my hands be kept dangling out of my coffin." This was to show the people that man does not take anything with him to his grave.

On the day that each of us closes out our lives in this world, only our spirits will enter heaven. Even if we are somehow able to take such precious stones as gold or silver, they will be utterly useless in heaven.

Vet, there is one thing that will be truly valuable in heaven when we take it to heaven with us. That is "love." True love is accomplished as much as our hearts have taken after the heart of Jesus Christ. Only this love is everlasting and is the most cherished possession for all of us.

from Dr. Jaerock Lee's column "The Way" carried in *The Hankook Ilbo*

The second season of "Global Christian Network (GCN) Power Praise," an eminent leader in promoting Christian music culture abounding in excellent talent and overflowing grace, kicked off.

The public recording of the first episode of Season 2 of "GCN Power Praise" took place on the specially designed stage in the Main Sanctuary of Manmin Central Church, 8-11 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2008. Following the success of the 25-episode Season 1 that had begun in December 2005, the second season commenced after enthusiastic response and support for the program not only from GCN viewers but from brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

Led by Rev. Soojin Lee, one noticeable attribute of "GCN Power Praise" is the way in which it unites the audience and the viewers who desire to become sanctified and enables them to fathom the love and the power of God, evoke tears of gratitude and repentance, and desire even more for the heavenly kingdom by allowing them to experience the healing of their souls amidst praise and performance on a specially configured stage under bright lights.

To a generation whose peripheral senses are incited and pointed towards indecent imagery, "GCN Power Praise," serving as a guide by transforming their lives and encouraging them to take after the heart of the Lord, is considered to have expanded

a new horizon in Christian music culture.

Combining grace, heart-touching performances, and passion, Season 2 of "GCN Power Praise" is expected to have an enormous impact not only on GCN viewers but also to all brothers and sisters in Christ who have a longing attachment for this praise-worship program in Korea and around the globe.

Following its founding by a Manmin Central Church affiliate Manmin TV and other Christian broadcasters around the world in October 2005, the Global Christian Network (GCN) has been immensely popular with messages of life, the coverage of the manifestations of God's power, and praise-worship programs that touch the hearts of the viewers. In addition to over-the-air Channels 17 and 27 in the metropolitan New York area and Manmin TV's satellite broadcast, GCN's signal is found in Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines and is to expand its coverage to the rest of the United States and European countries including Russia and France.

e-mail

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Confessions of Faith

1. Manmin Central Church believes the Bible to have been written in the inspiration of God and is the accurate and errorless Word of God.
2. Manmin Central Church believes that the Triune God - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit - exists as one and works with each other
3. Manmin Central Church believes that only the atoning blood of Jesus Christ forgives us of our sins.
4. Manmin Central Church believes in Jesus Christ's resurrection, ascension, and the Second Advent, and the eternal heaven.
5. Members of Manmin Central Church confess "The Apostles' Creed" whenever they gather and believe in it verbatim.

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Senior Pastor Dr. Jaerock Lee

The Blameless

"These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes... And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless" (Revelation 14:4-5).

God is worthy to be praised and He is pleased with praises that magnify His name (Psalm 147:1). There were countless angels in heaven before time began and they praise His glory and forevermore worship Him.

However, God is more pleased with the praise from His children, who love Him, have taken after Him, and praise and worship Him from the depths of their heart, than He is with angels' praise. For that very reason, many wondrous things took place when believers moved God's heart through praising (1 Samuel 16:23; 2 Chronicles 20:21-22; Acts 16:25-26).

As God is spirit, God receives not the outward appearance of those who praise Him but the fragrance of their heart (John 4:24). What, then, are the proper body and attitude we must have in order to praise God in a manner that is pleasing to Him?

1. One must not be imbued with the world.

You would more likely wish to share grace with others both spiritually and with physical talent and pleasing appearances as well. You should not, however, pursue a heart to love the world or conform to the ways of the world. You may think to yourself, 'As I will be standing in front of a crowd after all, I must follow a certain pattern to perfect my fleshly image,' but you must also examine yourself to see whether or not you are pursuing the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.

Even if one had faced worldly things only with good intentions at first, it is easy to become imbued with the world if she does not have strong faith. As one comes in a greater number of contacts with worldly things, the individual will increasingly seek things that are beautiful in a worldly sense. She will learn and follow ways of singing, performance, and musical styles that are popular in the world and prefer clothing, hair, and makeup styles that are "in style" in this world. Even though she knows well of the proper appearance in the Lord, she follows all the popular trends of this world and becomes increasingly imbued with the ways of the world. She begins to utter phrases that are on everyone's lips and even in her fellowships in the Lord, she will follow the customs of this world. God, however, strictly forbids anyone to take pleasure in or fixing their eyes on the world.

The most important aspect for a praise missionary is the circumcision of her heart. If she neglects the circumcision of the heart and places emphasis on fleshly

and outward aspects, she cannot offer God whole praise. Confessing to love God while still deeply in love with the world is not a true confession (1 John 2:15). This is not to say, however, that one needs to isolate herself from the rest of the world. Prior to learning and accepting things of the world, one's heart must be straight before God. Her priority must be to accomplish the circumcision of the heart and possess a heart that is not imbued with the world.

Furthermore, one must make every effort to magnify God and save souls in whatever she does. The person will then be able to discern God's will and receive the strength to conquer and rule over things of this world even if she does face them. Until that is accomplished, one must not cease praying fervently. Until she becomes a woman of spirit abstaining from every form of evil, the individual must not cease her fight against sin.

Also, as she must stand before many people, the person must also become an example unto other brothers and sisters in Christ. In 1 Corinthians 8:13, Paul the Apostle confesses, "If food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble." As Paul exercised self-restraint even though he could easily and freely indulge in anything but concerned with possibly causing others to stumble, you will be rewarded if you exercise self-restraint for those who possess little faith.

2. One must obey the Lord.

Each of you must become a worker following the Lord's guidance (Revelation 14:4). "Following the Lord" here refers to obeying only the Word of the truth. There are instances, however, in which one thinks he is obeying God's Word but is actually not. This is because "self" still remains in him. No matter how often or how much he hears messages telling him to "obey," that individual holds fast to the notion that he is still right and to that which he still cherishes, and is thus unable to obey.

As he has heard many messages, is in charge of many areas of God's work, and has stored up sufficient relevant knowledge, he goes about his work according to his thoughts and experiences, assuring himself, 'I just need to be adaptable at different times' or 'From what I know and what I've studied, my way is better.'

For instance, in praising on the stage, an individual has heard that he ought to praise in a manner that is pleasing to God but he still chooses to follow his

own will and righteousness. He has heard that he must offer beautiful and bright praises abounding in hope and that are not worldly. Still, he asks or thinks to himself, 'Shouldn't I sing praises with this type of messages for the congregation to receive blessings? I think this genre will be of greater grace to the congregation and is more tasteful as well,' or 'The pastor preaches so without sensing the current of the times.'

However, the extent to which one obeys God's Word is far more important than a selection of a particular praise song or the kind of performance displayed. An individual's disobedience will already have prevented the individual from offering God whole praise. On the other hand, if one makes every effort within the will of God, He will receive the fragrance and pour His grace upon the individual and the congregation even if he lacks physical talent. As Samuel repeatedly tells the disobedient King Saul in 1 Samuel 15:22, "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams," it is obedience that God seeks from us.

As God tells us in Isaiah 43:21, "The people whom I formed for Myself will declare My praise," praise is offered to God. In praising, it is God, not oneself, who must come first. It is natural for us to be obedient to God's will. Peter let down his nets into the deep water as Jesus commanded him and when he was commanded to open the mouth of the first fish caught and take a coin out of it, Peter obeyed so. May each of you come forth as a blameless worker who obeys God in every affair.

3. Only the truth, and not an ounce of untruth, must be on the lips of those who praise God.

An untruthful person does not recognize his own mistakes but, in order to cover up his own flaws, provides false testimony and even places blame on others. Some even criticize and slander other people. Suppose a team offered to God a performance on the occasion of a holiday and the performance was evaluated to have gone astray from the direction God had presented to the team. Here, some people will think, 'Well, what else can we expect from that team?' or even unleash words of attack, saying, "If we had done things my way, the result would not have been this bad." Others, in an effort to reduce their own responsibility, blame others and say, "That team was noncooperative and this is the outcome." Even if the performance topped all

expectations in technicality and talent, a broken peace is something that could not be pleasing to God.

The same applies to the members on a same team. God wants to see people repenting of and trying to be responsible for the shortcomings of others. If one is a leader of a group, he or she must harbor this sort of heart, acknowledge wrongdoing, and be responsible for it.

People are unable to be truthful before their shortcomings because they seek other people's recognition. As such individuals strive to receive more recognition than people next to them, they make every effort to cover up their flaws. At the time, they may think they have managed to tide over crisis with a lie but all things are exposed before God. When they recognize their flaws, it may appear as though their status is being lowered but God will see the truthfulness in their heart and give them power and strength to be transformed (Proverbs 12:19). Even if one does not try to raise himself up, God will take care of that in the end.

Consider David: God paid attention to him not because David was perfect but because God took notice of David's heart. Until David came forth as a blameless man, God allowed him many trials and, as David knew God's love for him, David made every effort to humbly recognize his shortcomings and to rid himself of them whenever they were discovered. In any difficulties, David remained thankful for His grace and could offer Him heart-touching praises.

By the same token, God has called upon you and loved you not because you are perfect and excellent, but because in expectation of how you would end up transformed despite shortcomings at present. If you know this, you must always remain truthful before God. If you have done wrong against Him, you must confess them to Him and make every effort to turn yourself away from them. Only then will you be able to truly transform and improve yourself.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, when a blameless and sanctified individual praises God, that praising will have God's power in it and allow many people to fathom the spiritual grace and love He pours upon them. People who have been dying without any hope will meet God amidst spiritual praises. Therefore, may each of you come forth as a blameless man of God and offer Him, to your heart's content, spiritual praises with which He is pleased, in the name of our precious Lord Jesus Christ I pray! ✝

The Essence of and the Attitude in Praising

Music enables people to feel all types of emotions and serves as a tonic in life. When it is used for such a good cause, music brings about many benefits; when it is abused, music becomes a device that leads countless people to depravity. In the Lord, however, music enriches the spirit and it possesses the power to beautify everything. In order for spirits to be renewed and one to lead a life in which he receives God's answers and blessings, this edition of *Manmin News* will examine the type of praise with which God is pleased. <Editor's Note>

It is natural for saved children to praise God in gratitude of His grace. Our God, who is "enthroned upon the praises" (Psalm 22:3), gives us comfort and joy when we please Him through prayer in a melody (Psalm 105:2-3), heals wounded hearts (1 Samuel 16:23), gives strength and help to overcome all afflictions (Acts 15:25-26), and blesses us to receive the desires of our hearts. Mere acts of praising will not warrant such blessings; our spirits will prosper only when we offer God the kind of praise with which He is pleased.

The origin of music was praising of God

We find in Psalm 69:31 that "it will please the LORD better than an ox or a young bull with horns and hoofs." It is not an easy task for a man to sacrifice an ox. During those times, people who were not as affluent offered sheep or goats and others who were even less affluent offered doves or flour. Keep in mind here that God is more pleased with praising from one's depths of heart than the sacrificing of an ox, the most precious of all sacrifices.

From the beginning of time, countless angels have been praising the glory of God and they will forevermore praise and worship Him. It can be said that the origin of music is the praising of God's glory and archangel Lucifer, who was in charge of praising, was blessed to always praise God's glory at His side through beautiful performances and singing. Lucifer was given authority and majesty and unlike other angels, she was also given human nature. With the passing of much time, however, pride began to bud within her and her heart began to deteriorate from the type of heart God had given her.

Lucifer ended up betraying God, was subsequently confined to the abyss, and when the time came she began ruling as the leader of evil spirits and governing the forces of darkness. When God loved her, Lucifer had been inexplicably beautiful; after her fall, Lucifer has become ghastly in appearance. Today, in order to have people take after her image, Lucifer is striving to captivate people's heart and mind and rule them according to her purpose.

Lucifer and music

Among musicians are those being controlled by darkness without their knowledge. Some cover their bodies with frightening tattoos or accessories, bang their heads full of entangled hair, and sing in ear-popping sounds of their instruments and grotesque noises in self-absorption while others mesmerize the listeners with strange lyrics and melodies.

Among listeners of such music are those who exhibit signs of grave deviation. Lucifer, who was in charge of praising prior to her corruption, has instigated worldly music in order to beguile people's hearts and is worshipped by them. Here, "worldly music" refers all forms of music, including lyrics, tunes, and singers who sing such songs, that are not proper in God's sight.

There are many types of music that has beautifully described the ways of life and reminds the listeners of the beauty of heaven. Unless in special circumstances, people who truly love only God and have

places a greater emphasis on one's faith, love, obedience, and the extent to which how that person worships God and lives by the truth, not on that praising individual's craftsmanship or beautiful voice. Praising contains one's faith in God and his love for God, and it is a declaration of God as the Creator and His majesty with one's voice and body.

In Revelation 14:1-3 is a scene in which 144,000 martyred evangelists during the Seven-year Tribulation sing a new song before the Throne of God, the 4 living creatures, and the 24 elders. As their hearts are clean and beautiful in the truth, to an extent that they can die martyrs' death for the Lord, Scriptures tells us that their praising was "like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps."

The God of holiness wants each of His children to possess a clean and holy heart devoid of any elements of evil. When people praise God and the Lord



Praising enriches our lives

In Acts 16 is a scene in which the praising of imprisoned Paul and Silas opened all the prison doors and unfastened everyone's chains. When they found themselves in the valley of the shadow of death, Paul and Silas, whose hearts never wavered in their trust of God, could offer Him praises of gratitude from the depths of their heart. When their praise cut into the darkness of the prison and resounded throughout the prison building, it resounded throughout heaven and shook God's Throne.

Recorded in 2 Chronicles 20 is an incident in which the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon form an alliance and invade Judah during the reign of King Jehoshaphat. During the invasion, Jehoshaphat "appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised Him in holy attire," and had them praise God. Jehoshaphat displayed his faith and trust in God who subsequently caused the enemies to fight each other and brought a great victory to Judah. We also read in 1 Samuel 16 of an incident in which the evil spirit departed from King Saul when David played on the harp.

The kind of praising with which God is pleased drives away darkness, brings forth solutions to various problems in our lives, and, as our spirits prosper, allows us to receive His answers and blessings. Therefore, the praise we offer God must be a confession of our faith stemming from the depths of our heart and by the love God pours upon our spirits, our lives become prosperous both in spirit and in flesh.



from "GCN Power Praise"

an earnest hope for heaven stay firmly away from worldly music. No matter how good it may be, such individuals try to listen only to songs that praise God and give them hope for heaven.

Furthermore, it is proper to guard a type of music that can deprive one of the love one has for the Lord or thrust his heart towards the world. Upon learning that the origin of music is to praise God and that He delights in receiving our praises, we would also gladly listen to praise songs and sing not worldly music but praise songs.

Praise with which God is pleased

God is not interested in our outward appearances but in our heart. Thus, He

with all their heart and seek the strength of the Holy Spirit, they will be moved by the Holy Spirit. At such times, they will receive the strength to overcome the world and rid themselves of sin while faith, hope, and love in their hearts will be increased.

This requires fervent prayer and making every effort to achieve sanctification of the heart. One must also do good in everything, be at peace with everyone, and utter only sweet words. When he pleases God with such proper praising, God will cause him to be moved and touched, communicate with, and be filled with the Holy Spirit, pour grace of sanctification upon him, and answer the desires of his heart.