



# Hearts In Seoul



Hans

Gretchen

...but I know Who  
holds **THE FUTURE**



Jael, 22

Abi, 20

Mike, 18

John, 16

What can I say about the events of the last month or two? We are living in exciting times—as Gretchen said recently, it feels kind of like the almost-surreal days in 1989 when the Berlin Wall finally fell. I remember that time (not least because I had been in divided Germany less than a year before!)—if you had asked me then whether I thought Berlin’s reunification would ever take place, I’d likely have snorted “Not in *this* lifetime!”

Who can discern God’s plans ahead of time? Faster than anyone could have dreamed, that Wall fell...and now, 19 years later, it seems that the most heavily armed border on earth could follow suit. Praise God for His mercies!

Oh, I know that there are plenty of doubters and nay-sayers. Not that I can blame them; the North doesn’t have a very good track record of following through on past promises and treaties. But our supporters have often asked us (especially during the time of heightened tensions) “What’s the mood over there? How are the South Koreans reacting?” The answer *then* was “They’re used to it...bluster and threats for the last sixty-plus years have numbed them...they’re kind of concerned, but largely it’s business as usual.”

Now, it’s different. Younger generations, who have known nothing but division and hostility, are starting to think about the possibility—however remote—that peace is on its way. Older generations, who experienced the pain of separation from their homes and families in the North, are daring to hope. The mood is different! We can only pray.

But then again, that’s what I believe has opened this door: prayer to the one true God. Proverbs 21:1 says that “The king’s heart is like streams of water. Both are under the LORD’s control. He turns them in any direction he chooses.” (See also Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 16:1; 16:9; 20:24...) For decades, believers around the world have been earnestly praying for peace and reconciliation in this beautiful but broken land. The underground church in North Korea is standing strong despite brutal treatment, praying not for a change of regime but a change of heart in their countrymen.

That is the real freedom—a life changed by the forgiveness and love of Jesus Christ, won for us on the cross. Hope and peace and self-worth that flow from God Himself to the children He loves. That’s the message of Christianity, and if this year’s astonishing events continue, God willing, we’ll soon be able to bring the Good News to people *all across* the Korean peninsula. He is so good!

...By the way, did I mention that Luther University & Seminary (“LTU”) is only *fifty-two miles* from the DMZ? Do you realize the potential we have for training Korean nationals—lay people and pastors—for service in that wonderful mission field? Just sayin’...

Well, as the old expression (and the more recent song) puts it: “I may not know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future!” Pray for the leaders of the nations involved in this historic peace effort. Pray for the faculty and staff of LTU. Pray for the Trinkleins as we serve here AND as we get ready to come back to the U.S. this summer for Home Service (and Jael’s wedding)!

God bless you all, and see you soon,



## Fun Korean Fact

Most Korean churches hold morning prayer services every weekday. They are usually held before 6 A.M. so that the people who attend can get to work on time. (Maybe this is why Korea is nicknamed “The Land of the Morning Calm.” ☺)

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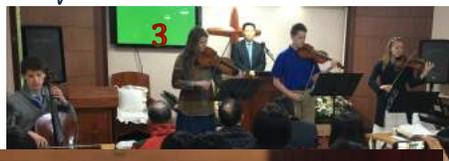
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# SIBLING STRIP

This past week, I had the opportunity to go down to Paraguay with my fiancé Levi Karth and his mom to view the area where Levi and I will be serving after our marriage. I went down with a bit of apprehension and a lot of questions. Would there be running water? How about electricity? Did they have wifi? Would I have to wash our clothes by hand? We arrived on Sunday, April 29, and were met the next day by a pastor named Victor. This selfless man devoted his entire week to driving us all around Paraguay (we were in the car for probably over 20 hours in one week), and introducing us to the people we'd be working with when we moved down there. A lot of my fears subsided as I saw this beautiful, tropical land. In a lot of ways, it reminded me of Southern Illinois, where I grew up. The people are friendly and relaxed. They talk about soybeans and cows. They drink a cold tea called terrare (tear-a-ray) while sitting on their porch and chatting. It was a welcome break from the hustle and bustle of Korea. Thankfully, due to my Spanish study, I was able to understand 1/3 to 1/2 of most conversations, even if I'm not good (yet) at speaking it myself. It was a very sweet, if packed, visit, and not only was it great to see Levi once more before the wedding but also I enjoyed getting to know his mom better.

God is so good at dealing with our fears...even the ones we don't know about yet. If you want to stay updated on what Levi and I are up to, you can go to [LeviKarth.com](http://LeviKarth.com). We'll be posting our updates there.

Jael



1. Hans and Christopher having tea.
2. Hans receiving flowers for his birthday from a church member.
3. The kids playing at another Korean church.
4. Gretchen with some of the ladies at Korean-speaking Oksudong Lutheran Church. (OLC)
5. Traditional Korean performers who sang/played for LTU chapel.
6. John, Abi and Jael leading the Sunday school kids in singing "Father Abraham" at OLC. (Mike is off-screen playing piano.)

We have been so grateful for the blessing of having an automobile here in Korea! When we got the vehicle last January (2017), we had no idea how the Lord would use it. Even though it is a normal-sized minivan, it has seating for nine passengers, which we figured would be very handy if we ever had out-of-town guests. Surprisingly, this same minivan had the option of having two more (flip-down) seats; but we decided to forgo that option, figuring there was no way we would ever need that much seating, nor would it be practical with our lanky crew. Undoubtedly, this vehicle was designed for the petite Korean population; however, this long-legged American family has figured out some creative seating configurations that work fairly well—even with the addition of some extra passengers!

Although we frequently use public transportation when we are traveling individually or in small groups, we use the minivan to go to our two churches (one International and the other Korean) on Sunday mornings, to travel to places that are inconvenient to reach with public transportation, and almost always when we are traveling with six or more passengers. Traffic is usually very congested here, so many people prefer to travel via subway, bus, or taxi. However, we live very close to the main expressway that leads into Seoul and, thankfully, it has a carpool/bus lane. The unusual thing about the carpool lane here is that, in order to use it, a vehicle must contain six or more occupants...so we are very grateful for our little troop.

Last fall, Will (Hans's teacher's assistant from Luther University) joined our pack on Sunday mornings, and in late February our dear Korean friend, Christopher, asked whether he could worship with us, also. (He has rarely missed a Sunday since then!) What a joy it has been to have these two men faithfully with us for worship each week! One Sunday last month, James (our fellow missionary from LTU) accompanied us, also, and the van was full! Maybe we *should* have considered the eleven-seat option...

As always, thanks for your faithful prayers and generous support. You are such a crucial part of our ministry here!

In Jesus,

Gretchen



## Prayer Requests

1. That God would work through us to bring people to Christ.

2. That wedding and home service plans would all come together smoothly.

3. That things would go well as LTU enters the second half of the spring semester.

4. That the meetings between the powers of the Koreans, China and America would end in peace.

To support us, you may send a tax-deductible gift to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 or securely online through the LCMS website, at [lcms.org/Trinklein](http://lcms.org/Trinklein). Make checks payable to the LCMS, writing "Support of Hans Trinklein" on the memo line.

You can also send your gifts to our friends at Mission Central 40718 Highway E-16 Mapleton, IA 51034.