

# CHANGING PATHS



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Dear friends,

With much activity, the Christmas and holiday season rapidly unfolded before our eyes. Perhaps as for some of you, some effects still pleasantly linger on even as the new year has begun and we find ourselves back into the 'regular' routine that feels anything but 'routine.'

Before we narrate a few recent events and happenings, allow us two things. First, a sincere thank you for all of your notes, cards, emails, Christmas greetings, and generous expressions of support. You overwhelm us with your thoughtfulness and care. Thank you. Second, an apology: we never feel like we are able to respond as timely and as thoroughly as we would like to all of the above. Thank you for being patient with us as we catch up with the end of last year.

No matter if you are serving full-time as a church-worker or not, Thanksgiving and Christmas are busy times of year. We were grateful to repeat yearly events at church and home as well as engage in some things new. Collaborating on or planning Thanksgiving dinner at our local congregation of International Lutheran Church (1), children's Christmas activities (2,3), and inviting the girls' friends over (4) are just a few events that we gratefully enjoy. Matt also had the opportunity to witness the Gospel being shared in a clear message given by a mission-minded friend and former Taiwan colleague (and also Lily's godfather), Mike, who teaches at one of the Lutheran international schools in Asia (5). Matt was there in Hong Kong to support the ministry of a fellow OIM missionary, Kevin Kong (6), who has since completed his term. We are grateful for his service.





Other work-related travels took Matt to the Into Light Center in Bangkok where he met up with Pastor Sompong (7) of Concordia Into Light Lutheran Church as well as OIM missionary Joanna who works to connect her English students to the Gospel through lessons and, as pictured here, through informal encounters (8).

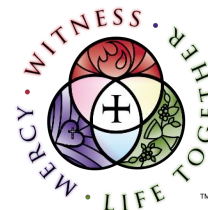
So many ministry opportunities exist in our own neighborhoods and around the world. This last summer, our church body adopted a resolution in convention to support and expand congregation-supported short-term missions. While certainly a multi-faceted project that entails collaboration and support on many levels, Matt has been asked to dedicate time to short-term mission opportunities in the Asia region. A recent conference (9) with LCMS missionaries involved in coordinating these teams from other regions served as a helpful launch for this venture.

One of the challenges of living overseas in such an international context as Seoul is the transient nature of the expat community. Friendships with other foreigners always begin with the understanding that you will likely have to say goodbye within a year or two. Dee Dee's volunteer work with Open Arms to serve Korean orphans will continue, even though we were sad to see our good friend, Barb (10), instrumental in the foundation of this organization, return to Canada.

As the calendar flips, the Wasmund family (11) wishes you a year (12) of peace, love, and hope in our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Thank you, again, for your support.



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