

CHANGING PATHS

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(left) When one mask doesn't quite feel like enough...; (center left) A pharmacy with signage indicating that face masks are sold out; (center right) Olivia and Lily following standard protocol while shopping for pens; (right) an image revealing two divergent reactions to the virus

Greetings in Christ, our sure Protection, from Seoul. We first of all would like to thank you for your prayers, emails, and inquiries into the situation here in South Korea. As the coronavirus COVID-19 continues to occupy headlines and sustain the attention of an anxious world, we hoped to share a glance into our daily lives and how they have been altered and yet, to some extent, remained the same in the midst of rising numbers of confirmed cases.

Though the current conditions are obviously subject to change, as of writing (3/1/20), Olivia's school has delayed the start of the new semester by three weeks. Lily's school, which had already returned to classes, adjusted their response plan and subsequently migrated the delivery and learning to an online format. Dee Dee's activities at the orphanage, as well as the women's Bible study, have been postponed until further notice. Matt's normal travel schedule has been curtailed, transitioning to even greater usage of communications with the missionaries he supports through technology. Other activities at our local congregation of International Lutheran Church have also experienced postponement or cancellation, with the Sunday weekly worship service also being delivered via an online video format, still complete with almost all the regular aspects of a regular service.

There is a general sense (and, indeed, encouragement from the government) that it is best to stay at home as much as possible; venturing out isn't forbidden but rather limited. When we have necessity to be outside, we find streets less crowded, some shops closed, and practically everyone wearing a face mask. In the meantime, much work and learning continues at the Wasmund household. (Indeed, certain to-do's have finally worked their way up to completion!) Opportunities to encourage friends, especially some who don't share the hope we have in Christ, have arisen through conversations, though not necessarily face-to-face. These occasions in particular give us joy as we can faithfully express that God is always in control and has, in fact, already worked out everything - most importantly our eternal salvation through Jesus.

We appreciate your continued prayers for our region. Please pray that we may be bold witnesses to the peace and assurance we have in Jesus Christ who is making His way to the cross for us during this Lenten season. Thank you for all you do to keep us here in His service.



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