

HEARTS IN SEOUL



April/May,
2020

The Trinklein Family Newsletter



Hans



Gretchen

Crying Fowl



Abi, 22



Mike, 20



John, 18

As I first sat in my office this evening to write this article, we had an unusual visitor. The glass door to the building sometimes gets left open, and tonight a wild peacock found its way inside. The lobby area has lots of windows, but the peacock wasn't fooled—it knew it was trapped, it was scared, and it was angry.

That was on the ground floor, of course, and my office is on the third floor, but a frustrated *Phasianina* makes a sound that's hard to ignore. Forget the lyric, slightly haunting mating call you hear at the zoo...this sounded more like someone trying to unscrew a rusty steel drum while dragging it across the concrete. Over broken glass.

"What on earth is THAT?!" I wondered. It didn't take long to figure out, once the goosebumps subsided. And even before I could get down the winding staircase, the Korean Crooner had blundered and battered his own way to freedom. You know the old "Keep banging your head against the wall until something changes" ploy? By the grace of God, one of those invisible walls turned out to be the open door. Good thing, too; given a bird that size, it probably would have left me with a bunch of thank-you welts and wounds had I tried to help it.

I don't blame it for sending up all that noise, though. It wasn't used to being confined...didn't know *why* it had suddenly lost its freedom...the solution to the problem was pretty much out of its own control...so it got a little irrational.

...And it occurred to me that some of us *homo sapiens* are acting pretty similar with this whole COVID-19 thing!

All of a sudden, our lives have changed. Suddenly we're restricted...and we didn't choose it! "The enemy" we're fearing is this microscopic volleyball with warts. We can't go out; many can't work; can't do anything about it ourselves...just sitting at home, frustrated as anything, and waiting...has anybody *else* started "screeching" yet? Fear and frustration are funny things; they can make you lash out at anyone or anything nearby—even if they're trying to help.

Now, most of the folks at LTU (faculty and staff) are here, and healthy, and working like crazy—it takes far more work to prepare online classes than regular ones—and of course government regulations and requirements never take a holiday. But the stress level is way up, and we have plenty of uncertainties as we look ahead. (By the way, *everybody* wears a mask!)

But the ones I worry most about are our students, who are largely isolated from their friends and normal lives. How can we minister to them? How can we reach out to people we never even *see*??

Fun Korean Fact:

Children's day, celebrated May 5th, is a national holiday to commemorate kids and their impact on society. Many museums, zoos, and theme parks offer free admission to children, and everyone gets the day off school!

Because the message I want to bring is the unchanging promise of the Gospel: God sees you and your situation. He knows your innermost thoughts and feelings. He understands—and He *cares* about—what you feel and fear. That's why He sent Jesus (to take away the root & cause of fear) and also why He sent His Word throughout the world (so we would know the truth and be at peace).

Yes, the world can be a scary place, where we suddenly find ourselves trapped in a place of pain and loss. And we may not know what the future will hold! But thank God, we know who holds our future; we know who has promised to be our Shepherd, Guardian, and Friend.

God be with you all, as we follow and trust in Him!

...And for goodness' sake,

try not to squawk too much... ☺

To be added or removed from the mailing list, please email hans.trinklein@lcms.org with the word "add" or "remove."

Synod Contacts: Phone: 888-THE-LCMS Web: lcms.org Email: infocenter@lcms.org

(See some of the pictures larger at trinkleinfamily.wordpress.com.)

Sibling Strip

Gretchen's Pearl

"Come, follow me." It's an invitation—a challenge—that has driven successful and 'sane' people to do unbelievable, 'insane' things. And yet, on the surface, it seems like a simple enough task. "Follow me." Okay, Lord...whatever you say.

The problem comes when people aren't prepared for the challenges that they will face. Following God isn't just about going to church or praying every night before you go to bed...it's a radical spring cleaning of your old nature; it's an entire new way of living! And a large part of that is how we react to the difficulties that will inevitably surface during our lives. But how do we face them?

Faith. That's what it comes down to. And not the "Oh, I really hope that it'll happen" kind of faith; not even the "Jesus loves me, this I know" kind of faith. The kind of faith that the author of Hebrews talks about is a faith that keeps you calm when the world is freaking out; it's a faith that leads you to do things that seem crazy to those around you. It's a faith that can come only from a true, intimate knowledge of the One who called you. And that's the kind of faith that you and I are called to live in, even when it's tough. *Especially* when it's tough.

"All right, Lord, I will follow...if you lead me."

Mike

Our family has been experiencing so many unexpected blessings this spring during this COVID-19 crisis, as we see our Lord "work all things together for good" in our lives. Some of these blessings have been:

- (1) My making it to the hospital in San Antonio, TX, for the birth of our first grandchild, Ezequiel Zechariah Karth, on Feb 23rd and being able to spend time with our daughter, Jael, and her husband, Levi, helping them care for Ezzie during his first month.
- (2) Flying back to Phoenix on March 21st and spending time with my family. (The original plan had been that I would fly from Phoenix to Korea on March 24th. However, Abi and Mike needed to renew their visas, and the only place it seemed they could fly to was the U.S., due to travel restrictions from the Coronavirus. Consequently, the kids and I are staying here in Phoenix until things settle down with COVID-19.)
- (3) Hans gaining the skill of teaching online classes in Korea, where his days are full of preparing lessons, filming sessions, and grading homework assignments.
- (4) Helping my sister, Heidi, and my parents with projects at their homes.
- (5) Celebrating my Dad's 80th birthday on April 23rd. (If we are still here on May 22nd, we hope to celebrate my Mom's 80th birthday, also.)
- (6) Spending time with Jael, Levi, and Ezequiel, who drove to Phoenix on May 1st. (Abi, Mike, and John are getting to bond with their nephew!)
- (7) Celebrating Jael's 25th birthday with her on May 15th—Lord willing!
- (8) Getting John set up for his college studies with Grand Canyon University (GCU) this coming fall. (He plans to study online for one year and then study on-campus starting in the fall of 2021.)
- (9) Helping some friends harvest (and empty!) their citrus trees, in preparation for the hot weather and enjoying fresh squeezed juices and fruit.
- (10) Starting an online Bible study (via Zoom) with some ladies in Korea.

We continue to give thanks for this time with family here in America, and are so grateful for FaceTime, iMessage, and email that keep us connected to Hans for daily updates and prayer time. Abi, Mike, and John are experiencing the unique "privilege" of riding out this pandemic in two different countries, since they left Korea just as things were beginning to level out there.

We continue to thank God for all of you, as we all serve the Lord as missionaries wherever God has placed us!

Gretchen



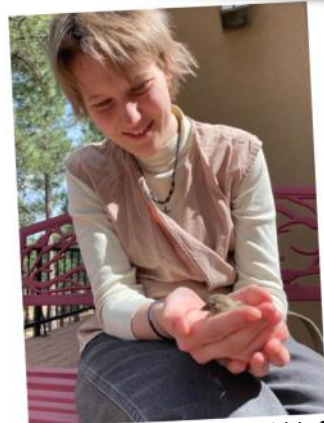
Going for a hike in the mountains



The four generations



Hans working on his online classes with Prof. Rush



Abi holding an injured bird



Celebrating Gretchen's dad's birthday

Prayer Requests:

- For grace for Hans as he continues teaching in Korea
- For wisdom for the family in the States during these times
- For fruitful discussion during Gretchen's online Bible study
- For God's blessing and provision for Korean orphans
- For a desire for Korean Christians to adopt orphans

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. 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**.