

# HEARTS IN SEOUL



July/August,  
2020

## The Trinklein Family Newsletter



Hans



Gretchen

## fear Not!



Abi, 23



Mike, 21



John, 18

I actually started writing this article on the plane from the U.S. back to Korea. By the grace of God, I was able to spend some precious weeks back in the States with my family (and try to get everything arranged so that they could, at long last, rejoin me here). Unfortunately, the kids' airline cancelled the flight in August, and it remains to be seen whether the promised flight in September will happen. Sigh!

But "COVID Crazienss" (my term) is gripping every aspect of travel planning, as some of you have probably experienced. Some U.S. states are restricting visitors from other U.S. states; *many* countries have even stricter prohibitions or extra rules in place. Matter of fact, I learned less than 24 hours before my flight that, due to the current spike in South Korea COVID cases, all travelers entering Korea had to have a negative COVID test result *from a test administered less than 48 hours before takeoff!* Let me tell you how much fun I had trying to find someplace that could administer a Rapid Test...!

But God was merciful, I only had to delay my flight one day, and now I'm in my apartment in Yongin...under strict quarantine for 14 days. I have an app on my phone that tracks my movements (even within my apartment!) and I must take my temperature and submit it along with a self-diagnostic questionnaire three times a day. I receive at least half a dozen Emergency E-Alerts on my phone **each day** notifying me of new cases in Yongin and instructing everyone who went to such-and-such a place, on such-and-such a date, to go to the local clinic to be COVID-tested right away. That, plus the alerts that I have been receiving related to the TWO typhoons that have swept across the Korean peninsula in the ten days since I got back.

Things are much safer in the U.S., right? Hmm...all you have to do is watch the news and hear about riots (peaceful protests?) and systemic racism and injustice and political disaster on the horizon (no matter *who* gets elected, somebody is sure it'll be the end of the world!) and...well...it seems like the *whole world's* in a first class mess, doesn't it? Doesn't matter **where** you look. "Many are asking 'Who can show us any good?'" (Psalm 4:6)

Friends in Christ, I can understand why depression and anxiety and family tensions and all those things are skyrocketing these days. But don't forget that God is still in control, and He says "Don't be afraid! I am with you. I won't ever leave or forsake you." It's at times like these that trust in God can sustain us even in situations that make others collapse in fear or helplessness.

God is with us! He knows what each of us is going through. His love hasn't gone away. He's calling us in the middle of the storm—just like He called to Peter, commanding him to come to Him, *walking right over the crazy waves and stormy seas*. Jesus called Peter to look at Him, not at the "problem" wind and waves. "Keep your eyes on Me," Jesus said, "and I will empower you to endure even the darkest hours of your life."

Man, I could go on for pages about this, but I'm out of room already. God be with you! He's your Creator, your King, your loving Father!

With you in the middle of the storm,

## Fun Korean Fact:

Instant Ramen noodles are an extremely popular food in Korea, especially among the younger generation! They come in many varieties, along with special seasonal flavors, which include "nuclear fire chicken" and "spicy carbonara".

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Synod Contacts: Phone: 888-THE-LCMS Web: [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) Email: [infocenter@lcms.org](mailto:infocenter@lcms.org)

(See some of the pictures larger at [trinkleinfamily.wordpress.com](http://trinkleinfamily.wordpress.com).)

# Sibling Strip

It's been quite some time since my last sibling strip, so I'd like to fill you in on my life over the past several months. In February, I returned to America to visit the Grand Canyon University (GCU) campus before I applied. After returning to Korea at the end of February, I continued my high school classes. Near the end of March, I and my siblings returned to America due to the coronavirus outbreak. In Arizona I finished my high school classes and graduated on June 28. I was accepted at GCU and have been preparing for classes ever since. Due to my interesting circumstance, my plan was to complete my freshman year of college online while in South Korea. However, I have recently discovered that I will need to stay in America until my renewed passport arrives. Through all this uncertainty over the past while, I have been trying to trust God. Sometimes it is hard to see, but in every situation, God is using the circumstances to shape me into the person he wants me to be. I would appreciate your prayers as I start this next chapter of my life.

# Gretchen's Pearl

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things."  
(Philippians 4:8 NASB)

What we think about shapes us. Spending our days stewing about personal problems or the difficulties in this world can quickly lead us to despair. But thankfully, the opposite is true as well. When we intentionally focus on the promises of God and the blessings that He showers upon us each day, hope buoys our spirits. I read an insightful quote the other day in my Bible app devotional. The pastor said, "If you know how to worry, you know how to meditate! All you need to do is change what you think about..." Believe it or not, that simple insight filled me with hope!

As the kids and I prepare to fly back to Korea next week, I have found myself nearly paralyzed with anxiety as I have tried to tie up loose ends here in the States. Individually, the issues are manageable, but as a whole, they have felt like a monstrous weight on my shoulders. During the past few days, I have been consciously turning over these concerns to the Lord as I tackle them—with His grace—one by one. I've realized that I have allowed myself to "meditate" on my problems rather than on the Big God Who "daily bears our burden" (Psalm 68:19). His grace is always sufficient. His promises always feed our faith. His Word always cleanses our mind and fills us with truths that are worthy of our meditation.

May we run to Him—and Him Alone—as the world around us seems to be spinning out of control. He Alone is our Rock and our Refuge.

*Gretchen*

*John*



The kids with some of their cousins in Nebraska



Hans saying goodbye to his grandson



Hans and Gretchen with their godson

## Prayer Requests:

- For the family's safe return to Korea on September 10th
- For wisdom and peace as Gretchen wraps things up in America
- For grace and wisdom for Hans as he teaches his online classes
- For open doors for ministry in Korea during the pandemic
- For hearing hearts in us and the people God leads us to minister to



The kids with even more cousins in Phoenix

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