

## Honaker, Edie

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**From:** Hans Trinklein and Family <hans.trinklein@lcmsintl.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 31, 2020 7:06 AM  
**To:** Mission Letters  
**Subject:** Trinklein Family Newsletter December 2020

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to you all! We hope that God's blessings follow you into 2021; we also pray that God's will is done in each and every one of your lives. Thank you again for your prayers and support!  
To view the full newsletter, just click on the image below!

# HEARTS IN SEOUL

## The Trinklein Family Newsletter



### An Unsettled Respite

Hans

Gretchen

Abi, 23

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John, 18

Dear Christian friends,

Grace and peace to you, as this **unprecedented** year draws to a close. (...Aren't you getting tired of that word? Wish I had a nickel for every time a reporter used it—usually pronounced with solemn emphasis after a moment's pause.)

But the word **does** fit. The unprecedented-ality (made *that* one up myself; you're welcome) of 2020, coupled with the unpredictability and uncertainty of 2021, has left millions of people adrift in anxiety. Hopelessness and despair and lethargy are engulfing countries around the world. South Korea is no exception!

The Fall semester is over for university and seminary alike. And what a weird semester it was! Unlike the Spring semester (where we were going week-to-week hoping that "this would be the week" we could resume on-campus classes) the Fall semester **hegan** with the knowledge that government restriction on schools would likely not relax before semester's end. New innovation and structure were needed, along with complex methods of measuring attendance, participation, projects (old-timers useta' call it "homework"), and examinations. The word "Zoom" suddenly became a staple in everyone's vocabulary. Flesh-and-blood students were reduced to tiny 1.5" squares on a screen; and as any of you active teachers out there have experienced, it is *really* hard to teach via videoconference and truly connect with students you've never met in person. Students and faculty alike were feeling the effects of physical inactivity, not to mention the mental strain of trying to maintain a positive outlook while having "no end in sight." I know I myself am feeling the effects of *sitting* all class long, instead of the constant "pacing" I'm accustomed to.

The physical malaise, coupled with the mental/emotional stress stemming from job-killing, relationship-stifling isolation requirements, has had a terrible impact on the young adults of South Korea. School is 'out' until the last week of February...but with so much uncertainty about what even next week will bring, what hope do they have? What can they "hold on to" when everything is changing?

Luther University engaged in a special workshop with Jesus University (I kid you not) to help in this area. (I know, I know...but Jesus University was founded sixteen years before we were, so they got first pick of names. But I don't think we did too badly with our choice, did we?) But the government of Jeolla North province (where JU is located) was urgently seeking solutions for the crisis their young adult population was facing. So just ten days ago, students and faculty from Jesus University and Luther University got together for three days of intensive discussion—the departments of Nursing and Social Work at JU sent representatives, while faculty and students of Luther's Theology and Counseling departments traveled the 2½ hours south to join them. More than 40 hours of (socially distanced, masked, and numbers-limited) small group meetings later, a slate of proposals was drawn up to submit to the provincial government for their consideration. Time and prayer will determine what comes of it, but...

What better way for Christians to interact with the troubled world we live in? We are hardly immune to the stresses and problems that are rocking the globe! But unlike any government intervention, medical stopgap, or financial stimulus, what **we** can offer is hope that can't be shaken by earthly events. We **know** where the future will lead us, and it's a destination that will be ours no matter what happens in the meantime.

I know it seems like the world we used to know is crumbling. It's certainly looking like there won't be any return to "the way things were." But I also know that the Creator of the whole universe is my good and loving Father. I know He's watching over my life, and He has promised me eternal blessing and joy. (And who's big and bad enough to change *His* plans?) I know that Jesus Christ, His Son, the almighty God Himself, has lived and died and risen for my sake. I know He's my wonderful Shepherd and Friend. So, with those things secure, and with His promise to always be with me, and that He'll never give me more than I can bear, why should I tremble over anything that 2021 might bring?

A blessed and peaceful new year to you all!

*Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life's tempestuous sea!  
Unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.  
Chart and compass come from Thee: Jesus, Savior, pilot me!*

### **Fun Korean Fact:**

In Korea, instead of paying monthly rent for apartments, a person will pay the landlord a large sum of money up front. Later on, if the tenant moves out, the entire amount is then returned to them.

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