



# Hearts In Seoul



Hans

Gretchen

## Springing Into Fall



Abi, 21

Mike, 19

John, 16

What an incredible, eventful autumn we're having! As I mentioned last newsletter, I (Hans) had to return to Korea from Home Service 'early' to begin the Fall semester at Luther University, while Gretchen and the kids traveled to Arizona to visit our friends and supporters there (oh, did I also mention that Grandma and Grandpa Frank are out there, too? ☺). I dove into my classes and the pile of paperwork that inevitably accumulates whenever you leave town. I'm pretty sure that when God told Adam the ground would produce "thorns and thistles" in Genesis 3:18, the Hebrew actually means "paperwork and forms"!

But the classes are going well—four sections of English, one focused English-helps class at the Student Center, one undergraduate Doctrine II class (think the 3<sup>rd</sup> article of the Apostles' Creed: Holy Spirit, etc.) and one seminary class where I'm teaching through the parables of Jesus—in English! It's *really* stretching the seminarian's English abilities, but we're having fun and learning to appreciate the rich truths Jesus hides in those stories.

Did I mention all the visitors? LCMS President Matthew Harrison, along with Rev. Dr. Al Collver, came to South Korea in October. The Lutheran Church in Korea invited them to join in their annual General Assembly meeting (think "Synodical Convention"). It was special this year because this is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of LCMS's Korean mission work, and they wanted President Harrison to speak as part of the celebration. They also asked two of the original LCMS missionaries to fly back to their field of endeavor, so Rev. Maynard Dorow *and* Rev. George Riemer preached during the course of the three-day conference, as well. So many good, solid, Lutheran sermons in a row, and I didn't need a translator for ANY of them! But there were many meetings and such associated with these goings-on, and I was kept pretty busy outside (as well as inside) of the classroom.

There were "visitors" inside the classroom, too, so to speak. Professor William Schumacher from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, has been brought over to teach a four-week intensive seminary course on Luther's thought. This is the last week for his instruction, but it has been a delightful thing to welcome him into both the LTU family *and* the Trinklein family circle during these weeks. It's also been very refreshing to have a colleague from "back home" to talk with in depth.

But I've saved the best for last: my wonderful mother, and my cheerful older sister, Sue, came to visit us for ten glorious days. No small feat for a 92-year-old! (...My mom, that is. Not Sue.) We shoe-horned an incredible amount of activity into those short days, and it would take a whole separate newsletter to talk about it all.

Suffice it to say that "God is Good!" He gives us meaningful work, times of refreshing, AND the joy of knowing that at the end of all things, He will welcome us into Paradise through His Son—our Savior and Brother Jesus Christ. Bless His Name, and may God bless each of *you* as you serve Him where He plants you!

**Fun Korean Fact**  
The Korean people drink very little water during a meal (sometimes even none). Instead, they have a watery soup or "stew" with the meal, which they use to quench their thirst. One kind of soup that we've experienced is a spicy soup with tofu cubes, hot peppers, and bean sprouts.

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# SIBLING STRIP

There are some strange things in Korea. But one of the weirdest things, in my opinion, is something called Line Friends. It is a group of characters that are based off "stickers" from a Japanese messaging app. Many Koreans use this app, so the characters became super popular. Now, they have Line Friends statues and Line Friends stores with Line Friends stuffed animals and notebooks and pens—I think you know where I'm going with this. These cute, puffy little creatures are sure to melt your heart...or maybe not. For me, it just seems a little "overkill". Why do you need a little panda on the top of your pencil? Why would you want a chubby bear watermark on your notebook paper? But I'm not a Korean; I wouldn't know. At least the characters are cute. ☺

John

Hans and I both had the privilege of growing up in homes where our parents enjoyed having friends or family over for food and fellowship. Getting together with others in a home setting (theirs or ours) has always been a delightful and precious part of our lives. Now that we are in Korea, that is one thing that has not changed, even though it may go against the cultural grain here.

Koreans tend to gather at a restaurant for meals and fellowship, especially with friends; it is not as common to be invited to someone's home for a meal. (Although it is uncommon, we have enjoyed this experience a number of times since we have been here, and we always feel very honored!) From what we have gathered, one of the main reasons is that most Korean homes are not that large. The majority of Koreans live in apartments, and up until recently, most apartments have been quite modest in size. Hosting people in homes has not been practical or comfortable. The other main reason is that Korean meals tend to be very labor-intensive. There is a lot of mincing and chopping and slicing and dicing and marinating and frying and cooking that must take place before a beautiful, nutritious, delicious meal is placed on the table! If a meal is hosted in the home, *someone* will put many hours of love and care into its preparation (usually the wife/mom), and then she often *serves* everyone throughout the meal. For her sake, I think many couples choose to go to a restaurant, so that everyone can enjoy the meal together.

As westerners, we have often opted for simpler menus in order to have everyone at the table. (Can you say "pasta with meat sauce"? We are so thankful they have Costco stores here!) Also, though our apartment is not as large as many American homes, it seems quite spacious to us here, so we have boldly invited people over. This one practice has given us the opportunity to connect with many people here--Koreans and foreigners alike. It is no wonder that the Lord encourages us to "practice hospitality"!

In Jesus,

Gretchen



1. One of the "Line Friends" characters
2. Hans, Gretchen, Abi, and John with Prof. Schumacher, Grandma Trinklein, and Sue at LTU President and Mrs. Kwon's house
3. Abi, Mike, and John playing/singing at a church
4. LCMS President Harrison giving an address to the LTU student body.
5. Gretchen, Sue, Grandma, John, and Abi wearing traditional Korean clothes (hanbok).
6. The "Fall Clean-up Day" crew at ILC



## Prayer Requests

1. Continued Prayers for Evgenii, Migyeong, Jieun, Christopher, Min, and Son

2. For unity, peace, humility, and love among the LCK leaders and pastors

3. For wisdom and direction for Abi's, Mike's, and John's career paths

4. For Jael and Levi as they adjust to married life and prepare to serve as missionaries to Paraguay

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You can also send your gifts to our friends at Mission Central 40718 Highway E-16 Mapleton, IA 51034.