

CHANGING PATHS

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left half: Constructing gingerbread houses with a special group of individuals; Lily and Olivia carrying a Christmas program prop on the way to church on Christmas morning; right half: One of the boys from our Sunday School program piecing together an Advent wreath craft; Lily turning 11.

"What did you get for Christmas?" is a common question asked to children in late December. Unfortunately, a long list is often incorrectly interpreted as a 'good' Christmas. Likewise in certain ministry circles, a long list of activities accomplished can be misunderstood as 'good.' While undeniably busy during the December month, we are still able to look back and critically think of all the *other* things we could have done, the *other* people we could have seen, the *other* activities we could have organized. Yet, we trust that God leads and guides us, sometimes through obvious opportunities and fruit; other times in seemingly subtle ways that, only later, reveal their purpose.

Perhaps the most unique activity in which we participated was a special event organized by Dee Dee and a friend from our local congregation of International Lutheran Church. A group of 22 parentless youth were invited to the church and were led through several activities designed to build relationships as well as share the Gospel. Tens of thousands of young Koreans live without parents in government institutions and thirst for relationships and connections with caring adults.

At Christmas, God clearly revealed His relationship with us by sending His Son to be born, connecting himself forever to our humanity. Through this act of love, culminating in Jesus' death and resurrection, we can respond to those around us, sharing the news of His grace and mercy. Thank you for your prayers which support us as we seek to follow God's leading in this, His mission.

*backdrop image compliments of Olivia



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