

CHANGING PATHS

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Living and serving the church overseas is not always much different than what we all, as brothers and sisters in Christ, are given the opportunity to do 'back home.' We are saved by grace alone through faith alone because of what Christ has done for us, and so we are called to speak and live this message as a witness to those who do not yet know Christ, as well as to those even in our own church congregation. For this monthly update during Lent, we wanted to share a story of God's healing even as we wait to be healed by the very stripes Jesus endured for our sake (Isaiah 53:5).

- Pictured left are Olivia, Tae-Yoon and Lily.

Sitting each week on the left-hand side, right in the middle of the sanctuary, a young Korean family took up nearly the entire pew. The family's father, Jun-oh, actively served on the church council of International Lutheran Church (ILC), while the encouraging mother regularly turned pages of music for their oldest daughter as she played the piano for the congregation. Then one Sunday the Kim family wasn't in their pew. After service, we learned that the youngest daughter, Tae-yoon, had fallen ill earlier in the week. A trip to the emergency room revealed the dire news: childhood leukemia. Admitted immediately, months passed as she received treatments in one of the largest hospitals on the peninsula. Later doctors determined Tae-yoon should be quarantined with her mother, to prepare her immune system for a bone marrow transplant. Other family members could only visit through panes of glass in the hospital corridor, as human contact was restricted. The bone marrow donor? Her piano-playing sister, the perfect match. After Tae-yoon's diagnosis the family began attending a Korean church closer to their home. Our church pastor visited the family in the hospital, while our congregation continued to pray for Tae-yoon, and her Sunday School classmates regularly sent her handmade cards. To help with medical expenses, ILC also hosted a fundraising auction. Almost three years later, Tae-yoon has recovered and her ten-year old body is cancer-free. Her immune system remains weak and she is not yet consistently in school, but the family gives all praise and thanks to God for her healing and for the prayers of God's people. Last Sunday Tae-yoon and her parents returned to ILC to worship with us. My how Tae-yoon grew! We are thrilled to share this story of healing, mercy and community with you, our supporters.



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