

CHANGING PATHS

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left: Lily and Olivia walking to catch the city bus (they have been able to start back up at school, though in a hybrid manner with two days at home and two days on campus); center: a chart showing some of the phonetic symbols used in hangul; right: teaching the Word of God to a diverse group of young students through our church's Virtual Sunday School

Recently, Korea celebrated *Hangul Day*. *Hangul* is the phonetic system invented over 500 years ago that forms the basis of the written Korean language. This provoked some contemplation on *words*. Depending on one's physical condition and situation, words may be processed differently - by sight, through sound, via touch. Words can teach, encourage, harm, anger, soothe. In one's own home culture, they can be taken for granted - understood without much effort. In a foreign land, words can be easily confused - causing frustration and setbacks. Perhaps this last year, one with diminished face-to-face interaction, the value of words has increased in some ways.

In terms of our relationship with God, words have always been paramount. The Word of God comes to us in written form (the Scriptures), spoken form (a sermon, a word of forgiveness,...), and in the person of Jesus. As Christians, we are called to take this Word into the world. How we do this depends on our location and vocation. Maybe you are a teacher, accountant, farmer, seamstress, medical professional,... You may also be a spouse, parent, sibling, grandparent... All are valued and can be used by God to share His love through deed and through words. Just as *hangul* is the key that unlocks one of the world's most difficult languages, so does the Word of God open to the world a true understanding of the source of our salvation - Jesus.

Please pray with us for the following in these days: Matt has re-engaged in language study which is a continual process. He also has been asked to assume new responsibilities on a team of LCMS missionaries whose role in Asia revolves around education. Dee Dee maintains regular communication with women in our community, supporting them through various challenges. She also has been writing for the LCMS International website (international.lcms.org), connecting the Church at large to the important work happening in this region through a wonderful team of missionary colleagues. Lily and Olivia continue to adapt to an English-based curriculum, and are happy to once again be at the same school. Our family anticipates a busy fall with guests and activities as Korean society begins to open up. Thank you for all the ways you support us!



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