

What can you do to help?

- Pray for the Lord's blessings on the outreach efforts of our sister church body in Korea. Although a large portion of the Korean population is Christian, and there is no hostility experienced by our Lutheran Christians, there is a great need for sharing the message of Law and Gospel which is not so common in Korea. Pray that the Lord would open doors for outreach. Ask the Lord to bless Pastor Kim's efforts. Pray that people may not only hear the message, but believe it and join our Korean brothers and sisters in worship and service.
- Pray that Pastor J.W. Kim's ministry in Anyang might be blessed and that God would provide opportunities for the Gospel to be actively proclaimed.
- Regarding Dr. Choi, Pastor J.W. Kim, and the theological institute, please keep these pastors and their congregations in your prayers asking for blessing on their work, diligence in pursuing their laudable goals, and opportunities to share the Gospel with many people in Seoul.
- If you have questions, you may contact the Board for World Outreach at 6 Browns Ct, Mankato, MN 56001 or by contacting Pastor Thomas Heyn, BWO Administrator, at theyn@blc.edu or by calling (608) 839-8841.
- **To donate to the ELS World Outreach ministries, please use the attached envelope or visit our website: els.org/donate.**



✠ Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Board for World Outreach

6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001
elsworldoutreach.org • facebook.com/ELSLutherans

MISSION NEWS & HELPING HANDS

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Sharing the Gospel in South America and Asia

MARCH 2018

New Directions in Our Korean Mission

South Korea—home of the 2018 Winter Olympics. The games are now over. Many enjoyed the events, cheered for their favorites, and observed the spectacle of opening and closing ceremonies, political commentary, and stories about athletes, teams and their home countries.



Daily life in Korea, however, did not come to a stop—especially at our Lutheran mission. Changes were planned last fall and began this past January. Rev. Young Ha Kim reached his 70th birthday. In Korea, that is cause for celebration—and change. It is typical in Korean churches that when a pastor reaches age 70, he is given a sabbatical to transition to a new, and probably less hectic, field of ministry. The leadership of Seoul Lutheran Church decided on two major changes.

The first change was for Pastor Kim to step aside as the primary pastor for the congregation to begin other duties. In January, Pastor Kim began plans to visit the church work being done in the Philippines by one of Pastor Kim's close acquaintances. He was able to observe the work being done in Manila and other locations and to teach some classes at the churches. His wife, Margaret Kim, accompanied Pastor Kim and also gave presentations. We look forward to seeing whether mission prospects develop from this visit.



Rev. Young Ha Kim

The larger task for Pastor Kim is to look at opportunities to start new missions in Korea. In fact, the leadership of Seoul Lutheran Church has a laudable goal of beginning a number of new missions in Korea so that Lutheranism can expand, both in Seoul (where more than 20 million souls are found) and throughout the South Korean peninsula in other cities. In a sense, the Korean Lutheran Church is looking to expand its home mission outreach just as the Evangelical Lutheran Synod is looking to expand its home mission outreach with offerings gathered through the Anniversary Offering.

While Pastor Kim begins his new duties, his wife, Margaret, is also changing her role in the church. For many years she has directed Canaan Lutheran Academy, a training program to teach English to Korean students and prepare them for studies at Lutheran schools in America. Through this program, students meet our fellow Lutherans, their churches and their teachings so that upon returning to Korea, they and their families can be brought into the Korean Lutheran Church. Canaan Lutheran Academy is seeking new students for the program and will be searching for a teacher to replace Margaret.



Anyang congregation worships on top floor

Last April, a new mission began in Anyang, a “suburb” of Seoul, by newly ordained Pastor Jae Woong (J.W.) Kim. The Lord has blessed his ministry with about 10 people that meet for worship at the rented facilities on the fifth floor of an apartment/office building. Pastor J.W. Kim faces many of the same challenges that any pastor of a new mission faces: breaking into the community, getting invitations to the surrounding neighborhood, finding ways to share the message of the Gospel, and just getting known in a crowded community that often carefully guards its privacy. The

The larger task for Pastor Kim is to look at opportunities to start new missions in Korea.

mission is making progress, but sometimes more slowly than we might hope.

Lastly, when Pastor Young Ha Kim began new outreach work and stepped aside as the primary pastor, the congregation asked Dr. Samuel Choi to take over that responsibility. With some new programs being introduced, they have seen an increase in Sunday church attendance, and a significant increase in morning devotion attendance via members using a smart phone app to attend remotely. In addition, many members are using similar technology to read through the Bible together in one year.

Meanwhile, Dr. Choi, together with Pastor J.W. Kim, teaches classes in the Seoul Theological Institute.

Meanwhile, Dr. Choi, together with Pastor J.W. Kim, teaches classes in the Seoul Theological Institute. Some students are members of the congregation who desire a deeper understanding of scripture and doctrine. They already are, or will become, the leaders of the congregation. One or two students are potential candidates to study for the ministry. More pastors will be necessary if the church body is to open new missions in Seoul and other parts of the country

As you bring your thank offerings to God, seek his guidance as to the needs of your Christian brothers and sisters throughout our world mission programs. And, in prayer, ask whether your offerings could help with the ongoing work in Korea.



Rev. J.W. Kim (far left) with students at the Seoul Theological Institute