

JULY 2019

MISSION NEWS & HELPING HANDS

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Sharing the Gospel in South America and Asia

South Korea



For HeeMang [Hope] Congregation

All articles by Mr. Dan Browning, Chairman, Board for World Outreach

In the small HeeMang congregation in southwest Seoul (HeeMang is Korean for “Hope”), slow but steady progress continues by God’s grace. This is the second congregation supported in South Korea by the ELS Board for World Outreach (BWO) and Jesus Lutheran Synod of South Korea.

Mr. Jae Woong (J.W.) Kim had a successful career in the pharmaceutical industry. He was an active member and distinguished Elder of Seoul Lutheran Church in east Seoul. He began seminary training and finished his studies with instruction provided by our Seoul Lutheran Theological Institute (SLTI). In 2015, Rev. Kim was ordained by BWO Administrator Steven Petersen and other fellowship pastors. He immediately began preparations for a new congregation in Anyang, a prosperous area of the vast Seoul metropolis.

Hope congregation now has about 20 members. They meet each Sunday on the top floor of an office building where Bible studies and other activities are held during the week. Pastor Kim and Hope leaders continue to focus on outreach activities in Anyang.

Words of encouragement and prayers of support may be directed to **Pastor Kim at Kimjw5451@gmail.com**. Google Translator can be used to translate your message. The congregation would appreciate hearing from you and giving them “hope.”

Busy Sundays at Seoul Lutheran Church

Seoul Lutheran Church in east Seoul begins its worship at 9:00 A.M. with a service in English for members and visitors familiar with English. The Korean language service follows at 10:15 A.M. Their worship uses familiar aspects of our Lutheran liturgy and hymns.

Before the service, a small group sings praise songs while people assemble. Soloists and a talented choir enhance the worship

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From the Editor—

Rev. Thomas Heyn, Board for World Outreach Administrator

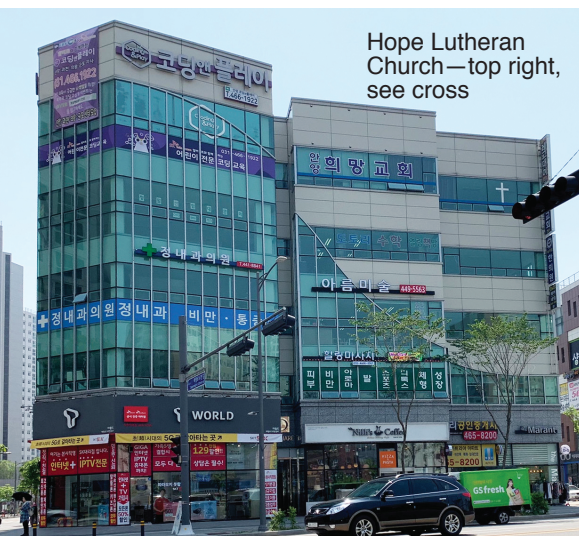
At least once per year we visit our sister Lutheran churches in South Korea. The Gospel outreach in that country has been blessed by God, and we always enjoy visiting our Korean Christian brothers and sisters.

Mr. Dan Browning, the chairman of the Board for World Outreach, joined me on the visit this spring. He shares **THREE STORIES** about the Korean church in this month’s issue of *Mission News / Helping Hands*. We hope that you enjoy learning about the work God is doing in that country and invite you to join us as we pray for and support this important work in South Korea.

South Korea



Pastor J.W.
Kim welcoming
visitors to
Hope Lutheran
Church



Hope Lutheran
Church—top right,
see cross

experience with traditional music that is familiar to us. After the service, nearly everyone attends one of four or five Bible studies or choir practices. On any given Sunday, worshipers could have their choice of Old Testament study or a hymn sing-along. Two groups of young adults and children meet in separate rooms for sessions led by a pastor or teacher.

After 40 minutes of Bible study, the entire assembly is invited to the top floor dining room to enjoy a noon lunch of cooked rice and traditional Korean fare.

After food and fellowship, leaders and elders of the church plan activities for this congregation of Lutheran believers focused on salvation by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone.

Margaret Kim: A life of Service, Support and Accomplishment

You have heard the old saying: “Behind every great man, there is a great woman.” It’s true of Margaret Kim, the wife of Pastor Young Ha Kim who has served in the ELS since 2000—first in southern California, and later in Seoul, South Korea.

Margaret has been the ever-faithful wife, mother and supportive assistant to her husband. While supporting Pastor Kim in his ministry, she also obtained advanced degrees of study to augment the work of the ministry.

In 1974, Margaret Choi met Young Ha Kim at a Young Christians Club while they were both attending night classes at a university in Seoul. Young Ha had grown up in a fishing village along the western coast of Korea where his mother was the only practicing Christian in a fishing and farming village of 350 people. His mother used to walk, with her children in tow, to a neighboring village every Sunday morning where enough Christians lived to constitute a church congregation.

Margaret had grown up in Seoul and was a Christian from infancy due to her mother’s devotion to the Christian faith. But her father was not a believer. He had fled North Korea when the communists came into power. Now in Seoul, he would work every Sunday morning,

Mr. and Mrs.
Young Ha
Kim in 1977



Choir singing
at Seoul
Lutheran
Church

completely unaware that his wife and children went to church while he was at his job. Later, he observed the power of Christian prayer and the kindness shown to a mentally and physically troubled younger brother, who sometimes had to live in Margaret's childhood home. Eventually, he joined his wife and children in the Christian faith, even becoming a church Elder. Margaret thanks the Holy Spirit for the gift of faith given to her father.

Young Ha earned a degree in business while Margaret earned her degree in education. In 1979, they emigrated to the U.S. where both would study at the University of Idaho. Later, Young Ha enrolled in two seminaries, first in California and then in Illinois to prepare for a career in ministry. Margaret supported his efforts by working out of the home and caring, at that time, for their two small children.

While in Illinois, Young Ha and Margaret were introduced to Larry Marquardt, a dedicated Lutheran layman. Marquardt, recognizing in Young Ha a zeal for ministry, introduced him to the ELS where he could learn Lutheran doctrine.

The Kims moved to Mankato. Young Ha, with Margaret at his side, was tutored in Greek and Hebrew while attending classes at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

After graduation and ordination as an ELS pastor, Rev. Kim conducted a successful ministry to Koreans in Irvine, California. But he wanted to minister to people in his native South Korea. In 2006, the ELS sent the Kims to Seoul where Rev. Kim established Seoul Lutheran Church (SLC) which today is the mother confessional Lutheran church of Jesus Lutheran Synod.

While Young Ha conducted his ministry in Seoul, Margaret turned her training and energies to what would become vital to the success and growth of Seoul Lutheran Church. She founded and managed Canaan Lutheran Academy, an English language preparatory school for high school age Korean children preparing to attend a Lutheran high school in the U.S. This proved to be a highly successful program which, over the course of 10 years, prepared 240 students.

The parents of the students were encouraged to study the teachings of the Lutheran church at SLC. Many of the children graduated from Lutheran (WELS) high schools in the U.S. and continued their college education at Bethany College or other WELS colleges. They and their families often became sustaining members of SLC. To God be the glory!

Margaret is currently taking night classes to become a certified online instructor of Korean for those wishing to learn that language. She plans to teach when the couple retires in California where they can be closer to their children and grandchildren.

We thank God for Margaret's faithful and devoted work over the years, serving her Lord and His Kingdom.



Margaret and Pastor Kim—a life of service



Young adults Bible study with Pastor Samuel Choi at Seoul Lutheran Church

News from Other Mission Fields

INDIA—Twenty seminary students continue their training to become pastors. Indian orphans continue to be fed and clothed and students continue to be taught in Lutheran schools. Although our Christian brothers and sisters continue to face persecution, they remain faithful in worshiping and serving the Lord. Keep them in your prayers.

PERU—The Peruvian church recently held an annual convention in Cajamarca, a city about 12 hours north of Lima, the capital. The convention was well-attended and enjoyed a number of papers presented to the attendees.

CHILE—The national church continues to work hard at growing this fledgling church body in a country that, like the U.S., does not feel its need for God. Pray that God would open the hearts of the Chileans to the Gospel.

LATVIA—Faithful pastors continue to proclaim the Gospel in a country that lost its appreciation for its Lutheran heritage. On our upcoming field visit, we will discuss how to better reach out to others.

CZECH REPUBLIC—Martin Luther School in Plzen has wrapped up another school year. Pastors Krakora and Vršecký continue to share the Gospel in the congregations and school. Pray for outreach opportunities in this field.

UKRAINE—The medical and dental teams are busy visiting villages that need these essential services. Nick and Kerry Laper, the Gift of Life administrators, attended the ELS annual convention and shared their work and experiences in two different presentations.

In Other News

KENYA—A severe famine continues in various parts of eastern Africa. As ELS pastors continue their educational efforts with a number of Kenyan men, we pray that the Lord will provide relief to this country and bless the people with whom we work. We are planning to meet with pastors and leaders of this group to help them deepen their understanding of biblical, confessional Lutheranism and to further work toward doctrinal agreement.

What can you do to help?

■ Pray for each of the mission fields in this newsletter. Pray for the national pastors of these churches as well as for the members of their congregations, that they might remain faithful in their homelands that often do not welcome the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And thank the Lord for their faithful service.

■ Please—prayerfully consider a gift or regular donation to the work in the various fields. You may designate a gift to a particular field or project on the memo line of a check. You may also go to els.org and click on “Donate” in the top banner on the right-hand side.

■ If you have questions, please contact us in the following ways:

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website: els.org/our-work-together/world-outreach/

Rev. Thomas Heyn
BWO Administrator

