



Dear Pastors and Praying Friends

June 2020

Hello from South Korea! We are praying for many of you pastors and your churches during this time. We try to keep up with some news from America. We know many of you may be going through difficult times as far as your churches not being “allowed” to physically meet and that there are many people who might have lost jobs or been temporarily put out of work. We pray God works in this situation and in your lives.

To give an update on things here in Korea...the government never imposed a compulsory lockdown, but strict social distancing has been observed since March. Then, back at the beginning of May, the country switched from strict social distancing to what they called “everyday disease prevention” or “everyday life quarantine” which basically means social distancing within daily routines. National parks and other outdoor facilities where visitors can keep their distance reopened on April 22, and museums and other indoor facilities where visitors can remain spread apart reopened on May 6. Now just a few days ago, Korea saw a spike in coronavirus cases with 79 mainly in the Seoul area. So, the government re-imposed strict social distancing measures again in Seoul and surrounding areas. All public facilities - including nightlife spots, religious establishments, museums, theaters and parks – closed again in that area for another two weeks.

As far as our area is concerned, things are almost back to normal, except for everyone wearing masks daily (not much of a change for Koreans) and hand sanitizer being available everywhere, like inside elevators, businesses, etc. We can freely go where we want. We try to not go to densely-populated areas and we always wear our masks when we are out and about, washing our hands diligently. When we visited one museum a few days ago, a worker took our temperatures at the door before we could enter the building. So, they are doing some things like that as precautionary measures in certain public facilities.

Students have been studying online since the middle of April. Recently they have been gradually returning to classrooms in phases since late last month. On Wednesday, first-year high school students, second-year middle school students and other selected elementary school students returned to classrooms. Schools, however, will continue taking precautionary measures, including staggered lunches, shifting student attendance, reduced class time, and a mix of online and offline classes. Our own two daughters have not started going back to school yet but plan to start on June 15 (Some of their friends in the same school have started already, however). They will attend school for one week and then be off for one week, continuing like that for who knows how long. We have also had to take our daughters’ temperatures every morning for about a week and fill out an online form saying if they have a fever or not, in preparation for them returning physically to school.

We decided to start church meetings again since things started to reopen and our area is not really affected much (thank the Lord). Our first service back was on May 10. We have only had two families out of our usual six (before the virus started) attend. The ones who are not returning yet are still being faithful to listen online (Michael continues to upload his sermons), read their weekly Bible passages, and give offerings. They are just fearful of coming out. They have even stated to us that they will not send their children to school yet, even though the schools are reopening. Last week, we only had one family attend. We are a bit discouraged even though we must be understanding of all people. We are praying and hoping that things soon return to how they were, if it is God’s will.

We also reopened our afternoon English academy, but lost two students there. We are not sure what is going to happen to our academy eventually. We are praying for God’s guidance in all things.

These are very unsure times but we have a God that is sure and faithful! May we all be reminded that He is ultimately in control and all things happen according to His Divine purposes. Thank you all so much for being faithful and supportive even in times like this. May God reward your faithfulness.

God bless, The Yoo Family

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