

the **OETMAN** family | serving in KOREA



GREETINGS

from soupy, wet Seoul, Korea. I want to begin by expressing profound thanks for the prayers and generous gifts that we received while Brenda was traveling back and forth to assist her mom and to get Amanda settled in stateside. Her mom did pass away in late March. Amanda is now staying with Brenda's sister in southern Minnesota. She is working at Bed, Bath, and Beyond and is able to attend Midwest Bible Baptist Church in Rochester. That is the church where Brenda was saved as teen bus kid. It was an emotional time for both Brenda and Amanda. Amanda still has moments of extreme homesickness and misses Korea a lot. Your prayers have been greatly appreciated!

This week Seoul got inundated with rain. The Han River, which goes through the middle of Seoul east to west, reached an 80-year high flood stage. The trendy Kangnam district was particularly flooded. Plenty of BMW and Mercedes cars went under-water! No one in our church seems to have been adversely affected. We have only been inconvenienced as some bus and subway routes have been temporarily closed.

Recently, I baptized several new members here at Yongsan Baptist Church. Michael Okyo is from the Philippines. He lives in Iksan about 3 hours from Seoul but found our services online. After watching for several months, he trusted Christ. Then he made the journey here by train to ask us if he could be baptized. We gladly obliged! Miss Cho Seojong was also saved recently. She has attended on and off for a couple of years. Her background was Seventh Day Adventist. It took her a while to sort out the things she got there from the Truth, but praise God, she settled it a few weeks ago. She will be baptized soon. At this time, we can't fill our baptistry, because right now, there is so much flooding in and around Seoul that nothing drains properly without backing up and making a big mess. There are several other people who have been coming regularly and are close to getting saved. Pray that we have wisdom and power from God to deal with them.

It has been a blessing to see a couple families long-absent due to covid fears returning to church. We also continue to have visitors nearly every Sunday. Often the visitors are tourists. South Korea is easier to travel to than most other countries in Asia. No vaccination is required and nor is there any quarantine, unless you test positive when you arrive. Because of that, we have been getting a lot of tourist visitors from North America, Europe, and other parts of Asia.

Brenda, Matthew, and I will fly back to the States 9/22. We have a few meetings with supporting churches scheduled; then we head to Indianapolis for Robby and Destinee's wedding. From there, Amanda will join us, and we will go down to Florida to visit Brenda's older brother who moved to Venice (near Sarasota) a few months ago. We are looking forward to our first vacation time since 2012! We'll get to spend a bit over a week there before heading back to Seoul.

One thing I'm hoping to bring back to Seoul with me is a better bass clarinet. I was able to use the down time of the Covid pandemic to improve my musical abilities. In 2012, I was given a student instrument, but I am in need of a better one that will play down to low C for more challenging music. Should anyone have one they are no longer using, I'd be grateful if they would contact me directly at oetman.robort@ifmnews.com. Bass clarinets are expensive, but I play every Sunday in our church orchestra and with classical Pro/Am ensembles. I have a plan to use the musical talents and abilities of our church members for evangelistic outreach. I might also pass my student clarinet on to Amanda. I taught her to play several years ago. She'd like to keep her playing up before she enters college next year. She hopes to major in voice.

Again, thank you so much for the prayers, support, and gracious gifts! This year has had a host of unexpected costs from dental needs, to travel, and having to make a rather unexpected apartment move. In addition, our health insurance costs have increased both here and there. It is necessary that we have car and health insurance in the States because of Amanda being there. But God has met our every need! If we do not see you soon, please know that you are in our prayers!

Yours for the harvest,

The Oetman Family

Rob, Brenda, and Matthew

