



John and M*'s son playing in the park



Celebrating new life with S* and J*

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted."*

心灵贫穷的人有福了，
因为天国是他们的。
哀痛的人有福了，
因为他们必得安慰。

Holy Week greetings to you from our family here in Asia!

More and more, I (Josh) enjoy the regular rhythms of the traditional church year. Like the weekly ritual of Communion, this annual season of Lent, and now Holy Week, helps us to remember that we are a part of something that is not only personal for me. Nor is it only shared with my family or my local community of believers. Rather, we are participating in a global shared experience. We observe these seasons together with hundreds of millions of followers of JC who live in every city and in countless rural corners around the globe.

Lent is valuable, especially for modern, busy people. It is a time to resist the "more more more" culture all around us. It is a time to slow down and reflect. A time to open our eyes to see those who are "poor in spirit" and "those who mourn," and to join them. We have set aside time to consider and lament our sin and brokenness, and that of the world around us. In so doing, we have prepared our hearts to more fully embrace what we will celebrate this week – the forgiveness and freedom JC won for us on the cross, and the joy and victory sealed for us on Easter.

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Since our return to daily life and work here in late 2020, God has surprised us with the joy of seeing several friends who are receiving this beautiful gift of new life with the risen JC as he welcomes them into the "kingdom of heaven."

First, Coco shares about a neighborhood friend, M\*:

*M\*'s story came as a beautiful surprise, not as the fruit of how much work we did, but as an expression of how much God loves people and never stops loving. Before returning from the U.S. last year, M\* reached out to me (Coco) and said she would like to get to know our family deeper after we return. I was surprised by that because she had struck me as a private and slow-to-warm-up kind of person.*

*I first got to know her last year because we picked up our sons from the school bus stop outside our apartment complex at the same time every day. Her son is about the same age as our son John, only slightly older. M\* and I would chat while we waited for the bus. We've known each other about two years, but our conversation topics have mostly stayed related to the kids.*

*After we returned from the U.S. and reconnected, she shared with me that she's coping with depression and is on medication. It turns out her doctor is a Christian and encouraged her to explore Christianity, if she's open to it. M\* told me that we are the only Christian family she knows in our neighborhood, so that's why she wanted to get to know me better.*

*She shared with me that she couldn't get herself out of the house last summer (2020). She felt so dark and so low about herself. That's where JC meets us – in the dark, when we feel no hope, when we've used up all our human means, defeated.*

*If I were there with her back then, I would go talk to her every day, share Bible verses, tell her about JC, try to encourage her. But I wasn't there. JC was there! He is in control, not me. He heard her cry. Blessed are those who are poor in spirit!*

**Join His mission in Asia with us! We would love to partner with you.**

**Give Online:** [missionofchrist.org/jl](https://missionofchrist.org/jl) ; **Other:** Give Thrivent Choice Dollars

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*All I need to do now is just to be there. Be with her through the amazing journey God has prepared for her. Recently, after going through five sessions of the Alpha Course (for seekers) with her, M\* has received the gift of faith.*

*This coming Easter season will be a brand-new kind of springtime experience for M\*. A time to blossom and grow in her new life with JC, and to share in the confident hope of the resurrection.*

We also recently celebrated with two more friends – S\* & J\* – as they were welcomed into the kingdom of heaven in late December through the “washing of rebirth” together with more than 70 others (!) during a joyful Christmastime ceremony in the large southern city where they live. S\* & J\* are both in their twenties and are working with our good friend Summer, who is director of a partner organization of CWEF called Shining Star. You may remember us [sharing](#) about them previously.

These young women are amazing. They are now running the same program (originally started by CWEF 15 years ago) that helped them to complete their own high school and university education. Now, as young adults, they are developing their own non-profit and are using their considerable gifts to support, educate, and equip children from difficult family situations in rural areas. These kids are going through a very similar childhood experience as the Shining Star team themselves experienced when they were younger.

It's a beautiful story of restoration and multiplication, and we marvel at the work JC is doing through them! God has gathered them together, blessed them and made them his own, so that they might be a blessing to many others.

## CWEF UPDATES

I (Josh) have continued to be engaged in building a stronger base of financial partners for the work God is doing in rural Asia through CWEF. Recently, those efforts included launching what will become a regular online “Quarterly Gathering” for CWEF’s key partners and regular recurring donors, a group we are calling *The Community*.

If you’d like to be on the mailing list for these quarterly live Zoom gatherings, please reach out and I will add you to the list. For now, you can watch the recording from the first Quarterly Gathering, which was held on March 6, at the following link: <https://cwef.wistia.com/medias/5esgcbq3xq>

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You can also get a better look at the video highlighting our colleague Panhary’s recent visit to a planned water well project site in Cambodia, at this link:

<https://cwef.wistia.com/medias/1onhdydexl>

## PRAYER POINTS

- Thanksgiving for faith and new life for M\*, S\*, & J\*.
- For M\* and her family (especially for her husband and son).
- For continued growth and development of the Shining Star team and the good work God has prepared for them.
- Pray for faith and courage for our CWEF team members - Li Ying, Jenny, Maggie, Kanhchana, Panhary, Buntha, & Renee.
- Continue to ask God to give the gift of faith to Coco’s family, and especially her mom. After a long period of not being able to be together, she is visiting us this week. :-)
- Finally, for Coco and I – pray for an abundance of faith, hope, and love from the Lord and for each other.

Thank you for walking with us as we walk with JC on this adventure of faith. We are so grateful to be your partners in sharing Him and seeing the expansion of His kingdom in Asia.

*In His Love,  
Josh & Coco, John & Sophie*

God’s Spirit is hard at work here in Asia, and He is sending us out to partner with Him in His mission. **Would you join us?** We are seeking partners to pray with us for the people He has brought into our lives. We’re also looking for partners to join a growing team of families and congregations who commit to a monthly or annual investment in God’s work here in Asia. **Click here** to join JC on his mission, together with MCN, CWEF, and our family.