

Dear Friends,

As you know we are in the midst of the Corona Virus outbreak here in Korea and our city of Daegu is the hot-bed. I wanted to write you and let you know what was going on so you could know how to pray for us.

Corona by the numbers

The corona virus numbers are rising. As of today, the number of cases is over 6,000 with 43 deaths. We are safe. None of our family or church family has been infected to this point.

Corona and an insidious cult -

In Korea we have a cult name 'Shincheonji (pronounced Shin-Chun-Gee) Church of Jesus'. This is a particularly insidious cult because they teach their members to pose as new Christian converts, join other churches, build relationships and draw people away from those churches to join Shincheonji.

The sudden outbreak and spread of this virus in Daegu and surrounding areas has been linked to the Shincheonji cult. To be fair, this could have happened to any large church group, given the long incubation period. However, after the sudden outbreak in Daegu was tied to the church, the leader of Shincheonji instructed his followers to seek out other churches and infect them. We have several pastor friends in other parts of Korea who have had to have members of the cult removed from their service for refusing to wear facemasks.

This raises a number of concerns about the testimony of Jesus Christ, the effective outreach of gospel preaching churches, the safety of believers, and potential religious liberty issues that could arise down the line.

Corona and our current ministry

In order to be good citizens and show love for our neighbors, we have canceled our public worship gatherings for the time being in response to health official and government instructions. However, we have not canceled our ministry. I am still preaching and teaching. For the past 3 weeks we have recorded several sermons a week via You Tube and sent them to our church folks and posted them on Facebook. We will continue to do video sermons for the time being. I am also staying in touch with our people via text messages and phone calls. Praise God for technology.

Response to Corona

Our response is found in Psalm 46:1-2 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear!" We are choosing to reject fear because God IS! We are, however, taking wise precautions. We are limiting our time outside and staying at home as much as possible. We are wearing masks outside and washing hands and using sanitizer frequently.

The mood among people in Korea is a mixed bag. Some are very fearful, some are not fazed at all, and others are at some point in the spectrum between the two.

The mood of the economy is very sour. The economy has taken a severe hit because of the virus and it will be quite some time until it recovers.

Prayer for us during this time .

1. Pray that Christ will be exalted and God glorified during this time. God never does anything without a purpose. While we do not know the whole purpose of God in this we do know it is good and glorious – therefore we pray that it will be fully accomplished.
2. Pray that souls will be saved.

3. Pray that the testimony of Christ and the outreach of good churches will not be ruined by the actions of the wicked Shincheonji cult.
4. Pray for the churches that cannot meet together. This is the most frustrating and difficult part. We long to meet together again. Pray that each believer will stay strong in the Lord. Pray for the pastors as we try to shepherd our people via text and social media.
5. Pray that God removes this virus quickly.
6. Pray for wisdom for government and health officials.
7. Pray that people will be wise in their actions to help stop the spread of the virus.
8. Pray for the Korean economy.

In Him and for Korea

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