



Growth! Growth is the word that encapsulates our October trip to Korea this year. Nicole Chang, Yonah Hong, and Caroline Sim visited Sinaewon, Emmanuel, and Chunyangwon, and we were amazed by the sheer growth God grew in the past year.



Caroline with her sponsored children in October 2024.

First, the boys at Sinaewon seemed to have grown at least a foot each since our last visit! It was so

heart-warming to see the boys so tall, fit, and full of joy. Each boy had clear, bright faces; some with shy smiles and some with eager ones. Their laughter and vigor helped encourage Ann Lee, founder of SLiK, who was able to join us at Sinaewon as well. She was brought to tears when she hugged 6' tall Seungho. Seungho was the tiny young boy who had wrapped his arms around Ann and wouldn't let her go 10 years ago... Seungho was the one who went on to move Ann's heart to create SLiK with Nicole and Yonah.

In addition, the girls at Sinaewon were also bright and full of joy as we played games after dinner. In one of the games, the girls went around shouting out the names of her personal sponsor. We were shocked that 100% of the girls knew her sponsor's name!

Next, the SLiK ladies visited Emmanuel in Gimcheon. Like last year, the children of Gimcheon prepared a special show showcasing their talents in singing and dancing. With matching outfits and socks, the kids danced with all the energy and flexibility of their youth and sang loudly and proudly.



Caroline hosted a dinner for the 2024 Summer Vision Trip program participants.



Sharing Love in Korea board members visited Samshin Evergreen Hill Children's Home last year, meeting with the children and Director Hyunsook Choi (pictured left).

Dongyoung (sponsored by Johnny Chon) also read a heartfelt letter of thanks to his sponsor.

After the energetic performances, the children were treated to a delicious PCC (pizza, chicken, cola) party. The kids enjoyed the delicious food, shared with one another happily, and exercised good self-control. We adults have much to learn from these children!

Later in the week, the ladies of SLiK went to Buyeo to sign an MOU with a new Children's home that we had met with last year. Though the children were in school during our visit this year, we knew the children were loved and cared for exceedingly well based on our observations. First, we were treated to lunch in their cafeteria. There, we tasted the most delicious home cooking in all of our time in Korea. We were shocked to learn that the ever-changing and seasonal menu was carefully checked and approved for balanced nutrition by a dietician. In addition, we could tell that the ingredients were of the highest quality – fresh, flavorful, varied. They even provided us with several types of kimchi, and we were shocked to learn that the cooks had made them the previous year. Apparently, the cooks personally prepare hundreds of pounds of kimchi each year to feed the children and staff all throughout the year. The director humbly said that their food was their love.

But not only was the food the best meal that we ate during our trip in Korea, the facility was immaculate and warm. Carefully potted plants (each pot cared for

by a child) were growing so well throughout the building. Paintings and photos of the children from the past and present adorned every wall. They had even built a cafe stocked with an espresso machine and commercial drink refrigerator so that the teens could live out their barista dreams. The halls and rooms of the building were full of light, peace, and joy, and we could sense how blessed the children were in that home.

Our last visit of the trip was to Chunyangwon in Daejeon. It was like a reunion, because the SLiK ladies were joined by Summer Vision Trip 2024 host mom Veronica as well as student volunteer Samuel. We were warmly greeted by Director Jaehun Lee and were happy to see Soojeong and Yuju who had just been in Los Angeles during the 2024 Summer Vision Trip program. It was a warm time of reconnecting as well as a time of looking into the future. Director Lee showed us the new building on their property – a temporary home for children who have been just taken away from a dangerous situation. It was bittersweet to learn that due to the low birth rate and high rate of abortion, the group homes in Korea were growing smaller in size. Though we are thankful that there are less children in need, the reasons behind the dwindling numbers are nothing to celebrate.

We thank you for your continued support of the children who are still in need of your love and prayers in Korea. May God protect, provide for, and guide them all the days of their lives.

Caroline Sim, Board President



Emmanuel children and staff warmly welcomed Sharing Love in Korea in October 2024.