

What have you felt has been the main thing or main things that God has revealed to you during your time in Korea?

It's been awhile since I felt God's presence in my life and I know that I've shut him out many of times. Before coming to Korea, I struggled with a past hurt that I had not resolved. I didn't realize how much it had affected so many parts of my life, nor did I see how hard I tried to deny the things that happened. Prior to my time in Korea, God revealed all of this to me and prepared me to confront the hurt. I had two objectives to accomplish while I was in Korea: First, I wanted to share my love with the children there. Secondly, I needed to complete my on-site research for Coridel (the company that funded me to go on this trip). These were valid objectives, but God seemed to have additional plans for me.

I was never one to truly rely and love God's word. However, this all changed when I was placed in a team of two other teachers who were there as missionaries. They invited me to join in their Quiet Time and I joined reluctantly. During my QTs, God spoke to me and I had never experienced this direct communication in my life (or that I could remember). This excited me and I continued to read God's word.

As my love and excitement for God grew, my love for the children changed. I was bitter in the beginning. I couldn't understand why these kids were chosen to suffer in this way. But through scripture, God silenced and humbled me. And eventually, I came to accept the situation and simply have a prayerful heart for these children.

These kid need to understand that they have a loving father in Christ. I wish I could have stayed longer to share some of my experiences with them. I was able to share with only one student about how Christ comforted me as a Father.

God is awesome, interesting, mysterious, and simply incomprehensible. There are so many things that I do not understand about Him, but that no longer discourages me. My stay in Korea was short, but it did not limit God in any way to make changes in my heart. I fell in love with the children and Him. I learned to love myself again and understand the meaning of grace. I witnessed the power of prayer and I crave that time of prayer and reading the word now.

Please share or list some of the joys of your time here.

JM, you explained to me that the kids just loved to hug and regardless of who you were, they'd just want to hug you. I could have been a lifeless pole and they could have lunged at me for that physical affection. But those hugging moments were one of my joyful times. When kids came and just wanted to be held, I was just thankful that I was able to give that affection to them.

I was also blessed at Friday Fire. It was an extremely charismatic environment that I was not used to...it was intimidating at first, but I fell in love with the "fire" that surrounded

me. I wanted to be a part of it and it was hard to face the reality of coming back to the states where I hardly see this kind of fervor. I was blessed.

Please share or list some of the difficulties of your time here.

Losing my alone time was a bit difficult. Someone was always around to engage me in a conversation and I missed having my alone time.

Knowing the boundaries was also difficult. Many times, I saw that kids needed to be reprimanded. However, I always hesitated because I felt bad for them. I realized, however, that allowing these kids to get away with everything and anything is not loving them. Reprimanding them was difficult even with this realization because I had not been able to establish my role since my stay was so short.

How do you feel Jerusalem Ministry could better equip or prepare future summer volunteers?

Because I came and left at awkward times, I did not get the training that others received. I don't know what form of training the other volunteers got. Therefore, my suggestions may be things that JM already does...

If volunteers are coming to teach, I think that some sort of teacher training is necessary. Methods of teaching, set English curriculum, and approaches to discipline should be introduced to the volunteers.

Please share any extra comments, advice, or reflections you have for the ministry.

I am extremely inspired by this ministry. I see so much potential in this ministry and I will be keeping you all in my prayers. Thank you so much for the opportunity to come and experience God and the children.

My summer break only allows me about a month and some to visit. Would I be able to come again through JM in the future even though I cannot commit six months?