

Elisabeth Barne's Reflections

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

I was strongly reminded, during my time at Namsanwon, that God is with me. Always. He has never given me anything but His most precious, His most valued, His most beautiful, His best. That is lovely. He is lovely. And He is with me. He will accomplish His purpose in and through me. I need not be stressed, or pressured, or even concerned. I need not, either, be un-stressed, or un-pressured, or un-concerned. There is nothing I need, or need not, be. Because God is powerfully sufficient, and will do His own will in His own strength. I am privileged to be permitted to witness and participate. But He is not about me. He is often, in fact, in spite of me...and somehow He loves me anyway! Remarkable!

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

I was really blessed by how quickly the older girls (with whom we shared a dorm) opened up to and welcomed us. Teaching English, especially to the first graders, was some of the best time I spent with the kids. Maybe because interacting with them in smaller groups was more personal. I also enjoyed playing Uno with the younger boys, and playing games outside. As energy consuming as it was, summer camp was a great chance to get to know some of the kids better, and I had a blast goofing off with them.

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

One of the most challenging things was definitely my lack of fluency in Korean. It was hard to be on the outside of so many things, just because I couldn't always catch what people were saying. The other hard part was feeling like I was never able to get enough rest. Other than those two things, though, my time at the home wasn't as difficult as I had expected it to be.

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

Jerusalem Ministry did a great job of letting me know what to expect at the home, and of preparing me to meet the challenges that I faced there. I can't think of any way in which it could have been improved upon.