



Coco sharing the reason for the hope we have amid chaos and instability

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." - John 1:5 (NIV)

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." - 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Christmas greetings to you from our apartment here in Asia!
(...it's still so fun to be able to say that...)

We can't say it enough: massive gratitude to each of you who has encouraged us during this crazy year with your partnership and with your prayers, both for our family and for the families here in Asia whom He has called us to return to. If we are connected on [Facebook](#), you may have seen the updates and know that we have been back home in our city since November 12. Upon arrival, we were required to complete a strict 14-day quarantine in one of the city's designated hotels, as well as negative COVID tests on arrival at the airport, and again on the 12th day of quarantine. And don't forget the nucleic acid and antibody tests required two days before our flight from San Francisco!

During the hotel quarantine, we were separated into two rooms – Sophie with Coco; John with Josh (quick summary: lots of Zoom; lots of LEGO!). At no point during our stay were we allowed to exit our rooms, while hotel and medical personnel in full protective gear delivered all our meals and came around twice per day to collect our temperatures. Finally, in an interesting twist, we were released from quarantine and arrived back home at our apartment on none other than Thanksgiving Day. Wow! So much to be thankful for. A memorable, stressful, and surprisingly fun experience to cap off a year we won't soon forget.



Eating lunch 'together' during hotel quarantine

Since exiting quarantine, we have hit the ground running, both figuratively and literally. The weekend after Thanksgiving, we were blessed to be able to reconnect with dear friends from both our current and previous small groups for Thanksgiving feasts. At one of these events, the group members made an intentional choice to invite friends from our circles outside the Church, while Coco and another brother were invited to share their stories of faith. Coco gave a powerful testimony of the Hope and Peace we have in JC regardless of circumstances, and she was able to share from our family's experience this year of deepening our own understanding and appreciation for this truth in the midst of chaos and instability. Then, our brother D* shared his truly amazing story of how JC first made himself known to him, and also his wife, in separate dreams on the same night. Wow!

One evening a few days later, Coco got very excited checking WeChat (*the super-app we use for nearly everything here*) – "Look at this!" It was a post by some friends we had met last school year – parents of John's classmate. You might remember in an earlier newsletter that I recounted my [conversation](#) with J* – the dad – just a few short weeks before the pandemic started to break out in Wuhan. Unbeknownst to us, the Spirit has been at work in their family. Both John's classmate and her dad have received the gift of faith. Before bed one night recently, this little girl boldly asked her mom: "I believe in JC. Do you?" Wow!

"...Aslan is on the move..." (forgive the nerdy Narnia quote)

Of course, the Christmas season also brings with it special opportunities to share about the One who came into the world as a baby to be God-With-Us. One example from this month: all the families in John's class were given an opportunity to share a Christmas tradition, and since current COVID precautions preclude parents from visiting the classroom, Josh was able to

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contribute a short [video](#) sharing our family tradition of reading the story of Jesus' birth from Luke 2 before opening presents on Christmas Eve.



In addition to all of this, Josh has been able to dive back into his work with the team at [CWEF](#). It is exciting to finally be in the same time zone with everyone and to be able to reconnect, plan for 2021, and pray about what comes next. The Advent season and the end of the calendar year is also "Giving Season" in non-profit land, so Josh has been engaged in connecting with current and future financial partners who empower the health and education work in rural Asia through CWEF. This year, we have put together a campaign called [HEALTH + HOPE 2020](#) with a two-fold goal:

1. Raise funds to power CWEF's ongoing health education and COVID prevention work with children and families in rural communities
2. Spread some much-needed health and hope within our own networks through encouraging each other toward healthy habits and sharing the hope we have in JC, particularly during this difficult season of life.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Thanksgiving to God for bringing us back home to Asia.
- It seems John brought home an unwelcome Christmas cold from school just before the holiday, and the rest of us have also caught the bug. Pray for quick healing, so we can safely gather with friends and participate in Christmas events.
- Continue to pray for the gift of faith for Coco's family, and especially for her mom. She plans to come stay with us for a few days at the end of the year.
- Ask God to give faith and courage to our CWEF team members - Li Ying, Maggie, Jenny, Kanhchana, Panhary, Buntha, & Renee.
- Finally, for Coco and I - pray for an abundance of faith, hope, and love from the Lord.

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 has sent us out again to partner with Him in His mission. **Would you join us?** We are seeking partners to pray for us and for the people God brings into our lives. We're also inviting partners to join a growing team of families and congregations who commit to making a monthly or annual investment in God's work in Asia. To make a year-end gift, [click here](#).

In the coming months, we will continue to connect (or reconnect) with as many of you as possible via phone or video call. If you'd like to beat us to it, please reach out by email or text at 314-669-5745. **It would be great to hear from you!**

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