



Peace of the Lord with you.

The world desperately needs peace. Disasters, climate crises, poverty and hunger continue in our Global community where people desperately seek hope. At the end of 2023, we pray for the hope and joy that come to us with the birth of baby Jesus.

We started the year 2023 with a retreat led by Rev. Hyunjoo Lee in quiet prayers and meditations of the Words of God. We continued this at the beginning of every month to renew our spirit and our body.



Our sisters visit local elderly homes once a month and provide basic medical checks such as blood pressure, blood sugar, and body temperature. It is also an opportunity to check and improve their overall well-being through a day of sharing and fellowship.

We also continued our fellowship with other local churches, celebrated the 100th anniversary of Mokpo Central Church together and participated in Thanksgiving services at Yangdong Church..

In August, 25 members of the Shinson Hapkido Europe visited us. They have been our friends and supporters for a long time. In December our sisters participated in their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary through a Zoom event.



We also had visitors from our partners in Germany, members of EMS, DOAM and Berlin Missionswerk visit our centre and sites of social works in April, September and October. We are overjoyed to be able to meet each other face-to-face, visit sites, and share each other's news, strengthening our solidarity with partners overseas.



### <Diakonia Family Community>

(cf. Eonnim is a name used to refer to members of the family community.)

We held monthly book club meetings led by Eonnim Jonyun Kim throughout the year. The meeting was carried out online and the members shared their reflections on their lives based on the reading of a chosen book. It was a great opportunity to think about life and happiness.



In May, Eonnim Aekyung Lee held an exhibition of her artwork at a gallery in Seoul. She has been serving in a rural church dealing with various works including an elderly activity center. During her spare time, she painted the people and the scenery of the community she has been serving, creating valuable art pieces which were collected for the exhibition.

In December, Eonnim Jonyun Kim also held an exhibition of her calligraphy works. Under the theme of 'the life I want', the exhibition aimed at helping and encouraging young people who are trying to start a new life after a time in prison or rehabilitation centres. The exhibition was combined with a fundraising event for this purpose.



In December, Eonnim Hoil Song led a Christmas service for people with multiple disabilities. He is also the chairperson of the 'Fingertip Missions Society' which hosted the service at the Yonglak Church in Seoul. The service was titled 'Quiet' Christmas and all the proceedings were delivered in sign language for the people with hearing impairments.



In November, Diakonia Family Community held its 8<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting. 4 new members and 2 recommended members became part of the family which now has 30 members. It was also a time of fellowship and reflection at our 'Shimplestay' (meaning 'restful stay') house of retreat.



### <Volunteering>

In December, Mr. and Mrs. Choi, a couple living in our neighborhood came to help us trim the trees in the hills behind our center. They have been providing us with the voluntary service for the past three years. Eonnim Jongtaek Ji and Jeongdan Goh also continue to help us maintain our gardens from time to time throughout the year.

### <Diakonia Scholarship and Household Welfare Project>



We have delivered scholarships to 30 students this year. Since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have resumed individual consultations with all students listening to the challenges they face. We continue to provide customized



assistance to people in extreme poverty through our Household Welfare Project. We also connect with local supporters and provide additional food – meat, fruits and others – during the festivals to add to their festivities.

### <Diakonia Elderly Home>

Our elderly home houses 60 elderly people. We have been awarded the highest grade of assessment by the national institution for hospices in Korea. This was a great incentive for our hardworking members of the centre. We have also been designated as a mentor institution by the Regional branch of the Korean National Medical Insurance Corporation and our work as a mentor for other institutions in the region has been recognized with an official letter of thanks from the government.



The end of the pandemic has brought us back into close contact with our community and partners in and out of Korea. Through this we have experienced with thanks, the grace of God that connects and sustains us, which provides us, regardless of the challenges we face, with heavenly hope.

We thank and praise God for his abundant grace and renew our hope for the new year.

December 2023

Jong-Sook, Ro(Oberin) and your sisters  
in Diakonia Sisterhood in Korea

