



ANDREW & SARAH Brown MISSIONARIES TO SOUTH KOREA

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." II Corinthians 4:5

May 2016

Dear Pastor and Church Family,

We trust you all are abounding in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to serve the Lord. It has been such a blessing to watch the Lord supply our needs as we travel across the United States raising support for our ministry in Korea. We are rejoicing that we have reached 38% of our needed financial support.



May 14th will mark a national holiday in Korea that is in many ways more widely observed than Christmas. Buddha's Birthday (부처님 오신 날) is a time when Buddhists, and other Koreans, celebrate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism. Mahayana Buddhism is the largest organized religious group in Korea. According to the most recent national census, approximately 23% of Koreans identify as Buddhist; this number increases to 39% in Busan, the city the Lord has called us to. In recent years, Korean Buddhism has seen a renewed interest. Subsequently Buddhism is thriving in Korea today. Many Korean Buddhists are not fanatical in their daily practice but they are nonetheless still very much blinded by the subtle religious philosophy of Mahayana Buddhism.

When we were in Korea on Buddha's Birthday, we were able to visit the head temple of Korean Buddhism located in Seoul. We arrived in the late afternoon and saw several thousand people gathered in the courtyard. The president of Korea, Park Geun Hye (an atheist), had spoken there that morning. We saw many devout Buddhists performing their oblations and waiting for the ceremony that was to begin in the evening. We also saw many young Koreans who had come to participate in the experience. It was fascinating to watch so many different people displaying their religious devotion. Some were bowing down in front of the statues of Buddha, others were burning incense, while others were writing prayers down on lanterns to be hung up. After observing for a while, we discreetly positioned ourselves in front of the temple and began passing out Gospel tracts to the people coming and going. Later on we heard the monks chant loudly as we watched the evening ceremony.

It was such a heartbreakingly beautiful experience to realize that all of these dear people were no doubt unsaved and headed for an eternity in the lake of fire. We will never forget the sights we saw that day. There are so many Korean people that must hear of the Lord Jesus Christ who died for their sins, was buried, and rose again so that they can be reconciled to God and have eternal life before it is too late. Sadly, very few Korean Buddhists have been reached with the Gospel as they have a completely different world view than what the Bible teaches. We long for the day when we can return and fervently preach the Gospel to the people of South Korea in these last days. Please pray that the Lord would use us to lead Korean Buddhists to Christ.



We praise the Lord for several opportunities recently to give a clear presentation of the Gospel while we are out on deputation. It was a blessing to see one person make a profession of faith in Christ for salvation. Please pray for a young lady named Emily. We had the privilege of witnessing to her last week. She is going through some extremely difficult circumstances; we pray that she will turn to Christ for salvation soon.

May the Lord bless you all as you live for Him!

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown



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