



Dear Pastor and Church Family,

January 2019

새해 복 많이 받으세요! Happy New Year! We are praising the Lord for His faithfulness during 2018 and we look forward to what He will do in 2019! The cold winter weather has arrived and we must bundle up when we go outside. Despite frigid temperatures, some people on the streets still receive Gospel tracts for which we are grateful.



The winter solstice is known as Dongji (동지) in Korea. This day was formerly a very important event on the Korean calendar and is still observed by many Koreans. Several vendors in the open market by our home served the traditional red bean soup (팥죽) which has been customarily eaten on the winter solstice for centuries. That day, on an excursion to distribute Gospel tracts in a distant section of Busan, I stopped by a large Buddhist temple. Among the many gathered there for the winter solstice observance, I saw several families with small children performing Buddhist rituals together. Our family so desires to communicate the true Gospel of Christ to precious souls such as these.



Back in October, I wrote about the opportunity I had to go with my friend (Assistant Pastor James Kim) and observe as he communicated the Gospel to an elderly lady with a Buddhist background. As she did not trust Christ for salvation that day, we had been praying for her salvation. Just last Sunday the Lord answered our prayers. The lady surprisingly came to church for the first time! Sensing that she was under conviction, Brother Kim was able to carefully lead her to Christ. Praise the Lord!

One afternoon last month, while Sarah was at her Korean class, JoAnn and I were on our way to meet her when six middle school girls came up and excitedly greeted JoAnn. After the girls spent a few minutes talking with us, one of the girls mentioned to JoAnn that Christmas Day was coming that next week. (While Christmas is not nearly as widely celebrated in Korea as it is in the United States, it is a holiday that some people observe.) I then asked the girls what they thought of Christmas. One girl replied, "Christmas is about going to church and also about Jesus." Another girl quickly said, "Oh, our family doesn't believe in that," which led to a discussion about their religious backgrounds. Three of them said they were atheist or non-religious, two of them said their families were "Christian" (sadly, this does not mean that they understood the truth since most "Christian" churches in Korea do not biblically preach the Gospel), and one girl said that she was a Buddhist. I told them that regardless of the religion that they are raised in, all of them could hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Though they did not seem very interested, they listened politely while I briefly quoted some salvation verses and gave the Gospel (all in the Korean language). I wanted to say much more, but I had reached the limit of what I could properly explain in Korean. I then left them all with Gospel tracts and encouraged the girls to read them. I am grateful that the Lord used our daughter to allow us the opportunity to communicate the Gospel.



We are so grateful for your faithful prayers on our behalf. I am in the middle of my fifth semester of university Korean language studies and Sarah faithfully attends private Korean classes. We continue to prepare for the day when the Lord will have us to start our first church. It is vital that we become proficient in the language and learn how to reach the people the Lord has called us to before beginning this great task. We need God's wisdom and help in order to prepare effectively. Please continue to pray that the Lord will bless our language learning efforts and use us to bring Koreans to Him for salvation. Thank you so much for partnering with us! It is an honor to be your missionaries to the people of Busan, South Korea. May the Lord bless you all as you serve Him in 2019!

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown



The Brown Family  
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