



THE *Brown Family* 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

Dear Pastor and Church Family,

Greetings from Busan, Korea! The nation just celebrated the three-day Lunar New Year holiday, which was a very busy time when most Koreans traveled to visit family and observed ancient traditions. As we normally do, our family visited a bustling open market the day before the start of the holiday and bought traditional foods for our own Lunar New Year feast. JoAnn enjoyed wearing her traditional Korean dress (called a *Hanbok*) and participating in some of the Korean New Year customs. Many Korean people view this holiday as a new beginning. As we continue to distribute our Gospel tracts, we pray that those who are seeking a new beginning will respond to the Gospel message and experience the ultimate "new beginning" which is being born again by the Holy Spirit.

Though the Lord has helped us come a long way toward adjusting to life and ministry in Korea, we are still sometimes surprised by the cultural contrasts that we see which highlight the uniqueness of Korea. While out distributing Gospel tracts in a particularly busy commercial district of Busan this last week, I saw a group of people dressed in traditional clothes noisily playing instruments in front of a pharmacy. Two of the women appeared to be shamans. (Shamanism is a form of witchcraft still practiced in Korea today.) The group was performing a shamanistic ritual in an attempt to protect the pharmacy from "evil spirits" and secure blessings. As I stood on the sidewalk with modern high-rise buildings all around watching this ancient shamanistic ritual, I was reminded again of the interesting contrasts found in modern Korean society and the great need today for the Gospel to be boldly yet lovingly communicated to the Korean people.

During this time of preparation for the task of starting our first church, we are so grateful for the many benefits we have received from serving under a veteran national pastor. About a week before I preached last Wednesday night, Pastor Kim Hee Ok spent time giving me valuable guidance on sermon delivery in Korean. This godly pastor is in his fiftieth year of ministry and is a powerful expositor of the Scriptures. He is not only a seasoned man of God but also a gifted teacher. His patient instruction on pronunciation, emphasis, and proper word usage has been very beneficial. Please pray that the Lord would help us to maximize the wonderful opportunities we have been given to learn while we prepare for the task of starting our first church.

Thank you for continuing to pray for the salvation of my friend, Mr. Gu, whom I mentioned in our last letter. Recently we have had two more meaningful conversations and I was able to give him our thorough Gospel tract which he received with interest. I hope to meet with him over a meal soon. We also ask that you would pray for the salvation of our landlord's son and his wife. We have been able to talk with them several times recently. They have a child not much younger than JoAnn. We definitely need the Lord's wisdom as we seek to develop relationships that will allow us to properly communicate the Gospel to these precious souls.

Our family continues to work at learning the Korean language. I will begin the fifth and final level of a language program operated by the immigration authorities this week. Thank you for praying for us as we strive to gain proficiency in Korean.

Right now, many here in Korea are worried about the dangerous Coronavirus spreading from China to all parts of Asia. There are already

several confirmed cases of people with the virus in Korea. Health officials, along with the general public, are in a heightened state of concern, and several measures to prevent the spread of the virus have been implemented. We will be trusting the Lord for safety as we monitor the situation.

Yesterday, Sarah fell and twisted her ankle. After a visit to the hospital we found out that she has a small fracture in her foot. She must wear a splint and stay off of her feet for a few days. We praise the Lord that the injury does not require surgery. Please pray for a speedy recovery.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and financial support. We are so blessed to be partnered with you for the sake of the Gospel going forth to the Korean people!

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown



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