



# 대한민국 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,

April 2020

Greetings from Busan, Korea. We are aware that, in many ways, life has changed significantly for you all in recent days. As the Wuhan Coronavirus spreads around the world, unprecedented actions have been taken by governments. In addition to those suffering with the COVID-19 virus, we know that many more in the United States are suffering financially and emotionally at this time. We find ourselves perplexed by complex and sometimes conflicting information as we try to grasp the reality of this serious situation. We are reminded that our omnipotent Lord knows all things and that He alone is worthy of our trust. Psalm 46:1 encourages us with these words, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." We will certainly continue to pray for each supporting church during this very challenging time.



When we wrote to you a month ago, the Coronavirus situation in Korea had just exploded to pandemic proportions. For about two weeks there was a great deal of fear on the part of the people as the number of confirmed Coronavirus cases grew exponentially. Many stores, restaurants, and businesses temporarily closed. The start of the school year was postponed. Daily life was disrupted significantly. However, as of this letter, the situation here in Korea seems surprisingly stable considering that most Koreans live in very densely populated cities. There are just under 10,000 confirmed cases of Coronavirus in the country; over half of these people have now made full recoveries. Nearly all of the 169 deaths so far were those who had preexisting conditions. Our city of Busan (population 3.5 million) initially saw the number of new cases double daily.

However, nearly five weeks later, the total number of cases in Busan is only 119. Though people were quite fearful at

first, Koreans around the country resolved to follow rigorous hygiene protocols. Everyone wears a mask and uses the hand sanitizer which is readily available in public places. Those who contract the virus are quickly placed under strict quarantine. The local government then publishes a detailed report of that person's movements around the city from the previous days. Those who have come into direct contact with the person, such as family or co-workers, are also quarantined. Though the national economy in Korea has suffered greatly, it has not been shut down. In fact, while the central government has strongly encouraged "social distancing" and staying inside as much possible, at no time nor in any place in Korea during this crisis has a mandatory "stay at home" order been given. While we are still very cautious, we are venturing out of our home on a regular basis. We enjoy visiting the traditional open market right by our house to buy things like vegetables, fresh fish, and eggs. We are endeavoring to utilize our time profitably with additional Korean language study. While we miss meeting together as a church during this season when gatherings are banned, it has been a blessing to have services as a family in our home. We are grateful to the Lord for keeping us safe thus far.

Though we have not been able to be out on the streets distributing Gospel tracts due to the Coronavirus, each day I have found at least one quiet convenience store around our city and have given the owner one of our thorough Gospel tracts as I made a purchase. A few days ago I struck up a conversation with one such owner. As I introduced our tract to her, she asked worriedly if I was a member of the infamous cult that caused the virus to spread so rapidly in Korea. After I assured her that I was not, she said firmly, "Oh, I'm Buddhist so I don't need this." Not knowing what else to say, I said, "That's all right ma'am. I have visited many Buddhist temples myself. This tract contains the most important information. Anyone can read it." Surprisingly, her tone then softened and she accepted the tract, promising to read it.

We parted on polite terms. Even though resistance to the truth from many in this spiritually dark nation can be strong, the Lord has promised that His Word will not return void. We are grateful for every opportunity the Lord gives us to share the Gospel during this time when public ministry is not possible.

As I have mentioned in previous prayer letters, one of the people we are working to establish a relationship with is a local butcher named Mr. Gu. I was able to share a meal with him last week. We talked (in Korean) for about two hours. I am grateful that a friendship is developing. Especially in Korea, it is a challenge to genuinely connect with someone that is not a classmate or co-worker. Though Mr. Gu does not indicate interest in spiritual things yet, we know from the Scriptures that the Lord is seeking to save this man. Please pray that the Lord would use us to lead Mr. Gu to Christ for the glory of God.

Thank you so very much for your faithful prayer and sacrificial financial support. We are honored to be partnered with you for the sake of the Gospel going forth to the Korean people. May the Lord protect you all during this difficult time.

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown



Andrew, Sarah,  
& JoAnn Brown  
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대한민국



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