



# 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,

August 2020

Greetings from Busan, South Korea. We hope you are safe and well during these uncertain times. Psalm 18:30 says, "As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LÖRD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him." Here, the Scripture reminds us all to look to the Lord for guidance and protection. What a blessing to know that we can indeed trust our Lord through even the most unusual circumstances!

For the last six weeks, we have been experiencing the monsoon season here in Korea. While last year the season was mild and only lasted for a few short weeks, this year's rainy season has brought a great deal of rain. Overcast skies, high humidity, and periods of heavy rain have been almost a daily occurrence. These heavy rains have caused some severe flood damage in certain parts of the country. Due to a particularly severe storm last week, three people were killed in our city from the resulting flash floods. We are so grateful for the Lord's protection from a lightning strike which happened near our house during that same storm.

We praise the Lord for a special opportunity to share the Gospel with a Buddhist man recently. I was able to meet with him in his office on the twelfth floor of a high-rise building where we discussed many topics including some of the differences between the Gospel of Christ and Buddhism. Though many spiritual barriers remain, Mr. Cho seems open to further dialogue. I look forward to more opportunities to thoroughly explain the exclusive truth of Christ's Gospel to him.

Especially to someone with a Buddhist worldview, only the Holy Spirit's illuminating conviction can cause the truth to be made clear. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would enable us and give wisdom as we seek to lead Mr. Cho to Christ.

In spite of the Coronavirus situation in Korea continuing to remain very stable (with a daily average of less than fifty new cases reported in the entire country for the last several weeks), the Korean Government has made some very troubling decisions pertaining to the ability of religious organizations and especially churches to operate unhampered. Last month, the government made a law forbidding any church to hold a special event, have a small group meeting, consume food in any corporate manner, or do any activity except hold a "church service," indefinitely. This meant that Bible studies, church camps, church conferences, fellowship meals, the Lord's Table, and technically even organized public evangelistic efforts were indefinitely banned under penalty of law just because the government deemed churches to be "high risk." It is important to note that similar restrictions were not imposed on restaurants, companies, schools, or other non-church religious organizations. After a couple of weeks, thankfully, the law was amended to allow churches to do some limited activities beyond just holding services. However, the fact that such a law was enacted so easily in a country that (at least in theory) has "freedom of religion" is cause for concern. Whether the motivation for implementing such authoritarian measures and instilling fear in the hearts of people stems from a genuine desire to protect lives from a very real virus, or comes from a diabolical plan to curtail freedoms, the result is the same—freedoms are curtailed and people are conditioned to live in fear. As we continue to prepare to start a New Testament local church in the near future, we are certainly looking to the Lord for wisdom to navigate these challenging and uncertain times. Please pray with us that the Lord will preserve our ability to communicate the Gospel and minister freely here in Korea for the glory of God.



Our Mission Field

By the grace of God, the church we are serving at during this time of preparation is weathering the Coronavirus situation quite well. Much effort has been made to maintain a good atmosphere while adhering to the stringent government requirements. Our family has the privilege to lead a children's Sunday school program prior to the Sunday service. In the Wednesday night service last week, the Lord helped me to preach a sermon from Luke 6:46-49. We are so grateful to have these opportunities to teach and preach God's Word.

We praise the Lord that as we distributed Gospel tracts last month (when it was not raining), we saw a number of people actually reading the tracts, including one man whom we were able to briefly witness to in a very busy pedestrian zone. Though most Koreans that receive one of our tracts have very little interest in spiritual things and some are even hostile towards the truth, it is such a blessing to be able to engage these people with the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are confident that God's Word will not return void. Please continue to pray with us that souls would come to Christ for salvation in our spiritually needy mission field.

Last Sunday, we celebrated the third birthday of our sweet daughter, JoAnn. Following Korean tradition for birthdays, we all ate seaweed soup for breakfast. (It tastes much better than it sounds!) We are so grateful that JoAnn is healthy and that she continues to adapt to our mission field so well. Please continue to pray that we can raise her in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We have an appointment with the immigration office to renew our visas next month. It should be a routine matter but we are learning not to take anything for granted. Please pray with us that our visa renewals will be granted without difficulty.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayer and financial support! It is an honor to be partnered with you for the sake of the Gospel going forth to the Korean people.

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown



Andrew, Sarah,  
& JoAnn Brown  
Missionaries to  
South Korea

대한민국

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