



THE *Brown Family* MISSIONARIES TO SOUTH KOREA

대한민국

"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,

September 2020

We hope you all are experiencing the peace that only our Lord can give. Your faithful prayers and sacrificial financial support are such a wonderful blessing to us as we labor to communicate the Gospel of Christ to the Korean people here in our city of Busan. The Lord protected us through the longest monsoon season Korea has had in several years. In various parts of the country, the subsequent floods and mudslides caused extensive damage and resulted in the deaths of forty people. After almost two months of heavy rains we are glad to see sunny skies again and we look forward to the cooler weather which should arrive soon. Thank you so much for praying for our visa renewals. We were able to receive them without a problem. Before the government suddenly imposed enhanced "social distancing" regulations two weeks ago, we were able to go out and distribute Gospel tracts several times last month. Though many refused, others did receive a thorough presentation of the Gospel in written form. We praise the Lord that we continue to see some people reading the

tract they have received. A highlight for us last month was inviting a young family to our home. Though at times we felt that we were reaching the limit of our Korean speaking ability, we spent a pleasant afternoon conversing with them over a meal while JoAnn and their young son played together. As is often the case here in Korea, building a relationship with this family for the purpose of thoroughly communicating the Gospel to them will likely be a long-term endeavor. Please pray that we could be used of the Lord to lead this devout Roman Catholic family to true saving faith in Christ.



South Korea's initial response to the Coronavirus pandemic has been widely praised. Through the voluntary cooperation of its citizens and by implementing draconian measures such as contact tracing, the Korean government successfully "flattened the curve" and contained the spread of the virus without mandatory lockdowns or completely shutting down the economy. The total number of Coronavirus cases reported since the situation began in Korea is less than 25,000. So far, in this country of 52 million people, 324 deaths have been related to COVID-19. Up until two weeks ago there were only sporadic outbreaks that produced a handful of new cases daily around the country. Then, suddenly, Korea's daily average increased from a few dozen to more

than 300 new cases. Many people's unrealistic expectation that the virus could be completely contained, the media's frenzied news reports, and the government's heavy-handed response has led to a widespread resurgence of fear. The government has implemented enhanced "social distancing measures" across the nation, including closing beaches, entertainment facilities, and some schools. Because a very politically active Protestant church and its foolish actions were at the center of this most recent outbreak, the government has also banned all religious gatherings of any size until September 6th. This means that, while our city of 3.5 million is having an average of less than ten new Coronavirus cases reported daily, no church can legally meet in any capacity. The president of Korea said last week, "This outbreak (300 new cases per day in a country of 52 million people) is so serious that we cannot think about religious freedom at this time." While religious liberty is theoretically guaranteed in the constitution, it is clear to us that going forward the government can suspend this freedom at any time. It must be noted that in the midst of this recent outbreak and enhanced "social distancing measures," public buses and subways are still often jam-packed with mask-wearing riders. Of additional concern to us is the public outcry that the pastor of the church at the center of this recent outbreak has generated. Though he is an evangelical pastor, he has made outlandish and blasphemous statements and has a cult-like following. The national news media outlets were quick to draw attention to the situation with wall-to-wall coverage of how the Coronavirus was spreading around the country as a result of this church's involvement in an illegal political rally. While this "church" is clearly not biblical at all, its bad reputation and connection to the latest Coronavirus outbreak greatly affects the small handful of biblical churches in South Korea. The majority of the people in our city (who are atheist/non-religious or Buddhist) will only become more antagonistic toward Christianity. As we contemplate the challenges of ministry in these uncertain times, we know that we need wisdom from the Lord. We are nothing without Him. Yet by the Holy Spirit's enabling, we can do the will of our Heavenly Father and effectively communicate the Gospel

of Jesus Christ to the Korean people. Please pray that the Lord will guide our family and strengthen us as we continue to prepare to start a New Testament local church in the near future. Please also pray that the Lord would preserve our ability to minister freely here in Korea and that He would give us more opportunities to communicate the Gospel for His glory.

Thank you so much for praying for us! May the Lord bless you as you serve Him.

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown



Andrew, Sarah,
& JoAnn Brown
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South Korea

대한민국

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