



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,

January 2021

Happy New Year! Though 2020 certainly brought major challenges, we praise the Lord for the many ways that He showed His faithfulness last year. As our family watched the first sunrise of 2021 together this morning, we asked the Lord for wisdom and enabling so that we may accomplish His will for our lives in this new year. While we do not know what even the near future holds, we are grateful for every single new day that the Lord gives us to serve Him. The Scriptures remind us in I John 5:14, *"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us."* What a contrast there is between the promises of God to His children and the vain hope that false religion offers. In the days leading up to the winter solstice (December 21), the Buddhist temple just down the street from our house displayed a banner advertising that the monk would perform a special prayer for blessings on the behalf of any family on the winter solstice for the price of thirty thousand won (the equivalent of twenty-seven dollars). This past week, a lady who refused the Gospel tract I offered her firmly told me, "My religion (a sect of Buddhism) is the best, it brings me true happiness." So many in our city are deceived by false hope and are languishing in spiritual darkness. However, because the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the wonderful promises of God are actually true, those who have been saved may have times when they are perplexed at the events taking place in the world, yet they do not have to live in despair (II Corinthians 4:8).

Starting three weeks ago, due to "surging Coronavirus case numbers" (about 1,000 new cases reported daily in a country of 51 million people) the government imposed even more stringent "containment measures" and placed the entire country under the second-highest level of social distancing rules. While these measures still permit general freedom of movement, many restrictions are in place. In our city, all gatherings are banned, and in some parts of the nation even gatherings of more than five people in a private home over the New Year's holiday were banned. All the while, subway trains, city buses, stores, and sidewalks have remained packed with mask-wearing people. In spite of the current Coronavirus situation, the Lord has allowed me to go out almost daily and carefully distribute Gospel tracts on bustling sidewalks in our city. Even in the recent freezing weather, folks have been receiving a clear presentation of the Gospel in written form. This week, one man even called the church after receiving a tract and expressed interest in visiting once the government allows church services to resume. We pray that this man would get saved and that the Lord would continue to bless His Word as it goes forth.

In our last letter, we mentioned that we needed to find a different hospital that would properly accommodate Sarah and the little baby on the way. We are happy to report that prayers were answered and the Lord directed us to a hospital that encourages mothers and babies to stay together regardless of what happens with the COVID-19 situation in our city. Sarah's first appointment with the doctor at the new hospital showed Baby Brown to be healthy and growing. Thank you so much for praying! Again last month, I was able to meet with the Buddhist businessman, Mr. Cho. The Lord allowed me to share the Gospel and read some Scripture verses during our conversation. Please continue to pray with us that the Lord would open this man's eyes to the Truth before it is too late. We certainly need wisdom as we seek to connect with people for the sake of the Gospel. Please continue to pray that the Lord would lead us and open doors as He sees fit. We also need wisdom as we continue with the life-long task of learning the Korean language. Please pray that the Lord would help us as we study Korean and show us how to best take our language skills to the next level so that we may be able to communicate the Gospel more effectively for the glory of God.

Last week, I received a staggering reminder of the brevity of life. I witnessed what appeared to be the tragic death of a person who was struck and run over by a large truck in a crosswalk not far from where I was waiting. In our city of roughly 3.5 million people, the accident did not even make the news, yet in an instant this individual's life on earth was cut short. This disturbing incident caused me to reevaluate my own fervency for reaching the lost with the Gospel of Christ. We do not know how much time we have left to serve the Lord, nor how close those who we may have the opportunity to share the Gospel with are to death. In this new year, as the Lord enables us, may we all be a fervent witness for the glory of God.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayer and sacrificial financial support! It is such a blessing for us to be partnered with you as we labor to communicate the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Korean people. May the Lord bless you as you serve Him in 2021!

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown



Andrew, Sarah,
& JoAnn Brown
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