



Dear Pastor and Church Family,

July 2021

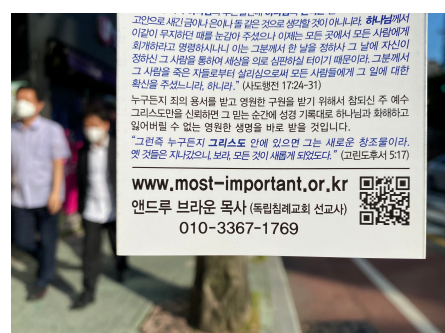
Greetings from Busan, South Korea! We hope this letter finds you well and rejoicing in the goodness of the Lord. Thank you so much for praying for our family and ministry. Last month we were able to again distribute hundreds of thorough Gospel tracts to lost souls across our city. We also successfully extended our visas for another year and obtained Hannah's visa at the immigration office. I enjoyed opportunities to preach and teach in Korean as well. We are so grateful for the health and strength that the Lord has given to our family. These blessings truly are a gift from God that we try not to take for granted. We certainly could not serve the Lord here without your faithful prayers and sacrificial financial support.

Though the Korean government still retains tight control over society with strict mask mandates and extensive contact tracing, some of the more severe Coronavirus-related measures (like the nationwide ban on all private gatherings of more than five people in effect since December) are being eased. Religious facilities outside of the capital region will now be allowed to have up to 50% of their seating capacity occupied during approved events. However, it remains clear that many of the changes that Korean society has experienced due to the government's COVID-19 response are probably permanent. We continue to trust the Lord to give us wisdom as we seek to adapt appropriately and minister effectively during these uncertain times.

By the grace of God we have officially made the transition from serving under a veteran national pastor to the task of planting a new local church in the central district of our city. At the end of last month, we said farewell with grateful hearts to the dear saints of the church in north-eastern Busan where we have served since our arrival on the field. For more than three and a half years, the Lord has used two seasoned men of God, Pastor Kim Hee Ok and Pastor Kim Jeong Shik, to teach us many important lessons about effective ministry in Korea. I greatly value their wise counsel and treasure their godly friendship. I am so grateful for the opportunities they gave me to gain some valuable experience in preaching and teaching in Korean. Our family still has a long way to go as we work to gain proficiency in the Korean language; yet we owe much of our current progress to the patient help we have received during this important training period. Convinced that it is the Lord's will, we have stepped out by faith and are now fully focused on our mission to plant a brand new church patterned after the New Testament example in Jin-gu, the central district of Busan. As we have labored to proclaim the Gospel of Christ in this fast-paced, materialistic, highly digitalized, and spiritually dark nation, we have found that many are resistant to the truth. However, the lost souls that we will encounter in Jin-gu, regardless of their initial receptiveness, are precisely the ones that our Lord desires to save and has sent us to reach with His Gospel. After much prayer we believe that the approach the Lord would have us to take in trying to effectively reach those who do not have a natural interest in attending a church service is to first rent an office-type space in Jin-gu and there conduct Bible studies, introducing the Word of God to those with little or no prior exposure to the truth. We will work to communicate the Gospel as we seek to connect with people and teach them the Word of God. Especially in the beginning, this will likely be a slow process, but we will rely on the Lord to bless His Word and open hearts to the truth. As souls are saved and follow the Lord in baptism, we will then (Lord willing) organize into a local church. Please pray that the Lord would give us the necessary wisdom to make prudent decisions as we continue to prepare daily for this endeavor. We recently had ten thousand thorough Gospel tracts printed that have my contact information along with a QR code on the back that directs those that receive a tract to a website Sarah and I developed last month. Since South Korea has one of the highest rates of smartphone proliferation in the world, the website has been optimized for mobile users. Those that scan the QR code on the tract are taken directly to a page that uses more than fifty Scripture verses to clearly present the Gospel and answer some common objections that we have heard while ministering here. The website also contains information about our family's mission to plant a church in Busan, as well as a page answering the question, "What is an Independent Baptist Church?" While I firmly believe that the primary focus of our ministry must be personal witnessing and that "internet church" should never replace the physical assembly of the saints; we pray that our website might be a tool that the Lord uses to propagate His Gospel and connect us personally with lost souls in our city of roughly 3.5 million Korean people. We desire to bear fruit that remains for the glory of God as He uses us to build His church. Thank you so much for partnering with us through your faithful prayers and sacrificial support! We will keep you updated about what the Lord does through us in this exciting new phase of ministry.

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown



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