



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,

September 2021

The Holy Spirit inspired the prophet Jeremiah to write these words of Scripture: "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23) We praise the Lord for the grace, mercy, and undeserved protection that He continues to give our family as we seek to do His will. We are so grateful for your faithful prayers on our behalf and for your sacrificial financial support which allows us to continue in the work that our Lord has called us to do here in Busan, South Korea.

At the beginning of last month, our family had the special privilege to travel over to the western side of the Korean Peninsula and assist a national pastor friend in leading a Vacation Bible School at his church. While the Coronavirus situation in Korea did not permit us to invite visitors to attend, we had a blessed time together exhorting the boys and girls of the church to choose to serve the Lord and seek His righteousness while resisting the wicked idols of this world. The children (ranging from four years old up to middle school) listened attentively to the preaching and did an outstanding job reciting the many Scripture verses that we taught them. This opportunity to lead a Vacation Bible School program in Korean was a valuable learning experience for which I am grateful. We enjoyed spending time with this faithful pastor and his precious family in the small city where they minister.

As we were returning home by train from helping with the Vacation Bible School, we learned that the city government in Busan was suddenly imposing the highest level of social distancing rules due to a spike in the daily number of newly reported COVID-19 cases. While an average of around 150 new cases per day for several days in a city of nearly 3.5 million people can hardly be compared to the situation in most cities across the world, the government here has banned all private gatherings of more than four people until six o'clock in the evening, after which gatherings of more than two people are strictly prohibited. A myriad of other similarly arbitrary rules are causing great difficulties for many. While approved religious services at churches and temples in Busan may be held at 20% capacity as long as strict guidelines are followed, there is intense scrutiny and even instances of direct interference by the government. We are very grateful that we have not experienced the danger and difficulties that others have around the world, yet it is clear at this point that months of broad contact tracing, universal mask mandates, a severe quarantine regime, and an aggressive vaccination program cannot prevent this virus from spreading. It is also clear that in the name of containing the Coronavirus, the government here can arbitrarily impose any policy regardless of its effect on society. Seeking to do the Lord's will as effective ambassadors for Christ, we need great wisdom from the Lord in order to safely and prudently navigate these uncertain times. Please continue to pray for us in this regard.

In spite of the highest level of social distancing rules being imposed in Busan for most of last month, the buses, subway trains, and sidewalks of our city were still often bustling with people. I was glad to be able to distribute several hundred thorough Gospel tracts in various locations across our city, including two places where I had not done so before. When distributing tracts I bow to each person passing by, greeting them and inviting them to read what I'm handing them. I thank those that receive a tract and politely tell those who refuse it to have a nice day. As I do this on busy sidewalks, the goal is not only to distribute the Word of God, but also to interact with those that receive a tract and perhaps personally share the Gospel with them. While such interactions are rare in this fast-paced society where so many have seemingly no interest in the truth, I am so glad for the times when I see people reading the tract they have received. On a few occasions people have taken a tract, stopped to read it for a minute or two, and promptly returned it to me, indicating that they are not interested at all. Regardless of their response, I am just glad to have a part in engaging people with the Gospel of Christ. However, as times continue to change, I don't know how much longer this avenue of ministry will remain open. While I was distributing Gospel tracts one day last month on a sidewalk in the northern district of Busan, a badge-wearing official from that district's government office approached me and told me that literature distribution was now forbidden in that area. Neither I nor friends that I spoke to later were aware that a local ordinance like that could be lawfully enacted in South Korea. May the Lord help us to make full use of the opportunities we still have in these last days before Christ returns in the clouds for His own. Please continue to pray that we would be used of the Lord to lead souls to Christ and help them become His true disciples.

By the grace of God, we continue with the exciting process of planting a brand new church in the central district of Busan. I again spent many hours last month preparing material to preach and teach in Korean. Sarah and I have also been busy looking for a suitable place to lease where we can hold Bible studies and church services. We are looking for a space that would be at least 700 square feet in size, that would be located close to a subway station or a city bus stop, and would be clearly visible from the street below. Since one can typically sign only a two year lease in Korea, we feel it would be wise to find a place that would not require a great deal of remodeling. For a variety of reasons, many landlords here are opposed to leasing even a part of their buildings to a church. We need to find a landlord who will accommodate us. Please pray that the Lord would guide us to exactly the place He would have us to lease. Thank you so much for praying for us as we seek to bear fruit that remains for the glory of God here in Busan, South Korea.

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown



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