



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,

October 2021

In these uncertain last days before our Savior's return to catch away His own, what a joy it is to experience the blessings that come from trusting and serving the Lord! This past month the Lord gave me several opportunities to personally present the Gospel during my daily tract distribution efforts across Busan. After an older man who had received a tract asked me, "What message are you trying to share?" I was able to present the Gospel to him. Though he eventually said, "I have to go now," and went on his way, I was so glad to have been able to share the truth with this lost man. Late one evening, someone who had received one of our tracts sent me a text message. This young man turned out to be a member of a pseudo-Christian cult who was inviting me to be enlightened by the false teachings of the cult's leader at an upcoming rally. This Korean cult's leader has made blasphemous claims about himself and his followers have been involved in some egregious activities that have made national news here. My text exchange with this young man was polite, yet I was able to clearly present the Gospel and give some biblical refutations to the error that this lost soul is sadly deceived by. On a Sunday afternoon while I was walking to a place near the center of our city to distribute Gospel tracts, two people suddenly appeared in my path and began to tell me of their religion—a strange cult that mixes traditional Korean superstitions with elements of Buddhism and other Eastern ideas. Curious, I listened to their fervent presentation before asking them, "How am I supposed to have any confidence in your religion's claims about reality?" They replied, "Through personal experience one can feel that this way is right." I then began to tell them of Christ and how one can have total confidence in His claims about reality and eternal life because after dying for our sins, He rose again bodily from the grave, and showed Himself to be the only Savior for mankind by "many infallible proofs." (Acts 1:3) These two people were rather surprised to learn that I was a missionary and soon found an excuse to be on their way. However, I was able to share some important truths from the Scriptures about how they could be reconciled to God through Christ and receive eternal life before they left. This interaction reminded me again of the fact that, while not comprising a significant percentage of the population, a myriad of bizarre cults do flourish on the fringes of Korean society. Though relatively small in terms of their total number of followers, the way that these various cults aggressively try to proselytize causes many people to be even more skeptical of "organized religion" and therefore of missionaries like myself. While we continue to look for a suitable building to lease, we hold church services as a family in our home. After we concluded our service one Sunday, I went to a busy sidewalk not far from where we live and began to distribute Gospel tracts. One lady who received a tract proceeded to converse with me. I listened politely as she talked nearly non-stop about her personal life experience. After about twenty minutes, I was finally able to begin to present the Gospel to her. However, she quickly became a little upset, and told me that my trying to share the Gospel with others was a bad thing. She also told me that though she does not practice any religion herself, she is sympathetic to the Buddhism of her deceased parents because this religion "was more compatible with Korean culture and did not seek to convert people." After gently reminding her that Buddhism was brought to Korea many centuries ago by monks who diligently sought to proselytize others, I was able to share some Scripture verses with this lost lady before she went on her way with one of our thorough Gospel tracts in hand. I was also able to witness to a man just this past Wednesday afternoon who stopped to talk with me after receiving a Gospel tract. Though this interaction was brief, I was grateful to have perhaps planted a seed in this man's heart before he went on his way. In all honesty, I will likely always feel a bit stressed when presenting the Gospel in Korean. Processing what the person I am speaking with is saying, and then trying to respond appropriately in Korean during the precious opportunities to communicate the truth that the Lord provides, is quite frankly a challenge for me. In addition, the false religion, skepticism, and indifference to the truth that we often encounter here can be discouraging at times. Yet, it is such a glorious privilege to be an ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ in a place that has such a great spiritual need for the true Gospel! As we trust the Lord to work through us for His glory, we are confident that in due season we shall reap if we faint not!

September 29th marked exactly four years since our family arrived here in Busan seeking to fulfill the calling of God upon our lives. As we have worked to learn the Korean language and adapt to the Korean culture over the last four years, my wife and I have had both challenging and enjoyable experiences. It is quite fascinating to watch our firstborn daughter, JoAnn, grow up in a country so different from our native land. She surprises us sometimes with her ability to fit in and play with Korean children in parks around our city. By God's grace, our family continues to assimilate to this dynamic country's society while we work to connect with the people around us with the goal of leading them to Christ. We are grateful for the progress that we have made towards becoming effective communicators of the Gospel, yet we realize that there is still a long journey ahead of us. We remain committed to improving our proficiency in the Korean language and with the Lord's help to becoming the missionaries He would have us to be as we labor to proclaim the truth and plant a brand new church in the center of Busan. We are so grateful for the mercy, grace, protection, and blessings that the Lord has given our family. Without His enabling we can do nothing! Our family is also very thankful for your faithful prayers and sacrificial support. It is such a privilege to represent you as we labor to communicate the Gospel to the Korean people here in Busan. Please continue to pray that the Lord would guide us to the building He would have us to lease for the church, that He would continue to help us become effective missionaries for His glory, and that the Lord would use us to lead souls to Christ and help them to become His true disciples in this spiritually dark mission field. Thank you so much for praying for us as we seek to bear fruit that abounds to your account for the glory of God!

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown 



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