



Dear Pastor and Church Family,

July 2023

As we begin the second half of the year 2023, we are so grateful for the goodness that our Lord has bestowed on our family. We are so undeserving to receive His wonderful blessings of safety, provision, and enabling. Last month we had the wonderful opportunity to spend two and a half weeks with Sarah's dear mother who came to visit us from California. The time that we spent together was truly a gift from God. She did so well eating Korean food, taking public transportation, and walking long distances with us. It was especially meaningful to have her attend our church and assist us with Gospel tract distribution efforts after the Sunday services. We are so thankful for her godly influence on our daughters and the heart she has for serving the Lord. During Sarah's mother's visit we celebrated our tenth wedding anniversary with a special three day trip while she watched JoAnn and Hannah. Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for allowing us to serve Him together as husband and wife for ten wonderful years.

We are thankful for the freedom to distribute Gospel tracts at a number of locations across the densely populated city of Busan. In this fast-paced society, handing someone a through Gospel tract as they pass by is a good method for communicating the truth here where Korean people nearly always seem to be in such a hurry. Though normally most people show no interest, it is a blessing to see others who have received one of our tracts reading it as they wait to cross the street or board public transportation. The exceptionally high literacy rate in Korea combined with the natural curiosity that many here have are factors that work in our favor. Our prayer is that the Lord would bless His Word resulting in souls coming to Christ and receiving eternal salvation. Of course our ultimate goal when distributing tracts is to personally connect with those who are willing to stop and talk. Last month I had a memorable encounter with a man who had a fascinating life story. After receiving a tract, the man returned and spoke with me. As we talked, he told me how his family had fled North Korea during the Korean War when he was 10 years old—arriving in Busan with little more than the clothes on their backs. He described the unimaginable difficulties of that time period but also expressed gratitude for the full life he had lived and the exceptional health he was enjoying. He then said "My wife and family are Buddhist. However, at 83 years old I don't have much time left in this life. I recently told my wife that perhaps we ought to visit a church while we still can." I then had the honor to briefly share the Gospel with this friendly man and invite him to our church. I pray that he and his whole family will come to a knowledge of the truth before it is eternally too late.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Jungbu Independent Baptist Church. A lady, who had previously attended services and then was absent for some weeks, returned and has come to the last three Sunday services. We have not yet been able to inquire as to the status of her salvation because she arrives late and leaves quickly after the service. Wisdom is needed as we seek to minister to her. The young man that I mentioned in our last prayer letter was faithful to almost every single Sunday and Wednesday service last month! I have counseled with him on several occasions concerning his salvation and he has listened intently to a great deal of Bible preaching related to this important matter. He told me recently that he has now come to the assurance of his salvation. However, because of the time he spent as a member of a denomination with cultic tendencies that teaches numerous false doctrines, as well as the influence he continues to receive from various sources on the internet, I am still greatly concerned that he has not yet truly understood what it means to make the decision to trust the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and personally receive Him as one's Savior. The Gospel of Christ is so simple that a young child can easily understand it and be saved; it is the false teaching that is so prevalent on the internet today which causes confusion. With the proliferation of various digital platforms where even obscure teachers can be easily found, those who are working to plant biblical churches around the world today are competing with a cacophony of contradicting voices who will gladly scratch itching ears. We certainly want to help these people whom the Lord has placed in our path to come to the assurance of their salvation and then become grounded in the Word of God. However, our earnest desire is to reach people from non-Christian backgrounds and actually lead them to Christ as the Holy Spirit enables us. Please continue to pray that the Lord would allow us to bear fruit for the glory of God here in Busan. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and sacrificial financial support! It is our great privilege to represent you as we labor to communicate the Gospel to the Korean people. May the Lord bless you as you abound in His work!

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown



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