



Dear Pastor and Church Family,

January 2025

Happy New Year! As we begin the year 2025, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the Lord's goodness and also filled with much expectation as we anticipate what He will do through us for His glory in our mission field of Busan, Korea during this new year. Thank you so much for praying for our family and for Jungbu Independent Baptist Church. Last month we were overjoyed to welcome new visitors and people who returned after coming before, including one man who surprisingly returned after being absent for several months. We were especially grateful to the Lord for bringing Mr. Lee (the non-religious man we have been working to lead to Christ for many months) to our church two times during December. Each time he came, he heard the Gospel message expounded from the Scriptures and was exhorted to make the decision to trust the Lord Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. We continue to pray that Mr. Lee would experience the miracle of salvation soon.

Thank you for praying for our family's brief trip to the United States. On the Sunday right before we began our journey, the elderly national pastor who is filling in for us during the three Sundays of our absence traveled down with his wife and attended the Sunday service. It was a joy that day to labor together in witnessing and ministering to those that came, including to one man who visited Jungbu Independent Baptist Church for the first time after finding our church website. On the following day our family departed Busan and arrived safely at Sarah's parents' home after an uneventful twenty-two hour journey. The Lord greatly blessed our time in California. We experienced many precious moments with our children's grandparents and I had the privilege to preach at their home church on Sunday. We then traveled to Texas to spend Christmas with my family at my grandparents' home. It was truly an unforgettable wonderful time that we had together! We praise the Lord that He provided a special opportunity for me to thoroughly share the Gospel with some in our extended family who are not yet saved. On December 28th, we were scheduled to arrive in Alabama at around 5 p.m. However, severe storms caused us to depart more than four hours late and then to have to sit on the airplane for nearly three hours after we landed before we were allowed to deplane. Due to a combination of stormy weather and the actions of United Airlines, we experienced the cancellation of our connecting flight and ultimately had to spend fifteen difficult hours stuck in the Houston airport before we finally boarded a flight that took us to a city about an hour and a half from our final destination. While this situation was particularly challenging for our three young children, one blessing that we experienced during this ordeal was the providential opportunity to assist a young Korean man with navigating the chaotic rebooking process when we first arrived in Houston late Saturday night. After befriending him while we waited together in a long line, we learned that he was a native of Busan and was in the United States for a short visit. I eventually gave him one of our Gospel tracts and encouraged him to contact me upon his return to Korea. Perhaps the Lord will use this encounter to lead this man to a knowledge of the truth. After our arrival in my hometown, one of the first things we did was to visit my grandfather who is now under hospice care. Our time together was very precious. Though his strength is gone and his time of departure to go and be with the Lord is very near, my grandfather said a hearty "Amen" as I read First Corinthians chapter fifteen aloud to him. I am so grateful for his godly testimony of faithfully serving the Lord for many decades as a preacher, church-planter, pastor, assistant pastor, Bible college professor, Sunday school teacher, and soul-winner. Though I am saddened by the fact that this is our last time to be together on earth, I rejoice at the reality that this man of God who has had such a positive influence on me will soon be in the presence of his Lord. Until our departure on the ninth of January we are trying our best to savor every precious moment that we have to spend with my parents and siblings. Please continue to pray that the Lord will bless our time together.

While the tragic deaths of the 179 people who perished in the horrific airplane crash in South Korea on December 29th have captivated the world's attention, those who have been following the news know that South Korea has been in news headlines across the world for most of the past month. President Yoon's sudden and inexplicable declaration of emergency martial law has thrown the nation into a state of political chaos. While the blatantly unconstitutional order to place the country under total control of the president was rescinded just hours after the National Assembly unanimously voted to nullify it, the ramifications of this unjustified and illegal declaration of martial law continue to destabilize South Korea. Large protests have been held across the country calling for the president to resign. On December 14th, President Yoon was impeached by the National Assembly which means that his powers and duties are suspended until the constitutional court either upholds or nullifies the impeachment. Last week, the prime minister, who was serving as the acting president, was also impeached, causing the deputy prime minister to take over as acting president. This week, a court issued an arrest warrant for President Yoon. As a foreign missionary, I do my best to be apolitical and to keep my focus on the task of being an effective ambassador for Christ. Yet, it is my observation that the terms "conservative" and "liberal" do not mean the same things in Korea as they do in the United States. It is very evident that there are elements of spiritual wickedness on both sides of the political spectrum in Korea. At the heart of politics is the quest for power and control. We do not know how this volatile situation will unfold in the coming days; yet it is our earnest prayer that our freedom to minister and preach the Gospel in Busan would not be impeded. Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom and enabling so that we may properly meet the challenges of the new year. Please also pray that He would use us to lead Koreans to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ for the glory of God in 2025. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and sacrificial support! May the Lord bless you as you serve Him.

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown  




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