



Dear Pastor and Church Family,

July 2025

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and sacrificial financial support. We are so grateful for the privilege to represent you as we labor to shine the light of the Gospel here in our spiritually dark mission field for the glory of God. It was ten years ago last month that we were commissioned as missionaries by our home church and started deputation. The Lord has been so good to our family! We praise Him for how He has protected us and for how He continues to sustain us through your partnership. With the arrival of summer, the weather in Busan has turned hot; yet we are learning to appreciate the natural change in seasons that God has ordained. While the daytime temperatures can be high, the evenings are often pleasant. One evening last month, our family thoroughly enjoyed attending an outdoor classical music concert performed by a prestigious orchestra and famous conductor. On June third, the special presidential election was held in Korea. The following day, the leading candidate took office immediately after being officially declared the winner. While sharp political divisions remain a reality in Korea, we praise the Lord for the fact that the political situation here has now become somewhat stable. We are praying that President Lee (whom I saw up close in May when he was campaigning near our church building) would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ so that he might rule this nation wisely and we might continue to be able to serve the Lord uninhibited by government policy.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Jungbu Independent Baptist Church. Last Sunday we welcomed one first-time visitor, a young man who had recently moved to Busan from Seoul. Back in May, I met a man while distributing Gospel tracts whom I invited to come and hear the preaching of the Word of God at our church. As I mentioned in last month's prayer letter, the man came to our Wednesday Bible study that very evening. I am glad to report that Mr. Kwak also came faithfully to each Sunday and Wednesday service throughout the month of June. I used a variety of Scripture texts to share the Gospel and foundational truths of the Bible with him each time. One of the challenges we face in ministering to him is the fact that his beliefs are a mixture of so-called Christianity and Shamanism. For example, he claims to have received revelations from heaven and believes that Noah traveled to the Korean peninsula after the flood and personally founded the ancient Korean nation. His ardent passion is traditional calligraphy. While Korea primarily uses the *Hangul* Korean alphabet, many Korean words can be expressed using Chinese characters known as *Hanja*. Each time he has come, Mr. Kwak has enthusiastically spoken to me at length about a few of these characters and his interpretation of them before and after our services. He has also presented us with an ancient poem which he meticulously copied down using traditional calligraphy techniques. The Lord is teaching us patience as we seek to lead Mr. Kwak to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus. Please continue to pray with us that the Lord would send more lost souls that would encounter the life-changing Gospel of Christ at our church.

In the month of June we again placed thorough Gospel tracts into the hands of many lost souls around Busan. While most ignore the opportunity they are given to learn of God's mercy and forgiveness, it is a blessing to occasionally see people carefully reading the Gospel tracts they have received. We encounter many polite people but there are also those that mock and scorn. Recently I have encountered hostility from some whose hearts are closed to the truth. However, the Lord's grace is always sufficient. Last Saturday one man who took a tract asked me, "What is this?" When I told him that it contained the most important information one could read, he said, "I have no interest in this whatsoever" and started to hand the tract back. I then said, "Sir, I personally wrote this tract. Won't you take a moment to read it when you have the opportunity?" To my surprise the man then smiled at me and took our Gospel tract with him as he walked away. Though so many here are blinded by materialism, false religion, and even atheism, we believe that the Lord is at work as we seek to lead lost souls to a saving knowledge of Christ. While we rejoice whenever we get the opportunity to share what the Bible says about eternal salvation, the burden of our hearts is to effectively communicate the truth of the Gospel to those people who do not have even a nominal Christian background. So far, most of those who have visited Jungbu Independent Baptist Church have at least briefly attended an unbiblical church at some time in the past. It seems that those without this experience (those who are non-religious or Buddhist, etc.) have no thought whatsoever of going to a church service nor any willingness to consider what the Bible says about eternal life. There appear to be significant barriers standing in the way of properly engaging those with a non-Christian religious background here in Korea. I am prayerfully contemplating what more can be done to effectively reach these people who make up the overwhelming majority of our city's population. I remain thoroughly convinced that a biblical local church is a called-out assembly of saved, baptized believers. Based on my understanding of the Word of God, I strongly reject the "seeker sensitive" approach and the so-called "attractional church" model. The Lord's work must be done His way. I believe that Christ's local churches should not be entertainment venues but rather ministries where souls get saved, follow the Lord in baptism, and are faithfully taught the Word of God as they become true disciples of Christ. However, according to the book of Acts, the Gospel spread not only among Jews that already had an understanding of the Scriptures, but also among Gentiles that had no biblical foundation whatsoever. We have a biblical mandate to work to lead those around us to Christ, regardless of their proclivity towards skepticism. As we begin the second half of 2025, Sarah and I are praying for wisdom and enabling as we work to make personal connections with people that our Lord Jesus desires to save. Please continue to pray that God would make us effective missionaries that bear fruit for His glory in these last days before Christ appears in the clouds for His own. Thank you so much for your faithfulness on our behalf. May the Lord bless you!

Your Missionary,

Andrew Brown



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