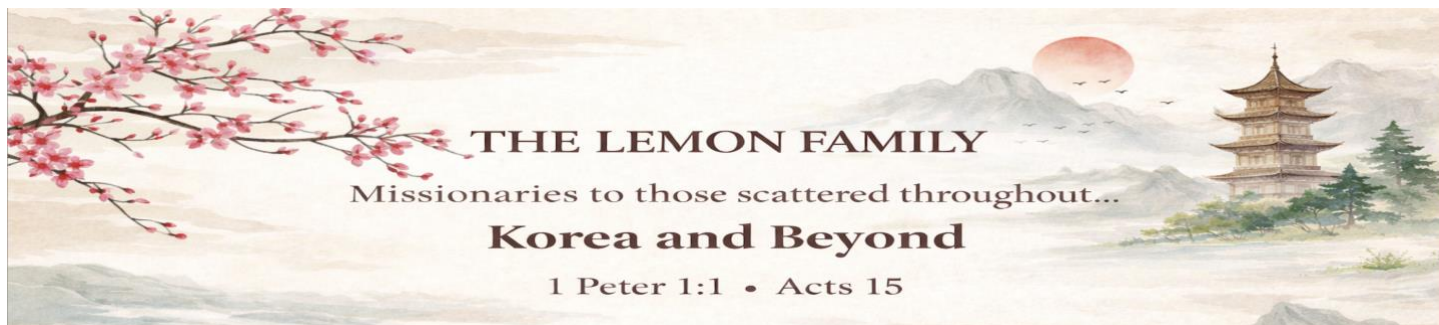




Mission Statement – Lemon Family 2026
Past Ministry and Future Direction

Since answering God's call to Korea and Beyond in 2004, our family has sought to faithfully serve the Lord Jesus Christ through local church-centered missions.

For the first two years, I served as the furlough pastor at Haven Baptist Church in South Korea—the very church where I was saved. During that time, the Lord further confirmed our burden for Korea and Beyond. We then completed a short deputation, partnering with churches that shared our burden for the Gospel in Asia. Shortly thereafter, we returned to Korea and neighboring countries, where we have continued serving to the present day.

Over the past twenty years, the Lord has allowed us to help start four churches and labor directly alongside four additional ministries. Our ministry remains clearly centered on both direct and indirect church planting. We are committed to establishing indigenous, self-governing, self-propagating New Testament churches, always desiring to see national leadership and a national pastor leading the work. The pattern of Acts 14:23 and 2 Timothy 2:2—training faithful men who are able to teach others also—remains central to our philosophy of ministry. **Discipleship that multiplies is not optional; it is foundational.**

Our specific calling has not changed... But the Lords directing has taken us many different directions from Korea to our Beyond ministry. **Alongside an active stateside ministry**, we remain committed to **short term ministry in Korea and other Southeast Asian countries**, as well as **restricted and difficult to access regions wherever the Lord leads.**

Through trusted relationships and careful stewardship, we also collaborate with restricted access church movements by **providing Gospel literature and Bibles**, conducting large-group training, offering biblical family counsel, as well as providing one-on-one discipleship, strengthening believers, and **clearly preaching Christ in environments where open assembly is limited or opposed.**

Doctrinal Basis for Indirect Church Planting in Restricted Access Fields. (see Calling and Direction Bible Study)

Our philosophy of ministry recognizes a clear New Testament pattern: churches are often established as the direct result of faithful Gospel preaching and personal discipleship, even when the **missionary himself does not, or cannot, permanently reside or pastor in that location.**

During Paul's extended ministry at Ephesus, "all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:10). Likewise, the church at Colosse appears to have been established through trained men such as Epaphras, though Paul testified that they had "not seen my face in the flesh" (Colossians 1:7; 2:1).

These examples demonstrate that biblical church planting **does not always require a missionary to rent a building, hold permanent residence, or serve as the long-term pastor.** Rather, through faithful Gospel proclamation, discipleship, doctrinal instruction, and the training of national believers (2 Timothy 2:2), the Lord raises up indigenous leadership and establishes churches. (As Christ said in Mathew 16:18... 'I will build MY church')

In Restricted Access Missions—where public facilities may be impossible and open assembly limited—our aim remains consistent with the New Testament missionary model: to preach Christ, disciple believers, strengthen both open and restricted assemblies, **provide Scripture and sound doctrine**, and assist in the formation of self-governing local churches under national leadership. The missionary plants and/or waters...but "God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6).

This work is structured around our **Fivefold Objective**, which defines our **specific calling**. The Lord has clearly called us to a **task and not a single “piece of dirt” or nationality**. Our clear objective, wherever He directs, is to see people:

1. Saved
2. Baptized
3. Added to a local New Testament church
4. **Discipled!**
5. Give a place to serve and multiply themselves.

We are also committed to biblical teamwork. The Lord sent His disciples two and two (Luke 10:1), establishing a pattern of shared labor, mutual accountability, and multiplied effectiveness.

At this stage of life and ministry, the Lord has expanded our responsibilities, allowing us to laterally guide, coordinate, and strengthen various aspects of the work. This is not leadership in a worldly sense of “being in charge,” but a **stewardship of experience**—using what God has taught us to develop others as we plant churches.

Depending on the need, our leadership may take different forms as the Lord sends us to various locations. At times it means helping equip a younger missionary; at other times it means laboring faithfully as another skilled man on a project. In every season, we are willing to work alongside others for the sake of the Gospel. “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord” (2 Corinthians 4:5). As Paul testified, we have learned “both how to be abased, and... how to abound” (Philippians 4:12), **content to serve in whatever role best advances the work of Christ, whether Stateside or abroad.** (again, part of the ‘I will build MY church’)

Additionally, we recognize the opportunity to minister to the “strangers scattered” (1 Peter 1:1). Korea has become a crossroads of nations, and the Lord has allowed us to minister not only to Koreans but also to foreign workers and several displaced people groups—many of whom carry the Gospel back into regions otherwise difficult to reach. Through our contacts in Korea, we have been directed to many other countries. Again, as we’ve said before, **God has called us to a task**, not to a location or single nationality. In Acts chapter 13, it clearly said that Barnabas and Saul were called to a WORK not necessarily a location.

Looking ahead, our direction remains unchanged: to go wherever the Lord directs in order to reach the “whosoever” of Romans 10:13 through Korea and Beyond. **We remain committed to the task of our Fivefold Objective while continuing church planting, strengthening national leadership, assisting younger missionaries, and advancing Restricted Access Missions throughout Asia and beyond.**

After two decades of ministry, our commitment remains steady: faithful direct and indirect church planting, biblical discipleship, national leadership development, and Gospel expansion in both open and restricted fields wherever that may be.

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2).

By God’s grace, that remains our prayer for the years ahead: to remain faithful to the Great Commission, laboring wherever the Lord opens doors, until Christ is preached and New Testament churches are established throughout Korea and Beyond.

Grateful to serve,

Joe Lemon
Grace to the Ground Missions
Missionary to Korea and Beyond