

THE **DROP** BOX

HOW 500 ABANDONED BABIES,
AN ACT OF COMPASSION,
AND A MOVIE
CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER

BRIAN IVIE
WITH TED KLUCK

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FROM TED

When I started this project, I didn't know Brian Ivie. However, shortly after connecting, I received a package in the mail containing various artifacts from his life and trips to South Korea—ticket stubs, sketches, note pads, video clips, and even a children's book entitled *Just Me and My Dad*. And what's cool is that what he sent didn't necessarily portray him in the most amazing light possible, as is often the case with ghostwriters' clients. Soon we were talking about movies, busting each other's chops via text, and basically doing the things friends do.

We talked a few times each week to “interview,” but often the interviews turned into discussions about our fathers, discussions about movies, and discussions about business, which in my opinion are the best possible interviews (the ones that don't sound like interviews). Sometimes he would put me on the phone with whoever was in his office at the moment. Best of all was Brian's commitment to praying before each session—a process that helped me tremendously, as I remembered why we were doing this in the first place: to bring honor and glory to our heavenly Father.

So thank you, Brian, for being authentic (that's an overused and trite-sounding word, but still) and fun. You still remind me of the Jason Schwartzman character in *Rushmore*.

Thanks as well to my good friend and agent, Andrew Wolgemuth, for having integrity, having a personality, and caring about more than just the bottom line. You are the best at what you do.

Thanks to our editorial team at David C Cook for taking this project on short notice and for being as excited about it as we are.

Thank you to Pastor Lee for listening to the Holy Spirit's prompting and for losing your life to save children. Thank you to both of the women, whom I've never met, who put our sons up for adoption many years ago in Ukraine. You made a courageous choice, and I'm so grateful to care for your boys now.

And finally, thank you to both my earthly father and my heavenly Father. Brian and I wanted to write this book as sons, in such a way as to honor our fathers. Thank You, Lord, for new hearts, for forgiveness, and for the chance to be Your adopted sons.

FROM BRIAN

After sharing my testimony at tons of small, out-of-the-way churches, people often told me I should make a movie about making the movie. Basically, a glorified behind-the-scenes featurette on my life and coming to faith while creating *The Drop Box* in South Korea.

I was always humbled by that idea but also thought it sounded really conceited and vain. Instead, I've decided to write a lengthy memoir.

First, thanks must go to Ted Kluck, my ghostwriter and shrink, who wanted to write a good story that was bigger than me. After that, I want to shout out to Andrew Wolgemuth and RJ Moeller, who made sure that we found the right publishing home, and then of course to Andrew Stoddard, Tiffany Thomas, and the entire David C Cook team, who had the heart from the very beginning.

Thank you to my uncle Keith Tanabe for being an example of sacrifice; my aunt Christine DiGiacomo for praying for me since I was born; and my manager, Dave Mechem, for keeping me on course and thinking my stories are worth telling.

Thanks as well to my spiritual parents, Rob and Patrice, for “adopting me” and showing me how to walk as a beloved son.

Thank you to Sarah Choi for being the sister I never had and for pouring out your heart for these lost children in an unparalleled way. Thank you to Shayan Ebrahim for going back to South Korea with me and for being a true friend in the toughest times. Thank you to Todd Burns and Bud Keilani for protecting the movie and for living out the tender heart of the Father. Thank you to Wes Fulkerson for being as true and steadfast as Barnabas was for Paul. And thank you to Andy Kim, Jen Alt, Staci Brown, and JC Park for building Kindred Image into an organization that loves people eternally.

Thank you to Sam Jo, Sterling Phillips, Jin Doo, Tavis Robertson, and Mitch McDuff for going on the first adventure with me and for never giving up, even when I did.

A big thanks to Mark Thomas for constantly challenging my faith, to David Beylik for teaching me about grace in the most unforgettable way, and to Bryce Komae for showing me what real joy and real freedom look like.

Thank you also to Will Tober, the guy who led me to Christ and who remains the person with a heart most like God's in my life.

Thanks of course to my baby brother, Kevin Ivie, for being a hilarious and heartfelt friend.

And thank you to my amazing mother, Tomi Ivie, for going outside of herself every single day to raise a complicated guy like me.

Thank you to my fiancée, and soon-to-be amazing wife, Amanda Borland, for loving me after knowing the worst about me.

But in the end, this book is for my dad, William Carey Ivie, the man who carried me in a pouch on his back when I was little, and still does in many other ways.

JIN DOO: TRANSLATOR

- My uncle's best intern
- Member of the Korean army for four years
- Claims to have fallen asleep while marching
- Potentially a government spy

SAM JO: PRODUCER/TRANSLATOR

- Not Chinese
- Business student with no film experience whatsoever
- Hasn't spoken Korean in years
- Definitely a government spy

SARAH CHOI: PRODUCER/TRANSLATOR

- Personal manager
- Sang in a Christian youth choir (not helpful here)
- Interned at Creative Artist's Agency (CAA)
- Would meet her current boyfriend while making the film

TAVIS ROBERTSON: KEY GRIP

- Best-looking member of the team (besides Will)
- Mostly an actor
- No history as a key grip
- Nominal Christian

SHAYAN EBRAHIM: DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

- Raised in Iran
- Son of my dentist
- Good with cameras but had never used the ones we rented
- Skinnier than me (finally)

STERLING PHILLIPS: PHOTOGRAPHER/PA

- Only non-Korean girl
- Film student and documentary buff
- Texas born, where everyone is a Christian
- Would later make a documentary on rave culture

BRYCE KOMAE: COMPOSER

- Sexy singer-songwriter
- Half-Japanese (Together, we make one full Asian)
- Hipster Christian
- While in South Korea, used Spanish to communicate with a store owner

MITCH MCDUFF: DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY (PART 2)

- Recreational playwright
- Went to film school online (Watched random YouTube videos)
- Once built a boat for fun
- In high school

WILL TOBER: PRODUCER

- Team chaplain
- Jacked
- Famous for coining the term “Korea toes” to describe the cold
- Jacked

KEVIN IVIE: SOUND RECORDIST

- My baby brother
- Read the microphone manual on the flight over
- Spent off-hours writing a love letter to a girl back home
- Loved the kids most

GET INVOLVED

*To donate or get involved with Pastor Lee's
lifesaving ministry, please visit:*

www.KindredImage.org

KINDRED'S MISSION

Kindred Image exists to support the vision and legacy of Pastor Jong-rak Lee and his flock.

KINDRED'S PASSION

Kindred Image is a nonprofit organization that works to support the vision and legacy of a courageous pastor in South Korea. What began as a desperate one-man campaign to protect life in one small neighborhood is now an organized effort to love and serve mothers in crisis, and never see an abandoned child on the streets of South Korea again. For the rest of the world, Kindred hopes to restore the idea of a God-given “kindred image,” thereby defending the dignity and value of all human lives.

KINDRED'S MODEL

PREVENTION

We want to put an end to abandonment. But we know that this is a matter of the heart. Through story-based awareness, we work to change cultural consciousness and change prevailing views of single mothers and children with disabilities.

INTERVENTION

We never want to sit on the sidelines and simply tell stories about abandonment. Led by Pastor Lee's compassionate vision, Kindred staff members serve at the drop box site, where precious lives truly hang in the balance.

RESTORATION

We know that crisis care alone isn't enough. Through counseling, care packages, and the building of a new facility for holistic care, we are committed to walking with mothers and children through difficult circumstances and into brighter futures.

KINDRED'S ETHOS

- We believe everyone is made in the image of God and is, therefore, beloved, sacred, and precious.
- We believe Pastor Lee is a faithful father of the abandoned and protector of the least of these.
- We believe God is the ultimate Father, who graciously sent His only Son to save the broken and the lost.

The fight for life is more than just political. In so many ways, it's decided in the cultural imagination—and heroes like this provide the inspiration we need to replace cultures that spawned Kermit Gosnell, sewer pipes, child abandonment, and forced abortions with a culture that looks more like the home of Pastor Jong-rak Lee. That, my friends, is overcoming evil with good.

—John Stonestreet, *BreakPoint*

NOTES

1. Steve Martin, Carl Gottlieb, and Michael Elias, *The Jerk*, directed by Carl Reiner (Beverly Hills, CA: Aspen Film Society, 1979).
2. Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (New York: Viking, 1997), 254.
3. Kerouac, *On the Road*, 12.
4. John M. Glionna, "South Korean Pastor Tends an Unwanted Flock," *Los Angeles Times*, June 19, 2011, <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jun/19/world/la-fg-south-korea-orphans-20110620>.
5. Lee Jong-rak, "Ju-sarang Community Church: A Place with Heaven's Comfort and Life," PowerPoint, slide 12.
6. Mark Driscoll, "What Did Jesus Accomplish on the Cross?" Vintage Jesus series (sermon, Mars Hill Church, Seattle, October 8, 2006), www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5d7fVOHqYU.
7. Kerouac, *On the Road*, 12.
8. 2 Corinthians 5:21.
9. C. S. Lewis, *Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold* (Glasgow: Collins, Fount Paperbacks, 1981), 35.
10. James Jordan, Fatherheart Ministries (lecture, Vista Assembly of God, Vista, CA, March 15, 2014).