

REVEREND JOHN PERCIVAL BROWN, AM

Citation for the conferral of the title of Doctor of Arts (*honoris causa*)

Reverend John Brown, AM spent many years as a missionary in Korea and helped establish theological education there as well as improved farming practices. He remains a highly respected figure in Korea and still regularly visits and takes part in church discussions. Reverend Brown has influenced several generations of Korean church leaders, including the current generation, and has received honorary doctorates from two Korean universities.

In recent years Reverend Brown has very successfully managed the complex task of overseeing the orphanage and welfare services which the Uniting Church in Australia supports in North Korea. This requires considerable diplomatic skill and wisdom.

After graduating from Melbourne University and the Melbourne College of Divinity, Reverend Brown was ordained to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in 1958.

Following ministries in Bairnsdale and Omeo, he served as a missionary in Korea from 1960 until 1972, teaching Hebrew and Biblical Studies in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Seoul, pastoring many village churches in South Korea, and serving in the administration of the Presbyterian Church of Korea.

Returning to Australia in 1972 after twelve years full-time service in Korea, Reverend Brown, while maintaining his Korean links, had a second career as a senior church leader. This included a prominent international role in the World Council of Churches. As National Secretary for the Mission of the Uniting Church of Australia he became deeply involved in the reconciliation movement and was the Co-Chair of the National Sorry Day Committee from 1998 to 2005 and has been the Co-Chair of the Myall Creek Memorial Committee since 1999.

Reverend Brown was appointed a member of the Order of Australia in 1993 and received a Centenary Medal in 2001 for services to reconciliation.

He is the subject of a book published in Seoul in 2013 in English and Korean. This includes a chapter by Reverend Professor James Haire on Reverend Brown's contribution to contextual theology as well as chapters by other leading Australian and Korean theologians and church leaders.

Reverend Brown is held in high regard amongst both Charles Sturt University's Indigenous communities and Korean partners and has been very active in supporting the University's Indigenous programs and the Korean programs. These have benefitted greatly from his advice and engagement.

Deputy Chancellor, I present to you Reverend John Percival Brown, a person who has made, in the words of Charles Napier Sturt, a significant contribution to the "public good", both nationally and internationally, and a worthy recipient of the award of Doctor of Arts (*honoris causa*).

Dated this Fourteenth Day of December Two Thousand and Fifteen