



PREPARING FOR A **REVIVAL**
THROUGH THE RENEWAL OF **ONE SOUL**
ONLY WITH THE **WORD OF GOD**



NORTH KOREA, COMMUNISM'S MOST POWERFUL FORT

In the late 1980s, the global communist bloc begins to collapse, splitting the Soviet Union into 15 countries. China also abandons its communist economy and begins to embrace a capitalist system. While the values of God-serving America and the free world overwhelm the world, the only remaining communist country, North Korea, strengthens its regime and hides even deeper from the world.

THE NORTH KOREAN FAMINE THAT KILLED THREE MILLION PEOPLE

In the mid-1990s, Kim Il-sung, who had ruled North Korea for 50 years, died, and a series of devastating natural disasters struck the country like a curse. The country's vaunted free rationing system collapses, and an estimated three million people died. North Koreans had followed their leader, praising him as their Father. However, when the rationing system collapsed, hundreds and thousands of North Koreans abandoned their father's land and started defecting to China to avoid starvation.



PEOPLE FLEEING FROM STARVATION IN NORTH KOREA

North Korean defectors who have fled to China lived in the three northeastern provinces close to the North Korean border, struggling for a meager existence. The men worked whatever they could that would feed them, but were exploited with no pay, and the women were sold to men in poor rural areas of China as sex slaves. But this was better than starving to death, so they had no choice but to maintain their life like such. But what haunted them more than the physical hunger and thirst was the fear that they could be forcibly taken back to North Korea at any moment, where severe torture and then either execution or the infamous political prison camps were awaiting them.

NORTH KOREAN MISSION BEGAN IN CHINA

The first ones that served the wandering North Korean defectors were the American and South Korean missionaries and the Ethnic Korean churches. They fed, housed, and clothed those who were dying of starvation even after escaping. The church did for them what Kim Il Sung, their longtime brainwashing father, had failed to do. With such warm hospitality and love, the North Korean defectors slowly opened their hearts to the warmth. However, they were still unable to accept the gospel because of decades of anti-Christian indoctrination education they received.

“THE WORD BECAME FLESH” AND BROUGHT CHANGE IN THE NORTH KOREANS

Amidst these situations, in 1997, Missionary Choi Kwang from Light Unto the Nations Ministry first traveled to China. With no one to support him and carrying only a Bible, a few clothes, and \$35, he rents an apartment with a group of North Korean defectors who have nowhere else to go and spends all day reading the Bible and praying with the goal of reading the Bible 100 times. He had one purpose, ‘One defector’s renewal is itself mission work towards North Korea’. When they ran out of money and couldn’t buy any food, they fasted, reading the Bible and praying; if they were caught by the police, they fled to another area and read the Bible and prayed; they continued to do the same if one of them were sick or were in trouble.

“I AM WILLING TO DIE FOR JESUS”

After a year of living with the North Korean defectors, experiencing their hardship, pain, and hunger together, they began to change. The Bible seemed like a book of lies to these people who had received materialist education their whole lives. However, the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word was powerful. After reading the Bible 40-50 times, they began to believe the Bible which seemed like a lie, and experience the Holy Spirit. After receiving the Holy Spirit, they voluntarily devoted themselves to becoming missionaries to North Korea and spread out across China to gather other fellow defectors as disciples. They all confessed in a thick North Korean dialect. “If I can preach the gospel, it’s fine if I die” Like the Holy Spirit’s works in the Book of Acts, the Bible reading class that started with eight people grew to educate more than 70 missionaries and over 250 North Korean defectors who accepted Jesus.



ARRESTED BY PUBLIC SECURITY AND DEPORTED TO NORTH KOREA

In mission work, God allows the glory of martyrdom to some. This was the case for Missionary Choi Kwang's mission field to North Korea as well. An insider falsely accused them of being part of an insurgent organization that was trying to topple the North Korean regime, and 70 of his leaders were arrested and deported to North Korea, and Missionary Choi himself was expelled from China. Seventeen of his students were martyred in North Korea during this.

After being expelled from China, Missionary Choi opened a Bible class school for North Korean defectors in South Korea, which he continues to run today. Until this day, he runs the same race of faith, believing that 'one defector's renewal is missions towards North Korea' and training North Korean missionaries who say "If I can preach the gospel, it's fine if I die".

*For you have been born again,
not of perishable seed, but of imperishable,
through the living and enduring word of God*

1 Peter 1:23

Hallelujah! I extend my greetings in the name of the Lord. I once sought for world vanity, and encountered the Lord personally at the late age of 36. Since then, I have dedicated myself for the salvation of each and every soul, which is more precious than heaven. The salvation North Korean souls happened through reading the Bible 100 times, memorizing 1000 verses, and three hours of prayer each day.

Being guided by the Holy Spirit, I stubbornly read the Bible for more than six hours a day and prayed for more than three hours a day with North Korean defectors in China, melting the hearts of North Koreans that were hard as a fortress and trained them into disciples of the Lord. After coming to Korea, against everyone's advice, I trained disciples in the same way as I did in China. Ultimately, God's ways were always right. All it was was a simple method of eating, sleeping, reading the Bible, and praying with them, but God used my weaknesses to transform North Koreans here in Korea as well.

Saving one soul through the Word of God and prayer! This is the alpha and omega of North Korean mission work and the beginning of a true revival.

As new wine belongs in a new wineskin, God always requires something 'new' from me and not 'ragged.' Participating in the NRB Convention this year was also an amazing providence of God doing his new thing. There are numerous stories of God's miracles from the mission field to North Korea that are untold. I look forward to seeing what God will do with the precious American partners we may meet here.

We pray that this opportunity would be used to share God's heart who is working in North Korea even today, sharing stories with all nations through various media, such as movies and cartoons, to awaken those who long for a revival around the world.

Pastor Kwang Choi President of Light Unto the Nations Mission



LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS

Light Unto the Nations Ministry began in August 1998 by starting with six North Korean defectors we met in Jilin Province, China with the goal of reading the Bible 100 times. Since then, in nine provinces across China, we established over 100 Bible reading classes in mission homes, educating over 500 North Korean defectors. Furthermore, we have been raising disciples in Korea as well, using the one same method of reading the Bible 100 times and in prayer, with over 100 North Korean defectors. To date, we have raised more than 80 missionaries of North Korean nationality and trained more than 50 North Korean pastors and seminary students, 17 of whom have been martyred. But the work is not finished; we continue to move forward with obedience, like the servants of the wedding ceremony in Cana poured water into the jars with faith. Until the day that the Lord returns, we continue to be faithful servants of God, looking forward to the restoration of churches in North Korea, for the world's revival, and now expanding to the media field to share His work.

History of Revival



**Mark's Upper Room
Revival at Pentecost
after Jesus' Ascension**



1875
Moody Revival



1906
Azusa Revival



1904
Welsh Revival



1907
Pyongyang
Revival



2023
Again 1907 Pyongyang Revival
Convention started - Present

History of Ministry

1998
Light Unto the Nations Ministry
begins ministry to North Korean
defectors (in China)



2001
74 leaders arrested and
detained by Chinese police.
Ministry disbanded

2008
Second North Korean
defector ministry (in China)



2011
Golden Bell Church
established - Present

2012
100 Bible Reading School for
North Korean defectors in
South Korea - Present



2020
YouTube channel
NaeraeTV launched
- Present

NORTH KOREAN DEFECTOR 100 BIBLE READING SCHOOL

The essence is simple. The Word of God is life and is Jesus himself. With a simple curriculum of reading the Old Testament 100 times, the New Testament 20 times, and three hours of daily prayer, the 100 Bible Reading School is a school where students experience renewal and become powerful soldiers of the Lord. It also provides opportunities to reveal the power of the Word into the mission field through domestic and international outreach. In addition, we are expanding beyond from a school for North Korean defectors, to schools for people around the world in various languages such as Korean, English, and Chinese, and we are in the process of establishing an international 100 Bible Reading School in the Philippines with the same curriculum.



AGAIN 1907 PYONGYANG REVIVAL CONVENTION

The early 20th century was filled with powerful movements of the Holy Spirit worldwide. The Welsh Revival in 1904 and the Azusa Revival in 1907 led to the Pyongyang Revival in 1907. This movement that started from the repentance of personal sins and deep change of heart later led to the revival movement of one million people in Korea and became the spiritual foundation for the Korean churches today.

In order to change North Korea, which is overwhelmed with the powerful strongholds of idols, and to awaken the South Korean churches that have lost their first love because of the worldly abundance and going through COVID-19, we need the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit.

Every January, we decided to gather with North Korean defectors and South Korean Christians to once again gather and pray like the 1907 revival that took place in Pyongyang.

As we gather to worship and pray at this convention, we desperately pray for the unification of North and South Korea, a spiritual awakening, and a revival of all the nations.



NORTH KOREAN MISSIONS THROUGH MEDIA

Mission work to North Korea is expanding beyond offline and spreading out to online methods. NK Testimony, our online North Korean mission base, shows the fruits of North Korean missions. It's filled with testimonies of North Korean Christians, the North Korean Martyrs series, and other contents that testify the fruits of the Word of God

We also weave in testimonies of North Korean Christians into a variety of media outlets, including movies, cartoons, musicals, novel books, and children's books, to witness God's work in North Korea and await the day for revival.



LETTERS FROM GRADUATES OF THE 100 BIBLE READING SCHOOL WHO BECAME MARTYRS



“ Haven’t we lived as pebbles in the streets receiving all sorts of ridicule and scorn? Let us become people who can repay the love of the Lord who spared our lives, gave us salvation, molded us into good servants of God, and bestowed great grace on us every day, even though we were dying in the pit of destruction in a rotten and decaying world.

Let us stand firm in prayer for each other and deliver the gospel of God’s kingdom for our country, North Korea. May we stand boldly in faith and go forth strongly on the path for the gospel of heaven.



Kim Ju-bok

Executed in 2001
Sinuiju Ministry of State Security Prison

“ I knew that this path of believing and following Jesus would not be easy, but through this difficult experience, I have come to realize that it is a path of blood tears.

There’s no denying that evangelizing to North Korea is a critical, life-and-death issue for world missions. I think the only way to do it is through the Word and prayer.

I believe that there is God’s deep intention of igniting the flame of the 100 Bible reading program through Pastor Choi is to produce souls that have been renewed to handle the evangelization of North Korea as well as the gospel-led unification of North and South Korea and world evangelization.

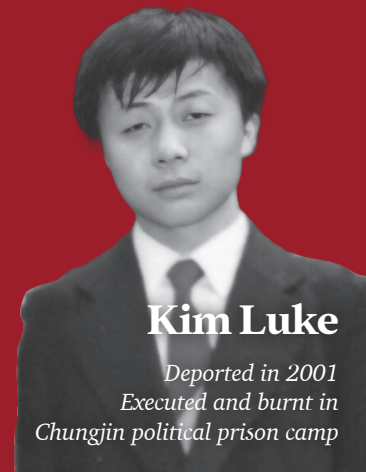


Joo Gwang-ho
(Real name Gwak Dong-su)

Deported in 2001
assumed to have martyred
at Sinuiju political prison camp

“ I am now 21 years old. I’m the youngest of the appointed teachers, and I’m not old enough for ministry, but I’m working and taking this ministry through praying and trusting that God will give me the grace to do this work, just as He appointed young Solomon as king and gave him the wisdom to guide him.

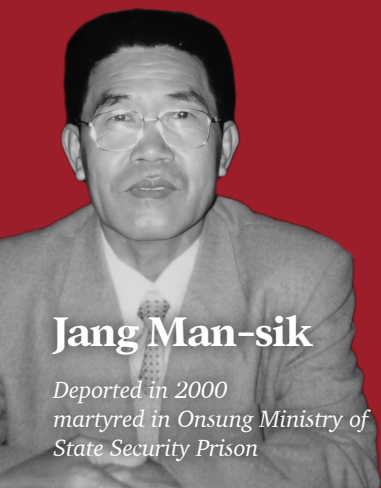
I can see the future. I can hear the Holy Spirit being preached in North Korea, and the voices of the saints being lifted up in praise. I pledge and pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that wherever I go, I may live as an obedient servant by the cleansing blood of God. Amen.



Kim Luke

Deported in 2001
Executed and burnt in
Chungjin political prison camp

“ I am very grateful to have known Jesus and accepted him even at such a late age. Pray for me so that I will not doubt my Lord Jesus until the last day and that I may throw away anything of the world that I have as trash. These days, every day feels like I am living in heaven. Everything is full of grace, gratitude, and joy.



Jang Man-sik

Deported in 2000
martyred in Onsung Ministry of
State Security Prison

“ He named me Calvin, and I am ready to devote my life to reforming North Korea into a land and a people prepared by God and to serve only one God, our loving Lord Jesus Christ. I will dedicate my life to read the Bible 1000 times as the Lord leads me, so that the new land will be filled and overflowed with only the true Word of God.



Jin Calvin

Kidnapped in China by North Korean officers
in 2000 and martyred



Christians in North Korea 101

Q1

What kind of country is North Korea?

A

Between China and Japan lies the Korean Peninsula, with the line at the 38th parallel north, South Korea stands to the south and North Korea to the north. North Korea is approximately the size of Ohio state and is home to about 25 million people, compared to South Korea's 51 million. Currently, North Korea claims to adopt socialism politically and communism economically, but is a pseudo-dynastic hereditary state with three generations of leadership by Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il, and Kim Jong-un. Recent developments show movements to pass power to Kim Ju-ae, the daughter of Kim Jong-un, who is not yet 12 years old. Christian scholars have described North Korea as the world's largest cult, with a "Juche" ideology system.

Q2

What is the current state of Christianity in North Korea?

A

North Korea holds the dishonor of being the "world's most severe Christian-persecuting country" for over 20 years, consistently topping the annual list compiled by the global missions organization Open Doors. Religious activity in North Korea is strictly controlled by the state, primarily to maintain absolute control of the regime and to emphasize loyalty to the Communist Party and the Kim family. The only officially sanctioned belief system that holds status in North Korea is the "Juche ideology," which is said to have been founded by Kim Il-sung. Other religious activities are prohibited, and personal religious practices or activities of outside religious organizations are strictly policed; citizens are expected to adhere solely to the "Juche ideology."

Q3

What are the risks for people with Christian faith in North Korea?

A

People of the Christian faith in North Korea face significant risks. The country strictly controls religious activities and imposes severe punishments for any actions that violate the ruling ideology. Article 29 of the Reactionary Ideology and Culture Rejection Law of 2020, enacted to prevent the influx of external culture into North Korea, continues to suppress Christianity. The law makes it punishable by death for distributing or viewing books, videos, and other materials related to Christianity, including the Bible. Due to the strict control on Christianity, the general population does not even understand the words like "Jesus," "faith," and "resurrection."

While a small number of Christian believers do exist in North Korea, the exact count is unclear. Those known to be Christian face the risk of arrest, detention, forced labor, harsh treatment, and even death sentences. They are classified as political prisoners rather than ordinary criminal offenders, as they are regarded as challenge to the state's ideology and system. According to the 2019 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Affairs, approximately 120,000 people are held in political prison camps by the North Korean regime, of which 50,000 to 70,000 are Christians.



Q4

I heard that there is an **official church** in North Korea. Isn't this proof that there is some sort of **religious freedom** in North Korea?

A

There is no freedom of religion in North Korea. Nevertheless, there are two churches in Pyongyang — Bongsu Church and Chilgol Church, strictly controlled by the Workers' Party of Korea. These churches serve as mere propaganda tools, portraying an illusion of religious freedom in order to receive humanitarian aid from churches and Christian organizations around the world. To become a member of either church, one must first join the Communist Party and pledge allegiance to the Party and the Kim family. Churches used to recruit loyalist women from nearby towns, but attendance was initially low, according to a defector. In interviews with foreign media, one woman who claims to be a deacon of Bongsu Church denied the resurrection of Jesus and said that Kim Il-sung was greater than God. However, others say that although the churches are fake, they have witnessed people who believe in Jesus among those who attend.

Q5

What is the **Chinese government's position** on North Korean defectors?

A

The Chinese government categorizes all defectors as illegal economic migrants and repatriates them to North Korea once they are caught. Chinese authorities, often in coordination with North Korean authorities, actively monitor and identify North Koreans attempting to cross the border into China, detain them, and forcibly repatriate them to North Korea. These actions are a clear violation of China's obligations as a signatory to the United Nations' 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. North Koreans who flee are not solely seeking economic gain; rather, they yearn for the most basic human right to survive.

Q6

What **punishment** will those who repatriated face?

A

Those who fail to escape or are repatriated from China face severe penalties. After the Chinese authorities complete their initial investigation of the defectors, the North Korean authorities conduct a more in-depth investigation. The first question posed by North Korean security officers is whether they have had any contact with people from hostile countries, specifically the United States and South Korea. Since North Korean defectors often come into contact with the gospel through South Korean missionaries, any association with a Korean classifies them as political prisoners who pose a threat to the regime, subjecting them to a special interrogation process. If they do not deny their Christian faith during the interrogation, they are labeled as reactionaries against the regime and can be executed or imprisoned in a political prison camp for the rest of their lives.

Q7

How should we **pray** for Christians in North Korea?

A

First of all, we need to pray for systemic change in North Korea. North Korea is a country that has nationwide idolatry. To eradicate this idolatry, there is a need for change of regime and a change of system. Please pray for the people of North Korea to have real freedom of religion and freedom of thought. Pray for international efforts to support actual regime change, as opposed to relying solely on humanitarian aid with uncertain efficacy. Pray that the current persecution and hardship of North Korea's underground Christians will stop and that the few remaining underground Christians will be able to maintain their faith in the face of any persecution.



LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS



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