

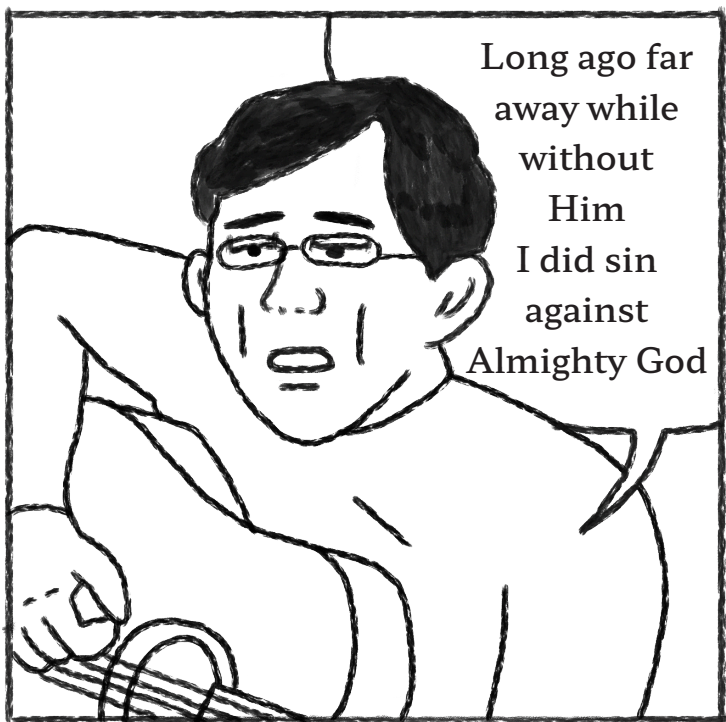
North Korean Martyrs
Cartoon Series



Those Who Returned to North Korea

Jung Yong-chul

정용철 선생님



Long ago far
away while
without
Him
I did sin
against
Almighty God

In the late 1990s, a terrifying food shortage covered the land of North Korea. Stories of people starving to death for lack of food was common.



Jung Yong-chul was stealing a few pieces of corn from his field for his starving family, but he was caught and dragged away by the North Korean police.



You bastard, you're not being thankful to the Great leader, but rather trying to steal his property?



The day when Jung Yong-chul, who loved poetry and singing, had his handmade flute and guitar he loved taken away, His deep trust and conviction towards the North Korean regime toppled down.

August 26th, 1997, he headed for China to find food.

However even in China, he wasn't able to find food,
and his family was all scattered.



His wife left the house to find food but never returned,
and his children followed their grandfather to China to live.

Jung Yong-chul meets Teacher Kim
Gwon-neung in China and steps
into the Xi'an mission home.



After defecting, Jung Yong-chul
came to know the reality of the
Kim Il-sung ideology.
The shock of realizing that he
had lived in a lie his whole life,
he refused to believe in anything.
This was the same for faith.



Believe in God?

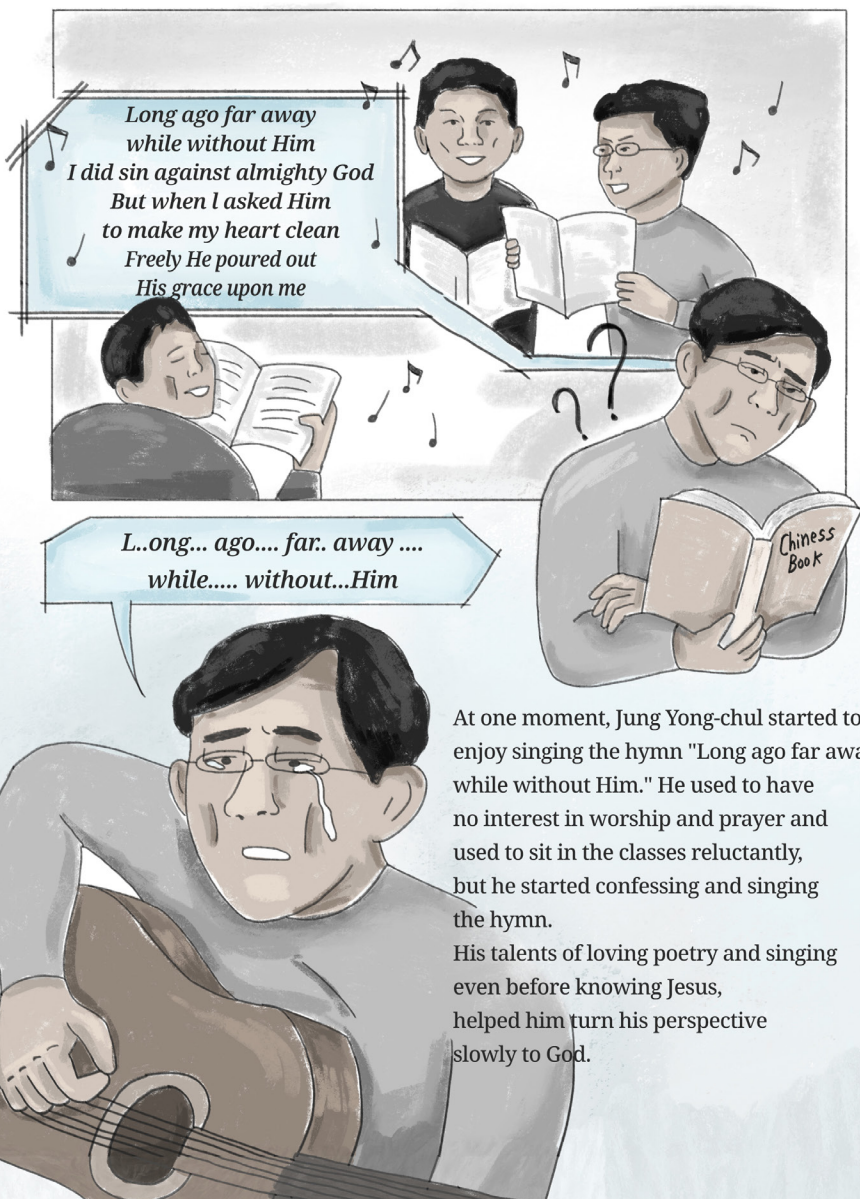
*Does that exist? I'm not interested in
any of that anymore.*

*You guys believe and do Bible study,
and try your best!*

*I'm going to study Chinese
and find my family.*



Praising God has the power to change a person.



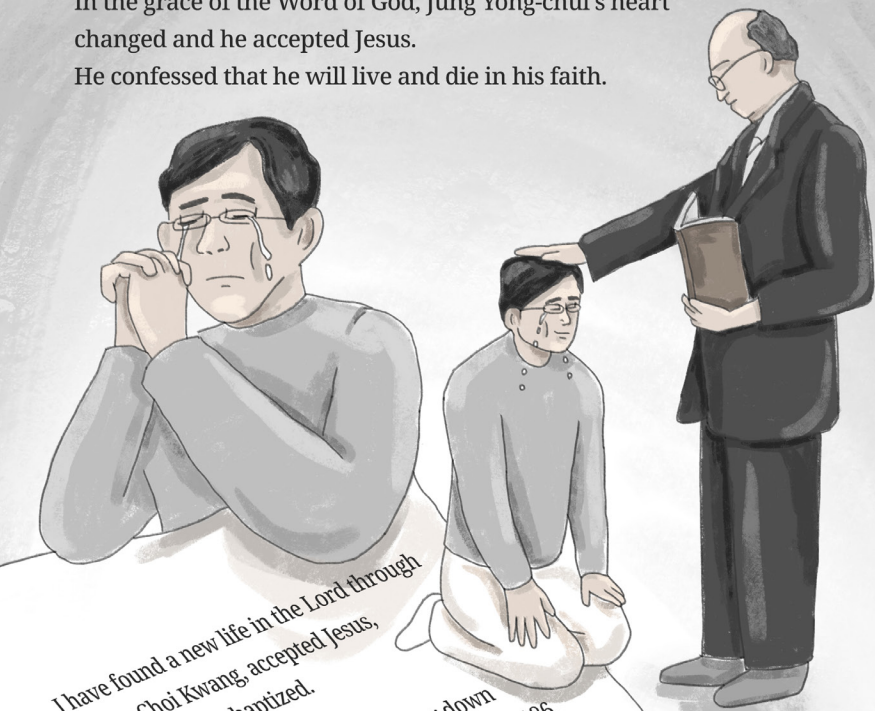
Long ago far away
while without Him
I did sin against almighty God
But when I asked Him
to make my heart clean
Freely He poured out
His grace upon me

L..ong... ago.... far.. away
while..... without...Him

At one moment, Jung Yong-chul started to enjoy singing the hymn "Long ago far away while without Him." He used to have no interest in worship and prayer and used to sit in the classes reluctantly, but he started confessing and singing the hymn.

His talents of loving poetry and singing even before knowing Jesus, helped him turn his perspective slowly to God.

In the grace of the Word of God, Jung Yong-chul's heart changed and he accepted Jesus.
He confessed that he will live and die in his faith.



I have found a new life in the Lord through
Pastor Choi Kwang, accepted Jesus,
and have been baptized.

I couldn't stop tears from running down
my eyes that day. As I was singing Hymn 186,
I was so grateful for the grace and love that
cleansed my sins with Jesus' blood.

I have decided that I will loyally give the rest of
my life and death as a missionary of the gospel.

Regards,
Jung Yong-chul
April 15th, 2000



However, to Jung Yong-chul, separation from his family had left a deep scar.



Then in China, he met his kids but he had no stable life himself,
so they had to be separated again.

One day, Teacher Choi Soon-kyo,
who was a fellow teacher,
said to Jung Yong-chul
while praying,

*Teacher Jung,
I don't think you need to be worried
about your children.
You'll meet them soon.*

*How dare you!!
Don't you fool
around with this!*

He was furious; he thought he was joking around.

However, this was God's voice that was spoken through Teacher Choi Soon-kyo.



Jung Yong-chul miraculously met his son, Ha-min, whom he had only seen in his dreams as he prayed with tears every day as a missionary in North Korea. While riding his motorcycle to recruit students for his ministry, he coincidentally saw his son standing on the road.

*What happened to your body?
Where were you? Are you okay?*



Ha-min's body was in a very bad state.

His son and daughter had been captured by public security while wandering and had been repatriated to North Korea twice. This was an answer from God. What Teacher Soon-kyo said was really the voice of God. It was God's grace.

The ministry home had a policy of never taking in anyone other than students because they could not afford to take in families in addition to the students. Jung Yong-chul was well aware of this, but after hearing his son's life story overnight, he brought his children to the ministry home blindly.



Missionary Choi Kwang brought Jung's two children to his own home, fed them, helped them go to school, and raised them with his own children.

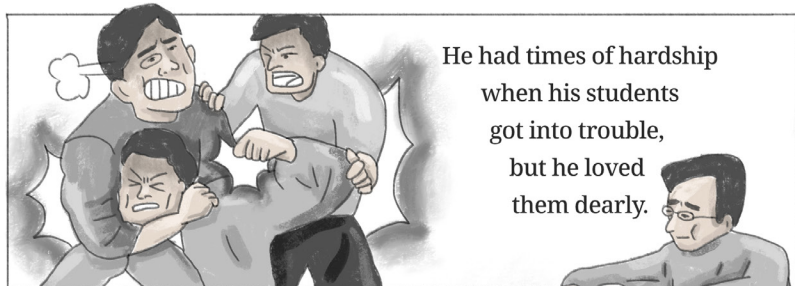


In the tragic reality of North Korea, you cannot ever imagine that someone would raise two children that are not theirs. It's only possible through true Christians that God has raised, and it's hard for Missionary Choi to take care of his seven family members, but with the love of God he took care of my children just like his own. I'm so grateful beyond words.



In one of Jung Yong-chul's letters

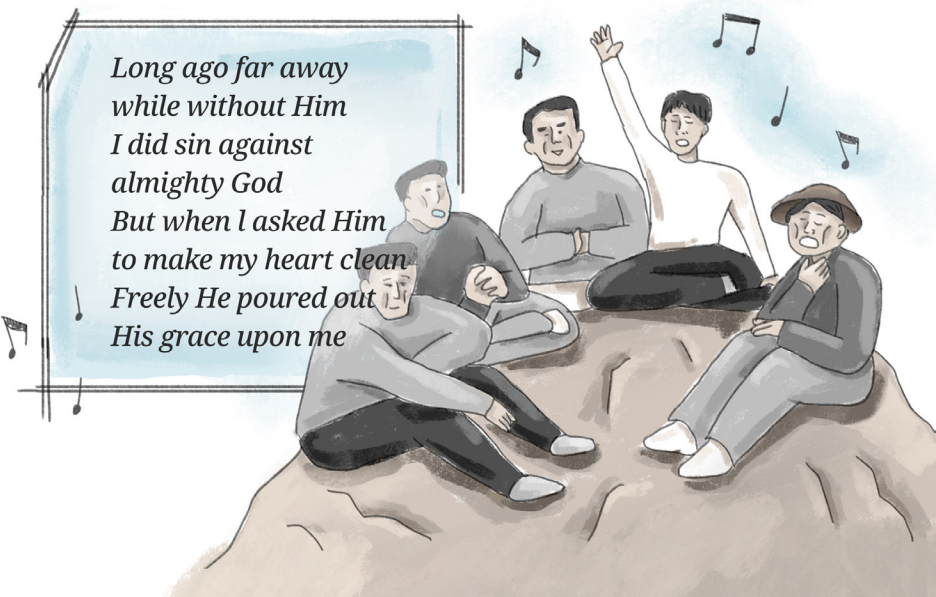
God answered his prayers for his family, and he became more committed to the work of the ministry.



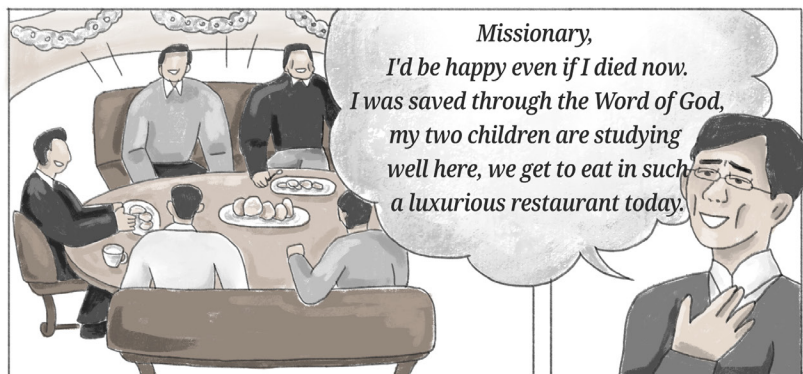
He had times of hardship
when his students
got into trouble,
but he loved
them dearly.

Eventually, through his dedication and hard work, all of his students accepted Jesus and were established as missionaries to North Korea. They climbed to the peak of the mountain and prayed a vow to dedicate themselves to evangelizing North Korea. At this time, He sang the hymn "Long ago far away while without Him" to strengthen his commitment.

*Long ago far away
while without Him
I did sin against
almighty God
But when I asked Him
to make my heart clean
Freely He poured out
His grace upon me*



One day, to discuss the matter of moving the mission homes from Xi'an, all the teachers of the ministry and Missionary Choi Kwang gathered in a hotel restaurant to further discuss and encourage one another.



Everyone who gathered at the place on that day was arrested by the Xi'an public police. They walked in silence toward death, the way of the cross.

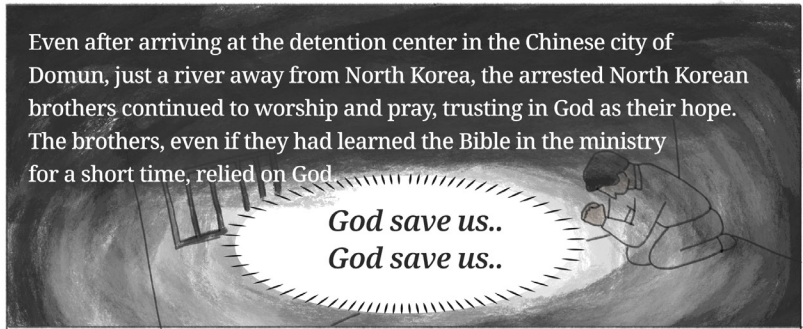


To the children, the last sight of their father was him being handcuffed and taken away by the military police.



Even after arriving at the detention center in the Chinese city of Domun, just a river away from North Korea, the arrested North Korean brothers continued to worship and pray, trusting in God as their hope. The brothers, even if they had learned the Bible in the ministry for a short time, relied on God.

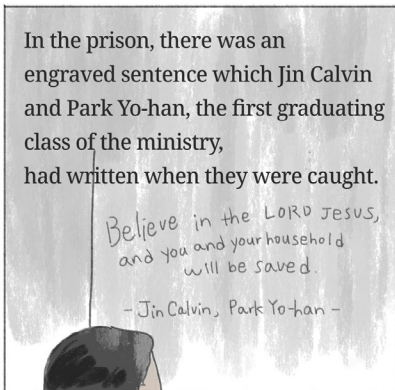
*God save us..
God save us..*



In the prison, there was an engraved sentence which Jin Calvin and Park Yo-han, the first graduating class of the ministry, had written when they were caught.

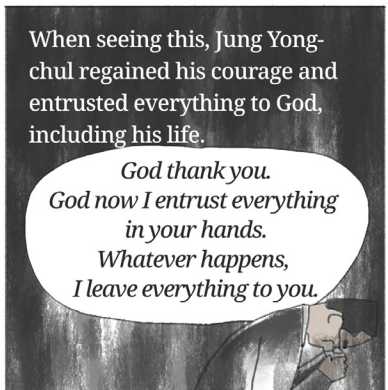
*Believe in the LORD JESUS,
and you and your household
will be saved.*

- Jin Calvin, Park Yo-han -



When seeing this, Jung Yong-chul regained his courage and entrusted everything to God, including his life.

*God thank you.
God now I entrust everything
in your hands.
Whatever happens,
I leave everything to you.*



A week later, the North Korean defectors were all repatriated to North Korea.

We're all dying!

Does God really even exist?



Oh?

Are you guys the angels of that God?



*Hey!
Those of you
who believe
in God,
stand up!*



There was a moment of silence, which broke when Jung Yong-chul stood up. Following him, four of the ministry leaders and two brothers stood up as well. The gun-armed soldiers who were standing in a line stood still and stared at them. As soon as they saw no one else getting up, they dragged the seven people somewhere.

We have never heard about the seven people who were taken away.

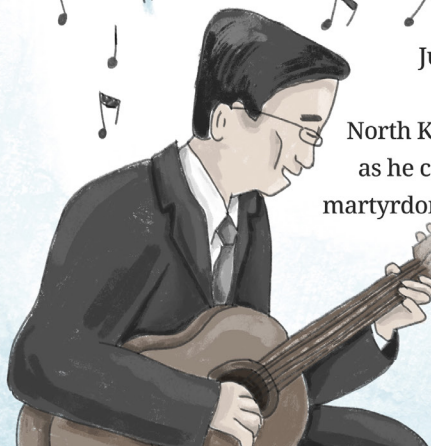
Jung Yong-chul's two children later came to Korea.
Their father gave his life for the kingdom of God and
God took care and raised his two children.
Ha-min, Jung's son, came to the church that
Missionary Choi Kwang had established
for North Korean defectors.



*Long ago far away
while without Him
I did sin against almighty God
But when I asked Him
to make my heart clean
Freely He poured out
His grace upon me*



Jung Yong-chul paved the way
for missionary work in
North Korea with the blood of martyrdom,
as he confessed. The blood of his father's
martyrdom will be passed on to his son's heart,
and he too will be raised
as a great worker for God.







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