



NORTH KOREA *FREEDOM* WEEK

7-DAY PRAYER GUIDE
24-30 APRIL 2011



Open Doors
Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

www.opendoorsuk.org/pray

NORTH KOREA FREEDOM WEEK: PRAYER GUIDE

NORTH KOREA IS NUMBER 1 ON THE WORLD WATCH LIST

In 2011, North Korea is once again top of the Open Doors World Watch List of countries where Christians face the most persecution. It is the most difficult place in the world to be a Christian.

The brutal regime of Kim Jong-Il means that all Christians must hide their faith. Christian parents can't even share their beliefs with their children until they are old enough to understand the dangers.

Owning a Bible could get you killed, or sent to a harsh labour camp. In 2010 hundreds of Christians were arrested. Some were murdered, others sentenced to work in one of the many concentration camps.

Yet despite the risks, and this fierce persecution, the church is growing. There are estimated to be some 400,000 believers today – a truly amazing testimony to the power of the gospel.

NORTH KOREA FREEDOM WEEK

North Korea Freedom Week was begun by the North Korea Freedom Coalition in 2004. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the plight of North Koreans and the abuse of human rights taking place there.

This year the Week is being marked in Seoul, South Korea – but anyone, anywhere can join in through prayer.

"I consider that our present **sufferings** are not worth comparing with the **glory** that will be revealed in us."

Romans 8:18



Open Doors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

www.opendoorsuk.org/pray

NORTH KOREA FREEDOM WEEK: PRAYER GUIDE

PRAY FOR FAMILIES

"Christians have managed to retain the faith"

"It is very encouraging to see how the North Korean Christians are determined to establish God's kingdom in their country. For three generations, through the Korean War and the subsequent persecution, Christians have managed to retain the faith," says Open Doors main contact, Brother Simon.

Lee Joo-Chung is a pastor from North Korea. He grew up in a period when the persecution of Christians became increasingly severe. But despite the difficult circumstances, he saw the strong faith of his parents. "They read the Bible in secret," he says, "but it was too dangerous for them to tell me about the Lord Jesus. Only after my flight from North Korea to China did I come to faith myself."

You can read the full testimony of Lee Joo-Chung at www.opendoorsuk.org/pray

GIVE THANKS:

- For faithful Christian witness through the generations

PLEASE PRAY:

- For strong, loving marriages between North Koreans
- That the children of Christian parents would come to know Jesus
- For emotional and physical provision for Christian families

PRAY FOR REVIVAL

"I want to serve Jesus with all my heart, even if it will cost my life."

"I want to serve Jesus with all my heart, even if it will cost my life," Pastor Lee passionately declared to an Open Doors contact. "My family has paid the ultimate sacrifice for God. In honour of them, I serve the Lord Jesus with my whole heart."

Pastor Lee would like to be able to share the gospel with his fellow countrymen, but because of his Christian activities, it is not possible for him to return to North Korea anymore. He saw how the persecution of Christians began in the early 1950s: "When Kim Il-Sung and his wife wanted to wipe out all Christians, I saw how my parents persevered in the faith. The greater the suppression, the stronger they felt, and they made an effort to help the poor. I was also gripped by the Christian faith, but I was only converted and became a pastor after my flight from North Korea to China."

GIVE THANKS:

- For Christians who have persevered and resisted indoctrination

PLEASE PRAY:

- For wisdom and protection for Christians who are spreading the gospel
- For party officials to come to know Jesus
- For a spiritual breakthrough in North Korea. Pray that many will find new life in Jesus.



DAY 1



DAY 2

image used for illustrative purposes only



Open Doors
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

www.opendoorsuk.org/pray

NORTH KOREA FREEDOM WEEK: PRAYER GUIDE



DAY 3

PRAY FOR PROVISION

"Help my people through the winter!"

"God, please help my people through the harsh winter!" was the heartrending cry of Lee, on his knees with Open Doors workers. The North Koreans are facing a difficult time. They have little food, little clothing and almost no medicines. The North Korean people have already suffered so much. The only ones able to make the necessary preparations for the harsh winters and cruel famines are the elite.

The winter period is a difficult time for ordinary North Koreans. The price of foodstuffs is fluctuating considerably after the revaluation of the won. Normally at this time of year people prepare for the winter by making 'kimchi', a traditional dish of Chinese cabbage, radish, garlic and dried red peppers. Because of the high price of ingredients, only the elite can afford this. For 'ordinary' people, this is almost impossible.

Cabbage costs 100 won a kilogramme, radish costs 150 won a kilogramme, garlic comes to 3,000 won and dried pepper is 3,800 won. The salary of an average worker is about 2,000 won a month. But many people do not even earn this. How are they to survive the winter?

PLEASE PRAY:

- For a more stable economy and lower food prices
- For God's provision for the poor in times of famine and deprivation
- For refuge and protection for the hungry street children.



DAY 4

PRAY FOR PROTECTION

North Koreans cannot trust anyone

Anyone who has had contact with North Koreans has seen the empty and frightened look in their eyes. They do not know who they can trust, because many people are secret agents. Each province has its own security committee, which keeps an eye on local inhabitants. Any false move or statement that does not fit in with the thinking of the regime is punished. A person committing such an offence may end up in a labour camp.

During national festivities and important events, such as the recent party meeting, the security committees carry out more checks and house searches than usual. The additional operations are largely carried out by students who are being trained to become secret agents. The work is lucrative - they are rewarded with a sum of money if they report inhabitants who complain about the leaders, sell smuggled goods, watch South Korean films or make mobile phone calls abroad. And they certainly score if they find North Koreans who are in possession of Bibles or are taking part in religious activities.

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the protection of Christians during house searches
- For supernatural freedom for Christians in God's service
- For secret service agents to come to know Jesus.



OpenDoors
Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

www.opendoorsuk.org/pray

NORTH KOREA FREEDOM WEEK: PRAYER GUIDE

PRAY FOR CHURCHES

"Our church feels strengthened and has grown through your support."

In the 1950s, many pastors and church leaders fled to South Korea after the Korean War. As a result, Christians received less teaching and leadership. Because of persecution, they could only meet together in secret. Now even this has become almost impossible.

Open Doors is working to strengthen the church with Bibles, study materials and training. All this is made possible through the support and prayer of Open Doors supporters.

Church leaders in North Korea would like to thank you sincerely for your love, support and prayers. "I am immensely grateful for your faith and love and for your prayers for us," writes one church leader. "This encourages us to continue our activities for North Korean Christians. We are seeing God's miracles in our country and he is working in every detail of our daily life."

Another church leader is also thankful for your prayers: "Our church feels strengthened and has grown through your support. This is why I am working to strengthen the faith of my brothers and sisters. Despite all the dangers, they continue to follow Jesus. They are also becoming more steadfast in their faith by the teaching that they are receiving through the materials of Open Doors."

GIVE THANKS:

- For the faith and perseverance of North Korean Christians

PLEASE PRAY:

- For courage for church leaders and good teaching to build strong disciples
- For Christians to be able to meet together
- For safety for Christians distributing Christian materials.

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

"It was a living hell."

For many years, Lee was held in a North Korean labour camp. "It was a living hell. We had to work day and night and were given little food." Lee had been a privileged man in North Korea. He was rich and had a high position. Still he was detained. "I ended up there because of my interest in the Christian faith," says Lee. "I had listened to a Christian trader, who had told me the Good News."

At the time of his release from the labour camp and his flight to China, Lee no longer owned a thing. Fortunately, he came into contact with a local Open Doors worker, who shared the gospel with him. Through this, he slowly came to faith in Jesus Christ.

PLEASE PRAY:

- For strength and peace for Christians in labour camps
- For opportunities for Christian prisoners to talk about their faith
- For restoration and healing of sick prisoners.



DAY 5



DAY 6



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

www.opendoorsuk.org/pray

NORTH KOREA FREEDOM WEEK: PRAYER GUIDE



DAY 7

PRAY FOR REFUGEES

God had performed a miracle!

An Open Doors worker met Ching-Su* in China after he had fled there from North Korea. Ching-Su was seriously ill but did not have the money to pay for an operation, so he asked the Open Doors worker to pray for healing of his kidney. During the prayer, Ching-Su felt God touch him. When he went back to the doctors for an examination, to their surprise, the kidney stones had broken up and had largely disappeared, meaning he only had to undergo a simple, affordable operation. God had performed a miracle! Ching-Su now wants to go back to his family in North Korea to tell them his story.

PLEASE PRAY:

- For recovery, healing and God's love for traumatised refugees
- For wisdom for those helping the refugees
- For protection of the refugee networks in China. Pray that spies infiltrating the networks will come to know Jesus.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PRAYERS!

United in Christ,
Open Doors UK & Ireland

*Name changed for security reasons

"Now to him who is able **to do immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, **to him be glory** in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for **ever and ever!** Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21



OpenDoors
Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Further resources to help you pray can be found at:
www.opendoorsuk.org/pray