

Prayer Points for the Chosun People

January-February 2009

1. The government in the DPRK issues a statement on Jan 1, proclaiming some of its goals for the year. Let's pray that many of the people will find hope beyond the goals of the government and in the promises of God. Pray that this Word of hope gets into the North.
2. Winter is very cold in the North. Temperatures can drop below 20 degrees Centigrade, without the wind chill factor. Pray for the people in the North to make it through, find heat and food for the body, and that the Lord would send food for their souls.
3. Chang Sung-Taek seems to be taking a more important role in the leadership of the DPRK, since Kim Jong-II's health problems. 63 year-old Chang is married to Kim Jong-II's younger sister. Some think he is making decisions on behalf of the DPRK's 'Dear Leader.' One ROK official said, "He is very smart, dynamic, with maybe some charisma" (KT, Nov 9). Let's pray for his salvation and that he makes decisions for the best of all the people there.
4. "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him" (Col 1:16). Pray that believers in the North will remember that our God reigns, and that the remaining 98.5% will learn about this sovereign God.
5. The North is in its coldest months. Pray particularly for the young children, who, because of under-nourishment, have little natural resistance against cold and winter viruses. Pray for the efforts of different Christian organisations who bring in clothes, blankets and food to help children make it through the winter.
6. The US government will not send any more heavy fuel to the DPRK until that nation verifies progress in its denuclearization process. The four other nations at the 6-way talks, China, Russia, Japan and the ROK, supported this decision. The US spokesman said that this was all part of the deal, and when the DPRK does its part, the US will do its part ([Reuters, Dec 12](#)). Pray that both nations will keep their word and the N Korean citizens will be warm during these months.
7. Lankov said that in November the DPRK government announced that only agricultural products could be sold at open market. Factory-produced products must be acquired through distribution points. Lankov said the DPRK wants control of the products but also people interacting at the markets (Chosun Ilbo, Dec 9). Pray that the people of the North will be able to get the goods they need and information to connect them with the global community.
8. The DPRK government limited border access at Kaesong from Dec 1. The inter-Korean train that opened in 2007 was also stopped, and tours to the city of Kaesong have been suspended. Pray that things will change and people will be able to visit Kaesong again.
9. In spite of it being a very short period (from Dec 2007 to Nov 2008), a total of 110,000 ROK tourists visited Kaesong on package tours. Praise God; and pray that the testimony of the Christians who visited will bear fruit.
10. Lankov, a long-time DPRK watcher, wondered what might happen if the Koreans would re-unite like Germany did. N Korean citizens, in many ways, are 'frozen' in a world of the 1960s. What will the medical doctors and nurses do? How will the N Koreans adjust? (KT, Oct 31). Pray for a peaceful future of the people of the DPRK.
11. "... if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant" (Col 1:23). Pray that this Gospel will be proclaimed to

every person in the North, by whatever creative means the Lord so desires.

12. Two ROK civic groups were flying anti-North leaflets with one-dollar notes attached. While these leaflets played an informative role for citizens, they also worsened relations on the peninsula (KT, Dec 2). Let's pray the day will soon come when there will be free information exchange on the peninsula.

13. Since ROK President, Lee Myung-Bak, took office February 2008, the DPRK has responded by restricting border access and sending back more than half of all ROK personnel from its tourist areas and joint industrial complex in Kaesong (KT, Dec 2). Pray that relationships related to Kaesong improve.

14. Pray that the six-party talks continue and make progress. Half of the six nations, Japan, the ROK and the US, selected new leaders in 2008 (the other nations are the DPRK, Russia and China). As a result the Pyongyang government is changing attitude and policy. Pray for peaceful ways of resolving the problems.

15. December saw the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and many groups made extra efforts to highlight the dire conditions for many people living in the DPRK (Korean Herald, Dec 9). Let's pray that conditions in the North improve both physically and spiritually.

16. Feb 16 is Kim Jong-Il's 68th birthday. Pray for his physical health and his salvation. Pray that the leader of the DPRK would recognize that he is under the sovereign leadership of God.

17. "It is impossible to resist publicly the [government]. The control [is] ... beyond our imagination," said Park In-Ho ([NK's Economy, BBC, August 08](#)). Many things are beyond our imagination in the DPRK. Pray protection over the people. May those of us who long for justice pray without ceasing for the people who need it most.

18. "... So that they may offer sacrifices pleasing to the God of heaven and pray for the well-being of the king and his sons" (Ezra 6:10). Pray that the disciples in the North will honor and worship the God of heaven, be good citizens and pray for the conversion of the leader and his family.

19. Talking about the relationship between the two Koreas, Shen Ding Li, a security expert at a university in Shanghai, said, "The fundamental problem is that they don't have any point where they both can meet...[it's at its] worst point in the last 10 years (KT, Nov 20). Pray that the relationship between the North and South will greatly improve.

20. "At the northern frontier with China, trade is thriving, and [money] can often buy passage across the border for North Koreans wishing to buy goods, visit family or flee the country" ([NK's Economy, BBC, August 08](#)). Pray for the interaction that N Koreans have with the outside world, and that many will meet Chinese Christians who will plant seeds of truth in their hearts.

21. YUST (Yanbian University of Science and Technology) in northeast China has many Korean-Chinese students. It has a "Yanbian International Academy (YIA)" for the children of its professors, set up as an American-style school, grades 1-8. This school needs more teachers and a new headmaster. Pray with YUST and YIA for more teachers and a new headmaster. If you know of anyone who could go, please let us know.

22. Yanbian University is a Chinese university in the city of Yanji in northeast China, looking for English teachers. Pray that Christian teachers with a heart for the people in the area would apply and go.

23. Pray for Barak Obama, that his DPRK policy will be marked by wisdom, courage, justice and concern for the good of those who suffer in this country.

24. Pray for a growing interest among S Korean Christians to learn about and pray for

North Chosun and take part in Christian relief efforts. Pray that churches in the South will become humble bridge builders of trust and respect between the people of North and South.

25. "You still the hunger of those you cherish; their sons have plenty, and they store up wealth for their children" (Ps 17:14b). Pray that the Lord will still the hunger of those He cherishes in the North, both their physical hunger and their spiritual hunger. Hope is as important to people as rice and bread are.

26. One non-Korean disciple who has a heart for the people of North Chosun wrote the following in a "letter" to the people of that land: "The world has been taught to fear you or to pity you, but rarely to love you. I love you and am telling you tonight that whatever is in store for us, I can't forget you." Pray that the people learn of God's love for them through His followers from whatever country.

27. Pray for the continuing protection of workers who enter the North on a regular basis. Pray they will have wisdom to know how to handle sensitive situations and that they will enjoy good health while in a country with little medical facilities.

28. Pray for the children of N Korean Christians. Teaching children about Christ is very risky. Pray that parents will find a way to bring their children to Jesus and for God's protection to be on these families.

29. There is a Bible translation adapted to DPRK language but it is under the control of the state and only available to people in the state-sponsored churches. Hence, most people in the land do not have access to it. Let us pray that the Bible becomes available to everyone in the North.

30. "Give us counsel, render a decision. Make your shadow like night— at high noon. Hide the fugitives, do not betray the refugees" (Is 16:3). Pray for each of us with a heart for the North to receive counsel from God and be obedient to these words. Pray too that God

would provide protectors, together with relief and rest as a shadow does at high noon.

31. Disciples in the DPRK face difficulties because of their faith. Let us pray that the Lord would strengthen the churches which are registered with the government and those that are not.