

Prayer Points for the Chosun People

May-June 2009

1. May Day is celebrated on May 1 in many countries around the world, a day on which socialist and communist countries claim to honor the workers. May 1 is a public holiday in the DPRK. Pray that workers there will be treated fairly and seek the God who gave them the ability to work.
2. Pray for those who suffer personally from the separation of the nation: those with family in the North, those with painful memories of the war and those originally from the North, who are practically powerless to help their people.
3. "Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done" (1 Chron 16:8). Pray that Christians in and near the North will make known there how great is our God and what He has done, in Bible times, in history, and what He is doing now.
4. The DPRK soccer team may be making a comeback! Due to recent improved rankings, they may be in the 2010 World Cup (Korea Times, Mar 31). Pray that such events would improve relationships between the DPRK and other nations.
5. May 5 is Children's Day in the ROK. Pray for children in the North, that they would have a normal childhood with play and food and also be able to learn of the Lord Jesus who loves children.
6. According to former bodyguard, Young-kuk Lee, the Dear Leader enjoys a private indoor swimming pool with a wave machine, a seven-story pleasure palace equipped with bar, karaoke machine and a mini movie theater (KT, Apr 5). Pray for God to open his heart to the needs of his people.
7. After the DPRK's attempted satellite launch in early April, it is clear that its missile technology has progressed: "The North makes a lot of money by selling its missile technology, and now it has shown that its ability has improved," said Professor Yang Moo-jin of the University of North Korean Studies, Seoul (KT, Apr 7). Let's pray for the day to come when this nation pours more money and energy into the physical and spiritual well being of its people.
8. Several temporary border closures and the detention of an ROK worker in March frustrated the work done at the Kaesong joint industrial complex, just over the border in the North. Pray for the safety of the S Koreans working there and that they may be able to return to their homes freely.
9. Kaesong is the last remaining achievement in the area of inter-Korean relations that was made during the "sunshine policy" of earlier presidents.

Apart from a huge financial investment of the South, it also has a strong symbolic value. Therefore, the ROK will not be quick to close the complex even if there are some problems. Pray that the ROK government would be wise in handling these situations.

10. "... Acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever" (1 Chron 28:9). Pray that many in the North will seek God, and that God will send the Word to them so they can find Him.

11. Praise God for the high concentration of Christians among aid workers serving N Koreans. Pray for their strength and endurance, and that many would come to faith through their witness.

12. The DPRK decided to no longer accept food aid from the US, stopping a program already in progress; and those monitoring distribution had to leave the country. Pray that relations between the US and DPRK will improve enough for aid to be resumed.

13. Pray that the Christians in the North will be light and salt for the Lord Jesus there.

14. According to a leader of the Committee for the Democratization of North Korea, the DPRK spent over \$500 million to fire the rocket in April (KT, Apr 7): "The Kim Jong-il government chose to spend two years worth of food on a scheme to sustain power . . ." Pray that God will work so that the country develops righteous priorities.

15. Pray that the leaders of the UN Security Council, China, Russia, Japan, the ROK, and the United States will seek to better understand the DPRK as they work towards better relations with the North ("What will North Korea do next after rocket launch?" Reuters, Apr 6)

16. The European Union has confiscated millions of dollars deposited by the DPRK to buy two Italian luxury yachts due to the uncertain source of the capital and the DPRK's violation of UN Sanction 1718 (KT, Apr 5). Let's pray that the riches of the gospel will soon reach the shores of that nation once again.

17. "The Lord provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever" (Ps 111:5). Pray that the Lord will provide food for those who revere Him in the North, food for their bodies and souls.

18. After the latest rocket launch, the ROK, together with the USA and Japan, was strongly considering reprimanding the DPRK with new UN sanctions (KT, Apr 7). Pray that any new pressure will bring the desired results and ultimately lead to divine peace both inside and outside of the DPRK.

19. Pray for protection over those N Koreans who cross the border and have contact with Christians. Pray that those who return to their home country would be able to witness boldly yet wisely.

20. Pray that those N Koreans who find their way to new countries will see the Christian church there and understand that Christianity is meant for N Koreans and not just for those in S Korea.

21. One 20 year-old lady from the DPRK who has come out and is living in the US, is grateful for her new life there. She studies during the day, works at night and appreciates the educational opportunities she has there. She is glad that there is a growing interest in the DPRK and its living conditions (KT Mar 7). Praise God that this lady has adjusted well; and pray that Christians will share the love of God and Word of God with her and with N Koreans settling in other countries.

22. A picture of Leader Kim Jong-Il released by Chinese media in March shows a thinner Kim than 1½ years earlier. Experts say that the weight loss could be due to a stroke (KT Mar 22). Pray for Kim's physical and spiritual health and that he will realise his spiritual health is more important; pray that he will seek God and seek a Bible. Pray for his salvation.

23. Many people are concerned about human rights in the DPRK. The 9th International Conference on North Korean Human Rights and Refugees was held in Melbourne, Australia, March 20-21. God creating us in His image (Gen 1: 11) is the basis of human rights. All of us are precious and have the right to be treated as such. Pray that people in the North will be treated as precious people created in God's image.

24. "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him ..." (2 Chron 16:9) Pray that the Lord will strengthen those in the North whose hearts are committed to Him and help them to persevere for Him.

25. June 25 is the anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950. Many Christians in the ROK pray for the North and reunification on this day. Let us pray that people in the North will be free to seek and worship God again, and that He would unite the believers on the Korean peninsula.

26. "My heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved" (Romans 10:1). Let us pray that for the people of the North.

27. In the early 20th century, Koreans associated Protestantism with modernity and progress. "Christians still only composed 1-2% of the population, but many of that group were intellectuals and professionals" (from the article). Pray that people from every class in the North would follow Jesus.

28. N Koreans embraced religion with exceptional zeal in the early 20th century. Pray for those today who have been exposed to the gospel and for those who have yet to hear, that they would hear and freely embrace God's love for them!

29. Looking at the history of the church on the Korean peninsula dating from the 1880s and even before, for many years, especially from 1900-1945, the church was stronger in the north. Let us pray that the believers in the North today may learn of that rich church heritage and be encouraged by it.

30. Many believers in the North get fellowship only in very small groups. Pray for these little groups to know the presence and power of our Lord and live out their faith in Christ in their lives.

31. "My Father has handed over everything to me. Indeed, no one fully knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son wishes to reveal him" (Lk 10:22, Jewish New Testament). Pray that many in the North would seek God the Father, and that the Son would reveal Him to them.

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