

PRAY 40NK

NORTH KOREA

Day 1 ~ The Church

Little is known about the underground church in North Korea. Due to the secrecy of their work, it is unclear how active they are. The North Korean government is aggressive in persecuting the Church because they perceive it to be the primary threat to their power. Please pray for the church in North Korea, that they would flourish and that God would give them strength to endure this persecution.

Jeremiah 20:11

Day 2 ~ Spiritual Hunger

To the North Korean people, Kim Il Sung and his lineage are proclaimed as gods. But the truth of the Kim family's lies has begun spreading within the nation. This realization often leaves many North Koreans with a painful hole in their hearts. Many have spent their entire lives worshipping these false idols. Today, please pray for the existential crisis that the North Korean people face and that the gospel would shine in the midst of their search for truth.

Matthew 5:6

Day 3 ~ Physical Hunger

North Koreans are no longer starving as they did in the famine of the 90s, but they are still in great danger. The country struggles to feed its people and global food aid is waning. Let's pray today that God would address the physical needs of the North Korean people, many of whom are starving and in abject poverty.

Matthew 25:35

Day 4 ~ Prison Camps

North Korea holds 80,000 to 120,000 of its own people in a ruthless system of political prison camps. Citizens are sentenced for the slightest offenses, such as failing to maintain portraits of their leaders in their homes. Some prisoners do not even understand why they have been imprisoned. Many refugees we have helped have been to these prison camps and have suffered there for years. Today, let's pray for the captives of North Korea, especially for those who have been imprisoned for their faith.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Day 5 ~ Missionaries/Safety

There are currently hundreds of Christian missionaries doing business in North Korea. These missionaries understand that they will be imprisoned if they share their faith. The government may even incarcerate them and use them as pawns. Nevertheless, these missionaries continue in their efforts. Today, let us pray for these brave individuals. Pray that they would shine the light of Christ through their love and faithful Kingdom work.

Romans 10:14-15

Day 6 ~ Persecution

In persecution, Paul saw MORE of Christ. He took delight in persevering in the name of Jesus. Persecution itself is often described as a gift to the Church. We have seen this the case of China, where persecution made the church grow. As the North Korean government battles to weaken the Church, let's pray that these efforts would do the opposite – that God would use the enemy's work to stifle the gospel as fuel for the fire of Christian revival.

2 Corinthians 12:10

Day 7 ~ Leadership

Isaiah 45:23 states, "Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear." Though North Korea's leadership has tried to wipe out the name of Jesus, we know that one day all men will acknowledge God. Today, let's pray that this would be voluntary. Please pray that the leadership of North Korea would accept God's mercy and repent of their sins.

Ephesians 6:10-18

CHINA

Day 8 ~ The Communist Party

The communist party in China sets the law of the land and, in many ways, allows the suffering of North Korean refugees who call China their home. As we prayed for North Korea's leadership, let's pray for China's today. Their driving force is to maintain power in China. Let's pray for more believers in leadership. Pray for them to change their policy toward North Korean refugees.

Psalms 22:27-28

Day 9 ~ China's Support for North Korea

China uses North Korea as a shield from the 20,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea. This is one of the most important motivations for the Chinese government to keep the North Korean regime in power, even as the nation's people endure abuse and tyranny. Let's pray that China would put an end to their support of the North Korean government and help put an end to the suffering of the North Korean people.

1 Corinthians 15:24

Pray continually. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Day 10 ~ Callous, Material Hearts

China's economy has grown exponentially over the past 20 years. This has brought countless benefits to its people but with a heavy cost. One cost is that many Chinese business owners and citizens have been overcome by an insatiable craving for economic gain, no matter the cost. This mentality has contributed heavily to the continued exploitation of North Korean refugees who are denied human rights, used as cheap labor to further wealth or submitted to authorities for monetary rewards. Let's pray against this spirit of cruel materialism in China and ask that God would fill the people's hearts with kindness and compassion.

Hebrews 13:5-6

Day 11 ~ Effects of the One-Child Policy

To control its population of 1.4 billion people, China instituted the One-Child Policy in the 70s. In 2015, China changed this into the Two-Child Policy. Nevertheless, this law has been the cause of 336 million forced abortions and an incalculable number of voluntary abortions among families throughout the years. This policy is also the main driver of the gender disparity in China, which has resulted in the sale of tens-of-thousands of North Korean refugee women. Today, let's pray that God will bring grace to China and that the trafficking of these refugees will come to an end.

Psalms 139:13-18

Day 12 ~ The Church

The Chinese Church is the fastest growing church in the world. Like North Korea, China once made many attempts to stomp out the Church. However, seeing the futility of its efforts, China has changed these policies in recent years and has allowed the Church to operate under specific conditions. The Church in China has been a powerful ally to organizations seeking to help North Korean refugees. Let's pray that the Church in China would continue to flourish and grow so that they may do good works, not only in China but around the world.

Acts 2:42-47

Day 13 ~ Human Rights

Though there have been recent signs of improvement, China has a horrible human rights record. Though it is a member of the U.N. Security Council, it has made no effort to adhere to the proper treatment of refugees. Not only have they not granted human rights to North Korean refugees, but they continue to stifle voices of concern or dissent. Let's pray for the Chinese government to its change course and grant basic human rights to its people and refugees who enter the country.

Proverbs 31:8-9

Day 14 ~ Global Pressure

China's economic strength and political power continues to grow globally. Because of its steadily rising international status, the Chinese government has thus far successfully silenced the refugee crisis within its borders, skirting any demands to accept North Korean refugees into the country. Today, it continues its policy of forced deportation without contest. As the nation continues to expand its influence, it will become more difficult to challenge these abuses. Let's pray that countries around the world will no longer allow China's government to continue such practices, placing pressure on the nation's government to correct its wrongs. *Isaiah 10:1-4*

NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES IN CHINA

Day 15 ~ Human Rights

As we prayed last week, the many human rights abuses in China have a profound effect on North Korean refugees. It is in fact legal to murder a North Korean refugee in China, according to our workers on the field. North Korean refugees, especially women, endure many laws that continue oppress and mistreat them. Today, let's pray for the pray for the estimated 200,000 people who are crushed by China's policies. People who continue to suffer to this day. *Psalms 82:3-4*

Day 16 ~ Sex Trafficking

70 percent of North Korean refugees are women and 80 percent of these women have been trafficked. Most of these women have been sold as forced brides to supplement China's gender gap. Some of these marriages are abusive. Some of them are healthier. But the fact remains that these women have no rights or means of redress, that they are essentially property. Let's pray for the women who have been sold, that God would free them from this oppression. *Colossians 3:19*

Day 17 ~ Broken Families

As Chinese authorities continue a policy to ruthlessly hunt down and deport refugees, many North Korean parents are torn from their children, leaving them to survive alone. North Korean women who have been sold into abusive marriages often find themselves in the position of having to leave their children behind as they desperately flee for their lives. These families need our prayers. Let's pray today that God would end the suffering of refugee families in China. Let's also pray that God would bring consolation and healing to those who have lost their loved ones. *Psalms 103:17-18*

Day 18 ~ Comfort In Fear

Many North Korean refugees live in perpetual fear of traffickers, forced repatriation and sometimes the husbands to whom they are sold. In our medical assessment of North Korean refugees, we found that many suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Crossing Borders has found that, more than anything, North Korean refugees need the loving compassion of Christ. Please pray that the church in China and organizations like ours would continue to show this comfort to more and more of these people. *Joshua 1:9*

Day 19 ~ The Church

China's church has been a powerful force of change in the country. They have also been of great service to North Korean refugees. But the church is not monolithic. There are corrupt churches, pastors and members who also seek to exploit these refugees under the ruse of compassion. Let's pray for the Chinese church to be active in protecting and helping these North Korean refugees who desperately need help, and that God would save refugees from the snares of false teachers. *Psalms 7:1*

Day 20 ~ The Underground Railroad

The Modern Day Underground Railroad is operated by a variety of entities, some with good intentions, some for profit. This Underground Railroad stretches from North Korea through Southeast Asia, where the refugees are granted refugee status and sent to other countries, usually South Korea. Attempting this escape is a dangerous journey where refugees can be captured and sent back to North Korea at any point along the way. Let's pray for the North Koreans who take this path. Pray for safety. Pray for compassion from the people who guide them. Pray for freedom. *Isaiah 40:31*

Day 21 ~ "Marriages"

As we mentioned on Thursday's post, some of the marriages that North Korean refugees are sold into are good ones. Some of them are abusive. One of the biggest barriers to creating a sustainable life in China for North Korean women are the men that they are married to. Today, let's pray for these marriages and the children that are a result of them. Pray that God would be honored in them and for the ones that are abusive, that God would protect the women affected. *Proverbs 18:22*

NORTH KOREAN ORPHANS

Day 22 ~ Protection

One of the results of forced marriages and China's policy toward North Korean refugees is that many children are orphaned. Many of these children are at risk because their mothers are repatriated or abandon them. Remember that it is the poorest of the poor in China who have to turn to the open market for wives. It is for this reason that many of these orphaned children live in abject poverty. Let's pray that God would protect these children and give them hope for the future. *Psalms 5:11*

Day 23 ~ Nurturing

Without mothers around to nurture them, orphaned children of North Korean refugees are often neglected. A pediatrician who has helped Crossing Borders bring medical care to the field said that children need two things to grow: 1. Food and 2. Nurturing. This is evident for children in our care who live with an unnurturing father, many of whom are dramatically weaker and smaller than their peers. Today, let's pray for these children who grow up without their mothers. Pray for God to bring nurturing figures and loving care into their lives. *Matthew 19:14*

Day 24 ~ Education

A strong education is vital to bring refugee children out of poverty. There are about 30,000 of these children in China, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Many of their families lack the resources to send these children to school. Please pray that their poverty would be eased and that they would find means to receive a quality education. *Proverbs 18:15*

Day 25 ~ Family

Most North Korean orphans live with a close family relative. We have found that these children receive varying degrees of attention and care. Some are left to themselves most of the time. Please pray for these individuals who are entrusted to care for these children. Pray that they would know God and that they would teach these children Biblical principles. *Joshua 24:15*

Day 26 ~ Abuse

Today let's pray for the North Korean orphans who are abused. No one knows how many there are but we have found abuse common for these children. Let's pray for protection. Pray for hope. *Matthew 9:36*

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. *Psalms 4:1*

☐ Day 27 ~ Future Plans

Even if North Korean orphans have access to quality education, many do not have plans for their future. Crossing Borders is currently working with orphans in our network in this situation. It is our hope that these children will not only receive blessings but will be able to give an exponential amount back to their communities and other children like them. Please pray that these children would have hope for their future and that God would use people in their lives to encourage them to be the people God made them to be.

Jeremiah 29:11

☐ Day 28 ~ The Church

The Church in China has been actively helping these children. Let's pray for these support networks that are often understaffed and overwhelmed by the need. Pray that God would give strength to the churches and people who help.

Matthew 16:18

THE GLOBAL CHURCH

☐ Day 29 ~ Awareness

Let's pray today for the Church around the world to be educated about North Korean refugees and their children in China and that God would release the people and resources to address this great need.

James 1:27

☐ Day 30 ~ Prayer

Prayer is one of the primary means through which God works. We have gone through a great number of concerns. This situation needs more prayer. Let's pray that God would burden the hearts of people around the world to address this issue in prayer.

Matthew 7:7-12

☐ Day 31 ~ Compassion

As the church learns more about the situation and prays, it will lead believers to be active in addressing the needs of these people. This crisis is overwhelming but not impossible. We know that God uses his people to move in the lives of those in need. We know that our God is sovereign and loving. Let's pray that God would spark a great wave of compassion that leads to action.

James 2:14-17

☐ Day 32 ~ Missionaries

One of Crossing Borders' greatest needs is finding qualified people to devote their lives to help in China. Please pray for us and the need. We need faithful laborers more than money. Please pray that God would send workers to this harvest field.

Matthew 28:16-20

GOD'S GLORY

☐ Day 33 ~ A Greater Promise

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, the people cried "Hosanna in the highest." Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of the Bible translates the phrase as, "Praise God and his Messiah, we are saved." The people of Israel thought that Jesus would save the people of Israel from political oppression. But God had something greater in mind. Though we face similar challenges of oppression and political power today, we believe God has His plan in motion. Let's submit ourselves to Him. His power and understanding is far above our own.

Matthew 21:1-11

Look to the LORD
and his strength;
seek his face always.
1 Chronicles 16:11

☐ Day 34 ~ Passion For His People

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he went to the temple and fiercely cleared away those who were inhibiting his people from encountering their God. Today, let us remember that God's passion to reach out to the North Korean people is far greater than our own. He fervently wants His people there to worship Him. Let's praise God today because He loves the North Korean people more than we can imagine.

Luke 19:45-46

☐ Day 35 ~ A Servant King

Jesus washed his disciples' feet. Think about how shocking it must have been for the disciples as their teacher - a man who healed the sick, calmed the seas, cast out demons, raised the dead - now lowered himself to wash the dirtiest part of their body. Jesus set the example for humility and service. Then he called for his disciples to wash one another's feet, to love and to serve as he showed them to do. Let's praise our Almighty God for His humble service to us. Let's also pray that our response to his love will be to love others with Him, who will serve as we can never serve.

John 13:1-17

☐ Day 36 ~ Abandoned And Betrayed

Jesus died abandoned by most of His closest friends. Judas sold Him for a sack of money. Peter denied knowing Him. Most of His disciples ran. And yet He did not run from them. Though the leaders of North Korea work to actively wipe out the name of Jesus in their country, He will not abandon them. There is hope for even the worst sinner. Let us praise God for the amazing mercy He shows to all people who turn from Him.

John 13:18-38

MAUNDY THURSDAY

☐ Day 37 ~ Always Faithful

As Jesus struggled in the Garden of Gethsemane, he asked for the cup of suffering to be taken from him. Yet he did not turn away from God's will. He was and is always faithful to the Father's will. As we remember Jesus' struggle, let us thank him that he did not turn away from the will of God, choosing, by his own volition, death on a cross.

Mark 14:36

GOOD FRIDAY

☐ Day 38 ~ Forsaken On Our Behalf

On the cross, Jesus cried, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" He suffered as we will never suffer. He died as we will never die. Today let us thank Jesus for his work on the cross.

Mark 15:21-32

☐ Day 39 ~ Always Working

Even in the darkest moments, God is with us. Imagine the devastation and despair Jesus' disciples felt as they mourned the loss of their teacher and friend. But God was at work. Today, let's praise the Lord for His constant movement and ask for faith knowing that He is working in every situation for His glory.

Isaiah 41:8-10

EASTER SUNDAY

☐ Day 40 ~ Conqueror

Jesus conquered death and the grave. Not only did he die on our behalf, he conquered sin itself for us. He our hope. Let's praise God today for our new life. North Korea, China, all nations are under His control.

John 11:25-26

