

Background for Prayer

"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.

Ezekiel 22:30



Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea today, was once known as the “Jerusalem of the East.” When Christianity first took root on the Korean peninsula, it flourished largely in the north. August 15, 1945 or 8.15, is celebrated as Korea’s “Independence Day,” when Korea was liberated from 35 years of Japanese occupation. It was also the day that Korea was divided along the 38th parallel by representatives of the Soviet and U.S. governments. That division became entrenched during the Korean War. It ended in a cease-fire with the Korean Armistice Agreement – a permanent peace treaty was never signed.

Today, along with geopolitical, cultural, and socio-economic divergence, a stark spiritual division also exists on the Korean peninsula – with South Korea enjoying freedom and the flourishing of Christianity, and North Korea experiencing relative deprivation and spiritual darkness. The Church that once blossomed in the north faces immense suffering and persecution. However, God is still alive in North Korea, and a faithful remnant remains. And God is on the move gathering His people to re-establish His Jerusalem of the East and bring blessing to their society.

The legacy of division continues to impact Korea. Millions of families were torn apart during the war. Many people, now old and dying, will tragically never be reunited with their loved ones. Though Koreans say that North and South Koreans are actually one people with one wish for reunification, we hear heartbreaking stories of resettled North Koreans experiencing discrimination and ostracization in South Korean society. Even among God’s people, we hear of divisive arguments about how to approach North Korea, and even how to work together.

Join us as we pray God’s justice and peace over the Korean peninsula.

Korean Timeline

- 11.7.1905 Korea is made a “Protectorate” of Japan. Five year later, Japan annexes Korea.
- 8.15.1945 Following Japan’s surrender, Korea is divided along the 38th Parallel by USA and USSR.
- 6.25.1950 Kim Il Sung invades South Korea and the Korean War starts.
- 7.8.1994 Kim Il Sung dies three weeks after meeting with President Jimmy Carter.
- 12.17.2011 Kim Jong Il dies unexpectedly and Kim Jong Un succeeds him.
- 1.6.2016 DPRK conducts its fourth nuclear test. Shortly after, in the same year, the fifth and the six nuclear tests are carried out.
- 5.10.2017 Moon Jae-In is elected as the new President of South Korea.

August 15, 1945 marks when Korea’s North and South were divided along the 38th Parallel.

PRAY: Fridays at 12

For Peace on the Korean Peninsula

#forjustpeace | #NorthKorea

On March 27, more than 90 evangelical leaders and pastors from across the political spectrum called Christians everywhere to prayer

At 12pm on Fridays, wherever we are, we will stop and pray for peace on the Korean Peninsula. Will you join us?

The signatories ask Christians everywhere to join in prayer for:

- **Permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula:**
 - the avoidance of military conflict; and
 - the emergence of conditions on the Korean Peninsula that allow for flourishing relationships between each individual and 1) God; 2) others; 3) oneself; and 4) all of creation;
- **A just and peaceful resolution** to current tensions, including:
 - wisdom for our political, diplomatic and military leaders as they work across differences toward a goal of peace, security and freedom;
 - wisdom among leaders from North Korea, South Korea and China, that God's people on the peninsula and in the US might live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness; and
 - for God's kingdom to come on the Korean peninsula and His will be done there as it is in heaven;
- **Mercy from God** over the Korean Peninsula;
- **Blessing from God** on the efforts of citizens who seek to bridge the vast differences between our countries and guidance for American evangelicals who pursue this work;
- **The American church to demonstrate empathy** toward the people of the Korean Peninsula, praying in a spirit of friendship, noting the image of God in every human being.

Will you urge your communities and networks to join together on Fridays at 12 pm, wherever you are, to pray for Peace on the Korean Peninsula?

Let people know you prayed #forjustpeace.

[Check out this webpage](#) for more perspective on these matters from leaders in the Korean evangelical community. Their opinions on things vary just as they do among signatories to this call to prayer. They ask for prayer that Korean churches in South Korea and the diaspora, together in unity with the global church, will *not give Him rest* until the "Jerusalem of the East" is restored.