

Prayer Diary: North Korea

3-9 November 2024



What does 'church' look like in North Korea?

There are a small number of churches in Pyongyang, but these exist largely for propaganda. Only a select group is allowed to attend, such as foreigners or those known to be loyal to the regime. In the words of a North Korean defector: 'They are fake, totally fake.'

Our research shows that there is some kind of 'underground church', but it is not like other countries. It's understood that groups operate on a very small scale – a handful of people or even just within families – and a high level of secrecy.

One expert we interviewed said that, from his experience, North Korean Christians are 'not waiting for the current regime to blow over and find a more suitable time to be Christian.'

Find out more at csw.org.uk/NorthKoreaReport2024

Please pray:

1. For the safety and encouragement of Christians in North Korea, and for those who have managed to escape.
2. That China would stop illegally repatriating North Korean refugees – returning them to certain danger.
3. For the immediate, unconditional release of all currently detained in prison camps.
4. For three South Korean missionaries who are serving life sentences in North Korea – detained incommunicado. Pray urgently for their whereabouts to be made known:
 - Pastor Kim Jung-wook (arrested October 2013)
 - Pastor Kim Kook-kie (arrested October 2014)
 - Pastor Choi Chun-gil (arrested December 2014)
5. For an end to the violent, targeted persecution of Christians across the nation. Although all religions and beliefs are repressed under the Kim regime, Christianity is particularly targeted.

Sunday 3 November: International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Join our online prayer gathering, together with the Evangelical Alliance, Open Doors and Release International. Visit csw.org.uk/IDOP to book your free place.