

Prayer Diary: North Korea

30 August-5 September 2026

Sunday 30 August

Today is the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance. Take a moment to remember those whose whereabouts are unknown, like Kim Cheol-ok. She was sent back to North Korea from China in 2023, having escaped in the late '90s. Pray for her sister, Kyu Li, and others who are missing loved ones.

Monday 31 August

Those who manage to escape North Korea must pass through China, where they are at risk of being detained and forcibly repatriated. The Chinese administration knows this is illegal, and that they are returning them to certain danger. Pray that China would change its policy and stop returning North Korean refugees.

Tuesday 1 September

The US government has long been a champion of the North Korean people, particularly through the 2004 North Korean Human Rights Act. This bill supports refugees and human rights activities, but has not been funded by the current administration and lies dormant. Pray that funding will be restored to help protect the vulnerable.

Wednesday 2 September

North Koreans face great difficulty in acclimatising to life outside of their country. They can often face social, economic and educational barriers when adjusting to life in places like South Korea. Ask God to provide communities of support and a hopeful future.

Thursday 3 September

North Korea is the most closed, isolated and repressive state in the world. And since 2020, it has been even more challenging for information to flow into the country. Pray that news of the outside world will reach North Korean citizens in creative and covert ways – stirring hope and inspiring change.

Friday 4 September

Three South Korean missionaries – Kim Jeong-wook, Kim Guk-gi and Choi Chun-gil – have been imprisoned in brutal conditions in North Korea since 2013. Pray they would feel God's comfort and presence today, and that they would be released and re-united with their families very soon.

Saturday 5 September

In 2 Corinthians 1, Paul writes that they experienced so much pressure that they 'despaired of life itself.' Yet he sets his hope on God, affirming: 'He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again.' Pray boldly for deliverance from persecution, and hope instead of despair. Remember the brave Christians who take extreme risks to practise their faith – knowing that gathering for worship, owning a Bible or praying could result in years of jail time and hard labour.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/northkorea

'In places too dark for the world to see, North Koreans have begun to sprout seeds of freedom in their own quiet ways... As long as they have not given up on themselves, we must not give up on them.'

Ju Il-Lyong, defector and activist