

WAKE UP TO EXTREME PERSECUTION

North Korea is the hardest place in the world to be a Christian. The regime's total war on Christianity means that for years it has topped the Open Doors World Watch List – the list of countries where faith costs the most.

In this resource you will find daily readings and prayers to help you pray with the underground church in North Korea.

You will also find weekly actions: ways to 'live like a North Korean' that will act as windows into the world of the North Korean church, a church which every day is learning how to express the Christian faith in a country which is like no other on earth.

It's time to wake up the world to the extreme persecution that is a daily reality for believers in North Korea and around the world. Will you live, give and pray like a North Korean through this **40 Day Faith Challenge**? Will you join the secret global network that is delivering hope and strengthening the persecuted church in over 60 countries?

Discover more about the World Watch List, along with its amazing content, stories and inspiring ways to connect, support and pray for your persecuted family. Visit us online at: www.opendoorsca.org

OpenDoors®

SERVING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

Open Doors Canada
Registered as a Charity in Canada
Registered Charity No 11906 8799 RR0001
© Open Doors 2018

 (905) 636-0944
 opendoorsca@odcan.org

LIVE LIKE A NORTH KOREAN



40-DAY
FAITH
Challenge
OpenDoors®

SERVING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

IMAGINE A LAND...

- ◆ Where it is almost impossible to be a Christian.
- ◆ Where the state decides where you live, what work you do, what food you eat – *whether* you eat.
- ◆ Where the streets and the buildings are dominated by enormous propaganda images.
- ◆ Where the Great Leader has been dead for 24 years but is still president and where his starving followers must worship him, his son and his grandson as gods.
- ◆ Where spies are everywhere, and parents are nervous about what to tell their children.
- ◆ Where disloyalty can send you to horrific labour camps to be literally worked to death.
- ◆ Where millions are spent on developing nuclear missiles while people starve.
- ◆ Where Christians are condemned, imprisoned and killed but hundreds of thousands of people worship Jesus in secret.

WELCOME TO NORTH KOREA.

40 DAY CHALLENGE PLUS

This 40 Day Faith Challenge was designed to be used for 40 weekdays, allowing for a break on Sundays. However, for maximum flexibility, we have included 6 extra days in case you want to include Sundays in your challenge. This also makes it an great resource for Lent, as a way to prepare our hearts for the glorious celebration of Easter. Whichever way you use it; our prayer is that your faith will be challenged and that you will abound in the pure joy that our persecuted church family experience in the midst of their suffering.

ARE YOU READY TO LIVE LIKE A NORTH KOREAN?

In this resource you will find daily readings and prayers to help you pray with the underground church in North Korea.

It shows the hardship, pain and suffering of North Korean believers, but also their joy, courage and faith – because, amazingly, despite the secrecy and pressure and fear, the church is growing.

What makes this resource different is that it also challenges you to live like a North Korean.

Along with daily Bible readings and prayers, there are also weekly actions that will help you experience a little of what North Korean Christians endure every day. You might end up living a day without heating (or eating). You might bury your Bible or learn long political thoughts of the ‘Dear Leader’. These actions cannot replicate the reality, but they can, with prayerful reflection, provide a window into the world of North Korean Christians.





ABOUT NORTH KOREA

There was a time when things were different. In 1907, a wave of revival led to hundreds of churches being founded – so many that Pyongyang, North Korea’s capital city, was known as ‘the Jerusalem of the East’.

Today, North Korea is the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian. Today there can be no rivals to the ‘official’ gods of the country – the Kim family. Since the late 1940s, the country has been led by the Kim family: first Kim Il-sung, then his descendants Kim Jong-il and Kim Jong-un. They are all-powerful leaders who are revered as gods.

Your loyalty to these gods defines where you stand in society. North Korea has a rigid social classification system known as *Songbun*. All citizens are classed as either the loyal (28%), the wavering (45%) or the hostile (27%). Your class is recorded in records known as the Resident Registration File. *Songbun* guides what job opportunities you get and even whether you will eat properly. It is nearly impossible to improve one’s *Songbun*, but going down the scale is not that difficult.

The propaganda never stops. From cradle to grave, from dawn to dusk, every North Korean citizen is subjected to a relentless diet of indoctrination. Television, radio, newspapers, posters, even loudspeakers, trumpet the official propaganda. Some of the first words parents have to teach their children are “Thank you, Father Kim Il-sung.”

RELENTLESS SURVEILLANCE

The lives of North Koreans are constantly scrutinised. Every Saturday citizens attend their local Kim Il-sung research centre where they study the teachings of the great leaders and take part in ‘criticism’ sessions to address the ways they have failed the state. Every citizen is also part of the *Inminban*, a neighbourhood unit, the leaders of which write reports on their neighbours. Have they had visitors? Have they been away from home for any reason? Are the portraits of the leaders kept clean?

For Christians – who believe that there is a higher authority than the nation’s leaders – life is perilous. “I was afraid every day for my life,” said one. That is one reason why Christian parents don’t often tell their children about their faith. Children might let something slip, sing a song, say a prayer...

What happens if someone is discovered to be a Christian? Well, then their entire family might disappear, sometimes up to three generations. They may be executed. More likely they are sent to labour camps where torture and rape are common practices and prisoners die from severe malnutrition and disease, industrial accidents, or execution. Open Doors estimates that there are between 200,000 and 400,000 secret Christians in North Korea, of whom 50,000 to 70,000 are imprisoned in labour camps.

Even for those who are not locked up, life is incredibly hard. The economy is in a state of collapse. Natural disasters have devastated the land. Harvests are poor. North Korea operates a 'military first' policy for distributing food and resources, but there isn't even enough for the soldiers. It's estimated that famine has killed between two and three million people in North Korea since the early 1990s.

For more information go to www.opendoorsca.org



THE CHURCH IS ALIVE AND GROWING

Despite all of this, the church is still alive and still active.

Thanks to the prayers and gifts of many Open Doors supporters, courageous secret workers are able to bring vital aid to help North Koreans survive both spiritually and physically. Somehow – and for security reasons we can't tell you how – much-needed food and medicines make their way across the border, enabling 60,000 secret believers to survive. Precious Bibles and Christian books keep faith and hope alive. North Korean believers know that they are being supported by brothers and sisters elsewhere in the world and it is having an impact.

“Never before have I seen so many North Koreans come to faith as nowadays,” says one secret church leader. *“Sure, the battle is more intense than ever. But why? Because God is setting His children free.”*



HOLY RICE

Many Christians in North Korea observe a practice they call 'holy rice'. This means they set apart some of the little rice they have for use in God's kingdom. *"These Christians don't consume all the food they receive from us,"* says one of our co-workers. *"They save some to give to people who are even worse off than them. This gives them an opportunity to build trust and later share the Gospel with these people."*

Could you do the same? As you journey through the 40 Day Faith Challenge will you put aside some of what you spend on food to share with believers in North Korea? A small gift makes a big difference in a country where the average person doesn't make much more than few dollars a month. Your gift will nourish them both physically and spiritually.

"The persecuted church in North Korea needs to be strengthened. That is why I call, from the bottom of my heart, for us all to watch with our suffering brothers and sisters."

– Brother Andrew, founder of Open Doors



Every \$20 can provide Bible study materials for two courageous North Korean believers, to build their faith and bring them comfort.

Every \$35 could go towards broadcasting Christian radio programs into North Korea, with the potential to reach tens of thousands with the hope of the Gospel.

Every \$50 can provide food, medicine and clothes to support a North Korean family for a month, helping them survive the long harsh winter.



WEEK ONE

Live like a North Korean

WHICH OF THESE WILL
YOU DO THIS WEEK?

- **Turn down the power.**
North Korea suffers from routine power shortages. Try to use fewer appliances and less electricity for a day. Turn down the heating. Turn it back up in the evening.
- **Eat like a North Korean.**
Try living for a day on the diet of an ordinary citizen. Eat a bowl of soup and some bread – and that’s all for the day. Remember that for prisoners it’s even less.



DAY 1 REFINED BY FIRE

Read: 1 Peter 1:3–9

“God has looked over and preserved our North Korean underground church organisation for the past decades... We have seen countless miracles in various forms until this day and He is still continuing with His work now.”

– North Korean pastor

Give thanks for the growth of the underground church in North Korea. Though attacked it is not defeated, though it walks through fire it is not destroyed.

DAY 2 THE LORD SEES

Read: Lamentations 3:34–36

“They ignore all freedoms, the human rights level is zero per cent. Religions are not allowed. The leader of North Korea has to be worshipped as god, and this will not change unless the regime collapses.”

– Timothy, North Korean refugee

Timothy was arrested in China and taken back to North Korea. He was tortured almost to death. God is not absent. He sees the human rights abuses, the denial of justice. He cares. Ask Him to show the truth to leaders in North Korea who have the power of life and death.

DAY 3 FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Read: Psalm 146:1–10

In recent decades hundreds of thousands of North Koreans have died of hunger. Yet leaders have been accused of stopping aid getting to the country, and withholding food from those deemed disloyal to the regime.

Lord, we pray that hungry people will be fed. We thank You that Open Doors' secret workers are able to smuggle food inside the country and reach even more people.

DAY 4 SEEK GOOD, NOT EVIL

Read: Amos 5:11–15

Most North Koreans are chronically malnourished, unemployed and living way below the poverty line.

Lord, we pray that international pressure and a willingness to change will improve the terrible economic situation.

DAY 5 I WILL ARISE

Read: Isaiah 33:5–13

The UN says that North Korea is responsible for 'large-scale patterns of systematic and gross human rights violations.'

Lord God, give wisdom to international leaders as they seek to challenge, and change, North Korea.

DAY 6 REMEMBER THOSE IN PRISON

Read: Hebrews 13:1–3

For prisoners in labour camps it is almost impossible to survive on the three small portions they are given each day, yet if they do not meet their work targets their rations are reduced. Pray that God will help them to find more food.

DAY 7 A PLACE OF ABUNDANCE

Read: Psalm 66:8–12

Pray for change in North Korea.

Father God, through Your power may peaceful reform come to North Korea. May the walls that imprison so many be broken down. May it be a place of peace and abundance.



WEEK TWO

Pray like a North Korean

WHICH OF THESE WILL
YOU DO THIS WEEK?

- **Fast and pray.**
North Korean Christians are used to accompanying deep, urgent prayer with fasting. What can you fast from this week? Food? Television? Social media? Use the time saved to pray.
- **Send messages to North Korean believers.**
You can send a message of encouragement to North Korean believers that will reach them via night-time radio. For guidelines, visit www.opendoorsca.org/get-involved/write-to-a-believer/



DAY 8 WE ALWAYS PRAY FOR YOU...

Read: 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12

“We don’t know your names or your faces. Still you support us. Thanks to you we are holding on. No doubt, you will be rewarded in heaven.” – Secret North Korean Christian

We cannot tell you the names of Christians in North Korea. But let us pray that Jesus will be glorified in their lives and that they will be worthy of their calling.

DAY 9 PRAY FOR THOSE WHO
PERSECUTE YOU

Read: Matthew 5:43–45

“We do not pray violently. No, this type of prayer helps us to conquer evil with good. This is why we pray that Kim Jong-il will become a Christian. And even more, that he will combat the evil in our society.” – North Korean church leader, speaking during the time of the former leader

Pray for the leaders of North Korea, that God will change their hearts and use them to change North Korea. Pray that evil will be conquered by good, and that enemies will be defeated by being turned into friends.





DAY 10 THE LORD IS MY DELIVERER

Read: Psalm 18:1-6

The North Korean regime sends secret agents to China to track down and arrest refugees and even those who help them. Pastor Han Choong Yeol was a Korean-Chinese pastor who was active in helping North Korean refugees with food, medicine, clothes and other goods. He was murdered by North Korean assassins in 2016.

Lord, we ask for Your protection for the refugees and those who help them, for opportunities for Christians to tell secret agents the gospel and for strength for refugees whose relatives have been captured and detained.

DAY 11 PRAY AT ALL TIMES

Read: Ephesians 6:18-20

“Praying is the most important thing you do in a day. Whatever you do each day, begin everything with prayer. Prayer is the shortest way, not the longest! By sacrificing yourself and applying yourself to praying as a warrior, God will open the hearts of people and break through their thinking.” – North Korean pastor

Pray that North Korean Christians will be aware today of the all-surpassing love of Christ, and that they will be ‘filled with all the fullness of God.’

DAY 12 PRAYER AND FASTING

Read: Acts 13:1-3

“Whenever we do a project, first we fast for seven, sometimes ten days. Only when God tells us separately that we can continue with the project do we give the green light and carry out the project. Sometimes we have a very vivid dream in which God tells us what to do and sometimes we all just feel exactly the same about the project. Our believers are bolder and stronger than before, even though the persecution is also stronger.”

– North Korean co-worker

Pray that the fire of persecution will make the North Korean church even bolder and stronger. Pray for wisdom and protection over decisions concerning Christian work in North Korea. These can literally be life-and-death matters.



DAY 13 FEAR NO EVIL

Read: Psalm 23

“Psalm 23 is the roadmap for my life. Every day in the prison camp I used to meditate on this psalm. I may have been in prison, but I experienced God’s peace despite the circumstances. Even though I was in a valley of deep darkness, I feared no evil. God comforted me. A few times in a very special way: God literally spoke to me and told me I was His beloved daughter.” – Hea Woo, North Korean Christian

Pray for Christians in North Korean labour camps, that even in the valley of the shadow of death, they will know God’s peace and presence today.

DAY 14 I WILL PROTECT THOSE WHO
KNOW MY NAME

Read: Psalm 91:14–16

“We can feel God’s love towards our church and our believers every time we receive the love gift of study materials, daily goods, medicines and many other goods.”
– Letter from a North Korean church leader

Pray for the protection of the secret workers involved in smuggling food, medicine and biblical materials into North Korea. Pray also for the protection of Open Doors’ safe houses in China and the training of refugees, that we can influence entire North Korean families with the gospel.



WEEK THREE

Give like a North Korean

WHICH OF THESE WILL
YOU DO THIS WEEK?

- **Holy Rice.**
Follow the 'holy rice' principle. Work out the cost of your food budget this week. Look at the food in your cupboards. How much can you share with those who are worse off than you?
- **Fast for a day.**
Go without food for a day if you are able to and don't have any medical restrictions. Imagine what your life would be like if you had to do this every day. Pray for those in North Korea without enough to eat.



DAY 15 THE WIDOW'S MITE

Read: Mark 12:41–44

One of our contacts says, "At the height of the famine a leader felt called to reintroduce the concept of 'holy rice', a practice whereby rice is set apart for use in God's Kingdom. Ever since, these Christians don't consume all the food they receive from us. They save some to give to people who are even worse off than them. This gives them an opportunity to build trust and later share the gospel with these people."

Pray that the sacrificial giving of North Korean Christians will lead others into following Jesus.

DAY 16 I WAS HUNGRY

Read: Matthew 25:31–46

"Sometimes I gave some of the little rice I got to others. When people were sick, I went to them and helped them with washing their clothes."

– Hea Woo, former labour camp inmate

Give thanks for the amazing, sacrificial service of faithful Christians in North Korea.





DAY 17 WELCOME THE CHILDREN

Read: Matthew 18:1-5

Pray for the tens of thousands of orphans who live on the streets because their parents have died, been arrested or fled the country. *“These abandoned, homeless children have nowhere to go,” wrote one witness, “and they are all treated with contempt.”* Pray for those in North Korea who share their food, clothes and money with these children.

DAY 18 THE TRUE FAST

Read: Isaiah 58:6-9

A North Korean recalls the secret church his mother used to run for groups of very poor Christians: *“My mother invited them into our home for secret services. They were dressed in rags and had hardly anything to eat. Sometimes my mother went to China and she came back with clothes, food and medicines and she gave those away to the other Christians.”* Praise God for the North Korean Christians who risk such a lot to look after their fellow believers.

DAY 19 LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Read: John 15:9-17

“I know three North Koreans who have identified themselves as Christians,” says Pastor Cho, who works with North Koreans in China. *“They follow secret roads and come out about once a year. I give them rice, bean powder, corn, potatoes, cooking oil, dried noodles, salt and other food products...”* Give thanks for Christians in China who help North Korean refugees.

DAY 20 THE LORD PROTECTS US

Read: Psalm 34:15-22

Give thanks for those fieldworkers who have dedicated their lives to working with North Korean refugees. Ask God to protect, strengthen and refresh them in what is often an exhausting, dangerous and emotionally draining task.

DAY 21 GOOD NEWS FOR THE POOR

Read: Isaiah 61:1-3

Smuggling vital aid and Bibles into the darkness and captivity of North Korea has become increasingly dangerous. Despite that Simon – the Open Doors North Korea co-ordinator – says, *“We will never abandon the North Korean church. God has called us to do this work.”* Pray for protection and courage for these faithful servants.

WEEK FOUR

Read like a North Korean

WHICH OF THESE WILL YOU DO THIS WEEK?

- **Bury your Bible.**

In North Korea possessing a Bible is illegal and punishable by death. Probably nowhere else in the world are so many copies of God's Word literally hidden underground. This week, hide your Bible somewhere outside the house – in a shed, or another dry hiding place. Then, every morning, go out and retrieve it before reading it.

- **Learn then burn.**

Many North Korean Christians learn passages of Scripture and then burn the original in case it is found in their possession. Write some Scripture on a piece of paper. Learn it. And then burn the paper.



DAY 22 WISER THAN MY ENEMIES

Read: Psalm 119:97–104

Praise God for Open Doors' secret workers who secretly smuggle Bibles and Christian materials inside the country.

Lord God, may You make 'seeing eyes blind' so that no Bible will be discovered by the enemies of the faith.

DAY 23 ENRICHED IN EVERY WAY

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:4–9

Give thanks for Bible teaching among North Korean refugees.

Father, please protect Open Doors' safe houses in China, so that Your followers can continue to provide support and training for these refugees. May the truth and knowledge of the gospel of Christ grow among them.

DAY 24 TELL THE NEXT GENERATION

Read: Psalm 78:1–4

As a child, Hea Woo saw her mother wearing a chain with a cross on it. *"What's that, Mummy?"* she asked. Hurriedly, her mother hid it. *"You must not tell anyone about this,"* she said. Christian parents often keep their faith hidden from their children, for fear that their children will let the secret out. Pray that Christian parents will demonstrate Christian values to their children, and, one day, tell them all about their faith.

DAY 25 MORE THAN GOLD

Read: Psalm 119:121–128

“When I was eleven I witnessed the public execution of a Christian. His crime was that he had hidden tiny Bibles in the roof of his house.” – Timothy, North Korean refugee

Despite the risks, North Korean believers thirst for Scripture. Pray that those who dare to distribute Bibles will be protected.

You can provide North Korean believers with God’s word. Every \$20 can provide Bible study materials to build the faith of two courageous North Korean believers.

DAY 26 PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Read: Luke 9:1–6

Thank God that so many North Korean refugees find Christ.

Lord God, please give wisdom to Your children as they decide whether to share their faith with families and friends.



DAY 27 TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

Read: Mark 8:34–38

Eun Hee became a Christian in a safe house operated by Open Doors contacts. She returned to North Korea and an underground church began to meet in her house. The police started to close in, but Eun Hee refused to flee: *“God has called me to stay here and be his witness,” she said. “I cannot leave the other Christians behind.”* When the police searched her house, they found a Bible. Eun Hee died in prison. Ask God to protect believers in North Korea who risk death to share Scripture together.

DAY 28 FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Read: Hebrews 12:1–2

A believer was arrested when the police found a Bible in his home. He was so badly beaten in prison that he was certain he would die. A Christian friend of the prisoner said: *“I’ve known this man for a long time. When he came to faith, he made the decision that one day he would die for Christ. Every Christian in North Korea has made that choice. My friend knew that one day he could get caught and on that day he had to be steadfast in the faith and loyal to Jesus. I am convinced he can take the suffering because he constantly reminds himself of the joy that is set before him.”* Give thanks for the courage of these believers.

WEEK FIVE

Worship like a North Korean

WHICH OF THESE WILL
YOU DO THIS WEEK?

- **Follow the leader.**

In North Korea people are forced to memorize masses of ideological learning material in praise of their leaders. Download some biographical material Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il or Kim Jong-un.* Try to memorize it. (Imagine if you had to memorize hundreds of pages of the stuff!)

- **Change the picture.**

The government insists that every North Korean must have images of their leaders in their homes. Before praying, North Korean Christians cover the portraits of the leaders on the wall. Then they kneel down in a circle and pray for strength and endurance. Print out a picture of Kim Jong-il or Kim Jong-un* and hang it on the wall. Then cover it up and kneel in prayer.

*You can download these resources at www.opendoorsca.org

DAY 29 TWO OR THREE TOGETHER

Read: Matthew 18:19–20

In a society where individual lives are so closely monitored, Christians find it hard to meet for worship. Most ‘church meetings’ consist of no more than two people.

Dear Lord, may Your followers in North Korea find ways to gather together without detection. May they gain access to the Bible so that they can learn and grow.

DAY 30 PROTECT THEM FROM THE EVIL ONE

Read: John 17:10–19

Pastor Yun (not his real name) leads a church in China which opens its doors for North Korean refugees. Not many members of his congregation know that their church – in partnership with Open Doors – secretly helps North Koreans with financial support and training. *“There are spies everywhere, even in our services on Sunday.”* Pray that God will protect those who help from being captured or discovered.



DAY 31 WHY DO YOU PERSECUTE ME?

Read: Acts 9:1–16

“We trust each other, but we still need to be extremely careful. I don’t even know their real names and they don’t know mine.”

– North Korean believer

Undercover agents, posing as Christians, sometimes set up fake prayer meetings to trap Christians. Pray that believers will be given discernment so they know who to trust. Pray for the secret police who are trained to disguise themselves as Christians in order to infiltrate the North Korean church. Pray that they will have their lives turned around by the witness of their ‘victims’.

DAY 32 REJOICE ALWAYS

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:12–22

In her cramped prison cell, which she shared with 12 others, Hea Woo felt completely alone. Then she heard a loud voice: *“My beloved daughter! You’re walking on water! It was an audible sound, but the others didn’t hear it. And I knew whose voice it was. It was God’s voice! He was giving me fresh courage! He hadn’t forgotten me! During my imprisonment, I heard the voice again a number of times. Each time, it was God passing on to me a message of encouragement.”*

Pray for Christian prisoners, that they might be able to worship and give thanks whatever their situation, and that God would encourage them.

DAY 33 YOU WILL ANSWER ME

Read: Psalm 17: 1–9

“Hear a just cause, O Lord, Attend to my cry; Give ear to my prayer which is not from deceitful lips. ² Let my vindication come from Your presence; Let Your eyes look on the things that are upright...”

Give thanks for the ways in which Open Doors can help the church in North Korea. Pray for more opportunities to serve our suffering brothers and sisters.

DAY 34 BLESS THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU

Read: Romans 12: 9–21

‘Mrs Shelter’, as she is known, operates an Open Doors safe house in a city in China where refugees often arrive. *“I offer them a free place to stay and serve them until they go back or move on. They want to know why I do this without asking anything in return. Only then do I share with them about God and the Bible. Many return as believers.”* She has had spies under her roof. *“I treat the spies with as much love as I help real refugees.”* Pray for her protection!

DAY 35 BE STRONG IN THE LORD

Read: Ephesians 6:10–18

Pray for North Korean Christians to put on the full armour of God. Pray that these believers will be protected from every kind of spiritual or physical attack.

WEEK SIX

Share like a North Korean

WHICH OF THESE WILL
YOU DO THIS WEEK?

- **Identify yourself as a Christian.**
North Koreans cannot wear a cross or publicly identify themselves as Christians. Wear something this week which identifies you as a Christian – because throughout the world there are millions of Christians who can't.
- **Rise and shine.**
Get up early (maybe even in the dark) and leave your house. Maybe you could meet with another believer. Whatever the case, stand in silence. Whisper a Bible verse. Pray silently. Then move on.



DAY 36 DO NOT BE AFRAID

Read: Matthew 10:26–33

“We pray that we may do His will in every situation. Through the persecution, we see that He is sanctifying the church. And if we die, we die.” Give thanks for the vision and faith of North Korean believers and their desire to spread the Gospel. Pray that there will be openings for them to share the Good News of the kingdom of God.

DAY 37 A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

Read: Matthew 13:44–46

“When I started my ministry among illegal, North Korean refugee women in China, I knew it was going to be hard,” says a female Open Doors secret worker, *“and it is sometimes. I pray and fast before every meeting with them. But the fruit is incredible. When I am introduced to new women, they embrace the Gospel so quickly. It is like... they are just ready.”*

Give thanks for Open Doors workers in China who risk their lives to spread the Gospel among North Korean people. Pray that they will continue to see a response to the good news of Jesus Christ.





DAY 38 THE SPIRIT IS SPEAKING

Read: Mark 13:11

“God helped me to survive. Not only that, He gave me a heart to evangelize the other prisoners. I was too scared to do it. I would die if they caught me. But God gave me a feeling: ‘That person. Tell him!’ They saw the Spirit working in me.” – Hea Woo, former labour camp inmate

Thank God for the courage and faith of Christians in prisons and labour camps. Pray that they will never feel alone, but will know the presence of Jesus. Pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will rest on them and give them strength to endure and courage to share Christ’s love.

DAY 39 TALK ABOUT IT

Read: Deuteronomy 6:6–7

Lee did not know his parents followed Jesus Christ. He only knew that they were different. Lee’s father and mother helped the poor, the sick and the hungry. They were even called ‘Communist parents’, an unofficial honorary title for people who are known to be caring.

Father God, may Christian parents one day be free to be known as ‘Christian parents’.

DAY 40 RESTORED, SUPPORTED, STRENGTHENED

Read: Matthew 21:1–8

“There is no religious freedom whatsoever in North Korea. People are simply killed if they believe in Jesus. Kim Jong-un is god and there cannot be any other god beside him.”

– Joo-Eun, North Korean refugee

When Jesus came into Jerusalem He was greeted as a king. Today Jesus’ claim of kingship is still a threat to those in power. Pray that Jesus’ followers in North Korea will be able to demonstrate His rule in their life.

DAY 41 THE CHILDREN CRY ‘HOSANNA’

Read: Matthew 21:9–11

“In North Korea my mother taught me only one prayer. But I still pray it every day for my family and for my country: ‘Hananim, Hananim! Lord, Lord, please help!’”

– Hannah Cho, North Korean believer

‘Hosanna’ means ‘please save’. Jesus is a challenge to those who abuse their authority for wealth and power. Pray ‘hosanna’ for believers in North Korea today.



DAY 42 STAND FIRM

Read: Matthew 24:9–14

“Even though we are completely severed from the outside world, our faith will remain firmly on the rock. We will continue to fight against the evil spirits until the day all the demolished churches and altars are restored in our country.” – North Korean pastor

Ask God to prepare North Korean Christians for whatever the future holds. God is the God of history and He will have the victory!

DAY 43 AN OPPORTUNITY TO BETRAY HIM

Read: Matthew 26:14–25

When international tension is high, Kim Jong-un orders a ‘mobilization period’ when North Korean citizens have to do extra work. This leaves the people even more exhausted. *“These mobilization periods drain our energy,”* says one secret church leader. *“However, we try to serve God when we can and even have small meetings... Of course there are dangers also. Our biggest fear is that there may be a Judas within the church organization.”* Pray for protection. Pray that God will touch the hearts of those who are considering betraying their brothers and sisters.

DAY 44 THIS IS MY BODY

Read: Matthew 26:26–30

Sun-Hi, an Open Doors co-worker who works with North Korean refugees, says: *“Thanks for praying for me, my colleagues and the North Korean brothers and sisters. I always thank God that He has called you and me to be part of the same body.”* We are all part of the body of Christ. Pray that North Korean believers today will be aware of those who are supporting them elsewhere in the world.

DAY 45 CHRIST IS VICTORIOUS

Read: Matthew 27:11–61

This is the day when the enemies of Jesus Christ thought that they had defeated Him. They thought that executing Jesus on the cross meant that it was all over and that He and his followers would be forgotten. But the cross does not mean defeat: it means victory and resurrection.

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask that North Korean Christians will know that, through Your death and resurrection, You have the victory.



DAY 46 LORD! DO NOT BE FAR AWAY!

Read: Psalm 22

This Psalm is famous for its association with Jesus' death, with that moment when, on the cross, he shouted out the opening lines. The repeated cry of the Psalmist is: 'Lord, do not be far away!' And that is the truth of the cross: that our Lord is not far away. He has not abandoned us. The darkness, which seemed so overwhelming, will not win.

Lord Jesus, may Your risen presence be powerfully real to Your disciples in North Korea – and wherever in the world Your followers face persecution.

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

Read: Matthew 28:1–20

“One day our country will be opened and reunited with South Korea. Then the North Korean and South Korean church will work together with our Chinese brothers and sisters to evangelize Asia. That is going to be a hard, difficult task. We see the current persecution in North Korea as preparation for that time.”

– North Korean pastor

Give thanks for the perseverance of North Korean Christians in their faith in Christ. Ask God to bring to fruition their vision of a reunified Korea and a church working to evangelize Asia.

BEYOND NORTH KOREA

Thank you for living like a North Korean, even for a short time. Christians in North Korea simply could not survive without the prayers and support of their worldwide church family.

North Korea is only one of the many countries where Christians are persecuted for their beliefs. Around the world, Christians face discrimination, abuse, injustice, violence, imprisonment and even death simply because they follow Jesus. They need the support of their family, the Body of Christ, to help them to survive, thrive and share the love of God in some of the most hostile places on earth.

You'll find amazing resources to help you share the message of the persecuted church, go deeper in faith – and respond in prayer and action at www.opendoorsca.org

