

How can WE help tell the people of North Korea about Jesus? There are several ministries such as the Voice of the Martyrs that have found different ways to help and so we can help THEM. For many years now VOM workers in South Korea have sent thousands of special balloons into North Korea. The orange plastic bags, with the Gospel of Mark and other verses in Korean written on them, are filled with helium gas and sent across the border on windy days. They travel many miles before getting caught in a tree or building and are found by people who can read bible verses for the first time!



The capital of North Korea is called Pyongyang and at first sight it looks like any modern city, with tall buildings, busy cars and office workers. There are even some churches there to show visitors that life is "normal". But all the people that live in Pyongyang were specially chosen by the government because they can be trusted to only say and do what they are told!

Many, many people in North Korea are starving and live a very hard life. One of the traditional Korean foods often eaten there every day is called "Kimchi". It is made of chopped cabbage mixed with onion and spices and left to soak for 2 days! We should pray that the government will soon change and make life easier for the people. Pray that the government leaders will come to know the TRUE Father, Son and Holy Spirit!



#### SCRIPTURE CODE

See if you can decipher this bible verse which is a key to helping the North Korean people:  
 FI OUY ONTINUEC NI YM ORDW, HENT OUY REA YM  
 ISCIPLESND NDEEDI; NDA OUY HALLS NOWK HET RUTHT  
 NDA HET RUTHT HALLS AKEM OUY REEF.

"Til next time,

Your friend, Shirley

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 Answer to scripture code: John 8:31,32  
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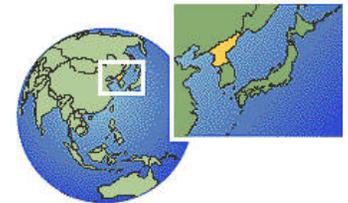


**Have you ever argued about which TV program to watch, or which station to listen to on the radio?**

This month we want to learn about a country where you don't have this problem - because all the TVs and radios just have an on/off switch as there is only ONE station! It is a country that is very isolated from the rest of the world. We only very rarely learn news of events that happen inside the country, and the only way to obtain true facts and information is from the few people who have fled into the neighboring countries like China. Do you know which country we are talking about?

**It is North Korea.**

Maybe you can find it on a map - it is on a "peninsula" (or finger of land) that points downwards from the north-eastern part of China.



North Korea consists of over 746,000 sq. miles, so it is a little smaller than the country of England and a little larger than the state of Tennessee.



Its flag has two blue stripes with a wide red stripe between, with a red/white star pattern



After the Korean War that ended in 1953, the Korean peninsula was divided in two, and it remains that way today. South Korea is modern and bustling with schools, businesses and many large churches because the people there live in a free society as most of us do in the West. But life in North Korea is totally different because the government is strictly communist!



In 1967 the leader, Kim Il Sung introduced a way of thinking that is really a religion, because it requires everyone to worship the dictator. It is called "Juche" ("choo-chay").



When they eat, everyone has to give thanks to Kim for the food; after school, all the children have to march home like soldiers while listening to Kim's speeches blaring from loudspeakers; and in the center of every town there is a large golden statue of Kim "the Great Leader". Kim Il Sung is still called "The Immortal" though he died in 1994 and his son, Kim Jong Il, called "The Son", took his

place. There is also a book of Juche beliefs that is referred to as the "Bible" and the people worship in front of some special towers called "The Towers of the Holy Spirit"!!

It sounds a lot like Christianity - but Juche doesn't talk about God or Jesus, or about love or forgiveness. No-one is allowed to believe anything different, and so Christians have to meet and worship in secret places. Many Christian parents are afraid to tell their children about Jesus because if their little one mentions it to a neighbor or teacher, the soldiers will come and take away the parents, usually torturing and killing them!

Tens of thousands of people have been sent to terrible prison camps in the north, where it is so cold and the conditions are so bad that most people die within a year or so! Because of this more than 100,000 North Koreans have fled into China in the past few years.



There are many "safe houses" that have been set up near the border in China to help these refugees and also to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

## True story!

A few years ago, four teenage boys managed to escape from North Korea into China where they were found by a Christian, Andrew, who gave them food and shelter and told them about Jesus. He suggested they choose new names in case the police found them, so they picked the names Pencil, Eraser, Pen and Paper Clip! Andrew noticed that when he was teaching them the Bible, Pencil never paid attention, but the other three accepted Christ and after a few months, decided to go BACK to North Korea to tell others about Jesus. But the four would not be separated, and so Pencil went with them too, after promising to return if they needed help.

Six months later Eraser, Pen and Paper Clip were arrested by the North Korean police, although Pencil had been able to hide. He watched as his friends were beaten just for telling people about Jesus, and later he learned that they had been taken away to a terrible camp in the north and he never saw them again. Pencil remembered how his friends had always been willing to share the gospel, and although he really wanted to too, he was so very afraid!



Then he remembered that Andrew said he would always be there to help, so Pencil made the difficult journey back again across the border into China to Andrew's house, where he told what had happened to his friends.

Andrew asked him: "What do you want to do with the rest of your life?" and Pencil replied: "I want to learn how to be brave like my friends and unafraid to share Jesus." So Pencil stayed two more months with Andrew learning about Jesus and growing in his faith. Then he returned to North Korea where he worked with another Christian couple, sharing with many beggars and poor people how Jesus loves us and gives us hope for the future. Many people's lives were changed because of Pencil - although sadly he was caught by the police, and sent to a prison camp where he was tortured and died before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. Pencil could have saved his life if he had renounced (denied) Jesus, but he told the soldiers he could never do that, so now he is with Jesus in Heaven.