

Pray for the Persecuted Church: North Korea

Freed Pastor Welcomed Home with Joy! Source: World Watch Monitor

The large congregation of Light Korean Presbyterian Church in Mississauga, Canada, was ecstatic on Sunday, August 13th, when welcoming home their senior pastor, Hyeon Soo Lim, who was held for more than two years of a life sentence as a prisoner at a North Korean labour camp. The church was also crowded with media personnel recording his significant and almost unexpected return.

Looking happy and healthy, Pastor Lim spoke of his experiences at the labour camp. Overwhelming loneliness was the emotion he remembers most during his imprisonment. He recounted unending days of hard labour which took such a toll on him physically that he lost 23 kilograms (about 50 pounds) and was hospitalized four times. During the winter, he was also subjected to harsh conditions which resulted in severe frostbite on his fingers and toes.

Yet, despite all the hardships he endured, it was the prayers of believers everywhere that sustained him. Over time, his feelings of loneliness and isolation turned into "peaceful solitude with God." Though his days were filled with labour, he "prayed without ceasing." In his message to the Canadian church, he further explained: "I did not have a day of gloom. My moments of discouragement, resentment and grumbling turned into courage, joy and thanksgiving."

In times like these, the 62-year-old pastor was able to see the Lord's mighty hand at work. Once, after almost a year behind bars, friends from his church in Canada sent him Korean and English Bibles. Remarkably, in a country ranked the hardest place in which to practise Christianity, the guards allowed him to keep them. He recounted reading through the Korean Bible four times and the English Bible once, memorizing more than 700 Bible verses. During this time, he also wrote five new hymns in Korean -- some of which were sung on Sunday by the members of his congregation...with tears streaming down their faces.

Pastor Lim was first arrested in January 2015, after being charged with "defaming" North Korean leader Kim Jong-un -- which he denies -- and sentenced to life in a labour camp. It was a charge that came across as shocking for a man who had merely shown compassion towards the suffering people of North Korea through his devotion to help them. As a result of the ministry he and his church began in 1997, millions of dollars of charitable assistance was poured into North Korea -- from orphanages to homes for senior citizens, as well as farming and educational programs.

Upon arriving at a Canadian military base in Toronto after his August 9th release, Pastor Lim was a most blessed recipient of hugs from his wife, son and one-year-old granddaughter, whom he had never before seen. In accordance with the welcome festivities, a reception was held at the church the following day. It was filled with overwhelming and contagious joy. We rejoice with Pastor Lim's loved ones and church family over the wonderful news of his safe return home, and our prayers will continue to be with him as he adjusts to life back in Canada.

BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday, September 17, 2017

Accompanist: Pam Osmanson and Jan Questad

Greeters: Ray & Dee Olson

Nursery: Aaron Skogen

Usher: Terry Kramer

Scripture Reader: Gene Preston

Children's Church: Scott & Nora Sittig

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, and Christian Greetings

Praise Affirmation.....Psalm 66:1-4

Hymn #108....."Come, Christians Join to Sing"

Prayer of Praise

Offering/Offertory

Doxology (*Hymn #625*) – please stand

Scripture Reading.....2 Timothy 4:6-8

Children may be excused for Children's Church (3 yrs-2nd grade)

Hymn #335....."Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

Sermon..."Finishing Well"Jeff Hastings

Prayer Response

Love Offering for Warrior 180

Closing Hymn #306....."Jesus Saves!"

Benediction

Postlude

*****Nursery care is available for children infant thru 3 years old**

(Please contact an usher for information and/or direction)

*****Hearing Amplifier Available** – Please contact an usher

Please join us after the worship service for coffee and treats in the fellowship room.

10:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages

- Preschool - 1st Grade in the Nursery with LaDell Hanson
- 2nd - 5th Grade in the Cubbies room with 2D Gerdes
- 6th - 8th Grade in Pastor's office with Judy Preston or Erica Skogen
- High School in the Youth room with Mike and Stacy Frost
- Adult Class on I & II Peter in the Fellowship Room with Mike Benson

For Your Information and Prayer

- Wednesday: Awana Clubs (HS starts at 6pm, 6th-8th starts at 6:15pm, Preschool-5th grade starts at 6:30pm)
- Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study at Lindy Johnson home, 413 Heatherwood, Brandon

Next Sunday: September 24, 2017

- Greeters: Paul & Pam Osmanson
- Usher: Dave James
- Nursery: Scott & Nora Sittig
- Scripture Reader: Joan Murphy
- Children's Church: Barbara Young and Kyle Skogen

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday: September 23: 2-4pm **Community Open House** for Pastor Merv's Retirement; CHURCH MEMBERS - **please bring** a plate of bars, cookies, or other snacks for the open house Sept. 23rd by 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, September 24: **Retirement party** for Pastor Merv Kramer, **please RSVP today in the church office for the catered meal**

OUR GIVING:	Sunday, September 10, 2016
General Giving	\$ 1,313.85
Building Fund	\$ 25.00
Total	\$ 1,338.85

(Approximately \$2,500 is needed each week to meet expenses)

Needed: weekly snacks for Middle and High School Awana youth. They can be prepared or homemade. Please avoid tree nuts and coconuts. You may put items in the treat cupboard east of the fridge. Thank you!

*** Praise & Prayer***

Carol Kline, mother of Theresa Friesen, recovering from a stroke
Lajeane Wright, wife of Jim Wright, at Garretson Palisades Nursing Home (room 301), continue to pray for increasing mental clarity, and also encouragement for Jim

Ron Benson, brother of Mike Benson, for heart health issues
Amanda Benson, as her sending church, Amanda has asked that we lift her up in prayer as she is in the mission field.

Serving Our Country: Josh Onnen, Air Guard; Chad Carlson, Air Guard (Son-in-law of Carl & Lindy Johnson); Kristina Lee, Air Force (Grandchild of Ray & Dee Olson); Amir Rottluff, Navy (grandson of Charlotte Rottluff)

Pastor Merv & Jackie will be on a "500th Anniversary of Martin Luther Tour" in Germany, leaving on September 13th and returning on the 22nd. Please hold them up in prayer.

Our Prayer Partnership

- Faith United Church, Brandon
- Pastor Jim Rutherford, Oak Hills Baptist Church, Sioux Falls

Hurricane Harvey Donations

As the North American Baptist Conference gathers to support our churches in times of need or crisis, we wanted to send an update that there are currently no reports of damage to NAB churches or member's homes in the Texas area at this time. Please continue to pray for the area affected and for God's provision as the torrential rain and flooding continues. Regional Minister Dan Heringer will keep us informed and updated as things progress.

Since monetary donations are the most effective way of providing direct aid and there are aid groups already at work on the ground, we encourage you to give through Samaritan's Purse to provide assistance to those impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Donations can be made online at www.samaritanaspurse.org