

*For God so loved
the world...
shouldn't we?*

Sign up to do research for the country of your choice.
The sign up book can be found in the Narthex on the
table with the globe .

***Praying for the World
One Country at Time***



**NORTH KOREA
November 20, 2011**

North Korea

Full Name

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

Capital

Pyongyang

Location

North Korea occupies the northern half of the Korean peninsula in eastern Asia. It borders the Bay of Korea and the Sea of Japan between China and South Korea. The mountainous interior is isolated and sparsely populated.

Leadership

Following World War II, the country of Korea was split in two. The northern half fell under Soviet-sponsored Communist control. After failing to conquer the US-backed Republic of Korea in the Korean War (1950-53), North Korea, under its founder President Kim Il Jung, adopted a policy of "self reliance". The DPRK through state-funded propaganda demonized the US as the ultimate threat to its social system. The government's core objective is the eventual unification of both Koreas under Pyongyang's control. Kim Jong Il was designated his father's successor and his youngest son Kim Jong Un is to succeed him. Decades of economic mismanagement and resource misallocation have virtually impoverished North Korea. Since the mid-90s, the country has relied heavily on foreign aid to feed its people. The country has massive armed forces and a history of nuclear and long-range missile development. It has been called the "Hermit Kingdom."

Religion

The country is traditionally Buddhist and Confucianist, with some Christian and syncretic Chondogyo (Religion of the Heavenly Way). Autonomous religious activities are largely nonexistent; government-sponsored religious groups exist to provide the illusion of religious freedom.

DPRK is racially homogeneous although there is a small Chinese community and there are a few ethnic Japanese.



Population

24,457,492

Economy

The country is very unstable economically. However, the regime has marked the year 2012, the 100th year since the birth of Kim Il Sung, as a banner year and to that end the country is heavily focused on development of the economy.

Prayer Concerns

The people of North Korea would like to have their freedom. There are up to 200,000 political prisoners in North Korea. The totalitarian state stands accused of systematic human rights abuses: torture, public executions, slave labor, and forced abortions and infanticides in prison camps. People of North Korea are also completely impoverished economically. Up to two million people have died since the mid-1990s because of acute food shortages.