

### Week 3: Pray for Kim Dong Chul (North Korea)

**Arrest and background** Kim Dong Chul (63), a missionary born in South Korea, is serving a ten-year sentence in a North Korean labour camp for alleged “unpardonable espionage”.

Kim moved to the US in 1972 and gained citizenship in 1987. In 1997, he moved to China, and since 2001 lived in Yanji, 10 km from the North Korean border. He set up a hotel services company in Rason City (a special economic zone on the North Korean side of the border), and commuted daily.



Kim was arrested in October 2015 in Rason City and was accused of stealing information and passing it to South Korea. The authorities said that he had a USB stick containing military and nuclear secrets. In an interview with CNN in January 2016, in the presence of security guards, Kim said he had spied for South Korea. However, South Korean intelligence said Kim was not on its payroll. Kim appeared healthy and said he was getting three meals a day.

At a televised press conference in Pyongyang in March 2016, Kim apparently confessed that he was paid by South Korean intelligence officers. Forced confessions by foreign prisoners in North Korea are common. A North Korean defector recognised Kim on television as a missionary she had met in 2007 who had told her he was sending medical aid into North Korea.

In April 2016, the Supreme Court sentenced Kim to ten years' hard labour.

**Family** Kim has a wife and two daughters living in Yanji in China. They are not permitted to visit him in the labour camp.

**Latest news** In June 2016, North Korea warned that freed US-South Korean missionary Kenneth Bae's “babbling” about prison could jeopardise efforts to free detained Americans. Bae was detained in North Korea for two years for “hostile acts to bring down the government” and released in November 2014. He wrote a book about his experience and gives media interviews.

#### Prayer Diary

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Ask God to keep Kim safe and well in labour camp.</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Pray for successful negotiations for his release.</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Pray for Kim's wife and daughters.</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Ask God to give the family wisdom regarding the future.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Pray for safety for all Christians ministering to North Koreans.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Ask God to protect and encourage North Korean Christians.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Pray that the North Korean regime will soften its attitude to Christianity.</b>