



### Week 3: Pray for Kim Jong Uk (North Korea)

**Arrest and background** South Korean Baptist missionary Kim Jong Uk (52) was arrested in North Korea in October 2013 after entering the country with Bibles and other religious materials. In May 2014, North Korea's Supreme Court found him guilty of spying for South Korea and attempting to set up an underground church, and sentenced him to life imprisonment in labour camp.

Before his arrest, Kim Jong Uk (also known as Kim Jung-Wook) worked for seven years in the Chinese port city of Dandong, near the border with North Korea, providing shelter, food and other aid to North Korean refugees and teaching them from the Bible. North Korean agents infiltrated his network and convinced him to go into North Korea to find out what had happened to some refugees with whom he had lost contact.



On 27 February 2014, Kim Jong Uk appeared before North Korean media to read a statement apologising for "anti-state crimes". He said he had spied for South Korea's National Intelligence Service (which, he said, paid him several thousand dollars) and that he had set up an underground church in Dandong to collect information from members on life in North Korea. He said he had given money to North Koreans to set up 500 underground churches and to attempt to overthrow the regime, and stated: "I was thinking of turning North Korea into a religious country, and destroying its present government and political system."

On 30 May 2014, the Supreme Court tried Kim Jong Uk, found him guilty of spying and attempting to set up an underground church, and sentenced him to life imprisonment in labour camp. After the trial, North Korea's state news agency KCNA said he had confessed to the crimes and that prosecutors had sought the death penalty but the court imposed the life sentence after he "sincerely repented".

**Family** Since being imprisoned, Kim Jong Uk has not been allowed to speak to or write to his family, and has been denied consular meetings. His older brother Kim Jung-sam has stated, "My brother is not a spy. He is only a religious man, and was interested in missionary activities for North Koreans."

**Latest news** In August 2017, it was reported that South Korea's National Intelligence Service had repeatedly stated that Kim Jong Uk was not its agent.

#### Prayer Diary

<b>Sunday</b>	Ask God to protect and encourage Kim Jong Uk in labour camp.
<b>Monday</b>	Pray for good health.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Pray for his release.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pray for Kim Jong Uk's witness to guards and other prisoners.
<b>Thursday</b>	Ask God to protect his North Korean Christian contacts.
<b>Friday</b>	Pray for the refugee work in Dandong.
<b>Saturday</b>	Pray for an end to persecution of Christians in North Korea.

