

## Week 3: Pray for Kim Kuk-gi (North Korea)



South Korean Presbyterian missionary Kim Kuk-gi (69) is serving a life sentence in labour camp in North Korea. He and businessman Choe Chun-gil (64) were arrested at an unknown location in December 2014 on charges of spying for South Korea and Pastor Kim was also accused of spreading religious propaganda from an underground church he ran in the Chinese port city of Dandong, near the North Korean border. He had moved to Dandong in 2003 to take care of displaced North Koreans.

In March 2015 North Korea's state news agency KCNA announced the two Christian's arrests, describing them as "*heinous terrorists*" who operated from a base in Dandong. KCNA alleged that they were spying for South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) and had brought in large quantities of forged currency. The NIS said the charge that they were working for it was "*absolutely groundless*" and a spokesman for South Korea's Unification Ministry also denied

that the men were engaged in espionage.

The Seoul-based General Assembly of Presbyterian Churches in Korea stated: "*Kim Kuk-gi was sent as a missionary... to Dandong in China in 2003, and since then, he has been operating a shelter for refugees, and has been taking care of refugees, North Korean homeless children and Korean immigrants living in China.*" An Assembly representative said Pastor Kim had bought noodle- and tofu-making machines and sewing machines to send to North Korea.

In May 2015 the North Korean authorities presented Pastor Kim and Choe Chun-gil at a press conference in Pyongyang attended by journalists and foreign diplomats. With government minders present, the two men "confessed" that they had been paid large sums of money over several years to steal state secrets for South Korea.

On 23 June 2015 North Korea's state news broadcaster Korean Central Television stated: "*Kim Guk-gi and Choi Chun-gil, spies and agents for the puppet regime who were apprehended while plotting and spying against the Republic under the control of the Americans and their puppet regime in South Korea, were tried in the Supreme Court and sentenced to life in prison.*"

### Family

Kim Kuk-gi is married to Kim Hee Soon and they do not have children.

### Latest News

On 2 November 2023 South Korea's Unification Ministry announced that families of six citizens detained in North Korea, including Kim Kuk-gi, would receive compensation payments in recognition of their status as victims of abduction. It stated: "*We hope that this will provide comfort and assistance to the families of detainees in North Korea.*" recognition of their status as victims of abduction.

## Prayer Diary

<b>Sunday</b>	Pray for protection and good health for Pastor Kim.
<b>Monday</b>	Ask God to encourage Pastor Kim and give him hope.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Pray for Pastor Kim to be released.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pray for the pastor's witness to guards and prisoners.
<b>Thursday</b>	Ask God to comfort and sustain his wife, Kim Hee Soon.
<b>Friday</b>	Pray for blessing and release for Choe Chun-gil.
<b>Saturday</b>	Pray for the thousands of North Korean Christian prisoners.

