

## OUTREACH TO NORTH KOREAN WORKERS

People in North Korea are separated into three different classes, depending on the level of loyalty they demonstrate towards the Kim regime over multiple generations:

- ▶ **Loyal Class** – Privileged class, having access to food and medical care; earned by showing fervent and unwavering loyalty
- ▶ **Wavering Class** – Mostly poor peasants and farmers in rural areas
- ▶ **Hostile Class** – Those under scrutiny or those with relatives who have been suspected of being unfaithful

One way to earn a living and prove one's loyalty is for able-bodied family members to agree to be dispatched to work overseas. Such workers are dispatched to work in various parts of China, Russia, the Ukraine, Laos and many other countries where they are contracted to work a variety of jobs, which often involve poor and unsafe working conditions.

They are expected to work long hours without days off, for a very small salary that barely allows them to subsist. Most of the money earned is sent directly to the North Korean government, from which a small amount is paid to the family members who remain in North Korea.

This system of contract labor allows the North Korean government to earn vast sums of foreign currency from the estimated 100,000 workers who are sent to work overseas.

Japan Mission is involved in sponsoring the work of missionaries who travel to Russia, the Ukraine and other countries to make contact with North Korean defectors and workers who have been dispatched to live in these areas. This presents a unique opportunity to impact these people with the Gospel. Christian workers often give them clothes, medicine and food — while sharing God's love and the message of hope.

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## UPDATE - KIDS CLUB WORKER

The Lord led Josephine Aragon, who is from the Philippines, to join Japan Mission as a teacher in the English Evangelism Program and Kids Club ministry. Josephine has had five years of experience teaching English to children in another part of Japan. We praise the Lord for providing us with such a well-qualified and dedicated worker! **Pray** that our team of workers would continue to be effective in sharing God's love and offering hope to the hopeless.



**JAPAN MISSION**  
CALLED TO SERVE

July / August 2019

## TRAFFICKED IN CHINA - PART II

Kan crossed the border from North Korea into China to get a job for one month to earn enough money to help support her father and four siblings. When she arrived in China, she was taken and forcibly sold to a family.

After being forced to be someone's wife for two years, she gave birth to a baby girl called Haun. While in that town, a neighbor invited her to church, where she found the Lord as her Savior.

She eventually found a way to escape with Haun from the family who had bought her, and settled in a town near the North Korean border where she worked as a travel guide.

"A while later, I went to the doctor and was told that I had uterine cancer," she shared. "I knew I needed urgent medical treatment, so that I would not die and leave my helpless daughter to fend for herself.

"I was told that the best treatments were available in South Korea, so I left little Haun at an orphanage and told her that I would return in one week. I then set off for the long journey to South Korea in 2007.

"Three days later, I was arrested on the Mongolian border. The Chinese authorities detained me and repatriated me to North Korea, where I spent three months being interrogated and severely tortured in a detention center. I still bear the scars today from the horrendous treatment I received.

"I was then placed in police custody and raped. Women are often victims of this type of treatment, because they are considered to be traitors and of very little value to society.

"I became pregnant as a result and was forced to endure an excruciating abortion without anesthesia.

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“While still in severe pain, I was transferred to a prison camp where it was bitterly cold. I was given a sentence of three years and endured many days where I felt that I could hardly walk and would rather die. I saw many around me die of starvation and disease, and their bodies simply discarded like garbage.

“All I could do was to rely on God to help me through each day, which felt like hell itself. I sought the Lord as I saw others starving and being beaten by the guards. I asked God to help me during the many days that my eyes filled with tears as I experienced pain and sorrow.

“My heavenly Father comforted me and gave me strength during these difficult times. My knowledge of the Bible was very limited, but God miraculously brought the following words to my mind.

***No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it*** (1 Cor. 10:13).

“I was encouraged to press on as I pondered these words, but I could not remember where I had heard them. I was able to witness to eight of my fellow prisoners about God’s mercy. We would often come together to pray when things became unbearable.

“Three years later, I was released from the prison camp and reunited

with my family in N. Korea, where I was able to tell them about Jesus.

“Six months later during 2011, I again made the dangerous journey to China by crossing the Tumen River in the middle of the night, in search of my daughter. God protected me each step of the way and I arrived safely.

“I was finally able to find a Bible and searched for those words that came to mind while in prison. I was overjoyed to find the words in 1 Corinthians 10:13 and surprised to learn that it was truly a Scripture in the Bible!

“I went to a hospital in China and was examined on two occasions by the doctors. They could not find any trace of the cancer and I knew that God had healed me!

“I had left my daughter, Haun, at the orphanage when she was only two years old, telling her that I would only be gone for a week. Five years later, when I was finally able to get back to her, she was already seven years old. The feeling of joy and relief that overwhelmed my heart when I was finally able to embrace her was indescribable!

“One year later, after I earned enough money to pay a broker, a guide helped us escape to Thailand. From there, we made our way to South Korea where I found a job and worked hard to fit into society.

This new lifestyle caused me to depend less on God and He seemed to be more distant as my love for Him waned.

“Two years later, God used a group of North Korean escapees to speak to my heart. The love and fellowship that I experienced while with them helped me to renew my love for the Lord and understand why I needed to be utterly dependent on Him.

“The teaching I struggled the most with in the Bible was forgiveness. The Bible teaches us to forgive our enemies, but I vehemently resisted.

“I wondered how it could be possible to forgive those who imprisoned me, starved me and treated me so brutally. I felt intense anger and hate as I remembered these things and did not know what to do with the feelings that overwhelmed me.

“I eventually realized that I would only be free if I chose to forgive. It was a struggle, but I forgave each person as I recounted each incident that I had experienced.

“I forgave the cruel man who beat me while interrogating me. I forgave the guard who struck me until the blood ran when I stole two red peppers when I was starving. I also forgave the man who had brutally raped me.

“I was able to forgive these people after God clearly showed me that Jesus died not only for their sins, but He also came so that my sins could be forgiven. He was innocent, but willingly gave His life, by being tortured and shedding His blood, so that a sinful person such as I could be forgiven.

“Who was I to tell God that I could not forgive the sins of others? I placed all my anger and resentment at the foot of the cross and was released from my intense anger and hate.

“My life was changed and I now live each day with my 13-year-old daughter, experiencing true freedom and joy through the grace that only God can give.

“My heart goes out in prayer for the 25 million people of North Korea. I have a deep desire to help them know the Lord Jesus as I do. God has placed many refugees like me in South Korea and has called us to spread the Gospel and the Word of God to those in the North.” □

**(The names have been changed and some details omitted in this story to protect their identities.)**

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## UPDATE - NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES

Japan Mission sponsors the ministry of those helping N. Korean refugees in S. Korea. They are often in need of specialized counseling, because they have been so thoroughly brain-washed. Many have been wonderfully saved and have a burden to share the Gospel with relatives who still live in N. Korea. **Pray** for Kan and the network of N. Korean Christian escapees who are actively involved in sharing the Good News and transporting the Word of God into N. Korea.