

Preparing for the Opening of North Korea Part II – Ways to Prepare

Fr. Ben Torrey, Director, The Fourth River Project, Inc.

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We have spoken of the great need to prepare for the day when the doors of North Korea open. Here we will focus on some very practical steps to prepare.

Looking back to Isaiah 62 – God’s promise for the restoration of Jerusalem, of Pyongyang, in addition to the command in verse 10 to prepare the way, we find another command in verses 6 and 7.

*On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen;
All day and all night they will never keep silent.
You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves;
And give Him no rest until He establishes
And makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

We are commanded to pray, to give God no rest, and to do this until something specific happens – until Pyongyang, the Jerusalem of the East, becomes a name that is praised throughout the earth. This is the basic foundation of our work of preparation – prayer. We must pray for North Korea, for our brothers and sisters there. We must pray for the doors to open and people to be free to worship God. We must pray that the light return. We must pray that the land and nation will be restored. And, we must pray for our preparations.

What are these preparations? The most fundamental one is that as the Church of Jesus Christ goes north, it go with one heart and one mind; that it leave behind the divisions, jealousies, hurts and sin that so plague our fellowship. We speak of the love of Jesus Christ yet we, His Church, do not show love to one another. This is the greatest need, that we, who call ourselves Christians, must repent of our divisions and our pride and truly become one with each other. Before the unification of North and South, we must be unified within the Church. This is our first and greatest prayer.

In addition to working and praying for the unity of the Church, we also need to do all we can to prepare our minds and bodies. We must seek to understand the nature of North Korea, its culture and fundamental assumptions, its history, the nature of religion, society, family structures, language and so much more. To do this, we encourage research and draw on this research to learn and share the knowledge that is so important.

The Fourth River Project (네번째강 계획) is established for this specific purpose – to prepare for the opening of North Korea through research, education, training, promoting unity and developing strategies. Its headquarters are at Jesus Abbey in Taebaek, Kangwon Do where we are building the Three Seas Training Center (삼수령 훈련원) (The names come from the fact that the rivers flowing to the three seas

surrounding Korea all begin in this location. The “Fourth River” is the river of Life flowing north to North Korea.)

At Jesus Abbey’s Three Seas Center, the Fourth River Project hosts North Korea Schools provide training and networking opportunities to those who have a heart for North Korea. This is a first small step of a much greater program that we plan once the training center is built. Then, we will have continuous programs throughout the year for all ages providing deeper knowledge of North Korea and sharing strategies for bringing the knowledge of Jesus Christ into that land and culture. The center will also be a place of research and working out strategies.

If you are interested in knowing more about this work of preparation, visit the Fourth River Project website at www.thefourthriver.org. Next month we will look at some strategies fro proclaiming Jesus Christ in North Korea.

Ben Torrey
Director
The Fourth River Project and the Three Seas Center
bentorrey@thefourthriver.org
www.theforthriver.org