

Dear Friends and Family,

Recently my heart has been touched learning about what is happening to North Koreans. Many of you may not know of the situation going on there, but North Koreans are suffering immensely from food shortages, and religious and political persecution.

People in North Korea are suffering from malnutrition and starvation. The food shortage is so great that an estimated 2 to 3 million people have starved to death over the past 10 years. Although, North Korea receives millions of dollars of food aid annually, Kim Jong II keeps it for the military and the elites of the Communist party so it rarely reaches the people who so desperately need it.

For the past six years, North Korea has been ranked #1 on the Open Doors annual World Watch List of countries where Christians suffer the most severe persecution. North Korea is suspected of detaining more political and religious prisoners than any other country in the world. There are currently about 200,000 prisoners being held in North Korean prison camps, and Open Door's sources report that between 50,000 and 70,000 of the prisoners are Christians.

When North Koreans escape to China, they are not safe. The Chinese government has been forcibly returning North Korean refugees who have escaped. Once returned, refugees are interrogated, and depending upon their answers they are often tortured, sent to prison camps and even publicly executed. Those who have become Christians or admit having contact with Christians receive harsher punishment.

I feel called to use my freedom here in the U.S. to help these refugees, so I will be joining Open Doors in Washington, DC for North Korea Freedom Week (NKFw) April 27 – May 2. NKFw includes events such as Congressional hearings, panel discussions, a prayer service, and a rally on Capitol Hill. Most importantly, I will be visiting my Congressional Representative's office to ask him/her to sign a congressionally sponsored letter addressed to President Hu Jintao on behalf of these refugees.

You have the chance to partner with me in my efforts to bring both physical and spiritual freedom to North Korean Refugees! Would you please join me in my endeavors? You can do so through your prayers, financial support, or by joining me in DC for NKFw.

If you would like to help support me on this trip, please make your checks payable to_____. Most importantly, please keep NKFw and my trip in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe

P.S. If you would like to find out more about this critical issue, please check out the following websites; www.odusa.org and www.nkfreedom.org.