

Kim Jong Il and Repentance

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People have been asking if the death of Kim Il Sung means that God is satisfied with the church's repentance. It means he is being merciful to us and removing one danger and opening the way for some changes. Unless we pray earnestly, however, we may be no better off than before.

What do we pray for? We pray for Kim Jong-Il to change the meaning of the word "juche." He cannot drop the word or bury the word without maligning his father. But words can change their meaning. This word must, somehow, be reinterpreted to mean that North Korea can cooperate with South Korea for investment and development. There have already been a few tentative moves in that direction. Now we need earnest prayer that we can provide investment, employment, and economic help without anybody losing face. We must not push reunification too fast or we will face a much worse scenario than that faced by West Germany after removing the Berlin wall. Years have now gone by and the difference between those two countries is still a problem for West Germany. If we try to remove the DMZ overnight we will face a much more difficult problem: as we have said before, it will be like the breaking of a dam with terrible damage as the water floods down into the valley below.

We must pray earnestly that God will lead Kim Jong-Il and his advisers in the right direction. But we must also pray earnestly for South Korea. We have not yet repented as we should. God's word to us was for the church people to repent. Nothing happens by accident, since God is the Creator. This disastrous drought we are currently enduring is God trying to say something to us, as he spoke to the people of Israel in the time of Ahab and Jezebel. Ahab believed in Jehovah, but he allowed his wife, Jezebel, who was a Baalist, to lead him around by the nose. Today we have many Christians in public life and high up in government, but they are letting themselves be led around by the nose by the atheistic humanists, especially the big landlords who have created tremendous fortunes and political power through land speculation and land "ownership." Such "ownership" is, in God's view, not only Baalistic, it is a form of legalized theft. Until the Christians in the National Assembly agree to reduce taxes on production and construction and increase — drastically — the "taxes (actually, the payment of rent to the real owners of the land, the people of the nation)" on land we can expect our economy to deteriorate steadily as the American and European economies are doing.

God has told us that greed is idolatry, but there are very few signs that the church has even begun to repent of greed. We can thank God for increasing repentance with regard to abortion, but that is only a beginning. Remember 2 Chronicles 7:14: *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

What “wicked ways” is God talking about? Adultery, breaking up of marriages, husbands being violent toward their wives and wives obeying the pastor rather than their own husband, and all of this supported by constant lying. “Christian” women lying to their non-Christian husbands, “Christian” children lying to their non-Christian parents, and a general attitude in the church that truth is of no consequence! God is truth, and any form of lying, whether in business, politics, or church life, is ungodly and cannot bring God’s blessing. In public life there has been considerable repentance of bribery, but there is still a long way to go. And what about anger? We pray every day “forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.” Have we really begun forgiving those who have hurt us, whether parents, false friends, national enemies, or any others against whom we harbor anger in our hearts? As we begin to forgive others, God will begin to forgive us and heal our land.