



TOPIK

(Towards Peace in Korea)

Worldwide Anglican Peace Conference Seoul 2007

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I pray for God's peace upon you.

First of all, I would like to express great thanks to you and your church who have prayed for and supported the success of "Towards Peace in Korea (TOPIK), Worldwide Anglican Peace Conference Seoul 2007."

The Anglican Church of Korea has her best preparing the Peace Conference in November. All Anglican priests and congregation are praying for the success of the Conference and collaborating with the Korean government and Non Governmental Organizations which have specialties and experiences with North Korea. In order to have peace settlement in the Korean Peninsula, I firmly believe that two concerned parties, North and South Korea, need to develop mutual trust and frequent meetings. So my preparing committee has contacted the North Korean counterparts and explained the object and contents of the Conference to them. So far, there have been many concerns and much expectation about the Peace Conference in Korea.

However, it is very difficult for me to prepare a visit to North Korea, as a major part of the Conference, between 14 and 16 November. Even though I contacted and proposed my plan to visit North Korea several times, the concerned parties of North Korea haven't given me definite answers. So I am deeply pondering whether I should continue this project or not. When I sent the letter a month ago, I intended to finalize the North Korea visit project by the end of July.

Even though there are so many unpredictable variables dealing with North Korea, some promising signs are coming into our sights. The two Korean governments announced recently that two summits would meet in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, from Aug. 28 to 30. And the minister level meeting is scheduled in Sept. The unification minister is John Lee, who is an Anglican priest. Even if there are many skeptics on our visit to North Korea, he is so much positive in this matter because of the two historical events in the Korean

peninsula.

After serious discussions and considerations, The Peace Conference preparing committee decided to continue her efforts to make the visit to North Korea happen. All of the schedules will be done as planned. The World Anglican Leaders will visit Pyongyang, North Korea from the 14th to the 16th of November and the peace conference will be held from the 17th of November. Therefore, the delegation who will visit Pyongyang should arrive in Seoul by November 13th. You can check all the details about the Peace Conference from the website, www.topik2007.org.

While the Korean Anglican Church is preparing the Conference, I am learning many valuable things. There are incurable disbelief and scars between the two Koreas, which have been divided for more than 60 years. In order for the two Koreas to really become one, these mutual distrust and wounds should be removed. I believe the church can play a leading role in this curing process. I must confess that this project seems to be beyond my ability. But God's help and my Anglican sisters and brothers around the world can make it possible. So I ask for your prayer.

May God's Grace upon you.

The Most Rev. Francis K Park

Primate Bishop of the Anglican Church of Korea
Chairman of the Peace Conference