

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

SOUTH KOREA

General Information

- Official name: Republic of Korea
- Population 49,779,000 (2011)
- Capital: Seoul
- Per-capita income is \$80 a year.
- The world's second largest sender of Christian missionaries, surpassed only by the United States (The BBC estimates S. Korea sends 20k missionaries to other countries; remarkable compared to the population ratio).
- Freedom of religion is guaranteed by the constitution.
- Protestants comprise 18.3 percent.
- Buddhism 22.8 percent (10.7 million).
- Thousands of Koreans rise to attend prayer services in huge city churches at 4:30 a.m. before heading for work.



Challenges

- Health and wealth theology is very popular in South Korea. The Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul has grown to a membership of more than 750,000 people. That means the church has more members than some entire denominations in Europe. Pastor Young-hoon Lee (S. Korean version of Joel Osteen) believes the church has grown because it preaches about how becoming a Christian brings prosperity and physical health (Source: Christian Science Monitor).
- Myoung-kyu Park, a sociology professor at Seoul National University, says Christianity is intrinsically associated with Western prosperity in the minds of many Koreans.
- Set within the 10/40 window of unreached poor countries.
- Roman Catholicism is on the rise.
- False conversions abound. Lee Sun Hee, the senior vice-president of the Love Village center, states that when we talk about Christianity, about 95% accept it.

PRAY FOR

1. Freedom of religion has allowed several heretical groups to flourish. Pray that correct theology will be taught among the believers in S. Korea.
2. Recent rise of materialism and worldliness.
3. South Korean missions to the North.