

Gemeinsames Gebet zum 15. August 2006

In our Korean people's journey toward peace and unification, the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK) and the Korean Christian Federation (KCF) in the North have met together once a year since 1989 to jointly write a common prayer for peace and reunification. This prayer is raised every year in commemoration of the August 15th anniversary of liberation from Japanese colonial rule, followed too soon by the cruel division of the peninsula against the will of the Korean people. The NCCCK every year asks partner churches around the world to join the Korean people in this heartfelt prayer of pain and faith-filled hope, on the Sunday closest to August 15th. This year's prayer is reprinted here by permission of the NCCCK. While it comes to you well after August 15th, we believe that God hears this prayer of our people and you who join with us, at all times of the year.

Das Gemeinsame Gebet wurde uns dankenswerterweise von der PROK übermittelt.

**2006 Common Prayer
for Peace and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula**

God of peace,
We give thanks for your loving hands caring for every life and all of history.

God,
We recovered our freedom after thirty-six years of Japanese occupation, and since then, another sixty-one years has passed.
This is not a short time; but still there are voices around us defending the old structure of division.
Nonetheless, this land abounds with dreams for reunification.

"The North and the South have agreed to join our strength as a sovereign and responsible people, and to independently solve the problem of national reunification."

On that day of June 15, 2000 when news of the North-South Joint Declaration was broadcast,
We could not believe our own ears and eyes.

God,
Who will dare obstruct your plans?
Though the sharp teeth of barbed-wire fences remain along the truce line,
Coming and going over those fences
Are the hearts of the divided families,
With their sharing of wisdom for life together,
And their care and concern for each other.
These have laid down the base for our future peaceful community.

God,
We thank you for giving us new opportunities.
Rather than clinging to outdated pride in our past leadership role for reunification and peace,
May we, the churches of North and South, embrace a greater value:
Our hope in a new day filled with strength and vitality, a new day we will build together.

We believe
That the peaceful economic and cultural community we dream of
Will result from the hope that binds our hearts together.
However fierce may be the suffering that we face,
However fearsome may be the storms that try us,
We steadfastly believe in the amazing plan of God, who has brought us out of brokenness and ruin and into a relationship of trust and

understanding.

God of love,
Now we are awakened to the knowledge
That though we have been divided for the past sixty years, there was
never any division in You;
That though we doubted, there was always the reality of oneness in You.
Therefore, in You we already have experienced reunification.

We pray our reunification will be strong and beautiful.
We pray it will set aright our history of pain and suffering,
Bring unity to our nation, and offer hope to the whole world.

May the train departing from this land, pass through the Asian and
European continents and finally reach the ocean at the far end of the
western land.
May the fire-pillar of peace starting from this land, shine a light on the
continents to the utmost reaches of the western land.
Grant that our reunification will be hope for the world.

God,
In You, once again we dream a great dream.
The dream you dreamed on the cross in that ancient time,
The great dream of every person and all of history abiding in You,
Is our dream also.

With hope for the peace of this land and the unity of its people,
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
Amen.