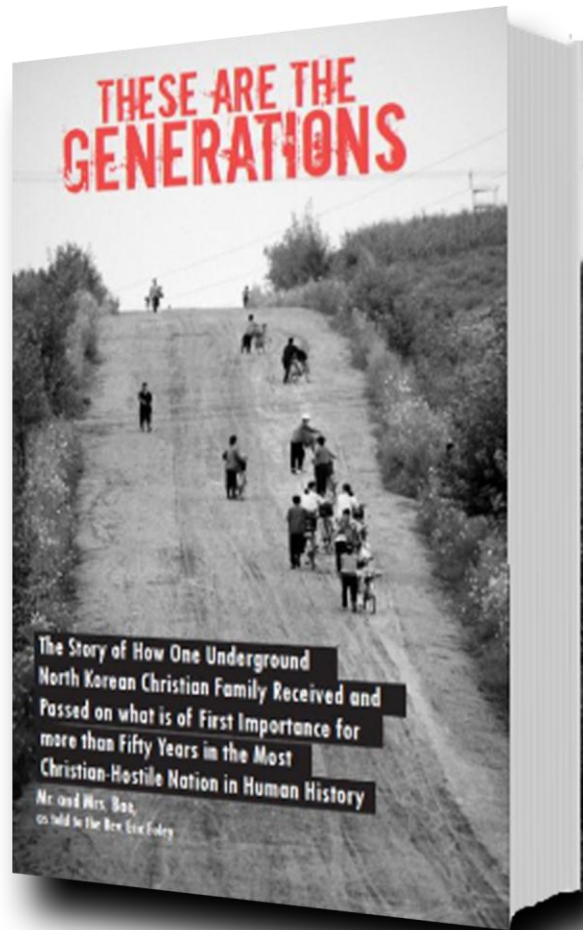


THESE ARE THE GENERATIONS

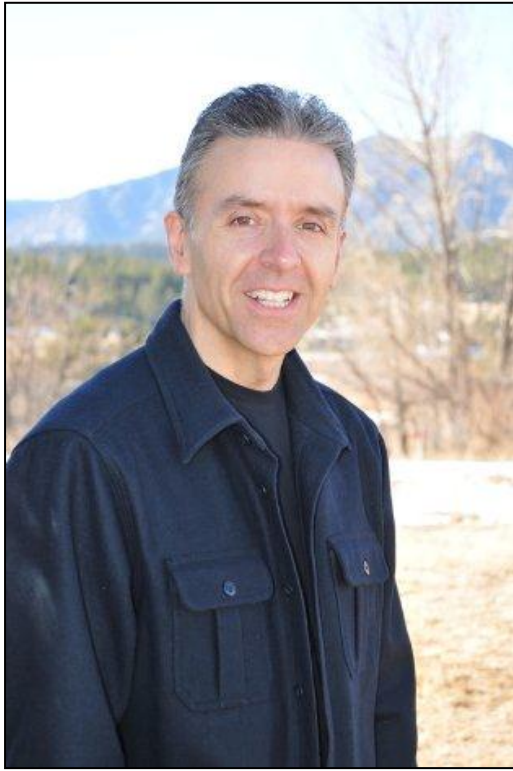


PRESS KIT

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Author Bio: The Rev. Eric Foley



The Reverend Eric Foley is CEO and Co-Founder, with his wife Hyun Sook Foley, of Seoul USA, a multinational, multicultural ministry supporting the work of the indigenous underground church in North Korea and the spreading of historic underground Christian discipleship practices worldwide. Foley is a much sought after speaker, analyst, and project consultant on the North Korean underground church, North Korean defectors, and underground church discipleship. He and the Seoul USA executive team oversee a far-flung staff in the US and across Asia that is working to help North Koreans and Christians everywhere grow to fullness in Christ. Foley is Dean of Underground University, a missionary training college for North Koreans. He is committed to equipping North Korean church leaders for comprehensive underground Christian service.

Rev. Foley pastors .W (which stands for DOTW, or Doers Of The Word) Evangelical Churches in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Seoul, Korea, congregations of The Evangelical Church of North America denomination. Over

the past twenty years he has helped more than 1,300 churches and Christian NGOs learn how to build volunteer and giving programs. Most recently, he has taught them how to adapt discipleship practices of the North Korean underground church (and other underground churches throughout history) to churches in countries with freedom of religion.

Rev. Foley received a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Purdue University, served as Presidential Scholar at Christian Theological Seminary, and received a master's degree in Applied Communication and Alternative Dispute Resolution from the University of Denver. He is currently a doctoral student and Nonprofit Fellow in the Doctor of Management Program in the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University, where his research centers on the happiness of North Korean defectors. He is an ordained pastor of The Evangelical Church of North America.

Rev. Foley and his wife, Hyun Sook, the Co-Founder and President of Seoul USA and a doctoral student at Regent University, divide their time between Colorado and Seoul. They have four children. His books, *Coach Your Champions* and *The Whole Life Offering* are available through amazon.com. His congregational training manuals and persecuted church discipleship manifesto *Church is for Amateurs* are available through Seoul USA.

Bio: Mr. and Mrs. Bae

Mr. and Mrs. Bae (not their real names) are the North Korean subjects of *These are the Generations: The Story of How One North Korean Family Lived Out the Great Commission for More Than Fifty Years in the Most Christian-Hostile Nation in Human History*. Once a prosperous North Korean family, the Baes' life was decimated following the North Korean government's investigation of Mr. Bae on suspicion of Christian proselytism. Held without charge in a North Korean jail for more than a year, Mr. Bae's faith grew even as his health failed. Mr. Bae is the first third generation North Korean Christian known to have defected to South Korea. He carries a wealth of previously unknown historical information about the unique ways the North Korean underground church lives, worships, and evangelizes in the most Christian-hostile conditions in human history. Mrs. Bae, a former North Korean schoolteacher, met and married Mr. Bae during his university studies. She unknowingly inherited the family's faith. During her marriage she came across puzzling clues about her husband's outlawed beliefs, until his imprisonment led to her own costly journey of faith with her mother-in-law. Reduced to vagabonds by the stigma of Mr. Bae's imprisonment, they raised their children in the faith and led friends and neighbors to Christ. They eventually responded to God's call to leave North Korea in order to share their family story with the world. The Baes cautiously tell all they can about this previously unknown part of the body of Christ. Their identities are protected so as not to further endanger those they left behind, including Mr. Bae's parents who are currently imprisoned in a North Korean concentration camp because of their own evangelistic activity.

North Korea Fact Sheet

- Since the 1970s, North Korea has been regarded as the most Christian-hostile nation on earth by sources ranging from the U.S. State Department's Religious Freedom report to Worldwatch Institute's annual rating of persecuting countries.
- Among the last communist dictatorship, North Korea is often mistakenly regarded as an atheist country. With its Juche ideology which institutionalizes the worship of the Kim family, it may actually be the most religious country on earth. Citizens are required to attend regular "self-criticism" meetings which include the singing of songs of praise of Kim Il Sung from a 600 song hymnal, readings from the writings of Kim Il Sung (including Sung's "Ten Principles," reminiscent of the Ten Commandments), and emotional professions of faith to the Kim leadership.
- North Koreans defecting from their homeland often seek out church buildings and Christian missionaries because they have heard that help is available through these sources. When they encounter Christian faith for the first time, they typically remark on the similarity of its forms of worship to North Korea's Juche ideology.
- The resemblance to Christianity is not accidental. Juche blends Marxism with traditional Korean Confucianism and Christianity to produce an ideology designed to make communism (by definition a new historical development) palatable to Korean culture, which values the ancient much more than the new. Several of Kim Il Sung's relatives were Christian, and he is well known to have been conversant with Christian theology at a surprising level of depth.
- North Korea is now governed by Kim Il Sung's grandson in an unprecedented third generation communist succession. Unlike other personality-driven states, North Korea has always been coalition-driven by a behind-the-scenes group of military and communist party leaders whose loyalty must be carefully maintained and cultivated. Thus, despite a new face, North Korean leadership remains largely unchanged.
- An estimated 40 percent of North Korea's gross domestic product is spent on the maintenance of the Juche ideology, with even the smallest villages boasting elaborate Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il Research Centers. Slogans of the greatness of the Kim family are carved in towering letters on every national landmark. New statues continue to be built, and visitors from the outside world are brought before these to pay tribute to North Korea's deceased but deified leaders.
- Though widely viewed as having been on the verge of collapse since severe famines swept the country in the early 1990's, North Korea actually possesses vast and largely untapped natural resources, in addition to a diversified underground economy of weapons sales, drug trafficking, insurance fraud, and counterfeiting—activities estimated to generate as much as 40 percent of North Korea's income. North Korea is alleged to possess the world's second largest store of rare earth minerals, with analysts pegging the total value in the trillions of dollars. Unlike other communist dictatorships, North Korea's best economic days are undoubtedly ahead.
- North Korea remains a formidable military power, with the fourth largest standing army in the world—over a million soldiers, which is more than Russia. North Korea is also known to possess the largest number of special forces in the world, even more than the United States.
- Of major concern to the international community are North Korea's massive conventional armed forces and its aggressive pursuit and testing of weapons of mass destruction (WMD's). In 2006 and again in 2009, the DPRK claimed it had successfully detonated nuclear weapons. While the actual testing of nuclear devices could not be verified, Japanese seismologists confirmed that earthquake events exceeding a magnitude 4 occurred in October 2006 and again in May 2009. That led the IAEA to announce that North Korea had become a "fully fledged nuclear power." North Korea is believed to possess a significant stockpile of chemical weapons and the military regime is also considered to be a major source of arms and funding for various terrorist groups worldwide.

- Famine due to starvation is widely acknowledged by analysts as political in nature, with rations divided among the state's three classes (loyalists, questionable ones, and the unfaithful) based upon loyalty to the Kim family.
- A prominent social element at the inception of the North Korean state, Christians were persecuted and then all but exterminated as Kim Il Sung grew in power through the 1950s. By the 1970s there is little evidence of the existence of more than a handful of underground Christians surviving.
- Today, after nearly twenty years of contact with South Korean missionaries along the China/North Korea border, reliable estimates from NGO and US government sources indicate a total Christian population in North Korea of 100,000. Of this population, an estimated 30,000 are imprisoned in concentration camps, the existence of which are well attested by both survivors and satellite photos, though steadfastly denied by the North Korean government.
- Four state churches operate when foreign visitors are present, and the North Korean government receives funds from a number of international Christian organizations on purported cooperative humanitarian projects. The lack of robust international verification continues to cast doubt on the programmatic efficacy and financial viability of such projects.
- North Korean citizens are guaranteed freedom of religion in the North Korean state constitution; however, even the smallest and most basic expressions of Christian practice (e.g., congregating for worship, possessing Christian literature in any form, and even bowing one's head to pray) are considered crimes against the state and punished severely.
- Some 28,000 North Korean defectors have escaped (via China and through third countries like Mongolia, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam) to South Korea. Upon arrival they are recognized as South Korean citizens, since the Korean War never officially ended. They receive a settlement package consisting of financial aid, an apartment, and ongoing social welfare.
- Given the divergence of language of the two Koreas over the last 50 years (a figure perhaps as high as 40 percent), along with the sharp contrasts between South Korea's market economy and North Korean socialism, North Korean defectors struggle to navigate through South Korean society. North Korean defectors in South Korea have the highest rate of suicide of any population group in the world, accounting for more than 16 percent of all deaths.
- General prejudice against North Koreans by South Koreans limits social contact between the two groups, and even North Korean defector Christians are assisted to worship in their own separate congregations by South Korean Christians, who typically provide financial aid to North Korean defectors as an inducement for them to come to church.
- North Korean defectors are thus considered objects of pity by South Koreans rather than subjects of potential.
- South Korea is home to 10 of the world's 11 largest churches, including the world's largest congregation, Yoido Full Gospel Church. It is also the most Christian country in Asia. Still, the Korean Protestant Church is losing members at a rate of 2-4 percent per year as young people turn away from the faith. Can the North Korean underground church, as a subject of potential rather than an object of pity, point the way forward to renewal and revival for the South Korean church? *These are the Generations* is an effort to foster that conversation.

Source: Bae & Foley, 2012. *These are the Generations*. Colorado Springs, CO: .W Publishing.

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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NEW BOOK HIGHLIGHTS THE GENERATIONAL SUFFERING OF NORTH KOREAN CHRISTIANS

***These Are The Generations* tells the story of the victorious faith of the Bae family— secret Christians forced to endure hardship, persecution and imprisonment in the most restricted nation on earth**

Colorado Springs, CO—The recent release of Pastor Youcef Nardarhani from an Iranian prison focuses international attention on the plight of prisoners of faith in countries hostile to Christianity. Former President George W. Bush described Iran and North Korea as two rogue nations, part of an “axis of evil”. Religious freedom for Christians in both countries is restricted and non— state sanctioned religious activity is prohibited.

In North Korea, anyone who practices or shares a faith other than Juche (an ideology of self— reliance and worship of the country’s leaders) is subjected to arrest, torture or public execution. Many Christians are imprisoned simply for believing differently than the majority and engaging in private worship.

The Great Pyongyang Revival of 1907 brought an explosion of Christianity to the Korean peninsula, but a mere fifty years later, North Korea plummeted into the most oppressive darkness Christians have ever encountered. Believers faced near total extinction, experiencing a religious genocide unseen in human history.

These Are The Generations chronicles the story of the Baes, a North Korean family that struggled to receive and pass on the gospel from generation to generation, through labor camps, prisons, interrogations, and the greatest challenge of all—everyday life in North Korea.

Their story is told by Reverend Eric Foley, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Seoul USA, a ministry serving to bridge the Western church with Christians in Asia.

“In all my years of working to raise awareness about North Korea, I have never encountered a more inspirational and complete story of generational faith and endurance,” said Foley. “God brought the Baes

to us, so we may expose the truth to the world through their encouraging and uplifting story of Christian steadfastness and victory. “

Mr. Bae—a former prisoner for his faith in the North Korean gulag— says Christian inmates are forced to endure many hardships, inhumane treatment, and horrid conditions in prison. However, he told Foley not to feel sorry for them because, “Prison is the best seminary training a Christian can get.”

In *These Are The Generations*, Bae describes his prison experience:

I just sat, unmoving, for seventeen hours a day, for more than a year of my life... I thought about how, during my army duty, I had buried God’s love in a back room of my heart and instead received love from my superiors. I thought about how I had sought admission to the Communist Party above everything else in life, how I had come home pridefully when I achieved this... I thought about how I had forgotten God and failed to rely on him. I thought about how I had relied only on my own brilliance...

And so sitting there hour after hour, day after day, month after month, as one year yielded to its successor, I repented. And of all things, a spirit of thankfulness rose up in me. I became thankful to the Lord for this time in prison—his arresting me from my own pride and drawing me into a time of reflecting, of mumbling too soft for words, of striving to remembering by his grace every hymn that we had ever sung, every lesson my grandfather had ever taught...

***Interviews with the author, Reverend Eric Foley may be arranged by contacting Tim Dillmuth at Seoul USA. A press kit which features bios of the author and the Baes, a North Korea fact sheet, and translated video and audio clips from an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Bae are available for download at <http://www.thesearethegenerations.com>. Printed copies of the book and a press kit are available on request from Seoul USA.**