

Durihana, Inc. Newsletter

On the Journey to Movements helping North Korean Refugee...

"Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow(Isaiah 1:17)."

<http://blog.naver.com/czvd139>

MC:-There are more than 30 North Korean defectors who have found political asylum in the United States since March 2006. Last weekend, North Korean refugees in America gathered in Washington DC for the first time at a reunion meeting. Durihana USA ("Durihana, Inc." official name) Korean American organization helping NK refugees enter and resettle in the U.S sponsored the reunion meeting. VOA reporter Kim Geunsam was also at the reunion.

Q. Geunsam, is this the first time that North Korean refugees who came to the United States gathered at one place?

Kim: Yes, this reunion meeting was organized by Durihana USA, which has been helping North Koreans settle in America. There were fifteen North Koreans in total, each from different places. They are as follows: New York City, Chicago, Washington DC, Richmond VA, Dallas Texas, Denver Colorado, Syracuse NY, Louisville KY, and Charlottesville VA. A small group of defectors has appeared at Congressional hearings, but this is the first time that such a large number of North Koreans gathered in America.

Q. They shared the same hard and terrible experiences in North Korea, China, and South East Asia until they arrived in the States. There had to be a lot of emotion.

Kim: It seemed as if a three-day reunion was too short. All the refugees who came to the reunion were assigned to a nearby hotel. They were supposed have a room for every two. However, most of them just couldn't go to bed. So, they gathered in a single room to talk about their American lives with each other until five o'clock in the morning.

Q. The first North Korean refugees since enactment of North Korean Human Rights Act arrived on May 2006. They have been living in America for more than 20 months. How are they doing now?

Kim: Actually, all of them have left their families behind in North Korea. So they did not wish to have their voices broadcast or their pictures taken. Therefore, I did a simple survey. When asked 'how satisfied are you with American life,' all except one replied 'very satisfied.' The only one exception's reply was 'satisfied.' It is obviously hard to live in a completely different environment, but still they endeavor to have a better life by seeking a job or studying hard.

Q. This is pleasing news.

Kim: Rev. Cho Young-Jin; Chairman of Durihana USA says he is pleased to watch the quality of their lives in this country changing and improving. Let's listen to his remarks.

Cho: "All of the refugees seem to be satisfied because they have the freedom to work and earn a living. Of course, a lot of hardship awaits them. However, it is worth it because it allows them to attain a better quality of life and more chances of enjoying freedom. Looking at all this, I am so pleased and thankful."

Kim: There are quite a few North Korean refugees who are really working hard.

Q. Could you tell us about them?

Kim: One lady is living in Richmond with her young daughter. She's been here for about one year. She works at a factory in the morning and in a nursery in the afternoon. She also has two other jobs, including a janitorial work for two days a week. She earns about three thousands dollars a month and plans to buy a house. Another person from Chicago has three different jobs and, at the same time studies English at a private academy. She sleeps only 3 to 4 hours a day. While this is physically difficult, it is no more difficult than living in a Thai refugee camp. She has said that she's thankful for the opportunity to acquire her new life in this free country. Still, the majority of North Korean refugees in this country are experiencing economic hardships because they don't have regular/full-time jobs while taking English and vocational education. There are also many more interesting stories. A woman refugee met a man in this country and they got married a month ago. A man in his twenties studies at a high school along with American teenagers. He says he plans to go on to the seminary to become a pastor.

Q. What kind of hardships do North Korean refugees face in America?

Kim: Most of the respondents were dealing with feelings of loneliness and isolation. They missed their families back in North Korea very much. Another hardship was language barrier. Cultural and social differences were hard to bear as well Yet, they've been able to overcome all these obstacles with help from Korean American communities (especially Korean churches) all over the country.

Q. It is possible that some of our North Korean listeners might consider going to America while listening to us. Is there any advice from those who participated in the reunion to possible new refugees coming to the States?

Kim: I have posed this question. Many of the refugees advise fellow North Koreans not to have a fantasies about America. Nonetheless, they

add that anyone can achieve the American dream with hard work. One of them even hoped many more North Koreans could come to the United States so that they can help each other. Here is a statement from Rev. Cho:

Cho: *"For those who wish to come to the United States, there are several factors to be considered. First, it is easier for North Korean refugees to adapt to South Korea because of smaller language barrier and culture gap. Also, it takes less time to be allowed into South Korea. It is harder and more challengeable to come to the United States. At the same time, there are more chances and bigger stakes in this country. For anyone who is ready for challenge, America is still a land of opportunity."*

Q. The reunion must be a valuable opportunity for North Koreans here to share information and experience. Could this continue?

Kim: Yes. Durihana USA recognizes this reunion meeting's value and importance to the North Korean refugees. It plans to organize meetings annually.

(Resource: **Geunsam Kim**, "Voice of America" Jan. 22, 2008/Translator: Jingeul Park/English Editor: Hubert William)

Donor list (from Feb. 01, 2008 to March, 15, 2008)

Chang Paul, Oh Sook Hee, Jung Hye Yun, Cook (Kim) Suk Chu, Cho Young Jin, Ahn Hyowon, Ahn Sunghee, Jhin Hyo B Stasney Dale D. & Jon, Lee Clifford Y, Han In Sop, Kim Monica, Bak You Rim, Lee Sang Nam Larkin Sophia, Chun Jong Joon, Hanmee Presbyterian Church, Loving Community Church (Semihan Church), B.K.P.C. World Mission, Pure Presbyterian Church (NY Church Maria Mission), Brown University, Randolph Hills Nursing Care, INC., Midland Korean Church, Korean United Methodist Church of GW, Korean Presbyterian church of Salisbury, Durihana Inc (NJ), Pilgrim Community Church, Korean Community Service Center of GW, Korean United Methodist Church of South Suburban Chicago



Thank you for supporting the mission of Durihana, Inc! Our organization is funded entirely by private donations from a person like you! Durihana makes it a priority to allocate your donation where you wish to spend it. Please, specify one of four choices on your donation check to save lives!

"I want my donation to be spent undertaking: 1) To rescue & shelter management missions, 2) Refugee resettlement in the U.S mission, 3) Administration mission in the U.S or 4) Unspecified-left decision using my donation to the organization."

Please send your check to : **Durihana, Inc.**

P.O. Box 3451

McLean, VA 22103

Please make your check payable to "Durihana, Inc."

Durihana, Inc. announcements

1. The 2008 annual board meeting was held on Jan. 19 in the Washington D.C area. 9 board members were elected to serve the mission in 2008.
2. The first spiritual retreat for North Korean refugees who settled down in the U.S was successfully ministered from Jan. 19 to 21 by Rev. Cho and Rev. Chun. Praise the Lord who blessed the special time with North Korean refugees! We deeply appreciate your prayers.
3. Donation for Durihana, inc. is subject of tax exemption from IRS. We mailed annual receipts to all donors who donated for the mission of Durihana, Inc. during 2007.

Prayers requests for 365 days

1. For preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to North Korean.
2. For successful resettlement of North Korean refugees in the U.S.
3. Blessing on the mission of Durihana, Inc. in the U.S as well as Durihana in South Korea.
4. For collaboration with churches and organizations sharing the same vision in God to save lives at risk as well as to complete the mission of "back to Jerusalem."
5. For recruitment of volunteers and supporters for the Durihana mission.

Take Action Today!

Would you like to provide support for our mission? While you don't have to go to North Korea and third world countries to save lives, there are a number of ways to join our mission! If you want to join us, please feel free to contact us today!

For more information, please contact to Eunyoung Kim (contact number is as following).



Durihana, Inc.

Telephone: 301-442-4711

Email: thankyoukim@gmail.com/durihana@gmail.com

P.O. Box 3451

McLean, VA 22103

<http://www.durihana.com>