Despite its small physical size, South Korea has become a significant world force. It is located on a peninsula in the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan, where it hangs between China and Japan. It is home to the Cheomseongdae Observatory, the oldest astronomical laboratory in the world. South Korea’s demarcation occurred in 1953, when the country signed a ceasefire. Its northern border—the famous “38th parallel”—is a demilitarized zone that separates North and South Korea.

Since the ceasefire, South Korea has arisen as a technology leader. Its major industries include electronics and telecommunications, as well as automobile production. As a result, its socioeconomic issues resemble those of a typical burgeoning economy: high unemployment among young adults, poverty among the elderly, and socioeconomic inequality on the rise.

Only 27% of South Korea’s 51 million people are Christian. Confucianism is a popular practice. Despite the perpetual threat of conflict with North Korea, South Koreans consider their jobs and family lives more stressful than the perpetual threat of conflict. Because of this, they have high rates of suicide and alcohol use.

**Ministry Response**

There is tremendous opportunity to share God’s love and reach out with the Gospel in Korea. Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM–Korea) responds to the spiritual hunger across this Asian country through a variety of strategies:

**RADIO.** Each week, LHM–Korea produces *Dawn Devotional Time*, a national, 30-minute broadcast. Both Christians and non-Christians tune in, from those in taxis and hospitals to those who cannot attend church. In Korean culture, dawn is significant, the time at which churches conduct prayer gatherings. We are also preparing drama and talk-show programming.

**BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES.** Bible Correspondence Courses (BCCs) introduce the Gospel to people who don’t know Jesus and reinforce a biblical understanding for people growing in their faith. When someone responds to an outreach activity, LHM–Korea will typically invite the respondent to begin a BCC as the next step in his or her spiritual journey. BCCs are available for new believers, as well as small group leaders.
EQUIPPING THE SAINTS. LHM–Korea conducts Equipping the Saints workshops to provide a new generation of Christians with practical ways to carry the Gospel into their local communities. After attending these sessions, believers feel more confident sharing the Good News with their neighbors and inviting them to local congregations. We continue to keep in touch with the participants to help them apply what they learned.

YOUTH MINISTRY. Today’s young people will become tomorrow’s leaders in Korea. As young people struggle with conflicting moral and social choices, our Project JOEL program helps them make healthy lifestyle choices and avoid addictive or destructive behaviors. Many participants have never stepped foot inside a church. Others have strayed from the church. Project JOEL provides answers about Christianity and its relevance in their lives.

PERSONAL OUTREACH. LHM–Korea connects urban churches with rural churches to carry out service projects, such as home repair. We also conduct a lunch program for immigrant workers, which we tie to musical concerts and other presentations.

Impact

JIMIN’S SECRET: How God Rescued a Young Woman from a Dangerous Sect and Brought Her to Faith

Jimin is a college student. She dreams of becoming a singer. She even participated in Christian activities, including LHM’s Project JOEL events, which help students make solid lifestyle choices. But Jimin held a secret. She was involved in a harmful religious sect.

When Jimin was a teenager, her father remarried. Her new stepmother abused her. Without an adult to talk to about her burden, Jimin felt trapped. A classmate noticed Jimin’s pain and invited her to find help in the classmate’s religion. A vulnerable Jimin accepted the offer. The group’s “help” wasn’t as helpful as her friend claimed. But after several years of involvement, Jimin grew dependent on the group. She lacked the courage to cut ties with it.

Because she had participated in Project JOEL, Jimin knew she could talk to LHM staff. When she did, she found a caring individual who offered much-needed emotional support and biblical guidance. Jimin left the religious sect. Next, LHM introduced her to the pastor of a local Christian church that could help her recover from her past experiences. Jimin also stayed in touch with LHM for continued counseling.

Today, Jimin is walking a new path of faith in Jesus. As she shares her testimony with others, we believe the Holy Spirit will bring change to those around her.

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*Due to the sensitive nature of ministry work in this region, please do not reprint this information or post it on social media or in public places.