Mrs. Kim escaped North Korea on her fifth attempt.

Two days before meeting her, I had stood on the DMZ border of South and North Korea and felt the weight of tense conflict infused with hope that perhaps breakthrough and reconciliation could be possible. Now, sitting with Mrs. Kim in a small corner of a vibrant Baptist church outside Seoul, she said:

This is a story of pain and torture, but we see how God is moving. Even now the gospel is being preached in North Korea. Even now, I don't say, "Lord, don't send me back." I pray, "Lord, let your will be done." I believe for the Kingdom there have to be sacrifices and martyrdom.

As our time together ended, Mrs. Kim shared:

In North Korea, there are many underground Christians. They have learned to sing songs like "Amazing Grace" very quietly in a whisper. But they want to sing loudly. Pray that those who are in prison will be released. In Luke 4, Jesus says, using Isaiah 61, the spirit of the Lord is on me to preach the Good News to the poor, to release the prisoners and to heal the sick. This is exactly what needs to happen in North Korea. We are called to look after the widow and the orphan. Who will be the neighbor to the one who has been captured?

This powerful question continues to resonate. The exhortation of Luke 4:18-19 asks each us to respond to Jesus’ call to live as friends to those in our contexts, our countries, and our world who find themselves marginalized in situations of challenge.

Today there is a remarkable opportunity to pursue just peace and lasting reconciliation within the Korean peninsula. I urge all leaders and call upon each one of us to do the same, to build upon this moment before it passes. For in the end, as an interconnected global world, we must each respond to the question poised by Mrs. Kim. Will we be a good neighbor?

Click here for full article, including Mrs. Kim's story

Annual Gathering - July 1-6 in Zurich
Pray if You're Coming - Pray if You Can't This Year
HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, July 1
  Tour of Anabaptist Cave with worship experience facilitated by members of the Baptist Heritage and Identity Commission

Monday, July 2
  Special Session -- Evangelical-Reformed Tradition: Presentation and Evening Worship

Tuesday, July 3
  Communications Seminar on social media
  Corporate Worship - Baptist World Alliance-Swiss Baptist Union-Evangelical Reformed Church at Grossmünster Church

Wednesday, July 4
  Walking Tour facilitated by members of the Baptist Heritage and Identity Commission

Thursday, July 5
  Forum - Baptist World Alliance-Swiss Baptist Union-Evangelical Reformed Church

Friday, July 6
  Walking Tour facilitated by members of the Baptist Heritage and Identity Commission

Click here for more information

Baptist-Muslim Dialogue opens eyes to interfaith engagement

(A longer version of this blog post first appeared on the EthicsDaily.com website. We use an edited version on the BWA site.)

By Trisha Miller Manarin

I did not know what to expect when asked to attend the third Baptist-Muslim Dialogue of North America for Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Elijah M. Brown.

Reports from the first and second dialogues include deep, thoughtful reflections from experts in Muslim-Baptist interface and theology.

I began reading and listening to Baptist experts like Roy Medley and Paul Fiddes, along with papers presented by the BWA Commission on Interfaith Relations and reflections from Baptist sisters and brothers around the world.

Participating in this dialogue opened my eyes to see my experiences living in a variety of places -- and now residing in a county where there are more Muslims than Baptists -- as one of interfaith engagement.

Anwar Khan, president of Islamic Relief USA, was my partner in the session titled "Baptists and Muslims in Interfaith Relations." ...

Read the blog post here.
BWA News

Joint BWA-EBF Statement on the Israeli-Palestinian Situation
Jeff Carter to lead mobilization effort for BWA and CBM
Minister in Ghana nominated as "hero" for work with malnourished children

BWA Newsfeed
Baptist World magazine

Connect Points

2020-2025
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
BWA PRESIDENT &
BWA VICE PRESIDENTS

BWA is now accepting nominations for BWA president and vice presidents for 2020-2025. Please go to bit.ly/BWANominations for the nomination process and forms.

BWA podcast: Gifts from Global Baptists: Stories Engaging Churches in Conversation

Upcoming Events

Executive Committee | Annual Gathering | Celebration 2020 | Weekly Prayer Guide | BWA Calendar

Downloads

BWA app | BWA Human Rights Directory | Covenant on Intra-Baptist Relations

*BWA Publications*

Jesus Christ, the Door: The Official Report of the Twenty-first Baptist World Congress

Purchase at Amazon.com

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About the Baptist World Alliance
The Baptist World Alliance, founded in 1905, is a fellowship of 238 conventions and unions in 124 countries and territories comprising 47 million members in 169,000 churches. Its priorities are nurturing the passion for mission and evangelism; promoting worship, fellowship and unity; responding to people in need; defending human rights and justice; and advancing relevant theological reflection.