

Hea Woo at Spring Harvest

Chrissie Retallick writes:

Hans and I spent a week at Spring Harvest. it was a fantastic, spiritually uplifting experience, it was good to see two Bishops on the stage in a completely different attire jeans and tea shirt hands aloft praising God. I need to share this story, Hea Woo - a wonderful North Korean little lady, who was captured by the North Koreans because her husband was a devout Christian and of course in north Korea the family was penalised because of his faith as well. Her husband was taken to a Chinese prison and tortured. Hea Woo herself was taken and imprisoned in a North Korean prison. Prior to this a famine hit North Korea for 3 years and she watched her daughter die of starvation. But Hea Woo then herself found Jesus in that dark, dank filthy prison. She was humiliated tortured and raped along with 250 women in a disgusting rat infested room only space enough for 50 people. She trod over and slept on dead bodies. Once a month the soldiers cleared the bodies burnt them and brought back the ashes threw them on the floor for the women to walk over. She knew one day women would be walking on her ashes. She never lost her faith - in fact she brought others to faith in that hell hole of a prison. They held little worship groups in the filthy toilets as the guards would not go there because they stunk. She nearly died herself as she gave away her meager bowl of rice to others when they were ill. For ladies of a certain age there was no sanitary towels etc, and they had to rip their dresses and wash out the rags under the one dripping tap. After three years she was released - she managed to get to China but could not stay there as she would be repatriated back to North Korea and as a Christian she would most certainly been tortured and killed - her son managed to bribe the soldiers to get her into South Korea where she lives today but only to find her husband was tortured and died a martyr for Christ in a Chinese prison. We were shown some photos of the prison, and the guards and she said in her broken English 'it was far worse than that'. They were told Kim Jong was a God, he didn't go to the toilet because he had 'God' status and Gods do not go to the toilet. To keep Jesus alive her little group whispered Amazing Grace in the filthy stinking toilets so the guards did not hear and she again whispered 'Amazing Grace' in front of 5000 overwhelmed emotional people at Spring Harvest, we then joined her in singing that beautiful hymn in a whisper with her. What a privilege and an inspiration she was - the room was spellbound as this lovely lady sang very emotionally that beautiful hymn. The spirit of God was most definitely in that Spring Harvest room - needless to say she had a standing ovation - what a lady - and she could still say (in Korean as she had a translator with her) She loves Jesus. Hans and I had the humble privilege and honour of shaking her hand only to be met with a cuddle and kiss from this woman half my size dressed in national clothes. What an ambassador to Christ. No photos were allowed as she is under the watch of North Korea still.

Please pray for all those dying in for Christ in these evil prisons.