

Prayer of an Earthworm*

God of life and peace,
For those storing up the wounds of division and war,
Standing on the brink of despair,
Please listen to their prayers, the prayers of the earthworms.

As if in a dream, the inter-Korean and North Korea-United States summits that have come,
For laying the groundwork of the common peace of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia,
Let them become the "Factory of Hope."

May South and North lay down all confrontation and the spears and shields of conflict!
Declaring to each other a proclamation of forgiveness, and
May the healed and reconciled Korean Peninsula stand shoulder-to-shoulder!

May the surrounding superpower nations, who love their power, cease the practice of war!
And empty themselves of their greed and competition over the Korean Peninsula,
Let us open the path together toward peaceful coexistence.

For the future seven generations that will live on this earth,
May the foolishness of the suffering and the conflict of division,
No longer continue to be repeated!

In the hearts of the children and youth of this land,
May we hold a world ecological peace festival in the DMZ!
And may the vision of a North East Asian Common House be overflowing!

God of salvation and liberation,
Hear the prayers of the earthworms of this land,
Who live with the shackles of division and cold war,
Who dream of the peaceful world that God desires.

In the prayers of the churches of this land,
For the people of the nation wounded by division and cold war,
May love and forgiveness, healing and reconciliation, peaceful co-existence overflow!

As Jesus' death on the cross
Was not the end of God's history of salvation.
Let us believe that division will not be the end of God leading our nation's history.

Hearing the cries of the Hebrew slaves suffering under the oppression of the empire,
O God, who came down to lead the history of the Exodus,
Please remove the yoke of division and give us the grace of complete salvation and liberation.

So that South, North and the world may cultivate a spring of peace on the Korean peninsula,
Beyond the division and the Cold War, to realize the history of salvation and liberation,
Please stand alongside us at the new starting line.

—Lee Hong-Jung, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in Korea

* The word 'earthworm' is used in this poem as a collective image of *minjung*, a deep resentment-ridden people.