

Heaven

There is great suffering for Christians in North Korea. We have been told that there are many Christians in the notorious prison camps. Yet they do not deny their Lord and sing joyfully when one of their number dies. Such is their joyful expectancy of heaven that there is no fear of death.

What is their secret? We glimpsed some of it as we sat at the back of a Korean Church in this country with our headphones on for our English translation. The singing was not loud but it can perhaps be best described as sweet and over and over again, the themes were serving the Lord in this life, an assurance of the love of the God and a longing for heaven. They sang about “the smiling face of Jesus”, “his companionship until heaven” and then with firmness of resolve “I will continue my missionary work” as “I do not fear for the Lord is with me.” Words of another song included, “There are no tears in heaven.” It did not need much imagination to see them singing these songs in the prison camps.

They are not alone. “When some Sudanese Christians were asked why they sang so joyfully, when they seemed to have nothing to be thankful for, they replied, “Because God has given us another day and because we are going to heaven.”ⁱ

St Paul writes, “Fix (your) eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary but what is unseen is eternal”ⁱⁱ and “let heaven fill your thoughts.”ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ Barnabas Fund

ⁱⁱ 2 Cor.4:18 NIV

ⁱⁱⁱ Col 3:2 Living Bible



*Beyond the
darkness of this
world there is the
light of heaven.*