

Kingdom Report

Week 16 June 2018

North Korea, Billy Graham, Kim, Trump and the Presbyterian Connection

There is a fascinating historical connection around the Presbyterian Church connection of the Kim dynasty of North Korea, Billy Graham's wife and Donald Trump...and it could prove to be the breakthrough for the gospel in North Korea

I need to deviate this week from series on a collapsing world system as the real "end times" that our generation faces (and the necessity therefore for the saints to possess the Kingdom) and give you some fascinating background material on the Trump - Kim summit in Singapore.

Just a word of caution on my blog...this is a highly speculative "good news" report. But I think something is happening behind the scenes that has the fingerprints of the Lord on it and I will try to connect the dots for you.

As foundation for my speculation let me admit my Kingdom biases as follows:

- South Korea has one of the most dynamic Christian communities in the world mostly made up of Charismatic evangelicals and numerous mega-churches. They send out more than 15,000 missionaries into the world each year.
- This dynamic Korean church has made North Korea a special object of intensive prayer and intercession for decades and have active programs to smuggle bibles, videos and preachers across the border.
- North Korea is one of the last places on earth that is totally closed to the gospel but this is also the Kingdom age in which the Lord intends for His glory to fill all the earth and that includes North Korea.
- The Lord also is the one who controls the destiny of nations and raises up who He wills and takes down who He wills.

And in this crucial moment in Kingdom history we have two new leaders meetingDonald Trump and Kim Jong-un in Singapore. To the great dismay of all the pundits and foreign affairs experts the summit was kicked off with a very private meeting between these two for two hours...no aides, no helpers just one interpreter and no substantive reports about what they were privately talking about for 2 hours.

What was evident was the different in the tone of Donald Trump before the summit and then after his sit down meeting with Kim. Months before it was "little rocket man", "fire and fury", death and destruction to Korea, "I have a bigger button than your button" etc. After the summit much to the anger of the news media and expert commentators, Trump gushing, "He is a great leader", "he is smart", "Kim loves his people", "we will definitely get the nukes out and a new dawn for North Korea and the world" etc.

I am watching the usual commentators on CNN and BBC and others and the subjective negative reporting on the summit I find amazing, I mean I know they really

have it in for Trump but no need for all the negativity considering the importance of peace and de-nuclearization of Korean peninsula for the whole world.

So I started to do some research to see if I am missing something here. And I really believe from the clues I have uncovered there is what I believe a strong indication of the Lord's working here on both sides. Let me lay out the clues and you can make up your own mind.

First is to understand that regardless of your political feelings, by all accounts there is a very strong evangelical presence in the Trump White House and Cabinet who hold regular prayer meetings and Bible studies, including Vice President Pence, Sec. of State Pompeo, cabinet officials like Betsy De Vos, Educatio Sec., Perry at Energy Dept. Pruitt at EPA and a number of others that I can mention.

Donald Trump himself is an enigma and self-confessed sinner but also claims he is Presbyterian by upbringing but many have confirmed that something has happened to his spiritual life since becoming president.

And the Kim family? Well here it gets interesting. As you know the Kim family has been the dynastic rulers of North Korea since the end of World War 2. The present Kim Jong-un's grandfather Kim Il-sung was installed by Joseph Stalin as a young general who fought with the Soviet Union as the leader of the communist party in Korea.

But this elder Kim has an interesting background. He was raised in a Presbyterian minister's home. Both his father and maternal grandfather were Presbyterian ministers. This is what Wikipedia says of him...

"According to Kim, his family was not very poor, but was always a step away from poverty. Kim said that he was raised in a Presbyterian family, that his maternal grandfather was a Protestant minister that his father had gone to a missionary school and was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and that his parents were very active in the religious community."

Now here is something fascinating about that "missionary school" that his father went to in Pyongyang. Billy Graham's wife, Ruth Graham's parents were Presbyterian medical missionaries to China at this time (the 1930's) and she was sent to the same missionary boarding school for 3 years in Pyongyang North Korea that Kim's grandfather was the head of (and his father attended)...at the same time. So there was a close connection between Ruth Graham and the Kim patriarch Kim Il-sung for all these years.

Which makes the picture below not surprising.....



Billy Graham, the American evangelist, presents his book “Peace With God” to North Korean President Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang on April 2, 1992. (AFP/Getty Images)

The Kim patriarch and the Graham family have a long history. Franklin Graham the son of Billy Graham started the Samaritan's Purse help mission and has had 4 trips with Samaritans Purse into North Korea...one of the only Christian missions allowed into North Korea...again the strong historical ties.

But now something interesting happened. After this meeting with Billy Graham in 1992 the elder Kim sent his grandson (the present leader of North Korea) Kim Jong-un to high school in Bern, Switzerland for four years. And that is another interesting Billy Graham connection.

The School in Bern was the Liebefeld-Steinholzi School where the young Kim was enrolled under a different name so that nobody knew that his father was the leader of North Korea.



North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un (circled) with his classmates at Liebefeld-Steinholzi School in Bern, Switzerland

The Switzerland connection is also interesting with regards to the young Kim and Billy Graham.

In 1974 Billy Graham organization put together the International Congress on World Evangelism at Lausanne Switzerland and which afterwards was carried on by the Lausanne Movement to spread evangelization into all the world through all church movements.

The Lausanne Movement was very active in financially supporting a wide range of mission outreaches of which a major sector was the Lausanne International Student Ministry. The goal of the ISM was as they say on their website....

We engage in international student ministry because international students and scholars represent the future leadership and influencers of the world, and is one of the greatest opportunities and strategies for global mission with the least amount of financial investment.

One of the schools with international students that the ISM supported and influenced was Liebefeld-Steinholzi School in Bern, Switzerland. Can you understand why after meeting Billy Graham in 1992 that North Korean leader Kim Il-sung sent his grandson and future North Korea leader Kim Jong-un there for four years of High School?

Yes the young Kim has a bloody trail behind him since he took power in 2014. As I read the intelligence reports there was a very good reason. Important top echelons of the army and security services including his uncle were in the pay of the Chinese government and had vast financial interests with powerful Chinese figures and were committed to keeping the Koreas separated. China is determined to keep North and South Korea separate and the North under their control through their proxies in the government. The idea also being to put Kim's older half-brother in as leader. They had to be eliminated for treason. North and South are working towards an eventual re-unification as per east and west Germany allowing Korea to become a major world power.

Now maybe I am just connecting dots that don't connect. But I would not be surprised if the Lord has a wonderful plan for a united Korea, prosperous and the gospel freely preached and practiced among all the Korean people.

And I would not be surprised if Franklin Graham, son of Billy and Ruth Graham had on one of his several meetings in the Oval office with Pres. Trump (Presbyterian) told him about his mother's and grand parents Presbyterian missions connection with the elder Kim family. And I would not be surprised if evangelical and charismatic Christian Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on his several trips to Pyongyang and private meetings with Chairman Kim raised the issue of his faith and the future of the Koreas. And I would not be surprised at why Donald Trump wanted to have a very private 2 hour meeting alone with Kim before negotiations and why he said "I'll know within the first few minutes of our meeting whether Kim is sincere."

Maybe the first few minutes started with "Mr. Chairman, lets us two Presbyterians do God's work and get this peace deal done!".