

North Korean Crisis Featured at Lovin' Life Learning Center

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Dr. Mark P. Barry spoke on the human rights issue in North Korea, as well as Rev. Sun Myung Moon's efforts on uniting North and South Korea.

A public affairs program on the refugee crisis in North Korea took place on April 24, 2012 at the Lovin' Life Ministries Learning Center in Manhattan, organized by Lovin'-Life Care Team members. More than 100 people attended, including 30 guests and 70 students and staff of Generation Peace Academy. This was the first public-affairs event of its kind held at the Learning Center, where the Care Team partnered with the News Team of Unification Church headquarters.

The night started with a welcome from Andrew Love, the Master of Ceremonies, who encouraged the audience to keep a "supportive atmosphere" even though the night's content might be heavy.



Two representatives from Liberty in North Korea (LiNK), Sarah Palmer and Daniel Sanchez, spoke of their decision to join the organization.

Dr. Mark P. Barry, an independent Asian-affairs analyst who has followed U.S.-North Korean relations for 22 years, and representatives of an activist group called Liberty in North Korea (LiNK) that operates a modern-day "Underground Railroad" dedicated to helping refugees who slip over the North Korean border spoke on the human rights issue in North Korea.

Barry spoke on Rev. Moon's efforts on uniting North and South Korea, explaining Rev. Moon's efforts to create a relationship between North Korea, the world's last remaining totalitarian dictatorship, and the democratic society of South Korea. He spoke about the crisis, as well as the responsibility not to demonize North Korea but to find ways to care for the citizens there.



(Left to right) Palmer, Sanchez and Dr. Barry answered questions during a Q&A session after the presentations.

The video presentation was created to educate the audience on North Korea and the government's exploitation of its people with testimonies of actual refugees and shots from a planned escape route.

After the video, Sanchez gave his testimony about his personal dedication to the issue. What sparked the fire within him was the fact that when he was enjoying living in South Korea, North Korea was suffering. After leaving the country, he

found LiNK and realized how he could help. He finished his testimony with a reminder that one person is not enough and that it takes the efforts of all to make a difference.



Generation Peace Academy trainees William Thalheimer and Jeongeel Hlady man the Lovin' Life information desk at the North Korean awareness event.

The night ended with a Q&A session with the two LiNK representatives and Barry answering many questions from the 120 persons gathered. Afterwards, Palmer mentioned that a Unificationist brother in Germany is a member of the LiNK team.

The organizers agreed that the night was successful in raising the awareness of what is going on in North Korea. “I saw the room filled, and people were standing in the doorways. It was a great first event,” said Christine Froehlich, an adviser to the Learning Center.