Worship Instead of Candles: Rewriting Leipzig's "Monday Miracle" in Sinchon

David Joung · October 4, 2026

AI summary

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SAVE NK is an interdenominational prayer movement that seeks a spiritual breakthrough for North Korea through worship, intercession, and spiritual warfare. On the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m., believers from across denominations gather to pray for the evangelization of North Korea and the reunification of the Korean Peninsula. Its leaders often return to one phrase: "When we don't pray, people work. When we pray, God works."



Leipzig, Mondays at 5 p.m.

The movement draws inspiration from Leipzig in former East Germany, in the years before German reunification. In 1982, a church youth group from the Probstheida district, together with deacon Günter Johannsen, asked for regular peace prayers at the Nikolaikirche (St. Nicholas Church). The first prayer service was held on September 20 that year, and prayers continued every Monday at 5 p.m. The Stasi, East Germany's secret police, kept up the pressure, but the prayers never stopped.



Seven years later, in the autumn of 1989, that small gathering changed the course of history. On October 9, around 70,000 people carrying candles poured into the streets after the Monday prayers. Armed security forces stood ready, but the marchers chanted "No violence!" and walked on peacefully, and no crackdown came. A week later, the crowd had grown to over 100,000, and the following week to roughly 320,000. One month later, on November 9, the Berlin Wall fell. As the current pastor of the Nikolaikirche puts it, there were no Monday demonstrations without the peace prayers.



Prayer Room Filled by Young Worshippers

What sets SAVE NK apart is its youth. Each gathering opens with passionate worship led by the MYC worship team. Missionaries and specialists working in the North Korean ministry then share practical messages, and a field briefing updates attendees on the latest news from the North. The aim is informed prayer, not vague prayer. As the intercessory team leads, the sanctuary quickly fills with fervent prayer.

All offerings collected at the gathering go directly to ministry partners in the field so prayer doesn't stop in the heart but becomes real help.



Next Gathering: October 27

The fifth SAVE NK Prayer Gathering will take place on Tuesday, October 27, at 7:30 p.m. A small prayer meeting begun by young people in Leipzig in 1982 helped bring down a wall. The organizers hope the spark lit in Sinchon will likewise help open a new chapter for the Korean Peninsula and that next month even more young people will fill the room.



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