



We mourn the passing of Mr. Lutz Drescher (Do, Yeo-su), who served as a mission worker for Evangelical Mission in Solidarity(EMS)

The National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK) expresses our deep condolences for Mr. Lutz Drescher, who served here as a mission worker (1987-1994) and as the former East Asia Director (2001-2016) for Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS), and as honorary chairman (2017-2020) of the German East Asia Missionary Association (DOAM), and we share our sorrow and comfort with the members of the ecumenical community around the world who have joined him on his journey.

We will long remember the passion Mr. Lutz Drescher showed for reconciliation, peace, and democratization on the Korean Peninsula, and his devotion toward living for the poor, as he became a symbol for international solidarity. We will never forget his kind and pure heart in 1987, at a time when the razor-sharp blade of the military dictatorship tried to dominate the lives and minds of the Minjung (the people), when he tried to understand the lives of the poor, the "people living on dreams," by drinking one or two-day expired milk every morning with residents of a small village in Nowon-gu at Hagye-Dong Youngeun Church.

After watching the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, he always believed that the path to peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula would come in an unexpected way. After returning to Germany in 1995, he worked for about 15 years as the head of the East Asia desk at EMS since 2001 and while there organized four visits to North Korea along with the global ecumenical community, and made a decisive contribution to the official launch of the "Ecumenical Forum for Peace, Reunification and Development Cooperation on the Korean Peninsula" (EFK) in 2006.

Above all, he sought to deeply understand the hearts of the South Koreans and North Koreans suffering from war trauma, their hopes and dreams, and devoting himself to reconciliation and peace, he helped to open the way for international solidarity toward a peaceful coexistence on the Korean Peninsula. The EFK led by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the NCCCK has become a significant "international network for peace on the Korean Peninsula" among the global church and continues its mission with major international partners around the world to this day.

Confessing a "God who works from the ground up" with his whole body, he has been at the site of suffering, at the place where they act for freedom against oppression, and at the place where they fight for human dignity and human rights along with his Korean friends for the past 40 years, crying and laughing with us, maintaining a firm belief that solidarity with the poor and oppressed is a matter of changing the world. Lutz Drescher, your journey for the Korean Peninsula, your innocent life with a clear and kind heart, will be remembered for a long time by all of us.

Do, Yeo-su who loved Korea! Thanks to your love, we will always wake up and dream a new dream for peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. We miss you even at this moment. We, all the members of the Ecumenical family in the South and the North of the Korean Peninsula, love you dearly. Thank you very much. The NCCCK deeply honors the life of Lutz Drescher, and we express our condolences to friends of all faiths who walk the path of pilgrimage together in the tradition and history of the ecumenical community of the Korean Church. We bring our hands together in prayer that he will enjoy eternal rest in God's arms.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matt 5:9)
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matt 22:39)

January 22nd, 2024

National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK)

Rev. Kim, Jong Seng, General Secretary

