Faith in Bible Led Man to North Korea Prison

By Brian Sommers

MIAMISBURG, Ohio—The plan to travel to North Korea from Ohio this summer—and to leave the Bible behind on one of the stops—would find it hard to sway someone in North Korea interested in imprisonment.

Jeffrey Fowle, a 44-year-old road-trip enthusiast, had been planning a 15-month journey through Asia and Europe, with a stop in North Korea, when he fell ill in Lebanon, Ohio. He went to a local clinic, thinking he had the flu. That was that. That was the trip. That was a prison cell.

For months, Fowle had been planning to travel to North Korea with members of B aristal Baptist Church in Lebanon, Ohio, an independent church that had several North Korean members. Fowle was a member of the church and had been planning to travel to North Korea in the spring. He was gone four weeks, his parents in Ohio were unaware of the trip, and Fowle’s friends in Lebanon were not aware of his whereabouts.

Fowle died in a hospital in South Korea after a year in prison in North Korea.

The United States has traditionally treated any North Korean prisoner as a political prisoner, and Fowle, a Christian, was a political prisoner. He had been held in a North Korean prison for nearly a year, and he was not released until his death in September.

The life of a Christian in North Korea is complicated and uncertain. Many Christians are able to practice their faith openly, while others face persecution and imprisonment. The government of North Korea has been accused of人权 abuses, including torture and forced labor.

In August, Fowle was released from prison in North Korea.

The release was a moment of hope for Fowle’s family and friends, who had been waiting for his release for nearly a year. However, Fowle’s death in South Korea was a tragic end to his journey.

In August, Fowle was released from North Korea.

The release was a moment of hope for Fowle’s family and friends, who had been waiting for his release for nearly a year. However, Fowle’s death in South Korea was a tragic end to his journey.

The release was a moment of hope for Fowle’s family and friends, who had been waiting for his release for nearly a year. However, Fowle’s death in South Korea was a tragic end to his journey.