



Opening Humanitarian Channels with North Korea ***A discussion with AFSC staff***

Sunday, March 18, 4:00 pm

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting House, 42nd and Grand, Des Moines

Join a discussion with Linda Lewis and Daniel Jasper of the American Friends Service Committee.

Jasper writes: “AFSC has an agricultural program that is helping to improve food security for up to 72,000 North Koreans. Although this impact alone is a sufficient case for humanitarian work, the on-the-ground and consistent nature of these programs creates a space in which U.S. and North Korean organizations can identify opportunities for engagement.

“The benefit of the humanitarian channel is that the consistent contact allows for basic trust, creative problem-solving, and rich conversations between Americans and North Koreans. These conversations lead to new opportunities, and US diplomats rarely have the same exposure to North Koreans as does the average U.S. aid worker who regularly goes to the DPRK.

“These humanitarian channels are not soft-power measures. They are concrete steps that could potentially dial back a very dangerous situation with a simple humanitarian gesture. In other words, Washington must begin to properly count the humanitarians when taking roll call for open channels, or it will continue to miss out on one of the most promising aspects of the bilateral relationship.”

For more information, please contact event organizers Jeff Kisling of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Cons.) at jakislin@outlook.com or Patti McKee of Catholic Peace Ministry at catholicpeaceministry@gmail.com.

Learn more at <https://www.afsc.org/office/north-korea>.