



# World Methodist Council

Ivan M. Abrahams, General Secretary

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Bishop Yong-Jai Jun  
Office of Administration & Planning (Bishop's Office)  
Methodist Building  
16F 149 Sejongdaero Jongro-gu  
Seoul, 110-730  
Rep. of Korea

Dear Bishop Jun,

It is with profound sadness and shock that we received the news and followed the unfolding disaster of the sinking of the Ferry Sewol off the South Korean coast on 16 April 2014 in which many high school students were amongst the dead and missing.

I write on behalf of the World Methodist Council to express our deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences to the people of Korea and the families who lost loved ones in this tragedy.

Please be assured that in these difficult days, we are united in prayer with all those who were injured, traumatized and bereaved. We also commemorate those whose lives were lost and pray that God will grant consolation to grieving the families.

It is our sincere prayer that the Korean Methodist Church, through God's grace and wisdom, will continue to be empowered to bring comfort, hope and healing to grieving families and a nation deeply traumatised by events of the past few days. As witnesses to this tragedy we are very forcefully reminded that death is woven into the very fabric of our human existence.

*The Lord is near to those who mourn; he lifts up those whose spirit is crushed. Ps 34:18*

May the God of life be your strength and hope.

Yours in the risen Christ,

Ivan Abrahams

Copy: Dr. J.C. Park, Chair of Theological Education Committee, World Methodist Council  
Dr. Wonjae Lee, Officer, World Methodist Council