

English Version

# True Peace

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TRUE PARENTS' MESSAGE AND NEWS

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## ARTICLE ONE

TRUE PARENTS' MESSAGES

SPECIAL ON TRUE PARENTS

SPECIAL FEATURE

HJ NEWS

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

A Journey to Rebirth: Navigating the New Era with True Mother's Embrace

6,000 Years of Human History and the Present Time, Seen from the Viewpoint of God's Providence

True Mother's Visit to Gapyeong Begonia Bird Park & Aqua Garden Cafe in the HJ Cheonwon Complex

Raise the Flag and Lead in the Era of True Mother's Embrace

Pledge Service and Gyeongbae Ceremony at Pajuwonjon

and Inauguration Ceremony of the Pajuwon Memorial Building

UN World Peace Day Commemoration: International Leaders Conference (ILC) – Paraguay



## A Journey to Rebirth: Navigating the New Era with True Mother's Embrace

Rev. Demian Dunkley, USA Regional Chair & National President



**G**reetings dear members of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification,

As we navigate the Era of True Mother's Embrace, clarity on providential timing and direction becomes paramount. It can be compared to something as simple as catching a bus. You need to be at the right place, at the right time, and catch the right bus in order to arrive at your destination.

Picture the first person standing at a bus stop. They are the leader, the one who woke up early and prepared to arrive ahead of time. But what if the bus company decided to change the bus's color or the route number? If the first person is ignorant about the change and doesn't board the new bus, others will hesitate also. This teaches us that even experienced leaders can unknowingly hinder others, and often do. It's a lesson in discernment, reminding us to listen carefully to Heavenly Parent's voice, not just our own ideas.

Mother is now bringing everything to completion, and it's crucial for each of us to personally experience our role in this process - but even more fundamentally, it is my experience that we are to be totally reborn. Those who truly become one with True Mother at this time, will experience a transformational rebirth. This is true for individuals, families, as a movement, and for humanity at large.

It is a new era, and there is a new culture waiting to be created. I've seen firsthand the remarkable impact of True Mother's love and words in transforming people's lives. Heavenly Parent is bringing something entirely new through her in this providential moment, so we must be alert.

I tried to create an environment for a natural awakening to what Heavenly Parent is doing in this time. We embarked on an in-depth exploration of True Mother's recent words, and fervent prayer at the Cheon Shim Won. During the first 120-days of my return, I personally led 21 of these workshops totaling 1,500 participants from across America. These events came to be known as the Rebirth Experience.

On this foundation, True Mother organized a national tour for Professor Kim Jin Choon and Rev. Shin Dong Mo, presenting on the true stature of True Parents the "UCI case" respectively. Starting in Belvedere, New York, my wife Yumiko and I toured with them to New Jersey, Washington D.C., Dallas, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Las Vegas, where Professor Kim also gave presentations to the ACLC and youth groups.

By the time we reached Dallas a vivid image came to my mind. I envisioned True Mother paving a substantial pathway across America, through which she was opening up the channel for heavenly support in facing our current challenges. The spiritual realm's help is limited when we lack understanding, so True Mother wants us to grasp the truth of the providence and our role in it.

Finally, in Las Vegas on October 7th, in front of a backdrop wall of fresh flowers, True Mother spoke with a delegation of our closest clergy. In turn they pledged a deeper substantial unity in support of True Parents and Family Federation. On October 8th, True Mother met with 1,200 - 1,500 first, second and third generation youth, creating an electrifying atmosphere.

After True Mother's speech she invited a few leaders' upstairs for lunch. True Mother was very happy, and sat down with an air of great satisfaction. She then asked me for my reflections. I said, "It is your word; your love; your presence that brings forth all this victory. We need everyone to hear what you have to say."

To me, the essence is clear: We are witnessing a pivotal moment in the providence with the presence of God's only begotten daughter. Our true success hinges on our unity with True Mother. No other efforts match the transformative power of True Mother's heart and teachings, which have the potential to profoundly impact lives.

The era has changed. The bus has changed. It is time to personally experience our own rebirth through True Mother's womb in the Cheon Il Guk Era. We will naturally find a higher dimension of attendance to Heavenly Parent, and it is from that essential relationship that new artworks will be painted and new songs will be written. New recipes will be fashioned, and a new culture will emerge.

Our triumph lies now in the profound resonance with True Mother's words which she has been longing to express. We must understand the truth of the providence that was not fully revealed, and there is no presentation more powerful than our beloved Mother's own words. Let us pay attention. Let us remove our own concepts which may have served us well in the past, but now might hinder us from receiving the fullness of God's love. Let us trust what our Mother has to say and unite with it. This is the essence of our success in the Era of True Mother's Embrace. 

## CONTENTS



### ARTICLE ONE

- 02 A Journey to Rebirth: Navigating the New Era with True Mother's Embrace

### SPECIAL FEATURE

- 10 Raise the Flag and Lead in the Era of True Mother's Embrace
- 16 Devotions at Cheon Shim Won: Leaders from Korea, Japan, and the US
- 17 RESURGENCE: Hyojeong in the Era of True Mother's Embrace
- 21 Special Invitational Breakfast with Universal Peace Academy (UPA) Members and Cheon Il Guk Youth Emissaries Hosted by True Mother
- 22 Era of Cheon Won Gung and Our Faith Centering on True Parents
- 25 Special service to celebrate the victory of True Mother's USA Tour

### HJ NEWS

- 28 Pledge Service and Gyeongbae Ceremony at Pajuwonjon and Inauguration Ceremony of the Pajuwon Memorial Building

### TRUE PARENTS' MESSAGES

- 04 The World of Peace that True Parents Envision
- 06 6,000 Years of Human History and the Present Time, Seen from the Viewpoint of God's Providence

### SPECIAL ON TRUE PARENTS

- 08 True Mother's Visit to Gapyeong Begonia Bird Park & Aqua Garden Cafe in the HJ Cheonwon Complex

### HYOJEONG TESTIMONY

- 41 An Unyielding Spirit: A Determined Journey Across Borders

- 30 Visit of President of the Mandaean World Congress, Mr. Fouad Sobbi, and his wife to South Korea

### NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

- 32 UN World Peace Day Commemoration: International Leaders Conference (ILC) - Paraguay
- 34 Strengthening Families & Unveiling of the Dove of Peace on the 8th Anniversary of Tlaxco as a Magical Town
- 36 Prayer for Peace in Argentina and the World
- 38 Character Education Campaign in Schools and Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- 39 Togo Awareness Campaign Young People: Equipped for a Fulfilled and Responsible Life





# The World of Peace that True Parents Envision

*Cheon Seong Gyeong, Book 10: The Philosophy of Peace Chapter 4. Section 1.*

**W**e can say that people resemble God in their creativity based on their remarkable scientific achievements. However, in the area of love, they do not resemble God at all, so sadness, suffering and misfortune continue. Since love is found together with harmony, there can be no love in the absence of harmony, and neither can there be peace or happiness without harmony. In the realm of disharmony, all sorts of miserable things develop. So both God and human beings desire that people

establish an ideal lifestyle and world that takes after God. The ideal person desired by God and by our original mind is both creative and good. He or she is a person who practices love that revolves around God. Also, the ideal world desired by both God and humanity is a united world of great harmony, where creative activities to improve the environment are abundant and where the love between individuals and nations is full to overflowing. When the time comes for a new type of person such as this to finally live in a new, unified world, all sadness,

ordeals and fighting that the human race has been enduring for so many ages will finally disappear.

Centering on what should we be managing this world? This is a subject of discussion among today's historians and intellectuals, but I tell you, the first necessity is to have a person with the capability to guide the world. What kind of guidance would such a person offer? There are plenty of people who have the ability to guide based on their power over the economy. There is no shortage of people capable of leading

based on politics. But it is neither a lack of money nor a poor political system that keeps us from succeeding. The problem is that there is no system of love enabling people to connect to God and to God's ideal. When we struggle through to find the truth that sustains a proper system of original love, and grow it to a global scale, then peace—the starting point where our original mind can rest—will arise.

The word “equality” cannot be used in reference to a single entity. Equality arises when two entities make a single, horizontal line encompassing the concept of right and left. The word “peace” is always used in reference to mutual relationships. We speak of peace between East and West. But a peace centered only on the East would be a one-sided peace, and that cannot be total peace. The words *pyeongjoon* (level, 平準), *pyeonghyeong* (balance, 平衡) and *pyeonghwa* (peace, 平和), each of which includes the character *pyeong* (平), are related concepts. These are concepts that can only exist when a connection is made between two or more beings. A state of peace is realized when a man and woman are united. When they become one, it does not mean they're the same height, for example. Looking at men and women in terms of their height, men are generally taller. Also, when we look at them in terms of strength, men are generally stronger. Thus we

cannot find equilibrium based on only external aspects. Then what is the center when a relational realm of equilibrium is formed? It is not any kind of force or knowledge. No matter how advanced two people may be in the world of knowledge, one will always know more. If there is one single thing that exists that can form a place of equality, it has to be love.

Where will we find the standard for evenness (*pyeong*, 平)? The standard for evenness revolves around love. Love is the absolute, the ideal and the ultimate. It is demanded by each one of our cells, whether we are men or women. Love is the standard that unites us in that ultimate ideal, the standard that represents the whole, which means that concepts such as the average (*pyeonggyun*) or equality (*pyeongdeung*) are not related to an entity's strength or form. These words represent realities that are based on love.

Where are we going? We are going toward the ideal world. Also we are going toward a peaceful and unified world. When we say “ideal,” “unified” or “peaceful,” what we really mean is a world of oneness. What is the center of the world of oneness? Love must be the center. Is the communist world a world of peace? Is the democratic world? Regardless of how united a sovereign state may be, it cannot bring forth a world of true oneness without love. There has to be love.

If there were an essential quality that would not change for a thousand or ten thousand years, only when peace is realized based on that essential quality would that peace be eternal, and only when happiness unfolded based on that essential quality would that happiness be eternal. Eternal peace and happiness begin from true love. The freedom that has genuine love at its core is eternal freedom; the peace that stems from true love is eternal peace; the happiness that springs from true love is eternal happiness. And if the whole unites centering on true love, we can conclude that this unity will be eternal. In such a case, there will be a connection leading from eternal peace to an eternal society and an eternal world.

What would it be like if you were to become a person who receives the love of God? Would your mind and body be joyful or not? You could not possibly be unhappy. Just as God is an eternal being, we can also live for eternity. God is the eternal subject of life, the One who endows fully, and you are the object partner of the love of that One who endows. So as long as He is not sad you cannot be sad, and as long as He is joyful you too can be eternally joyful. Human perfection is simple. It is to be happy. It is to be peaceful and happy. We do not need anything more than that. We are talking about a place where everything is filled to the brim. Of course, there is freedom there too. And everything we desire can be realized there. *℥*





## 6,000 Years of Human History and the Present Time, Seen from the Viewpoint of God's Providence

*True Mother's Message to ACLC Christian Leaders  
Saturday, October 7, 2023, Las Vegas, USA*

I wanted to see you, and longed to meet you. Today I will speak on the topic, "6,000 Years of Human History and the Present Time, Seen from the Viewpoint of God's Providence." The Creator wanted to become the Parent of humankind. God created all things in pairs in the divine image, from the mineral world to the plant world to the animal world. Finally, God created a man and woman, known in the Bible as Adam and Eve, who were to become our first ancestors. God

gave people a period in which they should grow, then waited for them to perfect their character by their own effort.

Unfortunately, however, the man and woman created to become the first human ancestors failed to fulfill their responsibility and fell. That is our history as it stands in the present time. God is almighty and all-knowing, the Alpha and Omega. In other words, whatever God begins, he must see the fruits of it. However, the important thing here is that since

human beings have a portion of responsibility, Heaven had no choice but to carry out restoration through indemnity, the providence of salvation.

When we look at the Old Testament. There was the providence of choosing the Israelites as the chosen people, establishing central figures, and carrying out the providence of restoration and salvation through indemnity. How difficult that has been! Although it took 4,000 years to bring Jesus

Christ—the only begotten Son, whom God could call “My son”—into this world, neither Mary who gave birth to him, nor Zachariah’s family, nor the religious leaders, nor the people understood Jesus.

But even after God had sent the long-awaited Messiah, how could they fail to recognize him? Ultimately, Jesus was driven to the cross. Since Jesus had a responsibility to fulfill, even though his earthly life ended on the cross, he said that he would come again; that he would return.

Christianity began with the apostles who experienced resurrection through the Holy Spirit and who were waiting for Jesus’ promised return. Yet as you know, they received a lot of persecution in those early days. During 2,000 years of the Christian providence people eagerly awaited the coming of Jesus, even though they did not understand his original essence. Moreover, they did not know the original essence of the Creator.

Heaven chose America as a nation that could create a supportive environment for the returning Messiah to complete the providence.

The reality is that today’s powerful nations prioritize their own interests and cannot unite with each other. It is the same with religions.

In such a reality, how can we realize the kingdom of heaven on earth that our Creator desires to see? Can we become one human family, people that attend Heaven while embodying the free equality, peace, and unity that our Creator and all of humankind hope to see?

Now is the time when you must reveal the truth of the providence. As fallen people, we cannot come directly in front of our Creator, our Heavenly Parent. Only with the only begotten Son and only begotten Daughter can we see the completion of the providence.

It is the True Parents who are the saviors of fallen humankind. When you are born again through True Parents’ Blessing, you become a son or daughter of the Heavenly Parent. Through True Parents we have welcomed the new historical era called Cheon Il Guk, a new era, a new history and providence by which we can attend Heavenly Parent on this

earth. I have come forward today because it is time for members of the Christian clergy, who must play a central role in guiding humanity, to take responsibility.

As Christian leaders you must not limit yourselves to being members of the clergy. As sons and daughters of the Creator, the Heavenly Parent, you need to realize that it is time to stretch your circumstances so that you can serve our Heavenly Parent together with True Parents on earth. To do so, you must reveal who I am. You must reveal the truth of Heaven, the original essence of the Creator, and the fundamental nature of Jesus. And you should reveal that your essential nature as religious leaders is that of True Parents’ sons and daughters.

You are not just my spiritual children. At this time when you are living and breathing together with me, we are like parent and children. I hope that in the church and environment where you work, you can come to attend True Parents, attend our Heavenly Parent, and expand the scope of your life in God’s earthly kingdom. ㄸ



# True Mother's Visit to Gapyeong Begonia Bird Park & Aqua Garden Cafe in the HJ Cheonwon Complex

*Embracing the enchanting autumn season in Cheon Il Guk, True Mother graced us with her presence on October 20th as she visited the newly built "Gapyeong Begonia Bird Park" and "Aqua Garden Cafe in Magnolia" within the HJ Cheonwon Complex.*





In this article, we've categorized the major events—Cheon Shim Won, the Second Generation Gathering, the UPA Special Breakfast, the Tour Lectures, and the Special Service celebrating the success of True Mother's USA Tour—into distinct sections.

# Raise the Flag and Lead in the Era of True Mother's Embrace

October 6-7, 2023 International Peace Education Center, Las Vegas



In advance of her coming to America, True Mother specifically requested to meet with members of the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC). The intent was to call the clergy to raise the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) flag in their churches as a show of oneness with our True Mother in this new era.

Understanding the gravity of True Mother's heart, the ACLC executive leadership and staff chose 33 Christian Pastors, twelve of which were present as couples, who they felt were prepared to take the next steps in uniting with True Mother. 32 ACLC coordinators also attended in support. Together, they gathered at the International Peace Education Center (IPEC) in Las Vegas on October 6 and 7, 2023, under the theme, "Raise the Flag and Lead in the Era of True Mother's Embrace." This gathering was organized by Rev. John Jackson, Co-Chair ACLC; Dr. Luonne Rouse, Co-Chair ACLC; and Rev. Demian Dunkley, Regional Chair and National President for the American Movement.

The 2-day experience began with pastors desperately praying in the Cheon Shim Won and receiving content from True Mother's special lecturer, Professor Jin Choon Kim, on the theology and stature of True Parents and the Only Begotten Daughter. Clergy eagerly soaked up the content and asked many in depth questions, dialoguing even through dinner with Prof. Kim. They were fully engaged and excited. With their hearts now prepared, the call to action to raise the FFWPU flag in their churches was presented the following morning.





Dr. Mark Abernathy, Senior Pastor of Connect Point Inc., took the lead and delivered a message conveying True Mother's heart that inspired and won over many of the clergy, but the tension in the room was palpable. Though some clergy are only open to discussing this call to action, they all signed an FFWPU flag to present to True Mother later that morning. Many pastors continued to pray fervently that all the pastors present would fully unite to this call by the time they met with True Mother.

It all culminated on October 7 with a meeting with True Mother in the main ballroom at IPEC. The space was beautifully decorated and chairs and tables laid out in conference-style to open up the space and allow clergy a familial proximity to True Mother. Clergy offered a kyungbae and gifts and Pastor T.L. Barrett, Senior Pastor of Life Center Church of God in Christ, which was the first Christian church to officially receive True Parents as a speaker, sang, "You Are So Beautiful," changing the lyrics so it spoke directly to True Mother.

True Mother delivered the main message describing to the clergy the providence of God surrounding the Only Begotten Daughter. She concluded with a request to pastors to stand with her to "reveal the truth" and see her not just as a "spiritual parent," but in a real "parent-child relationship" with them and asked that they "proclaim it to the world." The pastors responded with enthusiasm to this request and then offered testimonies prepared by two clergy couples.

Rev. Mark and Edna Abernathy shared their life course and expressed their one hundred percent commitment and unity with True Mother and her vision. Bishop Charles Dudley, Pastor of the New Beginnings Ministry of Faith, shared his course and testified to his belief that God prepared him for the last 50+ years to meet True Mother. His wife, Pastor Marion Dudley, shared her love and admiration for True Mother.



The atmosphere in the room lifted and many felt heaven's love pour from True Mother. What followed was an affirmation of oneness by all the clergy present, who stood up and exploded the room with many FFWPU flags lifted in unity with True Parents. Prayers had been answered and every single clergy member present accepted the call to action to raise the FFWPU flag in their church. True Mother was presented with the signed flag, thus declaring everyone's commitment to expand the realm of her embrace in America and realize Cheon Il Guk in her lifetime. Throughout the meeting, and especially during the shared testimonies, True Mother wiped many tears from her eyes and she exited with a face full of joy and laughter. This time for ACLC with Mother was a true victory!

## ACLC AFFIRMATION OF ONENESS

True Mother, we stand before you today as leaders of the American Clergy Leadership Conference and as filial children, affirming our unwavering commitment to God, our Heavenly Parent, and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.

We pledge to lead Christianity towards oneness with True Mother, the Only Begotten Daughter, expanding the realm of her embrace in unity with Family Federation, and leading the movement to reveal the truth of God's providence.

To substantialize this pledge, we affirm our resolve to further understand and begin the process of realizing:

1. Raise the flag of Family Federation in our church
2. Financially contribute to Family Federation and its mission
3. Receive and share the Blessing both horizontally and vertically
4. Reveal and educate the truth of God's providence in this era
5. Establish a Cheon Shim Won prayer hall in our church

With this affirmation, they all stood up, and raised their flag. 



## Clergy's Testimonial

### Dr. Luonne Rouse, National Co-Chair, ACLC

Reflecting on our “Raise the Flag” gathering, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and inspiration. 100% of the clergy who gathered to hear True Mother stood to affirm their commitment to raise the flag. True Mother, you are the Only Begotten Daughter, and we yearn to have you with us always, just as beloved children long to be with their parents. Your presence alone uplifts my entire being, and I pledge my life and love to you, eagerly embracing everything you have to say. This day has been a tremendous blessing, and I am wholeheartedly committed to walking alongside you in the pursuit of building a Holy community and creating a beautiful world. Your message expressing your dedication to teaching and guiding others in understanding the Heavenly Parent and the fulfillment of True Parents’ blessed mission in this era has deeply honored and moved us. As clergy in the Christian community, we share your vision for a world where individuals can embody the essence of Heavenly Parent’s teachings and experience the transformative power of true love. Together, we will work diligently to raise awareness of the Heavenly Parent’s presence in our lives and cultivate a profound sense of divine love and purpose within each individual. I stand ready to join you in proclaiming and educating others about the path to true freedom and the joy that comes from serving our Heavenly Parent. Through our collective efforts, we can create a world of peace, where the balance between men and women is restored in accordance with the principles of creation. Please know that Marie and I are fully committed to taking responsibility and the necessary steps to fulfill the mission entrusted to us. We deeply appreciate the blessing of your guidance and are willing to serve tirelessly to bring about the realization of Heavenly Parent’s dream.

### Minister, Marie Rouse

Time spent with you today touched my heart deeply. It was a divine arrangement, showcasing the boundless love of a mother for her children. I sincerely hope that you felt the immense love we have for you, as it is a reflection of God’s love. Did you feel it, True Mother? We love you! I want you to know that we are wholeheartedly committed to responding to your call to action. Yes, in unity and solidarity, we, the clergy, are ready to “raise the flag” as a symbol of our unwavering dedication. We proudly stand as American clergy, aligned with the mission of True Parents and being determined to save the day for humanity: True Heart, True Love, True Word.



## Bishop Charles Dudley

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As True Mother was speaking, I realized that God had been preparing me for this moment since I was 17 and I joined the Marine Corp. At that time, I didn't know that the Marine Corp would take me around the world to meet people from different cultures, different nationalities. Over those years, from 17 to now, God knew that at 60 years old, on this day, at this time, I would be standing before this true woman, sharing with her. This woman, who stands before presidents, spiritual leaders and political leaders around the world; this woman who speaks and the world listens. God has been preparing me for 50+ years for this moment. God was gradually preparing me through life experiences whether that was military or ministry or marriage or whatever it was. He was preparing me because He knew I would be standing before this woman of God, the Mother of mankind. I saw her take a tissue to dab her eye so I hope that something we said touched her heart. I can't say thank you enough to the people that gave us this opportunity. When we first started getting involved, we had a lot of questions, but through reading the memoir we really began to understand who Mother truly is. We are truly inspired by the True Mother who has the voice, the vision, the guidance, and the direction from God.

## Pastor Marion Dudley

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This weekend has been more than I had anticipated. I didn't know what I would say when I got up there to speak. But once I saw her, it just changed my whole heart. I have been reading True Mother's Memoir, and I felt that I knew her based on her writings and it was easy to stand there and talk to her. When I spoke to her today, it was genuinely from my heart and I wanted her to know how much I love her, how much I admire her. I felt that she was pouring out her heart to tell us who she is. So I want to say, thank you mother, thank you mother, thank you. I love you and I am so happy that I had the chance to look at your face and to see you. I have this indelible picture etched in my brain; so when I close my eyes all I see is your face.

## Archbishop Dr. Sulanch Lewis National Co-President & ACLC Wim National Co-Chair

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True Mother, this is a beautiful day! It's a wonderful day. And so am I happy to stand in your presence as you are the only begotten daughter to say how much I thank you, how much I love you and how much I stand near at this moment with esteemed love from my heart to let you know that I will be with you across the nation to raise these flags as we answer the call today. The time is now. True Mother, I just want to say to you, stay sweet as you are. You are beautiful.



## Rev. Kenneth & Madelene Alexander

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It was mind-blowing because we could present the flowers to Mother. It was warm, rich, and loving. True Mother carries with her such a presence. When we talk about how Mother is the embodiment of the Holy Spirit, you can feel she has a pull of the Holy Spirit emanating through her. We cried ... We cried because we have prayed for this moment since 2017. For nearly 7 years we waited to be in the presence of Mother. To have that intimate space. So this was a blessing to the core. We wanted to let her know that we love her, we appreciate her, and moving forward there is no problem for us to share who she is to the world. We believe our assignment is to introduce Mother to everyone we come in contact with. We started with our daughter's book club. We read the Memoir in her book club with 15 young ladies. In the beginning it was controversial, but our daughter stood up and defended Mother. They continued to read the Memoir and in the end they were so pleased. Mother writes so well, and her life shows the fruits of the spirit in substance. Mother is saying, "I am the Holy Spirit!" How can we deny that! She has taken the responsibility of the world on her shoulders; not just for Korea, or for America, but for the world! Who has done that? No one. We now recognize how important it is that Christian clergy understand the Only Begotten Daughter, just like we understand the Only Begotten Son. Today we declare that she is the substantiation of the Holy Spirit and it is embodied in her life work, how she was born, and her identity as the Only Begotten Daughter. Therefore, it meant so much for us to see her. We could value Jesus and now we value True Mother in the same light. In conclusion we thought, "Yes! Here is the son and daughter of Heavenly Parent right here!"

## Rev. Marilyn Kotulek

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When we folded the flag in front of Mother and gave it to her, she got up and said "thank you" to me. I could see her face was filled with tears. I could feel the love of Mother as my mother.

## Dr. Mark Abernathy and Edna Abernathy

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True Mother, we are so happy to be here today enjoying our love with you. I am so glad that I am your son. I am no more John the Baptist. I am your son. We met in 1986, my wife and I, went to Korea. In 1988, we went to Korea. We came back and we studied, and we studied, and we continued to study until we began to be blessed, and then my family began to be blessed. And also, my church began to be blessed. I am excited about being part of True Parents and their mission that they have today. True Mother, I've got your back! I'm supporting you. I'm with you all the way. We believe you are the only begotten daughter of God. I'm going to stand with you as a Christian pastor and we are going to take America back. I love you dearly. Bless you so much, appreciate you. 



# Devotions at Cheon Shim Won: Leaders from Korea, Japan, and the US



Upon her arrival in Las Vegas and in anticipation of the special ACLC conference, True Mother addressed the leaders from Korea, Japan, and the US. She emphasized, “In these challenging times, it’s crucial to come together at Cheonshimwon and offer sincere prayers.” Heeding her call, these leaders convened at Cheonshimwon over the next two days.

Rev. Demian Dunkley, Regional Chair & National President of Heavenly America, shared a poignant tale: “Two mice fell into a bucket of cream. One gave in and drowned, while the other persevered, churning the cream into butter and escaping.” He paralleled this story to their collective efforts, saying, “Our unified prayers at Cheon Shim Won, similar to the determined mouse, have the power to bring about profound change.” Demonstrate how unified prayers from leaders across Korea, Japan, and the US can drive transformative change.

The prayer meeting held special significance due to a recent crisis in Japan. The leaders in attendance expressed their deep gratitude to True Mother and felt a renewed strength to navigate challenges. Additionally, ACLC clergy had an opportunity to learn about the history of the Cheonshimwon prayer room and partake in a heartfelt prayer session.

Following the event, True Mother visited Cheon Shim Won and bestowed her blessings, emphasizing her hope: “Heavenly USA will experience a renaissance with Cheon Shim Won as its spiritual epicenter.” 



# RESURGENCE: Hyojeong in the Era of True Mother's Embrace



*Please Note: Heavenly American 2nd Generation Rally Radiating with True Mother's Jeongseong and Love. A landmark event with over 1,200 2nd generation Americans in attendance for the first time ever.*

**O**n October 7-8, 2023, more than 1500 youth from America gathered in Las Vegas for a special meeting with True Mother, called "RESURGENCE: Hyojeong in the Era of True Mother's Embrace." Young people and blessed children came from all over America and from parts of Canada came for this precious opportunity to meet with True Mother. Young Unificationists of all ages came to see her: babies and children, middle and high school students, young adults and professionals, and elder second-generation blessed children. This was the first time that they could welcome True Mother as a nation since 2019.

The RESURGENCE experience was created by Rev. Demian Dunkley, Regional Chair and National President for the American Movement, Jinil Fleischman, National President for the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) USA, and Yasutaka Ozawa, National Youth and Young Adult Ministry (YAYAM) Coordinator. They intended to cultivate a resurgence of spirit and truth in the American youth centering on True Mother and True Parents and on the understanding of True Mother as the only Begotten Daughter.



The 2-day experience began on October 7 with the Las Vegas Family Church band leading everyone in song. Yasutaka emceed and led the youth in a fun interactive quiz about True Mother with youth typing in their answers on their phone. Together, they also watched the animation, Mother of Peace to set the tone. The youth then received greetings from Dr. Ki-Hoon Kim, Cheon Eui Won Chair, Rev. Dunkley, and from Dr. Yong-Cheon Song, International President of FFWPU. Dr. Song encouraged the participants to have a determined spirit and that “we will win the battle” of God’s providence. After some icebreakers, participants read True Mother’s words and connected to her heart. They then welcomed Dr. Jin-Choon Kim, Chairman of Cheon Beob Department, for a special lecture on the stature of True Parents. Through his lecture, the youth could understand clearly the victory of True Parents and the importance of the era that we are living in today.

As this took place, there was a special gathering at the Cheon Shim Won for young families with small children. Kaeleigh Moffitt, WFWP USA President, volunteered to organize activities when she learned over 60 small children, including her own, would be coming with their parents to greet True Mother. These young parents are raising their children in True Parent’s tradition and are one hundred percent committed to figuring out how to teach their children about True Parents. Most of the adolescents are third-generation Unificationists. Parents and children participated in a Hyojeong Nuri workshop with singing, dancing, crafts, and even swimming. They also prepared the song “You are my Sunshine” practicing with True Mother’s lyrics. This moment was very special to the young parents as they were able to make an offering as a family singing and performing for True Mother as families.

Back in the main ballroom, the youth had the special opportunity to spend time with Prof. Yeon Ah Moon in the evening. She was warm and welcoming and walked about the room giving everyone a chance to be close to her. She smiled and shared True Mother’s heart very personally and encouraged everyone to continue to take steps in their growth and never be discouraged. Hwa Yun Chun Moon also shared a short message. After that, Rev. Dunkley shared about True Mother’s recent victories, especially the dedication of the Cheon Won Gung. He conveyed True Mother’s urgent intention to create the substantial environment of Cheon Il Guk during her lifetime.

On Sunday, October 8, the youth prepared to meet True Mother. The main ballroom was packed; every chair and every bit of floor space was filled. People spilled out into the halls. The Las Vegas Family Church band led praise and worship to prepare the spirit. True Mother entered the room to thunderous applause that didn’t stop, despite the emcee’s effort to continue the program. Everyone offered a standing kyungbae and flowers were offered by eight beautiful children, and gifts were presented by youth leaders. Then, the Shin-Miguk HJ Children’s Choir, made up of sixty 2nd- and 3rd-generation





children sang, “You Are My Sunshine” with their parents. After that, True Mother shared her message. She encouraged the youth to be “pure water” who can flow throughout the world and cleanse all the sin and pain and to firmly settle the substantial Cheon Il Guk. After True Mother’s message, there was a performance of Hyo Jin Nim’s song “Do-ra-i” sung by Hannah Bush and Yoshiha Tsuchida on guitar. Then, three testimonies were offered.

The first testimony was given by Eri Combs. She spoke about her determination to raise her family in True Parents’ tradition. Next was Kevin and Shannon Bordeaux. They shared their journey of finding the Only Begotten Daughter coming from a Christian background. The final testimony was given by Emily Iseda. She shared how she felt True Mother’s embrace while praying in the Cheon Shim Won after being distant from the church for a few years. She expressed the reality of how many 2nd-generation blessed children hold True Parents in their heart and yet have a difficult time connecting to the church. To close the program, all the youth sang and danced to the song “Unite Into One” with True Mother’s new lyrics. Their testimonies were met with tears shed by True Mother and by many in the room. To close the program, all 1200 youth sang and danced to the song “Unite Into One” using True Mother’s new lyrics to the song. The event closed with another thunderous applause and roaring cheers of “Oog Mansei” which put a huge smile on True Mother’s face.

This was a precious experience for all the American youth. There was so much laughter, joy, singing, tears, and deep prayer. It was a big family reunion for a lot of the young people. Centering on True Mother, the youth are determined to be pure water who can heal this world and establish God’s ideal. 🌸

## TESTIMONIES

### Amiko Nkwethat (high school aged sister)

Your inspiring words have reinvigorated my faith within the church and I wish to help out even more to achieve God's vision.

### Tobi Rissannen (young adult brother)

Through this experience I really feel your urgent heart that we need to become leaders that can lead humanity to live in Cheon Il Guk, and I am inspired to do my part to help my mother. I am extremely grateful for this experience and I hope that our devotion and effort will be felt by you and by heaven. Thank you Mother.

### Jaya Alvarez (high school age sister)

I am so very grateful for you, for your strength, your power, your will, your everything. You've inspired me to really follow the providence and follow through with your plans, Mother, for everyone here on earth. Today is truly the best day of my life, and I am so glad to be living in a time where you are still living and breathing. Heavenly Parent has truly chosen the perfect Only Begotten Daughter. I love you with all my heart True Mother!

## TESTIMONIES FROM YOUNG FAMILIES

I always feel as a young parent that I'm too occupied with raising kids, and have no time to offer things like witnessing activities and church activities. But I'm raising the 3rd-generation blessed children; they are the future, the next generation to attend True Parents and lead this movement together. I have more confidence now about what I'm contributing towards. We sang True Mother's version of the song "You are my Sunshine." The lyrics say, "Our deepest wish is to see your smile." That is my wish as well. This experience was irreplaceable for me and my kids! I'm so grateful to be able to participate!"

My favorite part was where this program was held. It literally felt like coming into Mother's home and backyard. It was clear we were there because our Mother had called. This program allowed for a space for children to be in a safe and free environment to connect and play in the beautiful sacred space that is our True Parent's home. Parents feel so much more motivated to come knowing something is being sincerely prepared to welcome their little ones and help them grow their faith as a family. This is the longing we as parents have for our children. That they can create meaningful memories of being embraced by True Parents. 



## Special Invitational Breakfast with Universal Peace Academy (UPA) Members and Cheon Il Guk Youth Emissaries Hosted by True Mother



**O**n October 9th, following the 2nd generation assembly in the USA, True Mother extended a special invitation to UPA members and Cheon Il Guk Youth Emissaries who are active in North America for a breakfast gathering.

The attendees included the Senior UPA 3rd Batch's Antella GPA Trainer and Administrator, Adelina GPA Coordinator and Trainer, Fukuda Tomomi, the 2nd District Office Head (also the Washington DC CARP Center Head), Jake Lavina from the Senior UPA 2nd Batch (Chairman of New Jersey CARP), Ueda Yoshiyuki of the Senior UPA 7th Batch (Chairman from Vancouver, Canada), along with five other special emissaries. Furthermore, 10 Cheon Il Guk Youth Special Emissaries from New Jersey, Los Angeles, and Vancouver, Canada, who are undergoing missionary training, also participated.

As each UPA and Youth Special Emissary was introduced and their missionary reports from different countries were presented, True Mother expressed, "Do you realize your own value? I desire for you to be proactive in your missions, aspiring to become young leaders capable of taking on the responsibility for North America's 300 million residents."

The attendees showcased songs dedicated to True Mother, reaffirming their commitment and resolve.

Following the Heavenly Ascension of True Father, True Mother announced the Foundation Day. During the 7-year journey leading up to 2027, she prioritized fostering the next generation, which led to the establishment of the 'Universal Peace Academy (UPA)'.

True Mother plays an active role in overseeing the UPA students' initiation and deployment ceremonies, urging them, "*You should be reborn with the truth and the word and shine as beacons in the world. Live fully, embrace this era and immerse in its studies. By doing so, you'll become the light that dispels darkness*" – March 4th, 2013. 



# Era of Cheon Won Gung and Our Faith Centering on True Parents

Triumphantly Concluding the Journey with Reflections on the Status, Value, and Providence of True Parents in this Era



September 22 launched a very special “Era of Cheon Won Gung and Our Faith Centering on True Parents Tour, USA” in 8 cities. America has prepared for this important tour by hosting a total of 21 workshops which included 17 3-day Cheon Shim Won Rebirth Workshops and 4 1-day presentations. The resulting enthusiasm expressed by Unificationists during this tour is clearly due to the unity created between Rev. Demian Dunkley, Regional Chair and National President for the American Movement, and the US membership during the Cheon Shim Won Rebirth workshops.

The tour began at the Belvedere Training Center in Tarrytown, New York, with 180 Unificationists in attendance. Belvedere Family Church Pastor Justin Okamoto emceed and the event began with the song “Grace of the Holy Garden” and a prayer from Rev. Miilhan Stephens, pastor of the Manhattan Family Church.

On September 23, over 300 members from New Jersey and across the Northeast region attended the tour at Clifton Family Church including members from New York, Rhode Island, Maine, Philadelphia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, as well as members from the Midwest region and Canada. Rev. Mark Abernathy, Lead Pastor of Connect Point Inc, Bishop Jesse Edwards, ACLC Evangelist, and Dr. Tanya Edwards, World Christian Leadership Conference Liaison, was also in attendance.

On September 24, at the Arbor Ballroom in the Washington Times Building, 300 members from around the southeast region gathered. Members experienced a very rich and fulfilling evening and appreciated both speakers giving clear, insightful and inspirational lectures.





In Dallas Fort Worth in Texas, 120 members gathered on September 26 at the Dallas Fort Worth Family Church. Dr. Kim and Rev. Shin were given standing ovations at the end of their lectures, which members happily received and through which members were able to feel closer to True Parents.

The tour continued on to Chicago on September 29. 140 excited and enthusiastic Unificationists from all over the Midwest gathered in Chicago for the tour, some groups traveling over 6 hours to attend the 4 hour meeting and almost half of the participants coming from outside of Illinois state.

The Chicago Family Church held a welcome dinner with the Chicago Ministerial Team on September 27, several days before the event. On the following day, True Mother's delegation visited with Pastor T.L. Barrett, Jr. at his church, the Life Center Church of God in Christ, which was the first Christian church to officially receive True Parents as a speaker. Pastor Barret shared his testimony about True Parents.

On September 30 in Los Angeles, 176 members attended. There was a surprisingly positive response to the content and experience from the younger generation who attended. Participants testified to making a new effort to go deeper in their support for True Mother. The members in L.A. were certainly already carrying the heart for Mother through the Rebirth experience and now the tour experience has given them a sure-footing to say, "yes, we are ready to take action!"

On October 1, in the Bay Area in San Francisco, 150 people attended the presentation. Members came to really understand the incredible and significant time we are living in. Members reflected on how they were living their lives and were asked to think about their portion of responsibility. True Mother's representatives



made their final stop at the International Peace Education Center in Las Vegas On October 3 with 120 members in attendance.

At each location, Rev. Demian Dunkley, Regional Chair and National President for the American Movement, gave an energetic introduction to Dr. Jin Choon Kim, Chairman of Cheon Beob Department, and Rev. Dong Mo Shin, the Deputy Chief-of-Staff of True Mother's Secretariat, and also introduced the content. Rev. Dunkley's enthusiasm had everyone cheering filled with energy and excitement. Members then listened to an insightful and informative presentation about the completion of God's Providence.

Dr. Kim gave very clear lectures on the value of True Parents and understanding True Mother's role in the providence. He also took some time to answer some questions that members posed. Members felt that Dr. Kim is a true teacher and professor that loves to engage with and discuss deep issues related to Heavenly Parent, True Parents, and the providence. Dr. Kim did such an incredible job sharing about the truth of the current time and the truth of the Only Begotten Daughter.

Afterwards, Rev. Shin shared about the UCI (Unification Church International) court case. Members were very happy to see such a display of honesty and transparency and now feel they can stand up together with Mother concerning these issues. There were many emotions that came up from the presentation. In the end, everyone felt a sense of unity and a desire to forward together, especially in the areas of witnessing. Rev. Shin impressed the American members with his deep love and heart for True Parents expressing his compassion and love towards True Parents in how he presented his message.

Rev. and Mrs. Dunkley played a very significant role in preparing members to receive True Mother's message through her representatives, Dr. Kim and Rev. Shin, at this precious time in our providence with True Mother. Members are really grateful to Rev. and Mrs. Dunkley for providing them with the opportunity to hear and receive the truth.

The special program was a resounding success. The lectures helped members feel True Mother's urgency, feel more hopeful as a community, and unite in support for our beloved True Mother. Everyone was able to accept the content with a grateful heart and they thank True Mother for sending these speakers to America and trusting the American membership with her heart. American members are grateful to True Mother for the last 120 days and excitedly made their way to Las Vegas and received True Mother on October 8 at the RESURGENCE youth workshop. 

# Special service to celebrate the victory of True Mother's USA Tour



**O**n October 15th, a special joint worship service to celebrate True Parents' triumphant return was held at the HJ Heaven and Earth Cheonbo Training Center. The service was attended by approximately 1,200 people, including leaders of Cheon Il Guk, pastors and their spouses from the Korean church, executives of affiliated organizations and businesses, peace ambassadors, and blessed families.

## Excerpts from True Mother's speech on the day

*"Today, in this age, is the time to harvest the grain. These grains are the blessed families of Cheon Il Guk! As you blessed families expand the environment of life in the heavenly kingdom on earth, attending Heavenly Parent together with True Parents, you are the true, healthy grains. But now we are in the Cheon Il Guk era. Cheon Il Guk, the beginning of a new history. We must recognize that the responsibility of the blessed families living in this era is to harvest many healthy grains for Heaven. We cannot delay any longer. We must create the life in heaven on earth where True Parents and blessed children live together with Heavenly Parent. We must witness to righteous people, professionals, those whom Heaven has prepared in each and every way for this time. So, I hope you will all have a bright and happy future, and even if you have been unfilial, please all of you become filial sons and daughters of our Creator, Heavenly Parent."*





In his opening remarks, Song Gwang-seok, President of FFWPU-Korea conveyed heartfelt gratitude for True Mother's visit and emphasized the significance of her recent tour to the United States. He highlighted how True Mother, despite her advanced age, led the providence in the United States, met with ACLC pastors and second-generation leaders, and conveyed messages of peace and hope. President Song expressed the hope that everyone present would inherit the victorious results of True Mother's tour.

Dr. Yang Chang-shik, Chairman of UPF International & UPF-Korea, offered a prayer, urging everyone to become strong and courageous unification families who can overcome all challenges and opposition. He prayed for Heaven's power and righteousness to prevail over those who oppose the providence.

During the special report session, Song Yong-cheon, President of FFWPU- International provided a comprehensive report on True Mother's tour of the United States, focusing on the ACLC pastors' special gathering and the special gathering of second-generation leaders. He emphasized that the most significant outcome of the tour was the unity between True Mother and ACLC clergy, the oneness of Korean, Japanese, and American members centered on Cheonshimwon, and the unity of the second generations in the United States.

Next, Kim Jin Choon, Director of the Cheon Il Guk judicial branch, the Cheonbobwon, spoke on the topic of "The Value and Mission of True Parents in Completing the Providence." He emphasized the importance of understanding the mission of True Parents in this era and the responsibility of blessed families to participate in fulfilling the providence.





Shin Dong Mo, Deputy Chief of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's 1st Secretariat discussed the importance of faith centered on True Parents, using the example of the UCI incident. He emphasized that during the era of True Mother's presence on earth, we must realize that she is together with True Father and Heavenly Parent, encouraging everyone to become filial children who can relieve True Mother's heart and pain.

Finally, Lee Ki Seong, Cheonshimwon President reported on the "Grace of Cheonshimwon." He shared the results of the three-day special vigil at Cheonshimwon, where leaders from Korea, Japan, and the United States came together as one highlighting the profound grace that resonated during this special vigil and how it led to the resolution of the second-generation members in the United States and ACLC pastors to honor True Mother as the substantial Holy Spirit.

After these special reports, a cultural performance featuring the Cheonshimwon Choir, "Creative Azalea," and UPA conveyed the joy of welcoming True Mother back. The entire event concluded with the singing of "Aju Mansei" led by President Kim Dong-yeon, bringing the celebration to a triumphant close. 



# Pledge Service and Gyeongbae Ceremony at Pajuwonjon and Inauguration Ceremony of the Pajuwon Memorial Building

## Pledge and Gyeongbae Ceremony at Bonhyangwon:

The Chuseok Pledge ceremony at Bonhyangwon was attended by members of the True Family and Cheon Il Guk leaders. Song Yong-cheon, President of FFWPU-International, offered a representative prayer, reminiscing about the True Father and reflecting on Chuseok's significance for the Liberation of Heaven and Earth. Following this, members of the True Family and key leaders laid flowers at the True Father's tomb and expressed their respects through prayers and bows. The ceremony concluded with Yang Chang-shik, Chairman of UPF International, leading the three cheers of Eog Mansei.



## Ceremony at Pajuwonjon & Inauguration of the Pajuwon Memorial Building

After the Bonhyangwon ceremony, over 200 attendees, including members of the True Family, providential organization leaders, and church leaders, gathered for the inauguration of the Pajuwon Memorial Building at Pajuwonjeong. The True Mother has since renamed this site as Pajuwon. Song Gwang-seok, President of FFWPU-Korea, highlighted the significance of Pajuwon, describing it as a sacred land and the national cemetery of Cheon Il Guk.

Song Gwang-seok, President of FFWPU-Korea, remarked, “The True Mother authorized the Pajuwonjon Memorial’s construction to honor those resting at Wonjon and to perpetuate the tradition of loyalty and filial piety. On August 1st, she blessed the memorial with the name ‘Pajuwon.’”

During his offering prayer, Song Yong-cheon, President of FFWPU-International, honored members of the True Family and the Unification Movement’s heroes. The dedication of Pajuwon was marked by a ribbon-cutting and unveiling ceremony by the True Family members and central leaders. President Song then sanctified the space, offering it to Heaven. This was followed by the Chuseok homage ceremony for the 11th year of Cheon Il Guk. After the True Family members lit the holy candles, Reverend Lee Gi Seong offered a representative prayer. Attendees, including the True Family members and representatives of providential organizations, then paid their respects.

In his address, Song Yong-cheon, President of FFWPU-International, urged everyone to walk the path of loyalty and filial piety, taking inspiration from the True Father, the True Family members, and senior family members. He expressed, “I hope that all of humanity will soon unite to form a harmonious world, akin to a full round moon. Together with God and the True Parents, we will joyfully celebrate Chuseok.”

The ceremony’s highlight was when Moon Shin Chul and Moon Shin Heung of the True Family received symbolic stones from the Berlin Wall, representing the dedication to achieving a Heavenly Unified Korea. The event concluded with the three shouts of Eog Mansei led by elder Reverend Jo Man Woo. After the ceremony, main leaders visited all the tombs to pay their respects and reaffirmed their commitment to Vision 2025 and a Heavenly Unified Korea. *☞*

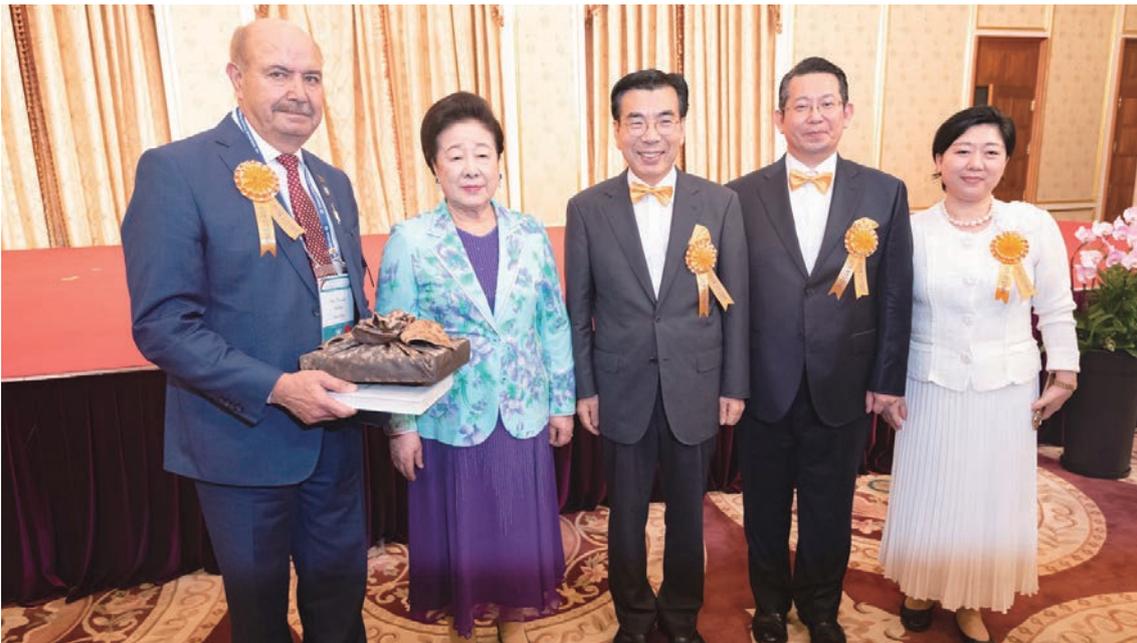


## Visit of President of the Mandaean World Congress, Mr. Fouad Sobbi, and his wife to South Korea

From September 14-28, Mr. Fouad Sobbi, the President of the Mandaean World Congress, and his wife visited several places in South Korea. These included Cheon Jong Gung, the Family Federation for World Peace, the Peace Embassy in Hannam-dong, and the Family Church in Namyangju.

Mandaeism is a religious group that traces its lineage to John the Baptist and continues the practice of baptism with water. Originally, millions of its followers resided mainly in the Middle East. However, after enduring numerous persecutions and massacres, their numbers have dwindled to about 100,000 worldwide. The individual serving as the International Chairman of this group is Mr. Fouad Sobbi.

Four decades ago, amidst turmoil in the Middle East, he traveled to Australia and negotiated with its government to facilitate the migration of Mandaeans. Since then, many have relocated. Currently, nearly 20,000 Mandaean individuals reside in Australia. Mr. Sobbi is revered as the “father” of this community. Even at 85, he continues his global travels, dedicating his life to God and the global peace of Mandaemism.





In 2019, during the International Leaders Conference (ICL) commemorating the Seong Hwa Anniversary of True Father, Mr. Fouad Sobbi was introduced to the peace initiatives of the True Parents. Deeply touched by witnessing True Mother offer a letter to True Father with profound emotion and determination, he was moved to tears and declared, “She is indeed the Mother of the Universe.” Since then, he has attended events such as the 2019 Asia-Pacific Summit, the 2020 Asia Leadership Conference, the 2020 World Summit, the 10th Anniversary of True Father’s Seonghwa, and the 2023 Peace Summit.

Moreover, he actively works to fulfill the mission of the 430 families as the heavenly tribal messiahs, paving the way for all Mandaism followers to align with the will of the True Parents.

During the dedication of the Cheon Won Gung Cheon Il Sanctum in May, Mr. Fouad Sobbi, who attended the 2022 Peace Summit, expressed his intention to recognize Cheon Won Gung as the 20th holy site, alongside the 19 existing Mandaism holy sites worldwide.

During his visit, Mr. Fouad Sobbi met with Song Yong-cheon, President of FFWPU-International, and Yang Chang-shik, Chairman of UPF International. He also paid his respects to the ‘True Father’ at Bonhyangwon and gained a deeper understanding of the providence centered on True Mother.

Mr. Fouad Sobbi expressed his gratitude to True Mother for organizing his tour of the Universal Peace Federation’s Hyojeong Cheonwon Holy Ground and his exploration of Korea. Both he and his wife were deeply impressed and moved after learning about the significance of Cheon Jeong Gung and the historical achievements of the True Parents throughout their lives. They promised to revisit Korea in 2025 for the Cheon Won Gung entrance ceremony. 

# UN World Peace Day Commemoration: International Leaders Conference (ILC) – Paraguay

On Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 09:00 a.m., the Session Room of the National Congress came alive as Prof. Mg. Gustavo Giuliano, Director of Education at UPF Paraguay, inaugurated the International Leadership Conference (ILC). This event was set against the backdrop of the UN World Peace Day celebrations, marking the 11th anniversary of Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s Seonghwa. The conference also featured the Historical Empathy Lecture Series titled “National Defense and Border Security Law” and introduced new Ambassadors for Peace.

The Chamber Orchestra of the National Police set the tone with renditions of the “Paraguayan National Anthem” followed by “Songs in Commemoration.” Pastor Javier Obregón of the House of Faith and Adoration Church led the opening prayer. Don Evaristo Fernández Sandoval, President of UPF Paraguay, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the global leadership significance of True Mother.

A video commemorating the 11th Anniversary of the Cosmic Seonghwa of Dr. Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Founder of UPF, was showcased.





National Deputy and Ambassador for Peace, Freddy Franco, extended a warm welcome to the ILC attendees at the National Congress. He emphasized his commitment to supporting all UPF activities from his position in the congress. This was followed by a speech from Sen. Eduardo Hirohito Nakayama Rojas titled “Paraguay, Land of Peace.” He underscored peace as the paramount value that humanity should aspire to and envisioned South America as a beacon of peace for the world.

Dr. Federico Franco, Former President of the Republic of Paraguay and Ambassador for Peace, delivered a masterclass on Paraguayan history, focusing on the patriotic dates discussed during the Historical Empathy conference. He stressed that true peace can only be achieved through unity with God, our creator, facilitated by the practice of prayer.

Major General (R) Bernardino Antonio González Miranda, Vice Minister of Defense, spoke on “The Defense of the Homeland and the Border Security Law.” He emphasized that preserving the nation’s unity and culture is a collective responsibility.

Dr. Simón Neudir Ferraboli, President of UPF South America, presented on “The Contributions of UPF to World Peace.”

The event also recognized the Former First Lady, former Senator, and Ambassador for Peace, Doña Emilia Alfaro de Franco, from the Women’s Federation for World Peace.

The conference concluded with the appointment of 10 new UPF Ambassadors for Peace, who pledged to uphold this esteemed title with honor and responsibility. 



## Strengthening Families & Unveiling of the Dove of Peace on the 8th Anniversary of Tlaxco as a Magical Town

The conference commemorating the 8th anniversary of “Magic Town” in Tlaxco was held on October 1st. “Magic Town” refers to a tourist city designated by the Mexican Tourism Board that encompasses Mexico’s culture, history, art, and safety.

In Tlaxco, Tlaxcala, Mexico, the Universal Peace Federation & Family Federation for World Peace spearheaded the renewal of vows and the strengthening of families. At the Akan Equestrian Ranch Hall, 20 participants gathered for this emotional event. The UPF facilitated the strengthening of families through a Pre-blessing ceremony. The conference and main activity were led by General Secretary Victor Castillo and his wife, Sayuki Matsuo. Ms. María Pallares, the UPF representative in Quintana Roo, served as the MC. Welcoming words were provided by the president of the IAPP, Lic. Laura Paula López, while the closing remarks were delivered by Tlaxco Major Candidate, Lic. Jorge Rivera. The event culminated with a celebratory cake-cutting, led by Ms. Esther Rivera, coordinator of the State Women’s Institute of Nuevo León.

The gathering also featured a discussion on the Living Growth Stages of Formation, Growth, and Perfection, emphasizing the family’s role as the School of Love. Victor Paredes and Abigail Vargas, a participating couple, shared their personal insights, noting that the event provided answers to challenges they faced in their relationship. Given the positive impact, there are plans to host a larger event in the future.





In a separate event, the Dove of Peace was unveiled in Tlaxco, Tlaxcala. In Tlaxcalteca, the dove is referred to as “Wiltota.” This initiative aimed to foster unity among communities and promote a culture of peace. The sculpture, a collaborative effort between the municipal administration, the State Women’s Institute, the Sustainable World Foundation, and the Federation for Universal Peace, stands as a symbol of peace and unity.

The unveiling ceremony was orchestrated by the Coordinator of Cultural Activities of Tlaxco. Mayor Armando Flores, accompanied by his wife, Lic. Rosa María Cerón, and Dr. Carlos Gómez, led the unveiling. Other notable attendees included Lic. Laura Paula López, president of the IAPP; Lic. Sayuki Matsuo, representing the UPF; and Lic. Esther Rivera, coordinator of the IEM, among other local representatives.

Both Mayor Armando Flores and Dr. Carlos Gómez highlighted the significance of fostering a culture of peace. They emphasized that community-strengthening activities are pivotal in upholding the values and principles inherent in magical towns like Tlaxco. 🦋

## Prayer for Peace in Argentina and the World

On September 21, 2023, the International Day of Peace was commemorated with an interfaith gathering themed “prayer for peace in Argentina and the world.” Organized by the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD)/UPF Argentina, the event took place at the Auditorium for Peace of the Basilio Scientific School in Buenos Aires, drawing over 80 participants.

The event was graced with a message from Dr. Simón Ferabolli, the newly appointed president of UPF South America. The gathering culminated with a harmonious performance by the choir and instrumental ensemble of the New Apostolic Church of the Ciudadela Community, located in the province of Buenos Aires.

Diverse religious leaders and representatives offered prayers and reflections, emphasizing unity, peace, and interfaith dialogue. Notable contributors included:

- Eduardo Castro and Norma Limia from the Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires.
- Rabbi Marcelo Aptekmann from the Jewish Organization for Interfaith Dialogue.
- Professor Isa Altekin from the Alba Intercultural Dialogue Center representing the Islamic Community.
- Pastor Noemí Paredes of the Evangelical Church Ministry Ambassadors of Christ.
- Swami Purnabodhananda from the Ramakrishna Ashrama Argentina, representing the Hindu Community.
- Mauricio Seff from the Kagyu Tekchen Chöling, representing the Buddhist Community.





- Angraj Singh Granthi from the Gurdwara Guru Ram Das Dev ji Buenos Aires, representing the Sikh Community.
- Iya Adewale Eugenia Calvi, a priestess of the Yoruba tradition.
- Carlos Varga from the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification of Argentina.
- Gustavo Libardi, president of the Church of Scientology Argentina.
- Andrea Fernández Bevans from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- Brother Horacio Pisano from the Association Basilio Scientific School.

Norma Cano Ballester, the Public Relations representative of the Basilio Scientific School Association, warmly welcomed the attendees.

As the event drew to a close, Miguel Werner, president of UPF-Argentina, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants. He emphasized the pivotal role of faith, spirituality, and unity in navigating the challenges of our times, especially in a world grappling with conflict and war. 

# Character Education Campaign in Schools and Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Under the theme “The heart of education is the education of the heart,” IAYSP-RD Congo organized a conference focused on character education for the students of Collège Saint Montfort, a Catholic school in the city of Kinshasa with around 103 participants present. During the event, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Brother Willy MANGALA, the school’s study prefect, and Mr. Merveil SAASITA, the National President of IAYSP-RDC. The agreement aims to impart good character and true values to the students of the school.

It’s worth noting that this IAYSP initiative was supported by Mr. VICTOR NYANGI, the current Deputy Director-General of the Special Fund for the Promotion, Entrepreneurship, and Employment of Young People (FSPEEJ), a public state institution. On this occasion, Mr. NYANGI awarded a scholarship of 1,110 US dollars to a student from the college and pledged to assist students facing difficulties in paying school fees.

The school’s management and the parents of the scholarship recipient, KALENGA, expressed their deep appreciation and gratitude to IAYSP for its efforts in promoting young students. 



# Togo Awareness Campaign Young People: Equipped for a Fulfilled and Responsible Life

On October 4, 2023, the WFPW-Togo, in partnership with YSP Togo, conducted an awareness campaign at the “Prince Emmanuel” school complex. Spanning from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. GMT, the event was divided into three sessions tailored for primary, middle, and high school students with a total of 518 students participating.

The primary focus was on addressing prevalent issues among the youth: sexuality, homosexuality, substance abuse, peer and familial relationships, and the pitfalls of seeking shortcuts in life. The discussions delved into the repercussions of these behaviors, such as unwanted pregnancies, STDs, academic failures, and more.

The latter part of the event provided students with practical advice. Recommendations included practicing abstinence until marriage, avoiding substance abuse, and maintaining open communication with parents. Students were also encouraged to respect their teachers, view them as parental figures, and report any instances of harassment or inappropriate advances.





Furthermore, the importance of sibling relationships was highlighted, emphasizing mutual respect and shared responsibilities. Boys, in particular, were encouraged to participate in household chores, ensuring their sisters also had ample time for their studies.

The event concluded with the announcement of a forthcoming club dedicated to promoting excellence, love, and peace. This initiative aims to provide ongoing character education and introduce students to divine principles.

Plans to engage parents in similar awareness programs were also discussed, especially focusing on open communication about topics considered taboo in many African cultures.

Several interviews were conducted during the event, capturing insights from the school's founder and the participating students. *✍*



# An Unyielding Spirit: A Determined Journey Across Borders

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## Beyond Borders

In the burning heat of the day and carrying a heavy backpack, I dragged myself from the border checkpoint in Nepal to the border checkpoint in India. The Indian border guard flipped through the blank pages of my passport several times. "Go back to Nepal!" I tried to ask and explain but faced only silent rejection. I trudged the fifty yards back to the Nepali border checkpoint, but then he handed me my passport saying: "You cannot go back to Nepal!" An awful sense of abandonment flooded me. Inwardly trembling and shocked, I dragged myself back to the border checkpoint on the Indian side.

'Now what? Where am I? Where do I go?' The same border guard looked at me sternly, and everyone in the hut ignored me. I looked around, fell onto a rickety chair, and closed my eyes. 'Why am I here, abandoned, between two countries? Far from civilisation as I knew it. Far away from anyone who speaks my language.' In this endless moment, oppressed by the heat and humidity in this simple hut. 'God did not create national borders. Why are there different countries? Who created borders? How do I ever get out of this predicament? In God's eyes, all of us are His children, and humankind is one family.' There I sat. Tears rolled down my cheeks involuntarily. I cannot remember for how long. It was getting late in the day. Suddenly the border guard ripped my passport out of my hand and slammed a stamp into it. "One week!" Dazed, I stumbled out of the hut. I hoped one week would be sufficient to cross the Indian continent from North to South, by



bus and train, and reach my mission country Sri Lanka by ferry. How did I end up in this situation?

## God's Calling

The call to spread the Divine Principle throughout the world made sense. Jesus had twelve apostles to spread his message, and True Father needed a foundation in 120 countries. Nobody had to persuade me. I had studied the teaching intensively for over a year and enthusiastically shared it with others. I was convinced that we stood at a historic turning point, and this needed to be shared with humanity to have a chance for peace. However, I felt like a mere spectator among the members gathered at our training centre in Camberg. I was just eighteen years old, still in high school. That night, lying in my sleeping bag and reflecting on this unusual day, I was overwhelmed by a sudden strong sense, 'You're going!' The gathering continued the next day. Reverend Paul Werner asked for volunteers and called one country after the other: "Sri Lanka!" My hand flew up automatically, Asia spoke to me. I could not imagine myself in Africa or South America.

During those two days at the end of winter 1975, we were filled with the Holy Spirit. Nothing could stop God's calling in my heart. I am the eldest in my family and have three younger brothers. My parents loved the mountains, and we spent Sundays and holidays in nature, hiking and skiing. I found the presence of God in nature. Yet, I had one big question: 'God, what are You doing in this chaotic world? If I do not understand this, my faith in You has no meaning.

God, what is Your plan for humanity



today?’ The Divine Principle answered my questions profoundly. God is alive. It is not about belief in God, church or religion, but the reality of God. God is just as real as you and me. He has a plan and a dream for us. True Parents connected me to the living God, especially during my 21 years as a foreign missionary. That journey began in 1975. My parents and my youngest brother brought me to the airport in Frankfurt on 27th April 1975 to depart for Sri Lanka, my assigned mission. Thirty years later, my mother wrote me a long, sincere letter explaining her tears that day. She had feared never to see me again. How must God and True Parents have felt sending us, young missionaries into the world? We were full of fire. I packed my suitcase with exactly 20 kg, including a copy of the Divine Principle and the Bible, both in German. I had no idea what to expect at my destination, yet I had trust, faith and was in constant silent dialogue with God.

### First Impression

The plane circled above the island of Sri Lanka. I was astonished by so many bald treetops, thinking, ‘What’s wrong with those trees?’ Well, coconut palms look like this from above! Next, I was shocked by the many locals with bright red tongues at the airport of Colombo, the capital city. I had heard about different skin colours, but different tongue colours? I spent the first night in a guest house. The sparsely furnished room appeared to me like a cell. I could barely sleep for fear that the huge propeller of the ceiling fan would fall onto the bed. For a long time, I stared at a three-inch-long cockroach that sat on the edge of the washbasin before I killed it and dared to go to the toilet. I had never imagined becoming a missionary or living abroad. I loved my hometown Nuremberg with its 1000-year history. In Sri Lanka, people often asked where I came from. ‘From Nuremberg!’ ‘Ah, that’s where they held the Nazi trials!’ This immediate reaction shocked me. I was proud of my hometown for many good reasons. But this response made me

realise we all bear the burden of our nation’s history, lineage, and origins. My American sister had brought many of Father Moon’s speeches given to the missionaries in America. What struck me most was True Father’s emphasis on serving and loving our mission country’s people instead of just focusing on our own organisation. His clear and selfless guidance deeply moved me.

### Beginning the Mission

On my first afternoon in Colombo, I met Mrs Floris, a petite, elderly lady dressed in black. She approached me as I was walking down the main street in Colombo, obviously looking for something. ‘You are a missionary! You are so young! You are all alone?... You absolutely have to meet Pastor Colton.’ Although I lacked good command of the English language, she introduced me to Pastor Colton and his wife, Sister Susan. Together, they led a dynamic, fast-growing and Holy Spirit-filled Pentecostal church – so different from the Catholic and Evangelical Lutheran traditions I knew growing up. Unfortunately, I could not convey the depth of the Divine Principle to Pastor Colton and Sister Susan. My first bus trips through downtown Colombo on the way to the German Embassy were shocking. I had never encountered such poverty: young mothers in rags, carrying babies on their hips, skinny little children next to them, barefoot, young fathers carrying their few belongings in old rice sacks over their shoulders. They searched the rubbish bins for anything edible. I could not stop my tears for the first two weeks. My American sister Merlinda, was due to arrive in a few weeks. I left my address at the German Embassy. There I met a young German lady who became our first member in Sri Lanka. She was wearing a plain white sari and her head nearly bald the day I met her. For many months she had been training with a yoga group in India. Now she was waiting for documents to enter Vietnam as a yoga teacher. Her yogi name was Amala. God and True Parents found a true missionary in her. I listened to her story. My heart and mind raced excitedly. ‘She definitely needs to study the Divine Principle and hear about True Parents,’ was my only thought from then on. Then Amala found herself at a crossroads. ‘The Divine Principle is so clear and convincing. But inside, I am torn as to whether I should follow Baba (founder of their yoga organisation) or the True Parents. I will fast until I have an answer,’ she determined. It was the hottest season of the year. After a few days, Merlinda suggested that she meditate in the coolness of a church. Hours later, Amala returned, beaming and excited. ‘When I emerged from deep meditation in the church, a wedding was



going on. Then everything became obvious to me. Humanity needs True Parents; the way of salvation is through the marriage blessing and family." Since that very day, she has been fully involved in the mission. Our Japanese brother arrived in time for the first workshop. Merlinda presented the lectures, Michinori and I cooked lunch. Most of our guests – Buddhists and Hindus – were enthusiastic about the idea of a world family of peace, with God as the origin of humanity. They embraced us as part of their families. One point impressed them: "Although you believe in Jesus, you do not condemn our religion like some others." One of the Buddhist families sent their eldest daughter to stay with us for a week to care for us when Merlinda and I were seriously ill. These experiences exemplified Jesus' words as written in Matthew 10:42 'And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.'

### **Galle Face Green**

Galle Face Green is a park along the Indian Ocean in the heart of Colombo. One day, I was sitting in the park, on a grassy hill, and let my gaze wander far across the sea to the west, towards home. I prayed and sang songs. When the thought of returning to Germany crossed my mind, I could not stop my tears from flowing. God had witnessed the suffering and injustice the people in this country endured throughout their long history, especially during the many years of colonisation. He also understood my hesitation and helplessness. 'Stay here!'... 'Yes, I'll stay!' Father Moon often spoke about the Heart of God: as the Parent of humankind, God suffered most throughout the tragic history of humanity. These did not just remain words but profound experiences during prayer and the driving force which kept me going. Furthermore, Jesus' words in Matthew 7:7 were essential on my path to find God's guidance: 'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.'



### **Political Background**

Forty years ago, the nations and peoples in our world were isolated from each other. News about distant lands was rare for ordinary citizens. As I prepared for my mission, I found a few books about Ceylon which became independent from British rule in 1948. In 1972 this beautiful island nation was renamed Sri Lanka, closer to its original name, to strengthen the national spirit. For years, Sri Lankan students had been offered affordable education at Lumumba University in Moscow. As a result, Communist and anti-imperialist ideologies spread, particularly among young people.

### **Deportation and Conflict**

After six months, our initial visas expired. Merlinda and I had difficulties staying in the country. Our Japanese brother was able to stay in Sri Lanka as a businessman. Being Asian might have helped. We tried everything possible, eventually, we had to leave for India. When trying to re-enter Sri Lanka, we were escorted on the spot back to the plane on which we had just arrived. It slowly dawned on us that we faced deportation. There we sat, shocked, with tears streaming uncontrollably as the plane lifted off. Unexpectedly, the flight attendant asked me to accompany her into the cockpit. "What's going on" the Indian pilot asked me in perfect German. I told him all about our mission. He was impressed and promised to help us. We were the only passengers who climbed back up the gangway into that propeller-driven plane. We flew into the night in a darkened plane and landed in Madras, today's Chennai. The pilot assured us and promised to bring our passports and luggage on his next weekly flight from Colombo. Then he arranged a taxi and sent us to a Catholic girls' college with a personal letter to the Mother Superior. The Catholic college cared for us without questioning, and our suitcases and passports were returned to us a week later. Unfortunately, our passports were marked with bold red deportation

stamps. It was impossible to return to Sri Lanka. While recovering, I found a book about Saint Patrick in the library. It described his tenacity in following God's calling, returning to his mission despite rejections. His life story gave me new courage. For nearly two years, I crossed the border into Sri Lanka at alternating locations and could stay for 30 days each time. Later, Merlinda lived for a few months in Dharamsala. After many conditions of prayer and fasting, she had an audience with His Excellency the Dalai Lama to create a connection with Father Moon. Then she returned to America. Our Japanese brother and his family stayed in Sri Lanka and Southern India for many years. Everyone spoke to me in Sinhalese and did not treat me as a foreigner anymore. Then I received a new mission: Fiji!

### **Fiji Islands**

From a report by a Japanese brother initially assigned to a neighbouring island, I learned that in 1975, the mission in Fiji passed through a similar course we had experienced in Sri Lanka. I realised that only total trust in God and intense prayer would open a path. I battled doubts and lack of confidence in my heart and mind but decided to set a prayer condition. On the fortieth day, I had newfound friends, a young couple from Germany who worked for the UNDP in Fiji, connected me with the University of the South Pacific in Suva, the capital. The university hired me. Then a German foundation that supported agricultural development projects in Fiji hired me as a bookkeeper. I had a long-term visa and a stable income. We could afford a Toyota minibus for our Home Church activities. On Sundays, many children were waiting for us to be picked. The Home Church programme that developed in London around that time was suitable for the mission in Fiji. The native island population (about 60%) is Melanesian and converted to Christianity with the British colonisation in 1874. The other half of the population comes from India, brought to the Fiji sugar cane plantations by the British as indentured labourers. Several Fijian mothers invited me regularly each week to their homes to teach the Divine Principle in depth. We developed trusting relationships with Hindu families through joint activities, praying and singing together for hours during their holiday celebrations. I was not all alone in the mission. An Indian brother who had joined our movement while studying in New Zealand worked for an international company and contributed all his income. He was an excellent DP teacher. He cared for 360 families in both North and South Samabula. Thanks to the young German couple in Fiji who

supported me, I was able to stay in Fiji until the end of 1983. We are in close contact with each other to this day. Thirty years later, a lady from that Home Church area found me in the United States.

### **Nine Years in the Philippines**

In the Spring of 1984, my husband Ron and I were sent to Mindanao, the Philippines' second largest and southernmost island. Our instructions were to increase the number of mission centres and build a training centre for the rapidly growing community. It took us five days to drive South with a locally built 'Pinoy Truck.' On our first morning in Davao City, a giant parade with red flags and red T-shirts marched through the main streets to celebrate 1st May. As usual, our student members gathered at the mission centre and practised lecturing the Divine Principle during lunch. Suddenly we heard gunshots in front of the house. Below our mission sign, two policemen lay dead, killed by young communist insurgents. Shocked, my husband asked: "Oh God, should we stay here?" and with his next breath, "Yes. We cannot leave our young brothers and sisters alone." In Mindanao, the mission blossomed. In Davao, we had the advantage of our Japanese brother's successful pioneering foundation. For the first time, we were able to work officially as missionaries in a country. Ron and I focused on seminars for teachers and professors. They were excited about the teachings and found hope. The president of the largest university in Davao told us: "This is exactly what we need to counteract the influence of the Communist student organisations!" Another professor was astonished: "For the first time, I have hope that Christians and Muslims can one day live together peacefully on this island." I most vividly remember the 'Godism' rallies in 1986. CAUSA had supplied us with impressive colour slides. The key lecture explained how a harmonious society with God at its centre can be realised as an alternative to communism. The participants expressed enthusiasm, and our team was energised. At the same time, more and more leaders of the military, government, schools, and media took part in intensive CAUSA seminars in Manila. In the last town of our campaign, we heard about a radio announcer who broadcasted the CAUSA alternative and 'Godism' every day with great passion. He reached hundreds of thousands of people across Mindanao. Yet, the guerrillas attacked his radio station in broad daylight. He paid with his life. In the wake of this tragedy, we had to stop our rallies. Nevertheless, I believe

the CAUSA work that Father and Mother Moon inspired and supported in the Philippines saved the country from turning communist during those years. Ron and I barely knew each other when we began our mission in Mindanao. Working together helped us to understand and appreciate one another. Ron was practical and resourceful. He organised everything well and built a financial foundation for the mission's growth. Father and Mother Moon gave the best husband to me! Eventually, enough money was raised to buy a rice farm for the future training centre; the purchase included a water buffalo called Harmony. We produced brown rice and were amazed at the positive effects on everyone's health, including my own, during my pregnancy. The warm and non-judgemental hearts of the Philippine people helped me experience God's embracing love much deeper. My parents visited us in the Philippines in 1986. They were profoundly impressed by the members, students and professors who worked with us. Afterwards, they always defended our movement. Ron's parents visited as well, although 70 years of age, they embarked on the long journey from California to Davao to embrace their first granddaughter. We lived on the 'Rice Farm' after our daughter, Biyeun, was born. During that time, Ron and several brothers finally built the training centre. This experience bonded all brothers and sisters. The 21-day Divine Principle workshops I taught there are unforgettable to me. In addition, the training centre served as a training facility for Won Hwa Do martial arts. We are incredibly grateful for these experiences, and remember those days as the most challenging and the most wonderful time in our life. With our Philippine brothers and sisters' close cooperation, unity, tireless dedication, and ingenuity, the businesses helped the mission to be self-sufficient.

### **Khabarovsk – Far East Russia**

Early 1993 we started our mission in Khabarovsk, Russia, east of Siberia, and 500 miles north of North Korea. We had moved from the tropics to the Arctic! In Russia, after the Soviet Union's fall, life was changing for everyone. For the first six months, we moderated ongoing Divine Principle seminars for teachers and students in Vladivostok. With the support of teachers and students, we introduced a new curriculum in all high schools. Communist ideology was outdated, and this curriculum was in great demand. "My World and I" was developed by educators from Russia and America. It focussed on character education based on Russian literature and world

religions. We learned enough Russian to cope with everyday life. Our daughter spent the whole day in a Russian kindergarten and mastered the language better than anybody else in our family. I was deeply impressed by the teachers' attitudes towards life. Despite countless difficulties, they did not complain but found solutions and stuck together, helping each other. Sometimes they were not paid for a few months and depended on supplies they had carefully saved. Several teachers brought us part of their harvest each autumn: fresh and preserved vegetables and plenty of berry preserves to provide us with vitamins for the long winter ahead. Two couples from Khabarovsk participated in the worldwide Marriage Blessing in August 1995, transmitted via satellite. Many people in Khabarovsk seemed to originate from the Ukraine, probably exiled after the 1917 revolution. My husband's grandfather had escaped Ukraine to Canada before World War I. The lifestyle and apartments in Khabarovsk reminded me of my grandparents and great-aunts, who migrated from former Czechoslovakia to Germany after World War II. We felt an invisible bond with the people there.

### **The True Parents of Humankind**

In retrospect, before I crossed the border from Nepal to India, several missionaries had met for a short retreat in the Himalayan foothills. Visa problems in neighbouring countries had brought us all to Nepal. In the evening we sat together. One by one, we shared our testimony of how we had found True Parents. That night I lay awake, flooded with tears and gratitude, feeling God's embrace. I reflected on how each one of us was guided by God: a young man and a young woman from distant, unknown Korea had done all they could to realise God's original will for humanity. They challenged us and helped us overcome the boundaries of different languages, customs, living conditions in foreign cultures, and the barriers within. As morning dawned, I snuck out alone. The peaks of the Himalayas appeared twice as high in the clear morning air, and I felt reborn. They led us with their deep heart and clear vision. They dedicated their entire lives to God's will, despite being persecuted, unjustly accused, and vilified, especially in America, Europe, Korea, and Japan. Nevertheless, I experienced first-hand how their teaching and example inspired people from diverse countries and backgrounds in a life-changing way. Father and Mother Moon indeed are the True Parents of all and I am forever grateful to them. 

