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ARTICLE ONE

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SPECIAL

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The Missionary Work Around the World: A Ray of Hope for the Fulfillment of Heaven's Providence

Song Yong-cheon, President of FFWPU- International



Warm greetings to you, cherished members of the peace-loving world! After a hot summer, the arrival of autumn with its vibrant flowers and gentle breeze makes us feel the immense love of our Heavenly Parent. With three months left in 2023, I genuinely hope that all members will reap the fruits of their efforts throughout the year.

Last May, after being appointed to the vital position of president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) International, I followed True Mother's words and embarked on a global tour promptly. This journey took me across five continents: starting in Europe, then South America, Central America, Asia-Pacific, and finally concluding in Africa. The reason True Mother urged me to promptly undertake this global tour is because she felt an acute desperation, signaling that there was no turning back in Heaven's providence. She earnestly hopes for the entire world to move swiftly towards national restoration through significant growth of the Church.

Before I began the tour, True Mother instructed me on three things:

Firstly, was about communication. True Mother emphasized that all problems can only be solved when the international headquarters, together with leaders and members from the first and second generations, come together to communicate with each other. Secondly, was about scouting future talents. True Mother advised me to meet as many youths as possible, to encourage and inspire them, giving them hope to become excellent global leaders. Thirdly, she spoke about ensuring the success of Vision 2025. After dedicating Cheon Won Gung to Heaven, True Mother declared a fresh start with a new organization and system. She specifically mentioned, "Until the official entry ceremony of the Cheon Won Gung in 2025, we must unite centering on Spirit and Truth, witness with the zeal of the early days to achieve substantial Church growth and herald the victory of a Heavenly Unified Korea."

Throughout the tour, there were numerous touching moments. Among them were the lives of missionaries who, following the directives of the True Parents, dedicated their entire lives in their mission countries, becoming true beacons of providence and silently laying the foundation. In Heavenly Europe, some missionaries faced tremendous hardships from the onset, yet remained steadfast, dedicating themselves solely to the teachings of the True Parents. Simultaneously, other missionaries experienced expulsion multiple times due to relentless persecutions, but displayed unwavering resolve, re-entering the country time and again to fulfill their mission. Others witnessed their health deteriorating severely, and some even found their final resting places in their mission countries, honoring True Parents' words to bury their bones there. Despite harsh environments and circumstances, they continued to love and serve their mission countries with integrity.

In South America, we saw the renovation of the Jardim training center, which holds deep history and memories with True Parents. We also observed how, under the direction of the Japanese national messiah and without financial support, a training center was erected on the barren lands of Leda, sowing seeds of hope for discovering promising young talents for the future. In Heavenly Asia-Pacific, and indeed, across all continents, concerted efforts are underway to foster close collaborations with local governments and authorities. These endeavors are steered towards the fruition of Vision 2025. Witnessing these efforts has instilled unwavering confidence that they will serve as a pivotal bridge, leading to the realization of the global victory foretold by True Mother.

In Africa, we saw special envoys, and the Sunhak UPA graduates who are supported financially and spiritually by True Mother, unite to launch a cadet training program named "Hyo Jeong Rang Africa," an initiative that brings immense hope to the African continent. Moreover, close collaboration with governments on each continent will be crucial in achieving the global restoration as mentioned by True Mother. In Sao Tome and Principe, the first country to establish the national restoration model, there was an opportunity to discuss the practical implementation of the youth character education program during significant meetings with the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, and the National Assembly President. During these meetings, the President of Sao Tome and Principe expressed deep gratitude to True Mother and expressed a desire to see her again, even confessing that his country truly belongs to True Mother.

In this way, leaders and members worldwide are giving their utmost day and night to fulfill their promise to True Mother to ensure the success of Vision 2025.

Dear members worldwide, we are living in a new era. This is the era of true worship, of seeking essence, of filial piety, and moreover, of loyalty. It's a time where we must present tangible results of witnessing.

The international headquarters positions itself in this era as a forward-moving organization promoting genuine communication, experience-sharing, and transparency. As the saying goes, while one arrow can be easily broken, a bundle remains unbreakable, symbolizing the power of collective efforts. Unity is our path forward. With fervent prayers and unwavering devotion to our Heavenly Parent and True Parents' dream, Heaven will surely bless our endeavors. Let's all become loyal and filially pious sons and daughters of Cheon Il Guk and move forward confidently towards Vision 2025 to bring joy and offer victory to our Heavenly Parent! Thank you. 

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Peace in the World

Cheon Seong Gyeong, Book 10: The Philosophy of Peace Chapter 2. Section 4.

The central philosophy we uphold in the Unification Church is to live for the sake of others. If you do so, you will become the center. Without the process of living for each other, there will be no peace in the family. And if you cannot build peace in your family, there can be no peace among your people, no peace in your nation and no peace in the world. This is to tell you to live centered on a realm of love for the entire world. That will absolutely be the foundation for peace among humankind.

The goal of the Unification Church ideology does not end with the salvation of the individual, but with the establishment of a united nation and

world. A saved nation and peaceful kingdom will cultivate peaceful people. Likewise, a peaceful world will serve as the environment for the numerous peoples and nations to realize peaceful national realms. Conflicting interests that generate strife are not present here. The liberated, unified homeland, and through it a universal life culture, is expanding globally. This thought provides a new means by which to break the deadlock in the current circumstances of the world, which is beset by difficulties. This is Unification Thought.

In the original design, each person controls, manages, organizes and masters his or her body by putting the mind at the center. Thus people

move forward with common goals to realize a single purpose. The mind and body relate according to a standard. That standard of mutual relationship must not be put aside; to fulfill it, the mind is to be at the center and bring the body into oneness. This global age demands that a new movement supporting this appear at the forefront.

What will happen to the world? It cannot become one simply by the establishment of a political system, nor can it become one because its people share economic circumstances. The world will become one when policy directions become one. What is the starting point of division among nations? They begin with differences in policy directions. These differences lead to conflict and breakdown. Ultimately, they are the result of differences in thinking. That is why we need a common base on which to integrate different ways of thinking. Will integration come by people sharing the reality of their lives with one another? Or will it come by putting God at the center? If we consider these two ways, it is clear that people alone cannot realize the ideal. There is no way to establish a

single policy direction, a single policy idea, based solely on human desires. Therefore, we need to dig a path that recreates the stage of life in which the human conscience and body have a single thought system, one that is tied to absolute thought and absolute spirit. Without doing so, we will not be able to establish a unified world, and we will not realize a world of peace.

The Unification Church teaches people to live sacrificially. I tell Unification Church believers to sacrifice more for the nation than they do for the church. If Unification Church members serve the people and the nation with that unprecedented sacrificial mind, it will generate a patriotic spirit that history has never seen. If we establish this new tradition of loving the nation's people, our organization, which has set up that tradition, will never fail. All it takes is to plant that tradition, because all people like that way of love very much. They liked it in the past, they like it in the present, and they will like it in the future. The passage of time does not change something like that. This degree of love will be the new standard for everything. This is the origin; it is the only love that humanity needs. 





Our Responsibility in the Era of Cheon Il Guk

Cheon Seong Gyeong, Book 12: CHEON IL GUK Chapter 4, Section 3

Today, we come to an exceedingly important turning point in God's governance of His providence. It is unprecedented, historic and revolutionary. The returning Lord, Messiah, Savior and True Father, who came as the root of the lineage of original goodness, has departed to the spirit world. Consequently, we now stand at a providential starting point. From here, we have to inherit True Parents' realm of victory and build the ideal kingdom of peace.

Having been together with True Father my whole life, his Seonghwa brings me unfathomable pain and sorrow. What's more, we cannot begin to fathom the sorrowful heart of God, who is the original substance of eternal love and the True Parent of humanity. From another perspective, however, this time is also one of hope to initiate a new dimension of God's providence. We have

this hope on the basis of True Father's work in accordance with the heavenly laws that God established at the time of the creation of heaven and earth. He concluded, completed and perfected the providential tasks on earth that had been unfulfilled by anyone in history. He has now transitioned to the spirit world, where he will exercise dominion over both the spiritual and physical worlds. There is no language, spoken or written, by which we can possibly express how we feel today. We stand at this juncture in the providence overwhelmed with emotion.

According to heavenly law, True Father will now make the spirit world his base and, while freely traveling between the spirit world and the physical world, will carry out the providence to expand Cheon Il Guk. True Father and I shall preside over the providence in a state of oneness in heart, essence, harmony and thought.

Through the victory of Foundation Day, we will be with you in building the original garden of Eden on earth. There is no stopping the providential work of Heaven.

The suffering that True Father and I experienced in the providential course of restoration through indemnity, a course with which not even Heaven could interfere, is beyond imagination. Who dares to say that they can comprehend this painful course of restoration through indemnity. On that victorious foundation, Heaven bestowed upon True Father and me the right of equality, the right to live together, and the right to hold the same position in the providence.

At this new transitional point in providential history we stand at the forefront to lead the providence on earth. While doing so, there are several things I would like to convey to everyone.

The way we need to go from now

First, we must absolutely value the tradition True Parents established as much as we value our own life, and pass it down to our descendants, the future generations. True Parents established the tradition of love and heart, the tradition of the Word and the rules and regulations, and the tradition of the culture of heart. The hoondokhae tradition of reading the Word, which is the crystallization of True Parents' course in the providence of restoration through indemnity, should become the central practice in each family, as well as in the church and at any gathering centered on Heaven. At the same time, we need to go forward in creating a new order on earth. Please never forget True Parents' tradition, based upon which our organization will be developed and united as one body. It will have perfect order, based on the True Family, with True Parents as its center and Abel figure.

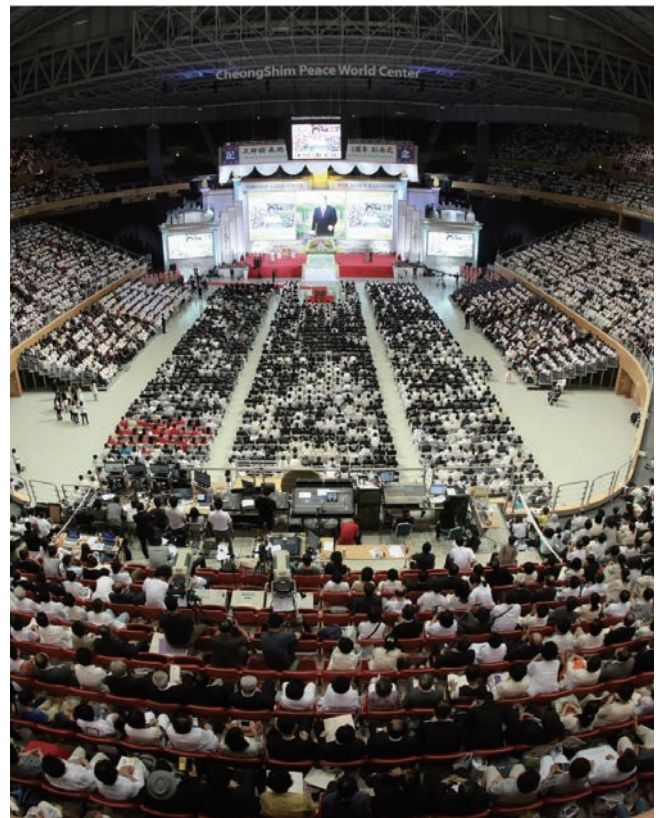
Second, we need to complete the ideal of the blessed family, with which Heaven has blessed us. The family is the cradle of true love, true life and true lineage, and the base upon which God's purpose of creation is realized. Based on the eight verses of the Family Pledge, you should uphold the tradition of the absolute good lineage with absolute faith. Our vision for peace evokes pure love, happy families and a peaceful world. Blessed couples should raise their children through love and the Word in a tradition of attending Heaven with absolute love and attaining complete oneness. Through hoondokhae in your families, you should foster the firm establishment of the Cheon Il Guk order, and fulfill the ideal of the Blessing. That is how the tradition of heart can take root both vertically and horizontally according to the standard of vertical, high noon alignment.

Third, you have all received the blessing of being tribal messiahs, which is your mission and responsibility until the time we complete Cheon Il Guk on earth. Tribal messiahship is the greatest of all blessings given by True Parents. It could not come to fallen people without the foundation of victory True Parents established in the providence of restoration through indemnity. That is why True Parents consistently emphasized the tribal messiah mission during their lifelong governance of the providence. The completion of Cheon Il Guk in heaven and on earth becomes possible when tribal messiahs fulfill their responsibility to share the Word and the

Blessing with their tribes, and live for the sake of others. This will establish a realm of goodness, a peaceful world and the ideal of humanity living as one global family.

Fourth, we will create a community based on the culture of heart, in harmony and unity, with True Parents and true families. Each of you, without exception, found the path of God's Will because Heaven chose you. It was based on the merits of your ancestors and because of the character you personally acquired. In order to follow True Parents and enter this realm of victory that we have now, you have faced immeasurable persecution. That makes us all a part of a single family, a community of heart centered on one Parent. Division and conflict continue to afflict the world, but the Unification family can become brothers and sisters who can easily transcend race, nation and any barrier. If you can display an exemplary life of giving and living for the sake of others, this dream will surely come true. Especially in this time of great transition in the providence, I ask that you unite with True Parents in your heart.

Although True Father is in the spirit world, he is always with us. He exists without corporeal form, but he never leaves our side even for a moment. What do you think he desires from us at this time? He desires that we march forward without pausing. God's providence has to continue throughout the world until, with True Parents as the center, love and peace overflow, a culture of heart settles, and a new order is established. Moreover, from the victory of Foundation Day, we should advance further to offer great glory to Heaven and to True Parents, and to instill great hope as we stand before the world and before all of history. 



Speech by True Mother at the Special Gathering for Young People from Heavenly Europe and the Middle East

September 1, 2023, Cheon Jeong Gung



I really wanted to see you all. What is the most beloved, appreciated, and precious word throughout human history, regardless of gender or age? The word “mom” is universal. Throughout human history, the most precious being, the mother, has been obscured.

Observing the principles of creation, the Creator made men and women in His image. He provided humans with a period of growth and patiently awaited them to reach the point of completion. However, they violated the commandment midway and were expelled from [the garden of Eden]. This is how the humanity of today originated. The all-powerful Creator cannot fail. If He initiates something, He must witness the results. Consequently, Heaven had no choice but to commence the providential history of indemnity and restoration to rediscover the original humanity.

The dream and wish of our Creator, the Heavenly Parent, were to dwell with the True Parents and their children on earth, enjoying a heavenly life on this ground. He intended to coexist with the True Parents and then transition with them into the eternal world. This was the Creator's dream and wish. The path to unity (for all of us) lies in finding the parents, the True Parents. What they need to find there is the mother. Mother, Queen Mother. When you meet the Queen Mother, everything can be resolved. I am the Queen Mother to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generations! The unchanging Queen Mother. Moon Shin Chul and Moon Shin Heung are here, right? (Yes!) UPA students are here too, right? (Yes!)

I am the Queen Mother! You need to become one with Mother. You all must unite with me to change the world. ㄸ





The 11th Anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, True Parent of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind

Over the past 10 years, True Mother has laid a profound foundation of devotion, encouraging individuals worldwide to attend the Heavenly Parent and True Father with even greater fidelity as filial sons, daughters, especially since the 10th anniversary of True Father's ascension. Consequently, the 11th-anniversary commemoration unfolded as a grand celebration across continents and various providential locations globally. The Cheon Il Guk Pledge Service involved two parts: firstly, dedicating the completion of the 10th year since True Father's ascension with utmost sincerity at Cheon Shim Won, and secondly, embarking on a fresh start towards realizing the Vision 2025, under the guidance and inherited love of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind.



Pledge Service to Commemorate the 11th Anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, True Parent of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind



The commemorative Pledge Service took place at the outset of Sept. 1, 2023. Approximately 1,200 esteemed individuals, including blessed families both locally and internationally, convened at the big hall of the HJ Heaven and Earth CheonBo Training Center.

This meaningful ceremony was live-streamed globally in various languages including Korean, English, Japanese, Spanish, French, and Portuguese, enabling a broader audience to partake in this event.

In his welcome address, Song Gwang-seok, the FFWPU-Korea president, reflected on True Father's unwavering dedication to achieving the liberation of the Heavenly Parent and establishing peace for all humanity till his last breath. He highlighted True Mother's deep understanding of True Father's heartfelt concerns and her relentless efforts to fulfill her duty in the human salvation process, despite the physical





challenges she endures. So, he urged everyone to remember and honor the compassionate heart of the True Parents in their ongoing mission to find the Heavenly Parent's homeland.

During the event, Lee Ki-sung, the President of Cheon Shim Won at the HJ Heaven and Earth CheonBo Training Center, offered a prayer of report, recounting the victorious journey of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind. President Lee, narrated how True Father, as the returning Messiah, united with True Mother, the miraculous Only Begotten Daughter, culminating in their embodiment as the True Parents of humanity through their dedicated service and sacrifices. Then he further prayed for the unyielding success and triumph in the Vision 2025 initiative, united under the True Mother, the Only Begotten Daughter and substantial Holy Spirit.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's heartfelt message titled "May Your Life of Filial Piety Toward Heavenly Parent be the Light of Hope for the World" was read by Jeong Won-ju, Chief of Staff, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's 2nd Secretariat.

Beloved Father! How we miss you! Father you are always with us! It is already seven years since your Holy Ascension to the heavenly realms. There is no place in heaven and earth





untouched by your sweat and tears. you completed the mission of the providence of restoration and you are resting in Bonhyangwon. When I missed you, which was on numerous occasions, I came to Bonhyangwon and talked with you. Through these conversations, your thoughts became my thoughts and my thoughts became yours. Then, I resolved to fulfill the promise I made you to "return to the spirit of the early days of the church and revive the church in the spirit and the truth." My mouth was sore, my legs were swollen... I could barely stand, yet I could not rest. This was because, however difficult realizing the Will may be, I had to keep the promise I had made to you that I would conclude everything within my lifetime. I lived each day reaffirming my resolve that I would "fulfill this without fail." And that "to do so, I shall not change."

Father, you know, don't you? Following your Ascension, I felt lost for words, in a position where I was the only one remaining. My heart felt as if I were in a vast desert in the midst of a sandstorm, having to find a needle yet unable to open my eyes. Nonetheless I found it. I had to find it.

My resolve to absolutely restore seven nations by 2020, my resolve to register all blessed families in Cheon Bo Won as Heavenly Tribal Messiahs, these are my gifts to you, Father. I pray that this gift, your life of hyojeong for Heavenly Parent, can shine rays of hope throughout the world. Father, I love you.



Subsequently, a poetic tribute titled “Now is the Time for the Liberation of the Homeland of Heavenly Parent” was presented by Lee Sung-man, President of the HJ Garden Project Committee, articulating hopes and dreams for the forthcoming unification of North and South Korea.

*When you crossed the 38 parallel,
You made an unchanging vow to reunite the two Koreas
“May God’s homeland dawn”
You became God’s emissary that was at the vanguard for the liberation of Heaven’s homeland.
At Mansudae, risking life and limb,
You spoke God’s truth, to let reunification begin.
“Blood thicker is than water,” sung your voice,
As you embraced Kim Il-sung by your choice.
Two Koreas’ futures in that meeting lay,
Eighty million hearts felt unity’s ray.
From the Cape of Hope in Africa to Santiago in Chile
She travelled across the world regardless of her health, calling:
“The time has come to melt guns into plowshares and swords into sickles”
Beating a drum, she marked the advance towards Heavenly Unified Korea.
Liberation of God’s homeland
We are one on the path to a heavenly unified world
With Mother, we will traverse from Mt. Baekdu to Mt. Halla
Let’s build a garden full of joy
Heaven, be with us in this moment
Be the eyes of this nation and this people*



Later, Yang Chang-shik, Chairman of UPF International & UPF-Korea, reflected, “It is often said that even a mountain changes in ten years, yet our longing for the True Father only intensifies as time goes by. Across all five oceans and six continents, transcending race and national boundaries, we have followed the True Father. In contrast to the four great saints who were unable to cross national borders during their lifetimes, the True Father pioneered missionary work across borders worldwide.” He added, “The light of truth and true love that the True Father revealed to us doesn’t momentarily awaken us only to fade away. Instead, it continuously illuminates our lives as a lighthouse, every hour of every day. He is not a figure of the past but remains with us in the eternal present, at the heart of our daily lives.”

Chairman Yang continued with an emotional recollection from the last moments with the True Father, saying, in “True Father’s last prayer he says ‘it is accomplished’ and it will fully be realized only when the True Mother establishes the substantial Cheon Il Guk. Now, it is our time to stand up. True Father, please do not worry. We are here to respectfully serve the True Mother and ensure victory.”

On the same day, Song Yong-cheon, President of FFWPU- International, expressed his nostalgia, saying, “It has already been 11 years since we bid farewell to the True Father who had dedicated his life to reconciling religious disputes and spearheading peace initiatives in the Middle East, unafraid to step into the conflict-ridden regions of Palestine. His courage in boldly advocating the end of communism to Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union and proposing a pathway to coexistence, as well as risking his life to preach theism in North Korea, emphasizing that Juche ideology cannot facilitate the unification of North and South Korea, remains vivid in my memory.”

He further expressed his longing, stating, “Today, people around the globe inherit the True Father’s spirit, commemorating his life. On the foundation laid by the unparalleled efforts and dedication of the Only Begotten Daughter, the True Mother, we have finally entered a new era, where we can welcome the Heavenly Parent to the Earth.” Dr. Song called for resolve in his commemorative speech, encouraging everyone to “firmly commit to ‘Victory in National Restoration Vision 2025!’ as we mark a fresh beginning on this 11th anniversary of the True Father’s Ascension, encompassing all continents and nations of Heavenly Korea and the world.” 



A Worldwide Remembrance and Celebration



In 194 countries, people united online and in spirit to mark the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa. The ceremony was broadcast globally through an interactive livestream, available in five languages to welcome attendees from all corners of the world. The focal point of the event was to honour True Father's legacy and to strengthen the resolve to fulfill the vision of a united North and South Korea.

United States of America

On September 3, Unificationists across America gathered at local churches and homes to commemorate True Father's 11th Seonghwa anniversary. At larger gatherings, members went one by one and laid a single flower in front of True Father's portrait. A video of True Father's life was





viewed as part of the service as well as a recording of Rev. Song's main address given at the Pledge Service in Korea. There were musical offerings given by members young and old and dances offered by children and various ethnic groups at many of these gatherings. At smaller gatherings, members shared testimonies about their early days with True Parents. In Washington D.C., 220 Unificationists and guests gathered at the Washington Times building with 50 joining the livestream. Ambassadors for Peace and clergy testified to True Parents. In New Jersey, 446 people gathered for a commemorative service and were treated to cultural performances from the Chinese, African, Filipino, and Japanese communities, a dance performed by blessed children, and an outdoor barbeque lunch. In Texas, the commemorative service followed on the coattails of the Cheon Shim Won Rebirth workshop where 135 Unificationists, Ambassadors for Peace, clergy, and UPF affiliates were already gathered. They heard testimonies from affiliate members and a short message from Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Cheon Eui Won Chair, and Rev. Demian Dunkley, New Regional Chair and National President for the American Movement. In Washington state, Rev. Larry and Akemi Krishnek, the region's directors, were interviewed about their time with True Father. Members were also treated to entertainment, songs, a dance performance by 3rd-generation blessed children, and a potluck lunch. In Hawaii, 6 elders of the community shared testimonies. 142 members gathered at Belvedere Estate in Tarrytown for a service and testimonies from elders and several 2nd-generation Unificationists. 50 members gathered in Worcester, Connecticut and shared testimonies, lunch and even had swimming for the children. Gatherings also took place in smaller communities such as Norfolk, Virginia, where 12 members gathered for a small service. 15 members gathered in Charlotte, North Carolina. Other locations were in Manhattan, Los Angeles, and Arizona.



Northern Europe (UK)

On the 3rd of September there was a River South service in Livingstone House with many families in attendance from across London and the surrounding areas. The house played as a beautiful backdrop for the service which included engaging and touching testimonies from Mrs. Fumiko B. and Matthew H. who spoke about His involvement with the Youth Pilgrimage which recently took place in Korea. Members also engaged in singing songs together, led by the band. In addition to this, musical performances could also be enjoyed in the form of a celebration song of 'You Raise Me Up' performed by John and Sophia N. and performances during the afternoon entertainment. Attendees got the chance to place a rose in respect to True Father before gathering to talk and enjoy the incredible lunch outside on the warm terrace of the house. True Parents' bedroom was also opened for people to visit. Overall, it was a touching event where God's love could really be felt and experienced.

Three events were held across Wales, West Country and the West Midlands. There was a coffee & cake morning in the newly decorated and ambient Cleeve House Library, which led into a prayer and testimony circles where members gave 5-7-minute heart-warming testimonies of experiences they had with Father and/or faith. The Welsh Community also met in Cardiff where more testimonies were shared, with many members shedding tears of pain but also joy. There was an underlying theme of how experiencing God's love is an essential pillar of faith. Finally, there was also a UPF/WFWP celebration service in Birmingham. Dr David E. gave a presentation on Father's key life achievements, freely speaking about Father's experiences with Jesus. This was followed by 5 talks by people from different faiths and backgrounds, who testified to the spectacular work of UPF & WFWP, including acknowledgements to Father's hard work for striving for peace. It goes to show, that people are moved by actions which can be then supported by words.

The Scottish community also gathered for True Father's Seonghwa anniversary in their Cheonshim Won prayer room. All members had an opportunity to offer a flower to True Father and share their memories of him. They had moments of tears, remembering Father's sincere devotion to Heavenly Parent, as well as laughter, remembering how Father would light up the room with his jokes. They also prayed together, led by their oldest member Elizabeth M. and listened to Simon J. read True Father's final prayer. Then they all sang "Ommaya Nunaya" together, a song that members remember True Father singing for us. Afterwards, there was time for members to pray/reflect, or offer something from their heart to Father. It was very heartwarming to see that members gave sweets and a letter to Father. It was a very meaningful weekend, which all members were able to engage in and enjoy. It was a moving opportunity for people to gather together as companions in faith and share this special occasion.



Eastern Europe

Across locations throughout the Eastern Europe subregion, a wave of jubilation and spiritual unity enveloped communities as they gathered to celebrate the Chil Il Jeol and Pal Il Jeol. Many brothers and sisters gathered in their communities to share the joy and beautiful tradition of these two special holidays. Simultaneously, hearts and minds tuned in solemn remembrance for the commemoration of the 11th anniversary of the True Father's Ascension. This significant event started with a pledge service on August 31st, segueing into a day of special vigil prayer on the first of September and reaching a crescendo on September 2nd, as the commemorations concluded with the deeply touching CheonBo Great Works ceremony. Live broadcasts from Korea allowed members globally to strengthen their bonds with the Heavenly Parent and the True Parents, fostering a global sense of community and spiritual unity.

The highlight for many was witnessing the moving performances of Europe and the Middle East pilgrimage participants during the Special CheonBo Great Works, leaving brothers and sisters around the region feeling inspired and uplifted.



Latin America (Dominican Republic)

Under the careful guidance of the IHQ, local churches observed the commemoration of the 11th anniversary of the Holy Ascension of the True Father, Rev. Sun Myung Moon. On this occasion, approximately 100 members gathered at the national headquarters in Santo Domingo.

The ceremony was led by the national leader, Bernardo Cruz, who delivered the opening remarks, setting the tone for the occasion. Following this, the sub-regional president, Rev. Leonidas Belliard, lit the candles, ushering everyone into the initiation of the significant Cheon Il Guk Gyeongbae Ceremony. Bernardo Cruz, with a heart full of gratitude, guided the congregation in prayer, offering thanks to God for the opportunity to unite in honouring the rich legacy and life of the True Father. His words echoed the collective sentiments of the assembly, conveying hopeful wishes for the True Mother's health, long life, and future filled with successes.

A reflective video followed the prayer, unravelling True Father's life journey before all those gathered, and igniting a collective sense of longing and nostalgia for the True Father.

In an emotion-filled room, attendees bore witness to a touching homage as flowers were presented to the True Father — a gesture brimming with respect and deep affection. This act underscored the unique bond shared by everyone in the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community.

To close the event, President Bernardo Cruz congratulated all members and blessed families present for their heartfelt participation. The ceremony concluded with a commemorative photograph, capturing the spirit of unity and reverence that characterized the day.



Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Members of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo recently gathered to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the Holy Ascension of the True Father. In the capital city of Kinshasa, the national center welcomed over 400 attendees, while an additional 3,750 members joined virtually through iPeaceTV to take part from their various locations.

During the event, touching speeches reached deep into the hearts of those present, revealing the profound love the True Mother has for the True Father, her longing for him, and her unwavering commitment to fulfilling the divine providential providence. Among many, a poem resonated freshly in today's context, reminding attendees of their responsibilities of loyalty and filial duty towards the True Parents. The heartfelt messages of Yang Chang-shik, Chairman of UPF International and Song Yong-cheon, President of FFWPU-International, conveyed a natural parent-child bond with the True Father, and the True Parents sharing their utmost importance.

In light of the heartfelt testimonies shared, attendees find themselves encouraged to forge deeper connections, rooted in love and devotion, to further work towards national restoration. There is a collective acknowledgment that they must redouble their efforts to nurture a relationship of the heart, akin to that exemplified by their respected elders.

Following the commemorative event, a special public gathering took place in the Kongo Central Province at the “Le Délicate” venue. This gathering allowed attendees to witness first-hand the account of True Father's life presented to a discerning audience. The choir, aptly named “Those Inspired by True Mother,” graced the occasion with two remarkable performances, setting a harmonious backdrop to the provincial pastor's discourse on True Father's life. This life was characterized by a deep and abiding love for the Heavenly Parent and a compassionate outlook towards all of humanity.

The central message conveyed the true love rooted in the principle of ‘living for the sake of others,’ a principle that has defined the True Father as a “true” man and the True Mother as a “true” woman, who came together to become the True Parents. The gathering emphasized the call for everyone to walk in the same path of altruism, guided by the teachings of the divine principle.

As they marked the 11th anniversary of the True Father's ascension, there is an extension of an invitation to one and all to explore the transformative potential of the divine principle—a principle potent enough to remove barriers between God and man, fostering harmony and goodwill among individuals and paving the way for a world of goodness. 



Reports of 40 Days of Special Activities and Jeongseong in Preparation for the 11th Anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa



Please Note: The testimonies featured below are concise summaries crafted from the detailed accounts we received from various individuals in Europe. Collated from a diverse array of formats including bullet points, letters, and PowerPoint presentations, we distilled the essence of each testimony to bring you succinct paragraphs highlighting the pivotal activities and insights from each contributor.

Europe

BELARUS, LIDIA IVANISOVA

After completely reading the memoir of the True Mother, “Mother of Peace”, I came to realize that the construction of international peace highways connecting the eastern and western world under the grand proclamation that “humanity is one family, one brotherhood” is more important than anything else. Hence, as part of the 40-day special activity commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, I aimed to establish a foundation of jeongseong for the fulfillment of the True Parents' providence by running a total of 85 km across the Bering Strait, conveying the heart of the True Parents. And finally, on the 40th day, I managed to complete the 85 km. Heavenly Parent! I will work harder to devote myself and become a child who can get closer to the purpose while always keeping in mind, the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind.



SPAIN, HÉCTOR MACÍAS

While conducting the 40-day special activity commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, from August 20 to 21, the Gracia local festival in Barcelona was held with over 30 related people attending. It was the first time in the area to create a venue

promoting interreligious dialogue and cultural exchange. On that day, I had the opportunity to briefly present on the harmony between religions and the value of true families, as advocated by the True Parents. Thus, on the 21st day of the 40-day devotion period, we initiated a small reading group on human rights and freedom. It became a precious period of devotion where I could resolve to have more opportunities to witness and take pride in the True Parents through community activities and various small gatherings.

SPAIN, LUIS AND CONCHITA ABADIA

For the 40-day special activity commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, I visited my neighbor, a grandmother who served as a Catholic nun for 20 years, to study and educate her on the Unification Principles (DP). At the same time, as part of our Jeongseong, we offered snacks to the True Parents daily without fail and shared small quotes about the life of the True Parents through Facebook. We also thanked for the great love and blessings bestowed upon us by the Heavenly Parent and the True Parents by attending the Cheonshimwon prayer meeting held twice a week. One day while we were walking in the park, we could feel the sincere love of the Heavenly Parent through the refreshing wind, joyful bird songs, and the sight of a happy child playing and greeting in the park. We realized that the 'Heavenly Parent always shows us unconditional love and attention in our daily life, not just in special places!' We hoped that this sincerity would be conveyed to many more people for a longer period, beyond this special period.

SPAIN, MERCEDES TOMITA

As part of the 40-day special activity commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, we carried out the '2023 Special Witnessing Activity'. The activity was carried out from July 23 to August 31. During that period, I indiscriminately conveyed the value of blessings through true love via the contacts available on WhatsApp and Facebook. On the second day, after a session of prayer and devoted worship, I began street activities centered around the Unification Principles (DP). On the third day, I began to scatter small booklets with True Parents' messages in the mailboxes installed in each house indiscriminately. Of course, both the following day and the days after, my husband and I hoped that after prayer and worship, as we distributed flyers, the people Heavenly Parent sought would be found through us, not only in the neighborhood but also amongst the local people. We prayed that this would happen. We wished to connect them with the True Parents as soon as possible. Then a historic event orchestrated by Heaven took place. People began to connect through us, and we were eventually able to conduct a Holy Wine Ceremony following the distribution of the True Parents' autobiographies. I sincerely thank True Mother for allowing us to gather special devotion to commemorate the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa.

FRANCE, CHARLES DUSAUTOIR

From July to August, during the 40-day special devotion period commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, we conducted 50-times bowing condition daily in the morning and evening along with sessions of prayer. During this time, in order to prepare a good spiritual foundation in France, we had times of offering wishes for the liberation of individuals including a French Catholic priest who influenced Korean Christianity, Prince Louis Charles of France, his son, and soldiers. Perhaps it was thanks to this foundation, that during a part of the 40-day devotion when we met with older family members and relatives, a remarkable event occurred where two of my sisters and their husbands could attend the Holy Wine Ceremony. Not only that, but I was able to distribute True Mother's autobiography to a niece I met for the first time in 20 years, beginning with an introduction to the Family Federation. I want to confess that all this was possible due to the love of Heavenly Parent and True Father in the spiritual world and True Mother, who is leading the providence on earth.

FRANCE, FAMILY OF JACKY YUEN (6000COUPLES)

During the 40-day special devotion period commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, we, as a couple, devoted ourselves to witnessing activities 3-4 times a week. As a result of contacting people around us indiscriminately and visiting them, we were able to witness to two new family members. One of them plans to attend the Ancestor Liberation Ceremony in the future. We sincerely thank God for such results and plan to continue witnessing activities steadily even after the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa to repay True Mother's infinite love and dedication. True Mother! We earnestly hope that our love reaches you. May True Mother always be in good health!



FRANCE, MYRIAM TRACHEZ

On July 27, during the 40-day special condition period commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, which also marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean War armistice, I visited a memorial park to honor my father who was a combatant at that time, and other soldiers. During my visit, I encountered Daniel, a park guide, who invited me to his office and introduced me to another friend, Eddy, as well as to his own father, a veteran and a former Catholic University historian. Sharing a photo of my father triggered a deep connection as he remembered my father. I had no doubt that my ancestors and True Father in the spirit world were orchestrating this meeting. I could feel how much True Mother on earth was working to connect me with wonderful people. I am sincerely grateful for this grace.



CZECH REPUBLIC, MARTINE MASNER

During the 40-day special devotion period commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, our couple participated in a Unification Principle (DP) workshop for 14 days (2 weeks) to bridge the gap between the first and second generations. Although the first day was a challenging day for everyone, afterward, all the participants agreed that the DP and the life accomplishments of the True Parents should be propagated to the world, realizing how valuable it is and how much it empowers their spiritual growth. We sincerely want to share our love for True Parents.

RUSSIA HAYAT METELKINA

Since 2020, I have been managing discussions for mothers with babies through online channels such as WhatsApp and Telegram. These channels have facilitated the sharing of various contents, eventually becoming platforms to share passages from the True Parents' Way, Cheon Seong Gyeong, Divine Principle, and True Parents' autobiography. Later, I organized various small groups to deepen their interest in the providence and words of Heavenly Parent and True Parents. Now, they can frequently encounter the words in their workplaces, homes, and daily lives. During the 40-day special devotion period commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, I endeavored to immerse my daily life in scripture through HDH, to make the word not just a part of life, but daily life itself. I want to give all glory to True Mother for granting me this precious time to appreciate centering on Heavenly Parent's Will and honoring True Parents, upholding the tradition, and being a supportive and reliant community.

RUSSIA, ROMAN PETROV

During the 40-day special devotion period commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, I devoted time to offer bows and devotion for True Parents. Spending an average of 1.5 to 2 hours daily, I strove to fulfill the condition I set. Moreover, I used songs to testify to True Parents on the streets, and dedicated time to propagating the Divine Principle in universities, mobilizing all my knowledge, abilities, and connections. However, believing that this is not enough, I am continuing the devotion to this day.

RUSSIA, TATIANA EDAKINA

I could actively participate to the 40-day special devotion period commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, thanks to my husband taking care of our three children. Initially, there were many difficulties due to a lack of personal intimacy with church members, but I considered this period a training given by Heavenly Parent to realize my shortcomings. The activities stabilized over time, and I felt much comfort and love from Heavenly Parent and True Parents through midnight prayers at Cheon Shim Won. The foundation of witnessing activities and prayer meetings at Cheon Shim Won enabled me to visit relatives intermittently, conveying much more content than before and finding more common ground, replacing previous negative perceptions with understanding and empathy. Thank you.

UK, FAMILY OF DAVID & PATRICIA EARLE

The members of the Family Federation, Universal Peace Federation, and Women's Federation hosted a joint commemorative service on September 3rd, marking the conclusion of the 40-day special devotion period celebrating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Ascension to the spiritual world. The service was attended by people from Christian, Islamic, Sikh, and Hindu traditions, all of whom repeatedly expressed their amazement at True Father's tremendous global achievements. Several VIPs, including councilors, high-ranking

police officers, and the co-chair of the UK Sikh Council, officially shared their impressions. Among the attendees was someone who had participated in the Vision 2020 Events, who repeatedly noted, "It is was a heavenly protection that not a single person contracted COVID during that large event." Another person, Mohammed Idrees took us all the way back to July 2007, when he was part of an Interfaith delegation to an International Leadership Conference in Korea, conveyed that they still could not forget the atmosphere at that time. The attendees hoped that the lifetime achievements of the True Parents would be well conveyed to future generations.

UK, CHIZUKO BARRETT

During the 40-day special devotion period commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Ascension to the spiritual world, my husband and I took the time to visit various places to distribute the autobiography of the True Parents. Every Thursday, we held regular meetings at the peace center, where we resolved to make as many contacts as possible with the external people we could meet. Armed with video lectures and notes, we consistently reached out to people, managing to constantly interact with 21 new individuals over the 40-day period. Moreover, we brought 5 new family members to the center, enabling us to continue principle lecture education at least once a week. Since the dedication ceremony of Cheon Won Gung Cheon Il Sanctum in May, in line with True Mother's emphasis on the importance of Cheon Shim Won, we are working to establish a Cheon Shim Won in our peace center, striving to facilitate many people to connect with the spiritual world. We sincerely thank the True Parents for allowing us to spend precious time with Heavenly Parent and True Parents.



UK, RUSSEL GOUGH

During the 40-day special devotion period commemorating the 11th anniversary of True Father's Ascension, new believers' training was held in the River South Community, London from July 26th to August 4th. The training, which was held three times, was attended by 11 members, including 6 new believers. Currently, a 2-day training session is being organized for the new believers who completed the workshop, and there are plans to prepare to welcome more people to attend the True Parents through a 7-day workshop at the end of this year. To achieve this, our couple is planning to appoint a person who can take full responsibility and act on all matters and to set up a future center where everyone can feel closer to our community. Thank you.

AUSTRIA, ERNST AND INGRID HAUSEDER

We observed the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa by dedicating ourselves to a special 40-day devotion period. We immersed ourselves in a variety of activities, which included 40 days of devotional bowing, attending prayer meetings at the Vienna Cheon Shim Won, street witnessing, participating in overnight prayer meetings via Zoom, and visiting Cheon Il Guk families. As we met people in shopping centers and on the streets, we shared with them the True Parents' lifelong vision of 'World Peace' and love. Additionally, by discussing the recent providential developments conveyed by True Mother, we underwent a time of personal renewal and growth. We extend our sincere gratitude to True Mother for granting us such an enriching and transformative experience. 

Report on FFWPU President Song Yong-cheon's Tour of Africa

Song Yong-cheon, President of FFWPU- International, toured the last of the five continents, Heavenly Africa, from August 5th to 15th, according to True Mother's instructions.

During the tour, president Song Yong-cheon, acting as the messenger of True Mother's love, conveyed True Mother's warm heart, love, concerns, and worries to the leaders and members in Heavenly Africa. He encouraged them to be filial sons and daughters, fulfilling their duties of loyalty and filial piety in Heavenly Africa.

Grace-filled Family Gathering

It included family gatherings and was conducted in a total of five countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo), South Africa, Zambia, Senegal, and São Tomé and Príncipe. Activities such as leader meetings, family gatherings, youth gatherings, Cheon Shim Won prayer meetings, VIP meetings, and visits to Goree Island were held.

President Song, who first visited DR Congo in Heavenly Africa, organized strategic meetings through general assemblies of leaders, discussing key tasks and exploring solutions centered around the field. Subsequently, he held special family gatherings online, attended by 1,135 members across





Heavenly Africa.

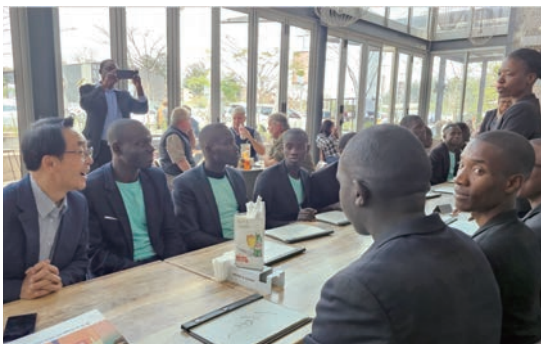
Family gatherings also proceeded in Zambia, South Africa, Senegal. Despite the smaller number of members in these four countries, their passion towards Heavenly Parent and True Mother was tremendous. The leaders and members in Heavenly Africa responded to each word of President Song, who is touring on behalf of True Mother, with cheers, applause, and unique African exclamations, demonstrating their response to True Mother's love.

In this context, Song Yong-cheon, President of FFWPU- International expressed, "It has been a time to feel the hope of the African continent through substantial growth and transparent operation in Heavenly Africa."

Hopeful Future Generation of Heavenly Africa

Highlighting the promising future generation of Heavenly Africa, a report by Mika Kamara, the Vice-President of Heavenly Africa (UPA 2nd Generation Special Envoy), attracted attention during the subsequent IAYSP Youth Gathering. She reported, "Heavenly Africa is a youthful continent, with 62% of the population under 20. Additionally, among the Family Federation members, those under 40 include 5,982 of the second generation and 7,048 of the first generation, totaling 13,030. This means that over 70% of the youth population in Africa are Family Federation members." She introduced the ongoing 'Hyojeong Africa' Future Leader Development Project in accordance with True Mother's teachings. This project firstly aims to guide African youths to grow into leaders united with True Mother, secondly, it aims to strengthen the capabilities of future talents who can lead the Church and providential organizations, and thirdly, it aims to train personnel equipped with the skills needed for fieldwork, showcasing the hopeful future of Africa.

In the evening, President Song, the touring team, Heavenly African continental leaders, and members fervently prayed through the Cheon Shim Won prayer meeting for True Mother's words to materialize swiftly across Heavenly Africa and for the victory of Vision 2025 to be realized on the continent through them.



1st Nation to Achieve National Restoration: São Tomé and Príncipe

Following the directive given by True Mother, “Make sure that during this tour you visit São Tomé and Príncipe, which has been blessed as the first nation to achieve national restoration!” President Song and the touring team planned a schedule for three nights and four days in São Tomé and Príncipe. After the DR Congo itinerary, the touring team arrived in São Tomé and Príncipe and was able to smoothly conduct a meeting with Patrice Trovoada Prime Minister of São Tomé and Príncipe, who was anticipated to be not easy to meet through conventional means. Prime Minister Trovoada, a competent figure who has served as Prime Minister several times since 2008, is the leader running the nation of São Tomé and Príncipe.

The next morning, President Song was able to meet the Celmira Sacramento, speaker of the National Assembly of São Tomé and Príncipe’s Parliament, and in the afternoon, he accomplished the remarkable feat of meeting Carlos Vila Nova President of São Tomé and Príncipe. Speaker Sacramento expressed her deep gratitude to True Mother for sending the world-touring delegation and considering the nation of São Tomé and Príncipe, saying, “I came across Mother Moon’s Memoir last year through UPF. Reading about São Tomé and Príncipe, which is mentioned first in the memoir, I could feel Mother Moon’s heart towards São Tomé and Príncipe.” She conveyed the message, “São Tomé and Príncipe is Mother Moon’s country. She is always welcome.”

President Song promised to jointly promote the character education of youth, a guideline of True Mother, through meetings with the President, Prime Minister, and Speaker of São Tomé. The meetings between President Song and the VIPs of São Tomé and Príncipe were reported as top news through the national broadcasting of São Tomé and Príncipe at the time.



Carlos Vila Nova, President of São Tomé and Príncipe (fourth from the left), Patrice Trovoada, Prime Minister of São Tomé and Príncipe (on the right), Celmira de Almeida, speaker of the National Assembly(sixth from the right)



1st Religious Order to Achieve Substantial Restoration: Congregation of Imboni, Dr. Uzwi-Lezwe Radebe, The Revelation Spiritual Home (TRSH), South Africa

One of the objectives of this world tour of Africa was to rejuvenate the relationship with Imboni, Dr. Uzwi-Lezwe Radebe, hereafter called Prophet Radebe, and his Church. This was a continuation of the restoration of denominations dedicated to Heaven in 2020. Prophet Radebe is the founder of The Revelation Spiritual Home (TRSH), which boasts five million followers in Africa; he has also been appointed by True Mother as the Chairman of Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) Africa. Despite concerns about the relationship growing distant due to the impact of COVID, Prophet Radebe demonstrated unwavering faith and love towards True Mother and extended a warm welcome to the new International President of the Family Federation.

Indeed, long before meeting True Mother, Prophet Radebe had received a revelation that 'someday in the future, a great woman from the East will appear to lead and guide the world.' After meeting True Mother, he became convinced that she was the prophesied woman from the East. He testified that learning about the lifelong journey of the True Parents and hearing True Mother's words confirmed his belief that her intentions and teachings would unite the world and guide it forward.

Prophet Radebe, upon meeting President Song, expressed, "I take my position very seriously because I was directly appointed by True Mother as the Chairman of IAPD Africa." He reported, "To actively carry out IAPD activities, branches of IAPD have already been launched in five countries, centered in Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Ghana, and Mozambique." Additionally, Prophet



(Front on the right in a light brown jacket) Imboni, Dr. Uzwi-Lezwe Radebe, from the Revelation Spiritual Home (TRSH), South Africa

Radebe has allocated space for the IAPD headquarters in his privately owned building and held the official opening ceremony during this tour.

Comprehensive Summary of the Heavenly Africa Continental Tour

Following True Mother's command, we embarked on the final leg of our global tour, and the outcomes of the Heavenly Africa Continental Tour can be summarized as follows:

Firstly, it was a tour enabling a fresh start for Heavenly Africa, which has been stagnant since COVID-19. President Song and the touring team were able to tour Heavenly Africa comprehensively, starting from DR Congo, where the continental headquarters is located, to South Africa, Zambia, Senegal, and São Tomé and Príncipe. As a result, True Mother's words had the opportunity to take root throughout Heavenly Africa.

Secondly, it was a tour for rebuilding lost relationships. It provided an opportunity for African spiritual leaders, nurtured by True Mother throughout Heavenly Africa, such as Prophet Radebe, Archbishop Ndanga, and Sheikh Mansour, to reaffirm their love for True Mother. The relationship with São Tomé and Príncipe, the first country to achieve restoration, also became stronger through meetings with national leaders, including the head of state. The fruits of this tour have solidified the foundation of Heavenly Africa, established by True Mother.

Thirdly, it was a tour to build a new spiritual foundation. True Mother appointed Hwang Sung-min and Bishop Sakuwa as special heads of the African branch, focusing on revitalizing the spirituality of Heavenly Africa, which has been stagnant since COVID-19, centering on True Mother, the only begotten daughter of peace, the substantial Holy Spirit. This marked the beginning of a complete renewal.

Fourthly, it was a tour allowing leaders and members in Heavenly Africa to make a fresh start for substantial church growth. The tour served as a time to encourage leaders and members to become models for achieving the core goal of this Heavenly Africa Continental Tour, substantial church growth.

The Heavenly Africa tour was conducted with the unity of True Mother, the International Headquarters, the leaders, and members of Heavenly Africa, and it was a precious time to resolve the victory of Vision 2025 towards a Heavenly Unified Korea and a Heavenly Unified World.

Receiving True Mother's command last May, President Song and the touring team, who embarked on the global tour from June 14 to August 19, successfully concluded the World tour in Heavenly Africa, following Heavenly Europe, Heavenly Central and South America, and Heavenly Asia Pacific. 



(First line on the left) Sheikh Mansour Diouf of the Murid Brotherhood in Senegal

Hyojeong Youth Pilgrimage

A Quest for Heavenly Parent's Dream and Our True Selves

The 21-day Hyojeong Youth Pilgrimage took place from August 21 to September 3 at the HJ Heaven and Earth CheonBo Training Center, bringing together young individuals from Heavenly Europe and the Middle East.

This special workshop successfully convened under the heartfelt guidance and love of the True Mother, the only begotten daughter, with 120 young people from 30 countries in attendance.

Throughout the workshop, participants immersed themselves in a series of enriching activities designed to foster a deeper connection with the Heavenly Parent and the True Parents. The agenda included studying the life course of the True Parents, participating in Chanyang sessions, visiting holy grounds, and engaging in CheonBo special lectures and all rounded off with reflective prayer sessions at Cheon Shim Won.

A highlight of the workshop period was when the True Mother personally invited them to Cheon Jeong Gung, offering words of wisdom and blessings that were beyond their wildest dreams, creating a truly unforgettable experience.



Report and Testimony

DR. MIKE BALCOMB, PRESIDENT OF FFWPU - EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST

Dear True Mother, who has provided the young people of Heavenly Europe and the Middle East with a time for diverse experiences and religious maturity, we sincerely thank you. In the love and devotion that you have prepared, the young people of Heavenly Europe and the Middle East were able to spend precious time becoming one with the True Parents and the Heavenly Parent. Furthermore, we are confident that it was a precious time when they could deeply realize their roles and responsibilities for the will of Heavenly Parent and the mission of the True Parents.

Now, our young people from Heavenly Europe and the Middle East plan to carry on the witnessing and restoration of all things through the new STF, a 6-month missionary program called “EMPOWER,” continuously studying the True Parents’ life course based on True Mother’s words for follow-up measures. We will surely repay the love you have bestowed upon us by being more perfectly prepared. Thank you.

Some Testimonials from Youth Participants

TIM BERGER, AUSTRIA, 19

Since I had experienced CSW Vigil Prayer already several times before coming to this 21 Day WS I was very glad coming here being able to attend vigil prayer every night. A few months ago I really grasped HP’s heart while having vigil prayer in my community. I have been listening closely to the testimonies and to the words of President Lee Ki Song. As a youth leader I am determined to help strengthen and deepen the youth’s knowledge about CSW Prayer so that they can connect with our TP and HP heart more deeply. I want to express my deepest gratitude to you, our beloved True Mother, on the behalf of all my brothers and sisters here. Thank you so much.





MIKI MORITA ISRAEL, 22

Before coming to this workshop, I had difficulties connecting to Cheong Pyeong. I prayed to Heavenly Parent if I should go or not, I realized that it is the place which True Mother made especially for us, so I decided to challenge myself to go once again. At first, it was very difficult for me but after the first changyang session, I suddenly felt light, as if something very heavy had been lifted from my heart. I felt comfortable, homey, and felt loved in this place. Then we had a wonderful time which YeonAh Nim who came to visit, and she explained how True Mother is preparing everything directly, to meet with us. I felt, that we are being loved. Mother who is the True Mother of all humankind, the very busy Mother, is spending so much time for us. I felt very special. I felt nothing but happiness.

LUIBOV ZAMULA - UKRAINE, 20

Through the Cheongpadong Church Pilgrimage where True Father shed tears and the place where True Mother gave birth to 7 children. I felt that everything there is soaked with tears, so I could not hold mine. That was incredible foundation so we can be here now. With Truth and Spirit we will go forward. Please, don't worry about Europe. We will take care of it and revive our community there.

ANDREAS FO, GERMANY, 25

Dear Omonim, I had such a beautiful experience meeting you again with the European group. The first time was in Hawaii in 2014. The second time was with the European STF in 2017. This time, I came together with my wife, Karen Ishiguro, to Korea. To be honest, before coming to Korea I felt more distant to you than before. I think there were many things I didn't understand and daily life in university has made me more questioning.

So I came to Korea with the question: What is the only begotten daughter? What does it mean? I asked this question on the workshop and received this answer: the only begotten daughter is the first woman who God can truly trust and love. Although these words are but a small reflection of it actually means, I liked the answer and understood it better. Also, I wanted to have a personal experience with you, with you as my mother. During the workshop we received lectures about your life course. I heard you cough during the meeting, so I hope that you are well or get well soon. Thank you for all the love, care and inspiration omoni. 

Universal Peace Federation's (UPF) 18th Anniversary Ceremony

On September 12, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) celebrated its 18th anniversary at their headquarters' main hall in Cheongpa-dong, located on the ninth floor.

Founded in 2005 at New York's Lincoln Center, UPF has worked tirelessly to end global conflicts and foster a peaceful world. The federation has held special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and was elevated to general consultative status on July 24, 2018 — a privileged status enjoyed by only 150 of over 5,000 non-profit non-governmental organizations (NGOs) registered with the UN.

In his commemorative speech, the Yang Chang-shik, Chairman of UPF International & UPF-Korea, articulated the federation's strides under the guidance of founders Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. The central mission, he noted, is the unification of the Korean peninsula — the last divided region on Earth. He also announced the recent relocation of UPF's international headquarters from New York to Korea, affirming Korea as the hub for future global operations. He emphasized UPF's pivotal role in fostering supra-national, supra-religious, and supra-cultural activities, aiming to become a beacon of national integration. 



Inauguration Ceremony of the President of the National Federation for the Unification Movement of North and South Korea

Following the anniversary celebration, the inauguration ceremony for the new president of the National Federation for North-South Unification Movement was held to build a foundation for the peaceful unification of the Korean peninsula and to prepare for the unified era, with over 200 members of the National Federation in attendance. the ceremony marked a critical step toward a peaceful unification and preparedness for a unified future.

Chairman Song Kwang-seok reflected on his term, highlighting the achievements made in the educational sphere and the consensus built on unification, which earned a presidential commendation in 2016. He termed unification as “the terrestrial task of our nation” and called for collective efforts to realize this dream within our generation.

Taking charge, Chairman Hwang Sun-jo acknowledged the big task ahead of him, leading a unique NGO that has championed the unification cause for four decades. Despite the challenges posed by the renewed global cold war era and strained inter-Korean relations, he remained hopeful, drawing on the founder’s vision to forge paths for happy and cooperative coexistence.

On this day, Jo Myung-chul, the governor of South Pyongan Province appointed by President Yoon Seok-yeol, said in his congratulatory speech, “The National Federation is one of the top three dynamic unification movement organizations, and the founders Rev. Moon Sun-myung and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon have been presenting a balanced view on unification accompanied by practical actions.” He continued, “I believe that following Chairman Song Kwang-seok, Chairman Hwang Sun-jo will also bring the founder’s grand vision of national unification to realization. South Pyongan Province will support this wholeheartedly.”





Since its inception on May 15, 1987, the National Federation has spearheaded various domestic and international unification initiatives, seeking global cooperation to fulfill the longstanding national wish of North-South unification.

Noteworthy achievements include the ‘2014 Unification Prayer Korean Peace Unification Conference,’ attended by over 100 key unification movement organizations representatives from over 50 countries, and the 2015 ‘Peace Road marathon,’ a collaborative event with the Ministry of Unification, the Ministry of Public Administration and Security, and 14 municipal governments, that garnered the participation from citizens of 120 countries in Gwanghwamun Square.

Recognizing these efforts, they received awards including the Minister of Unification Award in the private unification movement organization category in 2014, followed by the Prime Minister Award in 2015, and the Presidential Award in 2016. 



Peace Road Argentina 2023 – Forum on Religious Freedom

By Miguel Werner
President of UPF Argentina

On August 31, 2023, the National University of La Rioja (UNLaR) hosted the academic-interreligious forum themed “Religious Freedom: A Right under Threat in the World.” This significant event was a part of the PEACE ROAD 2023 initiative, centered on the foundational belief in the universal right to religious freedom as dictated in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The event facilitated a platform where religious leaders and experts gathered to share their experiences and perspectives, both in person and online. Below are the insights shared by various speakers:

DR. ROXANA KHAIRALLAH & MERCEDES CÁCERES

At the commencement, Dr. Roxana Khairallah, Secretary of the UNLaR Extension, and Mercedes Cáceres, Dean of the Department of Human Sciences and Education at UNLaR, underscored the vital role of interreligious dialogue in fostering peaceful coexistence and the holistic development of societal values and human rights. They urged for an increase in the visibility of such productive activities in future iterations.

MIGUEL WERNER

Miguel Werner, the president of UPF Argentina, conveyed his appreciation for the project initiators through an online message. He outlined UPF’s primary action lines and stressed the necessity for collective efforts in achieving the goals set by Peace Road. Highlighting the potential of unified endeavors under divine guidance, he quoted UPF’s founder, “Where there is a will, there is a way.”

FATHER OSCAR GABRIEL DÍAZ & FATHER DAVID CUELLO

Representing the Greek Orthodox Church of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Father Oscar Gabriel Díaz, and Father David Cuello, both professors at UNLaR, shared their thoughts during the forum. Díaz spoke from an orthodox Christian standpoint, emphasizing religious freedom as a gift bestowed by God and a fundamental human right. He discussed various challenges faced by religious groups, including religious violence and state-imposed restrictions on religion.



DAVID JABIF

David Jabif, the Director of the Jewish and Zionist Agnon Library of La Rioja, was also among the speakers who shared their perspectives during the event, emphasizing the need for peaceful interreligious relations.

DR. DAVID FROL & ANDREA FERNÁNDEZ BEVANS

Introduced by Andrea Fernández Bevans from the Argentina 2023 Peace Route Follow-up Team, Dr. David Frol, the second vice-president of the Argentinean Council for Religious Freedom (CALIR), presented a report on the globally deteriorating condition of religious freedom.

MASSIMO INTROVIGNE

Massimo Introvigne, founder of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR) and an expert in religious freedom with over 40 years of experience, highlighted the necessity to abolish harmful concepts like “sect” and “brainwashing.” He advocated for a more respectful and understanding approach towards different religious groups to protect religious freedom and address real crimes effectively.

VIDEO MESSAGES FROM VARIOUS DIGNITARIES

The forum featured video inputs from a range of religious leaders, including:

- Monsignor Dante Gustavo Braida, Bishop of the Diocese of La Rioja
- Monsignor Pedro Torres, Bishop of the Diocese of Rafaela
- Father Federico Palacios, delegate of the Archdiocesan Commission of Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue of Córdoba
- Monsignor Iosif Bosch, Archbishop of Buenos Aires
- Rabbi Marcelo Polakoff of the Centro Unión Israelita de Córdoba
- Lic. Mara Pedicino, Director of Worship of the Municipality of Córdoba

They offered their support and shared messages fostering peace and religious freedom.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION & CULTURAL INTERLUDE

Towards the end of the forum, the audience contributed their views and comments. Artists Yéssica Rezinovsky and the musical group Los Legales offered enthralling performances, including the song “Ruta de la Paz” by Gabriel Torino, culminating in a harmonious interfaith prayer.

HOSTS: JAVIER CASCO & DANIEL CANIZA

The event was facilitated by hosts Javier Casco and Daniel Caniza, students from UNLaR. Their efforts, coupled with those of the faculty and UPF Argentina, brought this forum to fruition, promoting dialogue in theology and comparative religions.

CLOSING REMARKS

The PEACE ROAD Argentina 2023, initiated with an art festival on July 29, aims to foster peace through various avenues, encouraging global collaboration to tackle pressing issues such as violence and climate change, thus promoting a peaceful and united world. 

Where You Lead Me, I Will Follow

by Annerose Adams
née Buth
To: Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Nigeria

From the Early Days

At the age of nine, in our dark and cluttered living room, I stumbled across the book *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Even though I could not grasp the contents fully, it pained my heart and made me cry. A desire developed within me to go out one day and somehow make restitution for at least a tiny part of the inhumane acts committed by our forebears. My childlike thoughts took me to Africa. Events of the 1960s, such as my family's division through the Berlin Wall, global political volatility, and assassinations of prominent leaders, like John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. were traumatic for me and brought turmoil to my religious faith. Even though I felt no choice but to doubt God, the only prayer I did continue was for the children in Africa. I never imagined that I could ever reach this continent, though – the idea alone was outlandish enough!



farewell from family, friends and home was a harsh trial. Plus, I worried about my weak physical constitution. In particular, the sun used to make me ill, and I easily fainted. How on earth would I cope in Africa? Just the thought made me dizzy, and so I forbade it. During the preparation period, the significance of our role as the representatives of our True Parents

for the worldwide providence became overwhelmingly clear - at times, I felt much anxiety. One particular directive given to us was etched in my mind: 'It is crucial to find a way to remain in your countries!' I frequently visited the Holy Ground; it became the innermost embracing confidant that accepted all that I expressed there – even my fears of sickness, sacrifice, failure and death. The great commission given by Jesus to his apostles 2,000 years ago resounded in my heart. Now it was our True Father who sent us out as the apostles of this new age!

Where You Lead Me, I Will Follow

As a member of the Unification Movement since 1973, I felt personally called by God to partake in a worldwide pioneering project, starting in May 1975. I volunteered for the small, West African country of Togo; I had never heard of it before but felt intuitively that this would be the 'right' one for me. Yet, at the same time, I was blown away - could something I had dismissed for so long as a ridiculous 'dream' actually come to pass? One of the smallest and poorest West African countries, Togo was a former German, then a French colony. After independence in 1960, it became a target by communist regimes. This was the only information I could gather. The

Arrival in a New Future

The crazy vision of my childhood became a reality! Being at an airport and boarding a plane were utterly new experiences. Towards midnight, at full moon, the aircraft descended towards the small landing strip in Lomé. The first thing that hit me with full force was the exceptional humidity. My whole body and belongings were suddenly wet! I overcame a fainting attack on the way down the passenger stairway from the plane. Intentionally I dropped my handbag to have a reason to touch the new ground to greet the land. Here I was for the sole purpose of representing our True Parents. Afraid to take a taxi ride into total darkness and



what seemed like an absolute nothingness, I refused to leave the airport. Instead, I spent the night on a chair next to the guards and police officers in their tiny quarters. After sunrise at five a.m., moist luggage in tow, I accepted a ride with a Lieutenant named Alpha, indeed the sign of a new beginning! Should there be someone with the name Omega to signal the end of this mission? – a quiet thought which would resurface occasionally.

First Day, First Weeks

The long drive took us through rural terrain dipped into the warm, reddish light of the rising sun, reflected by the rust-red earth. I felt wrapped in a cocoon, embraced, and welcomed. So many children with buckets full of water on their little heads and thin, often emaciated shoulders struggling through the crowds, others begging with desperate children's eyes! I felt like the only white 'chess figure' sticking out from the crowd, and I was torn – should I give them some money? To my relief and joy, I discovered a supermarket with some European groceries, including small tins of Nescafé! Later, there was a knock on my door: a tall soldier in an olive-green uniform. Lieutenant Alpha had sent him to invite me to an Independence Day celebration organised by the North Koreans. My heart was pounding – I had not expected to encounter an element of communism so quickly. After declining politely, I felt less safe and changed lodgings soon. An alarm clock wasn't necessary – a good size mouse across your face or the dog's noises creeping in through the hole of the missing air conditioner perfectly fulfilled this function – welcome to West Africa! Apart from consuming biscuits and Nescafé, eating became a bit of a research project – the first avocado, mango and other mysterious, local delicacies. When I was not exploring the outside, I spent many hours in my humble, small room, praying and processing the new, daily experiences and encounters.

From One to Three

The American sister came in mid-May. Many of my previous concepts and experiences, together

with my character and perceptions, were now being challenged. Additionally, I realised that circumstances had gifted me with a new job as a permanent translator into French and then back into English – all the time! Our Japanese brother arrived in June. He spoke hardly any English and no French.

First Struggles

Never before had communication been so precious! Now that it was missing, I realised how often this invaluable aspect of life is taken for granted. Three very different cultures, three young strangers in their early twenties with a certain immaturity and naivety in common, especially with regard to social experience and psychological insight. The three of us were aware of the weight of history, and we spent much time in conversation in endless efforts to bridge our cultural differences. In the early morning, we held a simple morning service. Our True Father's speeches, as well as the blue air-mail letters from our German Headquarters, were a real source of inspiration and encouragement. The cultural centres of France, the United States, Germany, and Great Britain soon became vital access-points to a deeper understanding of this society's social, political, and traditional life.

Existential Crises

Three white 'chess figures' moving around together caused unwanted attention, if not suspicion. The application for new visas was indeed a tense process: Long-term visas required thorough investigation and fulfilment of several criteria. Complex cases would be referred to the Minister of Internal Affairs. He refused the renewal of our American sister's visa. On Christmas Eve, a police van took her to the border of neighbouring Ghana. Feelings of loneliness and worries overshadowed this first Christmas in our country. In January 1976, we undertook our first journey to Ghana to search for our American sister. We were greatly relieved to find her safe, together with the three missionaries to Ghana. The vision of both of our missionary trinities supporting each other from now on gave us new hope as the Japanese brother and I returned to Togo. Back in Lomé, things took an unexpected turn. After a night in police custody, my Japanese brother also was deported to Ghana. All of a sudden, I was on my own again.

Working Underground

Every day brought an adventure or at least a new experience. Why not translate the German booklet of the general introduction to the Divine Principle into French? I taught myself to type on a rickety typewriter. The German cultural centre offered some unexpected, valuable avenues.



Despite my meagre qualifications, I began to translate for visiting businesspeople. Ever so gradually, I obtained a minimal, professional status. On Sundays, I visited churches. On some pews, I intentionally 'lost' mini versions of the New Testament with my address. I hoped that anyone who was sincere enough would return the copy and that we could become friends.

New Tests and the First Breakthrough

During this time on my own, our True Father's speeches provided deep inspiration, as did the internal guidance by Reverend Ken Sudo. After six months, the German missionary sister from Benin joined me in Lomé instead of being in her country by herself. In September, unexpectedly, my Japanese brother returned with a new visa and better English. One day, the Japanese brother implored me for greater unity and trust. His urgency was not without reason – at this point, it was my visa that was about to expire. I promised God to support my brother and unconditionally unite with his proposals and actions, no matter how curious or incomprehensible these might appear. I pleaded with God that He might grant this new visa if I succeeded in this 100 percent. From the perspective of government authority, my reasons for a prolonged stay were not particularly convincing. However, during this interview, the words that flowed out of my mouth were not my own – appealing to remain because of my love for this land. A few weeks later, I received my three-year residence permit. This situation taught me three things: first, an earnest and genuine heart and motivation really can move God. Second, the power of unity. Third, even as the less experienced one, the quality of my faith has an impact and is of great importance for the work of the whole. Our work together turned into joy and was blessed with a new momentum.

Unearthing of a Treasure and First Substantial Hope

We decided to move to a more densely populated area. First of all, I was allowed to experience a deeper level of internal rebirth. Especially on the foundation of the continual



study of our True Father's words, I began to shed tears and feel profound repentance about myself in my prayers, not just intellectually but in heart and emotions. During these hours, I felt confirmation from God that our True Parents were MY True Parents! Through our landlord, we met his son-in-law; let's call him Abel. He was different from most of the people we had met so far – self-assured, ambitious and intelligent. These attributes made him become the first person to receive lectures about the Divine Principle. Before then, I had never given any lectures. With hopeful anticipation, I developed my French lecture guide.

First Foundation

We had learned that there were many informers of all ages. Therefore, we chose an inner room for the lectures to keep any such potential threat at arm's length. Abel came for lectures regularly. In November 1977, Abel was the first person in Togo to learn the complete content of the Divine Principle. He understood the profound significance. At this pivotal moment, he received an enticing job opportunity in another West African country. Our night of desperate prayer could not hold him back. After months of investment and hope, we were shattered. Spurred on by our positive experience teaching Abel, we found a little strategy: telling younger people about the 'very interesting philosophy we are studying ourselves'. Once their curiosity was sparked, we'd invite them to come along to a free session. When our American sister eventually returned to Togo in 1978, the three of us could finally stay and work together! A few young people began to openly embrace the content of our teaching. Within a few months, we had a little group of students for discussion, study and even singing.

Victories, Trials and New Steps

Exactly three years after my arrival, we established our first Holy Ground, very near the National Independence Monument. In mid-May, during our first two-day workshop in Lomé, our four serious students declared their readiness to follow our True Parents. Two weeks later, the

government announced a policy to counter any type of new and existing religious groups or organisations. This was a blow. In the firm belief that this would benefit Togo in the long term, we left for Côte d'Ivoire in October 1978 with two of our young brothers and the burning desire to return as soon as possible.

Côte d'Ivoire

After our relatively quiet life in Lomé, we found a different reality in the capital Abidjan: open activities and witnessing, teaching, singing – and missionaries from several countries. Everything was accompanied by countless prayer and fasting conditions. New on African soil was fundraising! We would visit business areas in pairs and ask for donations from numerous local and international enterprises. We also participated in the development of Home Church activities. Meeting our True Father in New York for the first time on the occasion of his 60th birthday was an unforgettable experience. Afterwards, I was asked to support the mission in Senegal for a while.

Senegal

An orange-yellow, pale sun and misty air greeted me in Dakar in April 1980. Guided by the deeply devoted American sister, our movement was made up of a small group of Senegalese brothers. So far, my direct experience with the spirit and culture of Islam had been minimal; to adjust to this different religious and cultural environment was quite a challenge. Prayer, Holy Songs, inspiration or guidance from above – to break through spiritually took an immense effort. We met students on the sprawling university campus, visited VIPs and served in our Home Church areas. We taught the Divine Principle from the Islamic perspective; I also studied the Qur'an. My Japanese brother was still in Côte d'Ivoire, but my American sister continued to work in Togo, and my hope to go back to Togo increased.

Where Is My Life?

It turned out very differently. Headquarters had written a letter to me which never arrived. So, on the last weekend of 1980, I learned, as if in passing, that I was no longer to be a missionary to Togo, with immediate effect. With the shock came tears. It felt as if my heart had been ripped out of me. A whirlwind of questions occupied my mind – had I failed? Had I made a big mistake? What would now happen to Togo? I was devastated. Then came an offer – to go to Nigeria 'for a while' and support fundraising activities for a new centre in Lagos, the then capital. After exactly 40 days, the cross country journey – through Togo – brought me to the continent's most populous nation.

Nigeria – New Home – New Outlook – the First Eight Years

Upon my arrival in Lagos in February 1981, I knelt for prayer on the blue linoleum floor when I heard a soft voice behind me: "You have come home." I burst into tears. At the end of these 40 days, convinced of my worthlessness and uselessness, God cleared these feelings and granted healing and new hope. I was officially assigned as a missionary to Nigeria in November 1981. Now I saw this as a great blessing. From the start, I had a strong intuition about the extraordinary potential of this mega country. This mission was precious, an honour to be mine. A new homeland was in the making.

The highlights of these years are too numerous to be covered in detail, each deserving its full description as a testimony to God's love, guidance and presence. My great joys were witnessing, teaching, observing the 'birth' of our core members, and organising workshops and fundraising campaigns all over Nigeria. In 1983, True Father emphatically told me in a dream about the importance of the Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA) and the necessity to invest significantly in its development. Based on this dream, I asked for this responsibility to strengthen and build up the evolving Nigerian chapter of PWPA. After all, Nigeria possessed the wealth of nearly 50 Nigerian universities and educational institutions! By the light of candles or kerosene lamps, without computers, phones or a dependable mailing system, we organised our largely self-financed conferences and initiatives from scratch. Our Nigerian professors enthusiastically participated in historical events such as the newspaper rally for religious freedom initiated by peace-loving, religious leaders and citizens from all sectors of society, especially in America. Soon afterwards, we took a delegation of Nigerian academics to Geneva, Switzerland, for the 1985 - PWPA conference, which announced the end of communism. In Nigeria and beyond, these high-ranking intellectuals became a voice for the vision of our True Parents. They also developed small agricultural projects, published articles and sent recommendations to the government of the day. Our mission was full of life. No day was long enough. In 1985, my husband Robert from Great Britain joined me in Nigeria; the following years were testing times, full of unique experiences.

Nigeria – Full Expansion – the Second Eight Years

After the birth of our two sons in Great Britain, our young family returned to Nigeria in August 1991. There was now the highly dynamic and capable leadership of some American

missionaries and their families – it was the fulfilment of one of my consistent prayers since my first arrival in the country. My primary responsibility was to raise funds on ever-higher levels to help our activities expand. For over eight years, a fabulous sister and I sold oil paintings from New York to directors of local and international companies and wealthy individuals. My husband and I also supported the numerous Marriage Blessings, Women's Federation for World Peace events and a variety of other projects. For one year in the early nineties, Robert also worked with the mission in Russia. A culminating point was the visit of our True Mother to Abuja, the new capital of Nigeria, in December 1993. Two years later, in November 1995, our beloved True Parents came to visit Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and other nations further south. Most memorable was the unique opportunity for some missionaries to share breakfast with our True Parents. Our True Father said that my husband and I looked like brother and sister and asked Robert to develop a football team in Nigeria. With great passion, Robert established the Il Hwa Nigeria Football Club, which played successfully in Lagos for several seasons. Gradually, Nigeria assumed a position of strengthening the mission of other African nations. The pressure and the need for finance became immense and relentless. In partnership with an international business consortium in Lagos, our leaders opened a small chain of highly successful restaurants. My husband and I fulfilled several roles in these establishments during the mid-nineties, next to continued fundraising and Marriage Blessing activities. In 1998, I joined the marketing team made up of Nigerian and some international expert members who were pioneering to establish one of the first Internet providers in Nigeria – Nigeria Online.

God's Time Is the Best

In 1999, we were still in Nigeria but prepared ourselves for the changes on the horizon, to respond to a National Messiah assignment closer to Europe. After all these years, we had to prepare for leaving Africa. It was hard to fathom, to leave what had become home. One day, in September 1999, I quietly said to myself: 'How I wish to see Togo one more time.' The following day, another sister and I were sent to Benin and Togo for a small project. I felt overwhelmed by God knowing my wish and His love, expressed in such a personal and unexpected way. Little did I know that there was a deeper reason behind this. In Togo, we had a promising appointment with the chairman of a construction firm but were asked to see another director instead. This person introduced himself as Mr Amegan – just like Omega, he pointed out twice. It was as if lightning struck. This quiet

thought of 24 years ago, that Alpha might conclude one day with Omega – here it was, in substance! Even today, this 'skin-touch' by my Heavenly Parent is as fresh and real as all those years ago. How much did God wish me to know His omnipresence! I felt a certain guilt, saying: "You didn't have to do this, dear God – if it appeared that I doubted You, I am very sorry." That same night we were called back to Lagos. Only four days later, we left the country and continent. There was barely any time for farewells.

Express Train to the Present

Since then, our True Parents have been received in Africa on numerous occasions, including a large summit in Nigeria in 2011. As the representative of our vibrant Universal Peace Federation (UPF) South-London chapter, I had the opportunity to participate in the event. It was on this Nigerian soil that I saw our True Father for the last time. The nations in which I worked now have firm foundations for the restoration of Africa. Togo, too, has made progress. My American sister, her Japanese husband, and their family laboured there for many years to grow deep roots and establish a solid base. Finally, in 2016, I could visit Togo, and it remains a part of my life through regular connection with the members and their work.

Those Who Are Unforgotten

We original three 'chess figures' of 1975 are still in contact through the unbreakable bond that only this shared undertaking for Heaven could create. Over the decades, several nations became a part of our innermost hearts, each a home forever – each with its incomparable, unique character, shaped by the culture, love, beauty, faith, and suffering of its communities. Never forgotten are those who, in the end, could not follow the path. Most of all, though, our precious members and their families who have toiled and sacrificed so much are deeply cherished. Many are now leaders on the national or continental level and world citizens, Deeply honoured is the group of those called to the spirit world so early.

'... bide your time with patience and something good will come to you.' This precious advice offered by our True Father in his autobiography is one that we can all relate to. In the latter part of 2019, I came to experience the truth of this in a profound way. Out of the blue, a project called me to the country of Niger in West Africa. Do you remember Abel? Totally unexpected, it was in the capital, Niamey, that we met again! Abel and his small blessed family have lived there for a long time as part of our local community. Forty-two years of longing and searching for him had not been in vain. God works in mysterious ways, and God's timing is the best. It always is. 

