

Insights From My Life Experiences - Obeying the Word and Fulfilling Our Mission

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Dear Brothers and Sisters, I hope you are well today. I wish to share some insights based on lessons from my personal life experiences. This year marks the 40th anniversary of my joining the Church, with 33 of those years dedicated to public mission. My journey started at the Cheongpa-dong Unification Church, which I first visited with my father during my third year of middle school.

After attending Sunday services for a brief period, I committed myself fully to the Church. That's when my two elder sisters began working at the headquarters. My service as a church leader began in my fourth year at university, and since then, the majority of my public missions have been with our providential organizations. My time as a church leader at a CARP center was only about three years.

Upon completing my work with the spiritual revival pioneer team and embarking on full-time public mission, my family was blessed in numerous ways. However, we also faced significant challenges.

Tragically, my elder sister passed away from cancer at the age of 29. Despite her challenging health condition, she dedicated her time to learning sign language and used this skill to teach the Divine Principle to the hearing impaired.

After her passing, my father's health deteriorated rapidly, and he, too, passed away prematurely. When he fell ill, I was serving in the army. As soon as I heard the news, I rushed to the hospital. It seemed as though he had been waiting for me; he passed away soon after my arrival.

Three days after his funeral, I had a dream where he appeared. Startled, I asked, "Father, you're gone. How can you be here with me?" He replied, "There are things I need to share with you, so I came to find you." His initial advice was, "You must have absolute faith." He further instructed that my siblings and I must love each other unconditionally. Lastly, he advised, "Finish your studies, for you will have an important task in the future." I internalized these lessons, even printing and posting them on my computer as a constant reminder.

Guided by my father's words, I faced every difficult decision with unwavering faith. This commitment helped me remain devoted to the public missions assigned by the True Parents. In 2006, True Father appointed me as the president of the International Youth Federation for Peace. I've always endeavored to serve with a spirit of obedience. Over the years, True Mother entrusted me with various missions, including president of the Citizens Federation for the Unification of South and North Korea, president of UPF, and president of PWPA (Professors World Peace Academy). Despite being fully aware of my shortcomings, True Mother appointed me to these positions, as this is a time when South and North Korea must unite. I accepted this divine call and committed myself wholeheartedly to the cause.

Having a doctorate in North Korean studies and my positions within the Unification Education Federation

of the Ministry of Unification of the Republic of Korea have allowed me to elevate the status of the Family Federation and bear witness to True Parents within Korean society.

Throughout my 33 years in public mission, I've learned that even amid difficulties, if we persist with faith and determination, Heaven will support us in extraordinary ways. To illustrate, I recall a period when I was leading a spiritual revival team in the Incheon district as a district leader. At that time, my main activity was conducting Blessing ceremonies for newlywed and already married couples. One night, I dreamed that I accompanied True Mother to a large Blessing ceremony in the Neunggrado Stadium in Pyongyang, North Korea.



Motivated by this dream, I felt a calling to conduct Blessing ceremonies in North Korea. While it wasn't North Korea, I decided to hold a Blessing ceremony on Baengnyeong Island, the closest point to North Korea on the west coast of the Korean Peninsula. The day I made this decision, a picture of Baengnyeong Island featured on the front page of the Segye Times. That day happened to be my wife's birthday. Although we had planned a dinner together, I felt compelled to go to Baengnyeong Island that day, fearing I might never get another opportunity.

With a bag filled with holy wine, I borrowed 200,000 won (approximately 200 dollars) and took a boat to Baengnyeong Island. Upon arrival, I discovered there were no Church members on the island.

Despite my concerns about managing alone, I made it to Baengnyeong Island after a four-hour boat ride.

Once there, I hitched a ride to the city center on a truck. Initially, I thought the 200,000 won I had brought would last a week. However, due to the peak season, the costs for car rental and accommodation were higher than expected. I took a room at the cheapest inn I could find and met one of the village heads. He was quite elderly and seemed to have trouble understanding what I wanted.

Despite the challenging circumstances, I persisted, embodying my father's teachings of absolute faith, unconditional love, and commitment to my mission. This experience, among many others, continually shaped my path and strengthened my devotion to my public missions and the teachings of our True Parents. It was truly a challenging situation.

Turning around to face the dock, I noticed the sign for a freshly opened Naengmyeon restaurant. Even though it was only three or four in the afternoon, I thought they might serve me an early dinner.

I went in and noticed a young woman in the kitchen. I asked her, "Are your noodles good?" She replied affirmatively, "Yes, they're very good." Oddly enough, her voice and accent reminded me of my home.

Intrigued, I asked her where she was from. She didn't respond right away, so I repeated the question, "Where is your hometown?" Suddenly, an older woman who was working next to her gave me a furious look and retorted, "Who do you think you are to ask a family's daughter-in-law what her hometown is?"

I quickly apologized, explaining that I was a member of the Unification Church. I mentioned that I had met my Japanese wife through the Church and we had participated in one of their marriage Blessing ceremonies. I apologized again, admitting that the young woman's voice sounded eerily like my wife's, which had taken me by surprise.

After hours of walking, I found myself back at the dock where the boat had originally landed. Sitting on the breakwater, looking out to sea, I felt a connection with the hearts of our elders and church leaders when they first arrived at their pioneer witness sites. I wept for a while before realizing I was hungry.

As I looked up from my apologies, the previously hostile young woman asked me, "Which Blessing group do you belong to?" Stunned, I asked her, "Are you a member?" She answered in the affirmative. I then explained that I had been informed a family was living on the island, but they had moved. So, I was curious how they ended up here. She told me that someone had suggested about two weeks prior that it might be profitable to open a restaurant on Baengnyeong Island during the peak season.

It turns out that she is the elder sister of Professor Son Dae-oh from Sun Moon University. This revelation surprised me. I realized that Heaven was with us and that such surprising events could occur. The surprises didn't stop there: the woman's husband, the son of the latter, belonged to the same clan as me, the Song Eun Jin clan.

At this moment, three fortunate events occurred. Firstly, I had found a place to eat. Secondly, I had found accommodation. Lastly, as the lady's son could not drive both the van and the sedan simultaneously, the car was now at my disposal.

With the comforting feeling that Heaven was guiding me, my fears dissipated. The next morning, Sunday, at 9 am, I decided to go to the mayor's residence on the island. He opened the door, still groggy from sleep, and asked me: "But who are you?"

I showed him the photo of Baengnyeong Island on the front page of the Segye Times and said to him: "Given that the Segye Times is doing such a good job promoting the island, don't you think you could reciprocate in some way?" The mayor agreed that we could hold the Blessing ceremony at the community center and was willing to deliver a congratulatory message. I reminded him that the Blessing would take place in only two days and encouraged him to prepare his message well.

I then contacted the spiritual awakening team to ask them to quickly come to Baengnyeong Island. Meanwhile, the requirements for Blessing ceremonies were very detailed: we needed a "Holy Blessing" banner and both individuals from the couple. Women also had to wear white veils, and we needed precise information about all participating couples.

There was no way for me to handle all of this alone. We packed all the necessary elements for the Blessing into the noodle restaurant's car and headed to the community center. We decorated the room for the Blessing, and couples from the six villages in the center began to arrive. They were so numerous that we had to split them into two groups to conduct the Blessing. That day, we blessed about 450 couples. They all reacted positively to the word of God. We were truly blessed with miraculous blessings.

Once our mission was accomplished, my colleagues and I had to return to Incheon. However, due to an unforeseen series of events, our boat docked on Daecheong Island instead of the intended destination. We perceived this as an act of divine intervention. Noticing that we had leftover items and gifts for the Blessing ceremony, we felt a divine calling to perform our final mission on Daecheong Island. Without hesitation, we disembarked and made our way to the local administrative office, with the intention of spreading Heaven's blessings on the island.

Even though it was a weekend, we were fortunate to meet the mayor who was nearby. I told him about our successful Blessing ceremony experience on Baengnyeong Island and expressed our wish to extend the grace of the Blessing to Daecheong Island, in accordance with the will of Heavenly Parent and True Parents. Although it may have seemed unconventional, the mayor understood our intentions and quickly approved the historic Blessing ceremony on Daecheong Island.

Despite feeling overwhelmed, I communicated our time constraints, emphasizing that the Blessing ceremony could not be postponed. The mayor agreed to participate in preparing for the ceremony, involving the village's elderly. Filled with fervor, everyone prepared for the Blessing ceremony which, thanks to the collective effort, ended successfully with about 270 couples participating.

The biblical verse Matthew 6:33 echoed in my mind: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." After the event concluded, we were able to board a high-speed boat to return to Incheon, as initially planned.

Upon our arrival, a significant event was taking place at the Incheon Olympus Hotel: The special gathering of True Mother. Everything seemed to align perfectly, which attests to the heavenly fortune granted by True Mother. After enduring trials, we felt comforted and blessed.

In the aftermath, I had a dream in which I wished that the victorious fortune of True Mother would extend

not only to Korea but also to the whole world. Acknowledging my aspirations, True Mother initiated in 2013 the PEACE ROAD, the 3,800 km bike tour from Korea to Japan. The tour expanded to include participants from 14 countries in 2014, 120 countries in 2015, and consistently 125 countries each year from 2016 to 2017. Starting from 2018, the project developed to involve 130 participating countries. I was eventually appointed as the first head of PEACE ROAD.

The activities of PEACE ROAD were recognized by the Federation of Citizens for the Unification of South and North Korea, which awarded our organization the title of "Best Movement Organization for Unification" in 2014. In addition, the organization was chosen as a citizen advisory body on diplomacy, security, and reunification for the Presidential Committee for Unification Preparation, a committee led by the president of the Republic. In 2016, I received the congratulations of the president of the Republic during the ceremony of awarding prizes to model citizens, and a prize was awarded to me in recognition of my contributions to the cause of reunifying the Korean peninsula.

Reflecting on my years of public service, my confidence is rooted in my absolute obedience to the words of Heavenly Parent and True Mother, and in my unwavering commitment to the missions entrusted to me. True Mother has brought the 2027 Vision forward to 2025, emphasizing the establishment of a Heavenly Unified Korea. She has laid the groundwork and given us instructions based on the global foundation that has been laid through her many victories. If we lead the preparations for the reunification of North and South Korea, we will certainly have the opportunity to restore the nation. To meet such expectations, we need people who can unite with us towards a common goal. We need many families to join us and support the will of True Mother. Witnessing is our common destiny and the task to be accomplished today to achieve the reunification of our homeland. The first pioneers, under the divine call of True Parents, laid the foundations of the current Global Movement. Today, under the guidance of True Mother, we must mobilize all resources to complete the monumental task of national restoration and North-South reunification.

If we invest ourselves body and soul, and if we all move forward together with firm determination, we will absolutely achieve the restoration of our homeland and raise high the flag of Cheon Il Guk.

Dear brothers and sisters, dear church leaders and those in public mission who have accepted the will of God! We all receive the love and blessings of the Heavenly Parent and True Parents. Therefore, we must all redouble our efforts in this year 2023 to establish a Heavenly Unified Korea full of hope. I thank you.