

## The World Remembers and Celebrates the 11th anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa

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September 3, 2023



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 honor 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 3<sup>rd</sup>-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 2<sup>nd</sup>-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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 and 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 and 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 International Headquarters, 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 Gyeong bae Ceremony. Bernardo Cruz, with a heart full of gratitude, guided the congregation in prayer, offering thanks to God



for the opportunity to unite in honoring 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.

