

Searching for Traces of True Parents Part 3

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Day 3

Today we went to Yeosu. We met the president of the Ambassadors for Peace Council, the UPF district leader in Yeosu, and the Yeosu church leader at a restaurant for lunch and exchanged small talk. Afterward, we set off to Nagan Village in the city of Suncheon, which Father chose as a holy ground. When True Parents were beginning the ocean providence in Yeosu centering on Blue Sea Garden, they offered prayers at ten surrounding locations (Odong Island, Jinnam Guesthouse, the Fisheries Science Museum, Hyangil Temple, Seonam Temple, Suncheon Bay Ecological Park, Naganeupseong Folk Village, Geomun Island, Dolsan stationary net fishing, and Blue Sea Garden) where they said our members should visit. During our tour, we were only able to visit Geomun Island, Blue Sea Garden, and Naganeupseong Folk Village.

According to literature, the Naganeupseong Folk Village, which is located in Nagan Village, in the city of Suncheon, was a stone fortress built on a large plain to protect our people from foreign invasion. It was built in 1397 (the sixth year of King Taejo's reign) and according to the Sejong Chronicles, they began expanding it in 1424. The fortress wall is rectangular, 1,385 km around, 4 meters high, and 3–4 meters thick. The entire fortress is 223,108 m². In 1983 it was designated a Korean Historical Site.

Nagan was originally a planned city during the Joseon Dynasty (1392– 1897) with Hanyang, the capital city as an model. The Chinese characters for Nagan (樂安) mean “ten thousand citizens living peacefully in an abundant land.” Government offices, numbering more than a hundred, and straw houses are each surrounded by stone walls or twig gates respectively. These are beautifully preserved. They say when Walking through Nagan enriches one's mind.

I remember Father walking there. It is truly peaceful. Father would always send the Japanese ocean trainees there to cultivating a spirit of sacrifice for the public good, of putting public obligations before private affairs and of patriotism. Father gave a speech there about the need for breaking down walls—between mind and body, husband and wife, siblings, tribes, people, cultures, races and religions. I feel that he spoke this way because of his aspiration for one world wherever he went. He would also buy a lot of Korean taffy when he visited. He passed it out to the trainees during morning hoondokhae.

On our way back, we stopped in the city of Suncheon to visit a blessed couple, Park Jong Ik and Kim Yeong Sun. They are my spiritual children, who received the blessing when I was a pastor in the 1980s. President Kim Young Hwi asked about this couple in detail. He believes offering devotion to save even a single life through witnessing is valuable, so he let us visit them. He prayed for the couple and their family and posed for photo with them. The couple was grateful to President Kim did not feel worthy. That they had installed a new sofa the day before, I felt was not a coincidence. I had had a dream of a grave on which was a new sprout. I was confused by the dream but it seems as if True Father was grateful that the couples was engrafted, bringing True Parents' love and God's blessings to this humble household in the country.

This family is the Suncheon church's central family. To complete their mission as tribal messiahs, they established a "Room of Love" remodeling the interior and organizing it so that the townspeople can receive grace. A photograph of True Parents, a holy candle and Cheon Seong Gyeong create a holy atmosphere. Hoon Dok Hae and prayers will resound from here to righteous and conscientious townspeople until the day the entire town is known as a Unificationist town that has received True Parents. We departed from their home firmly believing this. We had planned to go to Suncheon Bay Ecological Park but it was too late and we returned to the Ocean Resort in Yeosu.



Day 4

Today we traveled to Seoul by KTX (bullet train). I felt a desire to change our schedule. After visiting Blue Sea Garden, where True Parents stayed, we had planned to ride the marine cable car from Dolsan Park to Jasan Park, have lunch, and then return to Seoul. However, I felt a sudden impulse to go fishing again.

When I was doing public work in Yeosu, I would sometimes think of True Parents finishing their devotions and going out fishing. Captain Choi Jong Ho would catch many fish, so if I had to go north for business reasons, I would take the fresh fish to Cheon Jeong Gung. As I thought about these things, I felt a strong desire to go fishing, to catch fish.

I discussed this first with President Kim Byung Ho got his agreement and then could ask President Kim Young Hwi, who readily agreed. I called Captain Choi, explained that we were on a tour and asked if he would take us ocean fishing off the coast near Blue Sea Garden. Luckily, he said he was free.

Captain Choi was one of the leading fishermen in Yeosu because he knew the best locations for catching fish. When Father was offering fishing devotions, Captain Choi was one of the Korean members who cared for him most. The captain would prepare documents containing his own fishing locations to show Father. After examining the documents, Father complimented Captain Choi saying that they were made perfectly. Father said not to call it a source book, but the Yeosu Area Boat Fishing Encyclopedia and signed it.

First, we traveled half an hour by car from the ocean condos to Sepo Mooring. Here boats are bought and sold, repaired, and stored. A hoist, with a nearly fifty-ton capacity lifts boats in and out of the water. Italian built, it is the only leisure hoist in the country. Here the Cheon Jeong Ho, which is the boat True Father used, has been well maintained under Captain Choi's supervision. After hearing the explanation of Cheon Jeong Ho I wished I could meet Father. Unable to do so, we boarded the boat. I could smell Father's body odor all over the boat my whole body resonated with it.

After looking around Sepo Mooring, we headed out to the ocean with Captain Choi. When we neared Tohdo, Captain Choi said that here was where Mother caught eight big gray mullets, all about sixty-five centimeters long on June 11, 2004. Since then, True Mother began to join Father in his fishing devotion more often when they came to Blue Sea Garden. We listened to more of his stories for over an hour, and

it was if Father was with us.

The boat soon arrived at its destination and we prepared to fish. Captain Choi was a real professional. He catches fish scientifically. He already knew what kind of fish he would catch at different depths. I kept an ear open to what Captain Choi said. "Bass will bite as soon as you put down the bait. If they don't, pull it up right away." He said to let the hook fall six meters down. I did, but I it came up empty. I put a shrimp on the hook and lowered it again to six meters.

The moment it reached that depth, my rod swayed. It was a very big fish. The boat shook from its fight. With the help of the captain we carefully pulled, eased up and finally brought it up. On the boat, we celebrated our victory and cheered. It was a spotted sea bass eighty-seven centimeters long, forty-eight centimeters around, weighing six kilograms. Though I had attended True Parents fishing many times, that was the first time I had ever caught such a large fish. I was so excited. I felt as if I could fly. It was such an unexpected catch and the following thoughts went through my mind: First, Father in heaven gave us this fish. Second, everything that Mother is planning will go well. Third, we caught it due to President Kim's good fortune. Fourth, it is a phenomenon of good fortune for me and my family.

What kind of person is President Kim? As you may know, he is one of the first members, blessed in the three-couple blessing, one of Father's best disciples. He obeys Mother's words absolutely and is the one Mother consults when making important decisions. Sometimes he fills Father's absence as our eldest brother; members respect him. He greatly loves and cherishes True Parents. I believe that Father gave us this fish because of my humble act of piety to attend President Kim, who has such good fortune. It was such a dramatic scene.

Once we arrived back at the docks, we packed the spotted bass with ice to offer it at Cheon Jeong Gung and prepared to head north. We did not have time to stop at the Blue Sea Garden hoondok room, so we offered a bow facing toward it instead. With lunchboxes in hand, we got on the 1:00 train. We ate on the train and organized our four dreamlike days.

Blue Sea Garden

What Kind of Place is Blue Sea Garden? In short, it can only be a holy place embedded with True Parents' breath and true love. More broadly, all of Yeosu is a holy area, but because Blue Sea Garden and Geomun Island are the two pillars built by True Parents as the center of the ocean providence, it has greater significance. Since I used to live there, I believe that the main building, especially True Parents private rooms, living room and hoondok room on the fourth floor symbolize the sanctuary where the Ark of the Covenant is enshrined. Broadly, the Ark of the Covenant is heaven and earth and specifically it is the tabernacle. The Ark of the Covenant sanctuary symbolized intangible substance.

Therefore, as the place where God is present, we can define it as the place where the substantiation of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind manifest. The main reason for this is that True Parents marked it in providential history as they went back and forth from there for ten long years. When a group attended Father as he hiked up Mt. Bonghwa on January 8, 2003, he offered an earnest prayer that established Yeosu as the base for the Age after the Coming of Heaven.

The same year, on December 4, he named it Blue Sea Garden (Cheong Hae Garden) and on May 5, 2004, he declared Ssang Hap Shib Seung Il and An Shi Il to end the Age Before the Coming of Heaven, which was stained by the Fall and to open the Age After the Coming of Heaven. When Father was eighty-five, to set a condition of restoration through indemnity, without missing a day he offered a fishing condition on the ocean during the daytime for eighty-five days, while at night he would go to Okjeok Reservoir until dawn for freshwater fishing. In this way, for eighty-five days we went back and forth between land and sea offering extreme devotion.

Moreover, he revised and supplemented one of the Eight Great Textbooks, Pyeong Hwa Shin Gyeong, by reading it a thousand times to make it a guidebook to save the souls and lives of earth's seven billion people. He also sent out seven thousand two hundred ocean leaders as central figures of the ocean providence. Additionally, he also offered devotion there by staying up all night and not moving for twenty-three and a half hours while reading the word, speaking and listening to members' reports, testimonies and songs.