



The Third Anniversary of True Father's Ascension

Ki Hoon Kim and Michael Balcomb
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Dear Family,

Starting this weekend, we'll be 50 days away from the third anniversary of True Father's ascension into the spiritual realm, which will be commemorated on August 30, 2015. The past three years have, in some ways, gone by very quickly. For many of us Father is still very much alive and spiritually present. He appears in our dreams and in our prayers and meditations. His voice is still speaking to us, both from the pages of the scripture books, and sometimes as a guiding voice in our minds and hearts.

Yet, if we are honest, there are other times when his passing seems so long ago and so far away. We look at the turmoil in the world and the struggles for unity even in our own church family and we wonder, in the words of Psalm 13:

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

How long, indeed? In the Oriental and specifically the Confucian culture, children were expected to mourn a deceased parent for three full years. The elder son would take the lead, ideally by building a shack next to the parent's grave and paying daily visits. Nevertheless, when the mourning period was over, it was time for all the children to move on with their lives, doing the best to bring their parent's vision into reality and to make their legacy substantial and enduring.

As we enter the final weeks before this third and most important anniversary, we're very pleased to see that True Mother has initiated a number of exciting projects that will surely help all of us succeed in our longer term personal mission of Tribal Messiahship and in America's divine mission to build God's kingdom of peace. A few of these projects include:

1) The SunHak Prize for Peace and the Environment

This prize, which may one day surpass the Nobel Peace prize in prestige and honor, was created by True Mother in True Father's memory and will be awarded for the first time on August 28 as one of the major events of the Memorial Week. This year's two winners are noted for their contribution to peace and care of the environment.

President Anote Tong of Kiribati has dedicated himself to raising public awareness of the severe impacts of the climate crisis to the international community in order to address its impacts on his country, which is gradually being submerged due to rising sea-levels caused by climate change. Dr. Modadugu Gupta of India, dubbed the 'Pioneer of the Blue Revolution' is being awarded for his innovative aquaculture

methods, which have given the poor in Asia and Africa a new way to earn their independence.

2) The 2015 Peace Road

The idea of the International Peace Highway, the Peace Road, was first raised at a 1981 interdisciplinary conference of Korean, Japanese and American scientists in Seoul and later expanded to include a proposed tunnel crossing of the Bering Strait. It exemplifies True Father's conviction that humanity is really one family under God. He believed that once people could meet each other freely in daily life, through culture, trade, and travel, even those with a long history of enmity would at last be able to break down the historic fears and misunderstandings that often divide us from our closest neighbors.

In a 2005 address delivered at the United Nations in Geneva Father said:

"This tunnel and highway can help make the world a single community at last. Think of how much money the world is wasting on war. The time has come for nations to work together, pool their resources and, as the prophet Isaiah taught, beat our swords into plowshares and pruning hooks."

This year, the 10th Anniversary of that speech, our brothers and sisters together with the many supporters and friends of peace all around the world are walking, riding and driving the proposed course of the Peace Highway in honor of Father's memory and True Parents' dream of peace. Over a dozen events are planned right here in America. Join the journey!

3) The Universal Peace Choir

If you don't have the stamina for travelling the Peace Road this summer, the Universal Peace Choir could be just the ticket for you. This is truly a 21st century initiative, harnessing the power of the internet and social media. Have you ever sung or wanted to sing one of True Parents' favorite songs for them? Now everyone has a chance to do so and join a choir of hundreds and even thousands. Best of all, you don't even have to leave your own home!

4) The Completion of the Holy Scriptures

Our dedicated American team has been working for the last year on translating and editing the Chambumogyong (The Path of the True Parents), the final book in the three-volume set of scriptures that True Mother has prepared to help members everywhere come closer through the Word. There will be a big celebration and publication party on September 1 during Memorial Week. You can be part of the celebrations at least two ways: (a) You can preorder your own copy of Chambumogyong and (b) You can finish reading at least one of the two earlier volumes, Cheonseonggyeong (Scriptures of Heaven) and the Pyonghwagyeong (Peace Messages.)

Want to read something else? No problem. Whatever you choose, we'll be offering a 40-day national condition of prayer and study that starts ten days from now, on Monday, July 20. A special team will gather at East Garden, but we can all participate from around the country.

5) The Top Gun Young Leaders' Workshop

In the summer of 1986 the Tom Cruise movie Top Gun swept the American imagination with its tale of heroism, love, doubt, bravery and redemption. Inspired by the movie, True Father created an elite group of American leaders he called the "Top Guns" and challenged them to be the "best of the best." They went out to share the good news of True Parents with America working in every field—religion, politics, diplomacy, business, media, education, the arts, and more.

Today, True Mother is calling on a new generation of Top Guns—young men and women between their twenties to their late forties, both first and second generation—and challenging them to take up the new work of True Parents and meet the ambitious goals of Vision 2020.

If you're lucky enough to be in that age group, we urge to take time off and do whatever it takes to accept True Mother's invitation to come to Korea. If like us you miss the cut—well, there's a way to donate to help others to go. Let's not just be spectators!

6) Give a Little, or a Lot

Speaking of donations, we are all once again invited to help make the Memorial Week a success by offering our own donations. There's a modest suggested minimum of \$130 per individual and \$210 per family, but already some have been much more generous, and we sincerely thank them. This will be the last time to make such an offering for the International Memorial, so please make sure to participate!

7) Just Show Up!

For those unable to go to Korea to join the estimated 25,000 who will attend the Memorial Service, some local communities will be hosting live viewing sessions (on the evening of Saturday, August 29, USA time) and others will dedicate the Sunday, August 30, Sunday Service to the Memorial.

8) Share your Treasured Memories

Lastly, we're happy to announce the creation of our own Memorial Prize in honor of True Parents, which we are calling the "Remember" prize. Everyone is invited to submit a photograph, painting, artwork, essay or poem that details one outstanding encounter you had with True Parents here in America. Keep it short and inspiring, and you could win!

Let's join together and offer our best efforts to love True Parents, honor True Father and inspire True Mother!



Dr. Ki Hoon Kim
Continental Director



Dr. Michael Balcomb
President