

True Mother's activities in the USA

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To deliver her speech in America on December 12 at the International Peace Education Center (IPEC), in the city of Las Vegas, True Mother traveled to the United States, arriving at IPEC on December 10. There, FFWPU regional presidents, various other members including perhaps a dozen Costa Rican CARP members -- about a hundred people altogether -- seemed to assemble spontaneously. The Costa Ricans (some of whom are new members) had been doing a pilgrimage of holy grounds when coincidentally True Mother came. At the meeting, one topic of discussion with True Mother was the possibility of making it easier for foreign members to visit Cheon Jeong Gung and other holy grounds in Korea. True Mother spoke to the assembled members for about five minutes and then she listened to many reports. The following day, True Mother went to Red Rock Canyon and led many members in exercising to the song "Bounce," which someone has rewritten as "Cheon Il Guk Bounce."

The Chicago event

This year, Sun Jin nim had delivered True Mother's speech at the True Family Values Awards Banquet on December 5. The awards banquet took place in Chicago, as it has annually since 1996, as a project of the True Family Values Ministry, which had begun the year before. The awards honor individuals and families for their selfless service to society as a testament to living for the sake of others. True Parents -- both Father and Mother -- have spoken at this awards banquet over the years. In 1999, the organizers of the banquet learned two months in advance that True Mother would speak. At that event, overflowing with grace, she spoke to an audience of three thousand about "Blessed Marriage and Eternal Life." The following year, the ministers took the initiative and invited True Father to speak at the banquet. So inspired was Father by the experience of speaking to thousands of religious leaders in the largest ballroom in the city, that immediately afterward he instructed senior members to organize a fifty-state US speaking tour. From the ministers that traveled with Father or welcomed him to their states during that tour, the American Clergy Leadership Conference emerged.

The New York event

In honor of the twentieth anniversary of the True Family Values Ministry, the FFWPU international president also delivered True Mother's speech in New York on December 7. Early one morning at 3:30 AM, Dr. Ki-hoon Kim, the regional president of North America, had gotten a telephone from True Mother, "Rev. Kim," she said. "I'm not going to send my message personally but I am sending my beloved daughter."

Before delivering Mother's speech, President Moon told the audience of religious leaders that New York was her hometown though she had been away for a long time. She also assured them, "More than anyone, True Mother wanted to be here," and "She sends her love, prayers and blessing with this message."

True Mother speaks at IPEC

In the event on December 12 in Las Vegas, the celebration built up gradually until True Mother addressed the audience from her heart. Rev. Balcomb, the US church president was the master of ceremonies. Archbishop Stallings began with a prayer.

Much of Regional President Kim's long years of investment in America before becoming regional president were spent in Chicago. So, as he welcomed the audience and he reflected on the history of the organization, which had had its beginnings in that city.

Two speakers from the FFWPU-International Headquarters were able to give to the American religious leaders a glimpse of the depth and global scope of True Parents' salvific mission. Director-General of the FFWPU-International Headquarters, Sung-il Cho, spoke to the audience about True Mother's strenuous efforts and about Vision 2020. Dr. Young Ho Yun then spoke about ongoing activities in India and Nepal.



Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, the president of WFWP International, and True Mother's daughter-in-law, then read the message from True Mother that Sun Jin nim had read at the earlier events.

True Mother then took the stage to deliver her keynote address to over seven hundred people, including members residing in the United States, FFWPU district pastors from Korea and Japan, religious leaders from the American Clergy Leadership Conference and Universal Peace Federation members including ambassadors for peace. As a segue to explaining about fish in broader terms, True Mother spoke to the assembled guests about Jesus' tragic end and the significance of fish among earlier Christians. When she spoke of Jesus and of Heavenly Parent's heart, it was indeed heartfelt. Seemingly on the verge of tears, she asked the assembled men and women, whose lives, too, have been dedicated to religious aims, "Can you imagine how painful it was for Jesus to not be able to be a filial son to his parent?" She also caused them to see Jesus' foreshortened life from Heavenly Parents' perspective. She reminded them that with the loss of the foundation Jesus had made in thirty-three years God would have seen the loss of the four-thousand-year foundation of tears and effort that had made Jesus' life possible.

As she had elsewhere, True Mother also had a musical ensemble, Apple Heaven, composed of Cheon Jeong Gung staff members sing English songs, which seemed to linger on the air as had the heavenly grace True Mother had brought to Las Vegas.