



Announcement of Upcoming Major Holy Days

Ki Hoon Kim and Michael Balcomb

January 5, 2016

Dear Pastors,

Making Preparations for True Parents' Birthday

Happy New Year! Today, January 5, marks the beginning of a 40 Day period of preparation and prayer before the celebration of True Parents' birthday on Saturday, February 13, 2016. In recent months, True Mother has emphasized the importance of True Parents' birthday as our major annual celebration. That's inspiring; after all, Christians celebrate Jesus' birth, Buddhists the Buddha's birth, and Muslims honor Mohammed's birthday (which in 2015 actually fell on Christmas Day!)

Accordingly, in Korea and in the USA, the period from True Parents' birthday until Foundation Day (February 20) is being set aside as a week of celebration, during which we should not just celebrate but also spread the good news of True Parents coming. Earlier in the month we will observe True Heavenly Parent's Day on February 8. Some discussion points for appropriate Holy Day observances follow:

- 1) **True God's Day / True Heavenly Parent's Day:** Monday, February 8 (January 1 on the lunar calendar, beginning the Year of the Monkey.) Our celebrations can be modest. Churches can opt for a 7am pledge service on the Monday, or mark the day during Sunday service on February 7.
- 2) **True Parents' Birthday:** The Birthday celebration should be held at a convenient time over the weekend of Friday, February 12 to Sunday, February 14, with a preference for Saturday the 13, the actual birthday. We are encouraging all 50 states to hold an exciting local program with an emphasis on outreach and witnessing. True Father would have been 96; True Mother will be 73. Options include a banquet; a seminar; a special service, entertainment, and more.
- 3) **Foundation Day and Blessing:** Saturday, February 20 in Korea. As in previous years, we expect a live webcast on the evening of Friday, February 19, starting around 7pm Eastern time. Communities are encouraged to gather together to watch the webcast, with more elaborate preparations in locations that are also hosting the Blessing. Observances on February 20 and 21 are also possible, please refer to BFM Memo on the subject and visit the [BFM website](#).
- 4) **Other events:** the days between True Parents' Birthday and Foundation Day can be marked with many events including concerts and musical performances, public art displays, competitions including *Divine Principle* lecturing, Korean HDH reading (for non-native Korean speakers); service projects, etc.
- 6) **Donations and Gifts:** We encourage all families to make the most generous donation they can in honor of these three holy days. These can be made through the local churches or online (site to be announced.) Meanwhile, the USA is also preparing a national gift to True Parents.
- 7) **Media Packet:** Media team at HQ is working on banners, program layouts posters and videos for such events. We will make it available for you as soon as possible.

Please work closely with your district pastor to report of your local plans for celebrating True Parents' Birthday and the Anniversary of Foundation day and the Blessing.

Thank you!

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