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## Heavenly Parent's Day 2016 Message from National HQ

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February 8, 2016 / 1:1 CIG4

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy 49th Heavenly Parent's Day! We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your hard work and devotion during the past year, and invite you all to step with great joy into the Fourth Year of Cheon Il Guk by the heavenly calendar. In the Chinese calendar, this is the Year of the Monkey, True Father's sign. Of course, we will celebrate True Parents' Birthday in less than a week.

The occasion of the very first God's Day in 1968 was one of deep emotional meaning and providential significance for our Heavenly Parent. Although God had always held the ideal of a True Family and a world full of his children and grandchildren living in peace close to his heart, this was a dream that He simply could not realize all by himself. Father explained:

January 1, 1968, became the day God had been hoping to see on earth, the day when His ideal of creation would be realized. It is the day when He was able to come to earth for the first time in history, through Adam and Eve becoming one body centered on God's love. This is God's Day. Therefore, even though opposition from the world still existed, it was a day of happiness and goodness when God could rejoice for the first time since the beginning of history, even since the creation of the world. ... We call the ones who made this parent-child relationship, centering on God's love, True Parents. (CBG, P. 518, number 2)

Another significant point we should remember is that the establishment of God's Day was not something that True Father himself could do alone either. He absolutely needed True Mother to fulfill her own responsibility, which was no easy task:

In order to find True Mother, you cannot imagine how great a price had to be paid, how many sacrifices. In order to set and maintain the standard for True Mother to be found, people for thousands of years received revelations, and prepared people had to inherit and bequeath that foundation from generation to generation. That is how we have arrived at this time. As if passing a candle flame from one candle to the next, countless people guarded that holy light to make sure that it did not go out, giving their utmost devotion right up until the coming of the Last Days on earth. You cannot imagine what an enormous price has been paid, the uncountable sacrifices that have had to be made. (CBG, P. 46, number 40)

Let us pause a moment in joyful appreciation, thanking our Heavenly Parent and True Parents that the candle did not go out, and the holy light now lives in all of us.

God Bless you and your families, and God Bless America!

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*Continental Director*

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