

Interview of Michael Balcomb, of Chairman of FFWPU Europe Regional Group

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Question: Do you have a favorite memory of True Father to share with our readers?

This morning, I went up again to the *Bonhyangwon* to say good-bye to Father. I have been staying up at the HJ Gung, and I was not sure if I would get another chance to greet him. Each year when I come back here at the Seonghwa time, I feel closer to True Father than ever before.

One memory comes to mind: it was about ten years ago and we were fishing with Father on the Hudson River. The fishing was successful but on the way home, it started to rain very hard and the wind was blowing the rain against Father. He seemed not even to notice it. So, I took initiative and I sat right next to Father with my whole body touching him. I was getting wet, but because of me, Father was not getting wet any more. I felt, Well, if I do not do anything else on earth, at least, on this day, I helped to save True Father from the rain.

But as I went home, I thought, But this is what True Parents have been doing for us throughout

their lives. They have been standing in front of us, sheltering us not from the rain but from all the attacks of Satan, all the things that might happen. They themselves took the blows and the burden, but because they did that, we could get as far as we have today. So, I always feel Father is my father and if one time I could do what he did for me every day, that would be a small thing. We miss True Father so much. Sometimes, it feels like fifty years already have passed and sometimes like just fifty days.

Question: What has been your experience with True Mother at the helm?

True Mother called me to Korea just two weeks after Father's Seonghwa and asked me to take responsibility in America. For the last five years, I have been doing my best, first as vice-president and then as president. And just after Madison Square Garden, forty days ago, she asked me to take a new responsibility in Europe. Two weeks ago, I had a chance to come back here to Korea and meet with True Mother and she told me with so much love and kindness, "I believe in you. I trust you. I think you will do well."

Of course, she explained what she wanted to see in Europe, which is very simple: proclaiming True Parents, blessing the population, having confidence that tribal messiahship can work. One side note: while I was here three weeks ago, none of the buildings that have just opened looked as if they could possibly be ready. But I told True Mother at the opening of the Magnolia, You're a miracle worker because out of the chaos and the mud, you put forth these beautiful facilities in a way like God put forth the creation out of chaos, out of nothingness.

I think Mother really knows how to get people to give their best. She is quick to praise. She is not afraid to point out when we need to correct ourselves, but she has such faith in us. She believes we can do it. I think with that kind of support from true Mother, if we unite, miracles are possible. I think our movement's best days are ahead of us and we will fulfill all the goals and dreams that True Parents have.