

## One Million Rally for Korea: True Mother's Heart For Former Communist Nations

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There is a well-known saying, "A week is a long time in politics," ascribed to Harold Wilson, the former UK prime minister. I would add "and it is a much longer time in the providence."

Consider for example the two World Summits of 2020 and 2022, both great victories for True Parents. In 2020, True Mother gathered seven thousand participants from all over the world and managed to hold a truly successful and safe conference. No one could have anticipated that just a week later the world would be in the grips of the Covid pandemic which continues to this day. Last month, as True Mother concluded the outstanding 2022 World Summit, we little knew that within a week, the world would be stunned by the outbreak of war in Europe on a scale not seen since WWII. Or at least, little did I know.

After such shocking and unexpected events, it would be all too easy to think that it would no longer be possible or even appropriate to revisit the Summit because it had been overtaken by events. Indeed, it does require an effort of will and no small measure of conviction to look back and see the Summit for what it was, a great step forward in the providence.

Of course I am reminded that right after the Summit True Mother spoke prophetically about the need to focus on the nations of the former communist world and treat them as our "younger brothers," help them to come to know and to attend our Heavenly Parent. Tall order though this might be, I am always astonished and encouraged by True Mother's confidence and belief that a world of peace is coming despite all the signs to the contrary. I am sure that this can only come from her intimate and filial relationship with God, our Heavenly Parent, and from the energy she is receiving from True Father looking down from heaven.

I was very proud of the EUME contribution this time, even though Covid regulations meant that many of our dignitaries who were looking forward to coming ultimately had to send a video message instead.

These included Ilir Meta, president of Albania (whose wife Monika Kryemahdi welcomed True Mother and spoke at the National Blessing in Tirana in 2019) and Albin Kurti, prime minister of Kosovo, as well as several other notable former presidents and prime ministers from Europe and the Middle East, and two former European Union commissioners.

All this was the result of the hard work and prayers of many people throughout our region. I'd like to especially thank the staff members who came to Korea, went through quarantine and did their best: Jacques Marion, Mark Brann, David Fraser-Harris, Chantal Komagata, Mateo Ziko and Bilbil Zharri.

One of my personal highlights was having the opportunity and privilege to get know our Sunhak Peace Prize winner from the United Kingdom, Dame Sarah Gilbert of Oxford University, and her husband Robert Gordon.

Professor Gilbert, who spoke at two Rallies of Hope last year, received the award in recognition of her pioneering work in developing the Oxford/Astrazeneca Covid vaccine. I was inspired to learn what a heroic effort it was for her to come to Korea at short notice, especially since she was due to be back in the UK just two days after the Sunhak Peace Prize ceremony for her formal investiture by Queen Elizabeth at Windsor Castle. Well done indeed, Dame Sarah Gilbert!