

Report on Launch of New Holy Scriptures

Michael Balcomb
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Archbishop Kim and Dr. Balcomb present to Mother Moon the English version of the updated Cheon Seong Gyeong at the Peace Palace on August 24, 2013.

On August 24th, Bishop Ki Hoon Kim and I had the privilege of being invited to join the celebrations at the Peace Palace for the publication of the Japanese translation of two of the three volumes of the new “Holy Scriptures.” More than 2,000 Japanese members — most of whom had been attending the first anniversary of True Father’s Seonghwa the day before — gathered in the early morning for a splendid ceremony that was both moving and joyful.

After a reading of an excerpt from the new translation, senior Japanese leaders were recognized for their contribution to the providence, and on behalf of all the members received copies of the new book carried in an elaborate “scripture box” featuring highly decorated mother-of-pearl inlaid designs selected by True Mother herself. Bishop Kim and I felt very fortunate to have been invited to join this ceremony and to present True Parents copies of the English version of the updated Cheon Seong Gyeong. Publication is slated for February of 2014.



True Mother and some of her children attended the celebration for the distribution of the Japanese translations of two of the three volumes of the new "Holy Scriptures"

The two volumes that have been translated so far are the updated Cheon Seong Gyeong and the Pyeonghwa Gyeong (Peace Messages). The first book is a selection of excerpts from True Father’s speeches, meticulously compared to the original published sermons from which they are drawn, and organized thematically into thirteen topics (books) with the fourteenth a set of Father’s prayers arranged

according to the first thirteen book titles. A very welcome feature compared to the first edition is the inclusion of new materials from the years 2001-2012, right up to and including True Father's last words on earth.

In contrast, the *Pyonghwa Gyeong* is a collection of about 180 complete speeches delivered in public settings throughout True Father's life. These include the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) World Peace tours of the last decade, and go all the way back to speeches to the Professors World Peace Academy, the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS) conferences of the 1970s and more speeches delivered in Korea in the 1960s.

A third book, the *Champumogyong*, (True Parents' Works) is yet to be translated and focuses on Father's words about specific projects and providences, as well as autobiographical accounts of key incidents in his life. Taken together, the three books are expected to provide a newly accessible insight into the heart and mind of True Father.

True Mother selected the design for the elaborate "scripture box" that features decorated mother-of-pearl inlaid designs.



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On a personal note, I wanted to say how pleased I am that this project is going forward. For many years, I labored with others on translating and editing the English versions of Father's major public speeches. It wasn't easy at all. Senior Korean leaders explained that even the Korean originals were sometimes hard to grasp. I always worried that the beautiful truth of God's Word as revealed by True Parents would be lost to the world by the imperfect and incomplete presentations we were making. But somehow, there was never enough time to work on each speech before new materials demanded our attention.

The project team in Korea is now reaching out for volunteers in the United States—and the English speaking world—who would be willing to help on the copy-editing, proofing and final preparation of these extraordinarily important books. If there are volunteers with very good Korean ability who might be able to work with a native English speaker, our colleagues in Korea hope to form one or two teams who could help review the existing translations and check them for accuracy. But for it to be effective the Korean member of the team needs to speak very good English — good enough to evaluate whether the written translation is accurate. And the native English speaker needs to be a skilled English editor or writer plus ideally speak Korean. I am asking those who are willing to contribute to this project over the next five months or so to contact me directly at mbalcomb@unification.org. Please let me know how specifically how you think you could best help.