

True Parents in Canada and Their Love for All Nations

Franco Famularo

October 2014

Secretary-General of UPF-Canada



True Parents' Unexpected Arrival in Canada, December 12, 1971

In 1971, True Parents journeyed to the United States to begin their ministry there, but U.S. officials initially denied Father entry. Suddenly the Canadian family, which had fewer than a dozen members at the time, learned that True Parents would be arriving in Toronto. Although Father would explain the spiritual significance of visiting Canada, the practical purpose was to obtain a visa for entry into the United States.

Our members then lived in a small rented downtown row house. Upon their arrival, Father immediately requested that the hotel reservation be cancelled. He insisted that they would stay with the members. "I want to stay with my family," he said. Since there was little furniture and no beds, True Parents slept on foam mattresses placed on the floor of a bedroom on the top floor of the row house. Father did not complain; he sought to put his hosts at ease, especially as they were rather nervous and shy upon meeting their spiritual leader for the first time. Such was the beginning of True Parents' course in North America.

Father spent time informally with the members, asking personal questions such as their age, occupation and length of time in the movement. He showed a photo album of his family.

Despite having had a long journey, Father spoke with everyone until 2:00 am about the destiny of Korea and his plans for America. After graciously receiving an envelope containing a gift of a thousand dollars the members had offered, Father stated that they could not afford to give him money.

He then took a thousand dollars from his own resources and returned the envelope with double the amount suggesting that they use the funds to further the Canadian mission.

The next morning, while one of our brothers was shaving in the kitchenette (since the one and only bathroom was occupied) he saw someone in the mirror. It was none other than Father in his undershirt coming in to wash his face. So intimate were the circumstances.

Each evening Father spoke for several hours concerning various nations and their roles in the providence of restoration and on "The Formula for God's Providence." In the conclusion to his speech on December 14, Father said, "When you pray, do not pray for yourself, but for others. If you do this, the result will be

yours. Do not pray for the Unification Church, the Unified Family, but pray that God may use you to save Canada and save the world, at the cost of your lives." Father's vision was to save Canada and the world. Many guests also visited the center and Father spoke to them about Jesus and Restoration. Father's visa situation was resolved on December 17. The following day, he and his party departed for Washington D.C.

In 1976, Father said the following to an American audience: Recently, I went to Montreal and had lunch with members there. A man who has been a member of the church for eight years vividly remembered my arrival in America on December 18, 1971.... I did not have a visa to enter America from Korea, so I came to Canada instead. Our members in America were very persistent in asking the State Department, "Why won't you issue a visa to Father?" Ironically, officials kept telling them that I was a communist, so I was undesirable in this country. Finally, it was proven to them that I have truly been crusading for the victory over communism and they could not resist any further....

The Canadian members asked me to stay in Canada, but I told them that according to God's plan I must achieve certain goals in the next three and a half years in America, because America is the focal point of world restoration. The eight-year member confessed that four years ago he doubted me and could not trust what I had said. He thought at that time that I was a crazy person. Now everything has been accomplished as I said, and he is willing to hear my plans for the next three and a half years.

Although Alan Wilding, the eight-year member in the story, later denied ever saying Father was crazy, he did agree that Father had accurately portrayed the gist of the conversation.

For providential reasons, Father visited Canada ten times during his lifetime -- on his own in 1965, and with Mother on nine other occasions, while Mother came on her own when she spoke at public events on eight occasions. On their second visit of 1991, True Parents arrived in Canada by car shortly after 3:00 AM on June 14.

Shortly after 7:00 AM, True Parents held a special ceremony with Japanese members who had accompanied them. According to reports given by the Japanese, Father prayed and asked Mother to pledge that she would continue his messianic mission after he died. Father then asked Mother to give that pledge in the Japanese language in front of the Japanese members, as witnesses. After Mother had done as requested, Father explained the significance of holding the ceremony in Canada. "I represent the true Adamic figure," he said. "Mother represents the true Eve, the four Japanese women are key representatives of the worldwide Eve nation, Japan. Since Canada is an extension of England, which was the original Eve nation, this ceremony is being held here."

He encouraged Mother and the four Japanese women to establish deep unity since this represented the beginning of a new era in Mother's public mission. Shortly thereafter, in September 1991, Mother began her public speaking tours.

During that June visit, Mother visited the Canadian Parliament buildings, where she expressed her desire to speak in Canada's Parliament. Dreams do come true, and on November 8, 1993, in the Railroad Committee Room of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, Mother addressed an overflow audience of over three hundred and fifty dignitaries, parliamentarians and guests from all over Canada. Mother's speech in Ottawa was part of a worldwide speaking tour to more than forty countries.

In Ottawa, Dr. Edward Schreyer, governor general of Canada (1979– 1984) introduced Mother. In attendance were five members of parliament, fifteen ambassadors, a number of senatorial aides and several community leaders. To an attentive and polite audience, who read the text in either English or French as she spoke, Mother began her speech as follows:

"I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for coming here today. As leading citizens of Canada, you possess the responsibility of guiding your nation into the next millennium. The promise of a peaceful and prosperous future depends directly upon the collective actions we take today."

The speech, which lasted over an hour, covered in outline form the entire Divine Principle and introduced Father's life course. It further discussed the numerous social problems faced by people of the twentieth century and offered as a solution, the ideal of "true love." In her speech, Mother suggested that the root cause of all human misery was the destruction of humanity's loving relationship with God. Moreover, she explained that the historical foundation had been laid for the return of the Messiah in the twentieth century.

It was undoubtedly, for True Parents and all Unificationists, a historic announcement to the people of Canada. Only time would tell whether the Canadians that heard the proclamation recognized the historic nature of the moment.

In Father's first public speech in Canada, he spoke to an audience of a thousand people in Toronto on December 7, 1995. It was his sixtieth public speech and Canada his thirty-sixth country that year. Canada had not been on the original schedule, but because of complications in Europe, he decided to make Canada the tour's final stop. Canadian members had only two weeks to prepare.

The following provides a glimpse of Father's schedule during his stay at that time. True Parents arrived at Toronto's Pearson International Airport at 2:30 PM on December 7. After being driven to the hotel and having time to freshen up, Father met some church leaders, ate a quick dinner and then it was almost time to begin the program. Immediately after his speech, Father spent a little more than an hour teaching Mother's high school classmate and her husband, the Kims, who live in Canada.

After having spoken with the Kims about the Divine Principle, Father spoke to a gathering of the general membership until 2:30 AM about his favorite topics—true love, the love palace and the intimate relationship between man and woman in marriage. He was clearly enthusiastic about the subject.

Father hardly slept. Early the following morning, he spent the whole of breakfast teaching Mother's high school friend and her husband. He did so, almost without eating, until the time he departed for the airport. The husband of Mother's classmate was amazed at Father's vigor and stamina in spite of his then seventy-five years of age and the grueling schedule he had endured during the world tour.

On that occasion, Father again spoke of Canada's role in extemporaneous remarks before reading his prepared speech. He said, "Canada is in a role to mediate between Europe and the United States." He further stated that his hope is for "Canada to help mediate the unification of Protestant North America and Catholic South America."

The final stop of Father's one-hundred-city world tour in 2005, inaugurating the Universal Peace Federation, was in Toronto on Friday, December 23, 2005. This was Father's tenth and last visit to Canada. True Parents arrived in the late morning on a flight from the Bahamas, where Father had spoken the previous evening. Since they would be returning to New York the same evening, all Unification Church members quickly gathered at the Westin Prince Hotel. During lunch, Father announced that he wanted to speak before dinner, not after dinner as had been originally been planned. This caused tremendous concern for the organizers and the hotel staff.

Mayors, members of parliament, woman leaders, academics and religious leaders were in an audience that consisted of people of every race and culture, as is typical of Toronto. Archbishop George Stallings introduced Father. He testified that the man coming before them was walking in the spirit of Jesus Christ with his mantle and anointing. He went on to testify that Father is the Second Coming of the Messiah and stated, "If you are looking for the fulfillment of scripture in the second coming you need not look for another. He is the one with the heart of Jesus. He is anointed, appointed and approved!"

Father then walked to the stage and spoke for over three and a half hours until 9:15 PM. He would have continued longer, but because of his scheduled flight to New York, he concluded early. Father's final visit and his 2005 one-hundred-city tour came to a graceful conclusion.