

## Seonghwa Ceremony for Elder Yong-hyun Moon, True Father's cousin

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June 24, 2020



*Elder Yong-hyun Moon with Father's younger sister Hyo-sun Moon looking at family photos. Behind him is Park Sang-kwon, founder of Pyeonghwa Motors, and other Moon relatives (wearing Kim Il-sung pins) in North Korea.*

Elder Yong-hyun Moon ascended to heaven at 3:12 am on June 24 in the eighth year of Cheon Il Guk. We will greatly miss his wonderful anecdotes, spoken in his always caring voice, about his and Father's hometown, Sangsa Hamlet, Jungju Province (now in North Korea) and about Father's childhood days. He taught us by example to be pious, filial children. Elder Moon was born on June 2, 1932, as the youngest child in a family of three boys and a girl. He was raised in a house near True Father's family home. He spoke of his childhood, recalling how he would run away from his relatives who urged him to attend Deok Heung Church, which True Father attended, at the base of Mt. Myodu. On the other hand, he was always sure to chase after his older brothers when they set out to hunt pheasants or catch fish in the mountains and fields all day and all night. He could never forget those beautiful days.

### **A refugee in South Korea**

Driven out by the Communist forces, then nineteen-year-old Elder Moon escaped to South Korea. He had grown into a believer with a grateful heart who wins by faith. For that reason, on December 12, 1955, when he reunited with True Father in Seoul's Cheongpa Ward, Elder Moon was able to confess that Father was the Messiah, the savior of humanity, not just the cousin with whom he shared the same bloodline. He joined the church that day.

Within the church, through thirteen years of arduous toil at our Asan pottery factory, Elder Moon pleaded with us to be grateful believers with absolute obedience and absolute faith.

### **Attending True Parents**

We came to learn that the Yeosu ocean providence began because of his thoughtful consideration and heart to offer a place of solace to True Parents, who harshly pushed themselves to the limit for the sake of the world. Such devotion and genuine love for True Parents made us love and respect him even more. He deepened our understanding of the heavenly providence by witnessing to us about True Father's own family. Thanks to Elder Moon, we learned about True Father's unchanging love for his father (Chung-bu nim) and mother (Chung-mo nim). We learned about True Father's older brother, Yong-su Moon, who worshiped True Father.

Despite the rough seas of the providence, Elder Moon did his best to serve and attend True Parents. Going

through waves of ups and downs, sometimes as a faithful disciple, and sometimes as a cousin who shared childhood memories with True Father, Elder Moon did his absolute best to serve and attend True Parents. We have only respect and love for his life of faith, and for his service and attendance toward True Parents.

### **Visiting North Korea**

Elder Moon visited North Korea in 1999 and in 2002. On his first visit he went to his hometown and saw his childhood home but did not meet anyone he knew. What follows are excerpts of a description of his second visit, taken from an article he wrote soon after his return to South Korea, called "Bittersweet Reunion."

"We were permitted to visit Jongju on March 31. I did not know whether it was actually happening or was just another of my dreams.... 'Thank You, Heavenly Father. How can I repay True Parents? Please have pity on our people. Please guide Korea to reunification. Several million are missing their flesh and blood just as I am. Please allow them to have this same opportunity. I sincerely hope that our meeting can bring true joy to you....'

### **Nearing his hometown**

"I was too excited to remember what time we'd left Pyongyang. We must have been riding for about two hours. The landscape started to look familiar; we were in the Village of Nakchun, in the district of Pakchun. I had come there with my mother when I was young. I remembered that my aunt had lived there. She had bought me apples and taffy at the market. Where is the aunt who had cared for me now? Where is she buried? I really miss you, Auntie. I really do."

"The next stop was the Wonbong Hamlet local office. It looked quite familiar. I couldn't see anyone I knew. I waited about ten minutes and someone came up to me and took hold of my hands. I was so surprised to see my sister, who looked so old and humble. I couldn't believe she was my once young, beautiful sister. I felt so sad and choked with tears. Tears blinded me. [He calls her "sister," but she is Father's younger sister, Hyo-sun, his cousin.]

"I held her hands, but her right hand had no fingers. 'What happened to you, sister?' She told me a machine had chopped off her fingers. How much suffering did she have to go through just to survive? In an instant, I could feel the unbearable weight of her suffering life. 'If you live long enough, your suffering will come to an end. Just don't die. I'll come as often as I can to take care of you. Please don't worry.'

"I realized that, by then, many people surrounded me. My uncle's son, Young-suk was there. Someone called Byung-il also introduced himself. Byung-il's four younger brothers and sisters had come, too. I couldn't see my younger brother and nephew. 'How come I can't see Dogyun?' No answer. My sister told me that he couldn't make it. I asked why. She looked uneasy. I realized what she was thinking and said, 'All right. I understand. He couldn't get permission.' My sister didn't say anything; her eyes agreed with me.

"We were at a small public hall in the countryside. They told me that students there would come and perform to welcome us. The children sang and danced very well, but I couldn't see or hear anything. Everyone sang 'Tongil' while holding hands and then the curtain fell. It was now really time to say goodbye. 'Sister... Sister! I promise I'll be back if I have another chance. Please take good care of your health.'

"I was choked with tears. I waved to my sister from the car. The car moved away so fast, leaving behind no real promises. I felt so heartbroken; but the pain I was feeling is the pain of our people. Nothing can describe my heart at leaving my hometown behind -- the hometown I had been missing even in my dreams."

### **Elder Moon's posthumous title**

True Mother honored Elder Moon by giving him the title, "The Loyal Contributor to the Settlement and Glorious Opening of a New Unified Korea."

May Elder Moon earnestly fulfill his heart of filial piety toward True Parents according to the precious heavenly blessing. Please may he devote himself to True Father in heaven. May he fulfill absolute filial piety. May Elder Moon devote himself to God's only daughter, the realization of Holy Spirit, True Mother, as she leads Heavenly Parent's holy providence toward Vision 2027 and the settlement of a new, unified world. May this life of absolute filial piety toward True Parents always shine! Elder Yong-hyun Moon, who always uplifted us with a cheerful greeting, thank you for your arduous efforts. May peace be with you now! May your life of filial piety toward True Parents always shine at Cheon Bo Won, the eternal heavenly Hall of Fame.