

We Have to Restore a Nation and Tell Everyone in the World About True Parents

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Excerpt



Many of our senior leaders were staying in Las Vegas because True Parents were there. I asked people what we had to be preparing for Foundation Day. They gave me some of their own opinions but after a while, they said they would ask Father. Father came back and said that we had to restore a nation and had to tell the 7 billion people of the world that True Parents are on earth.

I joined the church in 1969 in St. Louis, Missouri, and I thought we had been trying to do that for forty years. What were we going to do in these last three years to make that happen suddenly? I was honestly confused. I wanted desperately to prepare for Foundation Day with no understanding of how to do it.

I asked [the leader who asked me to come to Las Vegas] if I could go back to Africa to meet some heads of state. I was thinking, How was Christianity accepted? Maybe some president of some nation could receive a revelation and accept spiritually, understand that the Messiah is on earth.

Father's autobiography had come out, so Father said, Yeah, go! So, I went. I started meeting heads of state and giving them Father's autobiography. I said, If you want to know how to restore your nation, how to take care of your nation, you should meet the True Parents in Las Vegas. Many would say, I'd like to do that, but...

Step by step, you try to work with them. We brought some First Ladies to Las Vegas, but suddenly Father got sick. Father went to Korea and Father never came back.

I knew that Father had said, If only I could live in God's restored nation before I go to the spiritual world, I would go to the spiritual world happy. When Father passed away, it was a tremendous shock for me because I had focused on having to find a nation before Foundation Day and finding a way to communicate to the 7 billion people of the world, and then Father was gone! It was devastating to me. I believe in the spiritual world. I believe that no one has lived as successful and fantastic a life as has our True Father. I was so sad. We were all so sad, and I knew inside of me that it was because we did not do what we were supposed to do. We did not restore a nation, which Father had needed and wanted desperately to have happen on earth. That's why it was so devastating.



Advance without ceasing

I remember that first meeting with Mother, a public meeting after the Seonghwa ceremony. True Mother stood in front of us saying, If you believe in me... We're not going to stop. Father has gone, but we're not

going to stop, and if you believe in me, miracles will happen. Then she said something else: If you believe in me, you will find that one righteous man, that one righteous person prepared by God, who will lead the way and lead you on that path.

For me, it was like catching a piece of hope, because after Father ascended, I felt hopeless. (Oh my Gosh! We didn't do it. What are we going to do now?) Mother extended hope to us. When she said that, in my heart, I grabbed it and I believed it with all of my heart and soul.

I felt this is our only hope. If the Messiah goes to the spiritual world, what have we done before he goes? What's going to happen to the world when Mother also goes and all of us also go? What traces of True Parents' footsteps will remain? Mother said we have seven years -- Vision 2020 -- a grace period.

Mother herself sent the international headquarters last April to Zambia, and we had an Africa-wide meeting. In the forty-three years I'd been a missionary in Africa, we'd never had that. Mother paid for the tickets of the national leaders so that they all could come. She sent Dr. Yun Hyunook Seo and Rev. Cho Sung-il to teach and guide us, to listen to what we had to say, to listen to what our struggles and our objectives were.

At the end of that meeting, they told us three directions from Mother: Accomplish your heavenly tribal messiah mission. Educate youth, our second generation and all other youth in the world about God's will and God's way through things such as character education and prepare the environment for UPF by contacting VIPs.



A false start

My mission at that time was special emissary to Africa and UPF chair for Africa. They then announced there would be an African Summit, which means UPF. I started thinking, Oh Good. That'll be great. We've never had an African Summit before. Start thinking about what nation has many members, where it would be easy, so to speak, to carry out some kind of conference. Which nations have developed externally, like South Africa has?

I thought, Well, if we have this in South Africa, they have everything we need: the roads are good, the conference centers are good. If it's about VIPs, we can bring a couple heads of state, I'm sure, from other countries in Africa that we already know. That'd be a nice conference, wouldn't it? That was in my mind. I said that to Dr. Yun. I think it would be good in South Africa, Dr. Yun, and I think we could bring a couple heads of state and many parliamentarians, etcetera. He didn't say anything. He said, Hmmm.

True Mother's expectation

About a month later, I got a letter from True Mother, through Dr. Yun and through Hyunook Seo, who translated it. What she said to me was, You should bring fifty-four heads of state to the African Summit. If you can't bring fifty-four, forty-nine would be OK. I should explain that our region in Africa has forty-nine countries, but if you include North Africa, which belongs to our Middle East region, it's fifty-four.

She said, The dream would be fifty-four. The ideal would be forty-nine. I thought to myself, OK, Mother wants forty-nine heads of state. I had just sent a report we had made to Senegal, where a Minister Diop who is an advisor to President Macky Sall, had come to the World Summit last February, a year ago. While he was here, he was deeply moved. Do you remember the musical last February? Right after the

musical Mother came onstage. You may remember it was very mystical. Smoke was all around Mother and the crowd was cheering. He stood up, walked over and grabbed one of our members and said, Who is she? What's going on? Who is she?! Why do you people love her so much? Through the World Summit and at that time last February, he expressed many feelings about Mother and about the event that took place.

Fated meetings

When we visited Senegal, he introduced us to three people, one of whom was Sheikh Mansour Diouf, an important Islamic leader who became an ambassador for peace. We had three ceremonies when I went to Senegal. I reported everything to True Mother. Then, she said, We are not only going to have fifty-four heads of state, we are going to have four parliamentarians from every country in Africa, and two traditional rulers and two religious leaders, two woman leaders and two youth leaders. If possible, instead of just parliamentarians, try to bring the president of the National Assembly. She added that we'd do this in Senegal because she liked so much the report of how we had been received during our time in Senegal.

What she liked was the Minister Diop's attitude toward her. Mother thought we had found that one righteous man. Mother identified that clearly. That deeply tested my faith, because logically speaking, in my mind anyway, it is impossible to bring fifty-four heads of state. It's impossible even to think about bringing forty-nine heads of state. Aren't we kind of wasting our time by thinking in that way? Wouldn't it be better to focus on a few countries?

When I remembered that fateful day when True Mother said, Believe in me. We're not going to stop. We're not only going to keep going, we're going to start running from now on. We're going to accomplish in the next seven years what we were not able to accomplish while Father was on earth.

I thought to myself, That's it. Mother said, "Believe in me" and miracles will happen. I absolutely from that moment on tried to take away any feeling of "this is impossible." But the reality is that there is almost no foundation in Senegal. We have about fifty members at Sunday service if everybody comes, and everybody doesn't always come.

I had realized that Mother chose Senegal because of that one righteous person. Mother caught that point through the reports we had sent to her. She chose Senegal because of that one righteous man who recognized her during the world Summit. We had absolutely no foundation in that country except for fifty people after twenty years of mission work. We didn't know how to witness to Islamic people, or to teach Islamic people. We didn't know how to work with Islamic people. It seemed like an incredible mountain to climb. But if Mother decided this, absolutely no doubt, that was where we were going to go, no matter what and climbing up that mountain we were going to learn many things we never knew before. We started to walk up that path.



Meeting the president

I need to go back forty-three years to 1975. When Father was preparing us missionaries to go out, he gave us a list of ten different things we needed to do in our mission. Father said that the very first thing you have to do is unite. If you don't do that, everything else you do will have no value and it will not bring results.

When we started to prepare to hold this summit in Senegal, we first had to unite with our Mother and our

international headquarters. I can tell you that the last ten months have been some of the worst days of my life -- truly and completely. I vowed every day that I would never do this again. Every night I would wake myself from moaning. I would wake up. I was moaning because I was so fearful that we would not be able to accomplish what Mother wanted. It was so painful because every step of the way we had to fight. Just to get to see the president took us three months -- May, June, July. On July 22, we met the president. Without meeting the president, we could not dream of holding a summit in Senegal.

When we met the president, he said, Yeah. I would love that. I'll co-host that. Where are you going to hold it? I said the Fahid Hotel. He said, No, no, no. You will hold it at the international conference center that we just inaugurated and I'll pay for it. He paid to rent that huge national conference center. It's state of the art. The ball had started to roll but every day there was another crisis.

When UPF has a conference, we rent a hall and then invite the people we want to invite according to the budget. We decide who to invite based upon who the speaker will be. Don't we?

We're free; we can do whatever we want. But this was not the case in Senegal. From the first day, July 22, when the president of Senegal said, All right, let's do this together, we began having meetings two or three times a week with a representative of the president, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the chief of protocol, Sheikh Mansour's local ambassador for peace groups, UPF and our local members in Senegal who had already been working with us.

Yielding through faith

An events company is a company that helps you to organize things. Because we were inviting heads of state, because Macky Sall would be there, they didn't trust us to organize it on our own. Maybe we would hire a cheap caterer and everybody would get sick and all those legislators coming from 54 nations would become ill, go home and say, We got sick in Senegal. So this event company's job was to control us and make sure that we did things right and we did things on a level that would properly represent the president of the country. Those meetings were some of the most difficult moments I have ever spent. I was begging [regional group president] Bakary [Camara], please come to Senegal. I don't want to go to those meetings anymore. If you come, you could take my place. But he had other things to do. He had the tribal messiahs to take care of. We had to go through that process and it was such a painful process. It would have been so much easier to organize the summit with just UPF being the host. Do you understand that? It's a very important point to understand. Had we done that, though, had we organized it as UPF who decides everything, it would never have been the victory that it was.

The world's respect for True Mother

You watched the summit, I suppose. I suppose that you watched Mother's opening plenary session. I was with Mother for many meals during the time she was in Senegal, and after the Opening Plenary session, Mother invited us to lunch and she said, This is the level.... Mother had been received as a head of state in Senegal from beginning to end -- her arrival at the airport, her meeting with Macky Sall before the event, her speech in front of Macky Sall and Macky Sall's speech in return to Mother's speech. Until Mother left the country, she was treated by the government of Senegal, not by us, but by the president himself, as a head of state. That, Mother said, is what should have happened in 1960 when True Parents' marriage of the Lamb took place. True Parents should have come to the world on a national foundation. "A national foundation," that's what Mother said. So, that it happened in 2017 in Senegal, is fifty-seven years too late. But Mother was thrilled. At least, finally, it happened. Mother called me every day. The IHQ was the liaison for Mother and me. It was so much pressure. Every day, they would ask, What did the president say yesterday? Is the president ready to do this? Is the president ready to do that?

A righteous man

Yet to reach the president was still not an easy thing. I couldn't just call him on the phone. What I'm trying to share with you, as Bakary said, When we believe in True Parents, when we believe absolutely in Mother, when we put ourselves on the line, throw ourselves out there, maybe we will look like crazy people if we fail, but if we don't try what will the result be? Where will we go?

When will we reach the level we are supposed to reach? But by putting our lives on the line and I can honestly say that for several of us that was the case, we were able to throw away our fears. No more fear. We are going to do what we are doing based on True Mother's directions. That's why I say unity -- unity with our international headquarters; unity with Mother through them. For me this was the key. If it were left up to Bakary and me, I can guarantee you we would never have had this level of success. As you go to your nations, your cities or wherever you are responsible for, maybe you think, We don't have that kind of foundation; we cannot meet the president. Well, I guarantee you, we did. We met the president through that one righteous man that Mother had talked about. That's how we met him, through the one righteous man. He was there, waiting and he had a dream that he was going to meet these people and these people were going to take him to a different level than he could ever imagine for his life. This is Sheikh

Mansour.

He testifies to the fact that Heavenly fortune came to him through Mother. He is a Muslim. He is a deeply, deeply religious Muslim. What he's feeling is through Mother... "My Mother," he calls her "Mom," "Mama." When he meets Mother, he says, Hi, Mom. Are you Ok, Mom? He says that through her, he has received heavenly fortune. "My life has changed." He said to me, "This is not the Africa Summit." We were always in discussion about that. He said "This is a world summit in Africa." We would say, No, this is the Africa Summit. Then, two weeks before the summit, I got a message from Mother that said, "This is not the Africa Summit; this is the world summit in Africa."

God guides him. He believes that Islam needs True Mother more than it needs any other religion, more than Christianity. He believes that. How could we ever imagine that we would meet that kind of man? How could we imagine that that man would be instrumental in taking us to this level? So the point is not is not Mansour Diouf; the point is not Bakary, it's not me. Mother said, If you put yourself out there on the line, believing in me 100 percent, you are going to meet those people who are absolutely prepared to take you to the level you so must be in. I don't care if it's America. I don't care if it's South America or Asia. I believe that the same is ready and waiting for all of us everywhere.