

Singing "True Parents' Birthday" and "Tongil Arirang" for True Parents' birthday

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In the beginning, we started by going to a three-day workshop to practice two songs to perform for True Parents' birthday. After we arrived at the location at 2:00, we first watched the staff perform two songs, "True Parents' birthday" and "Tongil Arirang." They then separated us by alto and soprano. We practiced the two songs a lot with only a couple of five-ten minute breaks throughout the weekend. After singing for two hours, we finally ate a delicious dinner.

Then we went back to singing the songs from 6:00 to 10:00. My favorite song, of the two, was "Tongil Arirang," because I loved doing the sign language movements with our arms. Then we had a closing and I met our three new roommates, the other four were friends of mine already. We became close to them and had a good relationship with them.

We went to sleep and woke at 5:00 to do Hoon Dok Hae. After that, we sang the songs again

before breakfast. Our schedule was tough; we sat down the whole day and sang the two songs. Staff members helped us Westerners, because we were having a hard time memorizing the Korean song. Their helping us gave me more energy to sing.

After singing the whole day on Saturday, we became tired and I honestly felt like giving up. So, I started to think about what I should do. I asked myself what True Father would do. What I came up with was that he would never give up and would go through the difficulties and see what was lying on the other side. So, that was what I did. I decided to keep singing even if I was tired. I reminded myself that what was on the other side was a chance to see True Mother and perform for her after all the hard days in the workshop.

Yute caused voice strain

We practiced the song for True Parents' birthday every day after school. However, I lost my voice when I played yute, so I couldn't practice singing. Then on February 1, we went to the church in Seoul. There I met everyone from the workshop and practiced the songs there from 2:30 to 6:00 pm. I also made many new friends again. (We even made a secret handshake).

Then we practiced singing from 7:00 to 10:00 pm and left to go to a spa where we slept overnight. We slept at around 11:30 pm and woke up around 4:00 am. We arrived at the Cheongshim Peace World Center around 6:00 am.

When we got there, we practiced singing the songs. I was amazed that my voice came back as I was singing in the morning. So when the time came for all the second-generation members to sing, I was able to sing for the True Parent's birthday. During the event, I was able to feel a little bit of True Mother's love.

When I looked at the crowd, I was astonished by how many people were there to celebrate True Parents' birthday. This was also the first time I had been in the Cheongshim Peace World Center. Several people gave speeches about True Parents. I was able to understand that some people agree with True Parents' teachings but aren't able to believe that True Father is the Messiah.

After the speeches, True Mother cut the cake and the performances began. I was able to see how talented some people are. I also imagined how hard they must have worked to be that good. In one part of the performance, I went to the men's room and I met my pastor from San Leandro, California in America.

When we sang "True Parents' Birthday" and "Tongil Arirang" for True Parents, I felt that True Parents were happy to see us second-generation members performing for them. It was also the first time for me to see The Little Angels perform onstage. To sum it up, I had good experiences and was able feel True Parents' love during the birthday celebration.