

## The Special Grace Ceremony in Puerto Rico

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When I first heard the news that a Special Grace Ceremony would be given, I was very grateful for the unending love of True Parents. As soon as it dawned on me that I would be responsible for holding it in Puerto Rico, fear began to creep into my mind.

The ceremony day came nonetheless, on September 7, 2016. I tried my best to conduct it, but I had been so concerned with my own situation that I had not prepared my best to have a very organized activity. Despite this, we managed to conduct the ceremony.

The most important moment arrived: to drink the Cheon Il Guk Holy Wine. One family had the Holy Wine first, and another one second, and so on, so that we could take photos. Everything went smoothly, apart from my eldest daughter feeling sad because she left too little of it for her sister.

At the end of the ceremony, we said goodbye to the daughter of Luis and Conchita Abadia, who was going to Special Task Force (STF) Europe for a second year as a team leader. The Abadia family received Marta as an offering child from our family. When we asked Marta Abadia to say a few words before she left, she told us that, "We are all one family." I think her message was clear. True Parents' love gave us not only forgiveness but also brought unity among us. Luis and Conchita said that they felt like new people after taking the Cheon Il Guk Holy Wine.

As for myself, the next day I was still struggling, thinking about something that had happened close to 25 years ago. My wife told me to forget everything, that True Mother had forgiven everything. It finally dawned on me. This Special Grace Ceremony was real. True Parents had once again given everything for us. But always we have 5% responsibility. I had to not only believe wholeheartedly in what had been

given to us, I had to live it. Now it was time to forget all the past and regain confidence. We need to invest ourselves into fulfilling our missions as tribal messiahs.

