

Global Top Gun Youth pilgrimage to Korean FFWPU historic and sacred sites

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On August 3, the Global Top Gun Youth (GTGY) Workshop participants got up bright and early for the first day of our pilgrimage to historic and sacred holy ground sites located throughout Korea. Since there are so many of us, we split into two groups and charted separate courses.

Group One started with Cheongae or "Blue Sea" Garden in Yeosu, the location of which True Parents selected as the central location for the ocean providence in Korea in January 2003, after an extensive search. During their stay there, the GTGY participants visited the local church and True Father's Hoon Dok Hae room.

Group Two went to Paju Wonjeon, to Cheonbok Gung, and then to

Cheongpa-dong. Our guide knew so much of the history, and shared about when True Parents spent their days there.

Paju Wonjeon is a Unificationist burial ground located in the city of Paju, Gyeonggi Province. The approximately half a million pyeong (roughly four hundred acres) of land was donated by Lee Shin-shil, a Presbyterian who joined the unification movement in the 1960s.



For staff member, Shinyoung Chang, it was her first time going to Paju Wonjeon. "I had no idea it was so

large," she said, "and that there are already ten members of True Parents' family resting there. Having hundreds of us there at once made the experience more profound than it could have been otherwise. There are many paths and levels, very beautifully landscaped. The entire experience felt like a true pilgrimage of faithful people paying their respects.

"Being an older second-generation Unificationist, I cannot but cry when it comes to Hyo Jin Moon. This is was my first time greeting him at his resting place; Young Jin Moon as well. I said a little prayer at both graves, asking them to please watch over their younger brothers and sisters at this time and show them each how to connect to True Mother's heart. What touched me most was individuals who took the initiative to stop and pray alone."



At Cheonbok Gung in Yongsan, Seoul, participants again had an opportunity to pray on their own. True Parents officiated its dedication ceremony in February 2010. Cheonbok Gung serves as the FFWPU-Korea headquarters church. Korea has always had a headquarters church. In the early days, it was the one where True Father gave the Sunday sermon.

After some development, they also have a church headquarters, which is an administrative office building. The headquarters church has changed many times over the years. Two still exist in Cheongpa-dong. We visited the older one, which saw many historic moments in the unification movement, from some of the first educational workshops about the Divine Principle to the engagement and Holy Wedding ceremonies of True Parents, as well as the birth of several of their children.

The group in Busan visited the Beomnaegol Memorial Hall, built around the outcropping where True Father and one of his earliest disciples, Kim Won-pil, built a hut out of mud and cardboard, in which True Father completed the original manuscript for the Divine Principle.

A few minutes' walk from the memorial hall, we came to the Rock of Tears, where True Father as a young man and later True Parents together, offered intense and tearful prayers of devotion to realize God's will for humankind. Connecting to that same, deep spirit of prayer, many people were similarly moved to tears as they placed their hands on the rock in prayer.

Continuing up the mountain, christened "Mt. Cheonbu" by True Mother in 2001, we reached the summit, where you can look out over the whole of the Port of Busan and two, large pagodas stand, representing True Father and True Mother. True Father was said to walk up to the summit, after a day's work down in the port, to meditate and reflect on his mission and God's heart.

Our other group visited Mungyeong Saejae, a mountain pass through which True Father, Won-pil Kim, and a third companion, Jeong-hwa Pak traveled on their way south after True Father was released from Hungnam Prison. This was an important, hard-to-reach landmark on the journey south. Jeong-hwa Pak had suffered severe injuries to the lower half of his body and could not walk on his own, so the trio continued southward by alternately carrying him and utilizing a bicycle that had come into their possession to make their way.

In memory of the selfless and sacrificial heart demonstrated by True Father and Won-pil Kim toward their injured companion, our GTGY participants took turns carrying one another toward the entrance to the path.

We are grateful for those that have kept GTGY in your prayers.