



New Year Greeting - Happy 2016!

Ki Hoon Kim and Michael Balcomb
January 1, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year, 2016! Even though we now celebrate God's Day on the Heavenly Calendar—it will be February 8 this year—there's still something special and soothing about our long tradition of starting the year in prayer. We had a large and enthusiastic crowd at the Holy Rock at Belvedere last night, as we did in many other churches and homes across the nation.

Pastor Drissa Kone had asked me to prepare some words for the Belvedere gathering and I came across a speech given by True Father in January 1978 about the importance of hope that certainly caught my attention—

First of all, I would like to wish you happy New Year. In sending last year away everyone feels regret and sadness because of some lack of fulfillment. Not too many can look back on the entire year and say that they have done well, and particularly in welcoming this year everyone must resolve themselves to not have these regrets again in welcoming next. Each day should certainly have a goal but at the end of the day many people wish they could have done better. If that is the case with a day, what about a year? What about the end of life?

Even though a person may have some regrets from the past year, as long as he or she has hope and vision and determination to launch into the goal for the New Year, that man or woman can go on. If he or she has no vision and hope, however, that person is finished. Day always follows the night and even though no one really loves the darkness of night, they can still look beyond that darkness to the new day coming. Hope overcomes the darkness.
(Belvedere, 1/8/78)

Right after the prayer service concluded, we heard from Dr. Ki Hoon Kim who celebrated the New Year with True Mother in Korea. He sent this brief text early this morning:

We had a good time with True Mother on the first day of the year. She looks very fine and in good spirits. She shared a little about the plans for coming events in Korea on Foundation Day (February 20) and True Parent's Birthday (February 13). There will be an International Leadership Conference dealing with the issues such as climate change and food security (as addressed by the Sun Hak Peace Prize winners last year,) as well as an interfaith focus. Another area will be the ongoing effort to establish in Korea a 5th Main Office for the United Nations.

Here in the United States, as in all nations, we are also planning to host public True Parents' birthday celebrations on the national and city levels with an emphasis on outreach.

May God, our Heavenly Parent, bless all our families in 2016. It's going to be a great year!

Dr. Ki Hoon Kim
Continental Director

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