

On Starting the 40-day Special Dedication Period for the Victory of the 10th Anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa: Heavenly Europe

Michael Balcomb
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Europe and Middle East region wide ZOOM call, Wednesday, July 6, 2022, 20:00 CET Number of participants: 3,600

Message by: Dr. Michael Balcomb, Regional Group President of Heavenly Europe

Good evening, everyone! Some of you may be surprised that True Mother hosted a special Sunday service in Busan and that you were not invited to be there. Usually, our whole European region has the opportunity to watch the live broadcast on PeaceLink TV. But this time, only a few key leaders from Europe were invited. However, the good news is that we recorded the entire program, and I encourage you to watch it as soon as possible.

The theme of the service, True Mother's message, and of the coming 40-day period of devotion is "Let's go meet True Father!" As we all know, in Busan, True Father began his ministry again after surviving the Heungnam prison and escaping to the South as a refugee.

With nothing but his absolute determination and faith in God, he wrote the first edition of the Principle, the Wollli Wonbon, and began to witness. Early disciples recall that True Father sat on the Rock of Tears and prayed for the day when the world would come to Korea to learn the ways of peace. A few years later, he moved to Seoul, and in 1960 the Marriage Supper of the Lamb took place, and the long-awaited True Parents appeared on earth.



Busan holds a very special memory for me too. It is a beautiful new facility built on the site of the former church. Five years ago, while leading the American church and just before being assigned to Europe, I was invited, along with other leaders, to join True Mother in reopening the Busan Church. At that time, True Mother spoke passionately of her determination to fulfill Father's global vision when he began his ministry and to see the world coming to Korea to meet True Parents and Heavenly Parent.

She hasn't forgotten that pledge. During her speech last Sunday, she said how excited she was that the Cheon Won Gung, the holy temple of God, will open next May and be a place where everyone can meet

Heavenly Parent and learn about the life of True Parents.

We are thrilled to see that all of the leaders that True Mother has invested in over the past few years are still moving forward with the providence. If you watch the full 3½-hour video of Sunday's event, you will also hear Dr. Yun Young-ho report about some recent developments in Africa. One interesting point noted by Dr. Yun is that one of the Sunhak Peace Prize winners is now the president of the African Union, and another Sunhak Peace Prize winner is the president of ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations]. So, blessings are coming to people who follow True Parents! That is something we always want to keep in mind.

I want to give us some homework for this week.

We have prepared a 21-minute video so that you can study True Mother's speech for yourself. We also will watch it together at the end of this service since today is exactly 40 days before the 10th Anniversary of True Father's Holy Ascension.

There's also a transcript available to read and study in more depth.

During the coming 40 days, we will be looking at some of the most important speeches by True Parents about the coming of Cheon Il Guk, God's Kingdom on Earth. This week, it is True Mother's kick-off speech. Next week, it will be True Father's last words and guidance to us from 2012. Let's take time together, over these 40 days, to look deeper into True Parents' words.

As well as study and prayer, we need action. I want to remind you that every region, nation, community, and family should make a clear plan of how you will celebrate Father's Seonghwa anniversary. It should be a public celebration to which friends, family, members of other faiths, city mayors, and others can come. Over the next 40 days, we have to use our creativity to think about how we will mark this important anniversary. Of course, internally, we will do it with our devotion and prayer. But every family and community needs to think about it. Keep that in your mind.

So let's all start these 40 days by watching True Mother's special message together.

God bless you all!