

Peace and Freedom for This Generation

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The iconic Brandenburg Gate sealed off from the West by the Berlin Wall

Peace and freedom for this generation. This was a compelling thought recurring in my mind during an uplifting weekend in Berlin last week, at which I attended an event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the CARP Rally at the Berlin Wall.

Of course, 30 years ago, peace and freedom was but a distant dream for many people living in Germany. At the time, the country was divided, East and West, as was Berlin. A wall more than 2 metres tall was erected in 1961 around the democratic West Berlin, not to keep people in but to prevent East Germans and East Berliners escaping from their communist society and defecting to the West. Many people nevertheless tried to cross from one side to the other: Some succeeded; others died trying. In 1987, Germans resigned themselves to the fact that the Wall that had stood for already 26 years – a Wall which also represented the Cold War frontier between the free world of democracy and the tyranny of Communism – would probably continue to stand for any decades to come.

Spurred on by the prophetic and visionary leadership of True Father, a group of young Germans dared to dream of a different future. Members of CARP (Collegiate Association for the Research of Principle) began organising campaigns to raise awareness of the flaws in Communist ideology and rallied West German students to reject the so-called peace activism of Marxist students and campaign for the downfall of the Soviet empire. CARP members from around the world were brought together by True Parents' eldest son, Hyo Jin nim, and after several years of spiritual devotion and strategic campaigning, a rally was held in August 1987 at the Berlin Wall. 2 years later, after this spiritual condition had been made, the Wall indeed fell.

At [the event commemorating this occasion](#), many testimonies were shared about the miraculous circumstances at that time. It would be impossible to retell all the stories, but I saw a pattern emerging from what I heard: In order for God's miraculous power to manifest itself, 2 key things were required, the first of which was vertical unity with the common purpose and the second of which was horizontal unity with each other. This is basic Divine Principle, basic religion, basic life: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength... Love your neighbour as yourself." Listening to the witnesses of events 30 years ago, I could see that these 2 principles were lived out by those involved.

My thoughts then drifted from the proud nostalgia of yesteryear's victory to the situation today. Although the victory of Communism brought the possibility of peace and freedom to all those suffering under Communist authoritarianism, people today still suffer from a lack of true peace and true freedom in their lives. Many walls still exist at many levels: The walls inside our minds and hearts, the walls between

family members, the walls between nations and religions, the walls between ideologies and lifestyles; all of these present barriers to inheriting the true love (and true life and true lineage) of God.



Hyo Jin nim leading the 1987 CARP rally from the front

Years before the Berlin Wall fell and Communism crumbled, True Father educated his followers that they should tackle God's biggest headache as a priority, which at the time was Communism. But once they had been victorious in defeating (and then loving) the enemy, True Father said there were "smaller" problems to tackle, like sexual immorality and religious sectarianism. During the event last weekend, young CARP leaders spoke publicly of their admiration for the accomplishments of their elders and promised to do something meaningful in their generation too. I believe that if we simply adhere to the simple principles of unity with God's representative on earth (True Parents) and loving harmony amongst each other, we can make miracles happen.

I believe this generation can be victorious over sexual immorality. We will defeat those who oppose God's beautiful plan for sex, but then we will love them and share with them true sexual peace and true sexual freedom.

I believe this generation can be victorious over religious sectarianism. We will defeat those who use faith as a tool for violence and hatred, but then we will love them and share with them true religious peace and true religious freedom.

And most significantly, I believe this generation can be victorious over North Korea. At this time of heightened tensions around the Korean peninsula, our global movement must mobilise to give true peace and freedom to the people of North Korea, including its leadership. Our new European region shares a border with North Korea – [our new regional structure](#) includes Russia, with which North Korea shares a border near Vladivostok – so it's imaginable that our region can work together to invest spiritual devotion and deliver strategic campaigns to transform the Korean peninsula.

30 years ago, an elder generation of CARP members brought peace and freedom to Germany. I hope that this generation will be able to pull off a miracle even greater.