

FFWPU Korea's Blessing Ceremony for the Juhyeon Kyobu Religious Group

Gi Seong Lee
September 2018



On September 2, at 10 am, under the blessing of a bright autumn sky with white clouds of various shapes, in Iksan, which is in our North Jeolla church district, Subregion Four of FFWPU-Heavenly Korea held a Blessing Ceremony for a religious group in line with True Parents' heavenly directive.

After True Mother blessed Jeolla Province as the Jeolla "nation" within Heavenly Korea in the sixth year of Cheon Il Guk, she visited Yeosu on May 29. On that day, while visiting the Ocean District Headquarters, True Mother gave the directive to "Open the doors of Christian churches." After hearing this, the church leaders and other members of Subregion Four began to offer devotions to realize this mandate. Due to their substantial devotions and efforts the Iksan FFWPU pastor, Na In-hwan, and members of his congregation focused on the Juhyeon Kyobu religious group, they were able to realize such precious results.

For a long time, through inter-religious activities, the members of Juhyeon Kyobu and the members of our Iksan church cultivated friendships and continued cross-communications. The leader of the religious group, Lee Kyo-bu, attended FFWPU lectures and workshops and came to have a deep understanding of True Parents and the Divine Principle. Through this, he accepted from True Parents the mission of a heavenly tribal messiah and decided to integrate his organization with FFWPU and to hold this Blessing Ceremony.

During the ceremony, which has become the starting point of FFWPU's efforts to hold blessings of religious groups, Rev. Lee Kyo-bu, as head of the Juhyeon Kyobu, received a plaque and an appointment as a Religious Group Heavenly Tribal Messiah. It was a formal and gracious event. The participants faced the ceremony with reverence and wore holy robes.

The ceremony

Our Iksan church leader, Na In-hwan, was MC and Lee Gi-seong, president of FFWPU-Heavenly Korea and his wife officiated the 2018 True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind, Juhyeon Kyobu Religious Group Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing.

The program proceeded as follows: Founder Lee gave a pre-ceremony speech. A video presentation followed this and marked the beginning of the ceremony proper. We all then sang the Cheon Il Guk anthem. District Leader Kim In-shik prayed and then attendants entered, followed by the officiators, President Lee Gi-seong and his wife. Everyone pledged to become heavenly tribal messiahs. Founder Lee received his religious group's Heavenly Tribal Messiah Mission Appointment plaque. FFWPU President Lee spoke. He and his wife conducted the Holy Wine ritual. Everyone recited the Blessing Vows. President Lee gave the benediction prayer and declared the event to Heaven. Sub-regional leader Lim Jong-hyeok gave the congratulatory address and Deaconess Lee Myeong-suk of FFWPU-Iksan presented flowers to Founder Lee. They cut a cake. Our Iksan choir sang a congratulatory song. FFWPU-Iksan

presented a gift to the newly blessed couples and Founder Lee presented True Mother with fifty bags (one ton) of rice. The Iksan church also offered a gift to True Mother. The officiators led those assembled in three cheers. Everyone participated in a group photograph, announcements followed and ended with the event being declared complete.



Neighbors found joy

We also had had pre-ceremony entertainment with the support of the local community, beginning with traditional music (*samulnori*) by a farmers' band made up of citizens of Madong, the neighborhood Juhyeon Kyobu is located in, and other guest singers.

A John-the-Baptist figure

Before the main ceremony, Lee Kyo-bu, as leader of Juhyeon Kyobu said, "I lived my life by putting the name of Juhyeon Kyobu on the line to realize harmony in this nation, the unification of North Korea and South Korea, and unification of the world. The work of religion founder Lee Kyo-bu and the work of the Unification Church's Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han Moon are the same. Therefore, I promise to unite the religious groups and work together to realize that goal. It is not through lectures and education that I know the Unification Church; it is via a connection of the heart. During their lifetimes, Rev. Moon and Mrs. Moon established branches in 194 nations, established numerous apostles of peace, and lived for the world. They are the ones who created the nation we have now. No one else has been able to do the work that they have done. Rev. and Mrs. Moon are elders who gave love to people in all places, such as Africa. They gave love to everyone, to all hungry people, using their own money to protect people's lives by giving them food. The time of achievement has come. Let us realize a united world, a world of peace, together!" During his speech, the religion founder Lee Kyo-bu, explained the significance of the event and appealed to the participants to unite with FFWPU.

Religious Leader Lee's pledge

Pastor Na In-hwan of Iksan Church began the main event by declaring that it had officially begun. After singing the Cheon Il Guk Anthem, District Leader Kim In-shik offered a prayer. He prayed, "Let us think of the Parable of the Ten Virgins in Mathew chapter 25. Religious Leader Lee and the members of the Juhyeon church have met the Messiah, who came late in the night to hold the wedding banquet. May the grace of salvation through the blessing, which leads you to eternal life as you are reborn as True Parents' true children -- be with you."

President Lee Gi-seong then entered as the officiator and all participants attended with reverence in white holy robes. After the entrance of the officiators, President Lee received from Lee Kyo-bu, leader of the Juhyeon Kyobu, his pledge to be a Heavenly Tribal Messiah and gave him a plaque appointing him as a Heavenly Tribal Messiah.

The MC asked, "Do you pledge to do your utmost to accomplish your Heavenly Tribal Messiah mission to realize the ideal of one human family centered on the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, who have realized the dream of the Creator, our Heavenly Parent?" Religious Leader Lee replied affirmatively.

President Lee Gi-seong then said, "I appoint you as a Religious Group Heavenly Tribal Messiah for making the resolution to realize the ideal of one human family centered on the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, who have realized the dream of the Creator, our Heavenly Parent." He then

presented the plaque of appointment to religion founder Lee Kyo-bu. President Lee then gave him the three great Cheon Il Guk holy scriptures as a gift from True Parents as congratulations. Following this, President Lee gave the ceremonial address.



President Lee's ceremonial address

"Today is the day that you who attend religion founder Lee receive the greatest blessing Heaven can offer. Religious Leader Lee Kyo-bu, participated in a twenty-one-day Divine Principle workshop given by True Parents long ago in the 1980s. At that time, because he already knew the path that people must go and the truth, life, and love of the path of one's life, he said, 'Do not follow me, go to the Unification Church.' Numerous people said no, scorned and slandered him, but Heaven knew religion founder Lee Kyo-bu's pure heart."

"Jesus came to this land as the next Adam. Jesus proposed the path to being reborn. In order to be reborn, there must be a parent. Therefore, Jesus too must come to earth as a son and later become a father. Jesus came to this land as the only son of God but could not meet the only daughter of God and died on the cross."

"Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon came to this land as the True Parents and centered on the True Parents' love began the blessing through which all people can be reborn. Three couples received the blessing, then thirty-six couples, then seventy-two couples, 124 couples, 777 couples, 1,800 couples. How many people do you think I received the blessing with? I received the blessing with 6,000 couples, at a place where people from eighty-four nations had gathered. After that, the blessing spread throughout the world. Recently, 4,000 couples received the blessing and 280,000 couples received the blessing through internet broadcast."

"The greatest grace Jesus could give us was becoming an adopted child. The direct bloodline remained unconnected so he returned, and the returning Messiah gave the blessing. Through this Blessing Ceremony, not only people who are living but ascended spirits can receive salvation. This is why we call it the Cosmic Blessing Ceremony. Therefore, all humankind in heaven and on earth will be reborn."

"A longtime missionary in Tanzania was shot and martyred. However, a Tanzanian prophet named Paul Vendera had a surprising experience and met a woman representing Heaven. For four years, he searched for this woman and one day he came to a Blessing Ceremony to give the congratulatory address. While he was there, he watched a video and realized the woman in the video, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, was the woman that for four years he had been searching for. Once he learned this, he completely changed and received the blessing. In this way, a new history is unfolding. Today, the time is too short for you to be able to understand all of this. I pray that when the time is right you will deeply realize the meaning of the blessing."

President Lee's benediction

President Lee told those in attendance that through attending and receiving True Parents' blessing they would be reborn as true children. The Holy Wine Ceremony followed this. Three representative couples came to the stage and participated in the holy wine ceremony. After the Holy Wine Ceremony, the officiating couple led the Holy Water Ceremony. Then through the Holy Blessing Vows, the participants pledged to follow the traditions of the blessing.

During the benediction, which followed, President Lee prayed, "I am deeply grateful for your grace in

holding the Juhyeon Kyobu Religious Group Hyo Jeong Cosmic Blessing and for establishing religion founder Lee Kyo-bu as a heavenly tribal messiah. Under the parent of a tribe, we are tied together as brothers and sisters of one family centered on Heavenly Parent. I sincerely pray that Religious Leader Lee of Juhyeong Kyobu and those participating today can realize a united Korea centered on Heavenly Parent and become children who can be entered into the Cheon Bo Won."

Brothers in heart

Religious Leader's solemnity during Lee Gi-seong's prayer left a deep impression. The officiator's declaration of the Holy Blessing of the participants went out to the entire world marked the conclusion of the Blessing Ceremony. A representative couple from the Blessing Ceremony participants presented President Lee Giseong and his wife with flowers. President Lee then passed the flowers to Religious Leader Lee in congratulations and they took a commemorative photo together.

Lim Jonghyeok, subregional director of Subregion Four, gave the congratulatory address. He congratulated Religious Leader Lee Kyo-bu on receiving the blessing as a Religious Group Heavenly Tribal Messiah.

The congratulatory address

"I think it was a very difficult decision for Religious Leader Lee, while being responsible for a religious organization, to declare he would go forward together with the Family Federation. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon has been making declarations to realize the ideal family. The Family Federation membership is rising at a fast pace."

"We judge based on our physical eyes. However, the substantiation of God, cannot judge without following the conscience. Now you all are the sons and daughters of the eternal Heavenly Parent. We have become brothers and sisters. Religious Leader Lee Kyo-bu saw the name Heavenly Korea in a book. He has been following a path toward realizing this new Korea and because the Family Federation is also walking toward a Heavenly Korea, which attends Heavenly Parent, I believe it is Heaven's blessing that these two religious groups met."

President Lee Gi-seong, his wife, and Religious Leader Lee then cut a celebration cake. After cutting the cake, the time for gift giving had arrived. For permitting this Blessing Ceremony, Religious Leader Lee offered True Parents a gift of fifty bags of rice (one ton) and the Iksan Church offered a humble donation gift to True Parents. The Iksan Church choir then sang congratulatory songs to praise the Blessing Ceremony and its participants. Lastly, President Lee Gi-seong led three rounds of Eok Mansei and concluded the event.

Though this blessing was inadequate, it holds significance as the first results after True Parents gave the directive to "open the doors of the Christian Churches" on May 29 at the Ocean District Headquarters in Subregion 4. The day on which this was written is also the day that the North Jeolla District Headquarters Church completed their thirteenth forty-day period of devotion.

I feel this proves True Parents teachings that in line with Heaven's planned, if we receive True Parents' directives and go forward offering devotions with all our heart and all our strength, there is nothing we cannot realize. Though this event was insufficient, it was conducted on the foundation of the gathered devotion of all the members toward achieving True Parents' expectations, which were the first steps toward substantiating the word as expressed our True Parents. I offer the complete glory of today to True Parents.