

## FFWPU Int.: On-the-Road North Story Talk Concert with Minister Kim Young-ho

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On April 27, the Cheonan Grand Church of Heavenly Korea hosted an 'On-the-Road North Story Talk Concert' with Minister Kim Young-ho of the Ministry of Unification. This event aimed to pray for North-South unification and the victory of national restoration.

Held at the Chungnam Student Education and Culture Center in Cheonan, Chungnam, the talk concert drew over 300 participants, including Grand Church President Song In-young, Minister Kim Young-ho, Kim Beop-hye (Chairman of the Chungmugong Kim Si-min Memorial Association), Song Moon-yong (Director of Joongbu Daily), Kim Han-jun (Director of Joongdo Daily), as well as citizens, students, and Family Federation members.

The program included an opening performance, welcoming and congratulatory speeches, a plaque of appreciation presentation, a keynote lecture by the Minister of Unification, a talk concert with invited panelists, a Q and A session, a performance by the Cheongna Choir, and a Kendo team demonstration.

In his keynote lecture, Minister Kim Young-ho presented a special lecture on the economic and social realities of North Korea. Chairman Kim Beop-hye, in his welcoming speech, emphasized the spirit of loyalty and patriotism exemplified by Chungmugong, noting that true patriots are those who dedicate their lives to their country and people without regional or factional divisions. He expressed hope for the successful implementation of policies promoting peace and unification, highlighting that despite over 70 years of division, Koreans have lived together for over 5,000 years and must continue to live as one national community.

Following this, the Chungmugong Kim Si-min Memorial Association, through Grand Church President Song In-young, presented a plaque of appreciation to Minister Kim Young-ho.

Minister Kim's keynote lecture included materials based on interviews with North Korean defectors, focusing on the 'Report on the Economic and Social Realities of North Korea.' Lee So-yeon, a former North Korean military defector and representative of the New Korea Women's Federation (NKHA), who appeared in the movie \*Beyond Utopia\*, shared her harrowing defection journey and untold stories from the film, leaving a profound impact on the audience.

The North Story Talk Concert was praised for enhancing understanding of North Korea and raising awareness about unification at a time when interest in these issues is waning.