

FFWPU UK: The Ascension of Rev. Masatoshi Abe

Bogdan Pammer
July 8, 2025



The Ascension of Rev. Masatoshi Abe

Our beloved elder brother, friend and colleague, Mr. Masatoshi Abe, has ascended after a long illness. His Seonghwa Ceremony was held on Monday, July 7 in Japan. The Europe and Middle East region was represented at the service by Mr. Hod Ben Zwi, former National Leader of FFWPU Israel, and Dr. Katsumi Ohtsuka, FFWPU EUME Cheoneuiwon chair (2021-2025). Mr. Abe is survived by his daughter Yoko, and son Aancod, and will surely now be reunited with his wife, Mrs. Chizuko Abe, who ascended in 2022. The Abes were blessed as part of the 43 couples in 1969, almost sixty years ago.



Those of us who lived in the United Kingdom will always remember Mr. Abe and Mrs. Abe as dedicated and serious disciples of True Parents. They took over UK National Leadership after the demoralizing loss of the Daily Mail libel case, and steered the movement through the following governmental investigations that might have caused us to lose our charitable status and much more. With an emphasis on prayer,

tradition, sacrifice, and yes, indemnity, they led our UK movement with great passion and intensity.



Yet there was another light-hearted side to Mr. Abe as well. He was keen on physical as well as spiritual adventure and challenge. Many were the nights that we went out to Primrose Hill to pray all night long as we overlooked London. I well remember several successful fishing trips together with other leaders, and there was the very memorable occasion when we all climbed Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the United Kingdom, building a great team spirit along the way. Mr. Abe was always interested in the latest news, politics, the economy and history, and loved sincere discussion and debate, and completely mastered English to do so.



When in the 1990s Mr. Abe fell quite seriously ill and was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital near Lancaster Gate, his wife prescribed him a spartan spiritual diet of prayer and reading Divine Principle and True Parents' speeches and absolutely nothing else. I remember paying a quiet visit to him one afternoon with one other brother, and smuggling in a copy of the Economist, which he loved to read, and the Asahi

Shimbun, the only Japanese newspaper we can find. He looked up from his pillow with real gratitude.



After concluding their service in the United Kingdom, the Abes became National Messiahs to Israel, and I met them there again on many occasions. In the winter of 2003, we held the successful "Coronation of Jesus" Rally in Jerusalem's Independence Park under his watch. Even though it was the time of the second Intifada, we marched together with hundreds of Christian ministers and other overseas leaders all the way through the old city to the Wailing Wall, the Dome of the Rock and back to the park, utterly determined to see victory.

Rest in peace, Mr. Abe!

Michael Balcomb





To view some messages of condolences and gratitude from members view or download the PDF.

[Messages of condolences and gratitude for Masatoshi Abe](#)

Dear Yoko san,

my heartfelt condolences for the ascension to the spiritual world of your father
Masatoshi Abe who worked hard for the providence in Europe
May Heavenly Parent bless him

Stefano Stefani 6000 couples

Dear Yoko,

My wife Catherine and I are very sorry to hear of the passing of your father. It's likely you will not remember us but we remember you well as a small child before moving away with your parents.

We served under the leadership of your parents for many years and were always so grateful for the love and care they showed us and the enormous trust they placed in us through the various responsibilities we were given.

However much we may accomplish in our time here on this earth there is, inevitably, that moment when we have to leave our mortal selves behind to continue our journey in the heavenly realms. For my wife and I your father's memory here in the UK, indeed of your parents both, will be as warriors for God and steadfast leaders but on a more personal note, a great support and guide at a time when we faced personal challenges at the loss of a son after just a few days.

I feel quite sure that our Heavenly Parent will bless your father for his sacrifices here and for his attendance to heaven and guide him in this time of his transition and our prayers are that he will find peace and love as he joins with your mother in his new heavenly home.

We will remember him always with much love and affection.

For a time this will be for you, a period of mourning as you say farewell and prepare for his Seonghwa ceremony but please know that our love, our hearts and our prayers go out to you in support and of course, for your father as he takes his first steps in his new life.

May God bless you and your family and may God bless your father in this time of transition.

Ron and Catherine German

I would like to send my condolences to the family of Mr. Abe and extend my best of wishes on his ascending to the sp. World / Heaven.

The clarity and vision the European movement shared under his leadership, for saving each nation for Heaven's side, was the reason I was witnessed to, educated and later blessed.

I pray that this vision, inspired by Trie Parents, for saving Europe to Heaven's side will find place in the priorities of the UM European leadership once again, as the spirit of pioneering and witnessing is being reignited.

Best regards

Tinko Tinev

"Dear Yoko, I'm so sorry for your loss. Although I didn't know your father, I'm sending you love and support. I just want you to know that my thoughts are with you during this difficult time. With love, Margarida Frazão (from Portugal)"

Thank you for the opportunity to send love.

Best Regards,

Margarida Frazão

Dear Yoko-san,

Your father was a treasure. He had the most wonderful dry sense of humour and was dearly loved by western members.

Peace, Love and Music,

Gordon and Tae Baillie

Dear Yoko and family

Our thoughts and love go out to you all on the passing of your dad.

I was very privileged to work with Mr Abe (and Mrs Abe) for many years in Lancaster Gate HQ and saw you growing up from a very young age.

Your father was one of True Parents' heroes, dedicating all his life in foreign missions. He was sometimes very serious and very strict and at other times very cheeky and funny. We went through many good and some difficult times together and I always had admiration for his leadership.

May Heavenly Parent richly bless you all.

Much love David (and Mary) Franklin, London UK

Dear Ms. Yoko,

Please accept our sincere condolences on the passing of Mr. Abe.

Mr. Abe touched so many lives during his time in Europe. His leadership, guidance, and the example he set through his life of faith will be remembered by all of us with deep respect and gratitude.

We pray that Mr. Abe has a smooth and peaceful journey to the spiritual world and that he has been warmly received with joy and love by our Heavenly Parent and our True Father.

With heartfelt sympathy,

Lluís & Chatiboot Babi, FFWPU Andorra.
Dear Yoko,

I send you my deepest sympathy on the passing of your father to the spiritual world. I spent several years working closely with your parents in Lancaster Gate and I have kept a deep affection and respect for them both. They are such a sincere and faithful couple who invested themselves for UK and Europe and were among the people who helped us establish a standard of attendance which remains to this day.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, and of course with your father as he takes this final step in life to rejoin your mother who went ahead.

May you celebrate a victorious ascension ceremony with many wonderful testimonies to his life lived in attendance to Our Heavenly Parent, the True Parents and the providence.

With my sincere best wishes

Jenny Lambert

Dear Yoko,

Keiko and I would like offer, first, our sincere condolences on the passing of your father.

As a couple, we are truly indebted to both your parents. As a department leader in the British church in the 1980s, I was helped by Mr Abe's clear, firm leadership. He made an immense effort to connect us to the heart and spirit of True Parents, taking us fishing, or climbing Ben Nevis. And he made sure to win us over with his very special sense of humour; I remember some of those jokes to this day!

Many years later it was our privilege to work once more in the same region as Mr Abe. We remember that during the national messiah workshop he prayed desperately to receive the mission to Israel. As others will testify, Mr Abe's leadership in Israel greatly strengthened all of our movement's efforts across the Middle East.

It is our honour to write even these few words in gratitude for the pioneering and outstanding example of your father, Mr Abe.

David and Keiko Fraser Harris
UPF secretary general, EUME
National messiah, Syria

Dear Yoko,

We are very sad to hear of the passing of your father yesterday, he and Mrs Abe were very important people in our lives for many years in the 80's, guiding and

inspiring us to invest ourselves in the Providence in England, as we are sure you remember well.

Our prayers and thoughts are with you in this time of his transition.

Love and best wishes,
Trevor and Faith Jones
Dear Yoko.

Our heartfelt condolences we convey to you from the Netherlands! The memory of your precious father fills us with deep gratitude. All of us in Europe and Middle East owe so much to him. We wish you lots of strength and comfort in the time to come!

Hans and Mieko Campman.

To the family of Rev. Abe.

From the Scottish community, we wish to send love to your family during this time. We are forever grateful for all the sincere investment by Mr and Mrs Abe into our little corner of the world, here in the UK.
May you be comforted in Heavenly Parent's everlasting arms.

Yours sincerely,
Maryann McDonald

Dear Yoko-san,

We are so sorry to hear your father's passing this morning.
We really appreciate his great leadership in UK and missionary work in Israel.
He is greatly missed by many members in Europe and Middle East.

Thank you for your family's devotion to heavenly work.

Kind regards
Robin & Keiko Shaw
United Kingdom

Dear Yoko San,

Many sincere condolences and sympathy on the passing of your father, Rev Abe, and I pray that you and your family will feel God's Love and Support at this time.

Your parents served the UK with greatest dedication for many years, and are remembered with appreciation and respect for their sacrifice and investment. You also lived here for some years and I hope that you may have some happy and uplifting memories of that time.

As one of a Japanese-UK couple, our children were named by your parents, so that was very special.

Thank you again for all that they did for this country. May Rev Abe's spirit ascend graciously to be close to True Father, and to be re-united with Mrs Abe.

Many respectful greetings to you and your family.

Anne Kobayashi (UK)

Dear Yoko-san

I am very sorry to hear of the passing of your beloved father. Please, be assured that UK members are appreciative of both of your parents dedication whilst guiding this country. No one else at the time had the strength, courage and spiritual insight to lead the British Isles.

In November 1986 I came to Britain from Germany. One day there were about thirty members standing in a circle in the foyer of Lancaster Gate. I cannot remember the occasion. Suddenly, Mr Abe asked: and how is Roswitha? I didn't expect he knew my name, let alone being concerned if I was alright. This experience made me feel special and very welcome.

Dear Yoko, your parents are celebrities in the spirit world. I do hope this provides you with some comfort, however small, at this time. And please, do let us know should you wish to visit Britain in the future.

Sincerely,
Roswitha Claxton