Documentary filmed on our work in Puerto Leda, Paraguay

Michihito Sano November 2014



Mr. Tom Waes (in the black T-shirt) being filmed at Farm Leda for a travel documentary on Paraguay

On August 1, 1999, Father assigned a group of Japanese national messiahs to create an ideal city near Puerto Leda, Paraguay, an extreme wilderness unreachable except by small plane or boat. As a mark of how much the national messiahs have achieved there, Farm Leda, as their community is known, has been receiving attention from the wider world recently. In February 2013, a freelance journalist, Mr. Monte reel, an erstwhile correspondent for the *Washington Post*, covering South America, traveled by cargo boat to Leda to "see what twelve years of dedicated labor in pursuit of earthly perfection looks like."

In September, mail arrived at Farm Leda requesting that a film crew from Belgium be allowed to visit, film the facilities and the surrounding natural world. It came from a video editor working with "reizen Waes," a documentary series in which an adventurous traveler goes to exotic locations around the globe. reizen is Dutch for "voyage," and Waes is the surname of the host, Tom Waes.

The advance man wrote to ask the national messiah questions such as:

- If Tom comes to visit Puerto Leda, what would you like to show him?
- I have read that you have a swimming pool, is this correct? Is it a public swimming pool? Would it be possible for Tom to have a swim?
- Are there any activities that Tom can take part in? I have read that you have a fish farm, for example.
- When did you decide to move to Puerto Leda? Why did you decide to go there? Are you living there permanently now? Do you have family living with you?
- If I am correct, you are a member of the Moon community. How many Moon followers are living with you in Puerto Leda? Can you describe to me what the Moon community means to you?
- I have read that you pray every morning. Is it possible to attend this ceremony? Where does this take place?
- Are there any other activities of the Moon community that we might be able to attend?

The film crew would cover Farm Leda as part of an episode on Paraguay. They would stay nine days in the country and two days at Farm Leda. Mr. Sano, national messiah to Chile, responded to them accepting their request to visit and film Farm Leda. He later described their visit as follows:

The film crew arrived around 2:30 in the afternoon of October 7 by charter plane from Concepcion. They ate a late lunch and we showed them around our buildings and the swimming pool. They were astonished to see the solid infrastructure in the midst of wilderness. We showed them our fishponds and demonstrated harvesting fish from a pond with nets.

Afterward, they filmed the sunset from a boat. Even we have rarely seen a sunset so beautiful here, so they were satisfied.

After dinner, we showed a DVD about our Leda projects. They asked many questions about the Unification Church. I explained about all of Father's work, introducing his idea to unify humankind, going beyond the differences of race and religion, through the international blessings. They wanted to attend our Hoon Dok Hae meeting the next morning.

The next day was An Shi II, so we held Hoon Dok Hae in True Parents' house. They all came there at four o'clock. They filmed the whole service, which we translated for the main broadcaster, including Father's speech and the commentary on Father's speech by Mr. Nakata, national messiah to Latvia. Mr. Nakata said that Father's philosophy is to carry God's love to the most miserable places, which is why Father chose this area to send us to. Our mission is to change this most unfortunate and disadvantaged place to a supreme paradise.

After breakfast, we showed them our agricultural projects, fish incubation laboratory and sausage workshop.

Then they walked around our yard to film birds and animals. They especially wanted to film an alligator, but the high water level has kept them away this year.

After lunch, with much satisfaction, they left for Asuncion, after expressing gratitude to our hospitality.

The documentary will air in February or March 2015 on Flemish television channel Eén.