

Ascension of Marva Sobambi (15. October 1953 – 1. April 2015)

East London, United Kingdom, 13. April 2015



By Jack Corley

On 1 April, 2015, our beloved sister and East London Community leader, Marva Anne Sobambi, ascended to the Spirit World. She had been diagnosed with a very aggressive form of kidney cancer only several weeks earlier. It quickly spread to other organs and became inoperable. Marva was 61 years old and had been a member of our Church for 40 years. She leaves behind her husband, Sobayo, and their 22-year-old daughter, Esther. Last Monday (13 April) a moving Seonghwa Ceremony was held at the UK headquarters in Central London. An overflow crowd gathered to bid her a final farewell. Several relatives as well as colleagues from her workplace came to pay their respects, and they testified warmly and sometimes tearfully about

her loving and caring character. Her 85-year-old mother watched the ceremony live through the Internet in her native country of Guyana in South America, as did relatives in Canada. We were also happy to have our newly assigned European Special Emissaries, Dr No Hi Pak and Dr Lan Young Moon, in attendance. The program was managed by South London Community leaders Franklin and Cecilie Fortune and **supported by Marva's close friend** Rosemarie Hoyte and members of the East London Community.

The overall theme of the Seonghwa Ceremony was love. Readings from the Cheon Seong Gyeong and the Bible (1 Corinthians 13) emphasized this. In his message read out at the ceremony, European Continental Director Rev. Yong Shik An thanked Marva for her life

of devotion to True Parents' providence in the course of her public life. FFWPU UK National Director Jack Corley spoke **of Marva's kind and loving character.** Marva was well known for her love of music and her excellent singing, and in this spirit David Rennie performed a beautiful rendition on the flute of one of **her favourite songs, "You Raise Me Up."** The ceremony ended with sincere words of gratitude from her husband, Sobayo. Following the ceremony in London, **Marva's body was taken to the Holy Oak** Won Jeon in Stanton Fitzwarren, Wiltshire, where she was laid to rest near an oak tree planted by True Parents in 1974. On a bright and sunny day and with much singing, prayers and tears of gratitude, Marva was lowered gently into **the ground, ending her life's earthly** journey.

Seonghwa Ceremony for Marva-Anne Sobambi

Message from European FFWPU President,
Rev. Young Shik An



Dear Marva,

As President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification here in Europe and representative of our Founders, Father and Mother Moon, I want to express their deep appreciation for your 40 years of dedication to God, our Heavenly Parent, through a life lived for the sake of others.

Our thoughts and prayers are offered to smooth your transition to the spiritual world, now free from your ailing physical body, and to support your husband Sobayo, your daughter Esther and the East London Family Federation community, which you so faithfully and generously pastored for the past 7 years, as they celebrate your life through this Seonghwa Ceremony.

We thank our Heavenly Parent and True Parents that your life could be transformed by meeting the Divine Principle all those years ago in Guyana and that you were able to respond so wholeheartedly, devoting your musical talent and sincere spirit to praise God and serve His providence.

On that foundation you received the Marriage Blessing with Sobayo in 1982, as one of 6,000 couples, and later gave birth to your lovely daughter, Esther. You have stood as a faithful Blessed Central Family these past thirty-three years. Please know that our European Family Federation recognises and values the faith and service of such devoted Blessed Families and calls future generations to follow in your footsteps as filial children of God, our Heavenly Parent.

We are all proud of you today as we think of our True Parents words:

When we are bound together in true love, we can be together forever, continually rejoicing in each other's company. The attraction of true love brings all things in the universe to our feet; even God will come to dwell with us. ... A life lived for the sake of others, a life of true love, is the absolute prerequisite for entering the kingdom of heaven.

Dear Marva, thank you for your love and life for others, may you continue your devotion in a new and joyful freedom, dwelling in that Kingdom alongside our beloved True Father and the community of Blessed Brothers and Sisters.