

Presidential Close Encounter

Paris, France, November 2015

By Gilbert and Josielle Campagne

It was just four days after the Paris bombing, whilst giving myself legitimate feelings for wanting to stay indoors for security reasons. My wife coming from Malta, we received a reception invitation hosted by the Maltese President. I felt not right not to go after having promised God only a week earlier that we will go.

Knowing it was risky to travel in Paris, True **Father's words** vibrated in my head, **"When did you last witness at the risk of your life?"**. So I determined that nothing and **nobody's dissuasion was** going to win over my determination. I realized again that witnessing was, is and always will be a mandate from God. Be it via internet, phone and in any physically limited situation, everywhere and anyhow!

On the way we had heavy traffic. Gently the Tongil Song came into my mind, **"We'll give our lives for unity"**. During singing I was reminded about people who gave their lives happily for a higher purpose. So I realized that there is no reason to be faint hearted. Also I remembered that there are 365 quotes in the bible about not to be afraid and I was reminded about the motto on my family emblem, "Fight for Righteousness!"

When we entered the Maltese embassy to our surprise we could meet her Excellency President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca. She received us warmly, happily greeting people with hugs, making all feel at ease in her presence. Somehow I could not help but she reminded us of our aunty Polly.



With President M.L. Coleiro Preca

We presented her a Maltese version of "The Divine Principle". She was happy to receive it and asked what the book is all about. We briefly explained about the Family Federation for World Peace. She then turned to her assistant Dr. Ruth Farrugia saying, "Oh my God, Ruth did you hear that. Please quickly take note of the Family Federation for World Peace."



With old school friend Dr. Ruth Farrugia

Her Excellency is the founder of **"The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society"** and her assistant Dr. Ruth Farrugia is the director of this foundation. It was a happy reunion. Dr. Farrugia happened to be a classmate of my wife Josielle. They attended the same class in primary and secondary school. Josielle remembered her always as being a very kind, reliable,

hardworking person with an attitude to want to help others. I think the president could not have found a more suitable person for the director's position of **"The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society"**.

During our conversation with Dr. Ruth Farrugia we mentioned to her about the President of the Family Federation for World Peace in Malta, Mr. Bryan Corlett and his wife Mrs. Myrabelle Corlett, President of the Women's Federation for World Peace in Malta. She promised to get in touch with them.

When we drove home we have been on cloud nine. The weather was unusual mild. It could not have been better for November. We felt that we could do something important in the name of True Parents and for Vision 2020.

Thank you Heavenly Parents and True Parents for this opportunity.

Just to mention, we both are handicapped people and our children are out of home by now. However, we both try to do our best to witness daily. We use the internet passing on links to Divine Principle material. When we go shopping, Josielle brings always some leaflets with her. While I am shopping she seats in her special little car for handicapped people and is handing out leaflets and gets involved in conversations.

In our twenties we could not imagine what it means to be old. It seemed that we have unlimited time. Now we know and the feeling gets stronger that we are running out of time. 2020 is just around the corner. So we want to continue to take any opportunity for witnessing.