

True Parents Conditions in Jardim, Pantanal

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Futoshi Hirano is in the front row, second from the left; with True Parents in South America

True Parents began their second Forty-Year Course from May 1, 1995, in Jardim, which is in the remote Brazilian countryside. They invested everything they had in order to take care of providential matters that could not be fulfilled in the past, and they were victorious in bringing about the Coronation Ceremony of God's Kingship on January 13, 2001. Father stated that this was the completion and conclusion of the providence of restoration.

Mother instructed me to assist True Parents with fishing and to assist Mother in particular. Thus, I received the blessing of taking part in True Parents' Pantanal providence for seven years. True Parents visited frequently, so much so that it would not be an exaggeration to say that they lived in the Pantanal region during those seven years. Mornings began with physical exercises while still dark, which were followed by Hoon Dok reading. After a hurried breakfast, on the signal of the words, "Ka ja" (Let's go) from Father, we headed to the river to start fishing.

The fishing in the Pantanal was different from that in the ocean providence areas, in that Father and Mother did not go out together but were always apart from each other while offering devotion through fishing.

I attended Mother and assisted her fishing on the Plata River and Miranda River. If asked by Mother, I would go to assist Father, and in this way, I was able to spend my days with our dear True Parents. For me, being allowed to attend True Parents by helping with the fishing made this a time of great joy and grace. However, as I watched True Parents, who offered sacrificial devotion, with themselves as the offering, leaving their children behind far away, I used to feel very sorry.

A Raging, Internal Battle

The time fishing in the Salobra Hotel area was the most serious, especially during their condition offered for the 3.6 Million Couples Blessing Ceremony. The atmosphere was intense, reminiscent of war. From early morning, Father raced through the jungle at full speed, scratching himself on the face with tree branches. He was undergoing a battle in which not one second could be lost and at some point, he overtook Satan. In the scorching sunlight, while mosquitoes charged at his deeply sunburnt face, Father did not move until there were stars in the sky. I heard Father say, "A year in the Pantanal is equivalent to ten regular years," which meant True Parents underwent the equivalent of a seventy-year battle.

The boat used in the Salobra River was built for three passengers; once in it, you could hardly move. It was moored in the middle of the river, with fishing rods facing every direction.

Father waited without moving for pacu to bite, and the boat had to remain still. There was no toilet; plastic bottles cut in half were used quietly onboard. An upset stomach was a big problem. During this period, June–July 1997, Father caught thirty-six pacu, as a condition to bring victory. There being no security system, so I always carried a gun. In this somewhat unsafe region, if something occurred, it would have been difficult to control. Yet, we were the ones actually being protected by True Parents.

The spirit of the Pantanal was to "swallow things whole." This meant that one had to forgive, love and digest everything. True Parents did just that. They forgave their greatest enemy, who was in the deepest and most difficult part of hell, and blessed him. Eventually, the enemy of God and humankind, Satan, was brought to natural surrender through true love.

On June 24, 1997, Father said, "Restoration is a difficult thing -- natural surrender! The world of love is not attained through conflict. If this could be gained by power, God would have accomplished everything in a single day. I began with hardships and I will end with hardships. Even if I'm in a position to receive glory, that will be left behind for posterity. I will end with hardships."

I think that True Parents hardly ever slept while here. In Salobra, the daily time for preparing the fishing gear was limited, so all equipment was set up on the veranda of True Parents' public quarters. As part of the security staff, and to be able to deal with sudden changes in plans, I slept there. I saw that the light in True Parents' room was turned off for only short spans of time.

Centered on May 15, 1998, the Proclamation Ceremony for the Liberation of Hell, which Hyo Jin nim also attended, was held at the Nabileque Hotel Americano, Room 14. Following that, there was an intense course of vigils before June 2, when the prayer for the liberation of Maria Pak occurred.

Preparing for June 2

On the evening of May 24, Father had said, "Tomorrow, we go to Nabileque." To travel to Nabileque from Salobra, I would have to go about five hundred kilometers by land, half of which was on unpaved roads at the time. After arriving at Porto Muruchinio, I had to go upstream for two and a half hours by boat, going full speed. I thought, "It will take Father about an hour by plane, so he can leave in the morning, but I have got to leave now!" In those days, I had just one fishing pole, but I had to pack food, kimchi, utensils, mats to sit on, etc. There was one car and I would be the only driver, so I was close to panicking.

After packing the van, I left after 9:00 PM. About 6:00 AM, I made it to the Porto Muruchinio riverside in a groggy state. I had been too drowsy to drive fast. I quickly got the boat ready, packed the gear and headed for Nabileque. When I finally came close to the destination, I saw True Parents' plane fly across the river and descend into Olympo Airport. True Parents reached the nearby hotel in Nabileque by boat. I was able to arrive almost at the same time they did. Fortunately, I made it in time for True Parents' fishing to begin.

I thought I was the only one who hadn't been able to sleep but learned later that True Parents had not slept at all either and had held a Hoon Dok reading throughout the night. They repeatedly read the part about Maria Pak in Dr. Sang Hun's Lee messages from the spirit world. I heard that Mr. Myeong Soon Kim, then president of the Salobra Hotel, had done the reading, although he was on the verge of collapse. Father had been setting conditions, all-night prayer vigils to love and forgive enemies, so that God's deep grief could be resolved and hell could be abolished. I do not think he rested before or after this time either.

At 3:00 AM on June 2, he told me while I was on night watch, "Wake everyone up. We will pray at 4:00 AM." Then in room 14, he offered deep prayers of tears, asking God to forgive Maria Pak.

Soon after, on June 13, when the first stage of the 120-Million-Couple Blessing Ceremony took place, and True Parents blessed Satan and the saints as being in the same position, we found Maria Pak's name among them. Because of this blessing, True Parents had liberated the realm of archangels in the spirit world. I believe it can be said that this was an important condition for Satan's natural surrender on March 21, 1999. This is just one example, but I believe that Father continued to engage in intense battles that no one else was aware of.

Fishing as a Condition

Once Father set his mind on a fishing spot, he continued there, whereas Mother explored various places. If there was a good spot, she let Father know. She casts accurately and properly, using her wrist, and caught many large-sized pacu. Father once said, "Mother is the champion of Pantanal fishing!" I did not hear from Father the reason that he and Mother fished separately, but it occurred to me that perhaps the Pantanal providence -- which symbolized the mother's womb as well as the earth vis-à-vis heaven -- depended on Mother's victory.

The time spent with Mother in the boat was as precious as a crown jewel. Mother focused on the fishing rod, intent on catching even one more pacu, and she was indeed the True Mother, trying to save and embrace all of humankind.

Her words were few as she fished, but each time she called my name, I felt such a joy and happiness. On

May 14, 1999, True Parents declared the Liberation Ceremony of the Cosmos in the same room in the HotelAmericano. Then, on July 27, the Holy Ground of the Victory of the Original Source was dedicated.

This holy ground has special significance. At its dedication ceremony, these elements were in Father's prayer: "We have passed through the entire course of the failure of the Third Adam in the Old Testament Age, the New Testament Age and the Completed Testament Age.... We have welcomed an age in which God is able to stand at the forefront and give directions to Satan and the True Adam and the Archangel.... I hereby dedicate this base of blessing, from which we can go directly to the heavenly nation."

At the time Father said, "On June 14, the Proclamation of the Cosmic Victory and Celebration of the True Parents of Heaven and Earth were held; therefore, it is now done. We have built a base that can become the origin of heaven. We can sort out all of history from beginning to end on this holy ground. Unification Church members should visit here at least once every four years. This is at the ends of the earth. The departure to heaven is made from the Family Federation for World Peace's Ideal Family Education Headquarters in Jardim.

You must go to heaven via this holy ground, receiving education here. Without passing through this ground, you will not be able to ascend perpendicularly. A special order from God set this as a holy ground. It eternally has no relationship to Satan. Working the Lord at his Second Advent, the holy ground base of the completion of the original, unfallen Adam, owned by God has been recaptured. After coming here, you can return to your countries and be registered for the first time. This holy ground is the original holy ground. It is the completed, original holy ground. I am now liberated, and all is completed. From now on, the task is for all of you to inherit and complete..."

I remember Mother's warm, soft hand when I took it to cross the river, and when she caught five big pacu, saying, "Oppa" (an exclamation like 'Wow! In Brazilian; in Korean, it is short for "five (O) pacu (ppa)," as well as "brother.") October 13, 1998, October 27, 1998. Mother said to record these dates. I can recall Mother and Father exchanging information about fishing results via a wireless radio, which seems like only yesterday.

True Parents, we love you.