

A sister from Lebanon (13)

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Kook-jin nim speaking with Thomas and Hermine Schellen in Beirut, Lebanon, where True Mother and Kook-jin nim spoke to an audience of five hundred

and assassinations. So you never know what suddenly might happen. And that was a big struggle for me because I couldn't take the children to visit the grandparents. Sure enough, it was the only time that my parents saw my kids again. They never saw the boys.

I joined Thomas and Hermine and few brothers and sisters who came from different countries to prepare for True Mother's visit. It was an opportunity for me to reconnect with my cousins and relatives as well my neighbors and friends to invite them for the event. Also, it was an opportunity to see Alfred who moved back to Lebanon in that time. He was a real champ. He brought all his tribe to see True Mother.



Dr. Walsh is flanked by local guests from Lebanon, who had come to hear True Mother speak in Beirut on June 27

and very respectful. I told him I am coming all the way from California to invite you. He laughed. He apologized for not being able to attend but he promised to send a delegation from his office. I was very touched by his sincerity and good heart. I never knew him before as he became a minister when I was

In June 2006, I traveled to Lebanon together with my two daughters Anne and Helen. Anne was only 4 years old when we left Lebanon and Helen was born in United States. My parents were very happy to come to see the girls. Since I've moved almost 9 years ago, I visited them only once. So seeing them this time was a little hard on me as they looked old and fragile. Specially my father who use to be very athletic and number one swimmer. He almost lost his voice because he use to smoke a lot which affected his vocal cords. So now he sits aside watching us and not being able to communicate. I was glad that I took the decision to bring my daughters with me despite it was expensive to buy 3 tickets to Lebanon. Beside, I was always worried about safety. Although the war had ended, the country was always vulnerable to car explosions

When True Mother came to Egypt in 1993, we tried through Women's Federation to contact women's organizations and invite them to the event. In Lebanon, beside inviting our relatives and friends, we were contacting politicians and high positions people from the parliament. So I remember one morning, I got a list of important people to try to call them and reach out to them which was hard to talk to them personally as most of the time their secretary will answer. But I was able for some reason to talk directly to Pierre El Gemayel, the minister of industry who was the nephew of the late president Bashir El Gemayel who was assassinated in 1982 after only one month in office and the son of the former Lebanese President Amine El Gemayel. He was very friendly

abroad. So I was eager to see his picture and come to know him but somehow I didn't until few months later in November when I had to come back to Lebanon within the same year to support the American clergy who's visiting Lebanon in that time. At the airport, on my way back to the U.S, there was a breaking news alert. The minister Pierre El Gemayel is assassinated. And they put his picture on the big screen. I sat on the corner and start crying so badly. Now I see him for the first time. My heart broke down. A young man with a lot of potential to do something great for his country was gunned down. That's the story of Lebanon. That's the story of my people.

True mother's visit went very well. Around 700 people attended. Thomas Schellen 's kids offered her the flowers when she arrived to the hotel and my daughters offered the flowers to Kook Jin Nim and his wife.

During the event and after True Mother's speech, I was asked to offer her on stage a beautiful statue of a pair of blue birds.

The same was in Egypt when I was asked to offer True Mother a bouquet of flowers on stage. My mother and my brothers attended the event and I was thrilled to be able to bring my mother to the stage to take a picture with True Mother beside other people. It was a special moment for me as my mother and True mother were standing on the stage together. As I was leaving at the end of the event with my daughters, a Japanese brother came to me and offered me and my daughters his room in the hotel. He said you should stay and attend morning prayer with True Mother. It was such a nice gift and that what we did. In the morning True Mother shared with us her hopes for Lebanon. The Lebanese people should teach Divine Principle to the Middle Eastern people she said. Lebanon throughout history was the bridge between east and west. So it's his mission to connect the Arabs to True Parents.

We said good bye to True Mother and we said good bye to my parents and came back to California to find out that I needed to go back within few months to support the American clergy visit to my country and to see my father for the last time.

To be continued.