On October 16, 2013, after Typhoon Wipha left the skies of Saitama prefecture, where the Commemorative Rally of the 55th Anniversary of the Unification Church Mission in Japan and 54th Anniversary of the Church Founding was to be held, the dull clouds disappeared to make way for unusually clear and crisp autumn skies.

Heavenly Parents and True Parents, who are wishing for the revival of the Japanese Unification Church most, had purified the fresh air of the beautiful autumn skies. Taking in this invigorating weather, the participants headed for the venue with firm steps, giving a clear sense of the bright future of the Unification Church of Japan.

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“Blessed Families and the people of Japan to become one with True Parents, and lead in saving the world”

20,000 attend Rally to commemorate 55th anniversary of Unification mission in Japan and 54th anniversary of the Church founding
Ultimate determination and Total dedication to the completion of Cheon Il Guk

Attended by former lawmakers and 46 Korean Ambassadors for Peace

as social and national leaders.

Pre-Event Cultural Performances
The pre-event cultural performances amply testified to the wealth of talents in the Church. The stage featuring a total of four teams first opened with the dance team SEIWA CREWs, comprising twenty-some youth members of Regions 3, 4 and 5. They performed a vibrant dance while beating the traditional Japanese taiko drum to the tune called “Shinsei (New Devotion),” while the mega-screen behind them displayed images of the 55-year history of the Unification Church of Japan.

Next, Ms. Jeong-hwa Kwon and the Youth Choir of young members in the Tokyo area sang “Lord, We Thank You!” in a combined performance of solo and chorus. This was followed by the “Shin-Tenchi (New Heaven and Earth) Chorus,” of about 100 Korean and Japanese women, whose soul-stirring “Arirang” resounded throughout the Arena. The finale was “Pomp and Circumstance,” a joint performance by the choirs of Regions 2, 3, 5 and 6, with younger and older members.

Main Event
The Commemorative Rally which was organized after the first memorial for True Father’s Seonghwa (ascension) in September, 2012, welcomed True Mother’s official visit to Japan. Webcast live throughout Japan, it was watched by many leaders, Blessed Families and church members, setting a condition that all became completely one with Heavenly Parents and True Parents for a new start and a big leap towards Vision 2020.

The event was emceed by President Eiji Tokuno, and some 20,000 participants waved the Unification flags and Family Federation flags to enthusiastically welcome True Mother. Following the kyeongbae (bowing) and presentation of bouquets of flowers, the anthem of Cheon Il Guk (CIG) was sung in unison.

Next, Mrs. Tetsuko Kuboki, wife of the late first president of the Unification Church of Japan, offered a representative report prayer, expressing resolve to make a new start: “Today, while the world around us becomes increasingly unclear and unstable, it is difficult to foresee the peace and well-being of humanity. However, the words of truth and the ideals of the true family given by True Parents are the key to fundamentally resolving the problems of all mankind. We, in Japan, will go forward in advance, so that all of humanity may attend Heavenly Parents and True Parents.”

Many guests from Japan and abroad including Ms. Yeon-jin Moon participated to celebrate and encourage Japan’s new start. Notably, 46
Ambassadors for Peace from South Korea attended out of their schedule of a special workshop to promote friendship and cooperation between Japan and Korea.

After the guests of honor were introduced, a video was presented under the title: “True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind and the Unification Movement of Japan”, which compiled the 55-year history of the Japanese movement. It covered in detail the course through which Missionary Bong-chung Choi, who was sent by True Father in 1958 to Japan, crossed the Sea of Genkai, risking his life to arrive in Japan. Rev. Choi founded the Unification Church of Japan, creating a whirlwind of witnessing nationwide as the members became one and were resurrected through God’s spirit and the truth.

In the ensuing years, Japan’s Unification Movement was enhanced by True Parents’ visits, going the way of “Loving the People” through witnessing and blessing activities; then treading the way of “Loving the Nation” through the Victory Over Communism movement, and finally, sacrificing for the world and loving God as the providential Mother Nation. The images put a lump in the participants’ throats.

As shots of True Father conveying God’s words passionately to members of the Japanese Church in various places were projected, many of the audience wiped tears. Yet, as they watched True Mother’s images in determining “to build CIG, the ultimate desire of Heavenly Parents and True Father” after True Father’s Seongsu, and in leading with a firm but warm true love, the audience could feel overflowing courage.

The participants could gain the conviction that by the year 2020, which marks the 100th birthday of True Father, “spiritual works of miraculous witnessing and revival will occur, as long as we become one with the True Parents.”

Next, Hideo Oyamada, former president of the Unification Church of Japan, gave commemorative remarks. He first expressed gratitude before Heavenly Parents and True Parents for leading the Japanese Church to a historic moment of a new start, to fulfill Vision 2020. He spoke about preciousness of the True Mother’s presence for Blessed Families and members, and furthermore, for all people of the world.

He explained the providential significance and value of the projects True Mother has been tackling since True Father’s Seonghuwa, such as the compilation of the CIG scriptures, formulating the CIG Constitution, as well as the promotion of various educational projects to foster future leadership.

Finally, Rev. Oyamada expressed his resolute will: “I am determined to ‘go forward without interruption’, offering deep gratitude to Heavenly Parents and True Parents who have brought the heavenly fortune of the Olympics being held in Tokyo in 2020, a year in which Japan can become a model country before the entire world; with the ultimate determination, total commitment and practices in absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience.”

During the event, a total of 95 members including those who had dedicated themselves to church ministry for many years, people of merit and outstanding witnesses received awards of recognition from Vice President Ken Sudo.

Following the awards, a member of the Upper House of Japanese Diet (national parliament) in his congratulatory remarks stated that he was very grateful as he met a young member of the Japanese Church when he was attending Waseda University fifty years ago, and that the deep impression he received from him has continued to this moment. He stated that he himself would like to strive to have the kind of faith and conviction for world peace, that True Parents had and did not alter, even before the communist leaders President Gorbachev or Leader Kim Il Sung.

He emphasized, “Japan and Korea are not distant countries, and if the two, as close neighbors, will develop cooperative relations of mutual trust, we will be able to realize peace in Asia and the world....I believe that this Commemorative Event today, is indeed the starting point of such relations.”
Awards for 95 individuals for their contributions to the church

Following the introduction of congratulatory cables, a congratulatory song, “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” was sung by a ladies’ chorus.

Welcome remarks were given by Rev. Yong-chein Song, General Chairman of the Blessed Families Federation of Japan. Rev. Song quoted from the Bible verse, (Matthew 13:16): “But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear”, pointing out that the Blessed Families and members who are able to attend the True Parents and hear the precious words of God are truly blessed and are happier people and nation than any others. He emphasized that we must unite with True Parents, live for the sake of humanity and the world, and develop as a loving Japan.

Further, Rev. Song made a strong appeal to the participants: “In the future of the Unification Church of Japan, centering on Vision 2020 which True Mother has presented, leaders and all members should become one in a harmonious combination, revive in spirit and in truth through True Mother’s motto of ‘March on without interruption’. Let us go forward with total commitment and absolute resolve as a ‘New Japan’ to be reborn as a new providential Mother Nation, a ‘Great Japan’ that will guide the countries of the world and lead the worldwide dispensation, so that we can build a ‘Victorious Japan’ that will fulfill CIG, the long-cherished goal of Heavenly Parents and the True Parents, by fulfilling Vision 2020.”

Following the Welcome Remarks, a video entitled “Completing CIG is My Dream,” which is a compilation of True Mother’s words after the Seonghwa of True Father, was shown.

The words from True Mother, spoken in a composed and dignified manner, won the hearts of the participants. Moreover, it can be called a historic speech that would determine the future of Japan, as True Mother clearly presented the way centered on the Japanese Church and Blessed Families to go forth as one. True Mother stressed that behind Japan of today, there were the sacrifice and hardship of True Parents, who were concerned about the future of Japan even before Japan and Korea had normalized their diplomatic relations.

True Father forgave, loved and blessed Japan which was an enemy country.

On the other hand, through the dedicated efforts and devotions of former church presidents, elders and blessed central families, she commended them very much for the fact that today, the second and third generation members stood firm before God, and were growing into leaders who could guide Japan.

True Mother referred with emotion to the tearful providential history of Heavenly Parents, who raised the Israelites, centering on the idea of the chosen people, nurtured them, and then had to send Jesus to the cross.

She spoke of how Heavenly Parents then raised Christianity through the Roman Empire, not Israel, the process by which the blessing was conveyed through the European continent to the British Empire, an island country, and how the Puritans...
who moved to the new continent of America in search of freedom of religion, came to receive Heaven's blessing through their faith and tradition.

When the Puritans moved to America and settled, she emphasized, they first built a church in which they could attend God, then, built a school to educate their descendants, and then built their own houses, explaining the reason why America had grown into a democratic nation that could lead the world in a short period of 200 some years.

However, America forgot its tradition of attending and serving Heaven, and fell into self-centered and egotistic ways. In order to awaken America, True Parents moved there in 1972 and started the dispensation to help America survive. True Mother also pointed out that the reason why America failed was precisely because it did not understand heaven’s providence and the providence of restoration through indemnity.

True Mother stated: “If you think only centered on your country, that is indeed going against heaven’s dispensation. Thus Japan, the providential mother nation must embrace the entire world, and lead it to True Parents’ bosom. That is the responsibility that Heaven has entrusted to Japan. We must not forget that there is responsibility before a blessing, and if it cannot be fulfilled, there is indemnity... The position of having received Heaven’s blessing is not just your own position.

You must fulfill your responsibility so that we can advance to that position in which the whole world becomes one. More than anything else, we can resolve all problems by becoming one. Especially, when you become one with True Parents, attend them and move forward, all problems can be solved, one by one.”

True Mother emphasized that the Blessed Families and the people of Japan should become one with True Parents, to lead the way in saving Asia and the world. For that, she emphasized, God’s words must be conveyed to revive the lifeline, and you must help so that humankind can leave the realm of the Fall.

In addition, True Mother explained that through Foundation Day in 2013, the dispensation for restoration through indemnity was now complete and concluded, and we have entered into a new era, centered on Heavenly Parents, the CIG era in which a new history must be created. She closed her speech with the words: “It is my heartfelt wish that by 2020 and until our lives end, you will be able to testify to the whole world about the glory of Heavenly Parents.”
Three cheers of Og Mansei concluding the event

Shin-Tenchi Chorus, comprising Korean and Japanese women

Joint Choir comprising the young and old

“If Vision 2020 is a special dream granted by Heaven, our stance and actions to realize this must also be special.”

After the speech, commemorative gifts were presented to True Mother, and the event closed successfully with three cheers of Og Mansei led by Rev. Man-jin Kim, leader of Region 5.

One of the participants gave her reflection: “Through True Mother’s expression and attitude, as she calmly delivered her speech, I could feel her determination to ‘absolutely fulfill the will of Heaven.’ As I witnessed True Mother today, with my many shortcomings, I reflected that ‘Until now, I had probably gone through the Foundation Day and the CIG era too idly. As she said, we would like to become one with Heavenly Parents, unite with True Parents and become a blessed family who can strive to fulfill Heaven's will.’

And one of the Ambassadors for Peace expressed the overwhelming inspiration he felt through the event: “I realized that the words of Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon are not merely what the Unificationists should put into practice but are valuable messages that the people of Japan and all of humanity should understand and practice. I felt that the person of Mrs. Moon who appeared today has become completely one with Rev. Sun Myung Moon who passed away last year. From now on, I will take part actively in the Unification Movement of Japan.”

The Commemorative Rally of the 55th Anniversary of the Unification Church Mission in Japan and 54th Anniversary of the Church Founding was clearly a very significant occasion in the providence, in which the direction and goal, as well as a vision and a dream of not only the Japanese Church but of Japan were presented.

Most importantly, the event was a precious time in which a new vision and mission were conveyed by Heaven, namely: ‘The Unification Church of Japan must help Japan leap and become a nation that will be respected and loved by the world.’

If the Vision 2020 is a very new, special vision and dream, which Heaven granted to the Unification Church of Japan in the era of the substantial CIG, then, in order to realize this, the attitude and behavior that the Blessed Families and members of Japan should also be something new and special. We must grow out of the attitude and methods of the era of indemnity, and prepare something new and special that can guide the people of Japan before Heaven.
True Mother’s Words are Words of Life to be put into actual Practice

The Victory Celebration Hoondokhae Session for the Commemorative Rally

True Mother’s Words are Words of Life to be put into actual Practice

The Victory Celebration Hoondokhae Session for the Commemorative Rally

On September 13th of the first year of CIG by the heavenly calendar (October 17th, Thursday by the solar calendar), from 6:00 a.m., approximately 500 leaders, Blessed Families and members gathered for a Victory Celebration Hoondokhae session for the Commemorative Event of the 55th Anniversary of the Unification Church Ministry in Japan and 54th Anniversary of the Church Founding held the previous day with 20,000 attending at the Saitama Super Arena.

True Mother arrived earlier than the expected time at the venue of the Victory Celebration Hoondokhae. Following the kyeongbae, she cut the victory cake together with Mrs. Yeon-ah Choi and Rev. Yong Cheon Song, General Chairman of the Blessed Families Federation of Japan. She received bouquets of gratitude from Rev. and Mrs. Seong-nam Kim, regional leader for Northwest Tokyo.

Rev. Haruyoshi Yano, parish leader of East Tokyo, offered the representative report prayer: “We could safely hold a victorious event in the midst of internally and externally difficult circumstances. We feel deeply that after the era of indemnity, the era of the substantial CIG is now here; Heavenly Parents and True Parents, and the spirit world are always with us and are working with us.” He shared his heart by saying: “As we have not been able to meet the standard yet that Heaven desires, I pray that we can testify to True Parents and become children of Heaven who can offer glory to Heaven, not just until Vision 2020 is fulfilled, but for the rest of our lives.”

At the time of the hoondok, Mrs. Kazuko Mizuguchi, woman leader of the West Kanagawa Parish, read from the CIG scriptures Cheon Seong Gyeong, Part 2 “True Parents,” Chapter 1 “Who are the True Parents?” Following the reading, Mr. Kazuya Okazaki of the Fukushima Parish gave a testimony related to victorious witnessing.

Mr. Okazaki has witnessed to 12 new members in just the first half of 2013, and has raised up a total of 27 spiritual children so far. Also, his wife has 16 spiritual children, thus the couple together having brought 43 members. They have become the model for witnessing to all of the Blessed Families in Japan.

He stated: “What caused me to push forward with witnessing was True Mother’s words spoken in America in April. She said, “Christians and Mormons are still awaiting the Messiah. Yet, all of you have already met the Lord of the Second Advent, the Messiah, so you must let them and the entire world know this fact.”

He then made a resolution to testify to the Words of Heaven and True Parents to the world. During the three 50-Day Special Witnessing periods set up in 2013, he made a strategy to witness to and restore, in steps, his parents, family and relatives. He spoke calmly but firmly that by offering deep devotion and practical action in order to carry out the plan, he was able to witness successfully.

Through the testimony, participants could feel that witnessing is the way of love that saves the soul.
which was the strongest to hit Japan in the last decade, members of Regions 2, 3, 5, 6 had difficulty in traveling to the venue, and yet they were able to safely arrive and take part. Rev. Igarashi also briefly introduced the impressions of the participants.

A leader of the Mindan, the pro-South Korea Korean residents group in Japan, attended a Unification Church event for the first time. He said: “Through this, I was able to feel Korea more closely while being in Japan. The words of True Parents were, frankly speaking, a bit difficult, but I’d like to study them well from now on.”

A Shinto priest from a shrine in Ibaraki prefecture stated: “Looking at True Mother in yesterday’s event, I could feel that True Mother had become spiritually one with True Father. I wish to devote myself to the peace movement, along with the Unification Church of Japan from now on.”

This was followed by a special report from Dr. Chang-shik Yang, International Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). Dr. Yang referred to True Mother’s speech of the day before, in terms of the three words, “blessing,” “responsibility” and “indemnity.” He emphasized, “The Blessing is not only for oneself, but it is for your partner and the world, and so that blessing must be utilized for your partner and the world; if not, we must understand that there will be trials of indemnity.

Thus, Korea and Japan must become one while attending True Parents, and must make effort together for the liberation of Heavenly Parents and the salvation of humankind, and for world peace.” Dr. Yang also testified to True Parents who are constantly concerned about the current problems of the Middle East and the Korean peninsula. With special regard to the recent situation in Syria, he reported briefly about the UPF Peace Conference and activities taking place in Israel and Jordan.

In the cultural performance that followed, first, Mr. Hirofumi, Director of General Affairs at the North Tokyo Region Arakawa Church, and his daughter entertained with a magic show. The Sunhak Chorus, also of North Tokyo, presented two songs, “A Small World” and “A Letter for True Parents.” The men’s chorus from Region 3, “Sai-no-kuni Fathers”, marked the finale with “Kohyang Mujeong” and “Kyojin no Hoshi.”

True Mother heard and watched, from the beginning till the end, a series of testimonies, reports and performances with a bright smile on her face, which was sometimes serious, and at times with enjoyment.

Participants were able to sense at a glance that True Mother who was smiling beautifully was not gazing at their present state alone. She understood the past course of preparation they had invested with tearful efforts, offering devotion for this day, and furthermore, how they would grow and develop well, gazing with hope and expectation for the future. (end)
Participants realized once again through True Mother the fact that, “Parents always look at their children with the ‘eyes of possibility.’” As the heart of forgiving, encouraging, expectation and hope are fused, the participants were all able to feel that, although Japan has points that fall short of the standard desired by Heaven, True Mother’s gaze embraced all, forgave, encouraged and looked with expectation toward the victorious future, for which Japan would do its best.

Following the cultural performances, gifts were presented to True Parents with gratitude from the members of Regions 2, 3, 5 and 6, as well as from the 777 Blessed Families Association and the 6,500 Blessed Families Association, who would celebrate their 43rd Blessing Anniversary and 25th Blessing Anniversary this year respectively.

Afterwards, True Mother explained that, in an experiment with chimpanzee, fathers and children, and mothers and children, even in the animal world, the female had a stronger will than the male to defend and protect the children, referring to the difference between fatherly love and motherly love, and the great points of maternal love.

In relation to this, True Mother said, “Japan, the providential mother nation, should unite with the providential father nation, Korea, attend True Parents as one, and be able to embrace and love the world...Japan, which received Heaven’s blessing through the work and suffering of True Parents, should not use its blessing only for its own country. That blessing was granted by Heaven with the responsibility to make effort and love for a greater purpose for the world.

The Blessed Families of Japan should lead the way and prevent Japan from going the wrong way, burying the truths of the past, as this would lead to the way of indemnity.

The shortcut here is the way of witnessing, to convey completely to Japan the Principle and the history of Heaven’s restoration through indemnity, furthermore about True Parents and the Blessing. This way of witnessing is indeed the way for all of you to gain wealth in the truest sense.”

The words of True Mother spoken in Japan this time, to the leaders and Blessed Families of the Unification Church of Japan, to the members and to the people of Japan and its leaders, were not to be understood by our heads only. All were able to realize that they were words which should be felt in their hearts, and put into physical action; they were “words of life” on which the individual’s destiny, the family’s, tribe’s and nation’s fate depended.

Following her speech, True Mother granted some money, as she did at the time of the Victory Celebration Hoondokhoi for the previous Hokkaido event, to the Sunhak Chorus who were present and the young second and third generation children of Blessed Families. The Victory Celebration Hoondokhoi of this day concluded with four cheers of Og manseti led by Rev. Fumito Yamamoto, leader of Region 6.