

Abuse of Power... Joshua Cotter should resign - He kept me from viewing Father's body because I work for and am loyal to organizations led by Hyun Jin Moon

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September 19, 2012

The following is an account of my experience in Korea (including background events, which are important) on September 13, 2012 in attempting to pay my final respects to True Father at Cheon Jeong Gung (the Palace).

Dan Gray Registers to attend Korea in accordance with official HSA-UWC directions

As you are all aware, on or about September 4, 2012, Joshua Cotter, as Executive Vice President of Unification Church USA, sent via email a letter extending an open invitation to all UC members in the United States to come to Korea to personally attend True Father's Universal Seonghwa Ceremony. The following is a direct quote from Joshua Cotter's email:

"Our True Mother invites each and every brother or sister to please come to Korea. She wants everyone who loves our True Father to be able to offer devotion to him in person... We hope that at least one person from each family can attend True Father's Universal Seonghwa Ceremony on September 15th."

This email was sent to my home email address directly from hq-usa@unification.org and from NY District 2 Headquarters (As a member in good standing, I regularly receive email from both the local and district church).

Though I was extremely busy at the time and initially did not plan to attend, after earnest prayer I felt that God and my good ancestors wanted me to personally attend True Father's Universal Seonghwa. So I determined to go rather than to face eternal accusation and regret.

On or about September 4, 2012, Reverend Andrew Compton (Local Pastor for Westchester and Rockland Counties, known as the Westrock Church) sent an email to all Westrock members (including myself) stating that *"In order to register you properly - to go to Korea I need the following: First and Last Name, your City, Male or female, Adult or youth (youth is under 18), Your email, Organization (if not HSA-UWC) and if you have a special position, or title, Arrival: date, time, airline, and airport, Departure: date, time, airline, and airport"*

On Thursday, September 6, 2012, in accordance official church protocol, I registered to attend by emailing all of the requested information to Reverend Compton. In response, Reverend Compton sent me an email confirming receipt of my registration information.

On Monday September 10, 2012, I received an email from HSA USA headquarters confirming that the event schedule for participants traveling to Korea included *"viewing of True Father's body at the Cheon Jeong Gun"* and *"True Father's Universal Seonghwa at the Cheongshim Peace World Center."*

Thus, on the afternoon of September 11, 2012, I boarded KAL flight 82 with the understanding that I would be able to personally view True Father's body in the palace and attend the Universal Seonghwa ceremony in person.

After arriving in Korea, Dan Gray is Prohibited from Visiting True Father's body and from

attending the Universal Seonghwa Ceremony in person

I arrived at Incheon airport on the evening of September 12, 2012. I then traveled by bus with a number of other recently arrived American members to the Guri training center near Seoul, where I spent the night.

Early the next morning at the Guri training center, staff handed out green ribbons to members (including myself) who were preparing to go the Cheong Pyeong complex. These ribbons were required in order to visit True Father's body at the "Cheon Jeong Gun". The ribbons were handed out without checking names against any list of registrants.

Hundreds of members, including myself, then boarded buses to Cheong Pyeong.

The first scheduled event at Cheong Pyeong was visitation of the Memorial Alter in the Cheongshim Peace World Center in the Cheong Pyeong Complex. I had a beautiful experience offering flowers at True Father's alter and greeting/bowing to representatives of True Father's family, including Ye Jin Nim and her son, Shin Bok Nim (whom I know personally). I was very moved when Shin Bok Nim personally came up to me, shook my hand, and, with the utmost sincerity, thanked me for personally coming to Cheong Pyeong. I left the Memorial Alter feeling touched by God.

Unfortunately, things took a drastic turn for the worse after that.

The next planned event was for all members to take buses from the Cheongshim Peace World Center to the Cheon Jeong Gung to view True Father's body.

On my way from the Memorial Alter to the buses, I ran into Mr. Dong Moon Joo. Mr. Joo greeted me and asked me if I had come with anyone else. He had a funny look in his eye. I said no, then went up the escalator to stand on line with hundreds of other members waiting for buses to the Cheon Jeong Gun.

Within 15 minutes, I was surrounded by 3 or 4 security guards.

One guard asked me if I was Daniel Gray.

I said yes.

He asked me to come with him.

I asked him what this was about.

"You are not authorized to be here" said someone in a terse and unpleasant tone. It was Joshua Cotter. "Who gave that green ribbon to you? Give it to me right now" he demanded.

I told Cotter that the church had extended an open invitation to all American members to visit True Father's body and attend the Universal Seonghwa and that I had registered per official directions through the local church.

He responded that "your name is not on the list" and that the "Committee" had final say regarding who could and could not attend.

I told him if I was not allowed to attend, the church should have informed me before I spent the time and money to fly to Korea.

“Well,” said Cotter with not an ounce of sympathy or apology in his voice, “you should just take a plane back to where you came from.”

In front of hundreds of members, the security personnel then forced me downstairs into a back room as if I were a common criminal. I was told to wait while Cotter and others consulted with the “Committee”.

I was eventually told by an underling that I would not be allowed to visit True Father’s body at the “Cheon Jeong Gung,” nor would I be allowed inside the “Seonghwa Ceremony” at the Cheongshim Peace World Center and would only be allowed to attend at an off-site location. I was forced to relinquish the green ribbon.

One of the security guards told me that not everyone could either view True Father’s body or attend the live Universal Seonghwa.

However, as I was singled out from a crowd of thousands of members who had flown into Korea from around the world, none of whose names had been checked before receiving ribbons, it is clear that the only reason that I was not allowed to view True Father’s body or attend the Universal Seonghwa is that I work for and am loyal to organizations led by Hyun Jin Moon.

I came to Korea by myself, peacefully, and with no purpose other than to pay my respects to the person who I believe saved my spiritual life and connected me to heavenly fortune. There was no reason to prevent me from viewing True Father’s body or attending the Universal Seonghwa.

I will not forget the nasty and disrespectful treatment doled out to me by Cotter and those who directed Cotter’s actions. However, I am grateful that I could get a direct taste of what Hyun Jin Nim, the Kwak Family, Kyung Ho Kim, and other decent people have been going through.

The day will come when Cotter and many others will pay for their sins. No one is immune from the laws of heaven.

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