

REPORT

Hyung Jin Nim's World Peace Tour : THAILAND

To our Beloved True Parents:

This is a report about Hyung Jin Nim and Yeon Ah Nim's first visit to Thailand. They fell in love with the Thai culture and cuisine. There were many new fruits that they ate for the very first time.

The amount of selfless energy that HJN and YAN display is just astonishing. HJN seems to have endless passion and enthusiasm. He is teaching, teaching, teaching day and night. Many times he forgets to eat because he wants so much to share about True Parents' life and our Divine Principle.

True Parents, once again I must humbly thank you for raising such a filial son. Their couple melts the hearts of brothers and sisters with just the simplest of encounters. Thailand will be very blessed for allowing them to visit this regional headquarters.

Dr. Chung Sik Yong,
Regional President, Asia

August 1:

Airport Reception

Hyung Jin Nim's couple arrived in Thailand at about 6:20 PM on August 1st. Special arrangements has been made to receive them at the airport and the normal immigration formalities went smoothly and quickly. They even had electric carts receive the entire entourage at the gate and take us to an exclusive "fast track" immigration line reserved for diplomats and officials.

After they arrived at the church headquarters, they immediately went to the home of Akkamong and Kaori Aransri (his wife is from Japan). Mr. Aransri is the head of the Il Hwa company here in Thailand and their family won the lottery to have HJN and YAN come to their home for dinner. The representatives of our True Parents spent nearly three hours with this family which has four children.

In the course of the evening, HJN asked Mr. Aransri to explain his wife's character and point out three good things he sees in her. This continued as he talked about each child. In rotation, each member of the Aransri family shared about the closest and most important relationships in their lives.



As the meal was served and enjoyed, HJN mentioned how much he loves Thai food, especially the famous – and delicious and spicy– Tom Yum soup. He also likes *Pat Thai* (Thai noodles). And a new taste was acquired as this was the first time HJN and YAN ate mangosteens. It is a tropical fruit that has purple outside shell with a white eatable fruit inside that is sweet and tangy with a texture similar to the peach.



The calligraphy which HJN wrote was (unofficially), *With Devotion and True Love comes Heavenly Goodness.*

August 2:



As usual, the day began at 3:00 AM with morning meditation. Because HJN centers this practice on the Unification Church 12-gate symbol he wanted so much to see church logo. But as he looked around the room we could not find one. Dr. Joon Ho Seuk, who is attending HJN's World Tour here in Thailand, suggested that the podium be brought on stage because it has a beautiful golden

give-and-take action and four-position-foundation symbol on the front. We waited until this could be done because HJN really wanted us to see, to visualize, the symbol of our church which he uses through as the object of exercise and meditation.

At 5:00 AM, before HDH, testimonies were given by two members: Wonchai Sonchaisakul, the Deputy National Leader and Head of the Thai business groups, spoke about the difficulties he had as a Chinese Buddhist to join our movement in 1979. He was also one of the eight people imprisoned in Thailand when our church was falsely accused by the government and he spoke about this ordeal too.

Delia Javamasundra, originally from the Philippines, shared of her love of the divine principle vs. her job and family opposition. Her family was Catholic and so strongly disagreed with her joining the UC, even resorting to physical cruelty. But she remained strong in her faith. When one member threatened her purity she was so upset and angry. Following this, HDH was conducted in three languages: Thai, English and Japanese.

Special Service

At the 10:00 AM service about 500 people attended. It began with the Japanese choir singing, “Hollo Arirang.” Dr. Yong introduced HJN who spoke about 40 minutes. He began by asking a question, “Why are TP’s teaching so great? Why are they so powerful?”



When he would ask members they would say, “TF lives for the sake of others.” But so did Jesus, Buddha and other religious leaders. Others would say, “Because TF defeated Satan, or, Father taught us to give and give and forget what you’ve given.” But these things are not unique to the UC theology.

HJN went on to explain that TF’s life is what is different. He lived a life of total sacrifice, of being nearly killed or unjustly imprisoned so many times, but never giving up, and continuing to build the foundation from the individual to the family, society, nation all the way to the world levels. “Parental love is so great,” he emphasized, “it will give up its life, body and soul so that the children can be free.”



He went on to give a beautiful discourse on “The Lord’s Prayer” saying it was not just a mantra to be memorized and repeated, but it was a formula for building a relationship with God. In essence Jesus’ prayer teaches us the right attitude of total unselfishness.

Photo Session & Lunch

After the service, 140 blessed central families from Thailand had their photo taken with HJN and YAN. This was followed by photos with different providential organization, church centers, and business groups. In all, this took a little over one hour.

During lunch HJN gave a profound, in-depth discourse on social evolution of moral values vs. absolute values coming from a Creator that is eternal (beyond time), immaterial (beyond space), and a being that is personal, willful and loving.

Imbuing Thai Culture

Special arrangements through the Government of Thailand were made for HJN and YAN to visit Thailand's Grand Palace. This is home of the world famous, "Temple of the Emerald Buddha" (which is actually jade, not emerald). HJN was so impressed with this beautiful and powerful expression of religious art emerging from the Buddhist tradition that he wanted to buy a replica of the Emerald Buddha, even if it were not made from a precious or semi-precious stone. (He was thinking about the completion stage CBG peace temple in Korea). But unfortunately such reproductions was not available.



Next we had a special tour of the Royal Palace. We were able to go to a place inside the palace normally reserved only for heads of state and visiting international dignitaries. It was pouring rain at the time, so in groups of two we huddled together under umbrellas trying to keep dry. Our efforts were mostly in vain. But in Thailand rain is a blessing.

After this the entourage visited the "Golden Buddha" also on the Royal Palace compound. This is a 5.5 ton, solid gold Buddha. Buddhists from all throughout Thailand donated money to have this built. It was magnificent! Simply spectacular! As must a testimony to the power of religious sacrifice as to its splendid beauty.

The outing concluded with a two hour visit to China Town. Smells of all kinds – fish, fruit, and fine arts – mingled seamlessly in the crowded market. Here HJN went like a bee to a flower and found a beautiful Buddha statue. It was like he was drawn to the statue. At the same shop he bargained with the shopkeeper in Chinese and purchased other items: gifts for our Parents, as well as his family and friends back home.

As we walked the streets HJN treated us to pork dumplings, the best quality green tea from China, and bananas (not all at the same time, luckily).

Welcome Banquet

At 6:30 PM there was a “Welcome Banquet” at the Radisson Hotel. Nearly 140 people attended including 30 Buddhist monks.



Dr. Thomas Walsh gave an overview of recent UPF activities: the work in Nepal, the Legacy of Peace programs, Africa Day, International Day of Families, and UPF’s ILC series. He invited the participants to attend the Marriage Blessing in October in Korea and concluded by introducing the Guest of Honor, Dr. Hyung Jin Moon.

HJN began by thanking the Thai Government and the Royal Palace for their generous and kind hospitality. He then went on to explain about Father’s intense spiritual life, which began at the age of 16 on a mountain in N. Korea. As if weaving a tapestry he moved from topic to topic connecting each thread. He shattered the exaggerated myth of religious atrocities as the worst events in human history. Acknowledging that they were wrong in and of themselves, HJN when to say they were also blown out of proportion when compared to the massacres of millions by atheistic regimes which left “a mountain of human bodies... numbering in the tens of millions.”

In an emphatic manner, he stated categorically that the root of our human dilemma was “self-centered love, where I love myself more than I love others.”

The long day concluded back at the headquarters church when HJN signed a calligraphy with the 12-gate UC symbol.



August 3:

Morning Devotion

Like clockwork, we began our final day in Thailand with Hyung Jin Nim's couple at 3:00 AM meditation. We were all happily surprised with the President of the WFWP, Mrs. Kamoltip Payakwichien, walked in the main hall to join us. He had prepared two special gifts for HJN and YAN.

The first was a painting of Lord Buddha set in a historic wooden frame. The frame itself, over 700 years old, was constructed from wooden beams of a Buddhist temple that had collapsed decades ago. The second gift was a rare, black statue of Buddha. It was designed by the current king of Thailand and only a few such pieces are in existence.

Mrs. Kamoltip, who is also the Vice-President of the UPF Board of Directors, was deeply touched by HJN sincere devotion and love for Buddhism. She traveled with HJN's group the day before when he visited the various temples and saw his sincere love for Buddha and the Buddhist culture. She wanted to express her gratitude to the new International President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification and so made these offerings to HJN. They were graciously received.



At 5:00 AM HDH two deeply moving testimonies were given, both by sisters. First, Udomporn Mortega who was blessed in 1989 and lived for 14 years in the Philippines. She moved to Thailand several years ago and is now responsible for the ocean providence there. “The ocean is amazing” she said repeatedly with a smile that beamed like the wide expanse of the limitless sea she loved so much. She spoke of her good fortune in fishing and how the ocean was spiritually cleansing because it seemed to force you to look inward at yourself and examine your motive and heart continually.

The second testimony was by a sister. She is a Thai sister blessed with a Laotian husband. Her husband studied in Germany for his Ph.D. and she was sent to pioneer Laos. She was “very young” and “very lonely,” but worked day and night teaching the Principle. Often she would teach from 8 o’clock in the morning until midnight. As a result many people started to come. This, unfortunately, drew the attention of the Laos authorities.

Coupled with the political hostility between Thailand and Laos, she was awoken one morning at 2:00 AM when a group of armed police pounded on her door. After being taken to the prison, she was given a choice: be deported peacefully or go to jail. She thought that if she was deported it would mean she would have to break her blessing since she would never be allowed back into Laos. So without much thought she chose to go to jail rather than risk breaking her marriage. She was sentenced to five years of incarceration. During this time she allowed to have one visitor a month—for 15 minutes.

Despite the difficult environment she developed a grateful heart because through this experience she came to understand the heart of True Mother. We often talk about Father being imprisoned numerous times, but seldom realized that when Father was put in jail, Mother too suffered so much. Mother's heart must have ached to see Father, innocent of any crime, incarcerated time and time again.



The final morning with HJN and YAN was unforgettable. They cut the victory cake and their last words as they left the main sanctuary in the Thai headquarters were, “We must come back again very soon.”

Spontaneous applause and shouts of “Yes” filled the hall and hearts of everyone.