



Opening Ceremony for the Cheon IL Guk Leaders' Assembly 2016

Keynote Address

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Respected and beloved brothers and sisters!

It is a tremendous honor for me to have the opportunity to speak to you today to launch this Special Assembly of Cheon Il Guk Leaders.

Gratitude and love for True Mother

To begin with, I would like to offer my deepest gratitude and love for True Mother, who is a

pillar of strength, courage, wisdom, and determination.

True Parents are our heroes!

They have overcome bitter challenges, opposition, and suffering, in order to firmly establish the root and foundation for receiving and transferring Heavenly Parent's blessings of love, life, and lineage.

Even during these past three years, True Mother has carried the overwhelming burden and responsibility to carry forward God's providence. In the process she has had to face and overcome many trials and tribulations.

With True Father at her side from spirit world, she has led our movement forward with unconditional love, grace, wisdom, and firm determination.

I know True Father is very proud of True Mother!

Also, I would like to offer my humble gratitude to all of you, my brothers and sisters, for your great investment and care in preparing for all the many programs that have been organized during this special time of Heavenly Parent's Day, True Parents Birthday, and, soon, Foundation Day and the Blessing.

And for our global families who have made a sacred pilgrimage to Cheong Pyeong at this holy time, we send you our sincere love and eternal gratitude. We are all citizens of Cheon Il Guk!

Motto for Vision 2020

As you all know very well, True Mother has given us a deep and clear motto to honor and uphold until we complete Vision 2020; a motto filled with tremendous meaning and wisdom.

As we know, that motto is "let us become true owners of Cheon Il Guk who practice true love in resemblance to our Creator, the Heavenly Parent!"

True Owner

So, what does it mean to become a true owner?

How do we practice True Love and resemble our Heavenly Parent?

In True Father's autobiography he speaks about becoming more spiritually and consciously aware of the true nature of all living things and of what it means to be a "true owner" like our Heavenly Parent.

I'd like to read one very enlightening passage:

As the environmental issues grow more serious, many environmental groups have sprung up. The best environmental movement, however, is one that spreads love. People

generally take care of things that belong to them or to the people they love. They do not, however, take care or love the natural environment that God created. God gave this environment to humanity. It is His will that we use the environment to obtain food, to have it in abundance, and to experience the joy of living in the beauty of nature. Nature is not something to be used once and thrown away. Our descendants for many generations to come must be able to rely on it just as we have.

The short cut to protecting nature is to develop a heart that loves nature. We must be able to shed a tear at the sight of even a blade of grass that we see as we walk along the road. We must be able to grab hold of a tree and weep. We must understand that God's breath is hidden inside a single boulder or a gust of wind. To care for and love the environment is to love God. We must be able to see each creature created by God as an object of our love. With our spiritual eyes opened we could see that a single dandelion by the roadside is more valuable than the gold crown of kings." (PLGC, 311)

As True Father guides us, we should learn to love the environment and all creation with sincere passion and care.

This applies not only to the natural environment and all the living beings on our planet, but to our social and spiritual environments, such as our workplace, church, school, neighborhood, city, nation, etc.

Everything on earth and in this universe belongs to our Heavenly Parent. Therefore, we must honor, cherish and care for all these glorious gifts of life, and, in this way, pass on to future generations a world that has been properly cared for and loved.

That is the heart of our True Parents, and this should be the heart and commitment of all the Cheon Il Guk leaders gathered here; you are the parental figures, and you---within the realm of your responsibility---are responsible for the growth, care, and future success and sustainability of our movement.

In Genesis 1:28, it states that "God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (KJV)"

Having been taught by True Parents, we all know very well that "dominion" does not mean forcefully controlling or ruling over creation; rather, it means to become entirely responsible, with the heart of unconditional love of a parent.

Where do we find an example or model of a True Owner? Of course that model is found in our True Parents. True Father led the providence as a True Owner.

And, now, our True Mother is leading the providence as a true owner.

She always has the unwavering focus and heart of taking full responsibility, with a heart of unconditional love centered on our Heavenly Parent.

The time since our True Father's ascension has been a critical time in our movement's history.

Not only is it important that our True Mother stand firm as a True Owner, it is also important that we, as leaders of Cheon Il Guk, inherit True Parents heart and become true owners, taking responsibility to advance Heavenly Parent's will and providence.

As we each develop the heart and sense of responsibility of a true owner, centered on our True Mother, our mindset will be transformed.

As a result, we will be more effective in our various mission responsibilities, as we march together toward the victorious fulfillment of Vision 2020, and beyond.

Rather than focusing on short-term or immediate gains, which might be unsustainable, the mindset changes to long-term building blocks that can create sustainable results that accumulate well into the future beyond our own lifetimes.

As we cultivate the heart of a true owner, we will witness a positive impact in every practical facet of leadership, including planning, budgeting, and organizational structure.

Also, being filial children of True Parents and inheriting this heart of a true owner, we will naturally discover ways to add more value and contribute more to True Parents and the providence.

Inspired by True Parents' teachings, sacrificial life, and their great victory of love, brothers and sisters around the world devoted themselves in attendance to True Parents, offering blood sweat and tears, as well as financial contributions. This is a sacred history of faith.

I hope that we, as leaders of Cheon Il Guk, can chart a similar course.

That is, if we come to resemble True Parents, I believe people from around the world --I am talking about people, and even organizations who are not yet part of our movement-- will be inspired to support our movement.

They will be captivated by the vision, the commitment, and our character, professionalism and heart.

As we inherit the heart and the "true owner" tradition of True Parents, I believe this will happen more and more.

I hope that, through this Cheon Il Guk leaders meeting, we will move forward with this in mind. This will encourage and inspire our True Parents more than anything else.

I pray that each and every one gathered here can, with a heart of a true owner, inherit and bequeath a greater legacy which future generations can be proud of and further build upon to grow, develop, and expand Cheon Il Guk.

Practicing True Love

We know from Divine Principle that we are made in the image of God. So, what does it mean to resemble our Heavenly Parent?

After much Hoon Dok Hwe and reflection on True Parents' teaching and thinking seriously about Vision 2020, I have come to realize how important it is to understand Heavenly Parent's Will, the direction of the providence, and the way in which Heavenly Parent acts in our lives.

Heavenly Parent acts with love, centered on a purpose to achieve harmonious loving relationships with his sons and daughters.

We should become like our Heavenly Parent. As our motto says, let us "practice true love in resemblance to our Creator."

By initiating the action and motion of true love in all aspects of our lives with compassion, empathy, service, forgiveness, and living for the sake of others, we each have the possibility to resemble our Heavenly Parent.

If we reflect on our own gift of life, the planet and creation around us, we come to see that this was all a gift; we received the ultimate gift, of true love, true life, and true lineage.

By acting in this world as True Parents have shown us by their example, then we really do have the amazing and miraculous possibility of coming to resemble our Heavenly Parent.

As leaders, we sometimes might fall into the errant thinking that practicing true love might not apply in times of conflict, disagreement, or simply not be applicable in the most adverse of situations.

However, I believe that it is in those situations that the practice of true love is most necessary. Where there is separation, division, and disunity, we all have learned that only True Love can heal and overcome any difficulty.

If we are to offer a restored nation to True Parents, it will not be through the use of force. Only by practicing true love can we move, inspire and transpire a nation.

If we look at the state of the world today with the crises of the planet, global economic difficulties, and interreligious strife, we know that the world urgently needs True Parents' true love and blessing; now more than ever.

Only through True Parents and the heart of true parental love can we establish world peace and One Family Under God.

Youth & Wisdom

One of the themes for this leadership assembly is youthful energy and zeal.

I love the dynamic, passionate spirit of many young people.

At the same time, I believe that passion or energy exerted without a clear purpose is unsustainable. It easily dissipates. Or, it goes in a direction that will not result in the outcome one hopes for or expects.

We can say that there needs to be a clear balance of heart and mind. Passion and energy need to be channeled in constructive ways, within the context of a moral framework.

This is why the Principle is so important, and this is why hoon dok hwe is so very important. By studying the word, we can find the proper guidance to chart our course in life.

I would like to present another passage from True Father's autobiography.

In his chapter on "Find Your Purpose, Change Your Life," he writes as follows:

...our youth is the most important and most beautiful period of our lives. This period should be a time of tranquility as one prepares for the future. The process of growing to maturity is a building block that opens the way to a new era...we are all created to be great men and women. God did not send us into this world without purpose. When God created us He invested His complete love into each person. So we are all created for greatness because God exists, we can accomplish anything. I became a completely different person when I began to love God. I loved humanity more than myself and was more concerned with the problems of others than the problems of my own family. I loved everything that God created. I deeply loved the trees on the hills and the fish in the waters. My spiritual senses developed so I could discern God's handiwork in all things in creation. As I was changing my heart to conform to God's love. I also strengthened my body so I could fulfill my mission." (PLGC,323)

This is such precious, wisdom and insight, which I hope we all can take to heart.

When youthful passion is linked to the heart of Heavenly Parent and the tradition of True Parents, then this youthful passion will never diminish or go away.

We witnessed the example of our True Father who lived 92 years.

He was always young in heart. His passion and energy were never disconnected from a purpose related to the providence.

He always acted with mind and body unity and the sincere heart of the true owner.

Also, youthful spirit is not just about age.

It is also about our being able to understand the world around us, and the ever changing environment, and being able to adjust accordingly.

It is only when we understand our "audience", namely the world around us---the culture, the trends, the demographics---that we can reach out to others and teach the truth effectively.

We do not need to be bound by our age, whether we are 20 or 40 or 60. If we live as sincere true owners, we will have sustainable and lasting youthful passion and spirit.

The world is changing rapidly and a critical aspect of this change is the speed of open communication.

I hope, as leaders, we will all be responsive to feedback we receive from our brothers and

sisters, and that we can work together collaboratively, seeking consensus and common cause, so that we can move Cheon Il Guk forward in the right direction, with Heavenly Parent and True Parents as our model, compass, and guide.

Creating Success and Sustainability

True Parents founded many businesses and non-profit organizations for the sake of the providence and in order to reach the widest possible audience in the shortest period of time.

Once again, I'd like to refer to True Father's autobiography, the chapter entitled 'Money earned honorably, used prayerfully. In this chapter he writes,

Funds accumulated through business operations are sacred. For business profits to be sacred, however, it is important not to lie or to take excessive profit. When conducting business, we must always be honest... Money earned in an honorable manner must, of course be spent prayerfully. It must be spent with clear purpose and intent. This is the principle of business management I have promoted throughout my life. I believe the purpose of business is not simply to make money. It is also to support the missionary work, which is the work of God." (PLGC,148)

These words apply to each of us, regardless of our mission responsibility.

We know the mission of True Parents is not only to reach out to religious people, but also to try to reach all humanity.

That is why True Parents started programs to involve and educate people from every field of endeavor in every part of the world.

True Parents started these organizations and, for many years, sustained these organizations with their resources.

Our job is to build on their investment, taking these various businesses and NGOs to a higher level. Our businesses were not created simply to generate profits, but to create resources that can be used to further the work of God.

To achieve this goal, we need to continue to strive for higher levels of professionalism and quality management of these organizations, while also seeking to achieve sustainability, especially since they were developed through the sacrifice of True Parents and the deep dedication and contributions of brothers and sisters, especially from Japan.

We must not squander these sacred assets and funds.

And we must be mindful that anything we receive must be eventually returned and replenished.

We must live with a consciousness to add and give rather than to take and lose.

We must honorably work with a clear purpose and intent to bring success in our area of

responsibility and we must not continue to rely on our brothers and sisters in Japan to continue to support the worldwide movement forever into the future.

Each region must become honorable, successful, and create more sacred funds to support Gods work.

As leaders, I hope we continue to develop ourselves not only spiritually but also professionally so that we can make these providential organizations sustainable and, in the case of our businesses, profitable.

A large majority of our organizations are nonprofit organizations.

Those of you involved in these organizations, should make effort to learn more about nonprofit management.

This will help us achieve our goal, and will bring comfort and honor to True Parents.

It is especially important to learn more about what it means to conduct “honorable business,” practicing good governance and respect for the rule of law from the board room to the workplace, and applying professional standards in fundraising, human resources and financial management, and public relations.

By developing new skills, you will be in a position to make informed decisions and avoid many unnecessary mistakes.

Also, a critical part of sustainability is proper asset management, especially since there are many physical assets and businesses affiliated with our movement.

Successful and sustainable management means making sure that, as leaders, we do not burden our True Parents or the movement either legally or financially.

Also, as leaders representing True Parents, we should hold the highest standards in terms of serving and earning the trust of and being a moral, example of wise parental leadership for our brothers and sisters around the world.

We should always love unconditionally, and live each day knowing that one day we shall pass from this physical realm to our eternal home with Heavenly Parent. We must therefore live with great care to leave this world better than we found it, so that future generations can inherit this glorious love, life, legacy, and lineage of Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

Looking Forward

One of the other great achievements of True Mother has been the completion of the Cheon Il Guk Constitution and the establishment of the various organs of Cheon Il Guk, including the Supreme Council.

True Mother is preparing a stable and secure foundation for our movement, knowing that one day she will join True Father in the spiritual world.

The CIG Constitution and the governing system of CIG was near and dear to our True Father's heart, as True Mother knows better than anybody.

This is why she made it a top priority during these three years.

At this time, the Supreme Council is functioning effectively and faithfully in accordance with True Mother's direction.

Soon, the other branches of CIG will be launched, and that is the topic of the upcoming meeting of the Supreme Council.

These are very significant developments, and would not have happened without True Mother's wise leadership.

Brothers and sisters, no matter what your mission, responsibility or area of service, let us take our movement to the next level.

Our goal should be to be able to take the foundation of assets and organizations that True Parents have founded and developed, and add more value to them, while we further the mission of our True Parents.

Let Us Inherit from True Parents

When I reflect on the boundless passion and energy that True Parents have had in their mission, I always wondered, where did this come from? Are they superhuman?

I know that they are divinely anointed. But, beyond this, they also have a very deep sense of urgency.

They have directly experienced and suffered through occupation and war.

I think they have witnessed the worst tendencies of fallen humanity. They have experienced the evil that human beings can do to each other when they lack or deny the true love and blessing of Heavenly Parent.

True Father would teach for hours and hours because he knew this reality and wanted to spare both Heavenly Parent and humanity from ongoing misery and suffering.

His passion derived from true love.

Without true love, life becomes dark and desperate.

If we are to inherit anything from True Parents, let it be the true love that they perfected. As True Father has said:

Human beings have always struggled to understand who we are and why we must live. We must realize that we were not born of our own accord, we are not meant to live our lives just for our own sakes. So the answer to the question of how we should live our lives is simple. We were born of love, so we must live by traveling the path of love. Our

lives were created by receiving the boundless love of our parents, so we must live our entire lives repaying that love. In the course of our lives, this is the only value we can choose on our own. The success or failure of our lives depends on how much love we pack into those 80 years that are given to us.” (PLGC,229)

True love is the essence and the only path of life itself.

Closing

In closing, let me leave you with a final passage from True Father’s “Peace-Loving Global Citizen”:

Peace, though is not so difficult to accomplish. To begin with we can find peace in the air we breathe, in the natural environment, and in the people around us.” (PLGC,2) To restore our beautiful essence as human beings we need to go back to the principles of peace and the breath of love that we learned as we were being carried on our fathers’ backs.” (PLGC,7)

I hope that each and everyone one of us can be a source of peace, inspiration, guidance and true love for others. I pray that you will be good to yourselves, creation, and each other.

As you set your intention, purpose, and goals for 2016, please carry this deep, eternal example of parental love, which is expressed so vividly in True Father’s autobiography.

Please become a beacon of love and peace to guide your family, tribe, nation, and the world back to our Heavenly Parent.

I believe in the divine parental heart that lives in you!

Can we pledge and give our most sincere determination to fulfill Vision 2020 and make Cheon Il Guk a glorious reality for all humankind and creation?

Yes!

Can we now show our love and determination with a cheer filled with passion, from the bottom of our hearts, so True Father above and True Mother in Cheon Jeong Gung can hear our voices singing out as one victorious family under our Heavenly Parent?

Yes!

Then let us offer three cheers of victory, Sungli, three times!

Thank you all for the lifetime of love, care, dedication, and sincere effort for Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

May abundant blessings grace you and all your precious families forever!

Kamsahamnida. Salanghamnida. Namaste.