

Translating the Cheon Seong Gyeong and Pyeong Hwa Gyeong into Spanish

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The team came to the office and read scripture all day

The ongoing translation into Spanish of the Holy Scriptures of Cheon Il Guk has required sincere investment and prayerful effort. Shortly after True Father's ascension, True Mother said that just as Christianity had evangelized the world with one book, the Bible, we also must (if possible) do it with one or only a few books that bring the word and God's will for this era to the world.

In fact, the new compilation of the Holy Scripture of Cheon Il Guk should be the main material with which to work and successfully achieve the goals of Vision 2020. Thus, True Mother promised God that she would complete these scriptural texts as soon as possible.

The Korean version was published within a short time, but having a faithful version of the scriptures in English is a decisive factor for the translation into some of the other languages. Although the English version took longer than True Mother had expected, elder members with much experience in translating transcripts of Father's spoken words and speech texts, as well as some professors from our Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) who are experienced in editing his teachings, worked on this translation and the final proofreading.

The result is a faithful and reliable rendering of the original language, on which the Spanish translation is based.

On February 22, True Mother summoned to the Cheon Jeong Gung those involved in the project of translating the scriptures. On that occasion, in addition to instructing that the translation into Spanish of *Cheon Seong Gyeong* and *Pyeong Hwa Gyeong* begin, Mother instructed those on hand to keep the international Unification community updated with news and messages from True Parents in near real time, with images captioned in various languages. That marked the birth of the Weekly Update video and True Peace magazine, both of which PeaceTv produces in Korean, Japanese, Spanish, English and French and make available through their website or mobile phones.

The full translation of the Holy Scripture of Cheon Il Guk into Spanish began on March 1, with a team comprising an editor, Ricardo Gómez, from our center in Mar del Plata, Argentina; and four translators working with the English version -- Yamila Gómez, Rosi Giuliano, Paola Sabini and Elizabeth Giuliano. Mr Raúl Rey and Vanessa Solsol also contributed for a brief period to the translation.

These members left jobs and any other activities they were involved in to commit themselves exclusively to this work. The translators had a goal of putting into their native language seven to ten English pages. The editor had to go through twenty-two pages a day on average, in order to finish the initial translation of *Cheon Seong Gyeong* in Spanish within three months, as planned, and as promised to True Mother. By

late May, they had achieved the goal. Shortly afterward, the same team began the translation and editing of *Pyeong Hwa Gyeong*, a task that ended in late September. Seog Byeong Kim, the president of the Scripture Compilation Committee decided that at least three people with sufficient knowledge of the Divine Principle and True Parents' teachings should come to Korea from Latin America and read the whole of the text together, discuss areas that are unclear and make any necessary revisions in the Spanish version of *Cheon Seong Gyeong*. President Kim based this on his experience at bringing the Korean language version to finished form. He wanted to avoid the personal perspective of the editor being the only viewpoint reflected in final changes when editing such valuable text.



From left: Alejandro de Souza, Ricardo Gomez, Argelia Ortiz, Mario Salinas, Alejandro Fayad

So it was that Ricardo Gómez (Argentina), Alejandro Fayad (Colombia), and Mario Salinas (Honduras) arrived in Seoul on the last day of September to begin, from October 1, reading the final review of the two translated Spanish volumes. In this, they are assisted by Panamanian professor Argelia Ortiz. This is a task that will be completed by the end of November and will permit us to offer the printed versions to our Heavenly Parent and True Parents by Foundation Day next year. As for the compilation of the third book, *Cham Bumo Gyeong*, it is almost complete in the Korean language and probably will be translated into Spanish within a year. Some reflections on the experiences dealing with these holy texts follow:

Ricardo Gómez (Argentinean editor, writer and church leader in Mar del Plata,)

My being asked to join the team to work with the Holy Scriptures presented me with a paradox. On the one hand, my inevitable reaction was a feeling that it was a huge blessing to do this work; on the other hand, it seemed reckless of me to become involved in deciding on word choices when it came to True Parents' teachings.

The team has given its best effort to make the presentation of these sacred books in Spanish worthy in True Parents' eyes. I witnessed the countless hours that the translators spent laboring in order to deliver the work on time; these efforts will surely be reward by Heaven. Added to that effort is the work of final editing that we are doing in Korea. What True Parents have said they expressed in a language very different from Spanish, which is why the work of final correction was been very difficult.

Sometimes, each individual of the correction team has had a different idea about what word to use. We have spent twelve hours a day on this project, which is why we hope that the effort is fully reflected in the outcome and that these words will inspire the entire Spanish speaking community.

Alejandro Fayad Betancourt (Colombian National Leader)

Through the time of my life following True Parents and studying the Divine Principle, I have always believed in the ability of the teachings of True Parents to solve the world's problems.

Through this time of collaborating on *Cheon Seong Gyeong*, that feeling is now deeper. Our work each day is intense, but because we are reading for more than eight hours per day, comfort comes from reading

what Father said and finding such strength for the benefit of our peoples. When reading we encounter great challenges. We find words that even in Korean are difficult to understand but which we must render into Spanish, or words that do not exist in our language or phrases that arose spontaneously, so despite True Father's clarity, they are very difficult to understand. Similarly, despite the inspiration that comes from reading what Father said, it is still exhausting read for so long. We hope this small contribution helps the growth of our entire community. We deeply appreciate the True Mother, through her efforts for the sake of the world, as given the Latin community greater access to True Parents' teachings and in a more agile and dynamic form.

Mario Salinas (National Leader of Honduras)

This project is another act of the True Parents coming close to their children. In this sense, we feel a sense of responsibility toward our work and that this effort will provide the best means to read, study, understand and analyze sincerely the words of True Parents in fulfilling the providential expectations of our time and the dream of founding a culture of heart.

Professor Ortiz Argelia (Republic of Panama)

The introduction to the *Exposition of Divine Principle* says, "We believe and hope that when the time is ripe, more profound portions of the truth will be published." When I received the call to work on the final revisions of *Cheon Seong Gyeong*, I felt privileged to be part of the history of the love of God for his children, and that he is a faithful God, so we can trust him with our soul, life and heart. True Father said that for God, we have to be very serious; so I determined to be very serious, when accepting this responsibility.

As I read the valuable material in this book, I feel my life takes on more value and I can appreciate the great love God has for us. I can see everything, even the most difficult days of my life, with great appreciation, and as instruction for me, because God is always helping us grow to become true sons or daughters. This he craved from the beginning. Now, we know clearly how we should be with our Heavenly Parent in order to bring joy to His heart. The light came to us.

Now we can say and understand that "a new sun and a new earth has begun." I feel eternal love and gratitude.