

## FFWPU Cheongshim District 's 100th anniversary of Korea's March 1st Movement

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This year marks the 100th anniversary of Korea's March 1st Movement. In 1905, the Eulsa Treaty was signed with the Empire of Japan, a treaty that stripped Korea (then known as Joseon) of its diplomatic sovereignty. In 1910, Japan began to rule Korea as a colony. From then on, in resistance to the forced Japanese occupation, the Koreans declared the Korea–Japan annexation treaty null and void and declared Korea's independence on March 1, 1919 in the form of a non-violent movement, which expanded to the entire nation within three months. Based on this movement, patriots established the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea in Shanghai, China, in April.

Stripped of sovereignty, the people of the Korean Peninsula united and called for non-violence, the non-use of arms and force, which is Satan's style, setting the preconditions for a sovereign state. On that foundation, God planted the seed of the Lord of the Second Coming in the Korean Peninsula. True Father's birth came ten months later. The sacrifices and the independence movement that arose around national heroine Gwan-sun Yu established the foundation for True Mother's birth. In this light, the March 1st Movement was a milestone marking the dawn of the divine works of the Second Advent.

In line with this anniversary, we need to carry out the providence of the beginning of Korea and its citizen as a sovereign nation restored to God, and centering on the True Parents, "to begin of the era of a unified, heavenly Korea," a theme True Mother gave us at the beginning of this year. For this reason, we are promoting the March 1st movement to uplift the spirit of the heroine Gwan-sun Yu in all parts of Korea.

In Gapyoung, the county where the True Parents reside, the event is significant to the providence. We conducted a 100th anniversary commemoration at the Gapyoung Cultural Center, sponsored by the county and the True Family Movement Headquarters. The first part of the event was a replica of what happened in Gapyoung on March 15, a hundred years ago, when people arose here. We also had arts performances. For the second part, we moved to the Gapyoung Center for Culture and Art, where over six hundred locals filled the premises, highlighting the importance of the occasion.

Unlike the commemorative events in the rest of the country, it was an occasion to heal wounds, a source of pain affecting the Korea–Japan relationship and thus served to move toward a more encouraging future through forgiveness and reconciliation. This was the message our event conveyed.

For the ceremony, leading politicians, including members of the City Council and former legislators, attended especially from Japan, who in their speeches apologized to the bereaved families of independence fighters. We witnessed a moving moment when the head of the organization and the bereaved families of independence fighters stepped onto the podium and presented white tulips for a first-of-its-kind act of reconciliation and forgiveness in over a century.

That these ambassadors for peace testified to receiving inspiration from True Parents' peace movement in Northeast Asia made it an especially good opportunity to bear witness to True Parents. Following this, eighty members of a multicultural choir joined hands and hearts in moving songs that expressed their love for the country. This historic event moved earth and heaven. As hearts became one, you could sense the ice melting in springtime. Who can create such feelings? Only Unification Church members following our True Parents' path of true love.

Following the choir, the Japanese women were thirsty for the Holy Spirit of God's only daughter and hugged one another in tears. We wept and wept when we saw the greatness of what was occurring.

I am convinced that if we today emulate what happened a hundred years ago and join forces -- transcending gender, religion, position and region -- over True Parents' births to wholeheartedly support True Mother in realizing the true salvation of humanity and a unified world, God's country will appear as if by a miracle.

The Family Federation in the Special District of Cheongshim conducted this event and doing so brought us a tremendous sense of achievement. It helps create a suitable environment for the capital of Cheon Il Guk and the restoration of heavenly Gapyoung and is a major step forward in beginning the era of a unified, heavenly Korea and national restoration under Vision 2020. We offer all the glory of victory to God and our True Parents.