

## FFWPU UK River South Hosts EUME Main Celebration Of True Parents' Birthday

Michael Balcomb  
January 29, 2023



At 10am on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 125 members and guests gathered at the River South Peace Embassy in Thornton Heath and linked up with all Heavenly Parent's Holy Communities around Europe and the Middle East to celebrate True Parents' 103<sup>rd</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> Birthdays, and Foundation Day.

Preparations for the day began weeks before with planning by volunteer teams, and by Saturday evening, most of the Holy Table, room arrangements and technical details had been meticulously worked out and readied.

We began the service with River South Pastor, Adza M., leading Pledge, followed by prayers, cake cutting by Mieko D. and Hong Il K., whose birthdays were closest to True Parents', and remarkably, both working in outreach at Greenwich University.



Russell G., UK National Outreach Coordinator, and Benedict V., offered congratulatory songs to our True Parents.

EUME Regional Chair, Dr. Michael Balcomb gave a compelling talk on the topic, "[A Leap of Faith](#)". He passed on True Mother, Hak Ja Han's injunction, to give up something holding us back, improve something we're doing well and to take up a new challenge in this 11<sup>th</sup> year of Cheon Il Guk.

Dr. and Mrs. Balcomb then presented gifts to all children under 16 years of age, and one to our elder

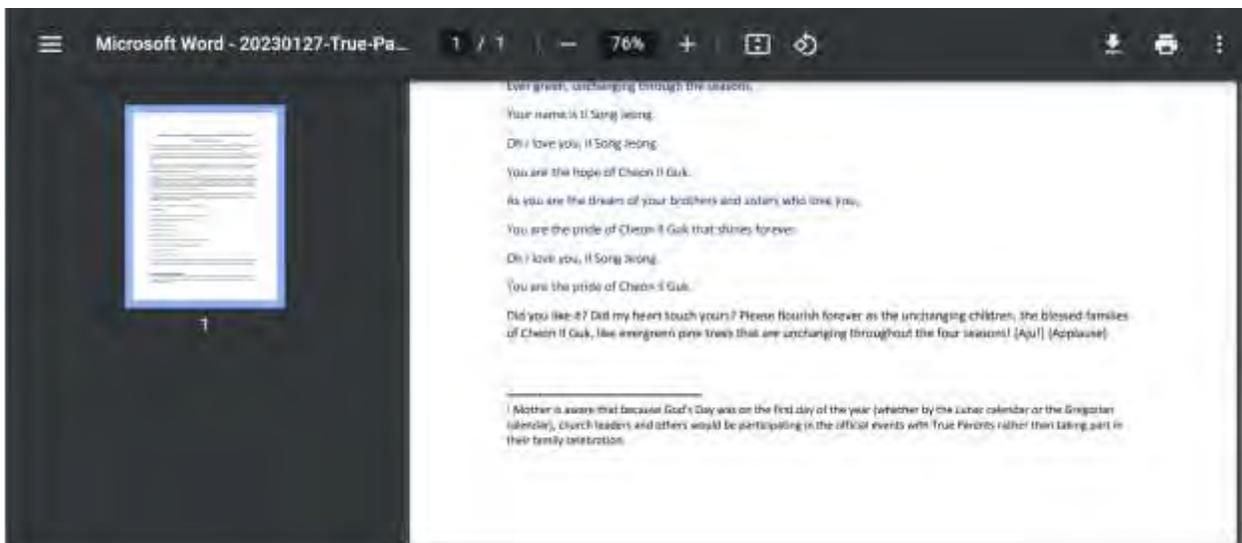
sister, Barbara van P-S. Following a beautiful lunch, we had inspiring musical and poetry presentations by members of the congregation.



Among the contributions to the entertainment was a poem written by Paul Fisher, which we're happy to feature below with his permission. The poem is about a man named David whom Paul and his brother met many years ago in Wales when renovating a house:



**Transcript of True Mother's Words on 27<sup>th</sup> January:**



**David Price of Graig-y-Rhacca 1958-2012 - poem by Paul Fisher**

Dai Price no longer drives a taxi  
 Alas. He's now in the invisible substantial world  
 Enjoying direct dominion luxury?  
 Left behind a beautiful wife, four lovely girls. Growing period unfurled.

Dai Price no longer pilots a cab  
 Only remember Julie, one of our tenants. Buy to let battered  
 But he'll borrow you his ladders, lend other tools you need; fab  
 To him that was all (get the job done) that matters.

Dai Price no longer operates a minicab  
 Will tell you jokes, laugh with you and weep  
 Pull your leg, wind you up; gag dab  
 An infectious guy for keeps.

Dai Price no longer steers a Hackney cab  
 Family man, DIYer, who drove cabs fast 'n' hard  
 Didn't know his politics or religion, nor his macabre  
 For yard and yard. After many a yard. Yard after yard after yard.

Dai Price no longer chauffeurs a taxicab  
 Wanted to witness. All of our meetings were short  
 About weather, motors 'n' cars, comedies. Rings 'n' things we'd gab  
 Never God, Jesus Christ, True Parents; or Heavens coming harmony. How brought.

Dai Price no longer propels a fiacre  
Social bloke, mate. Like to always be around; with. No baloney  
Who chain-smoked. Then leukaemia dropped his life. A brief fifty four, huh!  
That's why David Winston Price no longer drives a taxi.

**“A Leap of Faith” – Sermon by Dr Michael Balcomb**



## Special Luncheon to Celebrate the Holy Birth of True Parents, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### True Mother's Message

Beloved blessed families, ambassadors for peace and members all over the world! In particular, dignitaries from all over the world who sent congratulatory messages for our Birthday this time! I thank you sincerely.

As we begin the year of the black rabbit, I pray that the lamp of hope is lit so that all of humankind within Heavenly Parent's Holy Community will unite all religions and integrate the histories of our civilizations so they all become one.

So, together with all of you Cheon Il Guk citizens, I received New Year greetings from world leaders as we ushered in the new year. As of now, the Cheon Il Guk Heavenly Calendar and the Lunar New Year will begin with the celebration of the Holy Birth of the True Parents.

To put it more clearly, for the leaders who worked hard attending Father on the first day of January throughout that time, there must have been many difficult circumstances where you couldn't do this or that. But from now on, I am giving you the freedom to be there for your extended families (tribes) on the Lunar New Year holiday.<sup>1</sup> And the heavenly calendar is to begin from the True Parents' Birthday. Today is the first day of the year of the black rabbit, therefore. Do you understand? [Yes!] (Applause)

So, I send you my love and blessings. The Cheon Il Guk song "Il Song Jeong," for which I wrote the words, was composed by my granddaughter, and will be sung by Shin-chul, Shin-heung, Shin-jin, and Shin-nyuh. It is a song that conveys my heart. Please listen closely.

[True family 3<sup>rd</sup> generation members sing "Il Song Jeong"]

#### Il Song Jeong

A pine tree standing tall in front of Cheon Jeong Gung Palace

Ever green, unchanging through the seasons,

Your name is Il Song Jeong.

Oh I love you, Il Song Jeong.

You are the hope of Cheon Il Guk.

As you are the dream of your brothers and sisters who love you,

You are the pride of Cheon Il Guk that shines forever.

Oh I love you, Il Song Jeong.

You are the pride of Cheon Il Guk.

Did you like it? Did my heart touch yours? Please flourish forever as the unchanging children, the blessed families of Cheon Il Guk, like evergreen pine trees that are unchanging throughout the four seasons! [Aju!] (Applause)

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<sup>1</sup> Mother is aware that because God's Day was on the first day of the year (whether by the Lunar calendar or the Gregorian calendar), church leaders and others would be participating in the official events with True Parents rather than taking part in their family celebration.