

FFWPU UK: Celebrating True Parents' Birthdays - A Week of Honor, Joy, and Preparation in Korea

Michael Balcomb
February 12, 2025



Returning from a vibrant week in Korea, we joined True Parents' birthday celebrations with heartfelt ceremonies, joyful festivities, and key preparations for April's Cheon Won Gung Entrance ceremony.

Fumiko and I just returned from a busy and exciting week in Korea, where we had the privilege of attending the many days of celebrations surrounding True Parents' Holy birthdays on February 3rd. It was True Mother's 82nd birthday, and would have been True Father's 105th.

On the day itself, we gathered early morning in the Cheon Jeong Gung museum and palace for a commemorative pledge service, with devotional prayers and songs, lighting of the holy candles, and a magnificent offering table of fruits and foods. I was one of the representatives invited to offer ceremonial greeting bows. Then True Mother tasted some of the holy foods prepared - taking care to partake from her own bowl and from True Father's bowl on his behalf. Members of the True Family concluded the ceremony by sharing rice cake with the congregation.

After this dignified beginning, the mood brightened with a rousing Yute Nori competition. Eight teams competed for the grand prize, but all the participants received a little New Year prize money! To

conclude, we gathered together for a birthday lunch with entertainment. It was during this luncheon that I had the chance to present to True Mother the special - and huge - birthday card prepared by over 400 of our FFWPU families in Russia. At over 4m long, I think it might be the biggest birthday card anyone has received! True Mother certainly smiled as our brothers Alexander and Martinas unfurled it in front of her table.



Before we left Korea, we joined several planning and briefing meetings to discuss the upcoming events for the Cheon Won Gung Entrance ceremony in April. With over 20,000 expected on the day, every detail is important: the seating plan, the tickets, the parking places for the bus, the meals, the trash collection, and so on. Later, we went out to visit some of the accommodations being prepared for our pilgrims from the UK, Europe and the Middle East - seeing is believing!

