



FFWPU-USA

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

October 14, 2013

Michael and Fumiko Balcomb

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Heavenly Calendar 1.9.10

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, October 14th, is an important date in our Movement's history, and for many reasons.

First of all, it was on October 14th, 1950 that True Father was liberated from the Hungnam prison camp in North Korea. In his autobiography, he recalls the day when the United Nations forces began bombing the city. While the guards and other officials took refuge in bomb shelters, True Father and the other prisoners were left exposed. Warned by a spiritual encounter with Jesus, he called on all the prisoners to stick together close to him, so that all would share a common fate: either to all live, or to all die. Heaven intervened, and those who stayed close to True Father all lived. Over the years, I've often seen this as a metaphor for our spiritual lives: though spiritual bombs and missiles explode all around us, if we stay close to True Parents, we will certainly survive.

I vividly remember True Father speaking about his liberation from Hungnam to a large audience of Ambassadors for Peace and UPF representatives at the Peace Palace in Korea, on October 14, 2006. True Mother had just completed the third UPF world speaking tour with her children and grandchildren. Welcoming her, Father shared the dramatic events of October, 1950 with the audience, and then said:

“I declare this day, which bears such great providential significance, to be a historical day of victory, through which I offer glory and respect to Heaven, and blessings and love to the earth as the True Parent of all Humankind, under the protection of God.” [*True Owners in Establishing the Kingdom of Peace and Unity, 10/14/2006*](#)

On October 14th, 1982, True Father and True Mother held the 6,000 Couples' Blessing in Chamshil Gymnasium, then one of Seoul's largest arenas. Fumiko and I count ourselves lucky and blessed to have been there with True Parents on that sweet autumn day in Korea over thirty years ago. To all our 6,000 “Blessing classmates” in the United States and around the world, we wish you a “Happy 31st Anniversary.”

And today, October 14, 2013, I just heard from our sister church in Japan that the first event of True Mother's current speaking tour, on the Northern Island of Hokkaido, went very well, with over 3,000 in attendance. Let's continue to pray for her safety and success!

Over the years, True Father and True Mother often marked this day as one to be grateful to God for his mercy and protection. Today, let us once again take pause to thank our Heavenly Parent for His continuous grace!

Sincerely,

Michael and Fumiko Balcomb
President