

EMPOWER Christmas Workshop Report & Testimonies



EMPOWER completed their final fundraising condition for this year and gathered in Gafrenz to celebrate the victories as well as celebrate the Christmas spirit. The first day was filled with reflections and testimonies from participants and their experiences on the frontline in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland and concluding with vigil prayer where participants could have deep prayer and worship with our Heavenly Parents. Then the celebrations began with fun and games, sightseeing in a neighboring city, and of course a Christmas dinner together as EMPOWER family. Participants were filled with gratitude and love before heading off for winter vacation and preparing for the next phase of the program; witnessing! Below are testimonies from our EMPOWER participants.





Mother is Calling

2nd year EMPOWER Team Leader: Jacob Navarro

Have you ever seen your mother cry? Is your mom a strong woman? She probably is, she probably has a huge heart, the biggest in your opinion, loving, caring, so why would she cry? Mothers don't cry for no reason. "I want you to help me please." How great is the pain in a mother's heart when they cry out for help from their children?

For a long time I was trying to connect to True Mother's heart, I read her autobiography, collected her speeches and prayed for her, yet I felt nothing, I knew nothing about her, I even wrote a letter to her begging for understanding, "why can't I connect to you?" Until one day in the European Korea Pilgrimage, I listened to one of Dr Chang's lectures on the Only Begotten Daughter, and saw one of Mother's speeches when she cried, it immediately triggered a past memory.

I remembered my mom in the kitchen, while I was a kid, eating on the kitchen table, she was cooking and talking to me about her social life in Venezuela. How much it lacked. My mom started shedding tears. Until that point I had never considered or thought of her struggles, our

parents often seem so strong, show no weakness. But my mom had lived in Venezuela for nearly 20 years, sustaining a family of 5 because my dad was national leader, no salary. She had no friends to speak her language, to share a culture, to understand her situation. Why was I her son the only one she could cry to? Children never understand the position and heart of their mom.

But finally I came to understand a part of my mom and my True Mother's heart, their pain and desperation for her children to take action, for her children to be saved and be brought into God's embrace. The night I connected this experience with my mom to True Mother's heart, I couldn't stop crying.

Mother needs my help, she needs your help. As her children we must understand her love and heart for all of humanity. As her children let us answer her calling and stand up. Shall we?

1st year participant: Tola Czyszczon

Growing up I was just following my family, friends and community and I started to think why am I doing this and what's my purpose? During pandemic time I escaped and I stopped always participating in activities. I started to doubt things about our movement asking questions like "Are True Parents actually the messiah?" And "What am I doing here? Are all the things that we are doing right?". That was when I was 15 years old and I decided to stop attending Sunday service and stopped praying to God. I felt that I don't need to pray to God even if I believe in God somehow. And I started to doubt myself. If my family wouldn't participate in events would I also be in the movement? I told myself I think I wouldn't. That was the moment in this chapter in my life that I needed to prove to myself that God is always with me. I needed answers so I started praying to God again and telling God, God I need answers, please show me somehow that you are with me and working!

God sent me a lot of things and saved my life. I started to participate in a lot of workshops. The workshops in my house in Glanow. I could see how much love I received and how everything in my life is working and for everyone in the workshop. I went to Korea and there for the first time I could feel God working and why I should stay here.

During Korea I had a big down when my friend from dancing class passed away and I started to pray to God in the Cheonshimwon, "Please help me because I'm not sure what to do at this moment." And when I fell asleep that night I had a dream with True Mother. I was in the Cheonshimwon alone and True Mother came to me and said, "Kenchana I'm here with you I'm here with you so please keep going. Please keep going, you have to keep going." Then I woke up in the middle of the night and ran up to the tree of Blessing and proclaimed to God, "God I want to be here from now on, God I want to be there for you because you are always there for me, I want to give back to you and all the people I met in my life."

That was the moment, after Korea, I started to become more active in my community. All the love I received in my life I decided I want to give back to my European community.

After 1 year I graduated high school and wasn't sure what to do after. I knew I wanted to help God and be there for True Parents so I had another prayer in the Cheonshimwon and received the message that I should stay in Europe because I received so much in Europe and now I should give back. I decided to join EMPOWER. The reason is to give back to God and True Parents, to True Mother. True Mother told us in the spirituality workshop in Korea this year to witness to others about the truth of the Only Begotten Daughter. And I'm very happy that later this year we will do witnessing and be able to give back.