

# Seong Hwa Ceremony for Philippe Jacques, Belgian National Leader

Brussels, Belgium, 30. July 2016



By Yvo Bruffaerts



**O**n Saturday 30 July 2016 at 12am a wonderful and most moving Seung Hwa Ceremony was held for Philippe Jacques, Belgian National Leader, at the FFWPU headquarters in Brussels. Philippe was born in Anderlecht,

Brussels, on 21 February 1951. He had 2 sisters and 2 brothers.

In 1979 he joined the Church with his wife and daughter. He had been living a harmonious and peaceful family life up to that time. Unfortunately, his spouse could not keep pace with the mission and left the Church shortly after.

Philippe was blessed to Yoko Tanabe at the 30,000 couples Blessing in Korea. In 1997 they welcomed their daughter Mishio.

Next to taking part in witnessing and FR activities, Philippe also took care of the church Ginseng business.

In August 1994 the leadership of the Belgian Church, under which Philippe was working, broke with our Church. However, Philippe and Yoko never failed to support our True Parents.

In February 2005 Philippe and Yoko became the national leader's couple for Belgium.

Philippe was a brother with a huge heart and found himself well above and beyond all political and religious confrontations. Being very sensitive

and diplomatic, he was able to bridge many gaps and bring down many walls. He had a natural gift to embrace East and West, Flemings and Walloons, young and old, rich and poor.

We have always been given a warm welcome to Philippe and Yoko's home located in a very nice and peaceful area to the south of Brussels. The nearby forest was a place where Philippe would often go and pray.

He was successful in UPF and his work with Ambassadors for Peace and built a huge network of contacts. He accompanied many of them on 3 fact-finding tours to Israel.

Philippe supported FFWPU activities not only in Belgium, but also in neighboring Luxemburg, France and The Netherlands.

Hence the legacy we owe to our wonderful brother is huge.

Sadly, Philippe was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia last year in June. After a short treatment he recovered remarkably well.





MC Hugo Veracx

Very soon he was again doing as much as he could for the providence. Unfortunately, these last weeks, Philippe's health was deteriorating rapidly.

We have fond memories of the testimony he gave in a Belgian television program, entitled "Via Annemie, which covered the 2015 Blessing in Korea. He openly and honestly proclaimed that Reverend Moon is the messiah.



Philippe's brothers Georges and Vincent Jacques

The Seung Hwa Ceremony was a wonderful testimony to Philippe's physical family. Initially Philippe's elder brother REV. Georges Jacques being a Catholic priest, wanted to have the ceremony in a Catholic church.

Yoko and Mishio expressed their gratitude to Philippe's family for supporting to hold the ceremony at the headquarters in Brussels, which was donated by Philippe to the FFWPU. Finally 30 of them attended being moved by tears.



Our FFWPU headquarter is located on the 2nd floor. A group of second generation brothers from Belgium, France and Germany carried the casket to the hall.

Very soon though their hearts were melting down by seeing so many people at the HQ. More than 200 attended.

Our Japanese National Messiah Mr Ikeno travelled all the way from Chicago to attend.



The opening prayers were said by European WFWPU president Carolyn Handshin as well as by the Rev. Georges, Philippe's elder brother.



Subsequently, Philippe's elder sister Joëlle Jacques told the story of Philippe's life before he joined our Church. It was a heartwarming story, full of anecdotes.



Yvo Bruffaerts reported on Philippe's rich church life, from the very beginning in 1979 till now.



More testimonies followed, one of which was given by our Ambassador for Peace H.E. Robert Vandemeulebroucke.



Rev. Jun Seok An, Vice President FFWPU International, presented Yoko with a special certificate of recognition by our True Mother.



European Continental Leader Jack Corley addressed Philippe's family in particular, by saying that, having come from a very Catholic Irish family, he could very well understand how difficult it must have been for them when Philippe joined our Church. He reassured them there was no reason to worry as Philippe had lived a very noble life

Not only, better late than never though, Philippe's family could come to realize which path of faith Philippe had walked, and how much he had achieved.



Yoko expressed her great gratitude to all attendants and especially towards Philippe's relatives. Philippe's sister gave her a warm embrace.

The entire ceremony was a wonderful blend of our Church and some Catholic traditions, a beautiful testimony to Philippe's family, a significant event in Heavenly Parent's providence for Belgium.

Philippe's relatives must have felt very uplifted by this experience and brought of his life.

Philippe's Won Jeon Ceremony took place close to his home. Rev. An blessed the tomb with holy soil and holy salt.

After the Won Jeon Ceremony Philippe's elder brother, Rev George Jacques, visited Yoko and Mishio to tell them how much he had been moved by the Seung Hwa Ceremony, our faith and our values.



Jean-Francois Moulinet, Regional Leader for the Francophone Nations, offering a rose to Philippe





We are very grateful for the great support and love we could receive from brothers and sisters worldwide. We are particularly grateful to Reverend and Mrs An and their daughter, who spent several days with Yoko and Mishio to prepare for the Seung Hwa ceremony.

From this link you can see

[more pictures](#)

[view video](#)

*Dr No-hi Pak, Special Emmissary for Europe, leading four cheers of Ok-Mansei*

## Prayer at Opening Ceremony Seong Hwa of Philippe Jacques Carolyn Handschin, Vice President FFWPU-Europe



know he is safely with you. Yet, we attend this celebration with mixed feelings. It is, in many ways a liberation for him to pass on and to be with You, - and work closely with You and our True Father without the burden of his ailing physical body. He will continue in his eternal home, as he has on this earth, to give, love and bring joy to You.

Yet we will miss his physical presence so much, the many who love him and know him best: especially, his physical and spiritual family and friends gathered here today. Please comfort them and remind them of the value of the life and work that he continues to lead and let them feel his presence.

We are grateful to have shared your Providential work here in Europe with

him. It must not be by chance that he has been National Leader for 12 years in this nation of Belgium, that houses some of the most important European institutions, and that he was dedicated to explaining your truth and bringing your vision of a Heavenly Culture to this nation and continent.

How fortunate we are to have been taught the grace of Seong Hwa, to know the true purpose of our physical lives and to have some framework for understanding what awaits us all in the

eternal spiritual realm. How blessed we are to understand the true meaning of those words, "whatever you bind on earth, will be bound in heaven...(Matt 18:18)" It is the love invested for the sake of others that will measure the quality of life and liberation there. We know that Philippe was very rich in this sphere.

We all feel repentance for not having loved and sacrificed more, thinking maybe he could've suffered less. We reflect with sadness at not having shown more of our love and appreciation for him. It is not too late. Let us mark this day of offering with a renewed determination to see this New Cultural Revolution flourish here in Europe - and to lighten the burden of our True Mother, and you, our Heavenly Parent.

Drawn together as brothers and sisters here today to celebrate the life of Philippe on this earth, and, as well to celebrate the knowledge that we will continue together in Filial Piety. Nothing would make him (or You) happier than the victories and breakthroughs that we today re-determine - as we go forward together towards the settlement of CIG here in Europe.

We want to bring that joy to you more than ever, to be victors in fulfilling Heaven's destiny for our nations, our families and our individual lives. We offer you this solemn prayer in our names as Blessed Central families who deeply love and trust you, our Heavenly Parent.

Aju! Amen!

**O**ur Beloved Heavenly Parent  
We are gathered here today to celebrate the ascension of your precious son, Philippe Jacques. Representing all nations here in Europe and our whole Unificationist Family, we humbly pray and hope for a peaceful transition. We send him on with our love and sincere gratitude!

His life thus far has been a life lived for others, as you have taught and shown us: generous, filial and sacrificial. How grateful we can be to



## Message from Sung-il Cho, Director-General FFWPU International Headquarters, and Title from True Parents, read by Dr No-hi Pak



Beloved Rev. Philippe Jacques and his bereaved family members,

First of all, I would like to express my deep condolences to Rev. Philippe Jacques and to his bereaved family.

A great star that used to shine down brightly on Belgium and guide people to Heaven's Will has set on June 23 by the heavenly calendar in the 4th year of Cheon Il Guk. His passing is a great loss to not only Belgium, but also Europe and the entire Unification Movement.

Seonghwa, however, does not leave us with sadness or pain. It is a sacred happening. According to True Parents, when a person experiences seonghwa, his or her life on earth can finally blossom, bear fruit, and enter the world of joy and victory, the spiritual world.

With precious regard for Rev. Jacques' dedication and the noble life he has led to fulfill the will of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind since 1979, the year he joined our church, True Parents bestow on him the following title:

**조국광복필승봉신대표자 (Jo-guk Gwang-bok Pil-seung Bong-shin De-pyo-ja) – A representative who has earnestly devoted and sacrificed himself to victoriously regain God's homeland**

Therefore, together with all the blessed families and members around the world I would like to send you our sincerest, most heartfelt congratulations and blessing on your transition to our Heavenly Parent's world of love, the eternal world where our True Father now resides.

I sincerely pray that the seonghwa ceremony of Rev. Philippe Jacques will be a precious occasion that overflows with joy and glory.



Dr No-hi Pak reading the message from Sung-il Cho, Director-General FFWPU International Headquarters

## Eulogy at the Seonghwa Ceremony for Philippe Jacques Jack Corley, President FFWPU-Europe

Mrs. Yoko Jacques, Mishio Jacques, all of the Jacques family who are here, brothers and sisters from throughout Europe: It is really an honour to be here at this Seonghwa ceremony for a very special brother.

I want to begin by reading some words from our True Father, spoken in February 2000:

*We are created as God's children. As we grow in love, relating to brothers and sisters, becoming husbands and wives, giving birth to children and raising them, God is present each step of the way, harvesting true love. God observes and guides us as we develop, and He becomes the owner of love at each stage. In this sense, it can be said that human beings, through whom God comes to own all love, are more precious to God than God is to Himself. In the same*



*way, we attach a thousand times more value to the person we love than to ourselves.*

I wanted to read this statement because I think this tells us the most important

thing we need to know about the meaning of our life. And it's on occasions like this—when we have to say farewell to one of our brothers or sisters whom we have known and loved—that we think about these



questions. As you know from Divine Principle and from the teachings of our True Parents, this life is a training ground for the eternal life, and I really appreciate the reading by Philippe's brother, Georges Jacques, from 1 Corinthians 13, quoting from the words of Saint Paul about love, that we can do many things, we can have limitless faith and even give our lives away, we can have all manner of spiritual gifts, but if we do not have love, we have nothing. I think that summarises what is really important about life.

Actually, Reverend Moon always spoke about the family as the training ground in which we discover true love. We are born as children, we receive the love of our parents, we then begin to reciprocate that love, we respond to our parents' love, we love our siblings and those around us, we then enter into the conjugal relationship as a husband or wife, we experience that kind of love, and then we become parents. And as we go through life, we go through the school of love and ethics. We are actually growing our heart, and what is the purpose of all this? It is so that we can reside eternally with our Heavenly Parent in the eternal spiritual world.

Our life on earth is the soil upon which we grow love. In other words, our physical bodies are created by God to practise loving, so that when we enter the spiritual world, we can merge with God and be eternally in the realm of God's love. Once we understand this point, our life has meaning and inestimable value, and I really believe that Philippe Jacques was a model of this kind of person. As you heard from various testimonies today, he forsook a comfortable life to follow a more austere, spiritual life. We all understand that he had great skills as a businessman. He was able to become rich, he was able to become a person of substance in terms of business, yet he

never lost his sense of priorities, he never lost the recognition of the really important things in life. So, despite the fact that he could have become a very rich and lived a comfortable life, he never forgot what was really important: that, in the end, life on earth is transitory.

This reminds me of the words of Jesus Christ: "For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul?" [Matthew 16:26]. Philippe Jacques, in a way, could have gained the whole world, but he never lost his soul. He was able to combine both. He was able to be successful in his life. He was able to interact with people at a very normal, human level, and yet he never lost sight of the importance of his own spiritual quest and value. So he goes into the spiritual world with great accomplishments. I sincerely hope that the family and friends who are here today can see all these people here from many countries, especially from here in Belgium, who loved your brother, your cousin, or your friend whom you may have known some years ago. We truly loved Philippe Jacques. Let's give him some applause!

When he joined the Unification Church, I'm sure it was a shock for many of his family and friends. Why would he join this strange "cult" and give up what seemed to be a very normal life? He did this because of his love for God. And where did he find that love? He found it in his family. He found it in the Catholic Church. I myself come from an Irish Catholic background. I know the Catholic faith very well. I spent five years in a Catholic boarding school. I was planning to become a priest, like his brother, Georges, and to this day I deeply appreciate what I received as a Catholic growing up in a very Catholic family in a very Catholic country. It has been the root of my faith. Years

later, I went back to Ireland and met one of my former teachers, who had become a bishop. He said, "Dear Jack, why did you forsake the Mother Church?" I said, "I didn't. I have not forsaken the Mother Church. I spent my whole life being grateful for what I have gained as a Catholic, and now I have found something which is enhancing what I already believed and actually helping me even more to pursue the values that I believed as a Catholic."

"Catholic" means "universal," and it means that we are universal people. We think beyond just a small denomination; we think beyond just a small nation. We are universal people. I think it was Yvo Bruffaerts who mentioned that Philippe had the ability to go beyond Walloon, Flemish, French and Dutch, and this is truly the case.

I came to know Philippe more personally from 2009, when I returned to Europe after an absence of about 26 years. We used to meet in London at some meetings, and right away he really impressed me by his jolly nature. He used to meet me and say: "I am so glad to see my brother. I'm happy to see you, my brother [speaking with a Belgian French accent]". This jolly, happy, positive person became an instant friend for me.

He used to proudly drive all the way to the United Kingdom, now that we have the Channel Tunnel—when it's not being blockaded—and we would meet, and it was always a pleasure to talk to him. I felt he had, as we heard today, a sort of mischievous nature, but also a really sensitive and happy, almost childlike nature. If you look at photographs of him, his eyes are crystal-clear. I've seen several photographs of him recently since he passed, and I'm amazed at the clarity of his eyes. People say that the eyes are the window to the soul, and his soul was clear; his soul was pure.

Just a year ago I was appointed to be the European continental director, and that was about the same time that Philippe discovered he had leukaemia. So my first visit as European leader was to the university hospital here in Brussels, to meet Philippe. I expected to see someone very downcast and feeling, "Why me? Why me?" Not at all. Philippe was positive, saying, "I will fight this, and if it's God's will that I win, great, and if not, I'm also okay with that." He was ready to do whatever God willed in his life at that critical moment. I came to admire him as he forsook the chemotherapy and used natural methods with a very positive mind-set, and returned to what





*Musical Intermezzo by  
Family Delens*

seemed a very normal, healthy state. I was thrilled to see him in Prague at our April 2016 meeting and to see how well he looked. We were all thrilled.

Then, just one month ago on 29th June, I met him again in Brussels and I noticed that his skin had a kind of yellowish colour. So I asked him, “Philippe, how are you?” and he said, “I don’t feel so good. Recently I haven’t felt so good. Tomorrow I should go to the doctor.” Of course, we know that he did go to the doctor and the leukaemia had returned even more strongly. In a way it was a very gracious passing, because he did not go through a lingering suffering. God gave him that year of life to love his wife, to love his daughter, to love his family and to love his country more. And then, when the time came, he quickly went to the spiritual world. I think this is the calling of God. I think it’s no accident.

On the one hand, of course we grieve, we miss him, but also we can be

grateful that his passing was peaceful and that he’s now in a far better place. As we heard from Reverend Jun-seok An, with the words from True Mother, he is being given a great and noble title in accordance with the kind of person that he truly was.

So Philippe was a husband, a father and a leader. He had so many different qualities; he was a businessman and was successful at that. His nature was positive; his nature was generous. The fact that we are sitting in this building is a testament to his generosity. His attitude in the face of impending death was courageous and calm. And I’m so glad that he could pass in a peaceful way and know that he’s really going back to his Heavenly Parent.

As was mentioned by Mrs. Carolyn Handschin in her prayer, it may be of some significance that he was the leader of the nation in which the European Union is headquartered. And so this could be a sacrifice for the sake of Europe. As you know, recently

European unity has met some stumbling blocks, but I believe that the spiritual foundation of Europe is made by people like Philippe Jacques, who have the capacity to love beyond borders, beyond race, beyond religion. He is a true European. He’s a true Catholic. He’s a true citizen of the world. This is who we are saying goodbye to today.

As we say goodbye, I know we will feel sad, but at the same time we feel comforted to know that he is now with our Heavenly Parent. We will support and comfort his wife, Yoko, their daughter, Mishio, and all the members of the family. I want to ask his family, who may not have always understood his life choices, to really trust me when I tell them that he lived a noble life and that he truly is being embraced by God at this moment. You can be proud of him as your brother, your cousin, your friend. You have every reason to be proud of Philippe Jacques, because we, all of us here, are here because we are proud of him. We’re not direct relatives, we’re not all from the same country, but we are proud of this brother and we truly know that history here in Belgium will remember him. He will be remembered in the history of Belgium for his love, for his service to God’s providence at this time in history and for his heart of love and selflessness as he lived his life.

I also want to say to Philippe—because Phillippe is with us; he is observing these proceedings—Philippe, we want to say goodbye to you, but it’s not forever. In our movement we like to say that there are no goodbyes, there is only “See you later,” and so we will see each other later. All of us here in this room believe that there is life after death, because that’s what gives meaning to the physical life; the fact that we will go through the family as the school of love and we will learn to love, and then we will graduate into the highest university of love, which is life after death. We will dwell with the source of love, our almighty Heavenly Parent. And so, Philippe, we say goodbye to you and we will see you again. Thank you.

I’d just like to mention one last thing, at the request of Sun Jin Nim, the president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International: She also has given an offering for his family, which I will present later to Yoko. She is particularly thinking about Philippe and Yoko very much, with great love and fondness. She must have met him somewhere; he made a deep impression on her. So we want to thank you again, Philippe. You are much loved and happily remembered.



## Writings by Philippe Jacques



### My Last Kilometer

« Having the habit to pray or meditate in the forest almost everyday, it often happened that I would start imagining myself in the spiritual world, walking my last kilometer before my meeting with Heavenly Parent.

It is a precious and deep experience that I like repeating everytime I find myself alone in the forest, and specially, but not only, when the weather is nice and the forest is full of light piercing through the leaves of the trees. The path I use finishes in the fields where lies a neverending horizon and a very strong light.

During this kilometer, I clear myself, knowing that every step I walk draws me closer to my meeting with Heavenly Parent. It is impossible for me to make one step back or to stop, Every step is printed, sometimes happy, sometimes sad, grateful or full of tears, but each step seems to me as precious as my life.

Every step draws me to humility, sincerity and, with an extremely moved attitude, I look back at my life, I feel completely naked, I cannot hide anything. The Father knows everything about me.

While walking, I feel extremely good, happy to walk this last kilometer to prepare myself. My eyes are often filled with tears, I ask myself how must the Father be waiting for me.

I feel confident of leaving something positive behind me, but I also carry some doubts about some decisions I had to take during my lifetime, that could cause suffering to Him and others around me.

I don't want to disappoint Him and I feel Him waiting for me at the end of the way with a big heart, carrying no judgment, forgetting all of my mistakes, my impurities, and only wondering how our first meeting will be, like a parent meeting his child for the first time, and wondering how the child is going to react.

I feel Him concerned about our meeting, impatient, asking Himself if he asked too much from me during my lifetime, and if I will reproach Him for this ? But deep inside me, I try to comfort Him.

In what way is He waiting for me at the end of this last kilometer ? Could it be with the same anxiety as that of a father who is waiting for his child at the culmination of their life ?

How will the heart of the Father be at the end of my last kilometer ? This is something I like to reflect upon. The love of our Heavenly Father fascinates me, I want to discover it, to experience it. This helps me to do the same back towards Him and towards my family. »

### To You, My body In which I live and that God gave to me,

How may I ever express my gratitude to have been able to live in you ? You allowed me to be who I am and together we thrived. I didn't always understand you. I didn't always go easy on you, but believe me, I respect you a lot.

Today, more than ever, I realize that I owe so much to you. You assisted me at each moment, and it took me time to understand that I live in you, and that one day, you wouldn't be here anymore, and that even after giving everything, you would still finally give yourself back to the earth becoming one with it. I will not forget you in my memory. You will always be in my thoughts too. You will forever be the historical trace of my soul.

You and I, we lived every moment together. Often, you limited me, but you also taught me patience.

You allowed me to touch, taste, smell, see , hear, enjoy... to work and love ...and to be loved in return.

Let my eyes forgive me for what I've looked at that I shouldn't have looked at. Let my mouth forgive me for the words I spoke that should never have been spoken. Let my stomach forgive me for sometimes absorbing what wasn't good for my body. Let my ears forgive me for listening to things they didn't necessarily want to listen to. Let my nose forgive me for not smelling the perfume of each flower God created for his children. You, my heart that worked without ever complaining and without me even being aware of it, thank you. To you, my lungs that inhaled and exhaled a million times without me thinking about it, Thank you.

And especially to my parents, who are at the origin of the body I live in, and who conceived it with great love and full consciousness, I shed tears of gratitude.

# Philippe Jacques

1951 – 2016

**P**hilippe Jacques, the national leader of FFWPU in Belgium, ascended to the spirit world on July 26, 2016, after a fight with leukemia. He was 65.

Philippe was born on February 21, 1951, in the Belgian town of Boutersem into a very Catholic family with five children. His father was a well-known journalist for La Libre Belgique, one of the main daily newspapers in the nation. He has a brother who is a Catholic priest.

He joined Unification Church in 1979 together with his wife and their young daughter. However, after some time his wife left the church, taking their child.

Philippe was a very dedicated and devoted brother who went pioneering in France and participated in several international projects, including the mobilization to the United States.

While he was living in the U.S., he learned English and also went fishing for 40 days.

For many years in Belgium he was in charge of a ginseng business, which he built into a great success. He became the national leader in 2005. Two years ago he donated his own house to the church to be the Belgian national headquarters.

As part of his tribal messiahship work, Philippe had a vast network of Ambassadors for Peace, a discussion group in his hometown, and was active with Korean War veterans. Philippe also did a lot of work in taking care of people in his neighborhood. He went to Israel three times with the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI).

In 2015 Philippe worked with a TV documentary maker on the creation of a film about our church Blessing called

Take me to the Moon, which was broadcast to an audience of 4 million viewers right before the Blessing in February 2016.

In 1992 Philippe was blessed with Yoko Tanabe from Japan in the 30,000 Couple Blessing in Korea. A few years later they adopted a daughter, Mishio, who was born on June 23, 1997.

In early 2015 Philippe began feeling ill and discovered he had leukemia. At first he underwent chemotherapy, but then discontinued it. Using natural therapies, he made a remarkable recovery. However, at the end of June 2016 he again fell ill. After several weeks at home he was taken to the hospital, where he went into a coma. He remained in a coma until his passing on July 26 at 5:30 p.m. His Seonghwa ceremony took place 12 a.m. on Saturday, July 30.