

Welcoming Remarks at Celebrating 50 Years of the Unification Movement in Europe

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Dear Unificationists, Blessed Families, Ambassadors for Peace, brothers and sisters!

It is my great joy and privilege to welcome you to Limburg on this historic occasion, the celebration of 50 years of our Unification family in Europe. This is the second gathering, following a magnificent meeting last Sunday in Vienna, Austria. At that meeting we had the tremendous blessing of having True Mother with us. She poured out her love on many occasions and gave much recognition to our early members, as well as to a special group of missionaries who went at the risk of their lives into the communist nations to bring the truth there. And to many missionaries who went at a very young age as pioneers to many different nations all over the world. But most importantly, she gave a special award to young first generation members and to the second generation.

In Vienna, True Mother showed clearly that she is most concerned about the future. She was very inspired at the Cranes Club meeting and spoke there for over 40 minutes to more than 400 young brothers and sisters. It seemed she did not want to leave the meeting!

Our assembly here in Limburg today should set the direction of our movement in Europe. Where are we going to in the next 50 years; what will our movement look like in 50 years? The future of our movement is completely in our hands. Even though True Mother gave us vision 2020 and asked us to prepare step by step to establish Cheon Il Guk in our nations and the world, what we do with this vision in our nations and communities is up to us.

In the early seventies, when most of our brothers and sisters joined the movement, we were deeply touched by the Principle and our founder the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, whom we call True Father. I will never forget how happy I was when I realized that the Messiah has come on earth! I can only describe my feelings by using the Christian expression of being born again. The truth, which I found through the Principle, has set me free. Hundreds of other young people like me changed their lives and became missionaries at a young age and pioneered not only in Germany but all over the world.

It is one thing to understand the concept of God and the Principle intellectually and to debate about it theologically. It is, however, a completely different thing, once we discover the heart of the living God. Jesus Christ did this and he changed the world.

No one on earth has come more to an understanding of God's heart today than True Parents. At no time before in human history has a religious movement spread more quickly than the Unification movement of True Parents!

Why did Jesus Christ say, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me?" Why do True Parents always emphasize that all mankind must be reborn through True Parents? Is this a fanatical statement? No. Because mankind, you and me, will only change when we experience and practice true love. The goal of the spiritual journey of mankind is to experience the true

love, which originates in God and is revealed fully in the masculine and feminine aspects of True Parents.

A young brother asked True Mother in Vienna what was most important for her during this 50-year celebration. And True Mother answered with a big smile “true love”. There is so much noise and confusion in the world about the word 'love'. That is why True Parents added the word 'true'.

True Love, True Parents, True Mother. We even say True God.



The decisive question is: how much can we inherit this and also practice a life of true love? How much did we grow spiritually and become door openers for other people to experience the world of true love, or in other words the culture of heart? I believe our Heavenly Parent wants to teach and show us how to do this through the coming here of Sun Jin Moon. Already through her introduction of True Mother in Vienna we all could feel the love and respect she holds for her. As a physical daughter of True Mother, but at the same time as one of us, she can guide us into the world attending the realm of the heart of a True Mother and so into the realm of God's heart. This is not an intellectual exercise, but can only be understood when we stop being an observer and become fully involved in the world of the Heavenly Parent. Only then can and will the Almighty God reveal the secrets of his heart to us. When Jesus said: 'who has ears to listen, listen; eyes to see, see', he was referring to this. Let us therefore give our full attention when we listen to the main speech today by Sun Jin Moon.



Our movement is now called the FFWPU. I hope each one of us can fully identify with this name. Our movement should be an inspiration for all people to discover family values, both intellectually and in practice.

The blessing ceremonies in our movement have always been directed towards world peace. This is why our True Parents initiated so many international and intercultural blessings. Peace on earth will come through love and not through economic or political agreements.

As the purpose of life is joy and happiness I believe our foremost task is to learn how to radiate this kind of atmosphere and energy. Our celebration today here in Limburg should be full of joy. Let us send this message from Limburg today to our True Mother and all brothers and sisters in the world.

We must never forget, especially when we start moving forward more and more quickly, that all our progress has only been possible on the foundation of, and thanks to, True Parents' total unconditional sacrifice. We are so fortunate to live at the same time as True Parents, the Lord of the Second Advent and returning Christ; to walk together with them and to breathe the same air! Celebrating the '50 Years of our European Unification Family ' is actually a celebration of Heavenly Parent and True Parents, the ones who opened the way for a new hope for a world of lasting happiness, sustainable peace and continuous human development.

Let us resolve today to lead our missions to their completion. Let us be determined to bring about a decisive change in Europe by 2020 and to reassure our True Mother about the European Unification Family. Old and young, gathered here today in Limburg, we are united in our longing for the continued growth of our FFWPU community and the establishment of a good and just Europe, a Europe that can significantly contribute to a world of lasting peace and mutual prosperity -a place where our Heavenly Parent can dwell.

I wish all of you very successful and happy new 50 years and let as many as possible of us meet again in fifty years-in 2065!