

Extraordinary African Leaders Assembly in Zambia with FFWPU International

Bakary Camara
April 3, 2017



The Extraordinary African Leaders Assembly took place April 1–3 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia, under the theme, "African Leaders for the Victory of Vision 2020 and the Realization of Cheon Il Guk." More than a hundred and fifty participants attended thanks to True Mother's grace.

A special delegation including Rev. Cho Sung-il, director general and Dr. Yun Youngho, secretary general of the FFWPU International Headquarters, Dr. Thomas Walsh, president of UPF International and Mr. Suh Hyun-ook, communications officer at the World Mission Strategic Center brought their wisdom and deep-hearted concern to the assembly.

Among the leaders from Africa that participated were the UPF Africa chair and special emissary for West Africa, Mrs. Kathy Rigney, the West Africa regional president, Dr. Cho Dong-ho, the special envoy for Nigeria, Rev. Park Chang-seong, the special envoy for Benin, Rev. Sasaki Tatsuo, and the special envoy for South Africa, Rev. Robert Williamson.

The assembly was the first of its kind for all the leaders in Africa. We had the opportunity to discuss how best to restore each nation and shared success stories and ideas on how to work effectively toward the realization of Vision 2020.

Rev. Cho Sung-il, who reminded us of the need to align ourselves with True Parents' teachings, said "Whether you are asleep or awake, you must testify True Parents." He expressed how even now True Mother is praying for Africa.

True Mother wants the FFWPU International Headquarters' staff to go out to the field. "True Mother believes that Cheon Il Guk will start in Africa! She sees so much potential in Africa. The person who knows the mission field best is True Mother," he said. Rev. Cho exhorted all the leaders of Africa to become one.

Dr. Walsh said that the assembly was a kind of "Abel African Union" summit. UPF as the Abel UN is at the center of the peace strategy division. "It is significant that True Mother is starting this strategic plan in Africa. The Abel UN requires first the restoration of Abel nations. For the true African Union, we need at least three Abel nations to steer it," he said. He continued, "Please understand that the world is watching Africa. Africa is rising. True Mother knows that!"

Dr. Yun Young-ho gave an extensive explanation of the strategies True Mother is initiating. "When we look at True Parents' lives," he said, "the core is Hyo Jeong (filial heart) and True Mother wants to bequeath that to us. To have children of filial piety, you need a family and our objective is one family under God. Therefore, centered on Hyo Jeong (HJ) True Mother wants to expand Cheon Il Guk. Thus, the Chung Pyung complex has been renamed as HJ Cheonwon." He stressed the need to implement efficiently the culture of heart and develop HJ Cheonwon into a model of the kingdom of heaven on earth.

In the afternoon, Mrs. Rigney gave a presentation on 2016 activities of UPF in Africa showing that "miracles" are possible if we are united. Dr. Walsh presented the vision of UPF International with a special focus on the mission of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP). "IAPP is not another organization but a project of UPF," he said.

Rev. Cho Sung-il and Dr. Yun Young-ho closed the African Leaders Assembly with encouraging and hopeful remarks for the firm settlement of Cheon Il Guk in Africa. Afterward, the deputy director of the Tunnel Foundation, Dr. Kim Byung-soo, spoke of the importance of Peace Road 2017, which will start from Cape Town in South Africa. Rev. Jean Pierre Kadima, president of FFWPU in the Democratic Republic of Congo read the African Leaders' Resolution and Call to Action, which everyone then proceeded to sign.

All those working in Africa are grateful to True Mother for this Extraordinary African Leaders' Assembly. We clearly saw her long vision and came to understand it better through the assembly. All the African leaders pledged their absolute support to True Mother and centered on her, promised to work for the unity of the continent and make Vision 2020 a reality.