

Africa and True Parents' Touch

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Excerpt

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As you know, this is on "best practices." I would like to describe one of the best practices: True Parents' touch. Because of that, uniting with heart and strategy and feeling, we can move ahead and try for national-level restoration. Why do I say, "True Parents' touch"? Africa has received love and blessings, beginning with True Parents sending missionaries in 1975 from Europe, America and Japan. On that foundation we stand. True Parents have visited many countries in Africa. {Referring to slides} Here is Zindzi Mandela, a daughter of Nelson Mandela, attending True Father and Goodluck Jonathan, president of Nigeria (2010–2015) attending True Parents. African tribal leaders also uplifted True Parents as the king of king for all of Africa. Because they have touched those leaders, to testify about True Parents has become easy. True Parents even sent Dae-mo nim to bless Africa, to get rid of evil spirits, to multiply absolute good spirits, which laid the foundation for building our churches. What I'm talking about today didn't start today. I did not start it. Our beloved brothers and sisters, who work very hard, did not start it. Every single thing started from True Parents' love,

blessing and inspiration.

National restoration

Zambia has become a special case. I did not decide to go to Zambia. True Mother sent me there. How did this happen? Just a little background: Regional chairs, do you remember when True Mother asked us how we are going to restore a nation? I was expecting to receive the question last, so I could find inspiration in the regional presidents' answers and make my own, but I was the second person asked.

Mother asked, "Bakary, how are you going to restore a nation?" In front of True Mother, I could no longer imagine making something up. I had to talk directly from my heart. I said, "True Mother, you have taught us. I believe what you are telling us; through heavenly tribal messiah activities, we can restore a nation." So, she said, "How many countries?" I said, "One." She said, "No, that's too small -- three." Goodness! "And how are you going to do it?" I said, "Through heavenly tribal messiah work, raising young people and making a good environment for witnessing, which Mother is teaching...."

Visiting Asia

Mother said it's good to learn from those who are successful. I decided to go to Asia to see what is going on with heavenly tribal messiah activities there. I had scheduled to stay for at least twenty-one days, but after three days, the Holy Spirit touched me. I saw how they do it and brought that to Zambia, but that wasn't enough. Through True Mother's guidance, I invited Asian leaders to share directly with African leaders. That happened two years ago.

Imported method, local success

Nevertheless, we had to provide an environment. [In the past] True Mother was welcomed in Zambia, met many dignitaries, former presidents and vice-presidents and made many connections with Zambian people. I believe, because of that, preparing the environment for witnessing became easier.

Actually, I am not teaching you anything you don't know: Meeting True Parents changed our lives. It is the same for others. Anyone that had the chance to meet the Messiah, it was not for nothing. Anyone in your area who has been touched by or who met True Parents, go to them. They have something. True Parents saw it in their hearts. That foundation made our work easy. That was True Parents' touch for Africa, touching all leaders and even heads of state. On that, our PR activities grew.

That's why, from 2002, international conferences started and led to the IAPP inauguration in Zambia in 2016. All this happened from True Parents' grace. I think you know, but I did not know from the start. By myself, I cannot move anything, but with a connection to True Parents' love, grace and heavenly fortune, we connect to others and they naturally react. We are lucky people. We have a source of almost infinite energy; if we are able to touch people on that foundation, things move. That's why, through the International leadership Conference in Zambia in 2016, all became easier.

The parliament started reacting. How? The foundation made with Peace Council members attracted other VIPs, while we were working with traditional chiefs. We invited chiefs to be part of that great Zambian conference, directly guided by True Parents and the international headquarters. The chiefs were so inspired and said we need an international association for tribal chiefs.



Sun Jin Moon, presented new regional group leaders with their writs of appointment. They are (left to right) Sang-seuk Kim, Latin America; Bakary Camara, Africa; Chung-shik Yong, Asia; and Michael Balcomb, Europe.

Tribal chiefs' value

Chiefs have more power. They have land. They have people. They have the tradition. If we hold a conference at their level, easily we can make positive changes in Zambia.

Almost a hundred chiefs came. Beforehand, we told them they'd first need to do a three-day workshop. Inviting the chiefs to a workshop was not easy. The government cannot mobilize chiefs because the chiefs think that chiefs should have nominated the government. For us, getting the chiefs to participate in a three-day workshop all in one place was a miracle.

The chiefs coming to the workshop inspired the parliamentarians because without the chiefs' support, they cannot get votes. Following our workshop with the chiefs, the parliamentarians decided they wanted to launch IAPP in Zambia quickly. We said, well, you can launch it but after making it, you have to have a focus. To do that, you also need a three-day workshop. Almost forty parliamentarians participated. That, briefly, is the UPF foundation True Parents made in Zambia. Not only in Zambia but in almost all areas of Africa.

Action imbued with heart

We are also working with the Women's Federation. Women's Federation members work with their hearts. The Women's Federation activities in Africa are quite visible. They make True Parents' hearts visible. They take care of people, vulnerable people, young people, whom they raise as parents would but also guide to become true sons or daughters of God. They are working in almost all parts of Africa. They provide education and care physically for people by giving medication and food and eventually, moral education.

Newsmakers

We're working with chiefs, so parliamentarians come in. Working with parliamentarians, the media wants to get involved, because they like sensation. They want to write about it. I said, if you want to write about our event, you need a three-day workshop. That's it! After they became involved, we established an international media association.

Heavenly tribal outreach

On the foundation of ongoing social activities, the heavenly tribal messiah mission becomes clear. Heavenly tribal messiah outreach begins one-to-one, and then we reach a family, one ordinary family. We had to start somewhere. That's what I saw in Asia. The family took us to the village. The villages took us to the village heads and the village heads took us to the chiefs.

More on the chiefs

As soon as the providence of chiefs' restoration started, we had no more time to rest. Chiefs want the blessing. Chiefs want restoration. Chiefs have a problem and they think the Family Federation's blessing

is the solution.

A chief from Kanunda received the blessing with his wife. His mother was there. She said she wanted the blessing. During the blessing, the chief's first son was outside crying, "I want to be inside also." We blessed three generations. To date, forty chiefs have received the blessing and gone through a forty-day separation and three-day ceremony.

What to do with the chiefs? We had to develop a partnership because it is an issue of national restoration. We had to develop a strategy with the True Mother's guidance, international support, and the international headquarters' support.

We have to educate them. We had to not only provide external organization but also be sure they understand the fundamental principles of peace from our True Parents. We are preparing a plan to educate the chiefs throughout Africa. If you are leading people, you have to deal with their problems. To solve problems, you need true solutions. Otherwise, it just comes back or backfires.

At the same time, we gave them some additional benefit. They don't yet know yet the value of the Principle, but we sincerely want to help them develop their chiefdoms. True Mother provided them practical knowledge through Sae Ma-ul Undong (New Village Movement). We told them we will try to help them develop through agriculture, through saving energy and through taking care of the environment. If they align with us, a chiefdom will definitely not stay a chiefdom; it may become a kingdom of God.

The chiefs accepted this. They came to a workshop, to which True Mother sent a specialist from Korea, Dr. Woo. He explained the Korean exemplary way of raising themselves, not only as a chosen nation but as a powerful nation. Their foundation grew from nothing to what it is today. This began with the New Village movement.

When the chiefs learned this providence and learned Korean history and the strategies, they chose to become motivated. They want to come to Korea to learn themselves. The chiefs are determined not only to get the blessing but to give the blessing to their people.



Toward a shining continent

We are planning to make an international association of chiefs for all Africa, actually, the world if necessary. We finished an African chiefs' conference in Zambia. Many came from other countries. The government was very interested in that conference. Senior chiefs came, eighty-two from around Africa, from DR Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. They trust us, they are dedicated and they want to be part of this global movement.

They made a declaration. They want all African traditional rulers to make a foundation for Africa to be a safe place to live, which is what True Mother also wants, to make Africa a shining continent, a successful continent, a continent raised to become the heavenly kingdom.