

Saving My Life at Chung Pyung

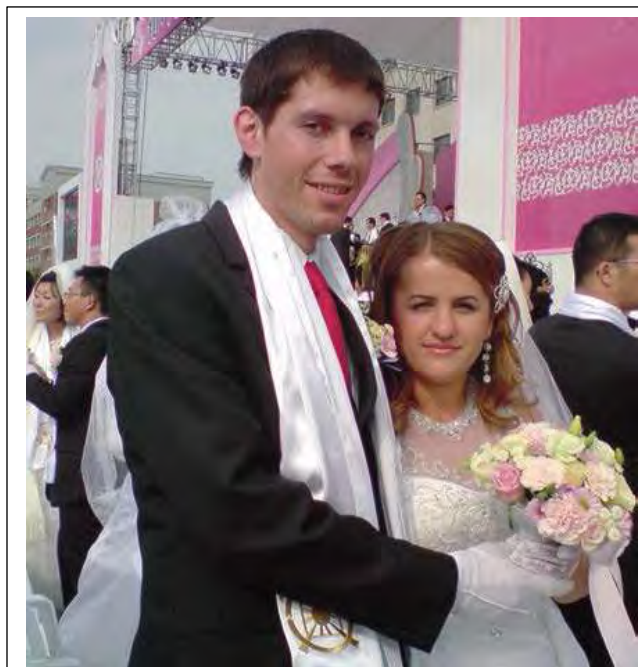
James M. Powell
October 2015



James and Elona Powell receiving a benediction at the blessing

All throughout my life, the spirit world has guided me. When I was six years of age, I experienced a dramatic spiritual vision in which I saw thousands of couples, men and women, standing together in front of a large outdoor stage. On the stage was a gigantic ball of golden light radiating a love of such warmth and beauty that I had never experienced before. When I asked what it was, I heard the reply, this is a God-centered marriage. Do you want this James? I said yes.

I am a first-generation blessed family member from Wales in the United Kingdom who grew up having this hope and expectation for my future. I met my spiritual father, Natty German, in Wales in 2007. The spirit world strongly influenced our meeting. I was not surprised that I met him on that day. In fact, I was expecting to meet someone specifically then, and I knew the person would change my life completely. Nevertheless, how bright he was spiritually very much surprised me!



At the Blessing ceremony

I have met many spiritual earthly people in my life but none of them -- even the oldest who had been meditating their whole lives -- was as naturally bright as this second-generation child of God. When I described this to him, he told me that he did not feel particularly special and he had not been trying to be particularly shiny. God's love was coming out of him so easily. This is truly the value of the blessing.

After joining, I was sent to Albania on a mission the following year, 2008. In 2009, I was blessed with the most amazing sister, Elona, from Albania in the 10.14 True Parents' Cosmic Blessing Ceremony in Seoul, Korea, which was the fulfilment of the vision I had had when I was a boy. I cannot imagine ever meeting as a good person as my wife if True Parents were not involved. Elona and I remained in Korea and were able to liberate and bless our ancestors back two hundred and ten

generations.

Before returning to the UK in 2011, I had noticed that one of my testicles was swollen to more than twice its normal size, but decided to finish what I had come to do first and then have a check-up after arriving back in the UK. The doctor told me that it was cancer and he said it was good that I had done the check-

up when I did, otherwise it would have been untreatable. Within three days, I had an operation to remove a tumor. The cancer seemed to be gone. Yet, the following year it returned.

The Principle and prayer



James and Elona Powell

The second time, it was in my abdomen. The doctor did a blood test and told me that my markers, which reflect the speed of growth of the cancer cells, were tripling each week. He said that he had never seen anyone's markers multiply as fast before. He did some calculations and said that if I do not begin chemotherapy within two weeks it would be untreatable and I would die. I have his official statement printed out.

Nevertheless, with what I understood in my mind about the Principle, I thought about it in a different way. Regardless of my father tearful begging me to do chemotherapy (He was present when the doctor gave me his diagnosis.) I said that I needed to check some other sources first and then I would let them know what I had decided. My actions made no sense to them.

The first thing I did was report everything to my wife. I then immersed myself in the Principle and prayed. I shared my situation with my public central figures and then with my closest brothers and sisters. The overall conclusion was that I should go to Chung Pyung to do a forty-day workshop. True Father's Seonghwa occurred at this time. My church leader offered to send me to Chung Pyung as a representative on behalf of Wales, so I was able to attend True Parents at True Father's Seonghwa on behalf of Wales and also offer a representative bow in front of True Father's body in the Original Palace.

I personally feel that I was born to go through this era, so in my heart True Father's Seonghwa was really more of a celebration of victory than mourning. Yet I can never forget the feeling from the vibrating sound of all the cries and tears of thousands of brothers and sisters-many of whom have been with True Parents since the early days -- as True Father's precious casket was carried down the aisle to True Mother at the front of the stadium. That was overwhelming. I can still feel it today.

As soon as the ceremony had ended, I walked across to the Heaven and Earth Training Center and began the forty-day workshop. I requested a meeting with Dae Mo nim for a personal consultation. I met her in her room, behind the Cheongshim Won (prayer hall), with a few other brothers and sisters. There, I received healing.

During the consultation, Dae Mo nim told me that she had removed the main spirit causing the problem. She added that I should do the forty-day workshop and then return to Wales to do chemotherapy. I had planned to have frequent blood tests in Cheongshim Hospital to check if the cancer cells were going away or not. Since Dae Mo nim had told me to do the workshop and then go back to do chemotherapy, I reasoned that I did not need to check and that I would instead just do as she had said.

My church leader in Wales told me that taking as much responsibility as I could while in Chung Pyung would be good for me. Based on that advice, I volunteered to be the Chanyang Team leader.

This was an unforgettably good experience for me because I saw how some brothers and sisters on my team genuinely struggled with personal issues to fulfill their roles in a public position, but then invested sincerely and overcame their difficult challenges with strong determination. I feel so proud of them all for doing that!

Being on the Chanyang Team was even more special for me personally, because we were the Chanyang Team for the first Special Great Works that True Father could attend spiritually after his forty-day period following his Seonghwa. Dae Mo nim confirmed this when she spoke onstage during the Special Great Works. She told us that if the Special Great Works was within the forty days, True Father could not have come, but it started on the forty-first day. What an amazing blessing.

We have been prepared

A brother in Wales asked me to win the Divine Principle test during the forty-day workshop, because he and another Welsh brother had won it. Winners of the Divine Principle test for the forty-day workshop

receive a Divine Principle from Dae Mo nim with her personal stamp inside. The brother wanted three for Wales. I won the test but was kindly told by a Chung Pyung staff member that they don't usually give two Divine

Principle books to the same person in a forty-day workshop. I was already getting one for being the Chanyang Team leader. I decided to accept the Divine Principle book for being Chanyang Team Leader because I felt it represented more the purpose for which I had gone to Chung Pyung, but also so that the second person in the test competition could also receive a book. Earlier in the year, European family members had been reciting the Lisbon Resolution as part of one of the forty-day European Jeong Seong conditions. The final paragraph in that resolution reads, "We pledge to resemble True Parents' life or death determination in fulfilling this resolution." I did not understand that, so I began to pray. I prayed about it for weeks.

It was not until Dae Mo nim said something while onstage during the Special Great Works that a deep realization came to me. She said, "Everyone who has come here has been prepared." When Dae Mo nim told me at the beginning of the workshop to do the forty-day workshop and then return to Wales to do chemotherapy, I felt that I did not need to think about myself during the forty days. Instead, I would just focus on attending Heavenly Parent and True Parents as much as I could while I was there. Since the moment she spoke, I have felt that I now understand what it means to live in attendance to Heavenly Parent and True Parents at the literal risk of my life.

Returning to the UK



James Powell in Chung Pyung

According to the doctors in the UK, by the time I returned to them after being in Korea, I should have gone so far beyond the point of being treatable that my death was guaranteed. What they actually found, though, was that my markers were decreasing by themselves, which meant the cancer was going away by itself. They even delayed chemotherapy to do more tests to try to find out why I was getting better. They did not find an answer, so I gave them a copy of True Father's autobiography and told them, "This is why."

You would think that that would be it, right? But there are three Stages -- formation, growth and completion. Likewise, there are symbol,

image and substance. In my youth, I was in another life-threatening situation in which I cried out spiritually in my mind three times, "I want to live! I want to live! I want to live!" I do not have enough room to describe it in this article, but that saved my life then. Now I have had to go through the same course three times physically.

Applying the Principle

The third time I had cancer was the year following the second time. You might be thinking now, as I did then, what else could possibly be done? I had gone to Chung Pyung and amazing things had happened. What could possibly do more than that? I tell you: living a Principle lifestyle saved my life. But I did not do it alone.

With the love of my wife and her guidance centered on the Principle and True Parents' hearts, I was able to change the fallen habits that had caused the problem to recur. Even though Dae Mo nim might remove a spirit that causes a problem, if the person does not change his fallen habits for the better and does not have a Principle lifestyle, he will attract more of the same and the problem will return. This is within the realm of personal responsibility.

The day I made the change with the help of my wife was the exact day the cancer went away. Without the love of Heavenly Parent, True Parents and my wife, and without the Principle, I would not be here today. It is that simple. I constantly feel that my life is on the line and the only reason I am here today is because True Parents clearly do show the way. Heavenly Parent does not give us what we cannot handle, but sometimes we need to exert ourselves to the maximum in order to succeed. This chapter of my life has caused me to seriously reassess my purpose for being here on earth. I have concluded that in addition to living a blessed family life, witnessing to True Parents is the most important purpose of my life.

All our gratitude goes out to Heavenly Parent and True Parents, and to all you amazing champions of true love. If you have not written your testimony yet, please do it. Collectively, they become a record that can change the world.