

Following the Footprints of Our True Mother

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As we continue our march towards the year 2020, we realize that bringing a victory to this providential goal requires amazing commitment and devotion. We must restore four hundred and thirty families as our Tribal Messiah responsibility and we must also restore nations back to Heaven. The time is short so we need not only our individual and family commitment, but we need heaven's intervention, heavenly fortune.

How we can mobilize Heaven's power to assist us in our mission? Studying True Mother's model and example very closely we see that in the midst of incredible challenges and painful situations, True Mother goes on. How can she so steadfastly guide our movement and our forward progress? Where does she find her power, her peacefulness, her sense of hope and calm? Where does her beautiful smile come from in spite of endless anguish? Just like our True

Father, Mother never waivers. How does she do it?

Recently, True Mother told us, "If you have gratitude for every situation and difficulty, you will receive heavenly fortune and achieve your goals." Having gratitude in every situation sounds so easy and yet is so difficult. In West Africa where I am working, the rainy season began in May and the rain becomes stronger with the passage of each day. Our Heavenly Tribal Messiah activity is centralized in zones that are more in the rural areas of our nation, in the villages and small cities where we work with traditional leaders and paramount rulers. This part of the country is not well developed, which means the roads are not paved and public services do not function. When the rain comes, the streets fill with water and deepen the potholes that we cannot see because of the rain. Traveling even small distances is an exhausting experience. Your clothes are caked with mud and your hair is drenched. Our schedule has us going daily to different villages and cities, meeting leaders and educating them about the blessing. However due to the rain, we just want to just stay home and wait for the rain to stop (which is most unlikely in the rainy season). Knowing that you can't stay home or you won't be able to fulfill your goals, you go out anyway!

Going out is good, but how to feel "gratitude" is difficult. Day in and day out, how to feel gratitude for every situation we encounter? How to feel gratitude for the rain and the mud and the potholes? How to feel gratitude when the people reject our blessing programs? Yet, if we can overcome -- we can receive heavenly fortune as True Mother has taught us.

Struggling with this problem of gratitude, trying very sincerely to be grateful -- praying with tears and repenting for our struggles, suddenly the national leader's wife received a message from a VIP contact that we have known for years. He called our sister, who explained all the activities we are involved in to renew the nation. This man said, "You must explain this to the head of state! He should know this! Two days later, we were in the presidential office with the president! The head of state received us for a one-hour meeting. We gave a presentation on the work our True Parents have done and all our ongoing projects.

True Parents vision for bringing peace and stability to his nation impressed the president. He asked us to stay in touch with him and report our activities regularly! I have worked in Africa for over forty years. People think it 's easy to meet a head of state in Africa but that is not true. Sometimes, we spend years trying to get an appointment to meet the president. But, in this case, someone calls us and offers to bring us to the president --an important step in restoring the country!

Our True Mother's words were "Always feel gratitude" with all your heart and soul." Our entire delegation knew that the Head of State could receive us in such a timely manner and with such openness because we followed Mother's words about gratitude. Not just grateful from our mouths, but grateful from the depth of our feeling.

So now, when the rain begins, we fall down on our knees and praise our Heavenly Father for the wonder of this downpour. This rain that gives life to us and to the creation, this rain that cleanses us from our sins. When people reject us we are energized and grateful! We try to live this life that our True Mother leads. So many difficulties, sacrifices, and pain that True Mother