

President An's visit to the Netherlands

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 26. - 28. December 2014



In the afternoon of December 26th President An arrived in the Netherlands with two of his sons. On the day before, on Christmas day, they had stayed in Belgium.

On the afternoon of December 26th, Boxing Day, President An and his sons attended our Christmas celebration in the Amsterdam centre. President An shared personally and freely with brothers and sisters. He listened to individual members, who shared about their life and situation. He gave guidance and encouragement to a small circle. To one elder brother, who in his life had been a communist, next a Jehovah witness and then a Mormon, until he finally found our movement, Pres. An showed a lot of understanding. He gave guidance to him on "four levels of ideology." He said, "The highest level is where people are concerned for humankind and also know God. The lowest level is where people don't know God and don't know the suffering of human beings. There are two levels in between. The second level (from the top) is where (religious) people know God, but are not involved with the suffering of other people. Many people belong to the third level, where they can feel the suffering of humankind and want to put an end to it; however because they don't know God's heart, they develop an attitude of taking revenge. Many communists for instance have been like that. They understood the suffering of the people and felt compassion for them, but they became revengeful, because they didn't know God."

Several brothers and sisters came with their questions and short testimonies. When they requested, he gave guidance. In the evening President An went to Glory House by car with his two sons. They stayed there for two nights.



On the next day, December 27th, President An shared words of guidance in House Glory, where he and his sons were staying. There the annual 4 days Christmas workshop had just started for young children from Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg. the workshop was led by a Japanese sister, Mrs. Hiromi van Es. The theme of this workshop is Jesus and Christmas. By gaining a clearer understanding of Jesus' life, the children come to grasp more deeply the heart of the Heavenly Parent and True Parents. President An gave a short speech to the children and staff members of the workshop, relating precisely to this theme. Several parents from Belgium and the Netherlands were present as he gave his address.

A summary of his words (based on my unofficial notes) would be like this:

The deepest aspect in God is His Parental heart and love which totally invests and sacrifices itself for the children. This divine nature is manifested everywhere in the creation. In the animal world, it is incredible to see the extent to which parents invest for their children. The main lesson in the animal world, it seems, is parental, sacrificial love. True Father often spoke about that, for instance about the investment of a mother chicken for her egg and chicks. When a chicken breeds on her egg she neither eats nor sleeps. Also, a hen will do anything to protect its chicks, even against predators much bigger than her.

God finally created human beings. His purpose, of course, was not only for the natural world, but especially for human beings to inherit His divine nature, His parental heart. Unfortunately, this didn't happen because of the fall of Adam and Eve, the first human ancestors. Human beings could never manifest God's parental, sacrificial heart. That's why God sent Jesus 2000 years ago. Jesus had the deep desire to become True Parents. He wanted all human beings to become God's children through him and

next that they also could become True Parents themselves. However, to achieve that, it would be necessary first of all for the family, in which Jesus was born, to respect and follow him. Sadly, Jesus was neglected by his family, because he was an illegitimate child. They were ashamed of him. Jesus' youth was very lonely and sorrowful. He never had new shoes or new clothes. But the saddest thing was that Jesus, because of this situation, could not marry. In order to become True Parent, Jesus would have needed a bride to stand alongside with him. Jesus' sorrow on the cross was the fact that he could not become a True Parent himself, and also that he couldn't enable human beings to become True Parents. It is important to know Jesus' desire and sorrow.

Out of his unconditional love, Jesus forgave humankind, which had rejected him, on the cross. In this way, Jesus laid a foundation on which ultimately True Father could come in our time. True Father was the first one who understood Jesus' heart and suffering. He succeeded to become True Parents, because he found God's True Daughter, who became his Bride and the True Mother. We understand now how important True Mother is. They gave the Blessing of Rebirth to human beings. As such not only they themselves became the True Parents of humankind, but also God became the Heavenly Parent. This had been His ideal from the beginning. Through the Blessing, we, the 1st generation, could give birth to you as God's children. In this way we can have the joy of being True Parents ourselves, and our hope is that you can become True Parents too.

We can be grateful to Jesus. Because of his sacrifice the True Parents have come. They have comforted Jesus by completing the ideal for which Jesus had come. You yourselves, the children, can comfort Jesus and make him happy by your deep gratitude to him and by growing up in oneness with Our True Parents, so you can become True Parents yourselves, which was the very purpose for which Jesus had come. This is the real and ultimate way to celebrate Christmas and make Jesus happy.

These were the words which President An conveyed to the children and staff of the Christmas-workshop. Later in the afternoon, he shared with several brothers and sisters, including those who had taken part in a technical meeting about Glory House, which had taken place earlier that day.



On the next day, Sunday December 28th President An, gave a sermon with deep content on the life of Jesus during the Sunday service in our FFWPU-centre in Amsterdam. Four days earlier, on Christmas Eve, True Mother had given her speech in Las Vegas. One main reason for her to do this (as Pres. An explained) was to comfort the heart of Jesus. President An, in his sermon on December 28th, following True Mother's intent, shared new, deeper insights on the life of Jesus. He used Bible verses from the Gospel and quotations from a speech, which True Father had given in Belvedere NY on August 1st 1993. President An explained how the difficulties within Mary's and Zacharias's family impacted not only Jesus' personal life in a dramatic and tragic way, but even influenced the attitude and mindset of the disciples of Jesus much later in the years of his public mission, causing them to leave Jesus. There are many lessons for us to learn from this, since we are the disciples of True Parents. We should avoid making the same mistake that the disciples made. Instead, by fulfilling our mission we should give joy to the Heavenly Parent and be honored by history.

Please read the content of this amazing speech, which President An presented in great detail, words which moved our hearts and enlightened our minds.

