

I arrived in Teheran, Iran as a missionary at 9 o'clock Monday evening, March 6, 1972 -- True Parents arrived on April 14, 1972

Norbert Boland
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Teheran, Iran



1966

Dear Mrs. [Won Pok] Choi,

Hereby I send you my first report from Iran-Teheran Center.

First, I like to introduce myself. My name is Norbert Boland. I have heard the Divine Principles in Amsterdam, Holland and I have helped to spread Divine Principles in Amsterdam and Den Haag.

Now I am staying in Teheran, Iran as a missionary. I arrived at the airport of Teheran at 9 o'clock Monday evening, March 6, 1972. The first thing I had to do was to search a cheap hotel.

Finally, I found Cyrus Hotel. The name of the hotel comes from Cyrus the Great who was the founder of Persia (Iran). The next day I started to learn to find the way in this city. It is a big city with over three and a half million citizens. Iran is one of the most progressive countries in the Middle East. In the city, many new skyscrapers are being erected, especially in the northern part of the City and in the center. The southern part of the city is relatively poor. My hotel is located in the center and it is only twenty-five minutes to walk from Cyrus Hotel to the University. My first visit to the University brought me in contact with police. They controlled everyone who wants to go in the University, because a few days ago, some students tried to put bombs in the University buildings, and they still are striking when I came there for the first time.

I couldn't show any entry card but I told the police that I was a student from a foreign country and that I would make no trouble. The students are a mixture of believers, namely Moslems and nonbelievers.

Moslems are 93% of the total inhabitants in this country.

The minorities are believers of Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Baha'i. The Moslems do not expect that the prophet Mohammad shall come back but they expect the twelfth Imam. An Imam is the highest leader in the Moslem world and the twelfth Imam should come to explain the Holy Book of Moslems, the Koran. They believe that this book was the last book and the most completed one that God has sent to the earth through Mohammad.

I had already many talks with Moslems and I must find a way to reach them. I have bought a Koran in Holland and every time I study a little part of the text. Also, I have some contacts in different Christian churches. In Teheran, there are still more than twelve churches and denominations. Only some of them have services in English. Many Christians are Armenian people and many times the services are given in Armenian language and sometimes translated into Farsi that is the Iran language. I am learning Farsi now so that I can also speak, read and perhaps later write in this language. One of the boys I met first here in Teheran is named Naser, which means a helper. Sometimes I ask him different things about Farsi. He speaks both Farsi and English very well and so he helps me indeed. Also, I have already spoken many times with him about the Divine Principles but he needs time. I met also another boy named Darjush, in Farah Park. This is the park where our Master has blessed [Holy Ground]. He is 18 years old and very intelligent. I shall try to lead him more and more to our True Parents. Also, I have had the great privilege to meet our True Parents in Teheran.

True Parents and President [Young Hwi] Kim of Unification Church of Korea, Dr. [Sang Ik "Papasan"] Choi and four other family members arrived in Teheran airport in the night of Parents' Day on April 14, 1972. That night Father and Mother and the other members including myself stayed in Hotel Sina in the north of Teheran. I will never forget the day of April 14. In the evening, a gigantic cake made in three stages was brought in our Parents' room. After Father said a short prayer, all of us enjoyed that cake together. Father has given me some new instructions to me. I will start selling books of first chapter of Mr. [Hyo Won] Eu.

Also, I will start an English language center in my room. Then I can give the Divine Principle lectures to my students. Well, this is all so far, I can tell you. Also, here our Church must grow as fast as possible and I hope that I shall get quickly results. I must become a good representative of our church.

My deepest love to all of you,

In the Name of our True Parents,

Norbert Boland