

FFWPU UK 21-Days HJ Youth Pilgrimage - Reconnecting To Our Korean Roots

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As the 21 days HJ Youth Pilgrimage unfolds, here is an update on the Holy Ground Tour the participants embarked on.

As the first stage of the 21 days came to an end, which is only the formation stage of a spiritual journey to the motherland, we welcomed the growth stage by travelling across South Korea to significant places where True Parents have visited, prayed, lived at or built. Having spent a whole week receiving internal and practical guidance on different topics, ranging from the Divine Principle to lectures on Chanyang it was a good opportunity to be out on the field, putting concept and ideas into practice whilst following True Parents' footsteps and understanding True Mother's heart better.

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The group embarked on a journey from the HJ Heaven and Earth CheonBo Training Centre, to the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) in Imjingak, Paju, to Seoul, to Yongpyong and Busan. For four days, our youth from the European and Middle Eastern Region were on the road, learning, seeing, experiencing and taking the time to connect to our history.



The tour started with a Peace Rally for the reunification of North and South Korea in Imjingak, Paju at the edge of the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ). Messages and wishes of peace were offered and to mark this occasion, the Bell of Peace was rung by representatives of different nations, 40 in total. The pilgrims then paid their respects at the Mangbaedan Alter and offered sincere prayers for the reunification of Korea, and by extension, world peace. Despite the infernal heat, the participants were not deterred as they explored, prayed and even collected stamps from the DMZ souvenir shop.



Following that, the group departed to Seoul Headquarters where they were treated to a nice lunch and received a warm welcome from the headquarters team. We are incredibly grateful for the constant support and treats that we have received from the Seoul Headquarters. Kamsahamnida!



Located close the current headquarters, is Cheongpa-dong Headquarters Church - the former headquarters where True Parent's had their Holy Wedding Ceremony and 6 of the True Children were born: Ye Jin Nim (lunar 12. 11. 1960), Hyo Jin Nim (12.3.1962), Hye Jin Nim (6.20.1964), In Jin Nim (lunar 7.18.1965), Heung Jin Nim (lunar 10.23.1966) and Eun Jin Nim (11.23.1967). As the whole group could not fit into Cheongpa-dong, half of the pilgrims visited Hannamdong, where True Parents lived from 1983 until 2006, and took turns to visit both locations.



The Han River flows south of Han-nam-dong UN Village, which is in the Yongsan Borough of Seoul and Mountain Nam is to the north. Together these two features resemble a dragon's body. Thus, taking in the landscape, the site of the house seems to be the dragon's head. Thus, according to geomancy, the place is said to have strong energy and is an area that will attract riches. This is what True Father says about the Hannam-dong residence:

This house is at the highest location in Hannam-dong. It is known that the atmosphere of this site is so strong that not just anyone can live here. It is just like a dragon's head! We can live here because Rev.

Moon has come here. If any normal people had come first, they would all have died one-by-one. The atmosphere is strong. I am educating you here because it is like this. By representing the nation... They cannot attack this place without attacking the nation first.



Because this topmost location is like the head of a dragon and has a strong energy, nobody was able to settle there until True Parents came, and they passed this energy to the members and missionaries of the world. On the first floor, True Parents would hold meetings. Celebrations welcoming them back to Korea took place there as did leader's meetings, etc. They taught members and celebrated holy days in the basement auditorium. In good weather, they would go out to the garden and have Wonhwado classes or spend time with members listening to testimonies. Particularly when Hoon Dok Hae officially started in 1997, many members came to hear True Parent speak.



Having experienced the atmosphere and energy of this place, of the dragon's head, the tree of peace and of praying in Hyo Jin Nim's room, the following morning was spent paying respect to True Father at the Bon Hyang Won and visiting the Cheon Jeong Gung. With the 12th SeongHwa Anniversary approaching, it was a good moment to prepare for the long journey down south of South Korea.

Departing from Seoul, the pilgrims made their way to Yongpyong resort where there was time to relax, have fun at the Yongpyong Waterpark and enjoy a Korean outdoors music festival. The sound of laughter and an atmosphere of content happiness could be seen and heard as participants enjoyed the music and made their own choreographies (or copied the ones on stage). After spending the night at the resort, the group visited True Parent's residence in Yongpyong and took the cable car up to Mona Yongpyong to see the Water Gardens, with natural spring water said to give you wealth, health, wisdom and love, and the Mother and Child Tree. From True Mother Autobiography:



From time to time, I ascend Mount Balwang in Pyeongchang, Gangwondo. At the foot of that nearly 1,500-meter mountain is the well-known Yongpyong Resort, a property that our members have developed. It is one of the locations where the popular Korean drama Winter Sonata was filmed. At the top of that mountain is a rare tree. I named it "the mother and child tree." It is actually two trees of different species that have grown together and become one. A Chinese crabapple tree that is hundreds of years old is the mother, and a rowan tree that has grown up within it is the child. This "mother and child" tree has flourished like that; they depend on each other and thrive together. Perhaps when the crabapple tree became old and hollow, a bird dropped a rowan tree seed inside it and a new tree grew there. The crabapple tree embraced and nurtured the rowan tree as if it were its child. Over time, the rowan tree's roots grew deep, until it could support the crab apple tree as if it was taking care of its mother. In the same space, the two trees each blossom and bear.



The skywalk viewpoint was an attractive spot where besides being able to see stunning views, it became a popular photographic spot for friends and family. The next stop on the tour was Busan with the first stop on the itinerary being Haeundae Beach in the evening enjoy the views. The following morning, the

pilgrims made their way to Beumnaegol, where the famous Rock of Tears is located as well as the Memorial Hall.



The headstone at this location bears the inscription: "This Holy Land is where Rev. Sun Myung Moon prayed with tears for the salvation of humanity and for world peace. Rocks from 40 different countries are buried beneath this blessed sacred site." Further from the Tear of Rock is another rock where True Father used to meditate and rest. Beyond that is the 1st Holy Land, marked by two towers representing True Parents. On July 3, 2001, True Mother dedicated this mountain as 'Cheonbusan'. The inscription on the stone reads: "Cheonbusan Cheonju, the 1st Holy Land, is the place where Rev. Sun Myung Moon prayed while carrying out God's special mission after arriving in Busan on January 27, 1951."

More to come soon! Keep updated with the HJ Youth Pilgrimage social media:



