FFWPU UK: Europe and Middle East Testimonial from Korea's Historic Holy Week Events

Michael Balcomb April 17, 2025



This past week, over 500 members from the Europe and Middle East (EUME) region gathered in Korea for a once-in-a-lifetime spiritual experience alongside brothers and sisters from all around the world. For those who watched from home, we hope this reflection helps you feel a little closer to the heart of it all. From joyful reunions to sacred ceremonies, the week was a powerful testimony to our global family's unity, love, and faith.

Arrival at Oak Valley - A Joyful Homecoming

As members from across EUME began arriving at Oak Valley Resort, the atmosphere buzzed with anticipation. Volunteers had been working tirelessly to prepare for everyone's arrival - not just from Europe and the Middle East, but from the USA, Asia Pacific, Africa and beyond. Over 70 couples from our region were among the 5,000 participating in the Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing. It truly felt like a family reunion, with old friends embracing after years apart and new friendships blooming instantly across language and cultural boundaries.

Great Works - A Day of Spiritual Connection and Community

On the first full day, members traveled to the Training Center, where the sun warmly welcomed everyone. It was a day of spiritual recharging and joyful encounters. Many walked the scenic barefoot path behind the Tea House, visited the Magnolia Cafe, or enjoyed scenic boat rides at the HJ Marina, which was celebrating its anniversary, offering members a special ticket price.



Later that day, everyone gathered for high-energy Chanyang Yeoksa and a very special Great Works session. The spirit was alive and moving. In the evening, members returned to Oak Valley to enjoy

quality time with friends and family - eating fried chicken, exploring amusements for kids, and singing their hearts out in the popular karaoke rooms, known as Noraebang in Korea.



A Night of Light - The Drone Show

As night fell, members gathered near the World Peace Centre for a spectacular drone show against the majestic backdrop of Cheon Won Gung. Even Holy Mother Han joined the audience, making the experience even more precious. The performance lit up the sky with powerful images of True Parents, cranes, flowers, and the Cheon II Guk emblem - accompanied by a soundscape that included True Parents' own singing. The energy was electric, with dancing, cheering, and heartfelt celebration echoing through the night alongside spirited musical entertainment which included rock covers of Hyojin-nim's songs such as 'Let It Blow'.



The Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing and Holy Wedding Anniversary

Saturday brought the historic Blessing Ceremony, preceded by a celebration of True Parents' 65th Holy Wedding Anniversary. Brides and grooms filled the Peace Centre, each radiant with joy as they pledged their eternal love before Heavenly Parent, True Parents and our worldwide Holy Community.



For youth not yet blessed, a Holy Commitment Ceremony was held - inviting them to dedicate their purity to Heavenly Parent. Specially engraved rings were available to commemorate this personal promise.

After the ceremony, food trucks, laughter, and photos filled the grounds. Members explored local

attractions like the Aqua Garden and Begonia Bird Park before returning for another evening of street food and the second session of Great Works in the training centre complex.



Cheon Won Gung Cheon II Sanctum Opening - A Historic Turning Point

Sunday was the long-awaited Opening Ceremony of the Cheon II Sanctum at Cheon Won Gung. Despite the rain, nothing could dampen the spirit. Over 30,000 members viewed the ceremony from the Peace Centre via livestream, fully connected in heart.

Wearing regal purple and gold robes, members witnessed a sacred moment marking the end of the Era of Restoration. With dignitaries and long-time leaders present, the Peace Centre erupted in applause as Holy Mother Han, dressed in radiant green, entered the Sanctum to inaugurate this new age and pass on responsibilities to Shin Chul-nim and Shin Heung-nim. Global Leaders watch from within the Cheon Il Sanctum itself, this historic moment take place, uniting us in a place where we can directly communicate with Heavenly Parent. Members were elated at this entering of a new era.



Victory Celebration - A Time of Joy

Following the ceremony, a beautiful celebration was held, complete with gift bags lovingly prepared by volunteers - each containing sweet treats such as the famous event roll cakes and a commemorative Cheon Won Gung flask. Though rain forced the festivities indoors, members packed into the Peace Centre - some sitting on stairs, everyone smiling and eating together.

The afternoon featured breathtaking performances, including the beloved Little Angels and the powerful musical The Epic of the Chosen Han People of Korea. With stunning visuals, music, and storytelling, the performance moved the audience deeply, sharing the story of True Mother's heritage and Korea's providential role.

Youth Assembly - The Next Generation Rising

On Monday morning, the Cheon II Guk Youth Leaders Assembly opened the multipurpose hall at Cheon Won Gung for the very first time. Holy Mother Han, watching via livestream, expressed her gratitude to the youth for their service during the weekend's events.

Performances from each region followed, with the EUME youth stirring hearts through a rendition of Miele from The Lion King, creatively adapted to celebrate Cheon II Guk. Five youth leaders also joined a moving performance of Butterfly with Shin Chul-nim and Shin Heung-nim, closing the assembly with deep worship.

Afterward, True Mother treated the youth to a generous banquet featuring grilled meats, fresh salads, and plenty of time to connect and celebrate their collective effort. It was a gesture of profound love and encouragement for the future leaders of the providence.



Leader's Assembly - Looking to the Future

Over Monday and Tuesday, leaders from around the world gathered for the Cheon II Guk Leaders Assembly to reflect, strategise, and align on the path forward. The closing ceremony, graced by True Mother in person, offered updates on departmental changes and community development plans, anchoring a sense of unity and renewed purpose for the global movement.



Pilgrimages - Deepening the Connection

Many members also took part in meaningful pilgrimages throughout the week, visiting holy sites like Cheon Won Gung, the DMZ, Seodaemun Prison, and historical places like Chongpadong in Seoul. These visits deepened the understanding of Korea's role in providence and allowed members to connect with the heart of our movement in profound ways.



A Week of Spirit, History, and Heart

Though the days were full and sleep was scarce, the spiritual nourishment, powerful memories, and bonds formed will remain in our hearts forever. This week wasn't just a series of events - it was the beginning of a new chapter for our Holy Community. To those who joined via stream from home, know that you were just as much a part of this historical victory as those who were there in person. Let us move forward together, united in heart, into this new era of Cheon II Guk.

With love from Korea,

Your EUME Family