

Scottish Annual Gathering at Loch Lomond

Loch Lomond, Scotland, 11. August 2013



The Scottish blessed families met for our annual gathering this year in a village hall near Loch Lomond on Sunday morning, 11th August. There were forty-two of us - a good number – including Jack Corley, UK leader, the Aso family from Newcastle, Peter and Catriona Valenta from Germany, as well as quite a few of the second generation, and a young friend of the Breslins from Hamburg.

Sunday 11th came between the two holy days, Chil Il Jol (7-1 Day) the week before, and Chil Pal Jol (7-8 Day) the week after, so we kept both days in mind as we celebrated. Mr Corley, who remembers his early days in the church visiting Loch Lomond with Samson mobile team in 1974, gave an inspirational talk and also explained the recent meeting with True Mother at Cheongpyeong discussing the Cheonilguk constitution. Service concluded with three cheers of Ong-mansei for Heavenly Parent, True Parents, and Scotland for Cheonilguk – Cheonilguk wihan Scotulaendu! Then we celebrated the 15th birthday of Yong-yin Breslin, from Glasgow, with the cutting of a birthday cake.

Pot-luck lunch followed. The name belied the incredible meal that followed, with home-made soup, chicken and rice, cottage pie and pasta bake, salad and cheese, gooseberry crumble, and plenty of fresh fruit, all contributed by the blessed families, and laid out dining-room style on tables covered with fancy cloths. There was cheery conversation round every table. Following the meal, not even the fairies of old could have been quicker and neater than our blessed families and second generation in cleaning and tidying and putting everything back in order as we found it.

We then drove a few miles to Balmaha, a pretty harbour on Loch Lomond. We hoped to hire rowing-boats and row to an island, but the water was too choppy, so we hired a small clinker-built wooden launch to cruise among the many islands at the south end of the loch. The boat was too small for all of us, so we went in two groups. Those who waited their turn did not waste their time but climbed nearby Cornick Hill to get a full view of the loch and Ben Lomond and the Highlands. Even the onset of showers did not dampen our enthusiasm. There was always the nice country inn at Balmaha to have a coffee in.

It was a wonderful day made even more enjoyable by the spirit of cooperation and happy companionship of the blessed families. Heavenly Parents must have smiled.



Ben Lomond over the choppy water - Stern of the boat



Jack Corley and 2nd gen on board – Simon Jaupi



Listening - Mansei