

A Look Back: Mother of Peace Liberates Goree Island

Naokimi Ushiroda

January 20, 2021



Mother Moon walking through the Door of No Return-a museum and memorial to the Atlantic slave trade which memorializes the final exit point of slaves from Africa

It's the 3rd anniversary since [Mother of Peace](#) Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), [visited Gorée Island](#) where she tearfully prayed for the island's ancestors and a new heavenly Africa.

"An intense pain arose in my heart," wrote Dr. Moon in her [2020 memoir](#). "I was already feeling that the bitter tears of grief shed by thousands of captives in transit through the island could fill the world's oceans. The beautiful site that we were approaching must be the most sorrowful island in the world."

The small island nation has a painful history. It served as the largest slave-trading center on the African coast for 400 years, from the 15th to 19th century.

Fresh from her [World Africa Summit](#) in Senegal, the mayor of Gorée Island, Austin Senghor, welcomed Dr. Moon with open arms as he presented her with the Gorée Island Pilgrim Award.

It read, "Status of Pilgrim who is hereby authorized and appointed to serve as an Ambassador of Good Will for Gorée Island, for the promotion of its memory which testifies to such a tragedy as epitomized by slavery, for the teaching of universal values incarnated by Gorée Island, and for the triumph of peace and tolerance ideals."

For nearly six decades, Dr. Moon, along with her late husband and FFWPU co-founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, has tirelessly worked to promote peace, reconciliation, and unity worldwide. After visiting Gorée's House of Slaves and Door of No Return -- a museum and memorial to the Atlantic slave trade which memorializes the final exit point of slaves from Africa -- Dr. Moon returned to West Africa in April 2019 to host a special Marriage Blessing Ceremony [in Senegal](#) that included Goree's deputy mayor.

During her initial trip, Dr. Moon spoke passionately of the beauty and mission of the African continent and its people. Below is an excerpt from her World Africa Summit speech on January 18, 2018:

"Africa will become the light of the world. Africa is the blessed continent, the shining light. And today with the heart of a True Mother I have come to pray and eradicate the historical pain that this continent has suffered, and begin a new history...

This is the continent that will become a new heavenly Africa that will attend God. Africa is the birthplace of humanity...

Centering on this continent and nation, I would like to begin an era centering on altruism, living for the sake of others, an era of peace, equality, happiness -- the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. Let's work together to realize this ideal...

I believe Africa can accomplish this, and that is why Africa is the first continent in the world. Africa has the potential to become the original, healthy Kingdom of God and the environment that God wanted to see." --Mother of Peace

Let us remember Dr. Moon's visit to Gorée Island, and her message of a heavenly, unified Africa and world.

You can read more about Dr. Moon's trip to Gorée Island [here](#).

19 Jan
2018

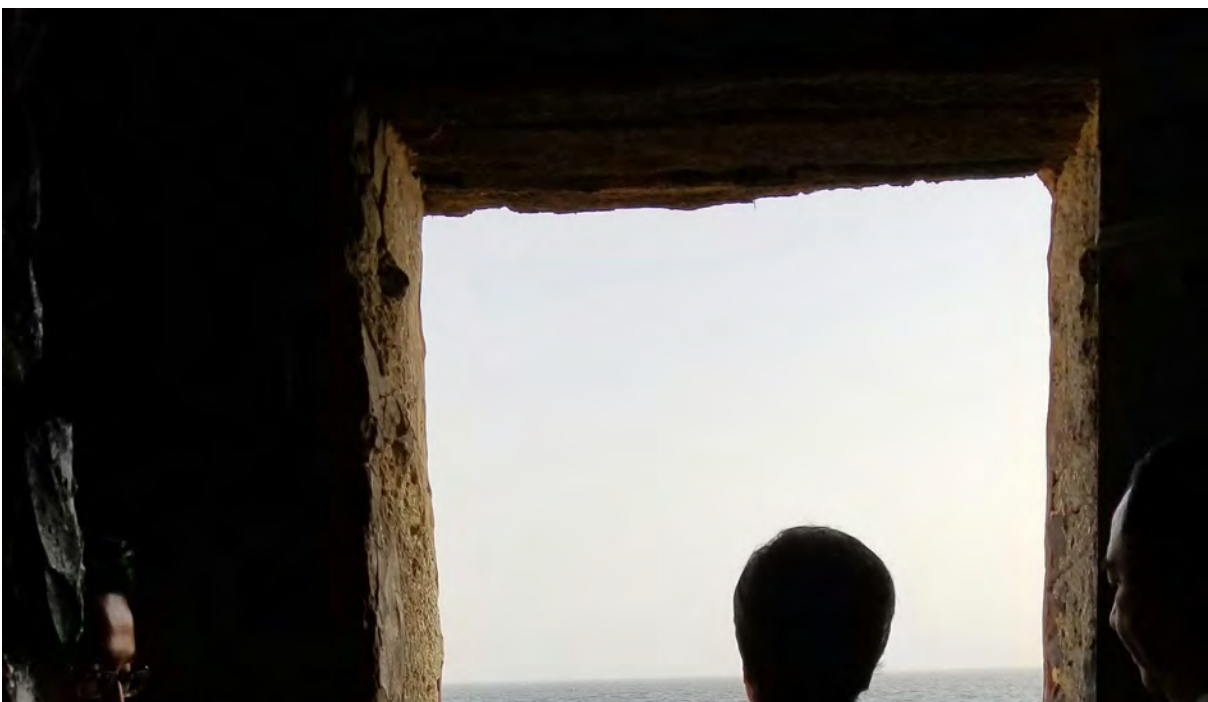
True Mother in Africa: Gorée Island Visit



Understanding the painful history of Africa, True Mother prayed for its ancestors and a new, heavenly Africa this morning at the Island of Gorée, the largest slave-trading center on the African coast between the 15th and 19th centuries.



Cheers from children living on the island reverberated when True Mother arrived on the island. The Mayor of Gorée, Austin Senghor, then greeted True Mother before taking her to the House of Slaves and its Door of No Return, a museum and memorial to the Atlantic slave trade which memorializes the final exit point of slaves from Africa.





In her speech at the World Africa Summit the previous day, True Mother had said, “The continent that I believe has suffered the most is the African continent.” Thus, she delivered a deep prayer for the ancestors who had endured this painful history, with the belief that there will be a new, heavenly Africa free from suffering. She then announced that she will be donating the Victoria Boat to the island, so that it may be used to provide urgent care for its people, bringing them quickly to the hospital on the mainland of Senegal.

Moved by True Mother’s initiative not only to be a part of the World Africa Summit but also to sincerely care for the people of Gorée, Senegal, and all of Africa, Mayor Senghor presented the Gorée Pilgrim Award to True Mother. The award reads: “Status of Pilgrim who is hereby authorized and appointed to serve as an Ambassador of Good Will for Goree Island, for the promotion of its memory which testifies to such a tragedy as epitomized by slavery, for the teaching of universal values incarnated by Goree Island and for the triumph of peace and tolerance ideals.”

The victory celebration for True Mother’s participation in the World Africa Summit will be held tomorrow morning, January 20, at 4 am EST. Watch the live broadcast or share your reflections with True Mother below.

Share Your Reflection

