

## FFWPU USA: Korea Pilgrimage: GPA Connects with True Mother

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*Photos courtesy of GPA*

"This experience taught us why she is called Mother Moon and truly a mother to everyone she meets," shared a GPA participant. "Whenever I want to give a gift to my mother, she always returns more to me than I can give her. In the same way, we wanted to give joy to Mother Moon and express our gratitude to her, yet she ended up giving us so much through her words, smile, and laughter."



Generation Peace Academy ([GPA](#)) participants deeply connected with True Mother at a recent intimate meeting at Chung Pyung during their pilgrimage in Korea. The exchange was an opportunity for young Unificationists to share gifts with True Mother and detail all they had accomplished during the GPA program this past year.

"She asked about what we had done in the year and how we had grown," shared a participant. "The environment was so bright and loving."



True Mother applauded all of their hard work and effort before sharing words of guidance and encouragement with the group. She then treated them to a nice lunch at Heaven G Burger.

While in Korea, GPA took part in the various festivities led by True Mother - including the grand opening of the Cheon Won Gung and 2023 Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing Festival - and ventured to special destinations on their pilgrimage despite some rainy weather.

"[With] the gloomy color in the sky, it was the perfect chance to go back to True Mother's words: 'I have grown to accept rain at such times with gratitude, as a gift,'" said a participant. "[Our] gift was being able to set off for ... our pilgrimage."



The group first visited the Paju Wonjeon, the burial grounds of the True Family, 36 Blessed Couples, and members who offered great devotion to True Parents. "Everyone was deeply invested in connecting to the

hearts of the True Family and felt overwhelming gratitude for the sacrifices they had to pay," shared a participant, as they laid flowers on each memorial.

"I had a very beautiful and emotional experience [at the] True Family graves," said Maja, a first-year GPA participant. "Going there and greeting True Family members, I felt so connected to each of them."



"I'm no longer a stranger but a part of their family," she continued. "I felt like visiting my own grandparents and cousins. [In] the end, I determined [for] myself to not take my life for granted and [to] live my life for them."

Participants also headed to the Demilitarized Zone - a buffer between North and South Korea created during a mutual Armistice Agreement in 1953 where both nations agreed not to occupy the area militarily.



"Seeing the land across from us that once used to be united with the South, it brought us to think of the families that were divided apart, never to see each other again until one day the country would be brought together once again," shared a participant.

In Seoul, the group visited the War Memorial of Korea. The museum displays the history of the Korean War and how the 38th parallel separation of North and South Korea took place.

"We were all in awe of getting to have even just a small taste of the foundation that this country stands upon and what True Parents had to go through during their lifetime," shared a participant, as the group observed an array of intricate sculptures, artifacts, and life-sized remodeled cannons and tanks.

"[We are] filled with so much new perspective on what [our] movement is built [upon]," said a participant. "This has been a really beautiful experience."

You can learn more about GPA's pilgrimage in Korea [here](#).



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## Rock of Tears and the Ocean

Today we visited the first sacred ground, The Rock of Tears. This is located in Busan, South Korea, where Father Moon stayed after becoming a refugee from North Korea...

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## Brotherhood and Sisterhood Across Oceans

"Your youth and spirit will become the foundation and pillars for the settlement of Cheon Il Guk. Please act diligently and uphold the vows and pledges you've made. Then True Parents will always be with you. You will shine. Through you, this dark world will become brighter."

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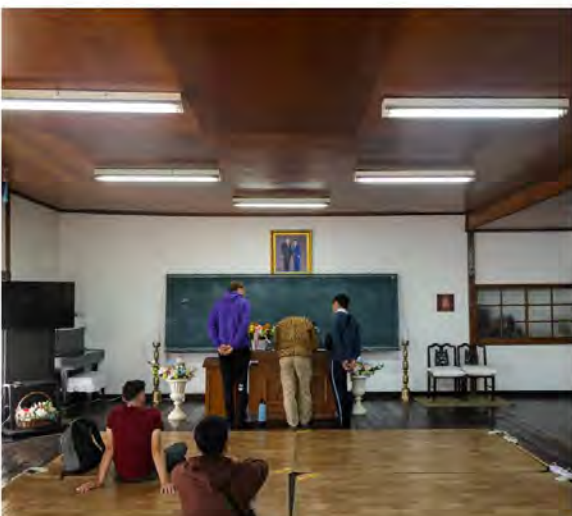


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## Korean Then and Now

Korea today is well known as one of the most influential, strongest, and loved country even across the whole globe. Today, we got to see both the humble beginnings of this country as the fruit of its flourishing and development right now in Seoul, the capital.

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## Visiting the Early Days

Once again, we boarded buses and headed out on a pilgrimage, following the footsteps of Mother and Father Moon's history. Our first stop was the Cheong-pa Dong Church.

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## Meeting with Mother Moon

Today GPA had the privilege to greet Mother Moon! Despite her extremely busy schedule, we had the opportunity to meet with her. Everyone was filled with anticipation and excitement to see her...

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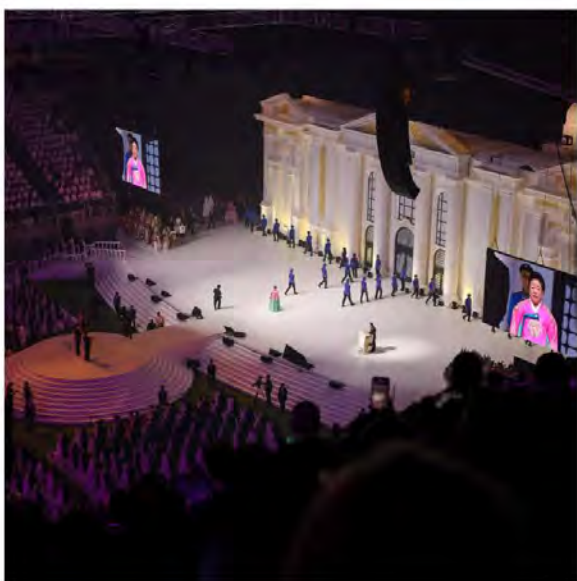


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## North America Leaders Gathering

In Korea, many conferences and events are happening at this time that GPA has been able to attend, along with various organizations from around the world, including the USA...

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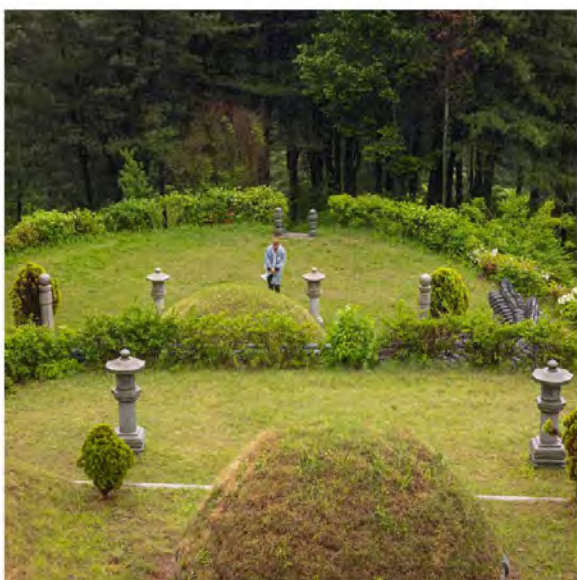


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## Happy True Parents' Birthday and Cosmic Blessing day!

As GPA we had the privilege of joining the special events held in Korea. We started with celebrating Mother Moon's 80 years of life with some performances...

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## Day 3: Paju Wonjeon, Imjingak, Korean War Memorial

Early in the morning, small drops of rain began to fall from the sky as it gradually became heavier with a faster tempo as it hit the ground. But despite the gloomy color in the sky, it was the perfect chance to go back to True Mother's words, "I have grown to accept rain at such times with gratitude, as a gift." And today's gift was being able to set off for the first day of our pilgrimage!

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## Day 2: Cultivating a Heart of Offering

Today marked the second day of GPA being in Korea and everyone has acclimated well into the Cheongpyeong lifestyle.

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## Korea: Day 1

“Today, the reason why we long for our hometown is because that is the place where our parents, who are closer to us than anyone else, our brothers and sisters, and our closest relatives are living, always guiding us, welcoming us warmly and giving joy to us.”

- Rev. Sun Myung Moon

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