

True Parents' *Gomyeong* – Final Decree – June 14, 1991 – Canada

True Mother mentions in her memoir “Mother of Peace” that True Father proclaimed his *gomyeong* in Canada in the presence of Japanese women leaders. She explains that *gomyeong* (a Korean term) translates as the final decree that a king leaves for his subjects before passing away and writes as follows: “True Father proclaimed that, after his ascension, I would continue our God-given mission and the Japanese woman leaders should take responsibility to support me.”

Thirty years have passed since that most important providential ceremony took place in Canada. Because I was a direct witness along with a small group of Canadian members, I am writing not only to commemorate this anniversary but also to testify to True Parents for the historical record. The following is based on my diary, letters and reports received at that time.

True Parents had been visiting Canada from June 5 to 9 in 1991, travelling by car from New York. On June 8, while fishing on Lake Ontario, True Father used an early version of a cell phone – a large “field” telephone similar to those used by armies for communication in the field. He called Japan and asked that the wives of the four main Japanese elders come to New York for Day of All Things, a few days from then. The following day True Parents travelled back to New York.

On June 12, Robert Duffy, then president of the Canadian Church, and I attended the Day of All Things celebration at the invitation of True Parents at the New Yorker Hotel. As True Parents were walking toward the Grand Ballroom on the 2nd floor mezzanine, True Mother glanced in our direction and smiled. We immediately looked at each other and nodded while simultaneously expressing aloud, “They are coming back to Canada.”

It was about 6 pm in the evening the following day as we had nearly completed our drive back to Toronto that Mr. Peter Kim, True Parents’ personal assistant, called with an urgent message— True Parents were departing East Garden at 8:00 p.m. by car bound for Canada. Our intuition had been accurate, and a mad rush ensued to prepare for their return. In an era prior to widespread use of the cell phone it was quite a challenge, but our Canadian brothers and sisters responded with dedication.

At 3:15 a.m. on June 14, 1991, True Parents arrived at Clearstone Lodge, the Canadian Church property near Cobourg, Ontario on Rice Lake, having driven through the late hours of the night. On this second visit, they were accompanied by the wives of the major leaders of the Japanese Unification Church: Mrs. Tetsuko Kuboki, wife of the president of the church in Japan; Mrs. Noriko Oyamada, wife of the vice-president and President of the Women’s Federation for Peace in Asia; Mrs. Kyoko Furuta, wife of the president of Happy World Japan; and Mr. Setsuo and Mrs. Setsuko Sakurai, prominent Unification leaders in Japan.

After a very short rest, True Parents gathered the Japanese elders just before 7:00 a.m. in the living room of Clearstone Lodge and held a special ceremony. It was done quietly and discreetly, and no video or audio recording exists as nobody was notified. A few Canadian members watched through the narrow glass panels on either side of the closed door and made notes of the verbal reports given later that day to my wife and other Japanese members by the Japanese elder wives, as the entire ceremony was conducted in Japanese. These first-hand accounts served as the basis for later historical reports.

During the ceremony, True Father prayed and asked True Mother to pledge that she would

continue his messianic mission after he died. True Father then asked True Mother to pledge, in Japanese, that she would do so before the Japanese representatives as witnesses. After True Mother had done so, True Father explained the significance of holding the ceremony in Canada as follows:

I [True Father] represent the true Adamic figure, True Mother represents the true Eve, [and] the four Japanese women are the key representatives of the world-wide Eve nation, Japan. Since Canada is an extension of England, which was the original Eve nation, this ceremony is being held here.

Many years later, in April 2017, three of the Japanese elders were interviewed by the Japanese Unification History department and elaborated about the ceremony as follows:

True Father and True Mother stood facing each other while the four Japanese women lined up behind True Father. Mr. Sakurai stood at the two o'clock position to the right of True Mother. True Father first offered a prayer in which he comforted God for the two-thousand-year history of Christianity that could not receive the True Parents and pledged to establish a new foundation as the Bride of Christ for the sake of the new providence. True Father explained that Mr. Sakurai represented Christianity. True Father then led a pledge in Japanese followed by True Mother as the Original Eve and the four Japanese wives as Cain-type Eves.

True Father then encouraged True Mother and the four Japanese women to establish deep unity because this ceremony represented the beginning of a new era in True Mother's public mission. Shortly thereafter, on September 17, 1991, True Mother began the first of her public speaking tours in Japan.

Establishing Unity

In a personal letter, dated November 1991, written in Japanese to my wife Chizuru and me, Mrs. Kuboki explained how she and the elder sisters understood the heavenly mission of Canada after their sudden, unexpected visit. Indeed, it was sudden as the elders only had time to take their purses and passports with them before travelling by car to Canada with True Parents. My wife recalls having to buy some essential clothing items for each of the elders on the first day of their stay in Canada. According to the testimonies of the Japanese elders, who were with True Parents at East Garden on the evening of June 13, True Father simply told them “let’s go” and did not explain much.

Shortly after the *gomyeong* ceremony and breakfast, True Father went fishing for salmon and trout on Lake Ontario until sunset with a small group that included Robert Duffy, Michael McDevitt, Mr. Sakurai, Peter Kim, Mike Templeman and myself. True Father provided deep guidance in English to us about many aspects of the providence – a rare experience to say the least. We returned to Clearstone Lodge after dark for dinner with True Mother and the Japanese elders. During dinner, True Mother recommended to True Father that I accompany her on the trip to Montreal with the Japanese elder sisters the next morning, June 15. The three days that followed was a time for creating deep bonds of heart.

Our party consisted of True Mother, the four Japanese women leaders and Mrs. Wonju McDevitt. Mr. Ki Byung Yoon and I served as drivers and tour guide. Shortly after breakfast and seeing True Father off as he headed for Lake Ontario, we drove for four hours and, as we entered the western part of the island of Montreal, we stopped for lunch at the McDonald’s near Fairview Mall. We then went for a quick shopping trip at Hudson’s Bay department store and the nearby mall

where True Mother carefully purchased sweaters for each of the male members who were attending True Parents in Canada. The sisters who attended True Parents later received items of her own clothing that she had carefully prepared for them.

I recall True Mother asking for the names of each member to make sure nobody was forgotten as well as what size would be appropriate. She also noticed the white shirt I was wearing and suggested that something with more color would be better for our journey, and personally chose a polo shirt for me. At the cash register True Mother asked why there was a 15% surcharge on the listed price which led to a short discussion about Canadian sales tax and the economy in general! True Mother was very engaging.

While driving to the city center, I shared about the original French settlement in Montreal, Ville Marie, being established as a mission to the Indigenous people by missionaries from France. True Mother was quite interested and asked “Please repeat exactly what you said” as she wanted to understand more about the city. Five years later, in October 1996, True Mother spoke publicly in Montreal during one of her world tours.

In Old Montreal we did a walking tour by City Hall and visited the Roman Catholic Notre Dame Basilica. True Mother very much appreciated the art and architecture as we toured and repeated three times “This is so beautiful.” As we were exiting the church, she suggested we make a donation. Later we shopped for T-shirts for the True grandchildren at one of the nearby stores and I recall True Mother asking me to negotiate a good price as there were many grandchildren to buy for!

A Prophetic Moment

In the mid-afternoon we drove two hours to Ottawa. As we drove, True Mother reminded me of the speed limit and jokingly asked, “You don’t want any points on your driver’s license, do you?” Upon arrival in Ottawa, the first location we visited on Parliament Hill was the Holy Ground established by True Father in 1965, just west of the Center Block of the Parliament buildings.

True Mother gathered us all in a circle and prayed. We then toured the seat of Canadian governance whose main tower is appropriately called the “Peace Tower”. At one point we paused before a large portrait of Queen Victoria, sovereign of the British Commonwealth when Canada was established in 1867, and I shared a little about Canada’s history. Victoria was 48 years old at the time of Canadian Confederation in 1867. Interestingly the same age True Mother was in 1991. True Mother commented that Victoria, as portrayed, looked like a very strong woman.

As we regarded the portrait of the former Queen, Mrs. Oyamada exclaimed, “True Mother should speak here!” and the Japanese elders all expressed their support. I immediately noticed True Mother’s facial expression displaying full confidence and determination as she quietly nodded.

It was surely a prophetic moment, because a little more than two years later, on November 8, 1993, with the support of faithful Canadian brothers and sisters and the help of the former Governor General, Rt. Hon. Edward Schreyer, True Mother indeed spoke in the Canadian Parliament Buildings during her first global speaking tour entitled, “True Parents and the Completed Testament Age.” (Mr. Schreyer had previously been with True Parents in Moscow when they met President Gorbachev and had also been to Korea, later participating with our delegations to Pyongyang.)

We continued our short stay in Ottawa with a short walk around the Parliament buildings,

and as we enjoyed the beautiful view of the Ottawa River and the Gatineau Hills True Mother asked, “So how do you pronounce Ottawa? Is it Ohttawa or is it Ahddawa?” She had perceptively noted that Canadians have different ways of pronouncing the name of their capital city!

As we prepared for our trip back to Clearstone Lodge in the late afternoon, True Mother asked that we get a quick bite and I recommended that we go to the most prestigious hotel in Ottawa, fit for a Queen, which was located a short walk from the Parliament. She said, “Hmmm, expensive price, but maybe not such good taste.” We later drove to a Wendy’s restaurant along the highway for dinner, as we continued our three-hour drive back to Clearstone Lodge. It was an intense day indeed. When we returned in the late evening True Father was speaking and he continued late into the night.

True Mother’s Public Mission

On the following days, June 16 and 17th, True Father continued fishing while True Mother and her party visited the Thousand Islands region on Lake Ontario and then Toronto. In the evening True Parents gathered us to share testimonies and then had us all sing, with the finale by True Father himself.

Mrs. Kuboki also elaborated in the above-mentioned letter how the four Japanese women were to support True Mother as True Father’s successor and how, shortly after the Canadian ceremony, the four Japanese elders participated in a special ceremony in Korea on July 1, 1991. She explained that they had no idea why they were called to Korea and wrote, “When True Parents start a new phase of God’s providence, they don’t say anything and make the conditions quietly and quickly.”

True Parents also made special conditions in Alaska during the month of July to catch king salmon, the king of all salmon. Similarly, True Father fished for salmon on Lake Ontario during the entire time he was in Canada, and True Mother also went fishing on the shores of Lake Ontario. In Alaska, Mrs. Kuboki wrote that True Mother caught a King salmon that was even larger than the one caught by True Father, noting that it was due to such conditions the era of Eve could begin.

One evening, Mrs. Oyamada shared her testimony of how a few years earlier the Women’s Federation for Peace in Asia had been founded in Japan with herself as President. True Father set a goal that the Asian Federation gain 100,000 members and therefore, in the summer of 1991, the Japanese women leaders planned a large rally to expand membership, reserving the NK Hall in Chiba with a capacity of 7000 people for September 17, 1991. Although they invited several important entertainers, they had not been able to find a principal speaker.

Mrs. Kuboki wrote in her letter that Mrs. Oyamada received an inspiration, based on True Father’s words, that True Mother should be the main speaker. When the Japanese elders cautiously asked True Father, he immediately agreed saying, “That is a good idea. True Mother should go to Japan.” He asked True Mother to do so and, although True Mother was surprised and initially hesitant, she determined quietly to do it based on True Father’s strong desire. Mrs. Kuboki wrote that she really felt that God had prepared the women’s era from the time they had been in Canada a few months earlier.

Mrs. Kuboki elaborated in her letter that until that time (1991), True Mother had been standing behind True Father and had never appeared in the forefront. Suddenly, True Mother stood before a large public event of important women in Japan, and although she was nervous the result

was that she brought tremendous success. True Mother embraced the audience and amazingly delivered her public speech to a fully packed hall in the Japanese language. "True Mother brought success and revived Japan."

Following her success, True Mother visited Japan again and there was a major change of leadership. For example, Mr. Kuboki was appointed Honorary Chair of the Japanese church after serving for 30 years as President. Additionally, there was a major exchange of some 200 Japanese leaders from America with 200 leaders from Japan.

True Father was very pleased with True Mother's victory in Japan and directed the expansion of the Asian Women's Federation, so on October 31, 1991 an Inaugural gathering was held in Korea, followed by a rally for 15,000 people on November 20th. A few days later, on November 30th, our True Parents visited North Korea. The foundation was set for the Inauguration of the Women's Federation for World Peace on April 10, 1992. Mrs. Kuboki concluded her November 1991 letter with the following:

Truly I think that, since we returned from Canada, God's providence centered on True Mother started so fast. I really feel that as an Eve nation this is the final mission that I would like to fulfill.

In a second letter dated April 1992, Mrs. Kuboki shared about the victorious visit of True Parents to Japan between March 26 and April 1, 1992, and explained how True Parents' meetings with important leaders, such as former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Mr. Shin Kanemaru, solidified the foundation in the Eve country. She expressed her concern that if Japan failed her mission to accept True Parents in Japan, True Parents had prepared Canada to carry on the mission. Later, in 1996, True Parents would establish three nations, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Canada as daughter nations.

Their final full day, Tuesday, June 18, 1991 proved to be an especially significant day for the Canadian Church. It was also the 23rd anniversary since the opening of the first center in Toronto, in 1968.

As before, True Father went fishing early in the morning while on that day True Mother remained on the Clearstone property with the Japanese elders. At True Mother's request, dinner was served on the front lawn of the property for everyone. It was a warm summer evening, and as about forty members sat in a circle around a small fire, True Father asked that each husband share some words about his own wife. Once the husband had done so, True Father himself commented about each couple, providing insights on their situation or character. It was surprising that, although True Father had spent very little time with each person, he was very much aware of each person's strengths and weaknesses.

On a personal note, I'd like to testify to the tremendous concern our True Parents demonstrated for our couple's struggle with infertility for almost ten years by then. On the final evening, True Father initiated a total re-structuring of the Canadian church and I was personally directed to attend the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS). True Mother was concerned that our couple had no children and mentioned it to True Father, who then asked my wife to stay in Canada while I went to New York. As we returned to the main building, True Mother encouraged our couple to not lose hope and practically advised us both to try a combination of Oriental and Western medicine to solve our infertility. A few days prior to my departure for UTS, miraculously we discovered that we were expecting our daughter. Truly Divine intervention!

The rather jovial exchange on the front lawn continued for some time, and then True Father began speaking about the future development of the Canadian church. He said:

Suppose I came here and stayed here every day. What do you expect I would do with all of you? If I stay here for one month, I will send all of you pioneering. What do you think, do you want to see your country of Canada, particularly the Unification Church Movement, progress and develop or not? If you just stay still and follow the pattern you have been keeping, how can you expect that there will be development?

Before departing Canada, True Father provided more guidance about restructuring the church. Then in the late morning after breakfast on June 19, 1991, True Parents and their party began the eight-hour drive back to New York, stopping at the observation tower at Thousand Islands with their staff, the Japanese elders and three Canadian leaders. While observing the beautiful scenery, True Parents continued giving us advice and counsel and we took photos. They once again demonstrated that they are really our parents.

In conclusion and looking back to an event that happened thirty years ago, it is clear that True Parents were united then as they are united now. Those of us who were privileged to witness the *gomyeong* ceremony and attend True Parents during their time in Canada have engraved the memories in our hearts. I want to name all the thirty to forty elder Canadian members here who were present at the time, but for brevity will only mention Robert and Johanna Duffy, Alan Wilding, Stoyan and Lilly Tadin, John and Anne Bellavance, Mark and Takako Hebert, Choon Keun and Wan Kil Chang among the brothers and sisters who have kept the faith and continue to attend the True Parents.

True Mother then embarked on the very public segment of her mission from 1991 onward and we have been witnesses to a story that some may have not known. Those of us who were blessed by True Parents, and could witness True Mother in Canada, continue to pray and support her as she forges ahead to realize the Heavenly ideal God, our Heavenly Parent, desperately dream of and True Parents have labored tirelessly to accomplish.

Praise be to our True Parents forever!

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