

Report on True Father's third Seonghwa Celebration

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Dear Families,

I hope you were all able to feel personally connected to our True Father's third Seonghwa this past weekend. As has been stated before, this should be the last global Seonghwa since we have completed the first three years after Father's passing – an important mourning time period in Korean culture.

As our District Representative I was happy to represent all of you and participate in the events surrounding the Seonghwa in Korea. My stay in Korea was from August 27 - September 1. The first day my schedule was open so I was able to fully take in the sights, sounds, and smells of our mountainous training center in Chung Pyung. I was very impressed. Chung Pyung has really developed since I was last there 10 years ago complete with a playground, coffee shops, outdoor food vendors, ample outdoor and shaded seating, and beautiful landscaping to name just a few developments. Historic places throughout the compound were landmarked with beautiful large markers, complete with historic pictures from the early days and descriptions translated in three languages. I was grateful for the time to freely observe and experience each part of the compound peacefully and personally. I felt a lot of thoughtfulness had been invested towards Chung Pyung participants and their families, which I was glad to feel. Through reading the historic markers I also learned how much time Father and Mother spent at Chung Pyung – something I had not previously known.

The World Youth Assembly (also known as the World CARP Assembly) took place at Chung Pyung prior to the Seonghwa and luckily I arrived on its final day when Mother was scheduled to speak. The room in the main hall was typically packed with people scrunched out the doors, all through the hallways and out the outside doors – but nevertheless I was there. Mother spoke briefly but energetically on the need for good leadership and especially for the need for our young people to understand our movement's history. This was my first of three other encounters with Mother during my short three day stay in Korea.

I was part of the World Leaders Assembly group. The assembly would kick-off after the Seonghwa and after my departure. Nevertheless, because I was part of this group I was able to participate in the pledge service the morning of the Seonghwa as well as the Victory Celebration the day after. Both events took place at the Cheon Jeong Gung Museum (Father and Mother's palace), which I had never been to before. The highlight of visiting the Palace was being able to visit and personally pray at Father's wonjong, located behind the Palace. Visiting the site is by invitation only so I was very humbled and grateful that I could experience that moment. The world leaders were given the opportunity to visit the wonjong the morning of the 31st before the Victory Celebration began. We climbed a steep hill behind the Palace and eventually came to leveled ground where Father's wonjong is placed. We were lined up in rows. Palace staff/security members managed the rows, allowing several at a time to approach the wonjong. There we had unison prayer and ended our prayers with song. The moment lasted only a few minutes, but it was

special, historic and unbelievable to me that I should be there amongst men and women who loved Father and walked with him for decades.



At the start of the Victory Celebration each nation presented Mother with a congratulatory gift. Following this, Mother, four of her children, and all of the leaders gathered heard six different reports on the results of highlighted events leading up to the Seonghwa. The report topics included a general report from the Korean Church, from the Japanese Church, a report on the Peace Road events, on the Seonghwa including its national Korean coverage, and the process of translation and development of the third book the Champumo Gyung. All were fascinating and it was incredible to experience first-hand the passion, the thoughtfulness, and the devotion of the people directly involved in these projects. It was also exciting to hear that our Seonghwa and the Sunhak Peace Prize events were fully covered by all Korean media – both written and televised news –without negative spins or tones. Mother was very pleased with the results from all the events and with the success of the Seonghwa. At the end of the reports she stood and shared with us how heavy she felt before the Seonghwa and how anxious she was about the success of all the events. But that now, she was so happy and felt very light. She said had much to share with us about plans for the future but stated that today, the 31st, was a celebratory day so instead she wanted to sing songs. She sang together with those who gave reports and then together with all of us.

My largest take away from this experience in Korea is the beginnings of an understanding about Mother. Of course I wasn't able to speak with her directly but even from the four different settings where I was in her presence I was able to gather insights into her personality and her objectives. Mother is sincere and the work she is doing is nothing short of fulfilling the ideas and projects initially started by Father. Through talking with our Vice President Miilhan Stephens who brushes shoulders with her from time to time and works with our president every day, I learned that Mother is all about practical substantiation. She's into efficiency and saving time. The leaders fear her because she wants results, actions and not words. The Peace Road is an expansion of the international superhighway that Father spoke of. Her focus on Tribal Messiahship – of course nothing new –and the report of the translation of these three new texts enlightened me to the fact that all Mother is doing is creating the best possible experience of Father's words for our members. There is thoughtfulness and sincerity at every stage and incredible investment by numerous members working with Mother directly to share the heart behind Father's words through proper editing and top notch accountability in the translation.

I also felt a caring spirit from Mother. I was pleased to discover how much emotion Mother wears on her sleeve. Just in watching her interact with leadership and also with the members, both during the Seonghwa and again in the smaller gathering the day after for the Victory Celebration, I could tell that Mother is acting true to who she is in unity with Father to fulfill God's will. We heard Mother say during the Seonghwa that "we all long for Father" and then we saw her struggle to hold back her tears. I am convinced that there is nothing in this woman that is trying to dismantle anything Father did so she can take a ride on a power trip.

I'm grateful and thankful to all of you for allowing me to represent our district both officially and specifically for this special moment. Many blessings to you and your families as we look forward to the future.