

The Holy Ground Pilgrimage and Revival Tour

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I would like to give my reflection on my participation in the Holy Ground Pilgrimage and Revival Tour, together with my heartfelt gratitude to True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.

Before the start of the tour, Dr. Ki Hoon Kim urged us to have an “experience of a lifetime that would build our relationship of heart with Heavenly Parent and True Parents.” I therefore participated in the tour with a serious mind.

With Dr. Michael Balcomb’s leadership at the frontline, every aspect of the tour was conducted under the loving guidance of True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. I felt immense love from Heavenly Parent and True Parents through everything, including the bus route, activities inside of the bus, encounters at the Holy Grounds, tours, and meeting with many brothers and sisters. I am grateful that the pilgrimage gave America an opportunity to be revived and become an offering to God as the Elder Son Nation, helping us kick-start the efforts for the victory of Vision 2020.



1. Meeting with True Parents at the Holy Ground

Throughout the pilgrimage, I realized how much Heavenly Parent loved America and what beautiful faith the Pilgrim Fathers and Founding Fathers had offered to God. I also felt the importance of the Holy Grounds installed by True Parents at 55 locations of the United States in 1965, and thought that Heavenly Parent and True Parents were always waiting for us at these particular sites. We can receive at the Holy Grounds their guidance and directions concerning our challenges and issues.



When I prayed at the Holy Ground in New Hampshire, Heavenly Parent clearly told me to “become a true American.” He showed me what directions I should be heading from now on. Also, in my prayer in Indiana, True Father told me that “tradition could be established through witnessing.”

Finally, at the Holy Ground in Chicago, I was told that I should “make a new start once again, remembering the times when I first joined the church as a full-time member, when I first arrived in America, and when I met with True Parents in the Pantanal.” Heavenly Parent further told me that He had already taught me what I should do, so I should simply fulfill what I had pledged before True Parents, living each day fully with no regrets.

2. The Legacy of True Parents

America had only a handful of members when True Parents established the Holy Grounds back in 1965. Seeing many dedicated members including second generation brothers and sisters today, I offered prayers of gratitude to Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

For the first time, I clearly realized that True Parents’ legacy included having many ACLC pastors and Peace Ambassadors connected to WFWP and UPF. They testified to True Parents with smiles and sometimes with tears. True Parents took good care of each of these pastors and VIPs and planted seeds of heart and true love in their original minds, so the tree of love has grown in them since. I could feel how much True Parents loved America.

3. The Grace of the Niagara Falls

True Father visited the Niagara Falls on March 21, 1965, when the weather was still cold. Watching the video from that time on the bus made me think of literally following his footsteps. When I actually saw the Niagara Falls, I was moved by its enormity more than anything.



As we toured, I remembered True Parents' words that "True love resembles the Niagara Falls." Seeing the vastness, strength, and beauty far beyond my imagination, I repented for my narrowness and smallness when speaking of true love in the past. As we approached the falls on a small boat and got splashed with water, an unimaginable amount of power came into me. By the end of the tour, I was freed from my own little shell and endowed with increasing power within me. I was very grateful for this experience.

4. Dr. Balcomb's admirable leadership

Going on the bus tour under the leadership of Dr. Michael Balcomb, I saw Dr. Balcomb guided many brothers and sisters on behalf of God and True Parents. My hope and respect for him grew deeper during this period. It was very inspiring to see him not only leading the way but taking care of every member, particularly second generation, with much warmth and sensitivity.



He took our photos at the Niagara Falls and shared them on Facebook for many members to see. I am thankful that Continental Director Dr. Ki Hoon Kim and President Dr. Michael Balcomb are here in America.

5. The Grace of American Members' Testimonies

My interactions with American brothers and sisters during the pilgrimage taught me about the hopes and wishes of Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

One American sister who had worked as a missionary overseas said, “When working as a missionary abroad, I felt the strong presence of Heavenly Parent and True Parents every day. My wish was to install a leader from the local membership. I am so proud that we succeeded in having a local member take leadership just as I prayed.” An American brother said to me, “My spiritual parent is Japanese. Japanese brothers and sisters brought me to the church, loved me, and educated me well at the early stage of my life of faith. I am grateful to them from the bottom of my heart.” Hearing American brothers and sisters testify with their eyes shining, I realized that it is our mission to find and raise such American members in this country.



I offer my heartfelt thanks to Heavenly Parent and True Parents, Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, and Dr. Michael Balcomb for carrying out this wonderful project. I pledge to work with a renewed heart and determination.

With much love and gratitude,

Hiroshi Inose