

40 years Celebration in Spain

Madrid, Spain, 21. August 2013



The story of our movement goes back to a hot summer's day, July 13 1965, when True Father established the holy ground in a central park of Madrid, the nation's capital. We can recall that moment reading the postcard Father sent from Spain to the Korean church:

"It's now two o'clock, the 14th day of July. They say Spain is the country of passion and today I have felt it more seeing its folk music (flamenco). The unity and harmony between the performers and the audience is something that rarely can be seen in the East. The current population is 30 million; in the capital, Madrid, there are two million. It is an old, city with great artistic character. I have come to the land of bullfighting and I'm so sad for not been able to see it. When I think about it, I'm starting to experience Europe. Please keep in good health". Madrid, July 14, 1965.

Then on December 31st, 1965, the first missionary (Ursula Schuhmann) came to Spain in Barcelona. And little by little a small group of people studied the Divine Principle. At the beginning of the 70's some of this group went back to their home in Sevilla and contacted their friends. In 1972 Paul Werner sent a second missionary Gesa Jensen (La Rocca) and in 1974 our third missionary Brunhilde Heimühle (D'Alberti) arrived in Madrid.

In the recent years we have been quite busy with so many activities and visits so we did not find time to celebrate these 40 years. But somehow at the beginning of this year a few brothers and sisters thought it would be now a good time to have this celebration and we planned it for August 31st.

We had the great honor and privilege to have Rev. An with us for this celebration. He arrived on Friday night directly from Korea.

Elio and Brunhilde also came for this occasion. The day begins with opening words from Rev. An who remembered us True Father's words when he visited Madrid on April 26th, and also all the different contributions of the Spanish movement in other countries and in our country during these 40 years.

We went on with two round tables of brothers and sisters who have met the church in the early years, and we could really feel how God has been working with every one of them to guide them in their life to encounter the Messiah.

In the afternoon we had testimonies from Elio and Brunhilde d'Alberti and Miguel Angel Cano and a presentation by Armando with pictures and video. We cut the celebration cake and finish the day with a few songs.

It has been a beautiful celebration, sometimes sharing tears, sometimes sharing laughter, but always feeling the efforts made by our brothers and sisters during all these years to answer the call of God and our True Parents.

In conclusion it has been, a wonderful event that fills us with strength to make a new beginning and bring back this nation to God and True Parents, a good opportunity for our 2nd gen to understand better their parents.

Thank you Heavenly Parent and True Parents!

