

On the Eve of True Parents' Departure

Emilie Steberl

April 1969

Vienna, Austria

First missionary to the communist Eastern bloc, Czechoslovakia, 1968-1970



Emi Steberl bringing a gift to True Parents from her mission country (April 1969)

This letter was written at the beginning of April 1969, during True Parents' second world tour by Emilie Steberl, who was the first missionary to the Eastern European communist bloc. Emilie had entered Czechoslovakia in October 1968. From time to time she visited Western Europe to renew her visa – and to pick up Divine Principle materials to smuggle into her mission country. Emilie was present at the time True Parents visited Germany and Austria in March-April 1969, and this letter records her feelings at a poignant moment.

The letter was originally published in the May 1969 issue of our Austrian church's (German-language) magazine *Familien Nachrichten* (Family News).

April 1969, Vienna, Austria

Dear Family,

Tomorrow is the day we say farewell to our True Parents! It will be difficult; I felt this today at our last evening together. How our hearts long to have them with us forever! Today, while Mr. Kuboki spoke to us, and I glanced at our Master, I knew much stronger than before: this is how a true father is meant to be, a father that you do not ever want to let go. Even just the thought of parting from them is inexpressibly difficult. I cannot imagine to be without them again!

How our hearts have changed through his love! Never before have people been able to experience such a strong and innermost love. How long our Heavenly Father has had to wait for this moment. How great must His joy be now? I wish we could understand everything more deeply and be carried along in our Master's certainty and conviction of victory. He will be the one to bring the victory for God, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. How close everything is now. He is among us!

But only a few more hours. They are asleep now. In order not to lose any minute of this certainty I want to stay awake until the morning, until the last time of being together. I want to hold on to this picture of true life, hope and salvation of the world! We are allowed to help carry this hope and faith into the life of the people, lighting the torches of light and love.

How loved we are! When will we be able to fully reciprocate? The longing to go forward even faster will

be stronger within us. We have to be able to do so much more in the future. We have to deny ourselves completely. When will we finally be able to accomplish that? There is still so much within myself that needs to be restored. I could see that clearly during these days.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your love. It has been so wonderful to be part of this. All of mankind is becoming one family! Many things will be different now; it will be a hard farewell but a brand new beginning. We belong to God! ...

The day is slowly beginning to dawn. Our parents are with us for five more hours!

Thank you for everything. In the name of our True Parents,



Emilie Steberl (front) as a new member in Vienna (1967)



Emilie's papers are checked as she crosses into Czechoslovakia (October 30, 1968)