

Searching for Traces of True Parents Part I

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Yang Heo on Geomun Island

June 30: Today, the official commemoration of the third anniversary of True Father's ascension is exactly two months away. Young Hwi Kim, a Cheon Il Guk Parliament Member, whom I respect very much, has asked me to visit some of the places where True Parents stayed before the memorial period begins. Rev. Young Hwi Kim, Byeong Ho Kim and I set off on a four-day tour. We planned to visit locations around Yeosu, including Geomun Island and Blue Sea Garden, where True Parents offered deep devotion. The first destination was Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung on Geomun Island. We boarded a ferry at the Yeosu Port and finally arrived after two hours.

When I say "Yeosu," my whole body trembles as if I have been electrified. That place is like my second homeland. This is because the geographic features and the members are familiar to me from having worked there for many years. I was deeply moved and my footsteps were light at the thought of visiting my "homeland." The KTX train, which departed at 8:53 a.m. sped across the country for two hours and forty minutes. The trip used to take five hours from Seoul, but when Yeosu held the Global Ocean Expo for three months in 2012 (on the foundation of building projects True Parents had initiated in the area) Yeosu was seen as one of the top seaports in the world. It thereby qualified for high-speed rail service.

Wan Seok Shim, the director of Ilsang Ocean Development had heard that some elder members were coming, so he came out to greet us warmly. Director Shim traveled with us throughout the entire four days. We were able to visit, without burden, all the locations where True Parents had been, due to his kindness. He even drove us until we departed.

To summarize the characteristics of this area, True Parents blessed this area as the center of the opening of the Completed Testament Age and invested many resources into developing it.

Koreans of moral influence and the citizens residing in Yeosu are grateful to True Parents for their investment both materially and spiritually. This is because numerous unemployed people in Yeosu receive relief support from them and the small city of Yeosu, with a population of only three hundred thousand, made a great leap globally thanks to True Parents. Heaven has chosen the south coast of Yeosu for the sake of our descendants and the future.

Before the anniversary of True Father's ascension, we were able to reflect on our own failures, for not having fulfilled our responsibilities during True Father's lifetime. Thus, we each resolved to do our duties related to filial piety and set off with a mind-set as if we had changed into sackcloth, covered ourselves with ashes and begun repenting for our dreadful sins.

Day One

After we ate lunch at a restaurant near the passenger terminal, we boarded the ferry for Geomun Island at 1:40 p.m. as the boat horn sounded. We arrived around 4 p.m. The ferry we boarded could carry three hundred people. Because True Father had purchased this passenger ferry, we could feel True Parents' deep love from the moment we boarded until we landed.

Geomun Island, covering twelve square kilometers, has a population of three thousand. Geomun is actually three islands abutting one another, Dong Island, Seo Island and Go Island. Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung sits at the foot of Mt. Eumdal in the Dado Marine National Park, facing Yurim Beach. Marble was the main material used in constructing Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung, so that those who look upon it have a feeling of peace and calm. I am reminded of a line from a poem, "The owl must have been crying sadly from early spring in order to cause this chrysanthemum to bloom." True Father chose Geomun Island as a holy ground for the future and for our descendants. In order to make this blessed pathway, on January 15, 2004, he got on the Cheonseung Ferry, which he had personally built, so he could look around Geomun Island and Baek Island. He then emphasized the importance of constructing the Geomun Cheon Jeong Gung.

I cannot calculate the number of times True Parents came here before the dedication ceremony, but they visited twenty-four times after the dedication (September 12, 2011) until their last visit (July 24-27, 2012) before True Father's ascension. They would usually commute by helicopter. At other times, they would travel to Blue Sea Garden and then sail to Geomun Island by ferry. This was all to offer devotion for the Geomun Island Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung. Even when I, who am ignorant about geomancy, look at it, it seems to be a location that has good symbolic fortune from the mountains on the east, west, south, and north.

As soon as you enter the main entrance the words, "Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation," which True Father wrote in calligraphy on the day of the dedication ceremony, come into view. On August 18, 2011, in America, in the city of Las Vegas, True Parents' launched a boat called "Wonmo," which has a special design. On that day, Father proclaimed the founding of the Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation, which would signify the need to eternally preserve True Parents' value and honor their ideologies of peace and their achievements for the common prosperity of mankind. Incidentally, he wrote those words at the Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung.

Moreover, on May 2, 2012, True Father called twenty-five Japanese district church leaders to the Geomun Island Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung. He gave them each a fishing gift set and for two days spoke to them and trained them on the ocean. He also spoke to them about the Chinese characters, "Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation," in detail saying, "It is the overall settlement of my accounts over my entire life. You must preserve and promote this [organization] as an eternal peace foundation. You must provide nourishment to this foundation. Only by it playing a main role and being a flag [a symbol] of the people and the fatherland will the nation of Japan never disappear."



He explained the round logo on the lobby floor of Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung. The round circle symbolizes the earth and the blue colored lines, which resemble a bent wire, symbolize the waves and ripples of the ocean. The waves cause emanations as they travel around the five oceans and the center point is Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung.

In the logo is what looks like rays of sunlight. These represent the ocean's energy and True Parents' energy spreading out across the five oceans and six continents. In the very center is a pair of sea horses. Since olden times, sea horses have symbolized dragons of the sea. Father's name at birth was Yong Myung. The characters for Sun Myung mean the ocean, land, sun and moon. Therefore, sea horses symbolize True Parents. True Father would often say that if we think of these things while we pray we would receive the ocean's energy and True Parents' energy-in other words, heavenly fortune. He said that if you were to set conditions and pray on Geomun Island, everything would be materialize because it is a place where the sky and land meet.



Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung on Geomun Island

This is a place of refuge, where forgiveness of sins can occur. Father disciplined all of us to ruminate on our lives and clear them up here before going to the spiritual world. He said that the place with the strongest energy to pray and receive an answer was in front of that logo. On November 13, 2007, during Hoon Dok Hae at East Garden, True Father said that the character for island(島) in Geomun Island (巨文島) should be replaced with the character with the same pronunciation (道), which means "the way," to indicate "a place where the great Moon tribe builds a nest and cultivates itself." He emphasized that as a place of refuge, no matter how great one's sins are the person can receive forgiveness. Thus, we should build Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung well. The meaning of a refuge as he used it is as the Bible describes in the Book of Numbers 35:9-15.

As soon as we arrived, we prayed deeply in front of the logo. President Kim, in his representative prayer, conveyed his sorrow for True Father's hardships as Father liberated the God of resentment and devoted himself to the salvation of humanity. Rev. Kim resolved to lead the remainder of his life in accordance with the word. Just as in the spirit world, where the True Children, leaders and other blessed members residing there are united centered on True Father, he prayed for Cheon Il Guk to be quickly visualized by the True Children, leaders, and families united centered on True Mother on earth.

We followed the guide to see various rooms furnished with refined furniture that True Mother had prepared. I had a meaningful experience, feeling True Parents' presence in places such as the education room, group discussion rooms, counseling room, coffee shop, Hoon Dok room, living room and bathroom. Emotions of admiration flooded in as beautiful memories flashed through my mind: attending True Parents every day and reading their words, watching sports broadcasts with them, reading reports to them from all parts of the world, and praying or singing when True Father called my name. I could not stop the tears from streaming as I thought, "Father, where are you? Please let me hear just one sound of your breath, your footsteps or even a cough!" I became keenly aware of how great was the space True Father had vacated.

I remember what True Father repeated so often, "Make the best education facilities, educate leaders and ultimately connect them to the Cheongshim Peace World Center, where you can produce thirty thousand or three hundred trainees at a time. When are you going to save all seven billion people?" True Father continued to emphasize this as he directed building projects around Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung.

If Cheon Jeong Gung in Chung Pyung resembles the US Capitol, Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung resembles the White House. True Father directed the design to be so. In other words, they symbolize a man and a woman.

That night, all three of us sat in the Ocean Cheon Jeong Gung Baekdo Lounge until late into the night reminiscing about True Parents and days when we received their love. Our eyes teared up, even as we laughed aloud clapping our hands, breaking the peaceful, still night. I felt as if I could endure anything if I interacted spiritually with True Father and immersed myself in devotion.