

## Happy 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday Yo Han Lee

September 27, 2014



*Yeon Ah Choi Moon, Dae Wha Chung, Hyeon Shil Kang, Bo Hi Pak and Kyeong Seuk Lu join Rev. Lee and his wife in celebrating his ninety-ninth birthday*

On September 27, around two hundred people came to celebrate the ninety-ninth birthday (by Korean reckoning) of Rev. Yo Han Lee. Joining his family members in the eighth floor auditorium of the church headquarters building were people to whom Rev. Lee had personally taught the Divine Principle. Luminaries on hand included Yeon Ah Choi Moon, international president of WFWP (on behalf of the True Family), FFWPU-Korea President Lu, UPF-Korea Chairman Yun, Tongil Foundation Chairman Jo, the recently retired elder Bo Hi Pak, early member Ms. Hyeon Shil Kang and Sun Moon University President Hwang.

The festivities began at ten o'clock on the morning of September 27. As a sign of respect for Rev. Lee, a formal atmosphere permeated the event.

After bowing to True Parents, everyone sang the republic of Korea national anthem. An elder prayed. A video covering Rev. Lee's life showed the significance of his contribution in the formative stage of our movement's history. The Korean church president spoke and the Tongil Foundation chairman gave congratulatory remarks.

Mrs. Hyeon Shil Kang, who pioneered Daegu with the Rev. Lee in the very early years of the church, testified. She had been a Christian missionary and Rev. Lee, a Presbyterian minister when they met True Father in Busan. Mrs. Kang told the audience, "I am truly happy to be celebrating Rev. Lee's ninety-ninth birthday. Father said that Rev. Lee had joined our church representing Christian pastors.... Rev. Lee worked hard in the early days, visiting every Christian spiritual church he could, as True Father had instructed. Despite many hardships in those days, Rev. Lee offered many conditions to bring joy to True Parents. He is a man of incredible faith."

Professor Byeong Il Choi, one of Rev. Lee's students, gave a short congratulatory speech. A singing trio performed a song and Rev. Jong Chul Kim and his wife presented a bouquet of flowers to Rev. Lee. After cutting the birthday cake, President Hwang proposed a toast. Finally, everyone could sit down and enjoy a meal together.

Rev. Lee greeted everyone. He said, "I usually decline such engagements, but because True Mother particularly allowed it, I agreed to come. I always live by two standards. First, I try to live according to the Three Great Subject Partners Principle of the conscience and secondly, I always check that I am living a life that flows from my heart and mind. In this time of fruition, I have been shedding many tears, coming from a heart swelling with true love in my life. recently, True Father appeared to me in a dream, telling me that I have worked hard. I will continue to lead a life that emerges from the heart through the Three Great Subject Partners Principle based on my conscience." Rev. Yo Han Lee was born on 9.4 by the lunar calendar in 1916 in Seoncheon-gun, North Pyongan Province.

When Rev. Lee was young, his family moved to Manchuria, where they eked out a living through great financial difficulties. In elementary school, he delivered newspapers. With the money he earned, he bought bread that was on display in a store and presented it to his father. This greatly moved his father, rendering him speechless. Wanting to see this again through True Father, he has continuously followed the path of filial piety.

Just as had happened to his father, who was overjoyed by just one loaf of bread, he has dedicated his entire life with the thought that God, the parent of humankind, will be overjoyed with even a small act of love offered to him by human beings, his children. In his memoirs, *A Life Guided through Heavenly Love* (Seonghwa Publications, 2012), he wrote, "This happened when I was in my mother's womb: One day, a monk passed by our house and after eyeing my mother's belly for some time, he said, 'The child in your womb can only fully live by meeting a great man; he cannot complete his lifespan alone.'" Rev. Lee reminisced, "Just as the monk said, I believe that I could live this long because I met True Parents and always lived on the frontline of God's providence."

An overview of Rev. Lee's mission history gives us a glimpse of the nature of the church in the early days, as members struggled to build a foundation and Father moved able leaders from place to place, much as a military commander ordered generals to various areas to try to make headway on different fronts. Rev. Lee began his work in Daegu with Mrs. Kang and then held various positions in southern South Korea before holding a number of positions in and around the capital. In 2008, after more than fifty-five years attending True Parents, they instructed Rev. Lee to speak in Korea and foreign countries as a lecturer; toward this end, he has been conveying the word to members worldwide.