



True Mother standing bravely, but alone

Michael Balcomb
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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for all your efforts and investment leading up to Foundation Day. It was so moving to see True Mother standing bravely, but alone, as she discharged one remaining earthly duty to True Father on the day that he had spoken about and longed for, almost for as long as we can remember. Her seriousness reflected the gravity and solemnity of that momentous occasion. Later, when she hosted a luncheon after the event, she looked completely transformed. It was as if a great burden had been lifted from her shoulders.

Since Foundation Day, I have been attending the World Leaders' Assembly with more than 200 national leaders from around the world. The spirit and the focus of this meeting has been one of looking forward for the next seven years in line with the visionary "2020" project that True Mother has introduced. It has become very clear to me that True Mother is now asking all of us to share her confidence and conviction that, with the power of Almighty God, our Heavenly Parent, we can indeed make substantial all of True Father's goals and dreams.

The meeting began on February 23rd, the day after Foundation Day, with the opening plenary of the UPF World Summit 2013. As many of you know, I worked with UPF for seven years, and I have to say this was the most impressive UPF event I have ever seen, with more than a dozen sitting Presidents and Prime Ministers in respectful attendance. It was really possible to feel the spirit of an "Abel UN" taking shape. Later the same evening, a select group of over 40 Presidents, Prime Ministers and first ladies were hosted at the Peace Palace by True Mother, who personally greeted and took photos with each one.

On the morning of February 24th, all the national leaders gathered at the Peace Palace for Hoon Dok Hae and a victory celebration. Dr. Chang Shik Yang gave a comprehensive report of all the preparations that went into the two-week program between Heavenly Parent's Day and Foundation Day. I hope you've had the chance to see some of the photographs from that report.

True Mother spoke briefly but compellingly. Once again, I was impressed by her vision and conviction. She has already moved on from Foundation Day to the task ahead and is calling all of us to follow suit. As you will have read by now, she is calling for all families to join her in a 21-Day condition of prayer and other Jeon Seong efforts to help us make a good, clean start to this new era.

Meanwhile, our leaders' meeting is now at the half-way point. We have heard a great deal about the 2020 project, and also about some of the other recent educational and evangelical initiatives True Mother has launched. A select group of nations have been reporting on some exciting case studies of success from each continent. Soon we will hear presentations on provisional strategic plans for each region. In my case, I will be emphasizing the role of the newly-appointed National Council in helping create our plans and solidify our goals.

I've also had the chance to meet frequently with Bishop Ki Hoon Kim, our Continental Director, and the leaders of some of the other nations in our newly-expanded region which now includes Canada and many small Caribbean nations. Once again, I realized how so many nations are looking with hope to America and how they expect and believe that we will be a good "elder brother" who can help the whole family realize our Heavenly Parent's and True Parents' goals.

Finally, on a personal note, I am pleased yet humbled to report that the HSA-UWC USA Board of Directors has confirmed my position as President and National Leader as announced by True Mother during the Heavenly Parent's Day morning service. I am constantly reminded of how large the shoes are that I have to fill, and I will do my best to serve and represent all American brothers and sisters. I ask for your continued prayers and, more than that, your honest suggestions and candid feedback.

In closing, I want to join with all of you in thanking Hyung Jin Nim and Yeon Ah Nim for their outstanding efforts during a very difficult time for our American movement. They brought a message of healing and hope at a time when we needed it most. Now they have been asked by True Mother to focus on the much larger responsibility of being the International President. I can certainly testify that the church leaders of many nations represented here at Chung Pyung are already eagerly planning to invite them to visit!

I will return to the United States in early March, and will give my first post-Foundation Day sermon and report in the Washington DC District on Sunday, March 10th.

God Bless you and your families,

Dr. Michael Balcomb