FFWPU EUME: Happy 44th Blessing Anniversary 6000 Blessed Couples

Michael and Fumiko Balcomb
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Dear 6000 Blessed Couples,

Happy Anniversary! Fumiko and I and all families in Europe and the Middle East send our warm wishes as we celebrate our 44th Blessing Anniversary today. We hope and pray that you and your families will have a truly blessed and fruitful year, full of hope and gratitude. Even though our True Mother is still confined and our hearts ache for her, we know that today she would want us to give joyful thanks to Heavenly Parent and True Parents. After all, the Blessing is the greatest gift that anyone can receive, and we are all lucky enough to have received it directly from True Parents.

The Blessing at Chamshil Gymnasium on that crisp October day was indeed a historic event. I still have the Korea Times press cutting from the next day, and our motto "World Peace Through Ideal Families." I think it is safe to say we are all still on that journey together. Let us also remember all the other Blessings that True Parents gave in this month of October - seven in all!

October 14th is of course even more memorable as the day when True Father was liberated from Heungnam prison in 1950. Rereading his account of it in Peace Loving Global Citizen, Father said that he came to realize, on the 13th October, that he would be among the prisoners who would be executed the very next day. Even then, he did not pray for God to save him but simply comforted and put his trust in the Heavenly Parent.

This October 14, True Mother is doing the same as she draws near to the 400th day in confinement. We are, of course, still hoping and praying that the judges will grant her bail during the appeals process. Yet she herself is comforting God and encouraging us.

The day after every Blessing, True Parents always gave some very pithy advice: "You have everything you need to bring the kingdom of heaven on earth. If you just expect to sit back and be loved by your spouse, the original sin will creep back in. You have to lay the foundation; that is, you must love and understand your mate … you must make an effort. It will not flow into you automatically."

How will you celebrate your 44th Anniversary? We hope it includes a romantic dinner, at least. We are inviting a few neighbor couples for a home made Korean dinner. And although it is a bit cheeky for us to suggest homework on such a joyful day, one thing that I know would greatly please God and True Parents is to make effort to reach out to your Blessing classmates, especially those whom you might not have heard of from a while. Even it was a long time ago, and seems even longer, it is never too late for love!

With all our best wishes for a blessed and prosperous year for you and your family,

Sincerely,
Michael and Fumiko Balcomb,
Continental Directors, FFWPU Heavenly Europe and the Middle East