

## FFWPU UK: Stories Of True Father

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Members across the nation remember the hard work, sacrifice, and love of True Father on his 14th Ascension Anniversary. Some members share heartwarming memories and stories about him.

Below are some of these stories



In 1981 European National leaders and American State leaders were called to New York for a 120 day training. In March we visited East Garden to meet True Father. Reagan had been shot that day so Father talked very seriously to us.

Later Father played table tennis with each of the brothers. Father beat each brother except for one Austrian brother. The games continued for hours and most leaders fell asleep on chairs. After all the

brothers had played, Father called back the Austrian brother and challenged him again. Father finally beat him in the third game. I could see Father's determination as he was challenging himself. I could serve Father by picking up the ping pong balls.



Patricia I

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At the matching in June 1981 in Camberg: After about 20 minutes into the matching, True Father called out 10 Brothers and 10 Sisters to stand facing each other. All the faces which I could see had the "Look at me" expression. An hour later, he made them sit down again. True Father did not comment at all, but the inner Changes ended with humble faces. This gave a clear message about the frame of mind we all should be in.

Walter M

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At our pre-matching talk by True Father, with brothers sitting on the floor on one side of the room and sisters on the other, True Father was walking up and down the aisle. The brother kneeling next to me grabbed hold of True Fathers foot and slipper as he walked past us. I instantly thought, "What are you doing? You might cause Father to trip up". Which is a normal, genuine concern. Then I was hit across my head by True Father. I was kind of surprised, although it wasn't very hard. The thought came to me that this might be the only time or opportunity for this brother to be so close to or be with True Father, so my thoughts, though sincere, were in the way.

Several years ago, we often heard how True Father is concerned about and loves us. I'd think, oh yes, like True Father doesn't even know I exist; I've never met or been in his company. How can you say these things? It would come to my thoughts sometimes while praying.

Then I had one of what I call my spiritual reality dreams. I was in a big hall together with about 30 brothers and sisters. Several were standing together in smaller groups; I guess those they were more friendly or close to. I stood there just observing the whole scene. Then I saw True Father come into the room; he moved around so quickly, going to each small group, looking at each person and making sure they were okay. Then on to the next small grouping of friends. No one else could see True Father and was oblivious to his presence, but I could, and he never missed even one person, looking intensely at everyone. Then True Father realised I was aware of him and could see him. He gave a brief kind of half-smile, fist-pumped the air, like saying yes, all is okay here. Then I heard God call, simply saying 'Father', and True Father was gone, responding immediately to God calling him... This was when, on the iowc, doing the 21 days in each town or city we went to before moving on for another 21 in a new place.

Christopher L

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After the blessing in London in 1978, True Father and two of his daughters and his party came to Scotland for a few days to go fishing. I was pioneering Inverness at the time and had a minibus, and so was asked to drive his party around. Henry Masters drove Father and the children. We stayed in a fishing lodge on the River Dee. He was introduced to fly fishing by a Scottish fisherman and enjoyed it very much and continued to do it in America.

The weather, though, was too hot to catch any trout. After the fishing trip, he had lunch with Professor R.V. Jones, a scientific advisor to Winston Churchill, and his wife. I sat with them and was struck by how Father witnessed to them and how entranced they were by him, asking many questions. Professor Jones attended several ICUS conferences in the 1970s. After visiting the Aberdeen centre and talking to the members there, we drove to the workshop centre in Dunbar where Father again spoke to the members. He spoke for a long time even though Doris Orme told him he'd miss the flight back to London and suggested he stay the night. Eventually he said his watch told him it was time to go to the airport and we drove there in record time. All the way through Edinburgh without a single red light. We arrived after the plane door had been shut, but Col. Han, his interpreter, persuaded them to re-open it, and Father and his party flew back to London. It was an unforgettable experience, and I just wish I wasn't so shy and didn't talk to him when I stood next to him helping him with his fishing rod.

William Haines

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Before COVID, I used to go around my neighborhood alone for one to two hours a day, offering the Holy Wine. It was incredibly difficult, and it was an everyday occurrence that people simply refused to accept or drink it.

I once had a dream in which I believe True Father was present. I asked him, "What have you been doing recently?" He answered, "I was cultivating a field by myself in a place where there was nothing."

I immediately understood what he meant. He was speaking about me - about how I was going around alone, offering the Holy Wine on land where there was no foundation at all.

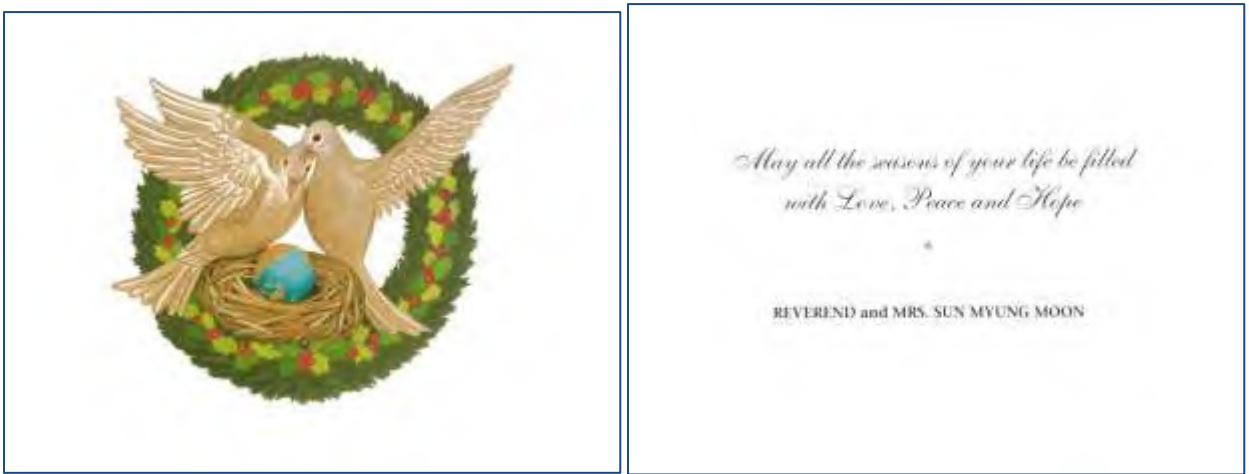
I realized that I had not actually been walking that path alone. Father had always been with me.

Taeko E

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I would like to share two of my personal experiences with True Father.

When I was in Washington, D.C., True Father visited our church and spoke to us. I was chosen to present a bouquet of flowers on behalf of our congregation. When I handed it to him, I did not expect him to reach out and hold my hand. I still remember that feeling vividly. My hands are quite bony, but True Father's hand was warm and soft, completely covering mine. I felt an amazing flow of love and strength pour through my entire body. It was an unforgettable experience.



Another experience occurred when I was chosen to design True Father's Christmas card. He gave me a sketch of what he wanted, and I created the card. True Father was very happy with it and sent it to all his contacts. Later, I was asked to design a card for his birthday. This time, I was free to design whatever I wished. I drew a picture of True Father and Mother in traditional Korean clothes, dancing together with small children while a group of VIPs watched from behind. At his birthday celebration, True Father proudly showed my card to hundreds of members in the grand ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel. He laughed as he displayed it, recognizing the various main leaders of our church and some of our VIPs from that time. I designed other cards for True Parents, but those 2 cards were the most memorable ones.



*Photocopy of True Father's birthday card.*

Françoise Murphy

My special experience with True Father happened in 1978, and it was in the Ballroom at Lancaster Gate.

True Father was here in London then, and after having conducted the Blessing of 118 Couples, he went on to hold a Matching, which I was included in.

Back at that time, he could not speak English well, so a Korean elder brother was translating for him.

We were a huge number of members in the Ballroom, including a large number of Japanese brothers and sisters. At one point, True Father asked that anyone wishing to be matched to someone Japanese should raise their hand. I had been considering that I would like to, but a little unsure, so I did not raise my hand.

Many couples were matched, so the number waiting in the ballroom gradually grew smaller. True Father selected each couple very carefully. It took many hours.

Suddenly, to my amazement, True Father, with his translator, walked towards me and stopped in front of me. Through the translator, he asked which nationality I was, and then which nationality I would like to be matched to. Slightly dazed, I said either Japanese or Korean, if True Father thought that was okay.

Immediately he pointed to one Japanese brother and signalled to us to go out of the room to talk. That was Kazuhiro, my future husband. We agreed to accept the matching, returned to the room and bowed to True Father (as all the matched couples did). True Father's heart to make sure that each matching would work well was incredible and moving to see.

Anne K

As UTS graduates, we were called to a meeting with True Father at East Garden in Tarrytown, NY. in 1988. It was my first experience where Father, with extreme harshness, shouted and scolded us for our failures. We felt defeated. Then he told us to spend the remaining night repenting. We had sleeping bags and barely had any rest that night, feeling so much pain and sorrow. Early the next morning at 5am, Father called us again. He explained that he spoke harshly so that we could pay indemnity to begin a new Providence. He then initiated Campus Ministry and lovingly made us Campus Ministers. He asked "how long will it take you to establish campus ministry? I wanted to give hope to Father and shouted out "6 months"! Father heard me and said, "OK, I will give you 6 months." I determined to fulfil my promise and was able to register Campus Ministry on the University of Vermont in Burlington. With the help and support of my finance (John), and all centre members, we witnessed and organized our first event on campus before 6 months with 21 participants. It was an unforgettable experience I am grateful for.

After I heard the Divine Principle and accepted True Parents, my heart was often moved to tears when I saw True Father's face on pictures and videos.

I felt like I was his daughter because of his amazing love for God and humanity, and therefore for me.

I was deeply affected by the great works True Father was doing to build God's kingdom and I definitely wanted to support him and do my best to be part of this providential work.

On my first 40 day Divine Principle workshop in Camberg, Germany I told God I always want to be on the frontline of the Providence, so I could help True Parents.

Looking back on my life and missions I see God heard my prayer!

I will always remember the love, the sacrifices and the victories of our beloved True Father, Cham Abonim.

He has the biggest, most sensitive of hearts.

I will forever be grateful that I lived at the time when I was blessed to meet him and receive the Holy marriage matching and blessing by him. Because of that my family could be connected with different races and cultures, becoming a global family.

When True Father invited Sisters to attend a workshop in Korea and then go pioneering in the 1990's, I jumped at the chance. My pioneering city was in Masan. It was a very lonely time for me as I couldn't speak the language but had to witness all day. I would think of True Father's lonely early days and struggles and how he kept going with strong prayers. I followed his example: God became my only friend who gave me the strength and courage each day. I was very thankful for True Father's way of life that became mine during those 40 days. And I felt very close to True Father.

Another time I volunteered to join members in the south of Korea, after attending a workshop in Cheong Pyeong, when I heard they needed help to hold Rallies for Korean Unification.

It was an exciting time going house to house inviting people for the rallies. At the rallies, those of us from abroad would testify to the great peace works of True Father and True Mother. We would talk about our international and intercultural marriages arranged by True Father, for the sake of world peace.

As the time for me was coming to an end and I had to return to my country, I felt very sad to leave this wonderful work for Korean Reunification. One night I prayed in tears repenting to God and True Father that this was my last day, so I couldn't continue this important activity.

That night I had a profound dream where I was sitting amongst a large audience whilst True Father was on the stage. Suddenly my name, Joyce Suda, was called to go on the stage.

As I approached True Father, he beckoned me to go close to him. Then he kissed me on my cheek, thanked me for my hard work, and said I could go back home to my family in the UK.

I woke up feeling very grateful that True Father had given me his Blessing to return home. I felt so much love and grace from him.

Thank you True Father, I will continue to work with True Mother until the end.

Joyce S