Rev. Paul Werner September 13, 1927 ~ July 4, 2008

A Life of Strength and Love

Rev. Paul Werner was born on September 13, 1927 in Labes, Pomerania, Germany; since 1945, a part of Poland. He was the ninth of eleven children of Arthur and Friedchen Werner, and raised in a very religious family. His father was a Lutheran pastor. In his words, "Jesus was our daily bread".

As a 17-year old, he witnessed the horrible result of the bombing of Dresden which had left tens of thousands of civilians dead. Still a minor, in the summer of 1945 he was made a prisoner of war; spending much of the next four your years doing forced labor in French coal mines. Three times he barely escaped with his life when the ceilings of the mine shafts collapsed and buried him alive. During this time of constant danger and constant hunger, he always promised Jesus to dedicate his life to him, if he allowed him to come out alive.

When he was finally released in December of 1948 and able to return to Germany, Paul Werner went to every religious revival and Bible Study he could find. He applied to various seminaries to become a missionary. However, too many applicants and too few openings in post-war Germany left his dream unfulfilled. During one of these revivals, he met Christel, and they were married in 1951. Their son Klaus was born the following year.

Paul's family had been scattered and driven from their home in Pomerania. In 1953 Paul, Christel and their infant son Klaus immigrated to Canada, looking for better chances to make a living. In 1957 they left Canada for the US, residing first in Cleveland and from 1961 in Sacramento. It was there in August 1963 that a co-worker of Christel told her that Christ had returned and was living on the earth. Both Paul and Christel had remained devout Christians and were praying daily for Jesus' return; now they found themselves in the most intense spiritual battle, to reconcile their orthodox Biblical understanding, with the amazing new truth, and the spiritual experiences they had. At one point, Paul spent an entire night in a desolate spot at the Sacramento River, asking God to give him a sign if the Divine Principle was the truth. The sign came, but not as expected. Paul began to feel the most intense

sadness, as if he alone was to bear all the world's sorrows, and he could not stop crying for 3 days, to the point of complete physical exhaustion. "This is what I feel when I look at my children," he knew God was telling him. Paul understood that rather than writing him a personal message into the night sky, God had shown him His own broken heart that is longing for His lost children.

At that time, Paul Werner had become a successful property developer and was well on his way to become a millionaire. Now, God, who seemingly had not wanted to use him earlier, called him, and Paul followed immediately. Guided and taught by Ms.Young Oon Kim, the Werner family as Divine Principle missionaries left for Germany in April of 1964. They lived in Wiesbaden, a neighboring city to Frankfurt. Paul immediately started visiting ministers and churches and doing street witnessing. No quick response came. In May of 1965, Paul took his 1963 VW bus to Vienna, Austria, sleeping in it at night and witnessing every available moment. In July, True Father came to Europe on his trip to bless 120 Holy Grounds worldwide. It was the first time the handful of European members had a chance meet Father personally. In his VW bus, Paul drove Father's party around Europe's capitals to bless Holy Grounds in each. Back in Vienna, nine people accepted the Principle all at once in the spring of 1966.All moved into a large apartment was rented, the first church center in Austria! Before long there were 20 members. New centers opened in Graz and Linz. In 1968, Paul sent out the first foreign missionary - to Switzerland. That same year, he sent a missionary into communist Czechoslovakia under great secrecy and danger. That church grew, but suffered severely. The history of this church behind the Iron Curtain, even its very existence, could not be revealed until after communism collapsed in 1989.

In March of 1969, Paul and Christel - who had supported him financially throughout - were blessed by True Parents along with 7 other European couples, as part of the 43-Couples Blessing. At that time, Father asked Paul and Peter Koch to trade places, Paul went to lead the mission in Germany and Peter in Austria. It was a tearful good-bye from the 50 or so Austrian members. In the following years, the German church grew, opening centers in eventually 82 cities. German members started foreign missions in the Scandinavian countries, and as far away as India, Australia and New Zealand. Their son Klaus always shuttled along, and

by the time he graduated high school in 1970 had been to no fewer than 13 different schools in 3 countries.

Rev. Werner always wanted to be immediately responsive to any request by True Parents. While the German church was gaining members even under leftist media persecution, many of the older members were sent to America in 1973 and 1974 to support Father in the US, while Paul himself led others in teams of over 100 during the US Day of Hope campaigns. During this time, Father bestowed on him the title 'Reverend'. In the spring of 1975, Germany along with Japan and the US were asked by True Parents to send missionaries to 120 countries. Having already given up many of his senior people, Rev. Werner had no choice but to send some who were in the church only 6-9 months to go to such far away mission fields. It was a heart-wrenching time for a man with deep parental love for these young and new members, to have to send them out.

Rev. Werner personally became the target of much media persecution during these years, and it took a man of extraordinary mental and spiritual stamina to not crumble under the pressure. Germany was the frontline against the aggressively arming communist bloc that felt the Western resolve had been lost after Vietnam. Only the Unification Church led by True Parents stood its ground. It was not until after the fall of communism that the degree of influence became public that East German double agents had wielded in subverting West German media, universities, and institutions during the seventies and eighties, giving a retrospective context to the earlier persecution against the Divine Principle movement.

In 1976, he led German members to buy boats and learn to fish in the North Sea, in synchronicity with Father's fishing providence in Alaska. In 1977, in a radical departure from doing spiritual work for eight years in Germany, Rev. Werner, the former businessman, was given the mission to build a shipyard and seafood processing plant on the Gulf coast in Alabama. In the next six years he build up Master Marine into a successful venture, providing jobs to and gaining respect from the initially hostile surrounding community. In 1979, hurricane "Frederick" hit Bayou La Batre, causing severe damage, but Master Marine was quickly rebuilt.

From 1983 to 1988, Rev. Werner went back to do spiritual work as National Leader of Canada. During these years in Canada, he published several books on Divine Principle, spiritual growth, spirit world, and on building a relationship with God, pouring out the experience gained during years of walking a spiritual path.

In 1988, Paul and Christel, who were not able to have any more children after being blessed, and with both already being in their sixties, adopted a new born baby boy offered to them by an Austrian blessed couple. Jin-hee Werner today is a third-year information technology student at the University of Virginia.

In 1988 Father appointed Rev. Werner as IW to Oceania. Then from 1989 to 1994 he served as managing director of 2 machine tool factories in Germany. In 1994, already past retirement age, he suffered his first heart attack. In 1997, the Werners were appointed National Messiahs to Burundi. In spite of his declining health, Rev. Werner traveled several times to Burundi to support the mission there.

Living quietly with Christel in the Washington area for the last ten years, right next to their son Klaus and wife Doris, Rev. Werner has remained a loyal son of God and True Parents, and a wise and parental counselor to so many.

Besides Christel, his wife of 57 years, Rev. Werner is survived by his sons Klaus and Jin-hee, daughter-in-law Doris, granddaughter Tanya, as well as brother-in-law Alec Herzer of England, who in 1970 was blessed to Paul's sister Elizabeth in the 777 couples Blessing, and nieces and nephews.