

Unificationism and Latin America

In recent months, more than 3,000 Latin American ministers have visited Uruguay to attend seminars on the Unification Principle. These gatherings are the fruits of Reverend Moon's many years of dedicated effort to reach out to the spiritual and political leaders of the region. One of the closest witnesses to these efforts has been Dr. Thomas Ward (UTS Class of '81) who, in the course of the last 15 years, has visited the region many times to offer seminars on Unificationism. The urgent call of his duties as an administrator at the University of Bridgeport and a part-time faculty member at UTS now take up most of his time but he is still pulled south occasionally and, as he revealed in a recent e-mailed interview, Dr. Ward's heart and mind are often with his many friends in Latin America.

How did your involvement in Latin America begin?

During my high school days in Pennsylvania, I had an excellent Spanish teacher named Richard Blosser. He was very dedicated to having his students master Spanish. By the time I finished my high school studies, I had a substantive basis to communicate in both spoken and written Spanish. This proved extremely useful during the Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium, and the Washington Monument campaigns.

In 1977, I first began to work with Antonio Betancourt in New York. We both recognized that there was a large Latin American population in New York interested in knowing more about Unifi-

cationism. We decided to set a date in November, 1977 and conduct a Spanish language Divine Principle seminar. The response was overwhelmingly favorable. Reverend Ken Sudo issued a challenge to us to have 120 people sign membership before God's Day 1978. To our surprise it actually happened and a decision was made to create a Spanish-speaking Church in New York and Antonio and I worked together there until August, 1979 when I was invited to study at UTS.

Even after I came to UTS, Antonio continued to work with Spanish-speaking people and one of them, Mr. Antonio Rodriguez Carmona, suggested that we establish an outreach into Latin America from the United States. That resulted in Dr. Bo Hi Pak and Antonio being sent by Father to Latin America in 1980 to establish CAUSA. A delegation of Argentines came to the United States in the Spring of 1980 and they met with Father and Mother. At that time, I was invited by Father to present to them an overview of the basic tenets of Unificationism. That particular seminar was the first step in the creation and official incorporation of CAUSA International in November, 1980.

As you think back on the early days of CAUSA in Latin America, what are some of the memories which stand out?

Iwould have to say that there are two types of experiences which stand out. On the one hand, those years afforded me the privilege and opportunity to experience True Parents and True Family in a very personal way. Father and Mother spent a great deal of time with us, instructing us, guiding us, and preparing us for our activities. Most especially, Father emphasized that teaching was more than an intellectual experience. It had to be accompanied by a more spiritual dimension. Father gave very practical advice as well. For example, he told me that I tended to be too serious when I taught and that I needed to tell jokes and laugh when I spoke. Otherwise people might be afraid of me. With Dr. Pak and Bill Lay, we actually made a CAUSA joke book and it proved very effective in adding some comic relief to rather dour topics such as Marx's view of alienation and Lenin's theory of imperialism.

Secondly, as we traveled from country to country, I was impressed by the openness and implicit trust of the Latin people. Nat-

Dr. Ward with seminar participants in Nicaragua



urally there are all types of people everywhere but in general, one finds a certain warmth and hospitality in Latin America which we in the United States need to inherit.

Have CAUSA activities and contacts been helpful in this recent period of activity in Latin America?

Many of the people who played an important role in organizing Father's and Mother's tours in Latin America date from the CAUSA years and activities. There is a profound sense of gratitude in many Latin American countries for Father's initiatives in Latin America. I do not know of any other organization which reached out on such a massive scale to educate Latin American leaders on Marxism-Leninism as well as on the religious and philosophical underpinnings of modern democracy.

Please describe your more recent involvement in Latin America. To whom were you lecturing and how was the response?

I have taught a number of conferences in collaboration with Jesus Gonzalez, a Spanish lecturer who was the CAUSA leader in Central America from 1983 to 1991. Together we have conducted a number of programs for political leaders, professors, and for youth leaders. The CAUSA era closed with the demise of the Soviet Union in December, 1991. Jesus, who represented CAUSA in Russia in 1990 and 1991, intuited that our new focus would have to address the worldwide erosion of moral values. Thirty years ago in the United States, 5% of the children were born out of wedlock. Today we are talking about 33%. 40% of today's 4 year old American girls will become pregnant by the age of 19. In some Latin American countries, the problem is even more serious with 70% of the children being born out of wedlock in places such as El Salvador.

Jesus felt the need to develop more materials on the Unification view of the fall and the materials which he developed in his book *True Love and Forbidden Love* have served as a basic underpinning of our programs in Latin America. I have found that in our recent seminars in Latin America, an appreciation of the Unification view of the fall is widespread. It has been very encouraging, given the implications of that appreciation.

Were there any noticeable differences between your teaching experience in the past year and that of the earlier period?

On July 8, 1985 Father shared with several of the members of the CAUSA staff about how philosophical inquiry should lead to religious renewal. I believe that today we are much closer to being able to realize Father's expectation.

Personally speaking, what were some of the highlights of this recent period?

It is wonderful to see True Parents in Latin America. Father, I sense, feels comfortable and interacts very well with people, members and non-members alike. One senses the emergence of a new providence.

What is your understanding of the timing of Father's recent focus

on Latin America?

Father has emphasized the need to bring unity between Latin American Catholicism and North American Protestantism. I believe that the work which has been realized over the past 25 years by our movement, particularly with the clergy and religious leadership in the United States, but likewise in Latin America, makes it possible for us to make a very important contribution to this objective which has been so frequently explored. (Next month: Dr. Frank Kaufmann (UTS Class of '79) on recent developments in Latin America.)

Springtime at the Pond



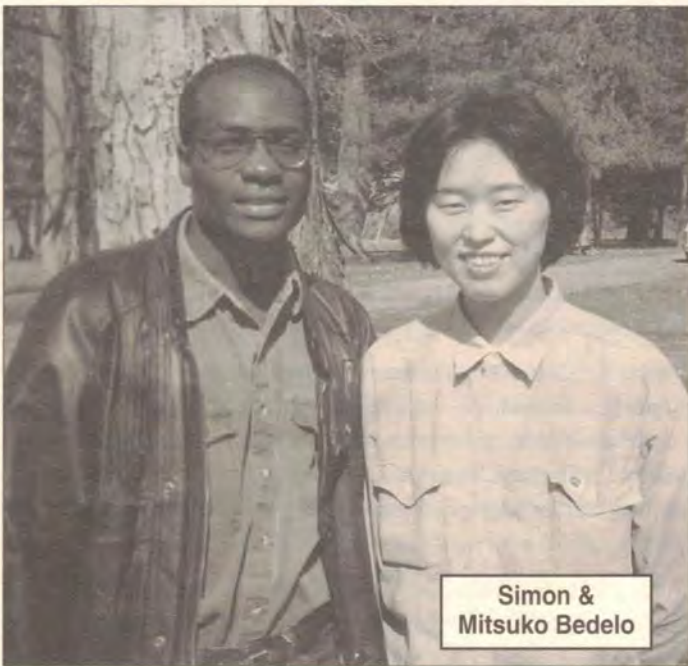
Those who dig the pond (especially those who dug the pond) will be happy to know that it is a thriving wildlife sanctuary. Those big carp which were rescued from the Hudson's poisoned waters are now much bigger and are surrounded by several generations of teeming offspring. They have been joined by perch, bluegill, largemouth bass, eels, catfish, bullfrogs, musk rats



A view of the "pond" in 1978 showing the dam in construction

and two species of turtle, although the snappers are trying to reduce that number. Geese, ducks and herons are frequent visitors and ospreys have occasionally been seen plucking carp from the surface. Faculty, deer, students, staff and wild turkeys are among those who clearly enjoy an evening stroll around the lovely, willowed shores of our pond and think with gratitude of those whose labor made it possible. *G.D.*

Love and Haiti



Simon &
Mitsuko Bedelo

UTS student Simon Bedelo took a leave of absence in December 1995 and went to Haiti to serve as chaplain at a private school run by a member of the Women's Federation for World Peace. On arriving at the school, Simon found that his duties would be quickly expanded to take advantage of his Hungarian university education in math and physics, both of which he was asked to teach.

What was originally planned as a one year appointment recently became a more permanent arrangement when Simon was asked to serve as the national leader. As a native of Zaire, a French-speaking nation, Simon has no difficulty in communicating with the Haitian people and seems to be excited about the potential for development in his new home country. During a recent visit to UTS, he spoke of his plans to maintain close communication with UTS and with Unificationists in other countries in the region, including Ed Heinz (UTS '95), who is assigned to Jamaica and who recently visited Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital. President Shimmyo gave his blessing to Simon who returned to Haiti at the end of April, accompanied by his wife, Mitsuko.

Barrytown Exhibition at Bard

A large photograph of Reverend Moon making fishing nets went on display at Bard College in April as part of an exhibition titled "Museum: Barrytown NY." Bard graduate student Anastasia Shartin developed the idea for the exhibit after visiting the Barrytown post office which many graduates will remember for the wood-print scenes, photographs and newspaper clippings which cover the walls. When asked if Ms. Shartin's research had pulled any snippets of history from obscurity, Mr. Gordon Baker, Postmaster for the past 16 years, laughed and said, "Well, she pulled me out of obscurity!" It is said that it was the original Postmaster, General William Barry, who gave the hamlet its name in 1830. It was previously known as Red Hook Landing. Ms. Shartin visited UTS several times and was grateful for the help provided by Mrs. Debbie Truin and Mrs. Sarah Witt.

Children's Art Festival and Yute Tournament at UTS

Inviting all of the children of the local Unification community to an event at UTS is a venture only undertaken by the brave and the well organized. Picture a room filled with 60 children under the age of 12 and imagine running a yute tournament lasting three hours. Yes, it happened on March 17 and was such a success that the organizer, Iwuk Asuamah of Nigeria, decided to organize another children's event less than a month later. So, on Sunday, April 14, the excited hordes returned to offer their artistic talents for all to see and hear.



The yute
tournament

From Author to Publisher

Laurent Guyenot (Divinity class '90)

This is not yet a success story, so I would have preferred to wait before sharing it, but I was encouraged by *The Cornerstone* to write about my recent activities in France. I will try to make it as brief as possible, hoping to inspire similar vocations.

My time in Barrytown, and particularly my divinity year, gave me a passion for reading, researching and writing. After Barrytown, I went back to Europe, under the care of President Won Pil Kim who lovingly (I mean it!) sent me fund raising for one year. Then I went witnessing in Hungary for another year. In 1992, I came back to France. Since then, I have been producing publications for the church, particularly on moral values. I will soon finish a lecture manual for WFWP on love, sexuality, adolescence and family, which will be translated into English for other countries. You can order it from me if you are interested.

In France, intellectuals and ideas have tremendous influence. This is true, of course, everywhere, but even more so in France. I have a very strong conviction that, if we can make Father's thought and vision respected by intellectuals in France, this will open many doors. I know that this was Father's original purpose for encouraging Unification Thought.

So, in parallel to my church activity, I wrote articles in journals on religion and spirituality. This has allowed me to make some good contacts. I also wrote a book called *God, Man and the Angel*, which was published in January 1995 by a regular publisher specializing in spirituality. I wrote it with the idea of reaching the esoterically minded and New Age type of people, by "surfing" on the angel wave. Also, I wanted to understand clearly the nature and purpose of angels and their relationship to God and man. Through this theme, I introduced, in my own personal way (for which I claim no special authority), the main points of the Divine Principle. 1200 copies were sold in bookstores so far, which is not so bad for France. Having written (or, rather, published) a book gives you a special position to meet other writers, and I could meet quite a few in this way.

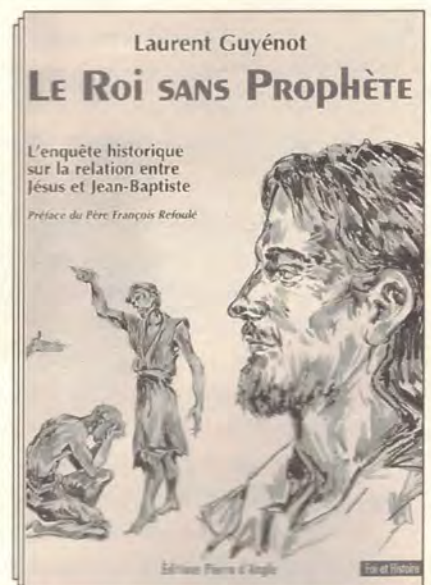
As soon as this book was published, it seemed like



Rosie Tanabe explains her artwork to event organizer Iwuk Asuamah

More than fifty children's drawings, paintings and clay sculptures were on display in Lecture Hall 2, accompanied by their proud creators who talked with the MC's, Leona Lukasova and Peter Dvornicky, and other guests, about their work. There were also many musical offerings on the piano, clarinet and violin which were loudly applauded by both children and parents alike. The children's work was judged by practicing artist, Mr. Hendrick Dijk, who signed certificates of appreciation and participation for each entrant. He also spoke at the end of the day and encouraged parents to keep a portfolio of their children's work over the years, and to occasionally purchase better materials for the children to work with.

Having suffered a broken arm, Iwuk needed a lot of support to bring this show about. She was particularly moved by the Mickler family who all pitched in. When she asked Dr. Michael Mickler, "What shall I do with only one arm?" he responded "I'll be your arms!" He and three of his children, along with Iwuk's sister and son, Gloria Umoh and Junior, helped to set up all the tables and display boards with the art work. Dr. Mickler also blew up the balloons which festively decorated the room, and his two daughters Yuri and Yuki drew lovely pictures of animals and flowers on the computer generated banner. The banner was created by Hiroyuki Kudo, class of 97, and the children's certificates were created by Charles Kannal, also a member of this year's graduating class. Mrs. Sachiko Carlson donated \$40 on behalf of the local Family Federation to help cover expenses. This was an enjoyable experience for the families in the area who were very grateful for the efforts made by Iwuk and all the UTS students. D.T.



Laurent's second book



Laurent
avec un
grand
poisson!

someone else's book to me. Intellectuals are somewhat like mediums; they convey a message, but it is not really theirs. At least, that's how I feel. Anyway, that ended my "New Age" period. I soon started to develop a great interest in the historical research on Jesus, which had already fascinated me in Barrytown. Within a year, I read just about all of the major books, new and old, in English and French (I don't speak German, unfortunately) on this topic, and nearly every single book on John the Baptist (from a historical view point), as well as all articles on John the Baptist in scholarly journals. Just recently, I completed my book, on the relationship between Jesus and John. It is called : *The King without Prophet. The Historical Investigation on the Relationship between Jesus the Messiah and John the Baptist*. Before writing the book itself, I wrote an article which I submitted to scholarly journals. Trying first to summarize my thesis in one article proved extremely valuable, for I could get a lot of interesting feedback from the journal's editorial committees and other scholars, and thus improve my thesis. My article will soon be published in French, and I recently translated it and submitted it to American journals. One of the scholars I met, a well known Catholic scholar, former director of the Biblical School of Jerusalem and author of several books on the historical Jesus, wrote a foreword for my book. My purpose in writing this article and this book is to argue, strictly from a historical viewpoint, for Father's vision of the relationship between Jesus and John, and all that is connected to it (Jesus' original purpose, etc.). My experience is that historical research on Jesus, the worst enemy of Christian fundamentalism today, can be an ally of Unificationism. Scholars who search for historical truths often lack spiritual truths, but the historical truths they discover confirm the Unificationist understanding of Jesus' mission on many points. I am a fan (and supporting member) of the Jesus Seminar.

This time, I knocked only at major publishers' doors. Since none of them accepted my manuscript, I decided to publish it

myself, because, in the meantime, I had also decided to become a publisher. Now let me say a word about this other activity.

Creating a publishing company is easy: find a name (mine is the French for "Cornerstone." I don't know where I got this idea from!); buy the translation rights from exciting and, if possible, best selling American books (if you are in America, you have a problem); sign a contract with a distributor, who will promote and deliver your books in the nation's bookstores (that's the hardest part, but it is absolutely necessary). Within six months, I could do all that. My first book was just printed. The second will be my *King without Prophet*, coming up in April. I have a program of six books in the year (the minimum to exist in this market) : one book on marriage counseling, one on the "false memory syndrome", one book translated from Japanese about Naikan psychotherapy, one by a French author and friend on the spirit world, one popular critic of Darwinism and neo-Darwinism. My long term goal, of course, is to bring Unificationist literature into the bookstores, but I must first gain a foundation before being able to do that.

Creating your own business is just exhilarating, if you have some money to start with. Fortunately, I got some financial help from my father, who is so happy to see me becoming professional. Being a publisher requires minimum investment, since everything can be subcontracted (translation, book cover conception, lay out, and printing ; I even pay an independent press attaché for specific books), and since the distributor does the commercial part. I do as much as I can of translation, lay out and promotion in the press, however. Being a publisher is the ideal public relations position, since your job is to meet people who have something to write about.

By the way, I am interested to get in touch with you if you have a manuscript written or one in plan (any topic, any style, any language). I am also happy to receive any advice on good books (with a principled view-point) which might be interesting for me to translate. And I would like to correspond with you if you have a similar activity or interest in books. I'll also appreciate any help to get my *King without Prophet* published in other countries, specially in America (the English translation is on the way).

My address: 44 rue Danton, 94720 Kremlin-Bicetre, France.

Why I Support UTS

Camas Lamond graduated from UTS in 1983 and she and her husband Wayne have been among the most consistent supporters of the Seminary. In 1993, President David Kim suggested that graduates could best unite with the Founder's direction to support UTS by making monthly donations of \$120. The Lamonds have done this ever since and, at the request of The Cornerstone, Camas recently explained why. These are

some excerpts from her letter.

The foremost reason is my eternal gratitude for the training and benefit I received as a student at UTS. Those three years (1980-83) transformed my life and saw me through to starting my family, getting well on the road to family-level restoration. It was the most singular experience of academia I ever had. Although what I learned that was of value to me was more internal and spiritual than academic, it was something I knew could never be taken from me and I left for the field feeling deeply indebted. My time there was a time I'll never forget.

Another reason is simply that my husband and I have it on good authority that tithing for whatever purpose is good for our spiritual life and also good for our financial foundation. So we are pleased to multiply God's blessings in whatever ways are available to us.

Service Project in Kingston

An area which had long lost its original identity as a picnic grove began to appear again on Saturday, April 21 as 15 UTS students participated in a three day clean-up project at Forsyth Park, the oldest of Kingston's recreational areas. Other participants came from the Junior League, the city's Parks and Recreation Department, the Ulster County Alternative Sentencing Program and the Kingston branch of the NAACP.



Carting away the overgrown brush

The UTS participants were working under the auspices of the International Relief and Friendship Foundation and the Family Forum whose director, Dr. Shawn Byrne coordinated the UTS effort along with Jesus Navarro who is featured in this month's student profiles. By cutting away branches, pulling out roots and digging up trunks, the participants revealed an area of rugged beauty amid the park's trees. City Parks Commissioner Ron Woods said the clean-up was part of an ongoing effort by the city to return the parks to their former splendor. "The picnic grove was quite the place to be years ago," he said. "People would get to the park and stake out their table. It was very popular." In addition to improving the appearance of the area, Mr. Woods said that the trees and brush were also removed so that parents could more easily keep an eye on their children.



The finishing touches

Dr. Byrne said that future plans call for the planting of flowers on the newly cleared slopes which could provide a perfect venue for the celebration of the nationally recognized Parents Day in late July.

On the day after the conclusion of this project, President Clinton and Vice President Gore celebrated Earth Day by helping to clear overgrown brush from a park in Washington D.C.. GD

Spring Break-Out

Fifteen Japanese students took advantage of the Spring Break by renting a van and a car and heading for Washington D.C. where they were warmly received by D.C. church members. The four day visit included visits to the offices of *The Washington Times* and Atlantic Video where they were met by Times president Mr. Dong Moon Joo. Takashi Hosoya reports that the daytime sight-seeing and evening gatherings for dinner at the Washington church added up to a very enjoyable, enlightening and refreshing break.



STUDENT PROFILES

Jesus Navarro

Intense! That's a word that came up many times during a conversation with this native of Caracas, Venezuela. Jesus entered the Seminary in January of 1995, only two months after joining

the Unification Movement! He did not expect to come to UTS when he did but God was working in his usual intense way in Jesus's life and everything came together very quickly in order for him to come.

Jesus had simply called our Admissions Officer, Hong-Yu Kovic, for information and she invited him to attend an upcoming orientation workshop. He did so and submitted an application and, at the same time, he called his family in Venezuela. They pledged to offer him financial support right then and there and so he was able to enroll in classes. He feels that God sent him to UTS.

Life has always been very intense for Jesus who grew up as a Catholic, became an atheist at age 19 and at age 27 became a Hindu. Hinduism brought him to the United States in 1992 where he came to work and study with the Siddha Yoga group in New York and attended their Ashram in Catskill. Though his study of Seva, which means service, he learned that it is through service that one can achieve enlightenment. He also spent much time meditating and chanting and praying one hour a day to achieve spiritual growth.

At the same time, Jesus was writing a book on intuition and healing based on his own experience of healing himself through both spiritual and physical means. He suffered from chronic asthma since he was a child and even though his parents, who are both in the medical field, did everything known to medical science to help him, including special treatments from Europe, he had to have an oxygen tank with him wherever he went and was constantly on medications to manage his condition.

Jesus met a person who introduced him to the macrobiotic way of life and through this he was able to cure his asthma. Within two weeks he was able to stop taking anti-spasmodic drugs, within 2 months he was able to stop taking anti-allergy drugs and one year later he was without any symptoms. Through this experience he was reborn and began his spiritual journey which brought him to the United States.

Jesus met his spiritual father in July of 1994 and attended all workshops up to 40 days and then moved into the World Mission Center in November, 1994 where he continued to work on his book. When he was attending U.C. workshops, he realized that the new members who were attending lectures with him were growing even more rapidly than people who spent many years in the Ashram, and he felt that he understood the teachings of Siddha Yoga more deeply through study of the Divine Principle.

Jesus is still very much into service because he believes it is the most powerful educational tool where people can understand truth by working together and supporting one another with tolerance and respect through experience. He has taken part in a Religious Youth Service project in Atlanta, and recently helped to set up an RYS-type experience in the Kingston area to bring 40 people of many backgrounds together to restore and beautify a local park (See report in this issue).

Jesus was Blessed in 1995 to Chieko Akashi, a UTS graduate, of the class of 1994. They have visited both of their families in Venezuela and Japan and have been making progress in bringing them closer to the movement. Jesus's parents are planning to attend the upcoming Blessing in Washington, D.C. He was able to witness to his mother and sister after he joined the movement when he went back to Venezuela to take care of his visa situation.



Jesus & Chieko Navarro

Jesus mentioned that he is keenly aware of God taking care of him and guiding his life and that, when he became an adult, his mother made a special prayer condition and offered his life to Jesus Christ when she felt she could no longer guide him. He said that when he wants to deny this guidance, God gives him a sign, as in his recent experience in organizing the Oratorical Contest. He spent many days praying for the participants and coaching them so that they could do their best as well as all the usual running around to get everything set up the day of the contest. On that day, he received a letter from Chieko, who was in Japan, but he put it away to read after the contest. That evening, when the contest was over, he received a call from his mother in Venezuela who had been trying to reach him the entire day. When he spoke with his mother and read Chieko's letter they both said they were coming to JFK airport on March 24th at 1:50 PM! He felt that this was yet another example of how God is intimately involved in his life because he felt this was God's way of showing that He was pleased with Jesus's offering of his work with the contest.

He doesn't know what the future holds for him but Jesus plans to someday complete his book and to trust in God's guidance in his life. *D.T.*

Mike Armstrong

My time at UTS has brought me back to who I am. I always went out into the woods and had these incredible experiences. Now I spend much of my time reading Father's words and the sum of all my experiences here is a feeling that my whole life is coming together."

Mike Armstrong is a graduating divinity student who is well known to the Seminary community for his work with the children's activities during Spring Open House; his beautiful piano composition which he played for the Ang children during their

wedding reception and his impassioned presentation at the recent Oratory Contest where he took second place.

Mike is also a practicing visual artist who maintains a studio on campus. He says that he wants his art to be able to translate the fourth dimension which is spirit through the third dimension which is the artist to the second dimension which is the finished piece. He feels that his art allows him to channel God.

His Divinity thesis is entitled: *Imago Dei: The Artist as Co-creator - Towards a New Theory of Art.*

In reading the Founder's words, Mike has taken to heart a quote which encourages us to have a mystical experience with God which will allow us to then see the world as it really is. He says that he has always followed the direction given to him by his central figures and sees that direction as his external mission, but that his internal mission is and always has been to develop himself and to become his true self. He feels he can best do this through using the many talents that God has given him. "When I am connected to God internally in heart then God does the rest."

In saying this, Mike then when on to explain how, when he first decided to come to the Seminary he did not have the money, but he prayed to God that when he came, he wanted to be able



Mike at work in his studio

to focus on the Seminary experience without having to fundraise during the year. He feels that he has been led to fortunate money-making opportunities throughout his student life which have allowed him to earn enough to pay his tuition before each term.

In his recent experiences with art, Mike has had his paintings placed in two art shows, he will be teaching an art class this summer and will have his pieces exhibited in several galleries. He sees these developments as illustrations of the fact that, when he is focused on his internal growth and his connection to God, then God literally does 95% in terms of helping him to achieve his dreams and desires.

Mike is a member of the Unificationist artist group, Akinlan, and says that his goal is "to change the ideal into the real through the act of love." He entered the Seminary in the Winter of 1992 and is Blessed to Eliza Mar from Brazil. D.T.

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