



New Hope News

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"This Is The Year One"

"The year of victory has concluded and the year of joy has begun," proclaimed Reverend Sun Myung Moon on his birthday, February 23. The all-day celebration of both our Parents' birthdays marked the completion of three historic days in Unification Church history. February 21 was the wedding day of 72 couples in New York, the largest blessing outside of Korea. All state and many national leaders gathered at Belvedere for a day-long conference on February 22. On our Parents' birthday, members heard a sermon by Father in the morning, participated in talent and lecture contests in the afternoon, and enjoyed a varied, full evening of entertainment at the Manhattan Center. Most of all, members will remember Father's declaration at the end of his speech: "This is the new beginning of the history of God. Therefore, this is the first year of the Kingdom of God. This is the Year One."

SERMON

The topic of Father's birthday sermon was: "Today in the Light of the Dispensation." Father began by describing the world as it would have been had man not fallen. If Adam and Eve had not fallen, children of God would have filled the earth. "God intended one people, one race and one heart," he said. "The way of life of mankind is supposed to be centered on one principle of God, one tradition of God, and the love of God." The longing children feel for their parents when separated reflects the inborn longing of mankind for God. The



Father and Mother cut their birthday cake at the World Mission Center on February 23. Mr. Salonen is in the background. After Father cut the cake, he made the proclamation that February 23 was the first day of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, the Year One.

supreme pride of man, said Father, is to have God as his Father, to possess the love of God, and to inherit God's Kingdom. "God intended such a history, with man and

woman as children of God. This also has been man's desire, as he has sought to become a child of God, to possess the love of God, and to inherit God's Kingdom.

But in the fallen world, Father explained, man has found no real meaning in calling God "Father." And destruction

(Continued on Next Page)

New York: February 21

74 Couples Blessed in Marriage

Reverend and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon officiated at the largest Unification Church group wedding outside of Korea on February 21 at the World Mission Center.

Seventy-four couples, representing eleven nations, received their blessing in a beautiful ceremony in the Terrace Room. While all participants had served in the

Unification Church for a minimum of three years, many were members of long standing. Ninety-nine participants were Japanese, and twenty-seven American.

Other nations represented were Korea, Austria, Germany, Holland, France, Italy, Ireland, Greece, and England.

The wedding began at 3 p.m., as Col. Bo Hi Pak gave an opening address. (See box.) Bridesmaids and grooms, representatives from former blessings, formed an aisle for our Parents and the participants. Our Parents entered and took their positions as officiators while the Go-World brass band and the New Hope Singers provided musical accompaniment. The couples marched into the room, passing in front of the officiators and into their positions in three columns facing Father and Mother.

Then Father asked the wedding vows in Korean, to which the participants responded in unison with a resounding "Ye!" (Yes) Father then prayed, asking God's blessing upon the couples. After rings were exchanged, Father pronounced them man and wife. Flowers and gifts were presented to Father and Mother, and the ceremony closed with three cheers of "Manseil!"

Father and Mother then posed for photographs with each couple.

After the ceremony, Col. Pak introduced visiting Church dignitaries from abroad. Then he told the guests: "We took special consideration in planning a noble, dignified, and colorful wedding. This is the principle wedding held outside of Korea, and it will set the tradition for those to follow for the future." The blessing, he explained, was made possible by the victories of 1976. "This is a really great day," he said, "one of the most beautiful that I have ever seen."

(Also see Page 4)



The 74 couples approach Father and Mother, passing through an aisle of representatives from former blessings.



Father giving his morning speech in the Grand Ballroom of the World Mission Center, as hundreds of members listen.



Noah Ross, winner of the lecture contest, demonstrates his speech, with the assistance of second place winner David Hose.



Heung-jin, Un-jin, Hyun-jin, and Kook-jin entertain with a lively song.

All Share in the Joy of

(Continued from Page 1)

is the history of mankind. "Satan's culture," said Father, "is centered on struggle and divisiveness while God's history is harmonious and united... The entire history of mankind can be described as a tug of war. This is the agony of man."

In this struggle, evil always attacks first because evil initiated the fall. But the good side will win, because God is on the side of the attacked. "Satan is the forefather of the attacker; God is the king of defenders. As long as He is alive, good will never be finished," said Father. Even though the evil side may outnumber the good side, the good side will win because, when the battle is done, the attacker must both restore the damage and pay an additional penalty.

World War I and World War II are examples of this principle, said Father. They were both initiated by Satanic powers, who attacked because they thought they could win. Each time the attacked victims won.

Similarly new religions, on the side of God, are often attacked by the societies in which they are born. Society, Father said, always oppresses them in the hope of liquidating them before they get big. This was true in the case of Rome and the Christians, and Rome finally accepted

Christianity as its official religion.

He went on to describe the situation of the Unification Church. The coming of the last days is apparent because we see the emergence of one new religious movement that the world is trying to oppress. "Let the world try to hit us," he said. "By doing so, they owe us a debt... The secret of Reverend Moon and the Unification Church is that by being attacked and attacked we emerge victorious and prosperous. The ones patient to the last will be winners."

Father then proclaimed that the goal of the three blessings is now possible based on the victories of 1976. Washington Monument, he said, was the decisive battle which brought the turning point of human history. Even our adversaries had to admit our success. Now, he said, his mission of public declaration is over. It is up to us... to be the bridge expanding God's blessing to the rest of the world. We have to be in the position to disseminate the blessing... Unless we go over the hill, there is no liberation. The Unification Church is being brought to this level."

America has an important role in this, he explained. America is the model Christian nation as well as the representative of all the world's people. "We will unite the heart of America," he

said.

Father later spoke of his work in America, quoting from his Yankee Stadium and Washington Monument speeches. He described his efforts to become a unique man able to relate to all facets of society -- testing himself as a laborer, farmer, fisherman, dock worker, sportsman, and mountain climber.

The next subject he discussed at length was the significance of various blessings. The 36 couples represent the ancestors of mankind. The 72 couples, twice the size of the former blessing, represent the struggle between Cain and Abel. The 120 couples represent Jesus' tribe, and also he said the world foundation, upon which he could create Holy Grounds. The 430 couples stand for the 4,300 years of Korean history and the Israelites' years of suffering in Egypt. The 777 couples represent the spread of the blessing around the world. After that blessing, Father's worldwide ministry began, catching on first in America and spreading to Korea in 1975, with the Day of Hope crusade. The final push was in 1976, "a dramatic and historical year." Washington Monument "brought God's dispensation to its highest fulfillment." It was the most significant event in Unification Church history, being even more victorious under persecution. The forty days of the

Washington Monument campaign, he said, was like Jesus' forty days ministry after his resurrection.

According to the lunar calendar, Father pointed out, 1976 ended on February 20. The year of victory is gone, how the year of joy has started," he said. Father explained that he planned the blessing of the 74 couples two days before to set a condition "so everyone could be happy -- God, heaven, earth, the couples, and all members. Now, on this third day of celebration, we are gathered in joy and happiness."

As of this day, said Father, "Satan has no right to bring accusations to the throne of God. ... In the name of the True Parents, you and your posterity can subjugate Satan."

He drew the speech to a dramatic conclusion: "I say that as of today all the dispensational history of restoration has ended and all the conditions of indemnity have been met and paid in full. From this moment on, the more opposition we get, the more victories. Anything the outside will give to us in the form of persecution, suffering, and pressure, an equal amount of blessing will be restored to us. It is not indemnity. This winning of territory inch by inch will continue to the year 2,000. Every day's work will accumulate to the



On the left, Hank Lemmer, winner of the talent contest. Above, Tom Ludwig leads the full orchestra performances of the New York City Symphony. On the right, the Korean Folk Ballet and the New Hope Singers lead all guests in the evening's finale, "Children of the World Unite."



the audience



Father and Mother close the evening.

Four Parents' Birthday

Kingdom of God from this time on. Even though the Satanic world is attacking, they are no longer advancing. We are the force who is advancing."

At the end of Father's prayer, Col. Pak called for a cheer of Mansei: "the most significant victorious cheer of history -- for the victory of God, the True Parents, for the angelic world, the human world, and even the Satanic world, bringing liberation to all five levels."

Father and Mother then together cut their birthday cake. After receiving gifts and cards from the Church, Father made the day's most astonishing statement: "This is the new beginning of the history of God. Therefore this is the original first year of the Kingdom of God. This is the Year One."

THE FESTIVITIES CONTINUE

After enjoying a special Korean holiday meal, members listened to finalists for the nationwide talent contest and Divine Principle lecturing contest.

The evening entertainment at the Manhattan Center began with Mr. Salonen's announcement of the talent contest winners, and performances by the three top entertainers. Fourth place went to Ron Paquette for an original piano composition. Richard Wojcik won Third

Prize for a guitar composition. Paul Russell, on the marimbas,, won Second Prize. Hank Lemmer won First Prize with an operetic solo displaying, Mr. Salonen said, "his powerful and beautifully disciplined voice."

Next everyone was surprized by the special film produced by New Future Films for the occasion: "Victory of 76", as Mr. Salonen narrated. Members saw beautifully captured on film God's Day and Parents' Day, Father sanctifying the New Yorker Hotel, Yankee Stadium, Sun-jin Nim Moon after her arrival home from the hospital, Washington Monument, the Day of Heavenly Victory, Parents' Day, the Science Conference, Christmas, the beginning of **The News World**, and many scenes of Belvedere in the changing seasons.

Then the curtain opened to reveal the New York City Symphony and a large huge portrait of Father and Mother framed in Roses of Sharon. Everyone sang several choruses of "Happy Birthday" to our Parents. Then the New York City Symphony, under the direction of Tom Ludwig, performed the finale of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, the overture to Tanhauser by Richard Wagner, and "Polyvetsian Dancers" by Borodin. Then, especially for Mother, the orchestra played "Song of April," adapted

by Tom Ludwig from a Korean song.

Finalists in the Divine Principle lecture contest were then announced by Mr. Salonen. Contestants were judged on the basis of logic, heartistic content, and ability to convey. Honorable Mentions went to Terry Walton, Micheal Beard, Shawn Byrne, Aidan Barry, Tom McDevitt, and Bill Baum. Bruce Brown took Third Place. The Second Place winner, David Hose, and the winner, Noah Ross, came within one point of each other. The two top winners gave samples of their winning speeches. David Hose spoke of Moses' commission to Joshua to complete his mission. Noah, through the use of many examples, talked about God's relationship to man.

The program then moved to musical entertainment provided by the New Hope Singers, the Go-World Jazz Band, and the Korean Folk Ballet. Three unusual performances marked this phase of the entertainment. A modern dance interpretation of the beginning of mankind without the fall was presented by Richard Cohen, Joan Haley, and Fran Drayton. In this version, Adam successfully rescues Eve from the temptations of Lucifer. Next, Ye-jin Moon performed a piano solo of a nocturne and waltz by Chopin. And then, Craig Smith performed a magic

show. His finale was pulling a garland of the flags of all the world's nations from a bowl in which he had burned flags of rival nations.

Then one of the most well-planned and executed programs yet seen in the Manhattan Center was closed by the New Hope singers and the Korean Folk Ballet singing, together with the audience, "Children of the World Unite."

But the real finish was yet to come. First some of the children -- In-jin, Un-jin, Heung-jin, and Hyun-jin and Kook-jin sang songs. Then Hyo-jin, with musical accompaniment, sang the country and western favorite: "The Green, Green Grass of Home," and "Exodus." Then Father and Mother came to the stage. While Father was singing a syncopated Korean folk song which particularly lends itself to dancing, Col. Pak appeared with an old derby used earlier in a solo and began to dance, encouraging the whole family to join him. Soon the stage was crowded with dancers -- the rest of the family, David Kim, Col. Han, and Mr. Choi also got into the act. Then, just before midnight, a long chorus of Um Maya, with instrumental accompaniment, closed our Parents' birthday, which, as Father has predicted in the morning, held joy and happiness for all.

"Today is the Real Beginning for You"

Excerpts from Address to the 74 couples by Col. Pak.

God created Adam and Eve to be the parents of mankind, and He blessed them saying: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God created man for the fulfillment of these three major blessings expressed in Genesis 1:28. The first blessing is the perfection of man. The second blessing is that of the divine marriage of perfect husband and wife to create the family. The third is the lordship over all creation.

If Adam and Eve had been totally obedient to God and had united with Him, they would have become the first temples of God through their individual perfection. It was God's plan then to bring perfected Adam and Eve into heavenly matrimony, and as husband and wife, they would create the first family of man on earth. As they multiplied children, their posterity would have filled the earth, and they would have been given Lordship over all the earth. That would have consummated the three blessings of God and the joy of God would have been abundant throughout heaven and earth.

Through disobedience, however, Adam and Eve separated themselves from God and could not achieve perfection. Therefore God could not bless Adam and Eve in heavenly matrimony of marriage, and human history started with a Satanic lineage. It is truly astonishing to realize that even with having so many billions of people on earth since then, God has never had His own family. Not a single family was ever formed with the full blessing of God. It is truly heartwarming, though, to know that in the long 6,000 years of Biblical history, God's total goal has been the restoration of mankind into His own



Father and Mother invoke God's blessing upon the 74 couples.

family. He has been longing for the day of the first heavenly wedding ceremony...

It is incredible and astonishing to realize today that we members of the Unification Church are living in another Messianic era. We are privileged people who are allowed to see God, not in a mirror dimly, but face to face. We are privileged people who have been experiencing the very heart of God.

Today we see 74 chosen pairs of men and women have been handpicked by God to

be blessed into heavenly matrimony. This historical event which we are about to eyewitness will unite the entire heaven and earth in these men and women, creating heavenly families which shall be admitted into the Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven.

Although our world and the media are quiet today, the billions of citizens in the spirit world know that today another important cornerstone of the Kingdom of God on earth is about to be laid here in

America. The entire spirit world is enviously looking upon these privileged men and women from 11 different nations of the world....

As members of the Unification Church International from all over the world, we bring our heartfelt congratulations to you selected champions of our movement who are participating in today's honor and glory. We extend our heartfelt congratulations upon your blessed marriage.

We pay our hearty respect and admiration to you who, through your long-standing loyalty and absolute devotion have won today's honor to be selected as blessed couples. We know that many of you have gone through untold tribulations and persecution. You have victoriously gone through severe tests of God in personal tragedies, and you have withstood the worst temptations. Today, you are here as victors of heaven.... you are shining examples of the Unification Church members throughout the world. You have been the pacemakers of our movement, and you have set a beautiful tradition to be followed. Yet, today is the real beginning for you. All heaven and earth will watch you do after this blessing. We still have ground to cover to reach perfection. But I am sure you will come out final and eternal victors.

I would like to end by quoting the words of Reverend Sun Myung Moon in his message on September 11, 1974:

"What is our purpose? To become true men. We will create the true husband and wife and become true parents to give birth to children who experience love among themselves and from a loving brotherhood. And those children and parents together will create one heavenly family. That family will expand into a true society. That true society will expand into a true nation. That true nation will expand into a true world."

God bless you all. Thank you.

International, State Leaders Meet

On February 22, Father met with all IOWC and state leaders as well as ten European leaders, all of whom gave reports of the progress of the church in their areas. In response to a report from a European leader stressing the growth of Communism in his country, Father talked at length about how to achieve victory through persecution.

"Let's face it," he said. "Persecution is our daily diet. Great leadership is born in times of crisis. We are ahead of the times -- this is why we are persecuted so much."

Father emphasized that our movement is spiritual, building a religious conviction. While society may now persecute us, it will

later seek to unite with us, especially as the world's chaos grows and Communism becomes a stronger force. For example, Father said that although the American media attack him continually, they know that he is innocent of the charges and they will defeat themselves if they continue in their persecution. "Our persecutors will come to our side. You never know what tomorrow will bring." Although the Cain forces are always larger, God will always provide an Abel, he explained. Abel is attacked and yet gains, while Cain is the aggressor and loses.

While Christians endured two thousand years of persecution without seeing the day

of victory, Father said, the new era, is different. "We can go over persecution and turn it around into great victory. Once we turn it around in America, we can turn it around worldwide. Persecution can become our asset, a golden opportunity."

God is on our side to protect and comfort us, emphasized Father. "At night you will be led by a spiritual lantern. You will never be alone. God is anxiously awaiting your success...." This is not a phoney spiritualistic idea but real. "Spiritual fantasy is temporal but truth is eternal."

As a result of the Washington Monument victory and the proclamation of the Day of Heavenly Victory, spirit world is ready to obey God's command to assist this movement. And his birthday the next day, he said, would mark the birth of a new era, an age in which Satan's accusation is no longer effective.

Father went on to speak more of America's mission and He predicted that by the end of the third seven-year course we would face Communism from a superior, not inferior position. To do that, he said, "we must restore America to God. Whether or not it is possible is up to you.... We can't leave the world as it is. America is responsible for the rest of the world. 1977-1978 is an emergency. The 1-1-1 ratio must be met.... God and I are looking for young Americans who will say, 'I am responsible for this land. I will take over your mission and work harder.' Go beyond the expectation and you will be my friend. We will wind up at the same place. You can be an embodiment of the Spirit and do just as I am doing."

Father explained that while America is the twentieth century Roman Empire, it has the advantages, which Rome did not, of being a God-centered and a democratic nation. "God has worked so hard to create

this new kind of Rome," he said. Consequently, we are in a much more favorable situation than early Christianity. For example, Jesus was never able to leave Israel, much less go to Rome. But we have successfully undertaken the Day of Hope tours in every state and the Washington Monument campaign in the nation's capital. At that time, "all races came together as a literal manifestation of the coming of the international family."

Father concluded by saying that he hopes each leader feels that because of him, America has hope and God has hope. Father reminded them that when Moses died, he told Joshua and Caleb to be strong and bold. "I say to you that I want you to be strong and bold," he told everyone.

At the continuation of the meeting on February 23, Father again emphasized the importance of evangelism. He concluded by giving films, a movie projector and a set of the newly prepared Divine Principle cassette lectures to the state leaders.



Father at the conference.

New Hope News

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