

College Reunion

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For a number of reasons, I have never attended any reunion in my life. Somewhat hesitant to go to my 45th college Jewish fraternity reunion, I felt pulled to attend -- maybe I could give them copies of Father's autobiography -- or who knows what could happen. I even put in some safeguards, in case it was so bad I could stay with friends in Bloomington or Indianapolis But, alas, it was quite enjoyable -- even though when I arrived at the hotel and looked in, all I saw was all these old codgers -- and I was not looking in a mirror.

In college our fraternity was usually 1st in grades and last in sports (although we did win the intramural football championship (without scoring a point all season) when the best African-American team forfeited the game.

The success rate of these 25 brothers would probably rival graduates anywhere. Several lawyers (of course), one of whom is now writing about growing up in Atlanta during the civil rights movement. One had only average grades as an undergraduate, but his 759 on the LSAT got him into Stanford. One became a Rabbi in New England. My roommate was the National President of the American Anesthesiologists Association. Another is running 3 TV stations out of Utica New York for CBS. Then there were a couple of successful financial and recruiting guys and an industrial micro-biologist at Princeton. Our shortest member was a wrestler and a singer who of course, married a ballerina. The lone non-professional owns a very successful tire store. Even the one who looks like he could be a homeless guy you'd see on the street, is just a little eccentric and is teaching Medical History at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

All in all, I had a great time, but as I walked along the creek through campus on our final morning, I began to think about life, love and lineage. These brothers would make up an amazing percentile in a sociological study. Happily married for the most part, some had even married their college sweethearts. Most had very successful families and outstanding careers, but as I thought about the world of 1968 compared to ours of 2013, I began to ask the question -- have these successful gentlemen made the world a better place to live not just for their own families, but for America and the world.



Then I began to ask a very scary question -- has the Unification Church made the world a better place to live? Over the past 40 years, is America and the world a better place? Yes, we have fund-raised, witnessed, started businesses, performed community service, educated the second generation and so much more. But is the world a better place (especially on the community level) than when we joined. Yes, the Berlin Wall has fallen along with the entire Soviet Gulag. Yet now we have North Korea, Syria, Iraq, Iran Pakistan and Syria. Today we have the wholesale acceptance of homosexuality, same sex marriage,

schools without prayer, wholesale murder is rampant, drugs are far worse and alcohol is even worse than that. Even with the warning on the packages, cigarette smoking is rampant among women and in the third world, marijuana is about to become legal and political corruption is probably about the same, as long as you don't live in Illinois. Television is far worse as "Leave it to Beaver" has been replaced by Mad Men and the occasional "bad movie" on late at night has been replaced by never-ending pornography on many (or most) of our over 100 channels -- to say nothing of not having to subscribe to Playboy or Penthouse because at the touch of your remote you can watch whatever your perversion may be.

So I am currently reflecting not only on what we have done, but where we are and where we are going. Many members have stopped tithing -- first because they didn't agree with Lovin' Life and now, because they don't want their tithes to pay for those court cases that are costing \$143,000/day. Father is no longer matching our second generation and many have no desire to go through the blessing process -- some because they have seen what has happened to their best friends broken blessings and others who have been completely turned off by our church politics and church polity.

There are no longer any national American Leadership Conferences (where we met the majority of our Ambassadors for Peace) and it seems that only our leaders with paid salaries usually attend any of our big conferences in Korea or our Holy Days in Las Vegas.



Personally, I have been blessed a million times over. I had the opportunity to accompany our Chicago ministers to Korea last summer where Father spoke to us for 9 hours at Hoon Dok Hae. I had a chance to attend True Parents and for the first time I was able to visit the palace for Hoon Dok Hae. It just seems strange that the same leaders attend everything while most all of the members have to wait for their reports about how wonderful everything was. Without going into a lot of intricate details, let it just suffice to say that while I gave Lovin'Life a try, I was not fond of the dvd broadcasts every week. Yet as always, I felt like I was "off" if I did not support IJN 100% like "everyone else." Then when she left, the leaders all unequivocally supported HJN. Now yesterday, someone asked me where HJN was and I could not give them any answer since I have no idea. Transparency?

All this to bring me back to my essential question. Where are we going right now? I read that Mother is telling us to, "witness, witness, witness." But witness to what? I know that I can teach my guests one by one. But that will never add up by 2020. More and more faithful 1st gen members have stopped participating with the church or in Sunday service, since it all is being lead by and seems focused primarily on the 2nd gen. In Chicago, we have not held any regular Divine Principle workshops in years and it seems that all people want to know is-- if our guest has signed membership. We don't even have any copies of Father's Autobiography available.

So once more, I reflect on my college reunion and I reflect on the 36 years that I have invested in following the direction of True Parents. I have a beautiful Austrian wife and 5 outstanding young adult children -- four of whom do not attend church and I can not say for sure are really even thinking about the blessing.

I have no question that we have accomplished incredible conditions for America during these past 40 years. Whether it was New York or Oakland, UTS or Bayou La Batre, In Chon or Yankee Stadium. I have no regrets and millions of tons of gratitudes. My question now is simply: where are we now and where do we go from here?