

My heart about the Lord of the Second Advent

Jorge Cuello Espinosa
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My name is Jorge Cesar Cuello Espinosa, and I would like to share with you my heart about the Lord of the Second Advent -- the person whom Christians call the Returning Christ. I was always a young boy who really longed to see the Lord of the Second Coming. If I could ever lay my eyes on him, just one time, my entire life on Earth would have been fulfilled. This was my joy ever since I heard about Jesus returning. To me, Jesus was the true man. Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. I didn't question that. My mom never forced me to believe anything; she never even invited me to church! But, always in my heart, I deeply and sincerely longed for the return of the Messiah.



Espinosa's spiritual father is Shunichi Takagi, who passed away in June 2011.

At the age of 17-years-old, I realized that we were living in a fallen, corrupt society and I needed the truth to reveal to me the Second Coming of the Messiah. That alone, I knew, was the solution to the fallen world.

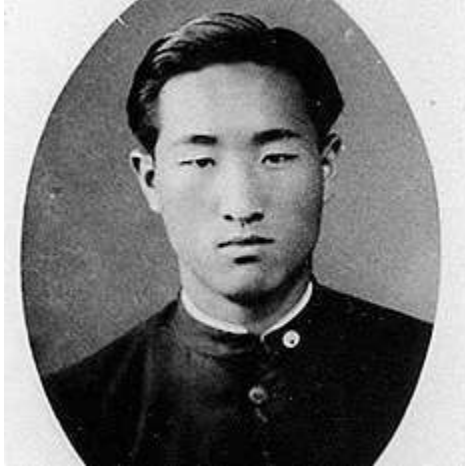
I was very happy and screamed out of the top of my lungs when I heard the name of Sun Myung Moon, our True Father. I was a bouncing ball in the video center in New York where I learned the Divine Principle. I was the *most* excited about three things: the Messiah's name, his face, and his advent.

First, for my Christian spirit to simply know that Jesus Christ had returned on earth and that he was *alive right now* was an explosion of fire to my heart. Then, I hurried and asked my spiritual father, Shunichi Takagi, to tell me his name! I asked him very desperately "What is his name?" He said, "Sun Myung Moon." And I wrote it down, and I repeated it over and over until I got it right.

Then, somewhere the winter of 2011, I had a dream of a young True Father as the man who God got sent directly to be the Lord of the Second Advent. God told me that very clearly in one dream.

I finally got to see his face. I watched an introductory video about his life and was re-filled with joy all over again. Ever since then, the black and white photo of a young True Father is my favorite picture of him. To me, he is the Messiah. He is the Lord of Lords. Sun Myung Moon is the Second Coming. And

that's what I believe.



When Espinosa dreamed about the Lord of the Second Advent, he appeared as the young Sun Myung Moon.

My Discipleship

Since I became a Unificationist my experiences have been both very happy and difficult while doing witnessing, fundraising, growing spiritually and taking care of my spiritual children. God has granted me five spiritual children, one of whom has actually joined and signed membership. I have a close relationship and study the Divine Principle with my other four friends whom I invited to my church.

I learned three things these past two years and a half: 1) the need to exercise a parental heart; 2) perseverance as the first-generation Unificationist of my lineage; 3) the power of True Parent's Messiahship and the Principle remains forever.

Exercising a Parental Heart

The parental loving heart of God and the Messiah is something that I am learning to polish in my own life. I had the privilege of attending the Lovin' Life leadership Program in the summer of 2012. In this program, there were five practicums. I was in the Ministry practicum. All of us were assigned to either do breakfast, lunch or dinner set up and break down.

It was then, during the days of breaking down for dinner that I had a powerful experience of God's parental heart. The heart that is willing to serve and not expect to be served, as Jesus told us to do. There were many days when our practicum would miss out on testimonies from elder members and we couldn't eat dinner in a calm and relaxed manner because of our duty of cleaning up. But, I learned that the parent's heart willingly goes through pain and suffering for the sake of the joy of his or her children.

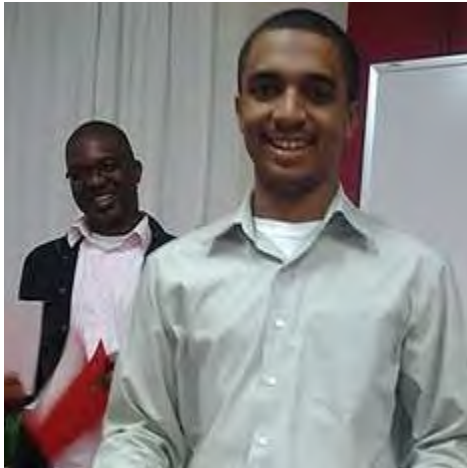


Espinosa, left, witnessed to his spiritual son, Michael, right, and they attended the March 2012 Blessing as guests.

Perseverance against Persecution

As the first Unificationist in my entire lineage I see myself with a lot of responsibility and undeserved privilege. I understand, according to the Principle of Restoration, I will have to face many trials within my own family. There were many times when I was misunderstood by my family, especially by my older brother about my motivation in this church. My brother once told me that he can only think about hate when he sees me walk through our door knowing that I attend the Unification Church. His main issue is with my belief about True Father being the Messiah and my concepts of the ideal world.

Within my own family, I am persecuted or cursed at if I want to serve them. I ask my mother to allow me to wash the dishes. Sometimes I have to insist because she simply will not let me do it. So, she and my aunt whom I love curse at me for wanting to serve and assist them although they say they can do it on their own. These reactions make my heart feel heavy, and I sometimes I think, "Why should I try if they are just going to reject my love?" But then I remember that these are the kind of things that I have to deal with as I persevere as the first generation of my family.



In March 2013, Espinosa graduated from "Micro Church," a small group at 4 West 43rd Street in New York that cultivates future pastors.

True Parents' Messiahship

In the last two years I have never let go of the truth that Sun Myung Moon is the Second Coming of Christ and that the Divine Principle is the New Truth that he brings. During the turmoil of our movement when our True Father passed away and when In Jin Nim resigned as president of the church in the United States, I held on to those two beliefs. I realized that, no matter what goes on around me, True Parents are the Messiah and the Divine Principle is the New Truth--and that will never change. That is and will be my fuel forever. Additionally, the culture of care that our Pastor Kone Drissa developed in our Learning Center in New York kept me alive and nourished me while going through those difficult times.

My Experience Witnessing and Raising Spiritual Children

My method of witnessing has shifted a little from when I first joined. I used to take time out of my day to specifically "go witnessing" in the parks. In the beginning, that was the method I was introduced to try. As time passed, I have witnessed in different ways. With the ministry of In Jin Nim and with the help and guidance of Pastor Andrew Love, pastor of the Manhattan church, and Chaplain Kone Drissa here in New York, I tried to do natural witnessing. For me, going to work and school and trying to spend time with my family while additionally making time to street witness was so hard. I didn't have time to do many things such as homework and my parents got frustrated because of the time I arrived home.

However, I was able to balance my time and prioritize my life much better through natural witnessing. Natural witnessing, for me, is the kind of outreach which happens spontaneously during my day and with the circle of people that I know. I don't discredit street witnessing at all, and I think it is an amazing way to have powerful experiences and meet some lucky, prepared people! But for my life right now, natural witnessing fits best.

Ministerial Practice with "Micro Church"

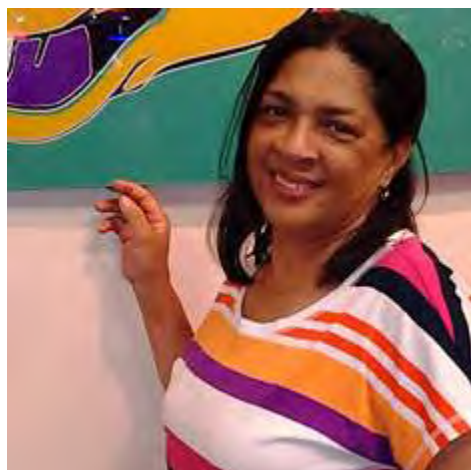
There is one small group that has completely changed my life as a Unificationist and human being. That small group is called "Micro Church." It was a joint idea by Pastor Andrew Love and Chaplain Drissa. The main goal of this small group is to learn how to care for people and understand who we are. Micro Church is composed of three things: life and childhood experiences, our faith and beliefs and our character. It is especially great for those who want to learn to be ministers or mentors and be part of guest care either at Sunday Service or during the week. I was able to harness my identity much more as a Unificationist and build closer relationships with the people that attended the small group.

My Mother's Reaction When I Joined the Church

My mother, Luz Amaris has a strong and naturally beautiful Christian background. During her youth, she was mainly involved with the Catholic Church, and a little bit with the Seventh Day Adventists. Some people in her village in the Dominican Republic thought she would become a nun.

At first, like any mother who loves their child would, she was very shocked that I would follow a stranger

to listen to some video called "the Divine Principle." In the first year my mother wasn't happy because I spent too much time at church and not enough with the family. Also, she didn't understand any of my beliefs. The pivotal moment when she began to understand my religion as a Unificationist was the day when my spiritual father, Shunichi Takagi, died on June of 2011.



At first, Espinosa's mother, Luz Amaris, didn't understand why he chose to follow the Unificationist faith, but once she learned more about his beliefs she now supports her son.

There came a time when I decided to study the Divine Principle with her in Spanish right in our home. She now understands what I believe and shares most of the teachings of the Divine Principle. She calls True Parents "True Parents" and sometimes called Father "*el viejo*" in Spanish, which means "the old man" in English. That was the same name my mother used to call her own father. We picked one day when I told her my entire testimony about meeting my spiritual father, the Divine Principle, and accepting True Father as the Messiah.

Eventually, my mother came to become comfortable and trusting with the people at our church. I would always play Hyo Jin Nim's music at home, and she would like the way he sings, especially his songs dedicated to True Mother. I think the turning point when she became comfortable with my church was when I asked her if I could sleep over at the learning center. She was a bit scared, but somehow she felt comfortable because I was with "the people of God."

Now, she is totally okay with and respects my faith and beliefs. She has even attended Sunday Service several times. Sometimes, she feels a bit frustrated and doesn't always understand why I spend so much time at our church, or why I don't take days off. However, my mother supports my road towards the Blessing of Marriage and the Matching process. Because of my mom's fiery Christian background, sometimes we sing Unification Church Holy Songs in our home and begin to clap and praise God! Those are such beautiful moments.

As for my future, I will attend either the Unification Theological Seminary or the Universal Peace Academy in Korea to receive a Masters in Divinity and become an official Unificationist Minister. In my career I will try to combine my bachelor's degree in justice with my future in ministry. I truly can't wait for this future!