

Celebration of Life: The Excitement and Drama Grew

Joseph Kennedy
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I consider the Celebration of Life, which I attended in Austin, Texas, a basic innovation in evangelism. The unique contribution of music and the dance and preaching is probably the first time anyone has combined the Old Testament and New Testament methods of worship: Old Testament, like King David dancing before the Lord and Moses' sister Miriam dancing and praising God; New Testament in its song, witness, and sermon.

To see these beautiful young people in their traditional Korean costumes beautifully express their devotion is not only a memorable cultural experience, but a penetrating spiritual happening as well.

Of course, Colonel Pak himself is a rare vessel through which God's word and spirit so beautifully flow. His internal struggle and suffering, his intensive search for truth, and his beautiful humility makes him a

winsome and commanding spokesman for God. I predict that the Celebration of Life as a medium will be copied, but I am positive it will never be surpassed.



Celebration of Life Staff: Left to right: Terry Walton, workshop lecturer; Sally Brownlee, reporter; Mark Nilson, technical crew; Judy Green, administrative assistant; Linda Marchant, media director; Susan Finnegan, workshop staff; Michael Leone, tour director; Neil Salonen, deputy director general and workshop director; Dan Bozarth, technical crew; Kris Bick, secretary; William Torrey (visiting); Marc Lee, workshop staff; Gil Fox, master of ceremonies; Michael Richardson, technical crew.

Col. Pak certainly serves the Unification Church in one very dramatic sense. He forever erases any possibility of anyone thinking that Reverend Moon or the Unification Church, or any of its followers are anything less than New Testament Christians. His Christ-centered message is without equal.

The New Hope Singers as always lift the audience with their enthusiastic and musical excellence. Certainly, they are the embodiment of the word enthusiasm -- "en Theos" -- in God. They fulfill their name, for it is difficult to imagine anyone hearing them without coming away filled with hope.

I certainly would be amiss if I did not mention the witness of Marion Dougherty [Porter]. I do not know if the Unification Church has ordination for women or not, but she certainly is ordained of the Spirit. She did a flawless job of bringing to the audience the message of the birth and life of Reverend Sun Myung Moon, the founder and inspiration of the Unification Church, and a great personal testimony.

I want also to recognize the poise, beauty, and ability of Miss Na Kyung Pak, Col. Pak's talented daughter. The difficult role of introducing a man of Col. Pak's caliber would be impossible for one of less caliber. She not only does a good job at communicating some of this good man's greatness, but also surrounds the presentation with her own beautiful spirit.



Marion Dougherty [Porter]

A new star, I think, is seen on the horizon in the person of Gil Fox, the Master of ceremonies. His manner of speaking, his stage presence and obvious commitment communicate to everyone in the audience the excitement and drama that is to follow. We congratulate him on a job well done.

There is little doubt that the only way one can fully understand the Celebration of Life is to attend and experience it personally. Each night the crowd grew -- the excitement and drama grew and seemed to explode into a rocket of soft spiritual interaction in the reception to follow each evening.

The last night's attendance was almost twice the first night's crowd. In three days the crowd doubled -- that speaks best for the quality of each night.



Col. Pak, Reverend Moon and Randy Rimmel rejoice at the opening of the Celebration of Life in Oakland.

As Col. Pak would say, "Therefore," it was great. Some 77 persons signed up for the workshop. Thirty-seven accepted Christ and many will return to their churches filled with a new vision of what living the Christ-like life really means.

It was my happy opportunity to be a principal speaker at the workshop that followed the Celebration of Life. It too was beyond my expectation. Joy, study, play, songs, prayer, and new life for many came in those 48 hours. All the members of the Unification Church can be proud of this new, exciting, and productive experiment.

Reverend Moon has not only "another star in his crown" as the old fellows in North Carolina used to say, he has another star with both feet on the ground-and his head in the "clouds of heaven" -- Col. Bo Hi Pak, God's Colonel!