

Blessing '98

Thy Will is Done on Earth as in Heaven

by Richard L. Lewis
—Ossining, NY

Blessing '98 was held at Madison Square Garden June 13, and was a great victory on the physical and spiritual levels.

Once again, the area around MSG and the New Yorker Hotel was awash with brides and grooms as they gathered for the first of the two Blessings totaling 360 million people.

As 523 buses arrived from near and far, the arena rapidly filled with an estimated 20,000 people. Everyone received a package which included a Blessing shawl for everyone to wear around their shoulders. The weather was very accommodating: before the event it was dry, after the event there was a little drizzle but nothing too dampening, while during the event—unnoticed by us in our sealed in “ark”—there was a torrential down-pour and savage thunderstorm going on outside.

Inside the hall sparked with spiritual energy as the 2,000-voice choir—with representatives from 77 churches—sang out in welcome.

There were 2,824 couples matched for this Blessing. This includes 65 second-generation couples. On the floor of the arena, the recently-matched couples were arrayed. In front of them was a vast red-carpeted



NEW FUTURE PHOTO

stage with “Blessing '98: The First Stage in the World-wide Blessing of 360 Million Couples” emblazoned across the top. On either side were jumbotrons upon which the activity on the stage was projected.

As people settled into their seats, the lights dimmed and a soloist and chorus gave a magnificent rendition of “Amazing Grace”. Following was a spirited rendition of the Hallelujah chorus. And this was all the rehearsal before the program started!

By 9:45am the stadium was packed and an air of expectancy

descended as the choir took a break before the event started at 10am.

The program was in three main sections: the Pro-Family Rally, the Blessing itself, and the entertainment.

Pro-Family Rally

At 10am, Larry Moffitt took to the stage and introduced the emcee for the first section, Rev. Dennis Dillon, publisher of *The New York Christian Times*. Before the singing of the National Anthem by Brooklyn's Nelise Larose he had the assembly roar out “Blessing '98!” three times.

The invocation was given jointly by Rev. Dr. . Carmen Velasquez of the Bronx.

The first speaker for the Pro-Family Rally was Pentecostal pastor Rev. Jesse Edwards of Philadelphia. He spoke of the fall of Rome and the necessity for restoration of the family by “searching for the living God.” He declared, in closing, that he was “thrilled with what God is doing here today.”

Rev. Dillon announced the “Blessing '98 Family Awards” honoring individuals who have shown outstanding leadership in their churches and communities, affirming true family values. Rev. Joong Hyun Pak presented the awards and a commemorative plaque to: Rev. Betty Neal, Rev. Dr. Preston Washington, Sr., Pastor Constance Bansa, Dr. Edward Harris (in absentia), Mr. & Mrs. Julio Betancourt, Dr. & Mrs. Gonzalo Velez, Mr. & Mrs. Hugo Humire, Rev. & Mrs. Henry T. Wells, Rev. Dr. Carmen Velasquez, Ms. Debra Nicholson, Bishop David Billings, III, Minister Benjamin Mohammed, Rev. Dr. Amos Waller, Imam Abu Talib, Dr. Lucinda Elizabeth Malone (in absentia), Mrs. Udeen Watson and Ms. Pamela Herman.

The stadium darkened and a video message of

see **BLESSING** on page 14



FOUNDER'S DISCOURSE ON UNIFICATIONISM

This is from an impromptu speech delivered to the participants in WCSF 1998 and other invited guests at the closing banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, NYC, June 13, 1998. The interpreter was by Rev. Peter Kim and these unofficial notes were taken by Dr. Tyler Hendricks.

The concept of the new world is the world of peace and unification, the Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven, amen.

No matter how much we want the Kingdom of God, if God doesn't want it, it won't come. But if God wants it, then it will appear even if we don't want it. At today's event, the first stage of the 360 million couples blessing, you witnessed something you may have thought was strange. Confucius becoming married? It must be a riddle to you. Also Mohammed, Socrates and Buddha. They each married a lady from an enemy race. It seems strange, doesn't it?

Can you imagine bringing Adam and Eve to the earth and marrying them? Who would officiate? Rev. Moon, the founder of the Unification Church? Who is Rev. Moon? A normal wedding ceremony involves your family and close respected people. What position has Rev. Moon to qualify him to do their wedding? It is True Parents' position. It is eternal, unchanging. All humankind and God praise it. How amazing is this number one position. No matter how much Buddha and the other saints may be respected, they carry the fallen blood lineage. True Parents are the only ones to have the right and authority to cut off the satanic blood lineage. So True Parents can liberate them to be able to work for God.

This world and the spirit world are hell; they are not peaceful. So real True Parents must become the center, based on real, absolute truth that humankind can understand and follow, and God also follows. God could not interfere in Adam and Eve's fallen act, and He cannot give the blessing to you. God hates the place of the fall, so He cannot involve Himself in it. It is Satan's territory. In history, Satan destroyed Adam and Eve and their family. Therefore, from that point, Satan developed his reign from the individual to world level. So all the decadence of this world, homosexuality, free sex, lesbianism, is what Satan uses to challenge God. Our decadence becomes Satan's basis to claim authority to rule the world.

Because of the fall, all the life, love, lineage and conscience became false. We have inherited it for 6,000 years. So even Satan cannot connive anymore decadence or filth. Also God cannot touch this filth. So neither have anything to do with the world. So who can lift up this world? Only True Parents. Who can deal with those who deny God? True Parents can tear down the decadence and denial and clean it up. So this is a time of great happiness.

I want to discuss the formula which God has applied in the restoration providence. Adam and Eve's family, God's original ideal, was destroyed. He wanted them to grow up so that He could marry them. But they fell, and God could not interfere in their marriage or family. Then, between their children, there was bloodshed. And He could not interfere there either. Theirs

became Satan's house. Could God destroy the world He had created? No, so He had to find a way to restore the satanic family.

God, as the Creator, is the owner of the cosmos. So Satan's opposition notwithstanding, if God gains the basis to claim one human being, Satan has to give him up sooner or later. God's love and children had become Satan's love and children. With everything satanic, including the couple's love, children and house, were their offspring godly or satanic? They were satanic, internally, and this was expressed in external battles. That's how we were sown from the original family.

So in the last days, we see the same phenomena. Conflict between parents and children, husband and wife, brothers and sisters. The world is a battlefield. Of the dignitaries here, when you look at your family, do any of you have absolute, God-centered families? Have you seen any absolutely God-centered parents, husband and wife, brothers and sisters? No, they all are fighting. Do you have such a family, no matter how famous you are? What is your answer?

God still has a right to His children, although they belong to Satan. That is the problem. The order has to be reversed. The up went down, and now the down must go up. A 180 degrees different direction has to come about. How? Centering on Adam's family, God could not take the parents, because they fell. So God waited for their children. Cain represented the more evil side, and the younger, Abel, was the less evil side. So God worked through the second son. Abel represented the fruit of Eve's second love [after she had eaten the fruit with the serpent, which was her first relationship, she gave the fruit to Adam, her rightful husband, and that was her second relationship, a relatively good one]. So God could claim the second son, allowing Satan his claim on the elder son.

The formula to restore this, then, was to give up the elder and work through the younger, Abel, in conjunction with his mother Eve. Then they together would restore the elder son, then the three, the wife, elder son and younger son, would restore the father, Adam.

In the original creation, God had absolute faith, love and obedience. He had faith to begin the creation. He invested absolute love in the creation and He maintained absolute obedience to the principle of creation. Thereby were all things created. Absolute faith, love and obedience are the basis for the creation. Everything exists in a pair system. With God as subject of absolute faith, love and obedience, humankind should be the object of absolute faith, love and obedience to God. This is the basis for the subject-object relationship between God and humankind; the base is absolute faith, love and obedience. On that basis, absolute union can take place.

Can any of you claim to have an absolute subject? The fallen world has no absolute subject. No matter how famous you are, you are not absolute. The more famous, the more trouble you have. Do you know God? People say God is dead, that there is no God. The brightest of our young people follow that kind of teaching. They are doomed.

Let Us Build

God's formula is to create an absolute subject and absolute object, centered on absolute faith, love and obedience. "Absolute" means that your senses and entire body become absolute, all the way to the sexual love for the opposite sex. You have an "absolute body." True love, true faith, love and obedience permeate all parts of your body with its 400 billion cells. The center of absoluteness is love. This love can unite father and children, man and woman, with man the absolute subject representing God, and woman below. So man is convex, woman is concave. How can you make oneness? Man and woman combine in one through the energy of love vertically coming down and manifesting horizontally. Fallen people cannot make absolute oneness in love.

God lost the parents, the elder son and the entire family. God let Satan have everything except for the younger son.

So there was this big problem at the beginning of history. The elder killed the younger. How did God feel? Pain, but He had to overcome the agony and start the providence of restoration. As a parent who loses his only child, God was suffering and crying. Adam and Eve were the only begotten son and daughter after billions of years of waiting. Adam was the king's son. Think of how much sorrow God felt. God can't even explain it. Such a miserable God. When you realize this, you will invest all your power to lift up your nation and world. Determine your mind at this gathering. Go back to that original human fall, participate in it and determine in your mind to have absolute faith, love and obedience, and to go back to your country and save the family and tribe in your country. Then God will appear.

Do you want that? Can you do it? Start from here. Reach the entire world, every nation, following your conscience.

God has been waiting for thousands of years. We need to make our parents king and queen. Now I am teaching the meaning of the family base, tribal base, national base, and so forth, the True Parents' mission. Without that foundation, you cannot go to God's throne. Is it a miserable situation or a happy one? No one can understand the meaning. So how can I liberate this world from the satanic atmosphere? They don't know absolute God and absolute True Parents. It is a serious problem.

God is crying, searching for Abel whom He can take. When God was crying for Abel, the satanic Cain had already killed Abel. Then God found the third son, Seth. By

that time, Satan had already established his foundation in Adam's family and tribe. God barely started with one son, Seth, and Satan even wanted to kill Seth. Satan claimed the tribal foundation, so he thought it easy to get rid of the little brother who was forgotten back on the individual level. How miserable was God's situation.

To understand what is going on in the world, we need to understand both God's and Satan's strategies. When Seth offered absolute faith, love and obedience to God, Satan could not touch him. But when Seth was young, Adam and Eve should have protected him with absolute faith, love and obedience. Adam and Eve stood on the foundation of God's absolute faith, love and obedience invested in them. So they could offer it to Seth who was chosen by God. If any of you here become God's children with absolute faith, love and obedience, it will be a tremendous blessing of God. God is the absolute subject, and you can be the absolute object and build the absolute foundation of faith, love and obedience, and continue to expand it to the world.

Can you manage your life that way? That kind of family is the cornerstone for the world of peace. There is no one who does not want absolute parents, husband or wife, and children. Everyone agrees with this. So if you follow this, you will have the absolute right to go to Heaven.

The family structure is parents, husband and wife, and children. But no one has an absolute standard in these three levels. If you don't, you are doomed to go to Hell. Is it clear? If your life does

C A L E N D A R

JUNE

- 4 72 Couples' Blessing (1962)
- 11 Young Jin Nim's 20th Birthday
- 13 39 Couples' Blessing (1981)
- 14 Jeung Jin Nim's 16th Birthday (1982)
- 23 Day of One Heart (1989)

JULY

- 1 2075 Couples' Blessing (1982)
- DECLARATION DAY OF GOD'S ETERNAL BLESSING (1991)
- 24 124 Couples' Blessing (1963)

AUGUST

- 1 Day of Returning to the Home Country (1993)
- 5 Kook Jin Nim's 28th Birthday
- 8 Sun Jin Nim's 22nd Birthday
- 16 Total Victory Day (1985)
- 20 Declaration of the Providential Age of Salvation by Love (1989)
- 25 30,000 Couples' Blessing (1992)
- 360,000 Couples' Blessing (1995)
- 28 DECLARATION OF THE REALM OF THE COSMIC SABBATH FOR PARENTS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH (1997)
- 31 Day of the Settlement of 8 Stages (1989)

FOUNDER'S DISCOURSE ON UNIFICATIONISM

a New World

not pass this formula course, you have no choice but to go to Hell. You may feel bad hearing this, but if you are not sure you meet this standard, in truth you should repent at the cost of your life. Then you will find the new way.

The absolute family is the family that lives for others. That is an absolute family. If you build it, Satan cannot touch you. There are three points critical to avoiding Satan: 1. Build an absolute family; 2. Live for the sake of others; 3. Understand God's and Satan's strategy. God's strategy is to be hit first and in the end, gain everything. Satan's to strike first, but in the end lose everything. So to follow God's strategy, you are attacked and hit although you are innocent. Then in the end you will gain your what you lost, plus interest from Satan.

God Himself has practiced this life. He applied absolute faith, love and obedience, and life for others, and His strategy of being hit and then gaining in the end. Only True Parents, and no one else, knew this formula. True Parents revealed these three secrets. So we must learn from and follow True Parents' footsteps. If you understand them, will you not make Satan surrender?

The problem is that you do not know this. If you know, then your human ambition will become a good thing. Then the world will be reborn and the enemy will be overcome. True Parents are on the earth creating this movement in 190 nations. At this time, Satan will disappear and God will feel happiness and freedom. We are liberating the true king, how wonderful.

Do you want to live in such a place? Then you must jump, directly up, 90 degrees, with God's true love propelling you from under your chair. You will become God's number one begotten son and daughter, embraced by God, filling every direction, making you a new creature with God's creative power. This brings the restoration of children. Then God will open up Satan's world and the Kingdom of Heaven. Opening Satan's world includes forgiving the most evil people such as Lenin, Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, all the worst men who appeared in history. Centering on True Parents, we will finally open the gate to the Kingdom of Heaven. Behind us are all humankind's families, tribes and nations, centered on absolute faith, love and obedience. No Satan can follow this way.

All my life, I have dealt with the world's high level persecution. People developed something they call deprogramming, trying to break down the faith of those who believe these things. Who would not feel anger? But gathering in this room, everything is praise; there are no enemies here. This one man, Rev. Moon, is above Satan's world. I can understand the persecution's value. It happens on all the different levels. But the persecutors on each level have collapsed by now.

Fifty years ago I was chased into the wilderness, and everything was lost. Then Korea divided into two, Satan's side and God's side. The west and east of the world divided also. Rev. Moon had to separate good from evil on the

individual base, family base, and on. How? Through the blessing of marriage, over every boundary, every race, every nation and religion. All the power that separates us cannot compare with the love power that unites husband and wife. All people naturally respond to those who give God's true love. This builds God-centered families, tribes and nations.

We need liberation from the struggle of mind and body, man and woman, family and family, tribe and tribe, and so on. Struggle results from satanic love, selfish love. How can God get down to the earth, in a way such that Satan cannot accuse? We ourselves have to separate from Satan's selfish love.

The tragedy of history began in Adam's family with Cain's murder of Abel. Just as Cain dominated Abel, human history shows that Satan is always one step ahead of God, taking humanity away. So all religions teach us to separate from the world. Rev. Moon's teaching also is to practice absolute faith, love and obedience, which issues in absolute service, life for the sake of others. In this formula course of God, whenever God secured a certain level, Satan was always one step ahead. Therefore Satan always has power to destroy God's foundation. When Rev. Moon started this ministry in 1945, it could have been completed in seven years. But Satan struck, and Rev. Moon sacrificed his family, his church, everything he had, and went into the wilderness.

I never gave up, but continuously worked to establish a foundation step by step. Now the next level I am working on is that of the spirit world. Spirit world still opposes Rev. Moon. Nonetheless, when all humankind receives the blessing, the spirit world will change.

Neither God nor Satan can touch the world. Satan has done all the damage he can, producing the decadence, and it is not God's responsibility but man's the clean it up. Thus when True Parents give everyone the blessing, True Parents will be the true king of all blessed families. This is logical. The lost elder sonship should be restored on every level, from the family and nation to the world and cosmos. The third Adam means the second advent, descending

to the Christian world. The first Adam fell, the second, Jesus, was rejected of men who did not know who he was. Now Rev. Moon is blessing the world, and no sovereignty can come against me. The only way is the revolution created by True Parents. Then God's blessing of the family, nation, physical world and spirit world will bring true freedom.

Only Rev. Moon can cut off the selfish blood lineage by giving God's blessing and connecting to God's love, life and lineage. After the blessing, Satan cannot make a real relationship with

blue water. Everyone likes blue eyes. Some of you whites are descended from pirates, especially the English. What do you have to be proud of?

Oriental's ancestors were farmers and always longed for rain from heaven. So you sat and prayed all the time. That's why the four major saints came from Asia. They sat a long time and prayed to God. Not eating animals, they ate fruit and vegetables.

In the tropics, the sun turns your skin black. Blacks have short, big noses, because a long nose makes hot air even hotter. But Asians have round noses.

NEW FUTURE PHOTO



After the Farewell Banquet for the WCSF at the Intercontinental Hotel, NYC

you. You are part of the Kingdom of Heaven, and Satan is in a completely separate place. You have to know clearly about the spirit world. Today you received Dr. Lee's book. I sent him to spirit world to check on that reality. You can read it. It is clear about subject and object connecting to God's original power. How wonderful it is to be blessed with this understanding. Are you connected to the Unification Church? Since you received my message, if you have not received the blessing, please do so before you return home. Don't go to spirit world without it. I am speaking so clearly, in the spirit world they will ask you how you could have rejected the blessing.

In Rev. Moon's eyes there are no differences among you. If it doesn't work with you, I will develop my own organization of nations. White people representing polar bears, so they have long and deep noses, to handle the cold air. And high blue eyes, because everything in the north is white and they long for

They are shaped to adjust to the climate. God created all living beings to be able to adjust to the climate. For example, I catch a certain kind of fish in South America. In the water it is brown or yellow, but within five minutes on the land, the skin turns black. So the practice of discrimination based upon skin color is the most evil you can do.

Is Rev. Moon bad or good? Do you like Rev. Moon or not? Everyone does, of all races, because of true love that is beyond skin color. True love is colorblind. Those who do not agree will find themselves in violation of heavenly law when they join the spirit world. All are the same in the sight of God. Africans in America were put down and persecuted. So they call whites, WASPs. There was always conflict. Does God accept the term, WASP? God lives for others even when dealing with Satan, according to His own principle. When I blessed

the four saints, no one spoke against it, because the spirit world helped everyone understand it. Did anyone oppose it? No one. Rev. Moon is one individual who has faced opposition from the entire order of the world. He is accused of kidnapping and brainwashing. Their criticism was based on my advising their adult children as to marriage, in their stead. But is Rev. Moon on God's side or Satan's?

If I am true to God, then those who oppose are not acting in their offspring's best interest. Hence, even through they would reject being called poor parents, they are. All the families in the world opposed Rev. Moon for marrying the young people. But Rev. Moon has done a good thing for God and humankind. Is it true?

Do you think it was good to forgive all those historical evil figures, such as Marx, Lenin, Stalin, and the Korean Christians? It is to connect Kingdom of Heaven on earth and in heaven. I see clear unity among all of you here.

Please spread true family values in your media in each nation when you return home. ❖



**REV. JOONG
HYUN PAK**

Rev. Pak is the Continental Director of the Church in North America.

This is taken from a talk given at Belvedere on June 21, 1998.

We brought tremendous historical victory at Madison Square Garden June 13. For that we can be eternally grateful to God and True Parents. But that victory is not yet complete, for we will now continue to work zealously to fulfill the remainder of the 360 million couples. We will bring a total of 240 million couples by the time of the second stage Blessing, which will take place February 3, 1999. We can even go far beyond that number, which is Heaven's expectation.

When we think of the number '120,000,000' it is a very big number—seemingly impossible to reach—and yet this is the victorious number we reached. If we counted such a number on our own hands, we probably would not have enough years left in our life to complete it! To God goes all the glory!

Victory Accomplished

We can all be happy that we fulfilled this goal and our First and Second Generations can be proud that we worked together to accomplish this. I have to give all the appreciation at this time to God, who is invisible, and to True Parents, who are visible, for they are the Trinity that brought victory at Madison Square Garden. You and I joined together and worked hard for six months to achieve this success, but actually without God and True Parents bringing a new and vitalizing spiritual atmosphere in which we could work, would we have accomplished this so easily? It would have been much more difficult.

Blessing '98

It was God who created humankind in the beginning, and since the time that Adam and Eve fell, God has been the One who decided how the indemnity was going to be paid and how humankind could be brought from Satan's side back to God's side. We have paid indemnity down through the ages, even through the World Wars I and II. People haven't known why they suffered, why they received persecution, why they died. We have gone through dark history. We ourselves have created that dark history, rejecting and delaying God's blessings. At various times, God has sent that tiny "Seed of Life." It is God who decides when and how to send the Messiah, the True Parents.

Let us now look into the significance of Blessing '98, going over some key points. One thousand five hundred Christian churches worked together with us for the Blessing. Prior to MSG

The Victory of Blessing '98

5,000 Christian ministers received the Blessing.

The 2,000-voice interchurch choir at MSG came from a total of 77 Christian churches. I asked various people if they had heard of such a large choir before and all have told me they had not, especially one representing so many different churches. Definitely, this was different. To be there in the Garden in person and hear that many voices resounding the *Hallelujeh Chorus* at the end of the ceremony was quite dramatic.

The staff at Madison Square Garden was completely supportive, going even beyond their usual duties to accommodate our participants.

Bestow Blessings

The way the videos were displayed for the activities and lands of the various religions represented on stage at the Blessing showed good heart and good production. That part was very impressive. All the representative religious leaders showed respect for True Father and True Mother. It was very significant to have Judaism so well represented, along with Christianity (Protestant and Catholic), Islam and others.

Participants experienced satisfaction, and our members felt pride and joy and a sense of victory at Blessing '98. I asked my daughter, Soon Hwa, who had brought five of her high school

well! We can use it!"

Historical Saints Blessed

There are many reasons we have to be thankful for the famous 'Madison Square Garden.' True Father, of course, gave a great speech there in 1974, as well as the famous 2,075-couple Blessing in 1982. And now, at this 120 million-couple Blessing, True Father blessed historical figures in the spiritual world as well as those in the physical world. If indeed, Madison Square Garden seemed like Noah's Ark that day to some participants, then we can say that "Noah was Blessed in his Ark" because he was among those who received the Blessing!

The two worlds have now become

one. As time goes on, more and more we will come to understand the reality of it. The world is now becoming educated through the *Hoon Dok Hae* readings. After all, St. Paul got one glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven and it kept him going for many, many years—with zeal and expectation!

The two worlds will be working together now to bring in the Kingdom. People working for God on the Earth will not be struggling so much to bring results. What we call "miracles" will be everyday, natural occurrences. When we think and when we pray, answers will come quickly and clearly. There are so many things we can look forward to now. Our own spirit will begin to soar to heights we never realized could happen.

Nevertheless, we, in our physical bodies, must do the work for God on the Earth. We must be God's voice, His hands and His feet and go out to witness and pre-bless everyone.

Even though we went far over the 120 million-couple goal (143 million couples to be more exact), still we must bring total victory for the 360 million Blessing. We must feel the urgency.

"I Wish I Had Met You People Before My Divorce"

For example, to tell you another 'cameraman story' from Madison Square Garden: One fellow was lamenting to one of our members "I wish I had met you people before my divorce went through—things might have been different." We must seriously move ahead to save marriages and save families. Many people are floundering aimlessly about, waiting for substantial direction for their lives and waiting for True Love.

Tribal Messiahs, please become active if you have not already become so. Don't let this crucial time in history pass you by. And bring up your children in the strict tradition so that they go the heavenly way. They will thank you for it. Who represents the Godhead in the family? The grandparents. If children understand the position of their grandparents, there will be more harmony and love in the family. This is the best protection for the children. The grandparents are in the position

see **VICTORY** on page 5



NYPD Escorts True Parents

The New York City Police Department was cooperative and supportive as well. They provided a presidential-level police escort for True Parents. They expressed appreciation for our good organization in unloading and reloading 520 buses.

They had not thought it was possible until they witnessed our good planning efforts. In fact, they thought that the movement of 150 buses of a previous group was commendable until they saw what we accomplished with our 520 buses!

We can credit God with the weather. We have seen evidence in times past how God seemingly controlled the weather at other events. June 13 was no exception. The rain started and stopped at just the right times that Saturday. It stopped as we entered and stopped as we departed. Before and in-between it rained! Someone said, "Inside MSG was Noah's Ark, outside was judgment!" The heavenly festival going on inside was peaceful and joyful. There was the feeling that God conducted everything. We have to deeply appreciate God and True Parents. God's careful and thoughtful orchestration, down to the smallest detail, is humbling.

Eight Religious Representatives

classmates, "What kind of experience did your friends have?" "They were so inspired," my daughter replied. As the six of them returned to their homes in the Jeep Cherokee in which they were all riding, some of the parents checked over the program and the materials in their packets they had received at MSG. The parents were impressed as their daughters explained the beauty and value of our wedding ceremony.

When we think of our young people today we realize how few wedding ceremonies there are. Two people meet, live together for awhile, then go their separate ways when they tire of each other. As one media person observed, "There are so few American young people having weddings, but so many having funerals or attending funerals! Drug over-doses, suicides, etc."

There is one humorous episode I will share with you that occurred prior to the Blessing on the premises of Madison Square Garden between a couple of our members and the media camera crew. Two members decided to go around the arena and sanctify it with Holy Salt. The television satellite crew were watching and asked them what they were doing. When they told them they were sanctifying the place, the cameramen said, "Please include us, please salt us too! And our cameras as

CORRECTION
True Father said Germany will remain a providential nation, not replaced by Uruguay as shown on a chart last month.

Blessing in Bratislava Slovakia

by Milos Klas—Bratislava, Slovakia

I would like to share with you about the Blessing event in Bratislava, Slovakia.

I have to start little bit before the event itself. Few days before June 13 the Catholic church started quite strong attack. The Bishops Conference made a statement saying UC is not a Christian church, not a partner for dialogue and is hiding behind various federations—WFWP, FFWPU—and the only purpose of their activities is get everybody into the Moon's family and under his theocracy.

We made the press conference where about 10 journalist came but there was not much reported about it. We also made our statement as an answer to the statement of Catholic Bishops Conference but not a single newspaper reported about it. Then in the last two days two of the biggest newspapers brought small announcement about the event without any commentary or negativity—even saying the government members, the MPs and representatives of all churches are invited to the event. I would say it was quite positive.

The hall where our event was to be held has a capacity around 4500 people. The weather on Saturday was really bad—strong wind and rain. People started to come to the hall already more than one hour before the event. First, there were members and guests coming from other European nations. Buses from all over Europe and many cars. Despite few negative people distributing a weekly magazine with very negative article for free in front of the hall, there were altogether round 3000 people in the hall. The program started at 4.30 p.m., half an hour before satellite transmission, with the Holy Wine Ceremony for newly matched couples—62 of them were present. All other couples were invited to take part in this ceremony—there were several hundreds of previously married couples

present. Even all guests could participate because we gave Holy Nectar capsule to everybody at the entrance to the hall. We finished the ceremony with the first pictures from New York.

The last Satan's attack came few minutes before satellite transmission started. The police appeared in front of the hall saying there was a bomb threat—somebody called to one news-

responsibility for not clearing the hall. Our members and also the responsible lady from the hall could persuade him we have been in the hall since previous day controlling everything so nobody could come in and put the bomb there. Finally police stayed in the hall for protection. They liked to stay because of weather outside and warm dinner boxes they received. The

True Mother and one time True Father speaking in Prague then the capitol of the country and now capitol of Czech Republic. So we had to fight for the first time for such an event. I can say that the Blessing festival was really successful even the hall was not filled completely. In Europe we never had such big number of audience until now. We could report to Rev. Kwak about this victory already during the entertainment program.

The entertainment started few minutes after satellite transmission was over and people enjoyed their dinner boxes. We had many artists from all over Europe performing for round 4 hours. Many people stayed until end—almost midnight—dancing and singing. Monday, only two newspapers reported about the event. Short articles with some doubts about the event and some old rumors. But nothing big.

This victory was possible through very hard work and many conditions of not so many members in Slovakia and in the last two weeks also members from other European nations who came to help with the mobilization—selling tickets and inviting people. With the strong support of European president Kwang Kee Sa, who was together with his wife the officiator in Blessing ceremony in Bratislava,

regional coordinator for East Europe Rev. Shin, European HQ staff and many others. Thank you very much to all of them. Above all the strong support of Heavenly Father and True Parents hard life and work made this event victorious.

Thank you also to all of you praying, laying conditions and making efforts to bring the victory all over the world with the Blessing '98. ❖



Members of the True Family at Blessing '98

paper that there is a bomb in the hall which will explode at 5.00 p.m.—when satellite transmission should start. After some discussion we could persuade the police not to clear the hall. It was really God working in this situation. The officers of two police groups were fighting each other—one who was commanding a special group insisted to clear the hall and the other who was coming first to the hall said it was already after five and nothing happened until now so he will take the

ceremony could continue without anybody of the guests realizing there was such critical situation.

With the satellite transmission—introducing world religions—also last few opponents who could make it into the hall became silent. This part of program made great impression and everyone enjoyed the whole ceremony. Adding to the whole story—you have to know that this was the first event at such a level in Slovakia. Before—in former Czechoslovakia—there was two times

VICTORY from page 4

to educate and give the greatest love to the grandchildren. Good spiritual life and tradition is the best gift we can give to our children, not soft living and "the best of everything."

Blessing '98 was a Cosmic Event

True Father spent many days in prayer with God seeking guidance concerning the pardon and liberation of even those in the realms of Hell. Many of those liberated had been enemies of God, causing much pain and suffering to the sons and daughters of God down through history, including recent years. In all the realms in the spiritual world, the Blessing was extended. Blessing '98 on June 13 was a great day of Liberation and Celebration for Heaven and Earth. The heart of God and True Parents is bigger than anything we can imagine. It will be years before the world in general understands just what a Cosmic event transpired on that day.

From the Hoon Dok Hae scripture book *Blessing and Ideal Family* we

read the following words:

The Blessing, centering on God, is the meeting place of the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth and in Heaven.... The 66 books of the Bible are not scattered; they are organized by the word "Blessing." (vol. 1, pt. 1, pp. 242-43)

The value of the Blessing is the door which opens the solution of thousands of years of searching.

Blessing '98 opened the doors of Hell, breaking down all human barriers—racial barriers, religious barriers, generation barriers, denominational barriers, all barriers. We welcome that.

After two thousand years, Jesus must be happy to have his dreams fulfilled. True Father has proclaimed America "Elder Son nation." America is the bride nation because Jesus Christ and Christianity are established here. America is the Christian center of the world. This nation must serve the world with a renewed love and a renewed seriousness.

I want to express deep appreciation to each of you for your hard work and donations in bring-

ing about our victory for God and True Parents. Especially to those who mobilized to New York from all across the country, serving day and night for 40 days, 21 days, 7 days. And to everyone everywhere, we needed each and

everyone to bring this offering to Heaven.

Brothers and Sisters in North America, let us now march forward with a renewed spirit of zeal and excitement to accomplish Blessing '99. ❖

Editor's Note:

This month's issue contains two articles that include material about the spirit world. Both treat spirit world in rather familiar terms. One, the cover story, relates about the marriage blessing of spirit persons. The second is an account of the work with spirit world taking place at Chung Pyung Lake. While many people have experiences of spirit world by which to interpret these articles, many do not have such experiences and may wonder at them. The editor offers the following comment for those of the latter group:

While taking spirit world very seriously, Unificationist ideology is firmly planted on earth, following Jesus' saying that "what is bound on earth is bound in heaven." God created the earth and

its fullness for His glory and our joy and happiness; He will not destroy it and the ultimate human fulfillment is based upon our life on earth.

Nonetheless, we do live beyond the physical life. The problems we fail to resolve on the earth we carry to the spirit world. It is only wise for us to do all we can on earth to solve the problems that we may encounter in the next life.

The Divine Principle states, "During the period when the providence of restoration is to be completed after the Second Coming of Christ, God will complete the cosmic foundation for the Messiah by working throughout heaven and earth based on the Completed Testament Word." (*Exposition of the Divine Principle*, p. 185) This indicates that from the 1950s, it was clear that Reverend Moon's work would ultimately relate directly to spirit world. Therefore, what is taking place now should come as no surprise.

Blessing '98 in Chicago

by B. Russell Sucharoff—Chicago, IL

At a recent conference, the Reverend Dr. Samuel Bradford, pastor of the Shiloh AME Church in East St. Louis gave an incredible testimony. Pastor Bradford stated that he became all choked up when he realized that God had sent a Korean missionary to America in order to save the American family. Rev. Bradford stated, "I thank God for a man such as Rev. Moon. God gave him the plan to call us to repentance; to call the family to get back together; and to call all races to come together." Rev. Bradford is a graduate of the Korean ICC trips from over 10 years ago. And he is also a graduate of the persecution when one's soul is put to the fire for working hand in hand with that Korean missionary.

On June 12th, Pastor Bradford boarded a plane in the early morning hours in East St. Louis to join over 120 ministers from Chicago in order to attend the Blessing ceremony at Madison Square Garden. It was to be the third event in a 6 month period including the RFK Blessing and True Mother's speech in Chicago.

In the interim Chicago also hosted a ministerial banquet at which Rev. Joong Hyun Pak addressed over 1000 participants of the RFK Blessing and for the past 2 months our members have been visiting their adopted churches nearly every Sunday in preparation for coming to Madison Square Garden.

As a result, 14 busses full of inspired and excited church members set out from Chicago on Thursday night and headed straight for the Statue of Liberty and Madison Square Garden.

One serious advance with the Christian Church providence in Chicago has been our members investment and

involvement with their adopted churches. Whereas in the past, our relationship was primarily and often almost exclusively with the Pastors and Ministers, ever since the Women's Conferences and True Family Values Conferences, more and more of the church elders, deacons and leaders have become involved in our conferences. As a result, we are really becoming part of the church congregation, rather than just an occasional visitor.

The mobilization for MSG was unique in many ways. Many of our churches were in the midst of their June celebrations—graduations, anniversaries, banquets and conventions. And most especially, while Rev. Ki Hun Kim's right hand man, the Rev. Michael Jenkins, had been called to travel with True

blessed couple, Dwayne and June Luckett. On the Monday night before MSG the Smothers family brought their church choir and stirred up our Ashland Church Center like never before. They had our members shouting "hallelujah" and "Praise the Lord" and singing "Get-Get-get-get on the Lord's Side" while singing in the aisles.

With this heavenly energy flowing and the incredible commitment of our couples to commit not only time and energy, but financial support—beyond the maximum required by God, we were able to send an inspired contingent to MSG for June 13th.

Upon our arrival in New York, we gathered at the Manhattan Center for a "Family-Summit Banquet" which lasted until nearly midnight. Our members filled nearly every square foot of the Manhattan Center where we were addressed both eloquently and powerfully by Dr. Hycel B. Taylor, renowned Pastor of Evanston, Illinois' Second Baptist Church. On Saturday, Dr. Tay-



Dr. Taylor at the Family Summit

diers in the army of Christ would express their personal, collective and historical heartistic perspective on man's relationship with God.

We were grateful that 2 of our Pastors and one youth Choir Director, Dr. Amos Waller, Pastor Constance Banza and Ms. Debra Nicholson were selected to receive 3 of the special service awards during the first phase of the Blessing Ceremony. After the presentation, they did not want to put the plaques down and they sat with the plaques on their laps for the remainder of the ceremony.

As a community we are grateful to the guidance and leadership of Rev. Pak who has invested so much in our Chicago Ministerial Community and to Rev. Ki Hun Kim who has totally committed himself to bringing victory for God on a national level. Our ministers are growing through every campaign and our community is coming ever closer together as we march forward toward the successful completion of the 360 million couples blessing.

Post Script

Yesterday was Father's Day and our community joyfully welcomed Rev. Ki Hun Kim back to Chicago. In the midst of the celebration, Rev. Kim delivered a very poignant message to the Chicago Community. He told us that God is so grateful for the sacrifice and suffering which we endured during the MSG campaign. For it is precisely on the foundation of this sacrifice and suffering that God was able to push the Providence forward.

Likewise, as the bus captains and campaign coordinators gathered together last week to share information and de-brief regarding the undertaking of bringing 14 buses filled with ministers and congregations to New York, a deep spirit of unity and harmony pervaded. Truly this undertaking has brought our community closer and closer together.

More than anything each campaign, each Providential program and each undertaking has combined to bring our Chicago Community that much more closer to becoming a True Family of God.

And it is with this heart that we will go forward this summer—forward toward the February, 1999 Blessing of 240 million couples—forward toward the completion of the 360 million couples Blessing and forward, continuing to get more and more involved with the Christian community in Chicago. ❖



Dr. Swanson with Rev. Kim and Mrs. Pak.

Mother during her 16 City campaign in April, Rev. Kim himself along with Mrs. Yukimi Lemont were now called to New York City to work with Rev. Pak directly. Thus, all the processes that we have practiced over the years were now called to be put into place. In other words, we were called to follow the Principle, not just the person.

Because of our church visitation schedule our community would meet every Monday night at our church. Two weeks before MSG we were addressed by Rev. Amos Waller, Rev. LeRoy Elliott and Rev. Johnny Dodd. This special experience where Rev. Waller called on each one of us to "tune-up" his spiritual life left us all recharged and ready to drive on to MSG. Likewise, Rev. Elliott challenged us by stating that if we filled our hearts with faith there would be no room for doubt to enter.

The following week's gathering centered on an old friend, the Rev. and Sister Bennie Smothers. Rev. Smothers had been adopted by a recently

members filled nearly every square foot of the Manhattan Center where we were addressed both eloquently and powerfully by Dr. Hycel B. Taylor, renowned Pastor of Evanston, Illinois' Second Baptist Church. On Saturday, Dr. Tay-



Pastor (with Dr. Banza) with her award

lor would offer a beautiful prayer at the Blessing Ceremony representing Protestant Christianity. Likewise, Dr. Paul Swanson, Professor Emeritus from Chicago's Lutheran School of Theology offered a scholarly and heartistic prayer as one of the religious leaders praying at the blessing ceremony. Dr. Swanson is a 15 year veteran of our Unification Conferences. He has attended CAUSA, ICC, Theological conferences at UTS, True Parents speeches in Chicago, True Family Values and the RFK blessing. I believe that each of these theological scholars and sol-

Blessing in Korea

The stadium in Seoul was packed. During the entertainment a few famous singers performed and one of them, after some swiny Latin-style songs, acknowledged his belief in True Parents. He had a fan club of wild-dancing youth off stage; apparently some of the brides and grooms too—they invited one couple to come up on stage and dance. He sang, the couple did a subdued version of the twist for maybe a third of the song, and a few elders (men only) shared the joyous scene.

Just before it came time to receive the broadcast from New York, thousands of blessed wives donned their holy robes and veil, filling almost the entire stadium with white and black—interspersed with various other colors too, of course, not every couple dressed for the blessing and not everyone was an already blessed couple. ❖

by Nina Makarova—Frankfurt
am Main, Germany

International Coalition for Religious Freedom Berlin ICRF Conference

From May 29 until 31 Berlin was host of the conference "Religious Freedom in Europe towards the New Millennium", co-sponsored by the International Coalition for Religious Freedom and the Washington Times Foundation. Although the time for preparation was extremely short, this third conference (after Washington and Tokyo) was very successful. It brought together 150 distinguished politicians, academics, religious leaders, human rights activists, lawyers and journalists from 52 nations. Among the speakers were member of the Russian Duma Galina Staravoitova, former Prime Minister of Ireland Albert Reynolds (one of the main initiators of the present Northern Irish Peace Accord), Congressman Charles Canady, chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution at the U.S. House of Representatives and one of the main architects of a proposed law on religious freedom.

Former Free Democrat politician Dr. Achim Rohde called the attitude of the German government towards religious minorities incomprehensible. He cited the example of Reverend Moon, who substantially contributed towards the victory of democratic values over communism, but is banned from entering the country. On the same theme, Prof. Cheryl Lau (Harvard University) expressed her astonishment over the German banning of Reverend Moon and viewed Germany's placing of Reverend Moon on the Shengen immigration "black list" as a misuse of the Shengen Treaty.

At the close of the conference a resolution was developed which is to be presented to leading figures in the political, scientific and religious worlds. ICRF President Bruce Casino, Executive Director Dan Fefferman, European Coordinator Mark Bramwell, Ms. Vicki Barros and Ms. Mary Rand of the ICRF, as well as all other staff members—many of them volunteers of the Euro-

pean Unification Church—worked very hard to make the conference function and served the guests, who were impressed by the excellent organization and the pleasant environment of the Maritim proArte Hotel, where the event took place.

Just the day before the conference (independently from it) six prominent professors sent the press a very interesting document, proclaiming that "an open society needs no ideological control." The government, they say, should give people the freedom of a spiritual search, even if it is connected with some risks for them. Only concrete criminal actions of the "sects", where there are such, should be punished by law. One of those professors is involved in the work of an Enquete (Inquiry) Commission, set up by the German Government to investigate so-called "sects and psychogroups". He wasn't satisfied with the politicians, not taking scientists' opinion seriously enough.

Originally creating such a Commission was a response to a growing controversy about new religious groups. It came to its pick in the case of Scientology, when the "sects" issue became a political one, affecting German-American relationship.

The Chairman of the Enquete Commission Mrs. Ortrun Schaetzle (Christian Democratic Party) was very much displeased by the "provocative" letter

of the professors, which, she thinks, was given to the public before the proper time, because the final report of the commission is about to be presented to the Bundestag. Their letter, sent to the media, caused a series of articles in German newspapers, bringing a new revelation into the country that "no danger comes from sects".

The Enquete Commission, namely Mrs. Schaetzle, had to immediately respond to this press attack. Its press-release from May 29 recognizes that "new religions and ideological groups and psychogroups are a response to the consequences of social changes". The work of the commission has revealed that only certain of these groups are laden with conflict and that no generalized statements on the whole spectrum of new religious ... and psychogroups can be made". Particularly, Bonn politicians are still not happy with the Scientology Church, which they consider not a religious group, but a "political extremist organization."

As a consequence, the Enquete Commission has decided to no longer use the term "sect". An essential result of the work of the Commission is to emphasize that the individual is not a "passive victim", but rather actively structures the

course of his membership. This aspect has not been taken into account enough in public discussion until now, says the press-release.

The whole story is much longer and has many interesting details, but summarizing, one can say the following. Honesty is still a big part of politics in Germany. The government had to tell the public the truth: "sects", new religious movements and psychogroups are not really dangerous for the public order. It had to recognize that fact, though there are many people in Germany, who have been profiting from an opposite point of view, which had been dominating the public opinion until now. Among those are journalists who made "sects" issue their "specialization", "professional sects-experts" and "sect-watchers", paid by the government and the politicians, who often try to use "hot" topics to influence the electorate.

An interesting coincidence: the last issue of the German magazine *Spiegel* (Nr.23) has a cover story, titled "The Inquisition: Tortures in the name of God. The Vatican opens its secret archives".

The rumors say that the Social Democrats wouldn't mind to use the sects issue for their election campaign. Their candidate for the Chancellor, Mr. Schroeder, presently Prime Minister of Niedersachsen, is seen by many as German Clinton (the big difference is that Schroeder got recently married, but for the forth time). His popularity is constantly growing. ♦



**COMMUNICATE WITH
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Blessing Ceremony in Uruguay

by Jesus Gonzalez—Montevideo, Uruguay

On Saturday June 13, 1998 three hundred people gathered in the Victoria Plaza Hotel in Montevideo to participate in the Blessing ceremony.

The ceremony began with welcoming remarks by M.C. Steven Boyd. The National Anthem was played and afterwards a brief explanation of the program of events was given. Immediately following the description of the program, Mr. Jesús González was introduced. He offered an explanation of the meaning of the Holy Wine Ceremony, the Blessing Ceremony as well as a description of the 40 day separation period and the Three Day Ceremony.

Participants of the ceremony also received a printed version of this explanation, which was included in the program handed out to all present. At the end of the ceremony each participant was able to receive an envelope containing Holy Handkerchiefs and a printed explanation of the 40-day separa-

tion and the 3 Day Ceremony.

Included among the participants in the ceremony in Montevideo were members of the various Federations established in Uruguay, employees of our companies here, contacts made by the Japanese sisters and others who came through an invitation made by the Family Federation's radio program.

The satellite transmission took place almost perfectly, with the exception of a couple of small difficulties in the image and sound. As a whole, everyone agreed that this ceremony was much warmer and more appealing than the ceremony, which took place in Washington, D.C. in RFK. Reasons given for this included the fact that Madison Square Garden is a smaller place, thus creating a more intimate atmosphere, the contribution of the 2,000 voice choir and the manner which the various representatives of the different religions addressed the participants, including the use of video presentations.

With the end of the transmission, congratulatory remarks were offered

by Steven Boyd, with an appeal for ongoing participation in the effort to extend the message of the Blessing to many others in Uruguay. Everyone

went away uplifted and inspired by the experience of participating in this Blessing ceremony for 120 million couples worldwide. ♦



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Russian Court Vindicates Unification Church

HSA Russia—Moscow

On May 21, 1998, in the Kuzminsky District Court of Moscow the final hearing of case No. 7C "N.V. Babkin, N.K. Russkikh and others vs. the Unification Church of Russia concerning compensation for moral damage" took place.

In several interviews with the mass media the plaintiffs insisted that they had presented undeniable evidence of the destructive effects of the Unification Church's activities on themselves and their adult children who are members of the Unification Church. The chairman of the St. Petersburg Inter-regional Committee for Defense Against Totalitarian Sects, N.K. Russkikh, insisted that the Unification Church had caused her severe moral damage by

"zombie-izing" and committing "psychological assault" on her adult daughter. She and the other plaintiffs stated that their children becoming members of the Unification Church had caused them physical and moral damage.

In the course of the case the plaintiffs could produce no evidence of any damage suffered by them because of the Unification Church. The Director of Public Prosecutions in the Office of Pub-

In the course of the case the plaintiffs could produce no evidence of any damage suffered by them because of the Unification Church. The Director of Public Prosecutions in the Office of Public Prosecutor of Moscow's Kuzminky and Presnya Districts produced no evidence of any legal violations by the Unification Church. The psychological examinations of the plaintiffs' adult children carried out by psychologists from the Legal Expert Medical Service of St. Petersburg City Administration confirmed the absence of signs of "dependent mental disorder," and the psychologists' report pointed out that conflict situations had existed in the families long before the children joined this church.

lic Prosecutor of Moscow's Kuzminky

and Presnya Districts produced no evidence of any legal violations by the Unification Church. The psychological examinations of the plaintiffs' adult children carried out by psychologists from the Legal Expert Medical Service of St. Petersburg City Administration confirmed the absence of signs of "dependent mental disorder," and the psychologists' report pointed out that conflict situations had existed in the families long before the children joined this church.

The court dismissed the plaintiffs' case. ❖

IRFF North Korea Aid Appeal

by Massimo Trombin—Luxembourg

As we know, in the last few years North Korea has been a famine-stricken nation. Several reports from international agencies and NGO bring desperate testimony about this tragedy. The official channels don't report the real condition of the people, for clear political reason, but they constantly request relief support. The problem is that in most cases, the government doesn't allow relief to be monitored during distribution.

Catherine Bertini, the managing director of the World Food Program, has warned the North Koreans that the amount of food aid will be reduced if they continue to forbid the monitoring of the aid distribution.

Recently a North and South Korean delegation met for the first time in 4 years, to discuss their relationship. The North requests 500.000 tons of fertilizer, the South a possibility for the reunion of families separated since the

truce in the Korean war. The bottom line is that no accord was done to help the starving men, women and children in the North. At the same time more reports are coming in about people unable to work, because their energy is long gone. From some remote places some reports refer to human consumption, in other areas they are cooking the same noodles over and over again and drinking the boiled water to get the feeling that they are eating something.

At the same time, those with money can buy food in North Korea! IRFF has been working since 1994 in many ways and through different channels to find ways of bringing some help. Now finally in Europe, through our networking and friendship and with the help of Rev. Won Pil Kim, we do have a way to bring some substantial help, directly to the people. I will monitor this project directly on location, and report to those that will give support. For this reason anyone willing to help this food distribution program and to become a supporting member of "North Korean aid action IRFF-club member" for the starving people of North Korea, can send some funds to the IRFF account in Luxembourg, specifying very clearly the purpose of the donation. We are planning with our own strength, the

first intervention by Autumn of this year. In case extra fund will come rapidly, we will act immediately.

The account number to send this donation is:
Bank: Banque et Caisse d'Epargne de l'Etat
Address: 1, place de Metz L-2954 Luxembourg
A c c o u n t : 10/2/024383-74

Association: Foundation Internationale de Secours et d'Amitie (International Relief Friendship Foundation)

Massimo Trombin is the President of IRFF Luxembourg ❖

Second Generation Summer in Alaska

by Eugene Harnett—Kodiak, AK

If you have or know of Second Generation teens and above, this may be for you. We have put together a week-long excursion in Alaska, which includes canoeing, hiking, and fishing. It follows two weeks of consecutive Second Generation 98 summer camps, respectively in California and Washington. This one in Alaska, starting July 14, will be a singular lifetime experience.

To witness eagles flying, salmon jumping, and moose roaming will be your daily fare on this adventure. To feel the shimmering sunlight at 11:00 p.m. glowing from the slow Arctic sunset, while pairs of loons cry and mallards dance on the lake, and to see swans take flight, running like feathered stallions their webbed feet over the water, this will be priceless.

A brochure will be sent upon request. You can find a quick version of it on the web at <http://www.goodhome.com/yfwp/julyweek.htm> For more information, contact me at: harnett@alaska.net ❖

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Infringement of Religious Freedom in Singapore

by Puay Lam Teo—Singapore

Iam writing to you to let you understand the state of our Church here in Singapore and also the plight of members who have foreign spouses. Our church was registered on 10th Oct. 1980 and was de-registered on 2nd April 1982. Sixteen years have passed but the relentless and ruthless persecution of the Singapore government on our members has not stopped.

Early this year, a brother who is blessed to a Korean, returned back to Singapore for the Lunar New Year. His wife has entered Singapore on two previous occasions but this time unfortunately, the immigration barred her from entering and she was detained at the airport and put on the next flight

back to Korea. Her baby boy was weeping when the authorities separated him from the mother and the family was broken up from their annual reunion dinner that they planned for some years.

Almost every year there are a number of such heart-breaking news that strikes fear and terror in the hearts of Unificationist couples here in Singapore.

I would like you to visit two websites:

<http://members.tripod.com/~teopl/>
<http://members.tripod.com/~limcm/>

We have decided to publicize our situation here in Singapore on the Internet in order that we can have a united stand. The situation in Singapore has divided us as the situation has made it practical for each couple and family to fend for themselves; the Church may be banned but we are not going to let it happen to our family

We look forward for any assistance or advice that you may want to offer to us. You can email me:

teopl@hotmail.com

or at

ooike@pc.jaring.my ❖

1.5 Million Families Register in Uganda

by Tom Gaway-Tegulle
—Kampala, Uganda

Push has come to shove as what is no doubt the biggest religious movement to come to Uganda in recent times takes root. It is powerful, unprecedented, and serious; far too significant to be ignored. It has spread like a wild fire on dry bush and within a matter of months over 1.5 million families have become fully fledged members — for life.

According to Mrs. Eleanor Rutangye, Ugandan chapter co-president, several million people have joined the family Federation for World Peace (FFWP), an international movement started and launched at the global level in July 1996, Washington, USA by Rev. Sun Myung Moon of Korea.

The launch had all the markings of an occasion that could potentially alter the destiny of the planet. Almost every country in the world was represented. Dignitaries like former US presidents George Bush and Henry Ford [ed. Gerald Ford] and former Soviet Union president Mikhail Gorbachev were present. Uganda was represented by Jane Kuka, Minister of State for Gender and Community Development, and also patron of the federation's Uganda chapter.

That was 1996, and nobody thought — even as a joke — that it would affect small nations like Uganda. But like the proverbial small mustard seed that grows into a large tree, FFWP has taken the country by storm.

The signals are clear. FFWP Uganda chapter, which started formally operating May 1997, under co-presidents Martin and Eleanor Rutangye, is here to stay. The movement also has special departments for women and youth.

"FFWP is an international movement raised out of concern about the failure of the family unit," says Martin. "We are drawing attention to global family ideal as a basis for creating world peace. If we are to attain world peace it has to start with the family unit, which is the basic building block in society. We want to build peaceful, united and harmonious families. To ensure this, unity, absolute love, trust, communication and mutual concern between husband and wife are a must."

The rationale is that a peaceful family is a good basic training for the kids who in turn will be in a better position to set up similar families.

"The divorce rate in the US is rising," explains Martin. "About half of the children grow up in broken families, without parental love and care. So despite the riches they enjoy while still young, they get frustrated and end up in bad company, with lots of sex and drugs. That's why the US also has the highest teenage suicide rate.

"Things like marriage by contract are not ideal," says Martin. "Neither is it ideal for women to say, 'I want a child, but without a husband,' or 'I like you, let's have a kid.' Ideally a child is supposed to be brought up by two parents. Such basic ideals have to be promoted worldwide."

Our society, especially the future generation, argues Martin, needs to be protected from such phenomena. AIDS and STDs also have to be addressed, so that by the 21st century the world view will have been changed. FFWP

asserts that mistrust in love and the misuse of sex pose the greatest challenge to family life and advocate for faithfulness within a monogamous union as the only viable panacea to stability.

"Love is very difficult to share, and was not meant to be shared in the first place. Not even the polygamists would like to share their wives with other men," says Martin.

The movement is multi-denominational, and has established branches in many districts of Uganda, headed by a volunteer coordinator. John Mbotana, a former Catholic priest, is the coordinator in Kamuli district, and has embraced the movement with the enthusiasm of a cat drinking milk.

"We want to form stable loving families based on God, and with improved

socio-economic advancement," he says. "We want the youth to grow up in purity, abstaining from sex till marriage; and that they participate in development programs, e.g., studies, agriculture; small scale industries and sports and games.

"Our approach is wholistic. We want both spiritual and physical development, so that we can have peaceful homes, which will result in peaceful districts and in turn, peaceful nations and, eventually, a peaceful world. We emphasize environmental care because we believe we need to care, love before using it. As for now we are just exploiting it — to our destruction, and the disadvantage of humanity as a whole.."

He has an "army" of volunteers, whose efforts yielded 5,000 families between May and December 1997, in Kamuli district. First, the agents inform area LCs about their presence, and sensitize them about their mission. They then arrange meetings in which they educate the people about their objectives. The families fill in special forms, after which they are registered. VIPs are given special forms "to recognize their importance and uniqueness."

Usually the first step is campaigning for environmental care. "We advise the people to grow fruits, green vegetables and woodlands, and also to rear small animals like goats, chickens and rabbits," says Mbotana.

"We also advise people to have improved fireplaces, pit latrines and clean drinking water. No one can be registered unless they have a pit latrine."

The response is so far overwhelmingly positive and in many places, the peasants have already embarked on vegetable growing and animal rearing. They are encouraged in particular, to grow the neem, a tree with 40 medicinal properties. Its seeds can produce cooking oil, the trunk produces timber, and its leaves repel cockroaches, banana weevils and other garden pests. Seeds will soon be provided to local people at a low cost.

Hajati Kasibante is the coordinator, Mpigi district, where over 30,000 fam-

ilies have been registered. She is an AIDS counselor attached to Nkozi Hospital, who after considering the objectives of the FFWP thought it would be helpful in the fight against AIDS.

"I watched some of their films on AIDS and decided people would need them," she recalls. FFWP advocates for a preventive approach to AIDS, a major boost to a district which has been severely hit by the AIDS epidemic. She guessed right: the fear of AIDS had an immediate effect on the population, many were beaten into line. After watching films provided by the FFWP, on the horrors of AIDS and STDs, thousands rushed to make vows — of faithfulness and monogamy.

"Before the coming of AIDS few would ever think seriously of fidelity," says Hajati. "The first to join FFWP were AIDS widows, for fear of being seduced, by men who would easily infect them with more complex diseases. Married women, elderly men with young wives, and young married couples like it very much because it ensures fidelity," says the heavy set Hajati. She suggests the fear of AIDS, rather than the desire for stable marriage, is the main drive behind the rush for vows. Imperatively, too, those infected want to live longer and care for their families, while the healthy too want a clean bill of health.

"Men were difficult at first," she recalls. "Most thought they would be bound to one woman and if they failed, be imprisoned." But eventually common sense carried the day. In Kituntu sub-county, Mawakota, people are electing committees in order to get projects. Every parish has a FFWP committee. Since July 1997, FFWP has provided seeds which are planted in a central nursery in the parish and then the seedlings are distributed free. More projects are in the pipeline if this one does well.

Religious barriers have been cast aside as Muslims, Christians and traditionalists alike join FFWP. The Coordinator of the FFWP Mukono Chapter, Hajii Umar Nsubuga, is just one of the many Muslims who head district chapters.

Membership also cuts across the social strata; both the high and mighty and the rank and file are now birds of the same feather. They are all united in the desire to fight AIDS, achieve stable families and ensure peace. Many top shots and former LCs are members. RDC Rose Mutonyi, former LCV secretary for women Ruth Mirembe, former mayor Mr. Lubega and his assistant Haji Kasule are all members.

In an unprecedented trend, many Muslims are resorting to monogamy. And the Muslim women are not taking it lying down. "As a Muslim I have to fight so that I remain the only wife in the home," says Kasibante. "That's very important so that his love remains undivided. Muslim men now realize that in a polygamous marriage faithfulness is very difficult; it's impossible. A mistake by one person could

wipe out the whole family."

FFWP's efforts have not come to naught. "There has been remarkable behavioral change," says Kasibante. "The public vows bind people to a consistent lifestyle. They reject promiscuity because they are ashamed to be seen to be failing. Even those who want to deliberately infect others have been sensitized on how to live positively. Many no longer spread the virus after infection; but now after counseling, they are anxious to prolong their lives because they realize they are still useful to the nation. Both AIDS widows and widowers now behave better," she observes.

The affianced no longer trust each other: they only now marry after blood tests. There has also been a reduction in the divorce rate, because couples fear embarrassment since they publicly vowed not to leave each other.

"At least I can now trust my husband: since he was taught by FFWP, I know he is faithful. That's what usually breaks marriages," says Nakimuli Agnes.

Many men now entrust their wives with their secrets, because they are sure they are there to stay. For those who remain with one wife, the latter now accepts to accept to look well after their step-kids, so that the husband does not regret and retreat to their mother, or other women. Hajati Kasibante has five kids and two others from her one time co-wife. She recently transferred her step-daughter Aisha from St. Mary's Nkozi to the superior Bulo Parents SSS, Butambala, to make her feel equal to her own Junat in S.6 at Bulo.

"She doesn't feel inferior, so I now want to see how their father will start complaining that they are being mistreated."

In the Youth Federation one has to test HIV negative before being allowed to join — so that it makes sense to start saving sex for till marriage. If they want, spouses are selected for them from other chapters of FFWP. They are tested and if found HIV negative they are photographed and their photos sent to potential spouses.

The kids are kept busy with meetings, seminars, etc., in order to get their minds off immorality. "The kids work hard and behave well; so if you get a spouse from FFWP, you are sure you have a very good one," says Agnes.

In Kamuli people have been sensitized about the need to be faithful in marriage and how to avoid AIDS and STDs. Life skills are also being imparted in these workshops. And for those behind the scenes, working with FFWP provides unbeatable job satisfaction because they feel it's a noble cause they are promoting.

Comments Mbotana: "Establishing FFWP in Kamuli has given me the greatest satisfaction because it's what I would have been doing as a priest — the moral and spiritual development of the family, women and youth groups, by shaping their conscience to enable them to be useful members of society. By the year 2000, if people are consistent with their vows, the AIDS situation will have greatly improved. We are adding value to life. We shall not accept to die just like that," sums up Kasibante. ♦

Religious barriers have been cast aside as Muslims, Christians and traditionalists alike join FFWP. The Coordinator of the FFWP Mukono Chapter, Hajii Umar Nsubuga, is just one of the many Muslims who head district chapters.

The Religious Youth Service Birmingham UK

by David Earle—Birmingham, UK

Last year's 1997 RYS project in Birmingham, England, followed directly on from the 1996 project, "Building Racial Harmony."

During the late summer of 1996, 45 RYS participants had successfully completed three different environmental projects in the inner-city of Birmingham—creating a recycling center out of a disused bus garage, restoring an abandoned tree nursery and converting a derelict piece of land into a nature trail/picnic area. The last two of these projects were subsequently maintained and developed by local primary schools, working together with one of our partner organizations, Community Service Volunteers (CSV Environment), who do a tremendous amount of good work with school children in the inner-city.

Based on this outcome, in February 1997, David Earle, coordinator for the 1996 Birmingham project, was asked to consider RYS involvement in the undertaking of another environmental project, this time in the inner-city district of Small Heath, which is adjacent to the Saltley area where two of last year's three sites were located. (Another of our project partners, Urban Renewal, part of Birmingham City Council, is responsible for providing the resources which are used to reclaim derelict land in Saltley and Small Heath. The finance for his came from a fund of money called the Single Regeneration Budget.)

After discussion with Marshall de Souza, national director of RYS in Britain, we decided to go ahead. Although we would again be undertaking an environmental project in Birmingham, it quickly became clear that the main ingredient for success this time would be the extent to which we could engage the local community directly in the various aspects of our work. In particular, this would apply to the young people, some of whom were responsible for the considerable amount of vandalism in the area. This social aspect gave a new and unique dimension to our efforts, and caused us to choose as our project theme "Building Community through Inter-Racial Harmony and Action."

The dates were set for the first two weeks of September, to coincide with children returning to school after their

summer holidays. In July, just before the holidays, groups of children from two local primary and one secondary school had visited the site with Guy Dixon of CSV and Jason Harrison, a city architect. They shared their ideas as to how the piece of land might be developed. Jason had then drawn up his plans to transform the land into a park, incorporating as many of their ideas as possible. (A giant roller-coaster had to be rejected.) CSV, and another of our project partners, Focus Housing Association, who owned this particular site, also conducted two activities with local residents and children during the summer: a street clean-up with some garden improvements, and an afternoon about composting, to publicize the work which we planned to carry out together in September.

Finally, Aug. 31 arrived, and our RYS staff gathered together at St. Peter's College in Saltley, which would be our home for the next two weeks. We spent two valuable days of preparation under the experienced guidance of Dr. Ron Burr and Dr. Sherry Hartman-Burr. On Sept. 2, we welcomed all our participants as they arrived. Twelve came from Birmingham and the remainder from a variety of 18 different countries. Our group was just over 40 strong, and most participants were able to stay for the entire duration of the project. We were especially pleased to have representatives from so many religious traditions: Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Unificationist and Zoroastrian.

The richness of this religious dimension was reflected in our early morning meditations, of which there were 11 different kinds during the 12 days. Tanya Jacobs taught us to sing a memorable Jewish melody, Anita Sethna introduced us to a beautiful Zoroastrian prayer, and Richard Burton taught us how to concentrate our minds and bodies in order to break one-inch boards of white pinewood with our bare hands!

The orientation sped quickly by as Ron and Sherry helped us to begin to establish individual friendships, and the strong group spirit necessary to carry us through the various challenges we faced during our RYS experience. It was so good to meet Suresh from

Bhutan and Ariun from Birmingham, Kulvinder from Smethwick and Larissa from Slovenia. Shaleen came from Selly Oak and Ravi from Sri Lanka. Each participant brings with them their own unique flavor and casts it into the melting pot.

During the orientation, we were privileged to hear a talk by the provost of Birmingham Cathedral, Rev. Peter Berry, who managed to give us two hours of his most valuable time. He was under great pressure to make all the arrangements for a large, open-air, interfaith service of remembrance for Princess Diana, who had died so tragically just a few days earlier. Rev. Berry

The richness of the religious dimension was reflected in our early morning meditations, of which there were 11 different kinds during the 12 days!

has been one of the true pioneers of interfaith activity in Birmingham, and was able to speak eloquently, and with great passion and sincerity, about the value—and also the problems—of living in such a multi-cultural city. He stressed how we must nurture and protect the God-centered family, regardless of our religious tradition. It is the basic building block of a healthy society, if we are to have any hope of healing our increasingly fragmented and fractured world, and of aspiring towards the ideal of one family of humankind.

We began work in earnest on the morning of Friday, Sept. 5, having divided into four teams, and under the expert supervision of site manager Guy Dixon, who kept the whole work schedule on track. Our main task would be to excavate and lay a footpath, 10cm deep and 1.6m wide, around the perimeter of the site, and then across the middle of the site in both directions, dividing the site into four areas. This was no small task, given that the area was roughly the size of a soccer pitch. The four areas defined by the footpath will later be developed into a vegetable garden, a small playground, and two planted areas with logs, boulders and benches to sit on. School children will again be involved in much of the subsequent planting work.

We were joined in our task by a group of 12 children from nearby Waverley Secondary School, who came and worked with us every morning. They were a very good example for their peers, and impressed Mrs. Collett, their headteacher, when she came to visit the project.

As we removed the many tons of excavated soil, a small group of professional workmen joined us to put in the timber edging for the footpath. Fifty tons of footpath material were delivered by lorry, and had to be distributed up and around the sloping site by wheelbarrow, raked flat and finally packed down by a hand-held machine with a vibrating plate on the bottom. The extensive use of wheelbarrows to remove the soil and replace it with the harder material was a sight to behold! The site was alive with activity and, as the material was relayed up and down the slope, wheelbarrows passed from Buddhist to Hindu to Muslim to Christian! Asian hands, American hands, African hands and European hands were united in the common purpose

of humble service to the local community.

While the work continued each morning, our afternoons and evenings were filled with a series of educational seminars and visits. One seminar focused on "Community" and was conducted by Dr. David Clarke, who is responsible for Birmingham's "Human City Initiative," a program attempting to bring a more compassionate, caring spirit into an often desolate urban landscape. Another seminar discussed "Inter-Racial Interaction," with contributions from Abdul Ghaffar of the Sparkhill Youth Project, and Rev. Carver Anderson, national director of youth education in the New Testament Church of God. Also, Mrs. Lola Khundakar came to give us a short presentation about the value of interfaith work.

Our visits included a talk with Bishop Joe Aldred of the Black and White Partnership in the Selly Oak Colleges. We visited Waterloo Road Sikh Gurdwara in Smethwick and the recently completed and spectacular Dar Ul-Uloom Al-Islamia Mosque in Small Heath. We were welcomed at the Buddhist Vihara where we were addressed by Dr. Rewata Dhamma of international repute. We attended Sunday morning worship at Selly Oak Methodist Church. Finally, we observed the Arti ceremony at Heathfield Road Hindu Temple. This was followed by a delightful meal.

Another helpful feature in working towards this goal was being given permission by Mrs. Collett to hold our Cultural Evening program in the hall of Waverley Secondary School. This made it much easier for local families to attend, and our audience numbered around 150. The varied program included Irish music, Japanese singing and a martial arts sketch among others. Certificates were presented by Mr. Roger Hale of Urban Renewal to all who had made the project successful, and it was especially gratifying to see recognition given to the students from Waverley who had worked so hard on the site every day. We concluded with a sizable part of the audience on stage, joining together in singing "We Are The World."

During our second week, we had been joined by Dr. Subhan Burton and Dr. Beheruz Sethna from the USA, and they gave an invaluable contribution as we began to approach the final stages of our time in Birmingham. We concluded our work on the site, having planted and watered many trees and shrubs, and hundreds of bulbs, on Friday, Sept. 12. The following morning, Subhan led us through a unique, purifying "Fire Ceremony," which comes from the Native American tradition, and which was a preparation for our time of reflection, such an important part of the RYS experience. It is often surprising to look back and see how far we have journeyed in such a relatively short space of time.

Our final day together was a time to enjoy a deeply-moving service of Universal Worship, celebrated with family and friends of our Birmingham participants. Eight different traditions were represented, and Marshall gave a profound message based on the life of Mother Teresa, who had passed away one week before. What an inspiring

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South American Providence and New Hope Farm

by Paul Carrie

On returning to Europe from New Hope Farm in Brazil, I came to realize that not so many members know much about the farm, or how it is developing and what we are doing in the surrounding area.

I joined the church as a full-time member in England in May 1994. From the very first day, I remember struggling not only with fundraising but with just about everything else concerning church life. As the first year was drawing to an end, I found myself reflecting on what had been my contribution toward the development of the church. My answer was, "Close to zero, or even less." I thought of becoming a part-time member again; but before doing so, I shared some of my thoughts with one Japanese sister, Akiko.

We set up a 40-day prayer condition between us. The two points of the prayer were: 1) to see things from God's viewpoint, and 2) to meet True Parents. Halfway through this condition, my national leader (then Mark Brann) asked if I would like to go to South America to help with a new project Father had started.

I finally concluded the final day of that condition on my own at over 10,000 meters up in the sky. I remember looking out the window and seeing the sun rise over the Atlantic Ocean, thinking what an incredible, beautiful world it is and how mankind had messed it up so much. I was wondering if we could ever put it right again.

I felt the first part of my prayer condition had been answered. It was as if God had literally put me up in the heavens to see the world from His viewpoint. I felt the joy of creation, the sadness of the mess the fall had brought about, and the hope that one day things will be restored back to what they should be. On arriving at the farm the following day, the second part of my prayer was answered (again literally): I met True Parents for the first time! I will share more about this later.

I think that many people imagine the New Hope Farm to be a place in the middle of the Brazilian outback with a handful of members from around the world. They think that we are all

living in tents, plowing the fields by hand, using buckets and old paint pots to irrigate the crops with water taken from the river. If I can help your imagination along a little, maybe you can see a handful of us digging with pickaxes and shovels four or five meters into the ground looking for drinking water, or a number of us going to the forest area to drag out bamboo, stripping down and making bamboo houses to replace the tents and all this activity taking place while fighting with mosquitoes under the subtropical sun. If this is your imagination of the farm, it is not wrong—just 18 months out of date. We have come a long way since then. Moving out of crowded storm-battered tents into bamboo houses and the coming of hot showers were only the beginning.

I think a better name at present for the New Hope Farm would be "New Hope Construction Site." By the end of this year we will have enough houses completed to sleep 600 or more people comfortably, a hall which can hold over 3,000 people or more, a two-story restaurant, a university complex consisting of six buildings—each with six large classrooms. The university will be connected to the University of Bridgeport in North America. In addition to this, there has been extensive roadwork as well as the current construction of a new bridge, which will make the farm more accessible.

Alongside these projects, the landscaping on the farm is now beginning to take shape: the area put aside for a large sports-field is being leveled, a large lake which we are digging out with heavy machinery is close to being completed and a number of further lakes are planned. These lakes will not only be used for landscaping, but also for fish farming. In addition to this, there is a large-scale tree-planting project which is still in progress.

Living on the farm there are about 300 outside workers from the surrounding towns who are helping to realize this project. As each week passes, more and more of them are becoming members (pre-blessed couples). Who knows—by the end of the construction work it may be possible to say that all the work was done by members!

I found Brazilians I came to know both on the farm as well as in the local town of Jardim to be proud people, not rich (some very poor) but with generous hearts. The language difference was no barrier in making new friendships.

Father is not only investing on the farm itself but in the whole of the surrounding region (Matto Grosso do Sul). Father has already given one ambulance to each of the 33 towns in the area. A few of these towns did not accept the ambulance, and a few of those who had accepted took the Unification sign and Rev. Moon's name off the ambulances. This backfired, because when the people see an ambulance, regard-

less of whether it has a Unification sign or not, they speak of it as being an ambulance given by Rev. Moon, knowing that the authorities had taken the Unification markings off. This actually leaves the impression that we have given more ambulances than we actually have.

I think a better name at present for the New Hope Farm would be "New Hope Construction Site." By the end of this year we will have enough houses completed to sleep 600 or more people comfortably, a hall which can hold over 3,000 people or more, a two-story restaurant, a university complex consisting of six buildings—each with six large classrooms.

The UTS students who graduated from Barrytown last year were sent to pioneer the 33 towns around the farm. Part of their mission is to acquire land to build schools within these towns, which will be connected to the university currently under construction on the farm. The local authorities have already donated much of the necessary land. As well as UTS graduates being involved in their own mission towns, they are also responsible, with the help of other members, to build one of the university buildings on the farm.

Just recently, Father has sent a medical team comprised of Koreans, Japanese and American members to give free treatment within these 33 towns. This team also spent two days on the farm treating members as well as the many outside workers.

Within the region surrounding the farm, an incredible amount of land is being bought. On top of this, Father is personally researching both the land and rivers in South America, trying to find ways to develop and bring prosperity to the South American countries as well as to find solutions to end world

hunger.

All this is taking place under the eyes of the media. At the farm we have had a number of newspaper and TV crews visit. Not all their reports have been good, but as the farm is developing more and more it is becoming harder not only for the media, but also for those who have been opposing the project from the beginning, to speak against us. The rumors are losing ground as ordinary people come to perceive a different reality. The last TV crew that was on the farm gave very good coverage on national TV during peak-time viewing. They not only reported on the farm and the surrounding projects, but also showed Father speaking at conferences alongside former President Bush.

My own experiences on the farm

In the time that I have spent on the farm, I have been involved in ploughing the fields, digging for water, building bamboo houses, working with cows, driving trucks, helping with the building of the university and creating a lake. I also had the chance to see the Little Angels performing while on their South American tour. But what I remember most are the times that True Parents have been on the farm. I remember standing alongside other members in the early hours of the morning holding a stick with a flame to give light as True parents crossed the river, and sitting at the feet of True Parents after Pledge Service or late in the evening. I remember spending time as a driver at Salobra Hotel, where True Parents have been fishing, working at night on the construction while Father walked around checking the progress, or the Holy Day spent with True Parents at their house in Salobra. I knew these moments to be precious and yet each time I was close to True Parents, I began to feel more and more that as our time comes to an end in this world, it will not be the time we spent with True Parents that counts, but what we did for them.

During the last two weeks of my time on the farm, my wife came to visit. I am not sure whether she came to see the farm or to bring me back to Europe (a little of both, I hoped). While showing her around, I felt this project to be in good hands (those of Pres. Yoon Sam Kim, to be exact). I trust that it will continue to grow and that one day in the not-too-distant future it will become too big to be called just a farm.

On flying back over the same Atlantic Ocean about two and a half years after I first flew to Brazil, some of my final thoughts focused on Thomas in the Bible. He could not believe in the resurrected Christ until he saw proof. A week later Jesus appeared to Thomas showing him the proof of who he was, saying to Thomas: "You believe because you have seen; blessed are those who believe and yet have not seen." I think I know something of what Thomas must have felt at these words.

My lasting impression of True Parents is that not only is it true that they sleep very little and work incredibly hard, but the longing the members have in wanting to meet and share with True Parents is surpassed by the longing that True Parents have to see and be with the members, particularly those they have not yet met. ❖

New Tiempos Del Mundo Website

by Bret A. Moss—Nicaragua

I am very pleased to announce that under the vision of our True Parents, the leadership of Mr. Joo, and the direction of Larry Mofitt, a new Hemisphere Webpage for Tiempos del Mundo is now operating on the World Wide Web.

This site features, in Spanish, the best of the weekly news and information from the international edition of Tiempos del Mundo which is published in 13 Latin American countries and the United States. Hemisphere news sections published on the tdm.com include, Hemisphere, World, Economy, Opinion, The Family, Sports, Art and Culture, and Computation.

Additionally, there are sites for each country where Tiempos del Mundo is published where you can view the national front page, order subscriptions, and soon, be able to read top national news.

The site address is:
<http://www.tdm.com>

Members with Unificationist related websites may feel free to add tdm.com as a link to their site. ❖

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example and model for us in the RYS!

After the service, we had our closing banquet, with all the food generously donated by Sohal Bhaji, the head chef at the Hindu Temple we visited. Gifts and certificates were presented, after closing remarks by Dr. Sethna. Everyone seemed so happy and proud of their accomplishments as they came forward to receive graduation certificates.

Surely RYS is at the cutting edge of interfaith activity and service-based learning, planting seeds of goodness and hope everywhere it goes. Why not Northern Ireland in the near future? Perhaps that should be our goal for the Millennium in Western Europe, to try to bring RYS' global resources to bear, and make a contribution towards a lasting peace. ❖

MY TEN DAYS AT CHUNG PYUNG LAKE

by Kevin Brennan—Ossining NY

This report I give to you in hope that it may help you be better prepared if and when you go there, as I have some sorrows resulting from my lack of certain information during my trip. This should be explained a bit before the "most important idea" (next paragraph). All the holy songs and clapping sessions (usually "Song of the Garden"), the midnight prayer meeting, and most lectures were in Korean only—well, after all, this is in Korea. In addition, on True Day of All Things (May 26), we were tested to write (our choice, Western or Korean letters) two of the holy songs in Korean. Otherwise, how we celebrated True Day of All Things was by a special morning service, without doing the climb to the five holy trees that morning. For the lectures, there was translation into Japanese and English, for which you need a battery-powered radio and set of headphones. If you want to take pictures of the five holy trees, etc., be sure your camera has film; I and others slipped on this point. If for some reason you want a personal appointment with Daemonim, try to find someone who can discuss it with you and who knows how to arrange that even before you start your trip; that way you can plan it better.

The most important idea I heard there is the liberation of evil spirits from attending members and possible only there based on the work of Dae-

monim and Heung Jin Nim. When members participate well and with right heart in the ansoo (clapping sessions), but also in the rest of the workshop activities as well if with right attitudes, evil spirits which wormed their way into the flesh of members get driven out of the members but in a new way. Realize that if there is nothing for the driven-out evil spirits to look forward to, they will just want to get back into the members, but that is not how it is done at CPL (Chung Pyung Lake). Instead, angels under Daemonim's direction take these spirits on a tour of spirit world from hell to heaven, which they could never do on their own, and then they persuade them to attend Heung Jin Nim's 100 days DP workshop in the spirit world. When they see shining good spirits/blessed couples who used to be evil spirits like themselves (which gives them hope to become likewise), and when they realize that God suffered even more than they have, they quickly forget their resentment and accept the path of the 100-days workshop leading to their cleansing and becoming blessed couples. Just in the last year or so alone, there have been hundreds of millions of such couples blessed in spirit world and, by June 13 and after, there are going to be many more of them, some from evil spirits liberated from members and others from elsewhere in spirits world. Father is also giving various directions to mobilize new good spirits/blessed couples to assist the efforts to bring more of earthly married couples to the blessings on earth. With a rapidly growing base like that in the spirit world concerning the blessing providence, it sounds like some dramatic and worldwide changes (for the better) should develop soon on earth.

When evil spirits get liberated from a member and become good spirits/blessed couples, they also become new spiritual children for that member—a completely new way for members to gain spiritual children. We were told that, according to Father, each member has over 3,000 evil spirits, on average, and that even in 40 days of right efforts it cannot be cleaned up completely—but let us do the best we can. After these spirits complete the 100 days workshop, they can join their spiritual parent (the member), but only when the member returns again to CPL; until then, the spirits have to stay there at CPL. However, nobody mentioned whether Father might quickly mobilize many such spirits from CPL for the blessing providence work without waiting for their spiritual parents to make a second trip to CPL which, in some cases, may be long after their first trip.

These reformed spirits, after their liberation, can see that their spiritual parent (member) still has his share of fallen nature, bad habits, etc., and that they need better than that if their restoration is really to be made complete, so they want to help the member do better. With the help of such reformed spirits, the member may improve, but it is also possible, if the member does not improve, the reformed spirits may chastise him.

The preceding describes what I believe is the most important part of the CPL workshop. Like so many other things, however, I realize there are no guarantees that it will actually work for each attending person, depending on his conditions, attitude, taking responsibility, etc. I recall now that as evil spirits get this liberation from time to time during this workshop, the member does not necessarily feel it taking place. Some may have made real headway even in ten days, while others may not, even over 40 days. This time there were maybe a few hundred members in 10 and 40 days together. There were also two three-day workshops, one on each of the two weekends I was there, entirely Japanese and Koreans, swelling the population to about 2,000 the first weekend and to more the second weekend, but there was no midweek three-day.

Being on time for everything was very important, according to Daemonim. The daily schedule was to arise by 6am (some including myself got up earlier), climb the mountain to the five holy trees and pray at each (taking me an hour and 15 minutes on average) 600 feet above the workshop halls. Breakfast was 7:30am. Each meal was followed by a 70-minute clapping session (we were asked to come 10 minutes early), and breaks and lectures until the next meal or in the evening until about 11:30pm, followed by the holy candle prayer meeting at the tree of love, 11:45pm-12:15am. During the three-day workshops, the clapping sessions were shorter and some parts of the rest of the schedule were different. Even before the official starting time of the 10-day, everyone was asked to attend the three daily clapping sessions, which implied that the clapping (ansoo) sessions were the most important part of the workshop. Later on, I heard that Daemonim arranged it that the angels do their work best when the participants do the ansoo the same way the leaders do it, whether at the time it be clapping, or on the head, neck or lower parts of the body (in a sequence usually).

Since there was no midweek three-day, that part of the ten-day schedule surprised me. While the clapping sessions continued, all those lecture time periods became free time for us, with us being asked to responsibly choose any activity which would bring us closer to God. Forty days was not like this; they had a continuous lecture schedule throughout this period. We could pray at the holy trees if we chose, or go to the lectures with the 40-day folk, or study the DP lecture individually, etc.: these choices were up to each of us. Discussions were mostly individual to individual at the mealtimes, etc., except we were asked to not let our discussions become too horizontal.

Initially there was no definite direction concerning how and about what we might pray at the holy trees, but soon the ten-day group got hold of a prayer list, designed for each of the five holy trees, prepared by the 40-day group.

Be ready for all of the 6am to midnight schedule, including the climb to the five holy trees, the clapping sessions, the lectures, etc. Also be ready to sit on the floor throughout most of the schedule. During the more crowd-

ed 3-day workshop periods, parts of my feet and legs got sore; I used my jacket as a cushion to bring partial relief.

Some information I needed but didn't obtain, such as under what circumstances would it be suitable to arrange to see Daemonim. I now realize I may have missed a legitimate chance to see her.

Practical info: try to obtain as much info as possible from those who have been there, because CPL staff are very busy and don't know much English. Phone 011 82 356 844 335 and fax 011 82 356 844 336 from USA (in Korea you do not need the 011 82).

Be careful how you arrange ground transportation to CPL, because a taxi from the airport to the training center can cost \$60-\$100 or more. I arranged my trip through a travel agency; I was supposed to meet a group at Kimpo airport to go by van to the training center, but somehow I had no name of anyone from this group and I ended up not finding them. Only because I independently had a few names and phone numbers around Seoul was I able to find my way to another van leaving four hours later for the training center and arriving there after midnight. During daytime hours, but no nighttime, there is public transportation by both bus and train from the airport to within a short taxi ride to the training center. Depending on which way you go, it takes between two and four hours to get there, and you may want to obtain more information before you start your trip, either from the training center or from anyone else who has such information.

There are no laundry dryers (except clotheslines) and the few washing machines have instructions in Korean only, so almost everyone hand washes their laundry. You may want to obtain a copy of the six-page "Meaning of Resurrection in Chung Pyung," not included below and excerpted from Father's speech given on True God's Day 1996. Even more informative is the 102-page Chung Pyung Special Workshop Guide, which contains some speeches and information.

Here are some excerpts from Daemonim's speech at the 269th Chung Pyung Three-Day Workshop:

Restored Blessed Christian Spirits Were Sent to the United States

On May 1 at 10am, great numbers of Blessed spiritual people descended. Not all those who were blessed in the March 20 Blessing could descend because they had not yet completed their training course. Those who have not yet fulfilled their required course have 40 more days of training in the traditions of Blessed Family life.

America is a Christian country so, in order to restore it, we need to witness to more Christians. Therefore, True Parents asked Daemonim and Heung Jin Nim to send those good spirits who were devout Christians from first and second spirit blessings to be sent to work in the USA. On May 3 at 11am, a total of 160 million devout Christian spirits arrived in New York. Soon many Christians on earth will be in a position to be restored through the work of these good spirits.

Therefore, I believe a great number

continues

Finally there is ...

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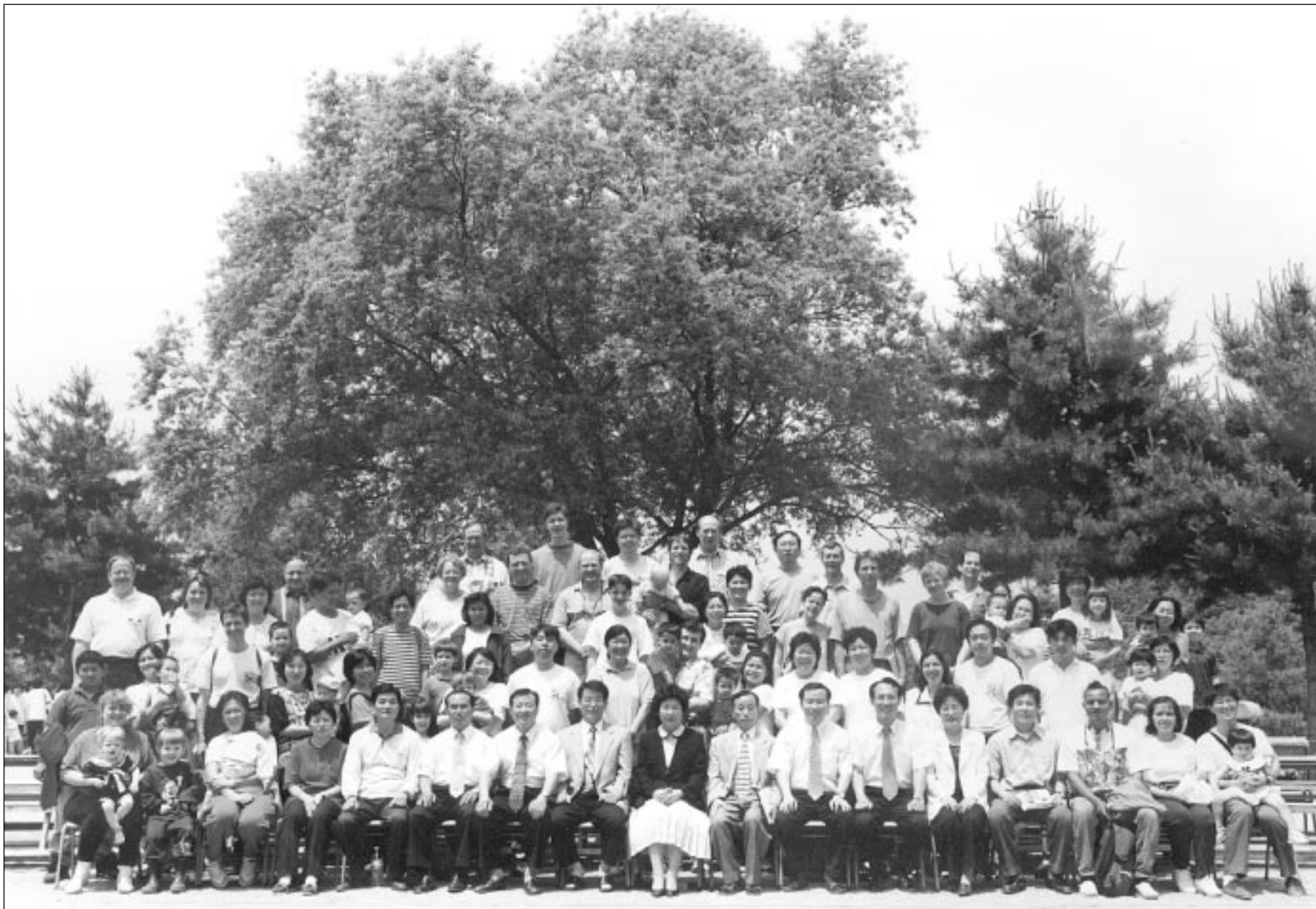
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continued

of Christians will come to our June 13 Blessing. Before these good spirits were sent out they were again taught strongly what they are supposed to do. These people led very dedicated lives while they were on earth and some of them were martyrs who died for God and Jesus. They stated that after they completed their 100-day workshop they could really understand the value of the Divine Principle. "We came to the spirit world only waiting for the Messiah, but you have True Parents with you in person and True Parents have taught you everything. Therefore you must live better and be grateful to True Parents. You must be determined to change completely to God's original ideal, becoming good people who can reach unity with God and True Parents."

This is such a wonderful time. There are multitudes of good spirits here but you don't see them so you don't know the value. Therefore, you are not here in great numbers. If you really knew, there would be so many members here it would be overflowing even out to the gate. You wouldn't even worry about what to eat or where to sleep. If you knew the reality of how valuable these good spirits are, you would fight for this like crazy. Now, these good spirits have to help us who are blind and deaf and mute. They will be guiding us and protecting us.

Now is the time all the people who were religious when they came to Chung Pyung and were sent to Heung Jin Nim's training center in the spirit world are coming to our side. In the future we will see great things happening. So the more you come and the more spirits you liberate, the more you are protected.

This is so important.

Some members are asking me to give them more spirits but I can only give you those whom you yourselves sent up to Heung Jin Nim. True Father said that this is the gate to the spirit world, and it is only here that we can send them up, and only here that they can come down to you. Please come here often so you can receive many good spirits to protect you. Let us pray.

Chung Pyung News

The Third Blessing of Spirit World Couples will be held at the same time as the Blessing ceremony in Madison Square Garden in New York on June 13, 1998.

On the morning of May 9, Heung Jin Nim gathered together many good spirits to have a special meeting. Heung Jin Nim stated that since there would be a 120 million couples Blessing on June 13 on earth, there should also be a Blessing goal set for the next Blessing to be held in the spiritual world. The goal was set for five billion spirit world people to be Blessed in the coming Blessing. He urged all those present to work hard for this goal. Those present pledged their support.

Spirit world participants at the meeting agreed they would work to bring many people to Chung Pyung and help them work hard to separate their spirits from Satan (purify their souls and hearts from evil) while they are on the Chung Pyung grounds. The good spirits said they can do it. They are determined to make the Blessing goal. Therefore, our members on earth should gather many spirits from the environment and come to Chung Pyung to liberate them. Spiritual liberation can be done only through the gate of Chung

271st Chungpyung Workshop, May 22 - 24, 1998

Pyung. When members come to Chung Pyung, good spirits help them liberate more spirits to go to Heung Jin Nim, enabling them to be Blessed. The more spirit world spiritual children we can gain, the more our lives can be improved and protected. So work hard to gain more spiritual children in the spirit world.

On May 1, at 10am, the Blessed spirits from the second spirit world Blessing held in March descended through Chung Pyung. At this time the True Parents asked that 160 million fervent Christian spirits from both of the previous spirit world Blessings be sent from Chung Pyung to the United States to work under Heung Jin Nim and Jesu Nim (Jesus) for the restoration of Christianity. They arrived in New York on May 3 at 11am.

Also, seventeen key Japanese religious leaders in the spirit world have received the Blessing. Mrs. Erikawa came to Chung Pyung to pick these leaders up to bring them back to Japan. Overall witnessing will be improved. Our members will have these spirit world leaders' support and companionship when they witness. We must even reduce our sleeping and eating time so we can go out to speak to the people. We should let heaven use our bodies for this purpose. We must be determined to fulfill God's will centering on God and True Parents.

The following is a prayer list at the five holy trees suggested by someone in 40-day workshop:

1. At the tree of love, repent for: sexual problems, sexual relations, masturbation, pornography, getting too

close to one's spouse before the right time, hatred and resentment, bad motivation in loving others. Prayer for: restoring true love and pure motivation.

2. At the tree of heart, repent for: not being able to understand and comfort God's heart, and deliberately hurting other people's feelings. Pray to understand God's heart (a) at the time of creation, (b) at the fall, (c) during restoration.

3. At the tree of all things, repent for: misuse of things, self-abuse by drugs and eating junk food, stealing, misuse of public money and failure to tithe, and bad attitude toward all things. Pray for: (a) more wealth for members so that they become better able to support God's work and become better providers but without becoming indulgent, complacent, etc., and (b) fertility, that worthy, prepared, spiritually healthy now-childless couples become able to have children.

4. At the tree of loyalty, repent for: our lack of faith and loyalty to God and True Parents, our not really believing and following True Parents' words and directions, our not being serious enough for good ancestors, and not being committed enough. Pray to become faithful, loyal and obedient and to become unchanging and absolute in our faith.

5. At the tree of blessing, repent for: not appreciating the Blessing enough, blocking God from working through us, and failing to do better towards fulfilling the three blessings. Pray: to be able to fulfill the purpose of creation, to become exemplary Blessed couples, to succeed in our missions as tribal and national messiahs, and to be thankful for all blessings in my life. ❖

BLESSING
from page 1

support and appreciation from PBS film critic Michael Medved and his wife Diane ran on the jumbotrons. They spoke of the importance of rearing children and encouraged everyone to work to protect children from abuse. They described the kind of family that only a "godly element" can ensure. "The best way to raise children is in a two-parent family that lasts for a lifetime," Mr. Medved said.

The next speaker was Michelle Myers of the Pure Love Alliance, who announced that she had just been Blessed at the RFK celebration last year. Though young, she was a forceful speaker who elicited cheer after cheer from the supportive crowd. She spoke of "the profound and potentially catastrophic consequences of the way we conduct our sexual lives."

She scolded policy-makers for looking for easy ways to solve such problems as unwanted pregnancies and sexual diseases. "Community leaders feel more comfortable handling a young person a condom than instilling in them a strong moral belief," she said to a roar of approval.

The spotlights switched from the stage area to the 2,000-member choir conducted by Angela Moses. They launched into a spirited rendition of "Kumbaya," which soon had most of the audience standing and swaying along, followed by "Blessings," a beautiful praising of God and His works.

The keynote address was given by Rev. Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, senior pastor of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ in Harlem, and Chairman of the Board of the National Action Network. He apol-



NEW FUTURE PHOTO



Venerable Seol Jung Jeon

ogized for the absence of Rev. Al Sharpton—the scheduled speaker—who had gone to Texas to attend the memorial service for the recent tragic murder there.

Rev. Walker spoke forcibly about the covenant of marriage as the foundation for a healthy society. "For two people, to love is to build something together, both contributing in joint effort all the elements needed to achieve the objective of the marriage contract. It is, in a way, the foretaste of eternity."

The World's Religions

This was the end of the Pro-Family Rally, and preparations for the Blessing began.

While members of the True Family

to New York City"—began, being shown also to the MSG audience on the Jumbotrons. Mr. Salonen welcomed the 195 countries which were participating world-wide.

Reports are that 35,000 people gathered in Seoul, 4,500 in Slovakia, 1,900 in Ivory Coast, 2,000 in Sao Paulo, 4,000 in the Jardim area of Brazil, and crowds from as small as a dozen up to the tens of thousands in Japan, Russia, Nigeria, Panama, Surinam, Uruguay, Israel, Taiwan, Ethiopia, Paraguay, Turkey, Ecuador, Rwanda, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay area and more.

The audience stood for the invocation given by Dr. and Mrs. Preston Washington, pastors of the Memorial Baptist Church in Harlem.

Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak took the podium and gave an introduction to the Blessing.

"Humanity is facing its greatest challenge—through science we have attained the externals, but the most serious challenge is the internal one....The solution is to be found in the family, the school of love, which has more value than any ideology." He gave a summary of providential history and the Blessings leading up to today's.

Following his address, the massed choirs burst into "Amazing Grace" with a lady soloist who filled the hall with her soaring rendition.

Mr. Salonen introduced the next section by noting that, while religions have many differences, "today we can

celebrate the real important points we have in common" by inviting representatives of eight world religions to give their benediction to the couples.

The hall lights dimmed, and a video introduction to Hinduism ran on the jumbotrons—images of bathing in the Ganges, a Hindu marriage ceremony, a holy man, a celebration. The Hindu representative, Sri Srivastha Goswami, sang a blessing and then spoke about "the enlarged self of husband and wife." He concluded with a song invoking Krishna's gifts on the brides and grooms.

The video introduction to Judaism contained images of the shofar, menorah, prayer at the Western Wall set to Hebrew chant/cantorial music. As Mr. Salonen explained, the Jewish representative, Rabbi

Herzel Kranz, could not be present in person because of the Sabbath, so he had videotaped his message. He concluded his address on the sanctity of marriage with his appreciation for the "dedicated work Rev. Moon is doing to strengthen holy matrimony."

The video introduction to Buddhism had images of statues, incense burning, monks dancing and temple ceremonies. The Venerable Seol Jung Jeon, the Buddhist representative—simply dressed in purple and white robes—spoke a few words in Korean and concluded with a deep bow.

The video introduction to Christianity had images of nuns in white, stained glass windows and cathedrals—accom-



Sarbjeet Singh Gobindpuri



Rev. Paul Swanson



Photo op outside the General Post Office



Left, the massed choirs and, above, the choir director, Angela Moses

Blessing '98

panied by glorious choral music—ending with a picture of Mother Teresa, which elicited a round of applause from the audience.

There were three Christian speakers representing the many different denominations:

Mr. Vyacheslav Petrovich Miskov, the representative of Ukrainian Orthodoxy—dressed in black, priestly robes—intoned a sung, liturgical blessing in Ukrainian with arms outstretched.

Rev. Paul Swanson, dean emeritus of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, citing the traditional “till death



Rev. Hycel Taylor

do us part” vows, said, “These vows are not to be relegated to the romantic legends of the past.”

The Rev. Hycel Taylor, a black Baptist pastor in New York, said the event was an “awesome occasion” but urged the audience not to forget that such a blessing is needed by many single women raising families or in search of good husbands. “My people are familiar with the brokenness of family,” Mr. Taylor said. “My people are children of slavery.”

The video introduction to Sikhism had images of the desert, people in prayer and fierce-looking bearded men. The Sikh representative, Sarbjeet Singh Gobindpuri—attired in deep blue robes—began with a sonorous chant and then spoke in English of sharing the blessing of mar-



Rev. & Mrs. Kwak’s prayer at the Holy Wine Ceremony

riage and of “no divorce, only love.” Reverting to his own tongue, he bestowed a blessing.

The video introduction to Islam was images of sand, camels, school-children in prayer, a mosque and a prayer gathering. The Muslim representative, Amb. El Bekaye Sidi Moctar from Mali, dressed in long, white flowing robes, spoke in French about Allah and gave a blessing to the couples.

Report to Heaven

Mr. Salonen thanked the speakers and introduced the 40 senior couples as attendants to the officiators. They entered down the red-carpeted steps—men on the left dressed all in white, women on the right in white with a pink pinafore—and arrayed themselves along the back of the stage and up the stairs.

To a standing ovation, Reverend and Mrs. Moon appeared at the top of the stairs, and then slowly descended to the stage.

Chairs were brought to them, and they sat for the “physical and spiritual world ceremony” presided over by Reverend and Mrs. Kwak.

In this “Report to Heaven,” Rev. Kwak announced, that along with the new couples and the previously married couples directly in attendance at the stadium, couples in spirit world would also be blessed at the same time, officiated by Jesus and Heung Jin Nim in the spirit

world and Rev. Kwak and his wife in the physical world. He said:

“True Parents are establishing the couples of Heung Jin Nim and Jesus as spiritual representatives, and our couple as the physical representative in this ceremony, to bestow a special grace. This will tear down all existing walls in the spiritual world, including the wall of Hell.

“On this occasion, we representative families now extend the pre-Blessing to all spirits, in the name of True Parents. This pre-Blessing, which includes 16 billion couples in the spiritual world, thus prepares the way for the actual Blessing ceremony which now fol-



The Blessing

all situations will be understood and all will be educated. This may sound unbelievable, but it is true. These contents already have been published.

“Included in the Blessing of numerous spirits are 34 couples, who will receive a special Blessing as the representatives both from God’s side and from Satan’s side. These include: Jesus, Confucius, Sakyamuni, Mohammed, Mary, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, John the Baptist, Socrates, Swedenborg, Sandar Singh, Syngman Rhee, Hwal Lan Kim, Maria Pak, Park Chung Hee, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, Guishi, Fukuda, Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Mao Tze Tung, Kim Il Sung, Adolf Hitler, Tojo and Benito Mussolini. Among the representatives from God’s side, there are also special individuals receiving the Blessing with earthly partners.

“There is no corner that the Blessing of true love cannot reach. It is an

lows.

“True Parents clearly understand the law and content of the spiritual world, which remained vague and uncertain until now. True Parents have sent and instructed their emissary in the spiritual world from the highest level, all the way down to those suffering in the nethermost bowels of Hell. In this way

all situations will be understood and all will be educated. This may sound unbelievable, but it is true. These contents already have been published.

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“There is no corner that the Blessing of true love cannot reach. It is an

amazing grace, not just for good spirits but for evil spirits as well, since it opens even the door of Hell and allows evil spirits to start their journey toward Heaven.

“The door of Hell and the door of Heaven are open. Good spirits and evil spirits can receive the Blessing together and stand as the restored younger brothers who can follow the elder brothers from the side of goodness who are already Blessed.

“God felt unbearable heartache when He observed the elder brother Cain murder the younger brother Abel. Now however, God is forgiving His enemies dwelling in Hell and Blessing them so that they may follow the footsteps of the beloved elder brothers. This is the Providence of true love.

“Through this historic Blessing ceremony of the spiritual world and the

earthly world, officiated by True Parents, all religious spheres can be harmonized to form a unified Realm of Blessing. The spiritual and the physical worlds can unite into one, thus establishing the Realm of Liberation. With this, I proclaim that this is

the great, pivotal Blessing ceremony that will launch the era of Heaven on earth and in heaven centered on God and True Parents.”

(Readers may read the *Divine Principle* chapter on Resurrection and the “Unification of Religions” for more theological background.)

see BLESSING on page 16



Mr. Vyacheslav Petrovich Miskov



The Awards Ceremony

Blessing Revelations from Heavenly Father

by Billie-Ann Sabo—Los Angeles CA

Even away from home, with my mind totally focused on Madison Square Garden, Heavenly Father can reveal so many things through dreams. As long as we keep our minds open and receiving, we can be filled with wonderful inspirations. I try to feel God even when I sleep.

In Region 12/Los Angeles, I am the Regional Blessing Coordinator. Almost every month, for the last year, we have had members fly to L.A. to join our MBT. We are known for our very high spirit and unity. Our region is very blessed to have a wonderful Regional Director, Rev. In Hoi Lee, and State Leader, Rev. Godwin D'Silva, who totally support our blessing activities. Rev. Lee taught us to have a very high standard when giving the blessing, so our numbers are not as high as in some areas, but each blessing we do is backed up with a name, address and telephone number.

Almost a year ago, Heavenly Father revealed to us that we should stop doing door to door and start setting up tables in shopping centers. This proved to be a very good way to bless many people and most members across the United States started doing tables. After RFK, and at the end of our three-day ceremony, Heavenly Father sent me a revelation while I slept. Office building blessings. The next day, I convinced my husband that this truly was an inspiration from God, and asked him to try blessing people in office buildings. The first day, he blessed over 300 couples and, thus, office building blessings (shop to shop) were born. This revelation was actually very powerful as it liberated us from tables.

Even with all we had been shown, Heavenly Father was not through with His revelations! Even though I'm a new member (22 months old) and

did not believe in God before joining the Church, our movement has given me strong faith and complete belief in the power of prayer.

I prayed so strongly for Heavenly Father to reveal a way for us to continue to bless hundreds of people quickly with juice. I knew we couldn't go back to bottles of juice at the tables. It was nighttime and He guided me over to a Christian bookstore in Pasadena. Even though I had been in this same store many times buying communion cups, that night right by the door was a display of little disposable juice cups from Compak Corporation. I couldn't believe it! Heavenly Father had truly answered my prayers and in a two-hour period! I wasn't sure at the time how to sanctify the cups, but I knew He would give us the answer. I bought some cups and hurried back to Pasadena House to show Rev. In Hoi Lee. I was so excited by what Heavenly Father had given us, it felt just like Christmas! Within days, the entire country was

informed about the disposable juice cups and began using them. Rev. Kim of Chicago Church visited the company and blessed the juice.

By that coming weekend, we were able to use the cups on our Mobile Blessing Team, inside our blessing baskets. Brothers and sisters were skeptical at first, but through my husband's example they were able to bless many hundreds of people with no problem. Because we were completely mobile now, we started witnessing at tourist attractions, such as Grauman's Chinese Theater (where the movie stars' footprints are in the cement) in Hollywood, and members were able to bless more than 200 in a day.

We continued blessing this way until our MSG mobilization began. While mobilized in New York, my husband Joe is the acting blessing coordinator in Los Angeles. He had continued leading the team to tourist attractions. This was good, but the daily results were only around 1500. Two weeks ago, I received

two very strong dreams about MBT/LA and saw our members very clearly at the beach, tables in the sand, members in bare feet and serving our holy juice on trays in Dixie cups! After the second dream, I called my husband and told him I was certain this was again a revelation from Heavenly Father as a way to bless more people.

He agreed to try it with the Memorial Day MBT team. The very first day, the whole team called me in New York, cheering and shouting with happiness. It was wonderful! They blessed almost 9,000 couples that weekend. Last weekend, they went to the beach again, and blessed another 12,000 couples! Los Angeles is truly on fire, and we want to share this method with all members. I truly believe it can work the same in any high-traffic area. Our numbers are high, and our blessings are good, because we are using good standards. Through my husband's dedication and hard work pioneering the way once I receive the revelations, he has been able to bless over 12,000 couples himself since mid-January!

My dream: three or four tables in the sand at the beach. Not on the boardwalk or sidewalk, but in the sand (we have the right to be on a public beach—no problem). Members should wear beach-type clothes—shorts, sandals, whatever, so they fit in. Keep it simple. Depending on the size of your team, place three to six members in the sand, holding trays with juices poured in Dixie cups. They will give the juice to people. The second set of members will then guide these people to your tables. At the tables will be another set of members to help the people sign our application and explain more about what we're doing.

It's very simple but very good. If you pre-plan your strategy, a high-traffic area, set up like this, can support over 30 members at one time.

To fulfill such high numbers of Blessings quickly is not easy. But if we just "tune in" to Heavenly Father, He will show us how to accomplish our tasks every time. ❖



BLESSING from page 15

The Blessing

After Rev. Kwak's Report, Mr. Salonen then introduced four Korean women elders who were to be blessed as wives on earth to four major saints of the spirit world—Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed and Socrates. Mrs. Won Pok Choi was blessed to Buddha! Rev. and Mrs. Kwak spoke the Blessing in Korean with hands outstretched over the heads of the four ladies. They bowed and left the stage.

Father and Mother advanced to the front of the stage as Mr. Salonen explained the symbolism of the sprinkling of Holy Water as representing Heaven's Blessing. Two second-generation girl attendants brought silver bowls to True Parents and Father spoke in English as he sprinkled the couples standing before him: "In the power of True Parents, as heaven and earth are watching, may God's blessing be abundantly bestowed on all couples," he said.

As Father was doing this, elders in holy robes moved throughout the auditorium sprinkling with holy water the

new couples as well as those there to rededicate their marriages.

Father then intoned, in a powerful voice, the four vows in Korean—with a simultaneous translation into English—and everyone roared back, "Yes, I do!"

As Father and Mother stretched out their hands over the couples before them, Father invoked the Blessing. His impassioned prayer in Korean concluded with three "Amen's" which were echoed back by the gathering.

For the exchange of rings, three representative couples ascended the dais and stood before True Parents who gave them their rings. Mr. Salonen asked all the other couples to exchange their rings and for those rededicating their marriages to also do so, if possible.

Father then read the Proclamation of the Blessing in Korean and concluded with, in English, "As heaven and earth are watching, may God's blessing be abundantly bestowed on all couples." The auditorium erupted into prolonged and enthusiastic applause.

Celebration

There were two Congratulatory Addresses.

The first was given by Dr. Aziz Sidky, Prime Minister of Egypt from 1972 to 1973 and former ambassador to France.

A dapper, gray-haired gentleman, he spoke earnestly about the sorry state of the world and the hope he saw in the Blessing. "We are all born into the family of God," he said, "but even as we gather here we see brothers fighting, killing—God didn't say we should do that!" He concluded, "Your vision, Reverend Moon, is in the right direction, calling for peace and justice."

The second address was given by Kenneth Kaunda, the first president of independent Zambia (1964-1991). He started off by leading the audience in a chant: "One World, One Revolution! One Revolution, One True Family Love!" He spoke of the hope for the future. "We are all human beings, beyond color or religion. We have come here from all points to hear your powerful message of true family love, Rev. Moon, and we thank the Lord for this example."

Gloria del Paraguay, swathed in magnificent magenta, took to the stage and sang a beautiful operatic aria.

After her song, flowers and a trophy were presented to True Parents, and

Mr. Salonen asked all to make a bow of respect. He explained the oriental custom of "three cheers for long life," and Father and Mother stepped forward and led us all in a resounding and exuberant "Mansai!"

As Father and Mother left the stage followed by the attendants, the choir erupted into the "Hallelujah" chorus. The hall was rocking!

The day concluded with entertainment. First, recording star Vickie Winans sang a powerful rendition of "Didn't You Know That You're My Hero?/...You Are The Wind Beneath My Wings" followed by who sang Japanese and Korean songs. Jaime Baer Peterson sang a heavenly "Morning Of An Age." The New Life Tabernacle Choir concluded the day with a series of high-energy spirituals.

The event was officially over and the action shifted to the outdoors where the brides and grooms assembled on the steps of the magnificent, historical, main New York Post Office Building for a group photo, and everyone else renewed old acquaintances both inside and outside the New Yorker.

This was truly a fabulous day! ❖

by Paula Fujiwara—Whittier CA

City of Carson includes Bridge Ceremony in 5th Annual Youth Conference

After experiencing the "spirit of the bridge" last October for Carson's first Interracial Bridge of Peace Ceremony, city officials decided to include the bridge ceremony in their 1998 Youth Conference, held Saturday, April 11 at the Community Center. So they asked the Interracial Sisterhood Project of Southern California to bring back their bridge for the occasion.

The Youth Conference, sponsored by the City of Carson Recreation and Community Services Department, included a full day of activities. Workshops were conducted first on the issues of teen pregnancy, peer pressure, teen suicide, erasing the color line, and domestic violence. A session was held after lunch on "Parents and Teens Mass Communication." The Bridge of Peace Ceremony was held before dinner and the day continued all the way to midnight with career workshops, a talent showcase and a dance.

Donzaleigh Abernathy, daughter of the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, who worked with Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the Keynote Speaker for the conference. She has an acting career in films and TV, and is about to publish a book documenting the civil rights movement, entitled *Partners in History*. Donzaleigh spoke at the opening of the conference and during the Bridge Ceremony: "I want you to know that the most important thing in life is love, (especially) 'agape' love: understanding, creative, redemptive goodwill love for all mankind. It is the love of God permeating through your human heart. That's the only kind of love that's going to make a difference in the world...that's going to solve the problems which face each one of you. Always know that God has something for you to do. You were given a life force and you are being asked to be the best you can be."

The atmosphere for the Bridge Ceremony was heightened with solos sung by nine-year-old gospel phenomenon Jentry Jenkins and duets by Liz Prowell and Karen Lee. ISP chairwoman Sheri Rueter, who was emcee for the ceremony, explained the significance of the bridge crossing as an opportunity for repentance, reconciliation and healing of the wounds of past wrongdoings. The ceremony was unique because of the variety of "partners for peace" who met on the bridge: interracial pairs and male-female pairs as well as parents and their children.

During dinner, ceremony participants shared about their experience. Carol Davis, the president of the Carson Women's Club, crossed the bridge with her 16-year-old son: "At that



Top, mother and daughter recite "Partner for Peace" pledge with WFWP chairwoman, Sheri Rueter, at left. Center, families cross the Bridge of Peace. Bottom, City of Carson Youth Conference participants.



moment it was like my son and I bonded. It was a really bringing-together atmosphere and I wish that a lot more parents were here with their kids." Her son Michael added: "I felt that the program here today meant a lot of good for the young people like me. I felt pretty good (crossing the bridge) because I really love my mom; I think that we should have a good relationship between me and her." Parent Josephine Marco exclaimed: "I thought it was the greatest experience I ever had and to have the biggest surprise that my son would cross the bridge with me.... (T)his is a beautiful program. I hope it grows and grows." Gregory Warren crossed the bridge with his wife, two daughters and a young man from his church. "I will plan to come back because this is very fulfilling and very rewarding. I think that everyone here has enjoyed the day and it's an experience for everyone to live this and I thank you for coming up with the idea." Ashley, who is going on thirteen, had this to say: "I thought the bridge was nice because you got to meet new people and you got to hug...and it was like increasing the peace because there were a lot of different people and you got to join and let everybody know that it's togetherness and this is what it's all about." Del Huff of the Carson Human Relations Commission remarked, "I have participated three times in the sisterhood program (bridge crossing) and each time thinking that it can't get any better than this it has been taken to a higher height. I look at this as a ministry to God's people. It's an experience as to how He intended us to live and the oneness that He created for us. The bridge crossing was a magnificent addition to the youth conference this year. I recommend this for anyone and everyone."

The bridge of peace ceremony is a tradition taking root in the City of Carson. The city is planning a second annual interracial bridge ceremony for October and will continue including the ceremony in the annual youth conference. The ISP is ready to work with any group wanting to include a bridge ceremony in their event. ❖

WRITE TO THE UNIFICATION
COMMUNITY THROUGH THE
UNIFICATION NEWS

TRUE PARENTS' HISTORY FOR CHILDREN

by Sandra Lowen

The Missionary

Mrs. Hyun Sil Kang was a religious lady who met Father in Pusan. She attended a Presbyterian seminary that was very strict with its students. They were taught to follow the Bible exactly. They did not buy or sell anything on Sundays. They did not drink wine or eat rich foods.

One day, Mrs. Kang heard of a young man who was teaching "strange things" in the mountains of Pusan. She thought to herself, "The Bible speaks of many people who will try to trick others into losing their faith in the last days. Well, these are the last days. Could this be the big deceiver, the Anti-Christ, himself?"

Mrs. Kang couldn't get the idea of this young man out of her mind. She thought Satan must be deceiving him. She also thought of his eternal soul. "He is a child of God, too," she thought. "Someone should try to help him."

Every day, Mrs. Kang prayed three or four hours and read at least 30 pages of the Bible. Every day, she visited at least three homes to talk to the people about God. Perhaps she should save the soul of this young man on the mountain. She did not know how she would find him, but she had faith that God would lead her somehow.

On May 10, 1952, she got the inspiration to go out. As she walked around, she saw a middle-aged woman near a stream. This woman greeted her and asked, "Do you work somewhere?"

Mrs. Kang answered, "I am a missionary."

"I would like to invite you to come 'home' with me."

She wasn't quite sure why she did it, but Mrs. Kang agreed to go. The woman by the stream was none other than Grandmother Oak, and she led Mrs. Kang straight to Father's little shack on the hill.

When Mrs. Kang saw the shabby hut where Father lived, she could not believe her eyes. It was so terrible that she wondered how anyone could live there without developing a resentful spirit. They went inside and sat down, and soon Father came in. Mrs. Oak introduced Mrs. Kang to a rather ragged young man, and she left them together.

Father took one look at her and said, "God has been giving you so much love for the last seven years."

Mrs. Kang was shocked. It was seven years ago that she had promised her life to God. How could he know that?

Then he said, "Today is a most special day, and you are very fortunate to be here." She could not know it then, but Father had just finished writing the original Divine Principle.

Father began teaching her about the "Last Days of the World" and the "Second Advent of the Messiah." He explained that the Messiah would not come on the clouds as she had been taught; but he would come as a physical man to their own Korea.

As Father spoke, Mrs. Kang thought to herself, "Well, that would certainly

she wondered if something was wrong with him. Or maybe something was wrong with her! Oh, dear! Mrs. Kang didn't like having such scary thoughts. She thought, "I've got to get away from here!"

She stood up to go, but Father asked her to stay for dinner. She said no, but he insisted. Now Mrs. Kang felt even more frightened. Korean standards for conduct between men and women were very strict. She should not even be in the house alone with him, and now they were to have dinner together! But she did not know how to say no, and hoped that at least the meal would be good.

she told Father about it, he said that since she had had no time to pray, he had prayed for her.

Still, it was not easy for Mrs. Kang to follow Father. She had so many doubts. But whenever she doubted him, she would feel separation from God, and sometimes she even felt pains in her chest and head. Then she would repent, and the pains would disappear.

One day, however, Mrs. Kang felt she could not go on. She went to tell Father she had to leave him. He met her outside the shack and said to her, "You came to tell me you're leaving. But I beg of you, don't leave! I need you so desperately."

Mrs. Kang felt afraid. This man knew everything about her; she didn't even have private thoughts!

He continued, "No one would choose to go such a difficult way, not even I.

But it's the way God is calling me. I can't help it. If anyone else were given this mission, I would help that person. Won't you help me?" Mrs. Kang's heart was softened. But many things still bothered her. For instance, why was Father so shabby? Why did he live in this ugly hut, disgraceful even for a refugee? Why couldn't he make money?

"Pray about it," he told her, reading her thoughts. "I tell you, someday, even western people will listen to The Divine Principle."

She went home and asked God what to do. The answer came clearly, "This man's situation is just like Jesus 2,000 years ago. Jesus' disciples helped him. Now, you should help this man." She had to obey.

Soon afterwards, Mrs. Kang witnessed to another missionary she

had known. This lady had a dream. She saw three balls of light, then three Rose of Sharon flowers (the Korean national flower), then Jesus' face. Then she saw a mountain, a small refugee hut, and a young man coming to meet her.

Mrs. Kang told her that her dream meant that light comes from Korea, and that Jesus would appear in Korea. She then took the lady to meet Father. When the woman saw the hut, she realized that it was the same one she saw in her vision, and that Father was the young man.

Then, Father told the lady that the vision was not really for her, but for Mrs. Kang, to help her stop doubting so much.

That lady joined the church, and she later teased Mrs. Kang, "I am actually your spiritual mother, not your spiritual daughter, because it was my vision that saved you."

"Maybe so! Maybe so!" Mrs. Kang would laugh. She just knew she was glad she could serve Father; she was glad she was saved from doubt; and she was glad to be a woman who could help the Messiah while he was beginning his work on earth. ❖



be nice, but the things he says are impossible."

Father told her that in 1950 Jesus had appeared in the skies of North Korea, and during the Korean War an airline pilot saw Jesus very clearly in the sky. The South Korean newspapers even printed articles about it.

Mrs. Kang was disturbed by Father's words, but she was even more disturbed by his shouting. He spoke with great force, even though the room was very small and she was the only person there. She leaned away from him, and still his booming voice annoyed her. When she looked into his face, she saw that his eyes shone brilliantly, and

It was terrible! No rice at all; just barley, the cheap kind that the government gave out to refugees; sour kim-chee, and bean curd. Father asked her to pray. How could she pray over such an awful meal? Besides, she was exhausted. So Father prayed.

That prayer changed Mrs. Kang's life. Never had she heard of such love for God or such dedication to His work. Mrs. Kang realized the difference between her own selfish prayers and his simple offer of his life to God.

Mrs. Kang asked if she could come back, and Father answered with a smile that she would be welcome 24 hours a day. In a few days, she returned, and Father explained more things to her.

One day she was responsible to lead the service at her seminary. She told Father she had to leave early to prepare for it. However, he kept talking for so long that she barely made it back in time. She was sure that she would do a horrible job of presenting her program, because she had no time to prepare. Instead, it went splendidly, and everyone told her how inspiring her talk had been. Later, when

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DIVINE PRINCIPLE STUDY

THE ORIGIN OF CONFLICT AND SUFFERING

Volume Two • Part Seven

The question may be asked: How could God's plan go wrong like this? he created the universe. He must be almighty. Lucifer, Adam and Eve were all His creatures. They must have existed in accordance with his plan. How could things turn out so badly?

In the view of Divine Principle, God created in such a way that His universe may be compared to a train running on a track. The train represents God's creation and the track is comparable to His law. As a train is guided by the track, so God's creation develops automatically within the context of His law. But if the train is struck by another power greater than the holding power of the track—for example, a landslide or an intersecting truck—the train will be derailed.

Similarly, if some power in the universe greater than law struck Adam and Eve, then they could be knocked off their original course. Such a power—greater than all the law and principle of God—is the power of love.

Love, Not Law

As was explained in the Principle of Creation, God created to experience the give and take of love. his ideal is not a world of law or regulation, but a

world of love. Therefore, God made the power of love greater than every other power. Love is the supreme force in the universe. God made the power of love so absolute that even His principle does not preclude expressing love in a way which violates His will. Adam, Eve and Lucifer fell because of the power of love.

Literature and history alike pay trib-

let's uncle was driven by passion to kill his brother in order to marry his sister-in-law, and how Lear became literally insane because he made a mistake about how much his daughters loved him. In our time, King Edward VIII abdicated the British throne for the sake of love.

How long would God have required Adam and Eve to keep the commandment not to eat of the "fruit"? If Adam and Eve had perfected themselves, they would have entered the direct dominion of God's love. Then, with God's blessing, they would have free to develop their love with each other as husband and wife. If they had done so, there would have been no possibility

of their love being broken. Having perfected themselves individually, they would have been capable of developing a mature love with each other. Accordingly, obedience to God's commandment was necessary only as long as Adam and Eve were still growing toward perfection.

Free Will and the Fall

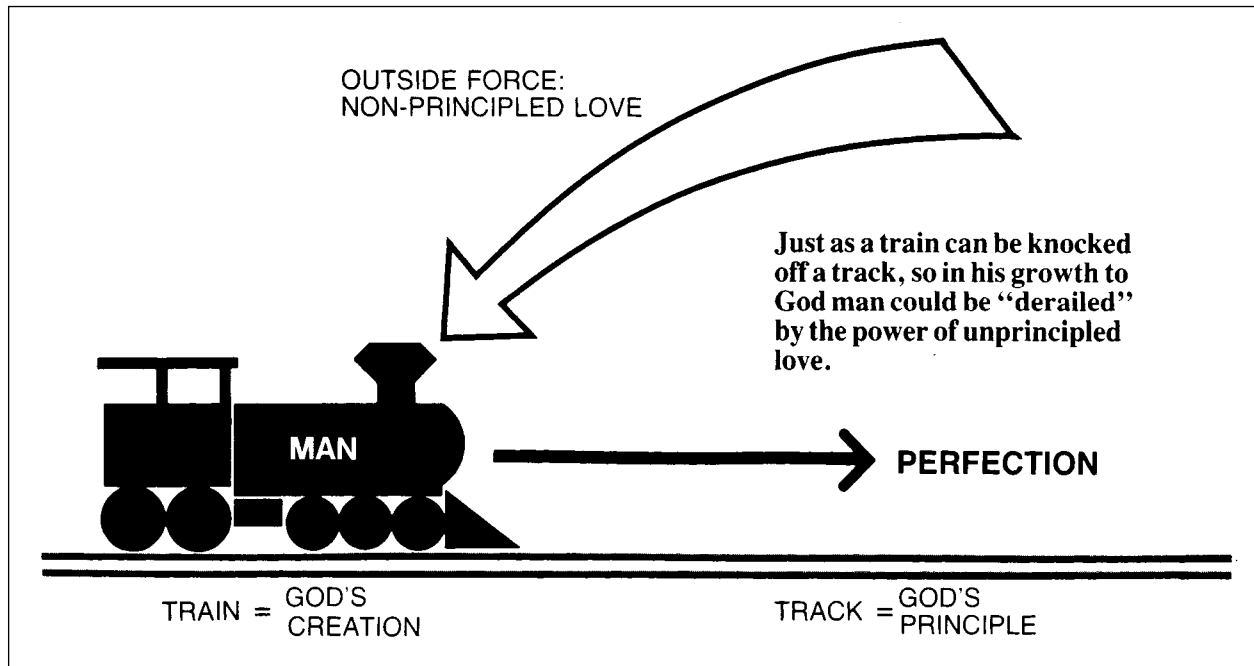
In the Principle of Creation, it was shown that God gave free will to man to allow us to participate in His creation, thus becoming a co-creator with Him. Therefore, God's giving a free will to man was necessary and good, as traditional Judeo-Christian theology has asserted. Free will is the greatest gift

God gave man.

If man were simply forced to serve God, there would be no beauty or life in man, and no joy or glory for God. It is most beautiful and precious when man serves God voluntarily and loves Him wholeheartedly, in free will. The flower turns its face to the sun because there is no alternative open to it; man's free will gives his existence a special dimension. From this, man is supreme in all creation, validating his lordship.

Some believe that Adam and Eve fell because they had free will. Of course, their free will made it possible for them to fall. If they had fallen because of their free will, however, there would always be the danger of falling, even after they had become perfect. Insecurity would exist even in the Kingdom of God, where man is to have complete freedom. Such insecurity would then exist forever, and the promised attainment of perfection would be impossible.

**Next Month • Part Eight
The Loss of Freedom ❖**



ute to the omnipotent reign of love over the human heart. Freud and other psychoanalysts point out that in this fallen world the erotic impulse by itself is strong enough to disregard all the moral conventions which society and conscience ascribe to the will of God. Shakespeare has immortalized how love drove Romeo and Juliet to suicide, how Ham-

Love of God, Love of Man

Since God created love supreme, once man attains maturity and becomes united with God in love, nothing can break this relationship. In perfection, no corruption is possible because a person is one with the love of God. However, before man reaches perfection, his desire may be misdirected. For this reason, according to Divine Principle, man and woman should experience a full union of love with each other only after their love for God has crystallized. To achieve this, God knew Adam and Eve needed protection and special guidance. For this purpose, He gave them the commandment: "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat" (Gen 2:16-17).

The sexual interpretation of the Fall has signal merit precisely because it points the finger at the one sin which is rooted in the biological structure of man. In one sense and apart from details of his theories, Freud correctly traced the human tragedy to the sexual drive.

As long as our ancestors had faithfully kept the commandment, they would not have become over involved with the archangel. Under these circumstances, the love powerful enough to cause Adam and Eve's deviation would not have come into existence. However, since they did not keep the commandment and instead formed a close reciprocal relationship with Lucifer, an immoral love developed and caused them to deviate from the track of God's principle.

The words in the word list are hidden in the diagram of letters. Find them by reading forward, backward, up, down and diagonally, always in a straight line. Some of the letters in the diagram are used in more than one word and some are not used in any words. If two forms of the same word (RICH and RICHEST, for example) are in the word list, they will be found in different places in the diagram. When you locate a word in the diagram, draw a loop around it. Cross out the word you found in the word list.

**This Month's topic:
Quotation from The Messiah**

The Quotation is from "The Exposition of the Divine Principle" page 113

"Did Jesus' crucifixion which brought us redemption from our sins fulfill the purpose (of the) providence (of) restoration."

Words in brackets are not included in the word search.

C	R	U	C	I	F	I	C	T	I	O	N
R	N	Y	O	J	T	S	S	N	H	E	O
I	F	O	M	B	U	V	E	T	C	A	I
M	U	N	I	S	R	E	S	N	I	S	T
E	L	K	E	T	D	O	E	L	H	I	P
X	F	J	C	F	A	D	U	S	W	I	M
D	I	O	U	R	I	R	S	G	U	S	E
T	L	R	D	V	P	V	O	F	H	T	D
H	L	S	O	I	L	L	F	T	H	T	E
R	I	R	O	T	D	R	E	E	S	N	R
E	P	U	R	P	O	S	E	H	X	E	O
E	R	U	C	M	E	D	I	E	D	Y	R

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SOLUTION

Compiled by Wendy Stovall—Salt Lake City, UT

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What Does Academics Have To Do With God?

by Martin Herbst—Barrytown NY

This is the first in a series of two articles based on a sermon given at UTS 1/11/98.

Consider the passage in the Bible describing Jacob's enlightening experience at Bethel. Here Jacob dreams about a ladder extending from earth and into heaven. I find this story very meaningful for it indicates that there exists a continuum between the earthly realm and the heavenly, between the human dimension and the divine. From this perspective it seems that there is a connection between the world of academics and the experience of God. The ladder in the story is placed on earth but leads step by step into heaven. Similarly the academic life is rooted in the earthly realm but can guide us towards God if we have the courage to take the right steps. It is as individuals we climb a ladder. Likewise, it is every person himself who is responsible to begin this journey to connect his earthly reality with God. As indicated in the story when you begin to see this connection you will be assisted by angels.

There are however many people who find it hard to see affinities between academic life and God. Like Jacob they are unaware of how close God often is. Countless are the stories where people lose their faith when they begin to study it. I once had a friend in Denmark. He was the son of a minister and decided to follow in his father's footsteps. So he began to study theology. After he had been study for about half a year I met him again. When I asked him about his studies he replied that he had left the school and was now receiving psychiatric treatment. He had lost faith in God and blamed it all on the school. Afterwards I couldn't help but think: "What on earth are they doing to people in there?"

All of us know that it is a real challenge to harmonize studies with a living relationship to God—to experience God genuinely while we study. There are people who regard a personal relationship to God and a possible future mission as an opposite of the academic life—as if there is, or ought to be, enmity between the house of learning and the house of God. This viewpoint can draw much support from the tradition of Soren Kierkegaard, Karl Barth, and the Niebuhrs, where God is seen as the transcendent "wholly other." In this line of thought there is a constant awareness of one's sin and a rather pessimistic view of the human condition. We are rescued only because of the magnificent grace of God. Although God is transcendent, an atmosphere of judgment is immanent, for there is always a considerable distance between the ideal and reality, between our words and deeds.

A student adhering too strictly to this line of thought faces several pitfalls.

First, there is the danger that he will never really take his studies seriously. So afraid of being contaminated by a million points of view, he hides in his armor of faith and marches through the academic years with his eyes fixed on the little light at the end of the tunnel beyond which he hopes to meet God. His spiritual life is marked by a dryness which further proves to him how detrimental to a living faith the academic world is. He does not expect to meet God in the books and surely never does. He might even feel guilty when he studies. And since studies are viewed as a necessary evil he often cheats for it doesn't really count if you cheat the devil, does it? Finally he passes his insights and experiences on to others who recognize the truthfulness of his testimony.

On the other side of the spectrum we find people who joyfully have made it their habit to equate God's will with their own doings. They solely emphasize God's immanence. Such a person has of course managed to escape from the "terrible day of the Lord," but there is a danger that he will tolerate just about anything. Gone is the reflection upon my own sinfulness and with this the awareness of the distance between God and myself. From being the "wholly other" God is transformed to become the "wholly me." The transcendence of God is substituted for His immanence and His immanence for me, myself. Since we are all gods, why point out each other's mistakes? As gods we are probably beyond good and evil altogether, and have undoubtedly eons of time both behind and ahead of us. This viewpoint can find much support in the more liberal branches of Christianity with representatives such as Schleiermacher, various modern theologians and the so-called New Age Movement inspired by Oriental philosophy.

I myself prefer a middle position between these two viewpoints. On the one hand, we must always strive toward the will of God which embraces the entire cosmos. But this striving must simultaneously become a striving inward for the will of God must be found not out there but in here. It is within our hearts that the living God dwells. Each of us must locate the will of God within ourselves and then charge forward into the world at large. God is in other words both transcendent and immanent. In this story about Jacob's dream, God presumably resides in heaven at the end of the ladder. But interestingly, He is right next to Jacob all the time, speaking to him. God is both "up there" and "right here." His transcendence does in no way compromise His immanence. The same holds true for you and me. It is an amazing little story, don't you think?

Because the almighty God dwells within your heart, you owe it to God to humbly listen to His own voice within. To fol-

low your own intuitions, your own conscience. Not to follow one's own intuition and conscience is also a form of disobedience. But because God and the will of God embraces the whole cosmos, I can never make my own individual feelings the final standard of reference. We need to be aware of the difference between God's heart and will for the whole world on the one hand, and my own life on the other. By being aware of the distance between the larger whole and me, myself, I can begin to close the gap. Like Jacob we can begin to climb the ladder until we can see the purpose of the whole even in the smallest detail. The goal, I think, is to live in such a way as to invite the whole cosmos into our living room, into our marriage, into our life, and to receive its wholehearted applause. To love my wife as if she represented all women, to love every person as if he represented

as I have been told. Or if there are 200 billion galaxies in the universe and not 350 billion. I was not there at the Battle of Saratoga in—was it?—1776. And I have almost forgotten if the periodic table to elements consists of 91, 92 or 93 names—or did we discover some new elements recently? All I know is that without this basic trust I have no way to go forward. At least for now I must accept many formulas and opinions which are bound to be outdated or revised in a number of years.

Without this rather remarkable trust in the scientific community and our educational institutions, I would probably be considered paranoid or fanatic! I would be diagnosed as a person who suffers from a rare case of "trust-phobia" and be turned over to a group of people who have made it their living to study deviant behavior.

Paradoxically, it is especially in the hard sciences such as mathematics and physics that the demand to accept absolutes is most obviously pronounced. The basic physical laws are regarded as immutable, absolute and beyond time and space. With all respect for the many atheistic scientists, I still want to express my sincere suspicion that many of them unknowingly satisfy a deep need for faith by remaining loyal to their own academic disciplines.

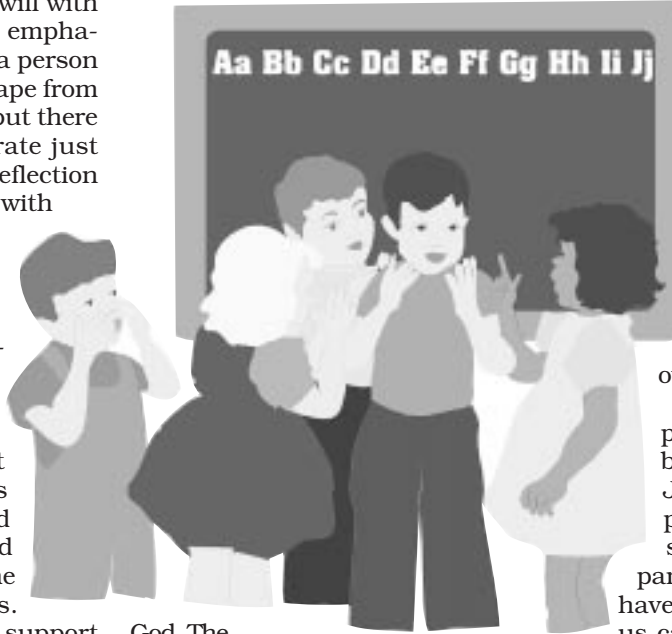
The faith we are trained to display in one area of life can easily be transmitted to another area. Just as the trust in our earthly parents can prepare us well for the subsequent faith in our heavenly parent, likewise faith in people who have gone before us or are ahead of us can help us to a deeper relationship with God. Faith is essential whether we want to encounter the divine or the human. Without faith where would we be, anyway?

One of the reasons why it was so difficult for people 400 years ago to accept Copernicus' new model of the solar system was that it went against common sense as they had known it. Picture yourself 400 years ago in the shoes of some grandmother or farmer. Perhaps their conversation would have gone something like this: "If the earth as they say is round, then why don't we fall off?" "Yes, and if it is spinning around at 300 meters per second, then why can't we feel this motion? The corn looks pretty steady today." How would you have reacted to these new ideas? But someone followed an inner voice and step by step more evidence supported this vision of the "new heaven and new earth."

Mind-Body Unity

Although faith is the beginning it is certainly not the end. However much we believe in the Word of God, if we fail to practice it our lives will be dull. Dull and boring. Actions must match words. It is commonly believed that God dwells in our minds and hearts, but I think it is more correct to say that God dwells in the point within us where our mind and body meet and become one. No one but you yourself can feel where that sacred place is. What I am trying to illustrate is that to resonate with God

see **ACADEMICS** on page 21

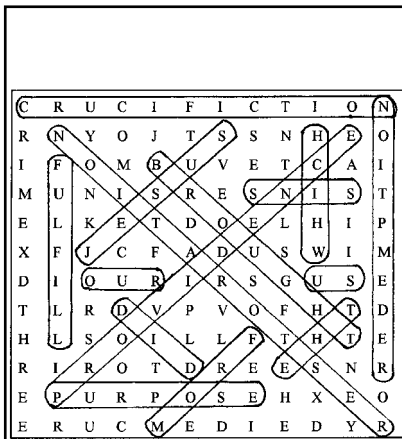


God. The art of building this bridge between the private and public dimensions of a life of faith is, I believe, the meaning of a religious way of life.

Faith

Faith is the essence of the religious life. In order to experience the living God, we must rely on something beyond our own rational mind. We must trust in things we cannot verify by direct observation. We are expected to rely on the statements of people who have gone before us. Often we have no way of knowing if what we believe in is indeed true, but as we walk the way of trust, we sense from practical experiences what is healthy and conducive to our spiritual growth and the well-being of the religious community we are part of.

Similar observations can be made with regard to studies in general. One of the first things that struck me when I began to study the hard sciences was how much data I had to remember by heart without ever asking a question. At least at my modest level I have no way of checking whether the so-called mathematical and physical constants are indeed what they are proclaimed to be. I was not there 15 billion years ago when God had had enough of His silence. I have no way of checking out if it is true that the faculty of vision is located in the "occipital lobe" and not somewhere else in the brain. Or if an "action potential" in the nerve is conditioned by the charge of sodium ions,



How Does Your "Love Garden" Grow?

by Marilyn Morris—Westerville, OH

These days, the word "family" and "values" are used widely and with many different meanings. True Family Values attempts to express the essential meaning of these two words. Promise Keepers, a program attempting to reintegrate men into leadership roles within their families, is sweeping the nation. According to the most recent articles, it is not being driven by men with the desire to take over the family as a "macho" ruler, but rather by women persuading their husbands to go in an attempt to create a stable home life. General interest in this topic cannot be underestimated as Stephen Covey's most recent book "The 7 Habits of Highly Successful Families" is already back ordered in many bookstores before the arrival of the first shipments!

True Family Values does not try to create specific roles for men and women, but rather reveal core concepts of how we develop and relate to one another as human beings in the family, which we call, the "school of love."

From the chart, we can see that there are four basic areas of emotional development within a healthy family setting.

For children, the normal range of emotional development is self-centered. When a baby is hungry, he cries. The baby does not think of how tired the parents might be at 2:00 in the morning. He just knows his own needs and demands that they be met. If they are fulfilled in a loving and caring manner, the child is able to develop the basis of faith, meaning that he can believe in others and count upon them in times of stress, no matter how simple that stress might be.

If the child suffers neglect in essential areas of his early development, either physically or emotionally, he will not be able to depend upon others and learn how to move into the next stage of development. Sharing things and making friends will be difficult. Having learned not to believe in others, creating relationships of mutual trust will not be possible.

We can see where this leads. Without being able to practice relationships of mutual trust, the child, emerging into his teenage years will only experience fleeting friendships and shallow relationships with both sexes. There is no basis for intimacy. Sexual relationships can be physically attained,

but intimacy can only be built over a long period of time where the two partners willingly share in all things and in all ways. This is why the commitment, only attained in marriage, is so significant. Marriage, as an institution, understands that for two people to secure this level of human relation-



ship, they must be set apart from all other human relationships and especially honored. Thus, pre-marital sex undermines young people's attempts later on to build intimacy in their lives, while extra-marital sex can destroy intimacy within the marriage relationship altogether.

Without the first three stages of development, the fourth and most important stage cannot be attained. Sad to say, many, many children are born from situations where the only basis for their being is where two very selfish people come together for physical needs, but are unable to offer the kind of sacrificial love that will help the new child develop beyond his first stage of emotional development. And so, the pattern repeats itself.

As a professional pastoral counselor, I have counseled numerous married couples and can see that many of the marital problems that have been described to me stem from two people caught in the first or second stage of development and unable to create intimacy and dependability. Not all married couples are two totally selfish people. Usually, they are caught in the stage of mutual love, each expecting the other to give back in equal amounts what they perceive they have contributed to the relationship. Almost

never can such equality be attained in a marriage. Intimacy requires being able to give more than what one perceives he/she receives in return. Otherwise, husband and wife live parallel existences and never plumb the depths of each other's heart. However, when both partners attempt to give more to one another than what they expect to receive in return, intimacy will begin to emerge between them. They learn to negotiate each other's needs for the sake of the relationship and not only for the sake of their own well being.

This sets the stage for the next development of heart which puts aside all concern for its own needs and directs its focus upon the needs of the other. This is the main characteristic of the parental heart in which the parent willingly sacrifices their needs for the benefit and well-being of the child and it is such a heart that most closely resembles how God relates to us, His children. Thus, it is nearly impossible to understand God in a heart-to-heart manner without developing through the above stages of emotional growth. St. Paul understood this in his explanation of religious development when he advised that those new in the Christian faith take "milk" rather than "meat." He meant that they could not digest the more difficult forms of community relationship until they had first established basic faith in God's work in their personal lives.

Often the words "faith" and "religion" are synonymous in people's minds, reflecting a general misunderstanding that religion is mostly about receiving from God according to one's needs. But, this is an immature view of faith and, in the long run, not a deep understanding expression of God's heart. In a religious life, we need to further our development in mutual relationships, i.e., sharing with one another in a community of faith. Through this we can emerge into a more intimate relationship with God, thinking more of what God might need from us rather than what we need from God. Finally, the truly mature person goes beyond even their own religious boundaries, thinking of how God might

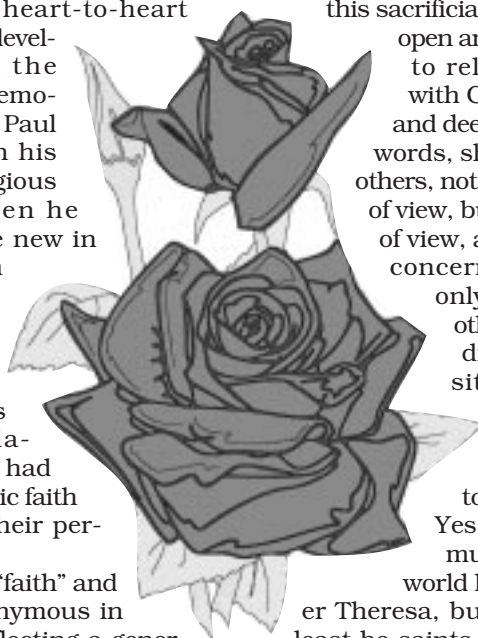
take care of the world's situation and stepping in whenever they can to reflect how they perceive God might feel toward others.

Mother Theresa exemplifies this parental heart expressed within a religious embrace. Her ability to love the outcasts of Calcutta's streets, and later other mean streets of cities throughout the world, endeared her not only to Catholics but to people of all faiths. Such a person is truly a saint. Mother Theresa was able to attain this level of love by enacting the example she saw in Jesus who, two thousand years ago, asked God to grant mercy even to his enemies, the powerful, corrupt leaders representing Roman interests in Israel. This heart of parental concern, even for the most destructive child, but nonetheless God's child, gave rise to a new religious expression for humankind, Christianity.

This is why Mother Theresa could experience Christ when she touched the untouchables. It was a real and tangible experience because through this sacrificial practice she could

open and expand her heart to relate and resonate with God's at the highest and deepest levels. In other words, she could look upon others, not from her own point of view, but from God's point of view, as a parent with no concern for oneself, but only with concern for others, no matter how difficult or dire their situation might be.

Am I hinting that we need to be saints in order to parent effectively? Yes, I am. Not that we must be saints on the world level such as Mother Theresa, but that we must at least be saints on the day-to-day level attending to the needs of our children, our spouses, our homes and our communities. Think about it. St. Paul described it so beautifully when he concluded his chapter on love with "Faith, hope and love, but the greatest of all of these is love." Many of us are nearly saints without even knowing it. We should value how love grows and tend to it in every possible way. True Family Values strives to give us the tools with which to dig the soil, plant the seeds and nurture the family garden. How does your garden grow? With faith, trust, hope and love, that's how your garden grows. ❖



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we must take after him. In the Bible it says that God answers the prayers of a righteous man. Why not any man? The reason is that God can only reciprocate with somebody who is like Him, harmonized in words and deeds. And this takes sacrifice and discipline.

It is precisely in this unity between mind and body that the universal and abstract ideas become individualized and specific. Out of a million different possibilities that roam around in your head, you have to choose the one and only. Formulate it with your mouth or

write it with your hand. Manifest it with your being. It is in this process of deciding and choosing that you become a creator. When this happens we find ourselves in the presence of truth, the presence of judgment, the presence of a new creative act with unending potential.

I am sure you can recognize the similarities between the efforts to unite mind and body in a religious context and the discipline it takes to meet the requirements of almost any academic course. I choose to see a deep spiritual significance in trying my best as a student whatever that means at my modest level. Instead of looking upon examinations, the grading system and assignments as elements that add mis-

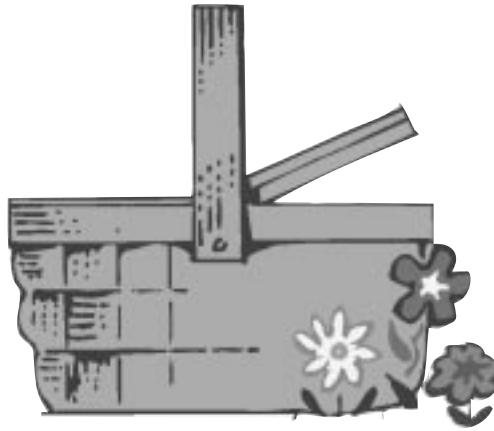
ery to life, utilize them to further your own spiritual growth. A life with God does not begin after graduation in some remote place untouched by human civilization. It is here and now or never and nowhere. But what about courses we find meaningless or topics or teachers we even hate, for that matter? Challenge yourself to find ways to like them anyway. Be creative within yourself. After all, as believers it is our highest ideal to take after Christ and embrace our enemies with both love and sacrifice, isn't it? Perhaps by practicing the above you will turn your worst enemies into your best friends. Now that would be something, wouldn't it? Sometimes God prefers to work in mysterious ways,

and please let him.

All the great religions emphasize the value of sacrifice and the power of the spirit to conquer the environment. The same applies in the realm of science. Who doesn't respect scientists like Albert Einstein who worked day and night guided by an inner intuition? Or Thomas Edison, who expressed that "genius consists of 5% inspiration and 95% perspiration"? Don't beg God to turn your stones into soft loaves of bread. Instead, see in the stones opportunities to demonstrate your own creativity. Then miraculously they will become as bread, nurturing your spiritual growth. God is already victorious. But as a parent He

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FOR KIDS

by Françoise

Find the seven differences between these two drawings of Sunday School celebrating True Day of All Things in the park

Help them find the barbecue



DR. TYLER O. HENDRICKS

Dr. Hendricks is the President of the Unification Church of America

On the evening of June 13, 1998, after the completion of the Blessing '98 ceremony at Madison Square Garden, Reverend and Mrs. Moon prepared a banquet. The guests were treated to the finest cuisine of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel; it was filet mignon. They cheered the Moon couple and presented them awards. Then Reverend Moon ascended to the podium to give his closing remarks. He began by saying, "No matter how much we want the Kingdom of God, if God doesn't want it, it will not come. But if God wants it, then it will appear even if we don't want it."

I was fascinated by that statement. "Why," I asked myself, "would we not want the Kingdom of God?" The answer came to me immediately: "People will not want the Kingdom of God because it is a time of judgment."

I began to reflect upon Jesus' teachings about the kingdom of God. In the face of the Lady Clairol Jesus of recent vintage, the parables lead me to the conclusion that Jesus had an extremely harsh side to his character. For instance, "the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants" (Mt 18:23). Or he depicts the Lord as a "hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed" (Mt 25:24). Or, "...at the end of the age... The Son of Man will send out his angels and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil" (Mt 13:40b-41); or the clincher: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man" (Mt 24:37-39).

Pretty harsh material, that; not the stuff of "gentle Jesus, meek and mild." It is striking to me how Jesus foresees miserable ends for those who reject God's kingdom. One can feel his vitriol against those of his own era who were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage all the while ignoring, castigating, undermining or making light of Jesus. And so he pronounced harshly upon those who reject the kingdom.

Now, if you are like me, you probably take Jesus' words of judgment to apply to someone else. Hearing his words, we immediately bring to mind some incorrigibly wicked souls who have sold themselves to the devil. Ignorant, loutish, gluttonous, adulterous, corrupt scoundrels, this greasy species would not recognize an act of kindness if it were put in front of them, much less would they give a whit about the kingdom of God. We feature crowds of jubilant believers shouting and cheering on everyone to come into the kingdom, and these criminals responding, "Woe is us; we lost our way by our killing, fornicating and carousing."

But what do we do with Jesus' sayings that it is the low-lives who will enter the kingdom first, and the religious leaders last? What if, in other words, the kingdom's coming is not transparent? In fact, what if it is very difficult to recognize, or, at least, what if it is difficult to recognize until it is too late? In fact, Jesus' sayings

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN REALITY

presuppose that the coming of the kingdom will not be obvious. The gist of the Noah reference is that by the time the people in general recognized their plight, the door was already closed. Then it dawned upon them (one suspects) that it was not criminality which blinded them, but rather their going about the business of living. To them it was respectability; to God it was arrogance, to them it was responsibility, to God it was complacency, apathy and blindness.

Thus the appropriateness of his repeated references to the "gnashing of teeth." People who gnash their teeth are those who had the kingdom within their grasp, and let it slip through their hands for what, in retrospect, was no good reason. To be sure, Jesus makes of it a surety that the kingdom will come exactly when we do not expect it. "If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him" (Mt 25:43-44).

An Obscure Kingdom

Now, one might say that in this respect, the New Testament is not very helpful.

numerous alternatives to the kingdom which appear more attractive, reasonable, as having greater potential for success, as being more benign, more mystical, more magical, and so forth. That is, whatever one envisions the kingdom being, these sought-after qualities will manifest with more power in places that are not the kingdom than in the place that is the kingdom. If you are into great music, you will find greater music outside the kingdom than in. If you are into profound knowledge, you will find greater knowledge outside the kingdom than in. If you are into wealth, you will find it more readily outside the kingdom than in. If you are interested in just living a stable, coherent life, you will find it more available outside the kingdom than in.

In other words, the kingdom will appear in the place which seems, from every human vantage point, the last place one would expect it. Thus Jesus said, "The master...will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of" (Mt 24:50), and cited the Psalms, "The stone the builder rejected has become the capstone" (Mt 21:42), and told the legitimate religious leaders of his day that "the tax collectors, and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you" (Mt 21:31).



All we are told under the heading of how to recognize the kingdom is that the kingdom will not be easy to recognize. Hey, I mean, is that highly effective leadership? Well, if nothing else, it gives one pause. It tells us that this kingdom is not a matter of human virtue and intelligence. It puts us on our guard, continuously on the edge of our seats. It calls all our life's activities into question. It casts doubt on their true worth.

But we can regard this from a more constructive perspective. Jesus' words in the New Testament inform us that during the period of time in which there is a real moral value to our recognizing the kingdom, it will be an "obscure kingdom." This is to say, then, that there will be a good deal of evidence against the kingdom being authentic. It may not appear that special; it may contain obvious flaws. It may be susceptible of criticism. People will examine it, but not see it; they will listen, but not hear what is being said. And Jesus describes, in the parable of the sower, what will distract us from seeing, from hearing; the cares of the world, lack of understanding, the troubles or persecution belief engenders, the deceitfulness of wealth.

This implies also that there will be

How Does God Work?

What does the Bible point to as positive signs of the kingdom? We know what not to look for, but what do we look for? The Bible teaches that God is very consistent. At times of His decisive intervention, He always, always, always, works on the periphery. He never, never, never, works through the mainstream religion. Will God change now? Well, the onus of the argument would certainly fall on those who argue God would change and begin to work His revolutionary change within established institutions—even those He created. After all, God created the priesthood of Israel. But He worked from the periphery into that mainstream. What is more peripheral than an illegitimate baby born to a peasant girl?

Second, he does His primary work through flesh and blood. Sure, God makes the sun stop in the sky, or sends a devastating flood, or sends plagues, or divides the sea, or leads the people by fire and cloud, or rents the cloth between the holy place and most holy place in two, or raises the dead. These miracles appear, nonetheless, in close association with the work of a chosen individual, a frail human being, a man on the periphery. And there are two points worth noting about God's

miraculous interventions.

One, they appear after the door is closed. They transpire after the people had their chance through flesh and blood and, with or without full awareness of what they were doing, made their decision. In other words, the miracles are aspects of the judgment. The flood is the archetypal example Jesus used, as referenced above. The many miracles associated with Moses are of the same type. Pharaoh had the opportunity to accept God's message through Moses, flesh and blood. The Pharaoh rejected the words and then came the judgment in the form of miracles. The people had the opportunity to accept God's reality in Christ, flesh and blood. They rejected and then came the miracle of the torn curtain and the resurrection.

Two, they appear not as the primary substance of God's work, but rather in order to bolster the legitimacy of the flesh and blood representative of God before disbelievers. Jesus stated this explicitly: "...even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father" (Jn 10:38). It was the same with Moses. In Exodus 3, God tells Moses what to tell the people and He assures Moses that Israel will listen (Ex 3:18). Then God tells Moses to speak to the Egyptians, but that they will not listen unless God backs the words up with signs. Moses is continually skeptical about the effectiveness of his words alone, and finally God assures him that He will provide plenty of miracles (Ex 4:1-9). The Exodus narrates time and again God's words in Moses being rejected and then miraculous signs or punishments resulting.

What was Jesus' attitude about this second type of intervention? Judging from Mk 8:11-12, it was none too favorable. He "sighed deeply" at the Pharisees asking him for a sign from heaven, and said that "no sign will be given to [this generation]." In other words, people should recognize God's work by their native, common sense. In Matthew 16:4, he states that "no sign will be given except the sign of Jonah." Now, the book of Jonah records the miracle of three days in the belly of the whale, and Jesus does refer to this in Matthew 12:40. But he immediately explains that the basis upon which men will be judged has to do not with the three days, but rather with their response to Jesus' preaching: "The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here" (Mt 12:41). He clearly was talking about the people's repentance averting the wrath of God. Jesus said that the people of his day would be judged by those repentant people of Nineveh who recognized the work of God.

Thus, the judgment had not to do with miracles, but with flesh and blood. The people as a whole could not, or would not, recognize Jesus as greater than Jonah, as wiser than Solomon. The kingdom was obscure. There were many superior alternatives available: the Roman Empire, the Temple religion, John the Baptist. Few placed their bets with Jesus. He didn't seem to have much to offer by way of security, legitimacy, a place at the table.

The troubling thing is that Jesus said that it would be the same at the second coming.

What Does God Oppose?

Another means to recognize the kingdom of God is to identify that against which the kingdom stands. It is only logical that the kingdom will oppose the same things today that it opposed consistent-

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ly in the past. In the Old Testament, Israel stood against definable enemies of God, called false gods or idols. From hindsight, they appear easy to discern. They were represented by actual physical statues and actual religious institutions which worshiped these statues. Well, we might say, we don't have Dagon and Asherah and Baal to worry about anymore. Those neo-pagan groups cropping up these days are inconsequential; the worship of earth deities does not threaten Christian culture today. Right. Well, let's save that discussion for another day. For now, never mind the pagan cults. Just consider how their characteristics are manifesting in our mainstream culture.

One, these religions were really into nature. That is, the authority of the false gods derived from their power over nature. Their main purpose was to insure that nature would be kind to us, that the rains would come, that the river would not flood, that the storms would not sweep us away, that the earth would be fruitful. To worship the false gods was to worship the gods of the environment.

Two, they were really into sex. They related human copulation with the fertility of the soil. And so their shrines were the home of prostitutes, male and female. Their worship included sexual intercourse with temple prostitutes. Three, they didn't have much truck for children. There was ritual sacrifice of children to the gods.

Now, put those elements together. A religion that celebrates free sex, condones child sacrifice and considers the highest value to be a fruitful environment. Dress it up. Put it into sophisticated English. Substitute scientists for magicians, rights activists for priests. What you have is our contemporary secular culture. Today's secular culture has many features that God fought against in the Old Testament: it is man worshipping his own creation, his own image, his own knowledge, his own pleasure.

Environmentalism virtually constitutes a system of faith and morals taught in our government schools. Through human knowledge and technique, we are told, we will be able to calm the seas, clear the air, have good harvests and, for the elite who can get there in their Range Rovers, enjoy spotted owls flying in their natural habitat. Of course, the residue of Christianity has embedded in our language the notion that all things are cre-



ated by God; that the beauty and wisdom of nature is the image of the Creator. But it never occurs to the environmentalist that the will of the living God today may have anything to do with the sustenance of the creation. The residue of Christianity is a deism in which we tip our hats to the God of long ago who created His masterpiece and withdrew from engagement with it.

And then there is sex. The Canaanites have nothing over our Christian society in this department. Free sex pervades our media, entering our homes, offices, the streets, our literature, our poetry, our theaters, our commerce (advertising), our self-concept as a people. While we do not explicitly link free sex with environmental balance, both advocacies derive from the rejection of the law and providence of God. Environmentalism gives no truck to the notion that a sovereign God controls the climate. Free sex consumers give no truck to the notion that a sovereign God created the institution of monogamous marriage of man and woman as the only true expression of human sexuality.

Here is an amazing exposition of the foolishness of the wisdom of the world. Secularism, in its environmentalist mode, teaches that all things are created with a precise purpose and role to play as part of an entire eco-system. If anything in the eco-system is prevented from fulfilling its purpose, the entire system is damaged. On the other hand, secularism cannot conceive that this ecological theory might apply to human sexuality; that there may be an "ecology of sex." Secularism posits no wholistic order or purpose to human sexuality. It is up to each person to decide how to use their sexual organ. Our society is in denial of the fact that the sexual organ is part of nature just as much as a spotted owl or micro-organism. That there is a right use, and wrong use, of this natural resource, flies in the face of the culture of self, and, if it goes come up in conversation, is relegated to, as our president's spokesperson McCurry put it, backward and irrational ideas put forth to legitimate political power by denizens of the far right.

Is God Against Sex and the Environment?

Are we to draw the conclusion, then, that God stands against sex and wise use of environmental resources? Not at all. Our conclusion is simply that sex and the environment are the current equivalents of the false gods of biblical times. God stands against these things when we elevate them to prominence above His; when we worship them.

Did somebody say worship? Hey, the secularist cries out, we liberated post-Christians aren't into worship! But worship is as worship does. When a com-

pany declares proudly, on each package of its product, that it donates 10% of its profits to earth-friendly causes, that is worship. That is its tithe. Can you imagine a company declaring on its packages, "We donate 10% of our profits to the Catholic Church." "We donate 10% of our profits to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints." "We donate 10% of our profits to pro-life organizations." Such companies would be pilloried as religious fanatics, brainwashed, right-wing and assuredly unconstitutional. But who among us does not feel a little better when we buy a Paul Newman salad dressing, or Stonybrook Farms yogurt, knowing that this company is tithing to environmental agencies?



Worship is as worship does. The primary recreational activity of American teenagers is attending movies. In the movies they see the idols of the silver screen, right? We may think we are being ironic by this expression, "idols," but consider the truth of the phrase. They are bigger than life, more

beautiful than life, more righteous, more powerful, able to dismantle alien spaceships with laptop computers, able to generate unbelievable revenues for their producers. Would that American teenagers would offer the funds they spend on movie tickets to more worthy causes. Could the offering made to the gods of the Titanic feed several struggling populations for several weeks? I know that this is simplistic, but consider how the movie offering is spent. Grand mansions for gods and goddesses, in which they may carry out their fertility practices and join the mighty struggle for animal rights, or for even more worthwhile causes, such as the Clinton campaign for adequate missile technology on mainland China.

One sweetener of the wrong path is free sex. Today's tragedy is that so much of mainstream religion is trading on free sex for its authority. The churches are pockmarked with homosexuals. In some they are hidden. In some they are tolerated but quiet. In some they are vociferously demanded to be heard. In some they are being heard and are challenging fundamental doctrines. In some they are dominant.

A friend of mine has been pursuing ecumenical work with Catholics, and in that context a priest invited him to his quarters for discussion. The priest's room had several couches, one of which was a love seat. The priest asked my friend to sit in the love seat, and sat down beside him. No one else was in the room. The priest asked my friend about the family values he espoused. He explained that a true family is made up of man, woman and children. The priest stated that he agreed, with the proviso that the parental roles could be assumed by two men, one in the position of husband and one in the

position of wife. My friend concluded that this man was not going to get far with true family values or the Blessing. The artificial, low-fat sweetener of Satan's path is free sex.

You might say, wait a minute; free sex is everywhere. Precisely the point.

God of course is not against sex and the environment. He created sex and the environment. He would not be against something He created. What He is against, as any good parent, is the misuse of sex and the environment. Who planned the wise use of sex and the environment? God did, not us. And God will tell us, by one means or another, when we are turning off course. One way is by sending His messenger with His word. If that is of no avail, He will get a little more obvious.

Where Were You June 13?

Let us draw this into reality now. It may be small by worldly standards; it may be on the periphery. That it is so comes as no surprise, in light of the Bible. In the mainstream, we have the mayor of New York City, Rudy Giuliani. In the mainstream, we have the Dalai Lama. On the periphery, we have the Reverend and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. The day is June 13, 1998. Reverend and Mrs. Moon are at Madison Square Garden. They are conducting a marriage blessing ceremony for a few thousand followers, and blessing the rededication of marriage by some 120 million couples of all religions around the world. Most of them denizens of the third world unnoticed by the American movers and shakers. They are standing up for traditional values. They are crying out that to save this world, we all should begin by rededicating ourselves to faithful, God-centered marriage and family life, teach sexual purity to youth, and support others in these ideals, beyond race, nation and religion. That, believe it or not, is on the periphery.

The mayor of New York City was invited. His office replied that his schedule is very busy and he could not attend. Where did the mayor's schedule have him on June 13? It had him joining a gay pride parade in Brooklyn.

The Dalai Lama was invited. His office replied that he had a very important affair that day. He was presiding over a fundraiser for his nation, Tibet. It was in the form of a two-day rock concert. Interestingly, it took place at the site of Reverend Moon's last blessing festival, RFK Stadium, Washington, DC.

Now, the gay pride crowd are nice people. The best people on earth, if measured by wealth, beauty and influence. And who can be against the cause of Tibet, especially when it is aligned so closely with the Buddhist faith? Everyone knows that Buddhism is the golden road to unlimited devotion, and that it is well worth it to unite religion and state when the state is Tibet and the religion is Buddhism. We cannot, surely, unite Christianity and the United States; that would be horrible. But uniting Tibet and Buddhism, how benign! It's lost horizon all over again.

In any case, these are nice people. But their activities caused them to miss the Blessing. A religious leader chose an event on behalf of his nation instead of one on behalf of the world. A political leader chose an event on behalf of homosexuality instead of one on behalf of godly marriage. So they didn't come inside Madison Square Garden.

Oh, and there were others outside the Garden. There were the "anti-moon demonstrators"—somewhere between 2 and 20 strong. They were not "for" anything. They were "against" the marriage blessing. They said Reverend and Mrs. Moon are power-

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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HAVEN BRADFORD GOW

Mr. Gow
is a TV and radio commentator
and writer in Eudora, AK

I remember one autumn day when I was just five years old, I was walking to school and kept feeling tremendous awe, reverence and gratitude for the beautiful leaves which had fallen to the ground, the lovely blue sky and sun shining at me, and my loving parents and elderly aunt. I thought: who else but a great and loving being—a God, a Supreme Being—could have given me such love and spiritual beauty?

When spring came, I once again asked myself the same question as I walked to my parents' restaurant after school amid the budding leaves and

flowers, the beautiful sky and sun, and the harmonious and melodious singing of birds. Could all these beautiful things have come about through chance, accident and evolution?

A few years ago I discerned another glimpse of God's love and what heaven must be like as I watched my father die a noble and courageous death from cancer. My father purposely came home from the hospital that particular day, just so he could prove to me how much he loved me as he was

A few years ago I discerned another glimpse of God's love and what heaven must be like as I watched my father die a noble and courageous death from cancer.

dying his agonizingly painful death from a cancer which had spread throughout his body.

Fearing that he would die in a dreary hospital room without having had the opportunity to say good-bye to me, my father ordered the doctor and nurses to permit him to accompany me home, despite the fact that he would have to endure excruciating pain. As I was driving him home, I kept looking at him in the rear-view mirror and

thinking about how noble and courageous my father was and how precious was each second that he remained alive.

In his own bed, and with me by his side, my father died with peace of mind and soul; he understood that one must not only live nobly but die nobly as well.

I thanked God for inspiring and giving my father the strength and nobility and generosity of mind, spirit and character to show me his selfless love. And then I experienced a flash of insight: my father's love was a reflection of God's love for me. God made my father for eternity. And when it is time for me to go, God will reunite me with my father. ❖

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hungry brainwashers. They gathered outside the Garden to get their fair share of television coverage.

In and Out

Are those "outside" following false gods of free sex and nature worship? Let us consider the difference between the Moon group activities and those who are placing their priority upon sexual freedom, science or national religion. These latter agendas are good if, and only if, subjected to the authority of the True God and His kingdom. We cannot claim to recognize, much less represent, the True God and His kingdom based upon our merit. We just seek for as clear an idea as possible of the difference between right and wrong, between good and evil.

Goodness is to live for others; evil is to live for the self. As Jesus put it, those who seek to gain their life will die, and those who seek to lose their life for the sake of the kingdom will live. To live for oneself is to follow the way of Satan; to live for others, for the kingdom, is to follow the way of God. So, can I decide whether I will be on God's side or Satan's side?

Let us assume that I can decide my own ethical standard. Some would disagree, but let us take the liberal position here. But even being generous, no liberal can claim that we decide our origin. No one can decide his place or time of birth, his color of skin or cultural context. Part and parcel of this is that we cannot decide the quality of our parents' love, the love which is our origin. No human being at any time in history could make that determination. And yet nothing has a greater influence over our individual nature and destiny.

Now, if this is true then we can posit a regression to original parents, called in the Bible Adam and Eve. The Bible, and in some way, each religion, asserts that the origin of the human race was plagued by problems. In the Bible, the first man and woman were cast out of the primeval paradise of Eden. They left together. They found themselves in a state alienated from God, and it was there that they began their family. Their love was not godly. Thus, the quality of the love imbued into their children at birth was flawed. The kids had no say in it. And so it was from there henceforth to this day. Our ethical practice cannot affect this flaw in our inherited makeup.

So the New Testament begins by taking up the issue of Jesus' birth. It informs us of the lineage leading up to his birth, that through it his birth was entirely distinct from that of any other human being. His lineage is delineated, and the "virgin birth" asserted. Virgin birth signifies that the selfish love of fallen man and woman had nothing to do with Jesus parentage. The spiritual source was God, and there was no pollution of Satan based upon original sin.

The second point of Matthew's gospel is Jesus' teachings, called the Sermon on the Mount. This is a recitation of blessings, meant to make of us pure brides and bridegrooms, worthy of the kingdom. Just as God greeted His children with blessings (Gen 1:28), so too Jesus greets us with blessings (Mt 5). Follow the way of blessing and we can become brides and bridegrooms, ready for marriage.

The third point is that Jesus himself is a bridegroom. Thus all men, as bridegrooms, should be like Jesus. The church is the bride, and all women thus should emulate the church (Eph 5:22-33). There we have the New Testament models for man and woman; pure bridegroom and bride, Christ and the true church—the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

We realize the significance of these things when we move to the book of Revelation. Bridegroom and bride are meant to marry; the words themselves point to a consummation in marriage. When is the marriage to take place? It takes place at the second coming. Now we are defining some positive signs, aren't we? We see that the second coming involves the marriage of Christ, the bridegroom, and the church, the bride. This signifies the consummation of our relationship with Jesus, as brides with our bridegroom.

And here is where Reverend Moon has something unique to say: this perfect marriage of Christ and the

church in the end time *is to manifest in each and every marriage on this earth.* This signifies a fresh start for all marriages. This is the Blessing. However you may want to evaluate it, the fact is that Reverend Moon testifies that Jesus called him to do it. This is not to place credit or blame; merely to clarify the spiritual lineage of his work, as everyone inherits from the past.

Now if this is credible, then we could consider Madison Square Garden on June 13 as a place of salvation, like the ark. Those who heard the call came inside. The weather was fine as we entered. The doors closed, courtesy the Madison Square Garden staff. Outside were the gay pride activists, the anti-moon demonstrators, the Hollywood rock concert for Tibet. When the doors closed, when Blessing started, the rains came. Torrential rains washed out the gay pride parade. The rains washed out the anti-moon protesters. Lightning struck RFK Stadium, seriously injuring eleven people. All these

events were called off. Inside the Garden, no one was in the least bit aware of the weather raging outside. And when we emerged, when the doors opened, the rain had stopped. We walked out onto literal dry ground. The air smelled fresh; something was washed.

Now, was this God's judgment? That is not for man to say. But it is for man to make observations. Consider August 25, 1992, the date of the first "stadium blessing." It took place at the Main Olympic Stadium in Seoul, Korea. For weeks, rival South Korean churches had been praying for the event to be rained out. It rained all the night before, and when we boarded the buses at 7 a.m., the sky was clearing and big puddles spotted the parking lot. That day it rained throughout the peninsula. But in the vicinity of the Stadium, it was bright sunshine.

It is risky to challenge monsoon season, but Reverend Moon made the same challenge in 1995. There was the worst flooding in a century on the peninsula.

The skies were swollen with rain all day August 25th. But when Reverend and Mrs. Moon entered the stadium, the rain stopped. It did not rain for one hour. When they departed, the rains recommenced.

Move up to 1997, on November 29 at RFK Stadium in Washington, DC. The Farmer's Almanac predicted wet and cold weather. All week it was wet and cold. The day itself was cold and overcast. But it did not rain, not a drop. And when Reverend and Mrs. Moon raised their hands to pray, the sun broke through the clouds, and the sun shined upon them for their seven minute prayer, and when they lowered their hands to end the prayer, the sun disappeared and was not to be seen the rest of the day. It's enough to make one a believer.

Need a sign of God be supernatural? Clearly not. Noah's rainbow was just that, a rainbow. But it came at a special place and time, and was seen by someone who could interpret it. As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the Son of Man. The true path will be obscure, until the rains come. And when the kingdom is clear to all, there will be a judgment based upon what each person did during the time of its struggle for survival. And appear it will, even if we don't want it. ❖

Ode to True Love

*Love is not a moment's passion, or rave,
The quickening of blood
At the beloved's call,
That some believe enthralls.
Oh no, it is an eternal flow,
An everlasting circle, that will forever grow.*

*Born on the crest of the wave,
It braves the storm and will not go away
When cracks appear and faults dismay.
It is not time's fool with age to die.
For it sees with the inward eye,
The goodness and beauty of the source,
That transforms the dross to gold,
Sparkling brighter day by day,
Radiating to the outermost limits of the sphere's course.*

*It soars high to the stars
Where none dare go but the bold.
For the glow of love is desired by all,
But True Love's ecstasy, joy, and deep contentment,
Come from God's Love and Blessing,
That He gives to those in His Fold,
And to those who heed His call,
And it is offered to all,
Both near and far.*

June Darby

by Mary Penn—NYC

MEDITATION ON

Love

Is There a Cosmic Law of Love? Does the Atom Have a Higher Standard of Love than Humans? Forgive me for assuming I can answer these

questions for you since I am not a scientist. Many people have said these things in theological language, but we must say it in scientific terms so that all people can understand what we mean. Half the world still doubts there is a God. Let us try to make our theological words clear to all humans.

When someone says to you, "What do you mean by God?" do you say how stupid he is? No. You say how stupid I am that I cannot give him a convincing answer. My own child did this to me until I gave him the answers that I am giving you now on a twelve-year-old's level so that all people can easily understand.

First, God is the word we use to talk about the strongest force in the cosmos.

What is this strongest force in the cosmos? Nothing less than Love.

1. Love is the strongest force in the cosmos.

2. God is Love. Where Love is God is. Where God is Love is.

3. Love is harmonious interaction between two or more things: which creates energy, which is eternal. Energy changes forms but cannot be destroyed.

4. There is a harmonious relationship in every atom between the proton and the electron, which is love in its simplest form. Hydrogen is the simplest atom, having just one proton and one electron.

5. Atoms are created with the standard of absolute love in their nature—under no circumstance will the atom of its own will split itself apart causing the big bang.

6. If the atom had the standard of love popular among humans, 60% of them could split and cause the bang of all bangs, possibly setting off a chain reaction which could destroy all physical material, which is made up of nothing but atoms. All material substance could disappear.

7. Atoms have the lowest form of

love but have the highest standard of love.

8. Humans have the highest forms of love but many follow the lowest standard of love.

9. Love is the glue which holds all atoms together. Love is the glue which holds atoms to atoms forming molecules which form all material substance.

10. Then we can say absolutely that God is omnipresent in every atom which exists. He said, "I am closer than hand and foot." He is cradling us in His loving arms through every atom in the air we breathe, food we eat, clothes we wear, home which protects us, and all material substance to serve us. We can say God's physical body is the entire Universe. To do evil we have to kick against the entire universe.

11. There is no secular and sacred—all natural substance is sacred because God's love is in every atom holding it together. This means we must love the material world because we love what is close to us before loving God directly.

12. If we love by choice, then God also loves as we love because we are made in His image.

Saint Paul said in Romans 1:19-20, "For what can be known about God is plain to (all), because God has showed it to them. Ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature, namely, His eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

Humans are the only creation able to choose to love or not love. So now you can see who created hell on earth and that we are the enemy of Love: the enemy of God. What could be wiser than seeking to do God's will every moment of our life? It is the highest enlightened self-interest: whether we live or die we win. Sometimes it may seem bad for our physical well being, but there is no happiness greater than eternal True Love, both on earth and in spirit world! ❖



NEW ARRIVALS

To be included, send us a photo of all your family (color is fine except for those indoors-without-a-flash deep orange snaps which will turn out like mud) with all your names and the birthdate of the latest arrival along with an optional donation to: Unification News Arrivals, 4 West 43rd Street, NY NY 10036 (returns with self-addressed, stamped envelope only, please). This month we are proud to present: Jerry & Noriko Heying (NYC) with Miwsun and "TJ" Thomas Jerry (2/26/98).

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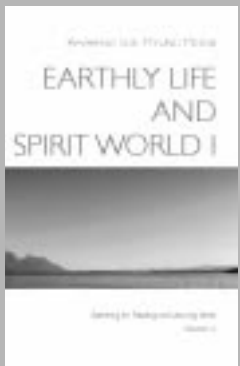
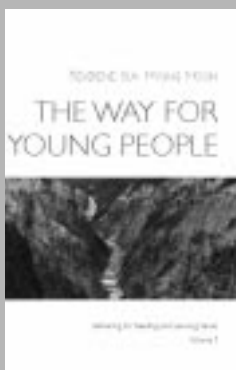
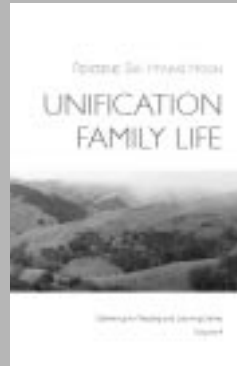
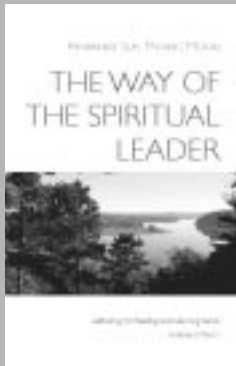
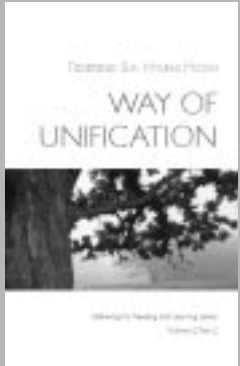
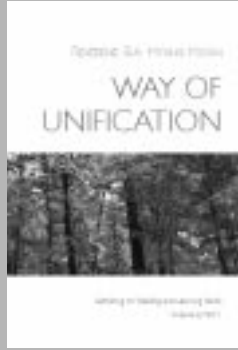
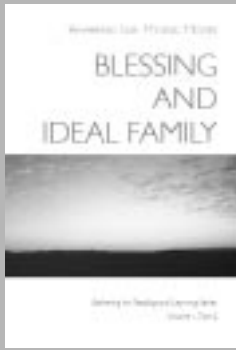
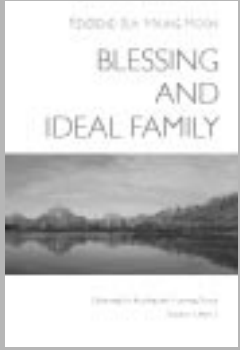
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