

True God's Day 2009



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by Rev. Michael Jenkins

Before True Parents entered to give the midnight prayer for January 1, 2009, we began with a report from Dr. Chang Shik Yang, regional president of Korea, reviewing 2008, especially Father's amazing investment in educating key leaders at the end of the year, gathering them together in the western United States and meeting for 12 hours without a break to discuss the future of God's dispensation in 2009. (At that meeting one point decided was that True Parents' birthday celebration would be held both in Korea and New York on the same day.)

A video was shown highlighting the incredible suffering course and the victories of our True Parents in 2008. Hyo Jin Nim's ascension and True Parents' helicopter accident and the resurrection that followed were the central features, along with great advancements of the work of our True Parents — establishing the ministry focus and development of the blessed central families through Hyung Jin Nim as president of FFWPUI and InJin Nim as chair of FFWPU-USA, as well as the victories of the Global Peace Festivals centering on Hyun Jin Nim, and development of the Tong-il Group centering on Kook Jin Nim, which will work to support God's providence. It was beautiful to see how all the True Family are taking different roles in the providence, and it was very moving when they all arrived.



天地父母天宙安息圈絕對性참사랑참생명참혈統權勝利宣布時代

Finally Rev. Hyung Jin Mo on gave a deep message about how our Unification family grew and developed so much in the year 2008, giving great confidence in our identity as blessed families. Though we are not yet all that God wants us to be, True Parents are very pleased with our development, with great hope in our Unification family and our movement. Hyung Jin nim asked us to pray just before True Parents came out and sincerely prepare for a great year in 2009.

Father and Mother came out in traditional Korean attire six minutes before midnight to thunderous applause. Just at midnight they began the new year with prayer. What follows is just a brief summary of that prayer, for your inspiration. The official text will

The era of proclaiming the victory of absolute sexual ethics, the right of true love, true life and true lineage in the realm of the Cosmic Sabbath of the Parents of Heaven and Earth

Cheon ji bumon chon ju an shik kwon joldae song cham sarang cham saeng myung cham hyol tong kwon seung ri son po shi dae

천지부모천주안식권절대성참사랑참생명참혈통권승리선포시대

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come from our international headquarters.

Heavenly Father, last year we gave the motto that the 7th and 8th years of jubilee would be combined. Now True Parents and God are coming together as one on this new True God's Day. As we bring in this new year, spirit world, heaven and earth are here united with us. We are all prepared to make a new beginning in 2009. True Parents stand before this created world as God's representative to declare the realm of True Parents, and the victory of true love, true life, and true lineage. We will now proclaim a new era in which God and True Parents are one, and we will proclaim a new motto. We sincerely pray that you will accept this motto and that we can completely unite with you in heart and mind.

Because of Eve's mistake, Satan took God's rights=20 and authority and stained the lineage of heaven. From Adam to Jesus to the Old Testament, New Testament, and Completed Testament ages and now into the realm of the fourth Adam, all has been reclaimed and restored. Your authority and lineage have been established.

Now the time has come to proclaim the victorious conclusion of this providence. All of the bitter sorrow through which you accomplished this victory leads us into the ninth year of Cheon Il Guk, the tenth, eleventh,

twelfth years in which we can claim the victorious right of heaven. We have now begun this new year and it's our hope and prayer that all that you desire can be accomplished, and that your glory, omnipotence and power will shine, and all creation and humanity with true love can come under you and you alone.

Now we will begin anew to advance the Abel UN and to allow you to be recognized as the king of all kings. This will be a new era of your absolute true love.

Father concluded the prayer with tears in sincerity and love for God. Then True Parents went to the table where paper was laid out for the calligraphy. This particular calligraphy is very long; the paper had to be extended quite a bit to get all of Father's contents.❖

FOUNDER'S DISCOURSE ON UNIFICATIONISM

The Path for America and

by Rev. Sun Myung Moon

We will shortly be celebrating True Father's 90th Birthday. This is the address he gave at his 80th Birthday Celebration at the Washington Hilton and Towers, Washington, DC.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you, as world leaders representing many walks of life, for gathering to congratulate and celebrate my 80th birthday. In particular, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to God who has been my constant companion throughout my life. To Him I offer all the glory and honor given me.

During the course of my life, I have totally committed myself to the salvation of humankind centered on God's Will. As a result, I came to realize that God is not sitting in the throne of glory and honor, but is a God of suffering, grief and lamentation, endeavoring to save His children suffering in hell as a result of the fall.

Ever since I understood the Will of God and His heart, I have lived my life with a single minded goal to accomplish God's Will, transcending time and space and forgetting everything else.

When I reflect upon the 80 years of my life, filled with misunderstandings

and persecution, it is just amazing that I can be with you today. I believe that it is entirely thanks to God. On this day of such great significance, in order to understand human history and the world from the perspective of God's providence, I would like to speak on the topic, "The Path for America and Humanity in the Last Days."

When viewing human history as God's providence of salvation, the "last days" is a turning point when the evil history of Satan concludes and God's good sovereignty begins. Accordingly, the last days are the time when everything is brought to fulfillment.

Thus in the last days, individual perfection is to be realized, family perfection is to be realized, the perfection of a people, of a nation, of the world and finally, the complete fulfillment of the cosmos is to be realized.

Whenever the time of the last days was heralded in God's providence, God led humankind to a God-centered ideology, but we failed to fulfill our responsibility to stand in the position of goodness and eradicate evil history. However, God is eternal, unchanging, absolute and unique, and God's Will is also eternal, unchanging and absolute. Therefore, through the true individual, true family, true society, true nation, true world and true sovereignty, God will surely build the world in which He can live, freely traveling and acting both in



Heaven and on Earth.

Then, what is the original world for which God is seeking? It is a world that is centered on the True Parents. However, due to the fall, we lost the True Parents of humanity and the true world from the very beginning. Therefore,

nothing in the world, not the land where we are living, human ideology or anything else, can connect us directly to the True Parents. Therefore, we ourselves should first be restored to true-ness. By so doing, when true parents, true husband and wife, true children, true people, the true creation, the true sovereignty and true cosmos are born and can communicate with God in heart, the evil world will eventually come to an end.

The last days is the time when such an ideal will be realized. It is the time when the Second Advent will occur. Accordingly, in the last days, there will be no external catastrophic phenomena such as judgment by fire, the destruction of the earth or people levitating into the air. Instead, it is a time when the history of evil entangled with countless tragedies will be untangled.

This is established through sacrificial conditions offered on every level, those of the individual, family, society, people, nation, world and ultimately cosmos. Thus, it is the time when all of these levels that have lost their vertical connection with God will be

J A N U A R Y 2 0 0 9

Ahn Shi Il • 3rd, 11th, 19th, 27th

- 1 True God's Day (1968)
Sekka Nippo Established (1975)
- 2 Day of Victory of Love (1984)
Heung Jin Nim's Ascension (1984)
- 6 Ye Jin Nim's Birthday (12/11/60)
- 11 72 Couples of the Second Generation Blessing (1989)
- 12 1275 Couples' Blessing (1989)
- 13 Coronation Ceremony for the Kingship of God (2001)
International Federation for the Victory Over Communism (1968)
- 14 Shin Yul Nim's Birthday (12/19/92)
- 19 Jun Sook Nim's Birthday (12/24/67)
- 21 Shin Gil Nim's Birthday (12/26/87)
- 26 Hoon Sook Nim's Birthday (1/1/63)
Lunar New Year
- 27 WCSF Blessing Ceremony (2001)
- 28 Yeon Jin Nim's Birthday (1/3/81)
- 31 Father's Birthday (1/6/20)
Mother's Birthday (1/6/43)

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 9

Ahn Shi Il • 4th, 12th, 20th, 28th

- 1 Shin Heung Nim's Birthday (1/7/01)
Choongmo-nim's Ascension (1/7/68)
Day of the Opening of Heaven (1985)
Segye Ilbo Established (1989)
- 5 Hyo Jin Nim & Yun Ah Nim's Blessing (1999)
- 6 Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace Established (1999)
- 7 360 Million Couples' Blessing (1999)
- 8 1800 Couples' Blessing (1975)
- 10 Shin Jung Nim's Birthday (1/16/83)
- 11 Shin Man Nim's Birthday (1/17/00)
16 Couples' Blessing (1978)

- 13 First International Blessing of 400 Million Couples (2000)
Cosmic True Parents' Federation Established (2000)
Family Center for Universal Peace and Unification (2000)
- 14 Kwon Jin Nim's Birthday (1/20/75)
- 16 4000 Couples' Blessing (2002)
- 17 Shin Sook Nim's Birthday (1/23/84)
International Security Council Established (1985)
- 20 In Jin Nim & Jin Sung Nim's Blessing (1984)
Heung Jin Nim & Hoon Sook Nim's Blessing (1984)
- 21 74 Couples' Blessing (1977)
Montevideo Declaration of the World University Federation (1996)
- 22 430 Couples' Blessing (1968)
- 23 Day of the Victory of Earth (1977)
- 24 Dong Sook Nim's Birthday (1/30/55)
- 27 Declaration of Parents of Heaven and Earth (1998)
- 28 One World Crusade Established (1972)
43 Couples' Blessing (1969)

M A R C H 2 0 0 9

Ahn Shi Il • 8th, 16th, 24th

- 6 Shin Won Nim's Birthday (2/10/88)
- 7 Middle East Time Founded (1983)
- 14 Jin Sung Nim's Birthday (2/18/62)
- 15 Shin Ye Nim's Birthday (2/19/00)
- 18 Cheon Il Guk Established (2/22/2001)
- 21 World Research Institute for Science and Technology (WRIST) Established (1984)
- 23 Shin Chul Nim's Birthday (2/27/92)
- 25 Aewon (Garden of Love) Bank Established (1994)
- 26 Martial Arts Federation for World Peace Established (1997)
- 27 True Parents' Day (3/1/60)
Sung Jin Nim's Birthday (3/1/46)
New Ecumenical Research Association (New ERA) Inauguration (1980)
- 28 International Christian Professors Association Established (1981)
43 Couples' Blessing (1969)
- 31 Hyun Jin Nim & Jun Sook Nim's Blessing (1987)
The Sao Paulo Declaration (1995)

C A L E N D A R

Due to the manner in which the lunar calendar corresponds with the solar calendar, Yun Ah Nim's, Un Jin Nim's, Shin Choon Nim's, and Hyo Jin Nim's birthdays are not celebrated in 2009. Contact me if you come across any errors. (c) 1999-2004 Kathryn Coman [KathrynComan@worldnet.att.net]

FOUNDER'S DISCOURSE ON UNIFICATIONISM

Humanity in the Last Days

restored. We have been longing for such a day, and that is the final destination at which we all should arrive.

However, the individual, the family and the nation have been estranged. Moreover, all kinds of problems such as air pollution, food shortage, religious struggles and racial conflicts are constantly arising throughout the world, causing disputes and even wars. Who, then, is going to take responsibility for this world? This is a serious question. Communist countries in the past could not transcend their own nationalism. Nor can today's super-power nation, America, transcend the idea of Americanizing the world. When a nation places its self-interest first, it will not be able to lead the world. Therefore, we need a people or a nation who are willing to sacrifice for a higher purpose and strive to build or become an ideal nation that embraces the entire world.

With this view, in response to the call of God, I came to this country, the United States of America. I have been making my utmost effort to revive America, by educating the youth for a country that is faced with a moral crisis and declining Christianity.

You might be curious about what I am teaching to them. It is actually simple. First, it is "to live for the sake of others." More specifically, my teaching is that the individual lives for the family, the family for the society, the society for a people, a people for a nation, a nation for the world and the world for God. Then, God will come to us.

In the family, parents are to live for children, children for parents, husband for wife and wife for husband. Anyone who lives for others more than his or her own self will become a central person on the side of goodness.

Second, I am teaching people to "love your enemy." God Himself sacrificed Jesus, His own begotten and beloved son, for the salvation of humankind. Since God did this in order to save the children of His enemy, Satan could not exercise his full authority and power before God. Even Satan cannot help but surrender voluntarily before the God who loves Satan's children more than His own. Satan's pattern is always to strike first but lose in the end, and God's strategy is to win in the end by taking the first blow and initial loss. Living with faith in such a heavenly law is the very secret explaining the foundation that I could lay, dispatching missionaries to 185 nations throughout the world despite fierce persecution and misunderstanding.

Even when looking into the history of Christian missionary activities, we can discover that theirs was a path of persecution and martyrdom, hindered by enemies. On such a way, during the course of a 2,000-year history, this trail of blood became the fertilizer in the foundation for a powerful democracy to develop. Today, however, Christianity, which once was the source of power and strength for democracy, is facing a crisis. Christian nations have lost the right direction; they deny God, Jesus and God's providence. Now, we even

hear voices asserting, "God is dead" or "God does not exist." Looking at them, how does God feel? God's heart has been searching for His children, sacrificing everything that He has, with hope that He could see a great day like today.

Ladies and Gentlemen: for whom has God been sacrificing Himself so far? It is not for America, nor is it for Christianity. But it is for each of us, in other words, for "you" and "me" as individuals. Likewise, the reason why Jesus was crucified was also not to save the Messiah, himself, but was to save each one of us, "you" and "me."

Since the fall began on the individual level, salvation should also begin on the individual level. Accordingly, a representative of humankind should come and proclaim, "I will take full responsibility as a representative of all humankind. I will pay off all the debt that man has incurred during the entire course of history and I will become a person who will make God indebted to me instead." Without such a realization and determination, restoration is impossible. We should



not be only conceptual or theoretical. On behalf of God, unless we are willing to experience miseries more than the one who is undergoing suffering in the world, we cannot reach God's heart.

Have you ever prayed in desperation for the 6 billion population of the world, with a feeling that your own children are dying? How much heart have you invested to save a family, a tribe, a people, a nation and the world, with a willingness to sacrifice yourself for them? I believe few people are confident to give a positive answer to that question. However, the Lord of the Second Advent comes to the world with such an absolute standard as the representative of all humanity.

God, who has been leading the providence of salvation, found Abraham 2,000 years after the fall of the first human ancestors. God made his descendants the chosen people, Israel, by multiplying them on every level, as a new family, a new tribe and a new people. Because the Israelites were called as the chosen people to receive the Messiah, based on the victorious foundation, they became the central people to receive the substantial Messiah who was to come in the future. If you go to the central core, you can understand that the standard and ideology that the first human ancestors, Adam and Eve, should have reached and fulfilled, need to be restored. This is the thought of the Mes-

siah. In it, the believers stand as "bride." Therefore, the ultimate purpose pursued by Christianity is not to build the Kingdom of Christianity or the world of Christianity. Its most important mission is to make preparations to become



a qualified bride to receive the bridegroom.

Despite the significance of their mission, because of the crucifixion of Jesus the Israelites could not carry it out and pass on this tradition. Therefore the Israelites, although called by God as the first Israel, flew away. Christianity, called as the second Israel, arose to carry out the mission instead. God led the 6,000-year providence centered on this one purpose: Christianity was the bride prepared to receive the bridegroom. We are now in the final stage of the providence.

Then, what is the core of the Messianic thought? It is a thought to save the world; it is a teaching that can unify the world and build an ideal family, and its main purpose is to restore the position of the True Parents that was lost by the fall of the human ancestors.

By looking into the teaching of the Old and New Testaments, one can understand that the Messiah comes with the authority of the father, meets a substantial bride, who represents the power of the Holy Spirit, and restores the position of the true parents. Therefore, Christianity is in the position of a bride to the coming Messiah. The bride and bridegroom in the "feast of the lamb" prophesied in the Book of Revelation refer to the stage of becoming the True Parents by first becoming a true husband and wife.



Jesus came with this mission. However, when he lost his people and nation, due to their faithlessness, he offered his life for the sake of the world and the Kingdom that God wished to build. The path of Jesus suffering on the cross was the same path of tribulations that God Himself walked. In such a situation of trial and tribulation, Jesus des-

perately prayed, "Please forgive them for they know not what they do." Even in the place of death, he forgave Rome and the group of people who opposed him, waiting for victory in the future. Therefore, the life of Jesus did not end at the age of 33. With God's help, Christianity inherited his spirit and became one of the four greatest worldwide religions in human history.

Ladies and gentlemen: currently, America is recognized as the super-power of the world, but unless it stands straight on the providential line of God, it will not continue to prosper. Let us look at the history of civilization. Ancient civilizations were born mainly in the tropics and subtropics. Examples include the civilizations of the Mayas, Incas, Egypt, Mesopotamia, India and China. Yet the sphere of civilization moves from place to place.

Had we not fallen, civilization would have begun in the warm zone, corresponding to spring, and moved to the cool zone, corresponding to autumn. This is the warm-zone civilization centered today on the free world, the western civilization. In general, when viewing the equator as the center, nations such as America, England, Germany and so forth, linked around the latitude of 23 degrees north, are the developed countries of the west.

With the end of the cool zone civilization of autumn, the cold zone civilization of winter comes for a short time. This is the appearance of Communism. Many intellectuals may think that the cold war system disappeared after the dissolution of Soviet Union, but materialism and atheism are still prevalent throughout the world. They manifest in two major ideologies, democracy and communism, both of which are gradually losing power.

God's ideal of creation should have begun in the warm zone of spring, but due to the fall of the first human ancestors, it started as the tropical zone civilization. Now, the civilization of the true spring that we have been seeking from time immemorial will appear, overcoming the crisis of tropical zone civilization and the threats of cold zone civilization. Who will be able to melt the block of ice frozen in the heart of God? And how will he do it? It is impossible with power, money, science or knowledge.

As we can see from this movement of civilization centering on rivers and coastlines, the center of civilization is not fixed but is always moving to different parts of the globe. Human civilization began to develop around the Tigris and Euphrates and the Nile Rivers. The center of human civilization then shifted to the Mediterranean, especially focusing upon Greece, Rome, Spain, and Portugal. The center of human civilization then moved to the Atlantic, focusing upon Britain and the United States. Ultimately it has born fruit in the Pacific Ocean civilization of the United States, Japan, and Korea. Thus, as viewed in this way - from the perspective of the history of cultures - the Korean Peninsula occupies a very important position. To the north of Korea lie the ultimate points of the cold region civilization that link

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Russia and China. To the south lie the ultimate points of the cool region civilization that link the United States and Japan.

Thus, it is consistent with the Providential viewpoint that Korea gives rise to a warm region civilization representing the spring season of world history and having the capability to digest both the cold and cool region civilizations. From this aspect, the fact that Rev. Moon - who has dedicated his life to solving the North-South problem and the East-West problem - has come from Korea can only be described as the summation of God's providence.

In fact, throughout my life I have transcended race, ideology and national boundaries to pursue a movement for one world under God. It is because of God's providence that I have traveled this path. This is the principle of providential history? not a theory that I specially devised. I was enlightened regarding the will of Heaven, and rather than letting this remain as an idea alone, I have worked to bring God's concept to reality. Externally, there is no place in any region of the world where I have not been active. I have inspired evangelical and business activities in Alaska, in Antarctica, and in the countries of the former Soviet Union, in the 33 countries of South and Central America and throughout Asia and Africa. We are making preparations to solve problems that humanity will face over the coming millennium, such as environmental pollution, hunger, and disease. In recent years, I have worked centering on the Pantanal and Amazon regions of Brazil to lay a substantive foundation to protect the Earth's environment.

On the other hand as regards the internal aspects, I have worked through the International Holy Blessing and the Pure Love movement. Some 430 million couples around the world have participated here, adding further impetus to the building of the Kingdom of God on Earth that God has longed to see for such a long time.

Ladies and Gentlemen: up until now, countries possessing superior power politically, militarily, and economically have controlled the world. However, no country can exist eternally unless it is in line with God's providence. The fall of the once glorious Greek and Roman civilizations are good examples of this.

The United States, which today stands tall as a super power, is in the same position as Rome was in the past. The fall of Rome occurred more as a result of the internal cause of moral corruption than from any external invasions. Moral corruption caused Rome to lose the support of heavenly fortune.

In recent history, political forces favoring dialectical materialism and the materialistic view of history went so far as to take control of over one third of the world's population and two thirds of its land area, including the former Soviet Union and China. That expansion, however, could not stand forever.

The time will come when religious leaders who speak for the Will of God will rise to prominence. Religious lead-

ers are prophets. They must stand in the place God wills, declare God's will, and point the way that humanity must go. However, the splintering of denominations and the struggles among religious groups that we see today serve no purpose other than to hinder God's providence. That is why I have for years devoted 90 percent of our church's budget to activities that reach out to



other denominations and other religions so as to contribute to the resolution of inter-religious conflict.

I also founded the Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace for the following three purposes: to facilitate harmony and unity among religious groups, to contribute to resolving the conflicts that are going on in many areas of the world, and to help bring about world peace. Most recently, I founded the Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace, and this body has held seven international Hoon Dok Hae conferences.

All people should go beyond racial and religious differences, understand God's providence to bring His ideal world of creation into reality, and ultimately unite with God's heart. It is heart that will bring faith, hope, and love? which humankind have been pursuing? to their ultimate conclusion.

We must recover the heartistic relationship with God that we lost as a result of the human fall, and recover the positions of parent and child as God originally envisioned them to be. Thus, the Last Day that God has promised to us is the day when True Parents come. In other words, it is the day when the multitudes of people in the world, who lost their Parent as a result of the fall, will again be able to meet their original Parent. Thus, the True Parents are the final fruit of the desires



and hopes of all humankind. They are the final fruit of the victories wrought throughout human history.

The Unification Church has worked to disseminate this tradition throughout the world through the International Holy Blessing Ceremony. The fact that black people, white people and yellow people are able to come together as brothers and sisters - beyond their differences of ethnicity, race, or skin color - to form loving married cou-

ples is among the most significant factors in accomplishing God's will. Today, through beginning to realize the blessed family tradition, humankind is beginning to recover the relationships of brother and sister, husband and wife, and parent and child as originally envisioned by God. Ultimately, we must go as far as to liberate God, who has been in the depths of sorrow ever since He lost His children. It is only then that the path to true happiness will be opened.

Until now, democracy has called for "human freedom" and "human liberation." In contrast, we must call for "God's freedom" and "the liberation of God." When we succeed in relieving God's sorrow, human liberation and the recovery of human freedom will follow automatically. Each of you should realize that you were born to liberate God and to liberate the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen: there is profound significance in the fact that I am discussing God's providence today in Washington D.C., the capital of the United States. In many ways, the United States is a country prepared by God's blessing. The forefathers who built this country were the Pilgrim Fathers, who risked their lives for the sake of the freedom of religion and came to America seeking a land of freedom.

For the sake of their search for true religious freedom, these people left



behind their parents, brothers and sisters, and homelands. They were even prepared to cut their ties to their home country as they crossed the Atlantic Ocean at the risk of their lives.

When the Mayflower arrived in New England in November 1620, it was already late autumn. While they endured their first winter, more than half of the 102 people who first arrived died of the cold and hunger. What was particularly remarkable about them was that many died refusing to eat the precious seeds reserved for planting the next spring.

The Puritans strongly believed in serving the will of God in every aspect of their lives. After taking in their first harvest, they offered thanks to God. They first built a church and a school, and it was only after that that they set about to build houses where they themselves would live.

In the course of their pioneering, the Pilgrims began every activity with prayer. This was true whether it was plowing a field or fighting a war. When George Washington was at Valley Forge during the War of Independence, he must have prayed with great desperation. In a battle fought for the sake of God's will, God sided with America. In England, the king and the people were united in fighting that war, yet in America, it was fought by God and His beloved sons and daughters. Isn't this how the United States came

into existence as a country advocating freedom of faith?

Even now, the United States Congress opens with a prayer. When the President is sworn into office, he places his hand on the Bible as he takes the oath of office, and a member of the clergy blesses him. America even prints the words "In God we trust" on its money. America is unique in the world in the level of importance it attaches to God. This is how the United States has come to occupy a unique position as a mainly Protestant country with worldwide influence.

What about America today, though? Prayer in public schools is officially banned. The theory of evolution is given preference to the theory of creation in education. The divorce rate of around 50 percent is completely obliterating the sanctity of the family.

In 1971, I left my family and homeland to come to America, because I heard the voice of God sharing His concern about the current state of affairs here. Upon arriving here, I cried out that I had come as a fireman to a house that was on fire and as a physician to cure America of disease. Even then, I discovered that God was leaving America. It should be possible to find God everywhere in America, but God was departing from the hearts of people, from the families and from the schools. It seems like only yesterday that I stood on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan and wept openly as I held on to God to keep Him from leaving America. Unfortunately, America has persisted in going the way of moral deterioration, as I predicted.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I would like to ask you this. Why do you suppose Rev. Moon continues to cry out to Americans in spite of all the opposition and suffering he endures? It is because I know better than anyone the blood, sweat, and tears that God shed in the course of establishing this country. During the past

thirty years in America, I have not spent so much as a single day in comfort.

Who is the master of America? It is neither white Americans nor black Americans. The true master of America is the person who loves America as God does. Also, I continue to plead with you because God has chosen America as the first son, the nation representing the elder son realm in building the Kingdom of God on Earth. Even now, Jesus is spiritually present mainly in America, and is offering earnest prayers that his purpose will be accomplished in America.

In 1982, in accordance with the will of God, I founded The Washington Times here in Washington, D.C. Ever since then, this newspaper has led American public opinion as a conservative news medium showing the path that America must follow. Also I have pursued a strong movement for national and world salvation through the true family values movement and the pure love movement for young people. I have invested in America in expectation that this country would stand upright before God's providence.

When I visited America in 1965, I blessed an area near the White House as a holy ground, and even today many people gather there and pray for America through the night. I hope each of you will open your hearts and that you will be able to hear the earnest desires of the Pilgrim Fathers and the many

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NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

by Dr. Pyung Hwa Kim and Dr. Julia Kim

The eighth year of Cheon Il Guk, inscribed with True Parents' glorious victories and miracles, is concluding, and a new year is dawning.

Last year, the footprints that True Parents and True Family left behind for God's Providence will remain forever as a historic landmark. We can feel from the depth of our hearts the value of True Parents, particularly through the unbelievable miracle of their rescue from the helicopter accident. Nobody could believe that this type of miracle could happen, or that it would result in their substantial resurrection. Prior to this incident, we had lost our eternal elder brother, Hyo Jin Nim, who ascended to the spirit world. We had no words to comfort the aching heart of Heavenly Father and True Parents. We felt our lack of faith and ability, and spent a great deal of time in repentance this past year.

In addition, the external world is suffering from the recent economic crisis in America, which is having a serious effect on our organizations and our families. I believe the only way to overcome this kind of world economic crisis is if all the world's peoples return to God and look to Him as our starting point in solving the today's problems. If we are always repeating the vicious cycle of this fallen life, how can we eradicate our bad habits and our negative attitudes and really start a new beginning for the New Year?

We all know that this age is the age of attendance. Through attendance, we can become righteous; therefore, by attending True Parents and True Family, we have to establish Cheon Il Guk. True Family members have emerged and are leading God's Providence. Hyun Jin Nim has been leading us through the UPF and Global Peace Festivals towards the establishment of One Family under God. It was tremendously successful and victorious. Hyung Jin Nim has been spear-

heading a spiritual awakening through building a strong church foundation. Kook Jin Nim generated a strong financial pillar of support, and provided organizational management. And, in

Parents, nothing is impossible. I love the proverb: "where there is a will, there is a way". We should have absolute conviction through absolute faith. Let us usher in this New Year with acts of

our hearts to experience this type of God centered joy. Love becomes just an illusion. Because we feel God's love, we are able to love our neighbors, our brothers and sisters, and bring about a peaceful world. Without love, there is no peace.

Fourthly, we have to communicate on a heartistic level. Let us be the people who can unite through acts of the heart. If we unite together, nothing is impossible. Before we can outwardly rally for change in the world, internally, we have to unite together. We need heartistic dialogue and proper communication. On this foundation, everything will be possible. Let us begin with heartistic dialogue and heartistic communication this year.

I myself started the beginning of this year in Asia, and now am ending the year in the United States. From my 40 years' ministerial life experience, I believe that the most important thing we need now in America is witnessing, to increase family members. How to bring about a witnessing renaissance in America was my first message to



Jin Nim, as Chairperson of the American movement, totally captured members' hearts, especially the second generation, as an elder sister figure and educator. They are all role models for God's Providence as filial sons and daughters and as great leaders. We really have to unite centering on True Parents and True Family members, and march forward towards the Year 2013 and establish Cheon Il Guk.

This coming 9th year of Cheon Il Guk, which is True Parents' 90th Birthday, is a very special year. In this year of completion, together, as North American members, what do we have to do? Firstly, we must have the kind of faith that though starting off small like a mustard seed can grow in strength enough to move mountains. If we have strong faith, we can demolish today's Jericho, and we can restore Sodom and Gomorrah. In the name of True

faith. We have to actively demonstrate our faith this year.

Secondly, this year, let us be the kind of dreamers who push forward hope in our hearts that we will be able to fulfill the dream of Cheon Il Guk! Dreamers can become victors! President Obama won the election by pushing forward with hope and faith in the American people's ability and instilled in them the courage to dream of change. What kind of hope can we say we have? We have to become the embodiment of hope through our active show of faith, instilling courage in others to dream of change.

Thirdly, we have to be disciples who can practice true love. Love is the practice of giving in order to multiply joy, and in so doing, feeling God's presence with us. We will be able to feel extraordinary joy in our hearts. Without practicing love, we cannot move

our members at the 43rs street building headquarters when I first visited. Though it has been several month since that date, we are far from this reality. Is a witnessing revolution impossible in America? What do you think, our family members? I felt as if I have been going through a long, dark tunnel and I want to see the bright sunshine. This journey is one that seems to be necessary to take; however, after traversing with faith through the darkness, a bright hope is sure to appear. Let determine ourselves to witness and bring that bright hope back to this great American nation! If America changes, the whole world will be changed!

Let us witness to the world of the living God. Let us speak of the truth about God, of the greatness of True Parents, of God's blessing to humanity. Don't hesitate to proclaim and witness. ❖

THE PATH from page 4

patriots who have lived in America's history.

Ladies and Gentlemen: the new millennium that has just begun is the time period in which God's six thousand-year salvation providence is brought to an end and God's ideal of creation is realized throughout the cosmos. This period is also the time when the lamentations of creation, which lost its true masters as a result of the fall, are finally over. This is the time when the Parent and children who have been long-separated meet again. The new Earth and new Heaven, where there are no tears, are to be established. It is an age

when there is free communication between the spirit world and the physical world, and when God's Kingdom is established in Heaven and on Earth.

The transition moment of the start of a new millennium marks the completion of the New Testament Age, the point at which the promises of the Old Testament and New Testament are fulfilled. The future will be a time when God's realm of direct dominion will become apparent through His omnipresence and omniscience. It is an age when the East and West will come together centering on the Parents of Heaven and Earth as "one universe under God" so that a grand family of humankind is formed on Earth. This means the perfection of the Completed Testament Age, in which the promises of the Old

Testament and New Testament will be fulfilled.

The time has come. The time has come when America must awaken once again. It is time for the country as a whole to create a new movement to build true parents, true families, a true country and a true world centered on God. In this way, America must keep God from leaving, and again become a society that attends Him. God worked a thousand years to establish America. If He leaves America, where can He go?

If America attends God properly, all America's problems - the family problems, moral problems, youth problems and racial problems - will be solved naturally. When America becomes a place where people of all races can live

together in harmony, it will be a model for the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

It is time for us to unite together and open the path that humankind must travel. It is time for America, as the elder son nation, to take the lead in attending God and to complete its mission as the helmsman that brings the nations of the world to God. I ask you to stand with me in accomplishing this historic task.

Again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you distinguished guests for your presence here. I would like to conclude by expressing my hope for the beginning of a new millennial Kingdom overflowing with peace, freedom and justice in Heaven and on Earth. ❖

by Rev. Michael Jenkins

Reflections on the Eighth

As we come to the final moments of 2008, we must truly thank God for the blessings he has bestowed on all of us in the eighth year of Cheon Il Guk. True Parents began this historic year with the motto "Mansei for the Ssang Hab Jubilee years of the Seventh and Eighth years of Cheon Il Guk of the Universal Peace Federation" extending the grace of 2007 to 2008, making the seventh and eighth years of Cheon Il Guk years when all the barriers and burdens of sin that humanity has carried for history can be atoned for and forgiven.

However, this grace, though freely given, comes with an enormous price—a price paid by God and True Parents. The path that True Parents walked in 2008 was one of immense meaning and destiny in which True Father has steadfastly proclaimed that the substantial realization of Cheon Il Guk will be completed by January 13, 2013. He also gave a vision for a new world emerging in which all faiths, races, and ethnicities will become one as blessed families and that the Abel UN will lead the way to bring nations together in Peace. However, when we began this course of 2008, none of us imagined what would be required for such a new world to be given birth.

True Parents guided us throughout the year about the most essential aspect of our faith, that is, that we must walk the holy path of faith through eight stages to eventually come to a level in which our own hearts and families become the dwelling of God, a level in which we have the shim jung (heart) that God does. To do that, we must walk through the eight-stage vertical path of the servant of servant, servant, adopted child, stepchild, child of direct lineage, mother, father, and then God. Horizontally, True Parents have laid the path that we also must walk to establish Cheon Il Guk — that is the eight-stage path through the individual, family, tribe, people, nation, world, cosmos (spirit world and physical world) and God. True Parents personally fulfilled this path and offered it to God in the Ceremony for the Completion of Eight Stages (Pal Jeong Shik) in Alaska on August 31, 1989. This is the path of restoration that is fundamental to the dispensation and True Parents carried it out centering on the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International and the Abel UN.

On March 17, 2007, the Pacific Rim Era was launched during Father's 88th year. No one would imagine that one year later to the day on March 17, 2008, True Parents once again walked the path of sacrificing everything. On that day, their eldest son, Hyo Jin Nim, passed into the spirit world. Once again, our True Parents put everything on the altar of God with true love. This tearful path is not only the path of True Parents but also of the True Family. It is a path of true love in which God is totally relied on and trusted in all areas and circumstances. Under this suffering condition Father and Mother didn't waver, but True Parents' hearts were profoundly filled with anguish. Father said,

This time Hyo Jin Nim went to the Spirit World. Heung Jin Nim has been

the commander of the spirit world. However, there has still been division there. Now through the ascension of Hyo Jin Nim these final barriers will be removed. He is the lord who can open the deepest spiritual realm and make it a garden of loyalty and filial piety. Heung Jin Nim worked on the basis of religion. Now even greater things will happen through Hyo Jin Nim.



Father wrote an official message or title for Hyo Jin Nim's Seung Hwa that said, "He will open and liberate the deepest heaven and turn it into a flower garden as the lord who opens the gates of loyalty and filial piety." Father then began a special 40-day condition during which Rev. Hyung Jin Moon was installed as the International President of FFWPUI. This occurred on April 18, 2008. The first thing that Hyung Jin Nim did was offer his presidency to his elder brother, saying that it is actually Hyo Jin Nim's presidency. True Parents also appointed In Jin Nim as head of the Manhattan Center to inherit the work of Hyo Jin Nim and to expand it.

Hyung Jin Nim has created a spiritual awakening of our blessed central families through his rapidly growing ministry in Seoul and the leadership of all Blessed Central Families through internationally through FFWPUI video (www.tworiversvip.com) ministry followed by members throughout the world. His message is one of profound understanding of Cheon Seong Gyeong the compilation of Father's life long teaching, as well as the deep sense of walking the path of the spiritual life of sincerity and true love as a basis for building the blessed family. The movement is growing and focusing on bringing the blessed families to the full realization of their identity as families of God, sons and daughters of True Parents, in God's image and likeness. His work is helping us walk the vertical eight stages, and also complementing and supporting the development of the horizontal eight stages in which Cheon Il Guk is manifested on the earth.

Hyung Jin Nim's ministry grew rap-

idly and was reported to Father. The original goal was to gather 21,000 members. Father added another zero, saying that a temple should be created for 210,000. Hyung Jin Nim and Kook Jin Nim and all True Family prayed to understand Father's deeper meaning, and it was understood that the temple to be created should be one for all faiths, in which all religions and people of faith can come together and worship and honor God, doing so with no divisions or barriers, as brothers because True Parents have emerged.

In Hawaii Father gave this historic temple the name Cheon Bok Goong (Unification Temple for World Peace). It will be a center of peace beyond sectarianism and exclusion, based on shared universal values held in common by all religions and faiths, values established by the teachings and philosophy of true love and true family. It has been likened to the historic temple that God built for the chosen people as a central point for God's work, now in the age of Cheon Il Guk all faiths and peoples are chosen by God to become one centering on the blessing of marriage and God's lineage. This can be done without losing the essential qualities and uniqueness that God instilled in every faith — the only difference is that God has sent True Parents to bring all the family together as one.

On True Parents Day, April 6, at the Hawaii King Garden, Father made a special ceremony centering on True Mother and True Family.

True Mother was asked by Father to directly guide the True Parents' Day celebration. She was the MC, read the speech, and then was asked by Father to stand before the offering table, between Kook Jin Nim and Hyun Jin Nim, and offer total unity and respect to Father through the Kyung Beh. Father then said, "True Mother is to bring the sons together and bow to True Father. Heaven and Earth have to become one centering on Mother. Here on True Parents Day all brothers are to become one centering on True Mother, all must become one centering on True Mother." True Mother from that moment has been working with incredible heart and love to bring all of us into unity—ultimately bringing us into unity with True Father. As Father proclaimed, the Pacific Rim Era centers on True Mother. We must go to Father through True Mother.

Shortly after True Parents Day Father made worldwide leadership changes. In May, Dr. Chang Shik Yang, who brought America to such a historic level through the clergy and interfaith work as our Continental Director, was called to be the Continental Director (regional president) of Korea; Dr. and Mrs. Pyung Hwa Kim, who had been victorious for many years throughout Asia, came as the Regional Presidents (Co-Continental Directors) of America and was called by True Parents to create a witnessing Renaissance. This set the stage for a new beginning on every level in America and opened the way for True Family to take the central responsibility in many dimensions of the three primary nations.

Soon after, True Father appointed

In Jin Nim as Chairman of the FFWPUI in America, and her inauguration was on August 14. Focusing on ministry and the development of the Blessed Central Families, In Jin Nim has toured all of America, bringing True Parents' love and encouragement to all blessed families, especially to the Second Generation. She has deeply encouraged all of us to enter the era in which we strive to be the best in every field. Also, True Mother in 2007 initiated the call for outreach to bring young people to our movement. In Jin Nim has strongly supported the "Summit" and pilot programs, which are bringing a new era of cooperation between the First and Second Generations to open the way for new people to join our movement to build a new world.

When we think of 2008 and especially the path of True Parents with Hyo Jin Nim, we all feel a heart of sadness. Let us all as Americans truly repent that we could not protect God's family. Let us begin this year of 2009 with a deeper heart of loyalty and filial piety to our True Parents and with deeper love for the True Family. When Heung Jin Nim went to the spiritual world, it was also because the people who were chosen,—the blessed families and the central religious people of Christianity, were not able to fulfill the conditions of the foundation of substance to allow God's dominion. When we couldn't fulfill, then True Parents and True Family have had to pay the indemnity on our behalf. This shouldn't have been. But as it was with Jesus, when the disciples couldn't understand he went the way of the cross on our behalf. So it has been in the course of True Parents. Heung Jin Nim paid a price to protect our True Parents and then, in addition, Father went the path of imprisonment in Danbury.

These conditions allowed Christianity, America, and all blessed families to make a new start, and the foundation that God had prepared to bring about the Kingdom was protected. Because the people chosen by God could not fulfill, then True Parents took on the burden directly. Father overcame what many believed was certain death by going to prison, where he served the other prisoners and won their hearts. Christianity united in America during the Danbury course and stood proclaiming Father's innocence. From that sprung the incredible movement of Christians that have supported True Parents and now has become the ACLC. When Heung Jin Nim went to the spirit world centering on the religious sphere and took down all the barriers of religion and unified the religious founders and then, together with Dae Mo Nim, opened the way for the liberation and blessing of our ancestors. On the foundation of True Parents indemnity course, Father unified Christianity, worked through the media and brought understanding to the world of the problem of Godless communism. Through this work communism collapsed and the world came into a completely new history. America was set to usher in God's Peace Kingdom.

Likewise, in this year of immense grace, the people chosen by God could not fulfill all that was required to protect the True Family and expand God's

Year of Cheon Il Guk

foundation according to the timetable that Father had set—by January 13, 2013. Because of this incomplete foundation, God again had to allow True Family to pay the price on behalf of humanity. Not only did Hyo Jin Nim go to the spirit world, but also True Parents went through the life-and-death ordeal of the helicopter accident. Hyo Jin Nim went to the spirit world victoriously with a heart of filial piety. Father could proclaim that Hyo Jin Nim's course would advance the unity of America, and the Abel and Cain UNs. The helicopter accident occurred and was turned into a victory. Miraculously, True Parents' conditions were right to pay the maximum price in the shortest amount of time—passing through a course of certain death—only to resurrect and show the incredible support, love, and power of God protecting them.

From that resurrection, a completely new era has begun. Religious and political leaders all over the world sent messages of respect and love, many mentioning that this demonstrated in the most profound way imaginable that God is with our True Parents. God protected them—only God could have brought them through. They are truly God's precious True Family. With this, Father gained more hope and confidence than ever. He said later that, because of this condition, God can move the providence toward 2013 more surely and rapidly. He called for the True Family to take a more central role in every way. All True Family members are responding in a profound way. In Jin Nim accepted the role of Chairman of FFWPU America shortly after this incident. Father began a 40-day period from July 19 through August 27th when he held the first resurrection ceremony after completing 40 days. Based on this, resurrection ceremonies were held in every country. On this basis, Father could launch the "Education Session Proclaiming the Completion of the Liberated Realm of the Portion of Responsibility of God's Providential History." True Father proclaimed God's total liberation: True Parents would now take full responsibility and God's responsibility had been completed and liberated by them. To inherit this, all leaders went through and are continuing to go through a seven-day Divine Principle course with new contents directly from True Parents as given to Rev. Eu.

While walking this path, Father never wavered for one second. He has emphasized more than ever the Peace Messages, especially the message 10 on Absolute Sexual Morality, 13 on the Pacific Rim Era and 14 on Family Pledge. He has guided us that we all can understand the fundamentals of life through studying the Peace Messages and the Cheong Seong Gyeong. Hoon Dok Hae centering on the "word" is the key to the fulfillment of the eight-stage path for each blessed central family. He has also made it clear that the fundamental path to the full realization of Cheon Il Guk (the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth) centers on key providential nations, especially America and the development of the Abel UN. The Peace Messages are addressed both to the Blessed Central Families and the Ambassadors

for Peace, calling on them all to create blessed families through three generations and to expand this foundation to the nation and the world through the Abel UN.

Just as the Family Federation led by Hyung Jin Nim is leading toward the vertical fulfillment of 8 stages in support of the horizontal expansion, the work of True Parents through Hyun Jin Nim is working to lift up the Abel UN and contribute to the fulfillment of the necessary horizontal eight stages. This is to be done through the fulfillment of the horizontal realization of God's Peace Kingdom through the individual, family, society, people, nation, world and cosmos (Heaven and Earth) and God. True Father has chosen and anointed Hyun Jin Nim as the Co-Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation International to carry out this providence, centering on the Peace Messages and the Abel UN. Hyun Jin Nim courageously conducted the Global Peace Festivals in every continent, with partners who shared the vision of realizing "One Family Under God." Every Continental Director fulfilled and achieved a great victory for God through the Global Peace Festivals. The GPF is an ongoing movement that combines the elements of Service, Family and Interfaith together.

Hyun Jin Nim and Hyung Jin Nim and all of True Family are sincerely working centering on True Parents to realize all that is necessary now for God's Peace Kingdom. The UPF / Abel UN is the central to this dispensation to educate all leaders to create nations of Cheon Il Guk and build God's Peace Kingdom. Father has also called on all in our movement and the organizations, faiths, and nations of the world to support the Abel UN. The Abel UN must embrace the existing UN and bring about God's kingdom. It must do this based on support from America and the providential nations and the faith leaders of the world, as well as the civic and NGO leaders. America, the Abel UN, and the existing UN are central to God's dispensation to bring about peace on earth and the Kingdom of God. On the basis of the UPF and the Ambassadors for Peace, True Parents could receive recognition globally as the King and Queen of Peace. From that, the Cheong Jeong Goong could be opened on June 13, 2006, and the dwelling of God could be with man. On September 23, 2007, True Father lifted up the Abel UN to another level by having representatives of each nation participate in the general assembly of the Abel UN. True Father's 90th Birthday will include the Commemoration of the Inauguration of the Abel UN accomplished at that time.

In 2008 True Father fulfilled the pattern that he proclaimed many years ago. The path to peace has a formula. First Catholic and Protestant Christianity must unite through the cooperation of North and South America

Then Christianity, Judaism, and Islam can unite, bringing peace in the Middle East. On that basis, North and South Korea will unite.

To realize this, Father had the Abel UN conduct the Middle East Peace Initiative, the Northeast Peace Initiative directly supporting the six-way talks for peace between North and South Korea, and the Americas' Summit, bringing together North and South American religious and political leaders. Father as the King of Peace launched the providence of the Peace King representatives (Boon Bang Wang)



to every nation in the world this year and selected both internal and external representatives.

Though we often don't understand, Father is setting the conditions that are necessary to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Through ACLC, the unity of Christianity has been fostered and the role of religious leaders in America strengthened. Through Women's Federation, Mother's role has been protected and lifted up, preparing women to lead in this Pacific Rim Era. Through the ALC, the patriots of America are being called to help America to fulfill the true meaning of its creed. Through the Youth Federation, young people are engaging in service and peace to fulfill a critical role. ACLC leaders supported Hyun Jin Nim, who led the megachurch work that has brought significant support from major and most famous Christian leaders from North America and South America, who could come together in Brazil for the GPF. GPF and the International Leadership Conference have opened the door for the top leaders of the nations of the world to understand True Parents on a different level: as peacemakers, the King and Queen of Peace; the True Parents, who bless the family, and the representatives of God, who serve and inspire all to live for the sake of others.

The GPF has greatly enhanced the UPF. Hyun Jin Nim also strengthened the interfaith focus of MEPI, which has allowed interfaith relations to more deeply solidify. Major media in America recognized that for the first time in the U.S. at the GPF on August 9th at the U.S. Capitol key Palestinian and Israeli Clerics embraced in a spirit of reconciliation for peace. Father was so pleased when Hyun Jin Nim completed the glorious GPF in the Philippines which has been growing as a move-

ment for over a year there. The Philippines which held the first GPF in December, 2007, demonstrated that the GPF movement is real and viable – it expanded with partners through every state of the Philippines and concluded this December with a huge gathering and the support of the media and the nations religious and political leaders. Though the crisis still rages in the Middle East and tragically now in Gaza, the Muslim, Christian and Jewish faith leaders who are true Ambassadors for Peace will never give up. They will continue the work of interfaith dialogue in which faith leaders will eventually show the political leaders options for peace without war. They will work until doors of peace can open. True Father has pledged that he will never give up until the "guns fall silent" in the Middle East.

2009 is the year in which all of Father's sacrifices can be harvested. The election of the new President in America also points to the fact that the walls of race and religion are set to come tumbling down. There is hope for America and now is the time for us as people of faith to pray for our nations leaders and the faith leaders to come together to create a world of

peace. It just came out that in 1975 True Father gave a speech in a city none other than Chicago and said,

Let's say we have the Blessing ceremony of 5,000 couples at Madison Square Garden. What would you say if there are 5,000 black people and 5,000 white people? When we think that the marriage is also done for the sake of indemnity, we can say international marriage would give you more blessing. That is the way to receive more of Heaven's fortune. In the near future, a couple of black and white will accede to the throne as people of merit, who live for human beings and God's will.

I know how difficult it is, and all the difficulties about that, but when we think marriage is also done for the sake of indemnity, I would like to say that those international couples will receive more blessing and more descendants who will lead the world than anybody else. In the future, who will be the president of the United States? People of mixed blood with black and white will have more of their kind becoming presidents of the United States. That is the conclusion. This will come true. —

Rev. Sun Myung Moon,

October 24, 1975, in Chicago.

Father concluded this year setting conditions in the desert around Las Vegas, pledging that he will set the conditions that a family culture of faithfulness and fidelity will blossom everywhere in America and the world. Father is now calling for Divine Principle education, on deeper levels and with new content revealed at this time. Let us celebrate the great victories of our True Parents in 2008 and with sincere hearts pledge that we will bring total comfort and victory for God in 2009. Let us offer our sincere gratitude to God and True Parents for their True Love. ❖

WestRock Church Devotes the 2009 to God

At midnight on New Year's Eve, and again in the morning on New Year's Day, our members around the world took time to remember, worship and offer their new year to God. For us, the first day of the year is "God's Day" or "True God's Day". This year was the 42nd celebration of God's Day.

During the God's Day morning speech given by Reverend Sun Myung Moon on January 1, 1983, he said, "What kind of day is God's Day? For God, it is a joyful day and a good day. He wants to encounter good people on this day. He wants to bless you and celebrate this day with you."

The main True God's Day events this year were held in Cheong Pyeong, South Korea, where many Unificationists and friends from around the world joined Reverend Sun Myung Moon and his family for the annual midnight prayer and morning pledge service to rededicate themselves to God.

Most American Unificationists could not make it to the events in Korea. Instead, midnight prayer services and morning pledge services were held in every Unificationist community in America. Here are some things some members of the WestRock Family Church congregation said about God's Day.

Jonathan Gullery expressed that, "The experience of God's Day for me is an affirmation of God's grace. It's a



recounted major events in 2008 and reminded the congregation of the importance of having a deep longing in their hearts to love someone other than themselves. He said that it was through having that kind of constant longing to love others that they can be truly happy. Finally, he shared about his goals for WestRock in the new year in the areas of youth education, small group fellowship and

time when I'm asked to remember that no matter what has happened in the last year, no matter what troubles, unfulfilled work, mistakes - whatever - this is a new day, a new chance and an opportunity to begin everything over." Karilee Aoki shared that, "[God's Day is] a time of renewal and total offering to God. It's beautiful that a community can come together to pray and bring in the new year in a holy way." Michiyo Kim said that, "It's a day to remember [God] and give thanks to Him for giving birth to me and to humanity. It's also a day where I reflect on my life and think of ways to live a life that God can be proud of."

Sophia Kirkley, in speaking about the midnight prayer, which was held outdoors in the snow at the Belvedere Holy Rock, shared, "It was an incredible experience. The wind was raging, it was freezing and the sky was radiant with moonlight. I offered God each of my goals: sincere prayer, work on my character, and expand my heart to

love more." In his midnight prayer, Alric Burke asked God how he could best serve Him in 2009, and asked for God's help in building a strong, intimate and blessed family. Hithia Shibuya used this time to quietly reflect on her year and how she could start the new year better with God. Justin Kim determined in front of God to make this year the best of his life yet, when he could make himself a pillar for God, someone that God can trust.

During the pledge ceremony, brothers and sisters of the WestRock community watched a video of Reverend Sun Myung Moon's midnight prayer in Korea with simultaneous translation. Leyla Novruzova shared that she felt that "True Parents (referring to Reverend Moon and his wife) are with us and leading us to God." Chiofa Sakuwa said that she felt True Parents' love, fervor and determination. After the video, Reverend Andrew Compton, pastor of the WestRock Family Church, gave a short message, in which he

outreach.

When asked privately about his understanding of the meaning of God's Day, Reverend Compton explained that, "The idea is that we give priority to God. We place God above all other things in our life. Therefore... the first day of each year is a day to greet God and remember that God is the God of everyone - it is a day to pray for world peace, peace in our nation, and peace in our homes. For those who don't know of God's existence, as a personal God, January 1st is still a day to give respect to the greater purpose in life... Our greater purpose is not defined by any human law, but exists in the conscience of all people... We Unificationists call it the "Ideal of Creation," something that all things in the universe have been striving for since the beginning of time. It is an ideal that all of us can imagine and describe and hope to see come true - a world of justice, liberty, goodness, beauty, truth, and most importantly true love." ❖

Montana True God's Day Community Celebration

by Pastor Mike Yakawich

Words cannot truly express our gratitude to Heavenly Father for giving us such a great day to celebrate. His day! Our Montana Tradition over ten years now has been to attend the night before God's Day with our ACLC friends of the All Nations Christian Fellowship Church from 10:30 p.m. to midnight for the "Watchers Service". Pastor Melvine Terry hosted us along with his congregation. We all worshiped and watched together for the stroke of midnight and the arrival of the New Year of 2009. With music from our youth on the piano, clarinet, flute and trumpet, the All Nations Choir, testimonies and prayer, we gather and at midnight held hands in a circle and prayed.

The next morning we held a pledge and prayer breakfast at the Montana Family Church. We were blessed with some home church members attending along with our Blessed Central Families. One Blessed Family traveled over two hundred miles through storms and severe winds to be with us. We shared

from the message e-mailed to us that morning from our National President Rev. Michael Jenkins which was indeed very inspiring and uplifting to all of us.

Later that day, at Noon to 4 p.m. we hosted a community celebration of True God's Day at the Family Church. We began with an opening prayer, explanation of True God's Day and a Holy Juice Blessing to all participants. Next



door neighbors, home church families, friends from our youth's school, and other ACLC clergy attended. The clergy were Baptist, All Nations and Chapel of the Diamond Heart. We had an amazing buffet for all to enjoy. While everyone ate and fellowshiped, we were entertained by piano music from members in our community. Then, we had one member perform some Okinawa Tradition Dances and a guest performed some Traditional Hawaiian Dances. This was followed by a door prize extravaganza where everyone was a winner. Later, the youth stepped outside to a pinnate bash and some outdoor fun.

It seemed that the momentum to the

end did require some genuine effort of heart and faith. From the midnight service to the morning service, it seemed that we were pushing the clouds aside. Perhaps a sign for the New Year, we need to remain focused and faithful. Perseverance and endurance with love and giving seemed to have been two formulas for breakthrough. In the end, we had a wonderful turnout of both members and guests. The church basement was packed. We had more clergy represented than ever expected. The entertainment was very inspiring even though so much was spontaneously expressed. Many guest and members commented how much they felt God and the Holy Spirit throughout the day.

Friends of ours from a local flower wholesale company donated over 80 poinsettias potted plants to our church. It not only did a fine job in decorating our church but also everyone was welcome to take some home and share with others.

In this year of 2009, we will need to reach deeper into our souls for more power and more stamina. There will

certainly be many blessings as well as obstacles to challenge our limitations and our faith. We know from experience that having the "can do spirit" and never giving up are great applications to success and accomplishment. Even such events need much planning and organizing in tilling the land and plowing the fields for the harvests to be reaped.

Later, we kept the cheer of the day going by visiting a number of our friend's shut-in due to weather and health. They were so happy to see us. We gave them some of the very beautiful poinsettias and wished them a Happy God's Day 2009.

We are indeed very grateful to True Family for their awesome inspiration. We are thankful for the prayers and support of our Regional Director Rev. Larry Krishnek for his prayers and guidance. In closing, the hard work and encouragement of our local families also made our day so successful, the Martin, DiLorenzo, Woods, Felig, Thiessen and Yakawich's. We look forward to this year ahead. ❖



Rev. In Jin Moon's Visit to Seattle

Family Federation Chairperson Rev. In Jin Moon came to visit Seattle from Saturday December 6 to Sunday December 7, 2008. Every hour in Seattle, including meals, was shared with members, local leaders, as well as sincere time specifically with 2nd Generation Unificationists. Her personal stories, filled with color and wit, brought laughter and tears from members who were touched and felt connection with her. Rev. Moon shared in her sermon that she stood in front of them feeling all of her other True Family members were standing there with her.

Seattle is the home city for FFWPU's Pacific Northwest District, which is comprised of families in the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. However two-thirds of this district's families currently live in Seattle and Portland, Oregon. Their district leader, Rev. Larry Krishnek was ready and excited, along with the community, for Rev. Moon's arrival. As Rev. Krishnek received Rev. Moon and her family, including two of her sons Shin Yul and Shin Pyung, he as well as many others were extremely pleased and relieved that even though the forecast was for rain, on Saturday, December 6th, the weather proved to be fine and the mountains were available for her family's pleasure, which is sur-

prising, because at this time of year, the mountains are often hidden behind gray clouds, rain or drizzle.

Rev. Moon and her family were brought to stay at Seattle's 101-year-old Windemere mansion on the shores of Lake Washington, where members greeted her with cheering and flowers. The Windemere House is one of the Seattle community's prized and cared-for possessions. It was reported that this beautiful property is the last remaining property originally built by the founding fathers of Seattle and is therefore very respected and prized by the city of Seattle as well. In September of 2007 the Centennial of this



families shared about the times which they were able to spend with them there. Here many members were able to spend time with Rev. Moon and her family during this weekend.

Soon after their arrival, a welcome dinner was held with 30 elder mem-

mansion was celebrated, and over 1500 people came throughout the day to tour the home. The city of Seattle expressed its gratitude for keeping it so well preserved. Our True Parents and True Family have stayed there on many occasions, and local

members of the community, during which each could truly share with Rev. Moon, as well as be appreciated for his or her long-term service. All church members had the opportunity to introduce themselves and share personal experiences, hopes, and memories with Rev. Moon, as well as current happenings and goals. Special guests included Rev. David and Mrs. Taco Hose, who offered the blessing for the meal. It was shared to Rev. Hose, during the meal, that Rev. Moon has always had a fondness for him and his family. Mr. Lloyd Pumphrey and his wife also were present; Lloyd's parents were both very early members of our movement in America. Lloyd was an infant when Miss Young Oon Kim witnessed to his parents in 1959. Both passed away in the spring of this year, and it was wonderful for Rev. Moon to meet their son, Lloyd, and hear about his own four children as well.

Participants included Dr. Jun Ho Seuk, the Vice President of FFWPUI in Korea, who arrived in Seattle prior to Rev. Moon. Dr. Seuk testified to Rev. Moon's brothers, Hyung Jin Moon and Kook Jin Moon. "They really love their sister; they really respect her so much. She is a really great elder sister, and great woman. You are so lucky to have her," Dr. Seuk said.

The atmosphere became very close as Nancy Kubo shared about her work with the amaz- see **SEATTLE** on page 10



Rev. In Jin Moon Visits New Hope School and Jin-A Child Care Center in New Jersey

Family Federation's new chairperson swept into Clifton, New Jersey on November 18th, 2008 to meet and greet students and faculty at two respected schools serving Blessed Children. Rev. In Jin Moon expressed her sincere concern for students and staff with gifts and encouraging words as to who they could become and what they could do as 2nd Generation.

The two schools visited were Jin-A Child Care Center, which has been growing for over 20 years and the New Hope school, opened in 1996 and moved to its current location in 2002.

Rev. Moon, her husband, along with Dr. Pyung Hwa Kim, and Rev. Michael Jenkins first stopped at New Hope school. Mr. Robert Beebe, the current principal, along with teachers and staff enthusiastically greeted Rev. Moon, who then visited each classroom with different classes of students in 1st to 8th grade. Students in music class performed songs for Rev. Moon, and delighted her with their singing.

After a short meeting with staff and directors, Rev. Moon addressed all 62 students as a group. They presented her with flowers and bowed to her as a member of True Family. Afterwards, each student was formally introduced. The impression of many was that the

recently inaugurated Chairperson for our movement in America cared for each and every one of them as 2nd Generation.

After she was introduced, Rev. Moon began to speak about the need for each student always to be the best he or she could be no matter the game or the career. Rev. Moon specifically mentioned the need for writing, and that the next J.K Rowling (of Harry-Potter

himself or herself as each received this gift. Rev. Moon cared for each student and wanted each of them to know how special they were, and to encourage them to go for their dreams.

"\$1000 scholarship awarded to their school for the students who could write the best essays."

After all held the journals from Rev. Moon in their hands, she surprised everyone by announcing that she would

be returning in one year to see everyone again and award \$1000 to their school for the students who could write the best essays! Because of this, each student should start writing and practicing right away!

As the students all took a picture with Rev. Moon before she left, each held

the precious journal in their hands. This was a present they would always remember, and which would remind them of the day they were told about all the places they could go if they put their minds to it. That atmosphere of love and excitement was there for each child as she waved good bye.

After leaving New Hope School, Rev. Moon arrived at Jin-A Child Care Center, which is a beautiful campus for 81 children currently in the grades of Pre-K and Kindergarten. Jin-A is has a multi-religious academic curriculum attractive both to church members and local families.

Jin-A was also prepared and waiting eagerly to welcome Rev. Moon. Mrs. Christine Brunkhorst, the president and director of Jin-A Child Care Center, was outside anticipating her arrival with staff and kindergarten students, who presented flowers to Rev. Moon before taking a picture together. She was able to take a look around the school grounds and was then lead to the Kindergarten students waiting all together inside.

The Kindergarten students sang songs to Rev. Moon as a very energetic but poised choir that had practiced well. Afterwards all children also were invited to shake hands and share their names with Rev. Moon directly one by one as they all sat together. Mrs. Brunkhorst shared everything that was going on at Jin-A currently, and about their curriculum and mission. A meeting was held with the main staff and other board members, where Rev. Moon was able to hear from each as well as ask questions about Jin-A and its community. Before leaving, Rev. Moon awarded gifts for every child.

The consensus by all on hand was that it was a wonderful day in which inspiration was shared and experienced by everyone. Both schools of 2nd Generation students from ages 3 to 14 were able to hear Rev. Moon's uplifting words as well as inspire her too with self-presentations. Directors and teachers from both schools were also able to share with her as well as receive guidance for their community. ❖



SEATTLE from page 9

ing Sun Hak Choir, and Jeff Adshead with his work with the creation of Next Generation Academy; both are outstanding accomplishments in Seattle and incredibly inspiring to Rev. Moon. Other members, such as Mary Anglin were brought to tears as she shared and testified how liberated she was when she had heard of Rev. Moon's assignment as Chairperson. "It reminded me of God's love, and Father's incredible wisdom for America, and for our movement," she said. Mrs. Anglin expressed that she and her husband have been on call for the Seattle community. She then said in tears to Rev. Moon, "We are on call for you".

Soon after dinner, 120 2nd Generation youth and young adults over the age of 15 gathered at Windemere to share their dreams with Rev. Moon. Her husband first shared welcoming remarks to everyone, with two DVDs about her work: the first regarding Blessed Children choirs started in Japan, and the second, a high-powered promotional video for the Manhattan Center, which she currently manages as CEO.

Rev. Moon then spoke briefly, explaining that she would keep her talk short because she wanted to hear more from the 2nd Generation individually. For the next two and a half hours, each person introduced himself or herself and expressed passions, interests, and goals as well as questions and results they were really hoping to see from our movement. Rev. Moon shared throughout the night, "One of the things that I want to say to all the young people is that I can't change what has gone on before I met you today, but starting with today we can decide, or you can decide what kind of a person you want to be."

Each 2nd Generation youth was encouraged to know that each has his own unique character, and should go forward in whatever that is. Many shared their interest in music. One even hoped that a program after high school (similar to the STF) could be started for 2nd Generation sharing a passion for music, wherein they could keep pursuing music but be able to experience God as well.

One 2nd Generation member felt comfortable sharing that she feels her dream is finding a way to bring not just 2nd Generation members, but all religious and conscientious people of the world together; a networking that is extremely honest, useful and convenient for anyone. "There has to be a way

that we can work together, because I see a lot of separate bodies that could be a lot more powerful and efficient, and impact every single person in the world so much, if we could just work together." Rev. Moon responded, "I like the fact that you are kind of thinking out of the box, you're not just thinking about 2nd Generation, you're thinking about the world's children or the young people outside our movement as well as inside."



Rev. Moon's open heart and concern for each attendant in the room was unmistakable, as her responses were thoughtful and extremely meaningful. One of the first 2nd Generation shared a recent experience, explaining that she had gone to the STF program because she thought this needed to be done for her to be respected by others in the movement, and also feeling she would be making her parents proud. However she shared honestly in tears that she ended up coming home early very disappointed. Rev. Moon told her that she should not feel like a failure because even though STF is a wonderful program, it is not for everyone. Instead she could be able to find her relationship with God through something else. Speaking to everyone, Rev. Moon responded, "Instead of waiting for people to respect you, in order to be a wonderful Blessed Child you need to respect yourself. The minute you do that, then everything you do becomes something that you're proud of and confident about. So, spend a little time figuring out what you'd like to do, and that's ok." Through hearing this from Rev. Moon, her heart could truly be comforted.

Many of the responses that Rev. Moon gave to the second generation also created a strong connection, with many of them matching her own personal experiences. For example, one girl shared with Rev. Moon about her older sister passing away in 2002. She expressed that this has changed how her life has been, and shifted reality

for her. There were many processes to overcome, but because of what she went through, she hopes to help others by working with youth dealing with grief. Rev. Moon responded in agreement that putting your energy into helping

others is the best way to get through this difficult process. Rev. Moon shared that music and the arts are what helped her personally overcome this grief after the passing of her own siblings. Rev. Moon expressed that this sister should let her and her husband know whatever they could do to help and support her.

The next morning, Hoon Dok Hae was held at Windemere with Rev. Moon, her family, and 100 members from the

of combination in leadership is so unique. Add to that, her humor, grace and sensitivity and the result is new and wonderful".

Many members reflected their inspiration from Rev. Moon's sermon, especially from her insights shared. With one reflection from a Seattle member, Ken Cohen, he expressed "Rev. Moon, you described to me that your lifeline is woven in your heart and sculpted by music. This I will never forget. Even

more you described the absolute autonomy of being a "mother"; not just being a common noun but as the absolute true ideal. That awakening for me was more than you might imagine." He was also inspired by her expression of visions from other True Family members. "When speaking about your brother Hyo Jin, you said he laid the foundation to purify the mission of music. The strength that he used to create the Manhattan center is amazing! Your insight into this is nothing short of a gift from

God".

Another member, Mike Lancey, felt that "She shared in a very realistic way, and from her heart, about facing up to whom we are and where we are right now. Our Chairperson urged each of us to take ownership of our challenges and our Blessings."

Shortly after the main service, a talent show was given for Rev. Moon and the community. Rachel Curry emceed the entertainment with four second generation offering solo performances of their original works, as well as a group of 6 girls from Oregon performing an original dance to one of Rev. Moon's recorded songs.

Before leaving Seattle that day, Rev. Moon made it a priority to meet with every family one by one; greeting, sharing, and taking a picture together. A long line was made for families, and each waited with excitement to introduce himself, with many giving gifts and thankful remarks. Mike Lancey shared that "When our family met Rev. Moon on Sunday, in our turn in line, our daughter whispered to her and her husband that she would like to best friends. I personally felt like I was walking on clouds after our meeting and was very fortunate to be able to thank Rev. In Jin Moon personally for coming to Seattle and making such a big difference here."

Other members shared later about their full experience of Rev. Moon's visit. Brian Granstrom shared that the most moving part of the weekend for him was when she took the time on Saturday evening to talk with each of the second generation. "I felt that everyone in attendance was able to get a much deeper connection with the True Family through this interaction." In the past he had not been able to meet True Family up close and personal when they visited their district. But this time, he felt a strong familial connection with Rev. Moon and her family.

Another member from Seattle, Randy Orr, shared "I feel that Rev. In Jin Moon has now emerged to connect American members with True Parents. Thank you, Rev. Moon for accepting this precious role." ♦

Ameriprise financial advisors

David Ryan
Financial Advisor

1735 Ellington Road
South Windsor CT 06074
Tel 860-644-8176 Fax 860-644-5602
Toll free 866-475-1533
david.ryan@ampf.com

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One Family under God in Malaysia

by Hyun Jin Moon

This address was given at the Global Peace Festival, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 19, 2008.

It is a great honor and pleasure to be with you today to celebrate a vision of everlasting peace. Your being here this evening in such numbers is a clear sign that the Global Peace Festival is indeed bringing a new breath of hope to a world yearning for an end to the cycle of war, conflict and poverty!

I love Malaysia! Each time I come

here, I am deeply impressed at how this nation is becoming a model of interfaith peace and unity, with people of all religions, races and ethnicities living together as neighbors and as brothers and sisters.

Malaysia is truly a nation that loves God. When we visited the Putrajaya Mosque on Friday, I was inspired to learn how the government officials pause their duties daily and especially on Friday to pray at the mosque.

Elsewhere, we saw preparations for the celebration of Deepavali, the Hindu festival of lights, and we were remind-

ed of your beautiful tradition of accepting all faiths, allowing all Malaysian's to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience.

Moreover, Malaysia has invited tens of thousands of students from all over the world to study here, many with generous scholarships. In this way, you are helping to create a new generation of peace-builders who will play a central role in building a world of peace in this 21st century.

Young people like to dream big. Malaysia is young nation that is dreaming about becoming the world capital

of peace. I have come here tonight to challenge you to dream the greatest dream of all, the dream of "One Family Under God."

I think we can all agree that there is a long way to go if we are to truly realize this dream of peace. In recent weeks, financial chaos and economic uncertainty have been shaking almost every nation of the world.

Every nation also faces persistent problems of crime, unemployment, AIDs, poverty, family breakdown and youth problems. On top of all that,

see **ONE FAMILY** on page 13

Brasilia GPF and the Global Peace Corps

Brasilia, Brazil - With more than 20,000 noisy Brazilians of all ages filling the Nelson Nilson stadium with noise and enthusiasm, Bishop Manoel Ferreira, the tireless chairman and promoter of the Global Peace Festival (GPF) held in Brasilia December 7, could perhaps at last afford himself a quiet smile of satisfaction. "This is a very important time for Brazil," he told reporters. "We are one of the fastest growing nations in the world, and it is time for us to show the world what we can do." Although Brazil has its full share of social and economic problems, the most urgent problems facing its 180 million people are not primarily material or economic, but moral and spiritual, Ferreira said.

Ferreira, who not only serves as a Federal Deputy in the Brazilian Congress but is also life President of the nine-million member Assemblies of God fellowship in Brazil, might be one of the busiest men in Latin America. But in the past five months the task of preparing the Global Peace Festival in Brazil has been one of his main preoccupations, with several hundred volunteers coordinating a vast array of programs across the nation.

"Governments can't solve these problems alone," Ferreira said. "We have to empower our nation's youth and heal our families. We need to restore our traditional values." In fact, Brazil has been a leader in faith-based programs with churches tackling problems such as substance abuse, alcoholism, family breakdown, and abuse with notable success.

The celebration in the nation's capital December 7th was a fitting conclusion to those long months of effort. The representatives of 50 nations, all 26 of

Brazil's states, and hundreds of churches, mosques, synagogues, schools, and communities were treated to a festive gala that included traditional Indian dances, a father-and-son horse parade, and performances by many of Brazil's top Christian and country entertainers, including crossover multiplatinum singer and artist Frank Aguiar.

On December 5, the GPF convened a special invitational program in the National Congress to consider ways in which faith and community leaders could help bring fresh perspectives to the nation's political leaders. Intrigued by the rare opportunity to participate

directly, representatives from the diplomatic missions based in the Brazilian capital, NGOs, and other community swelled the attendance to more than 400.

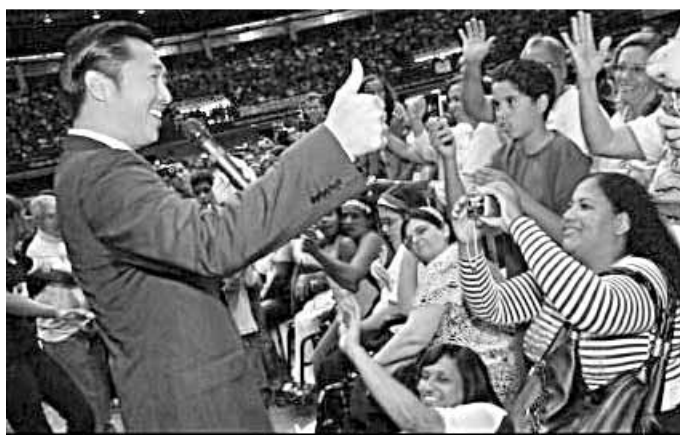
Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, international president of the Global Peace Festival, explained that the GPF had three main objectives: interfaith cooperation, strengthening the family, and creating a culture of service. He urged the assembled deputies and guests to urgently consider the creation of a "Global Peace Corps" that would give young Brazilians an opportunity to serve the region and the world.

than ready to help with the planting and to dispense gardening and other advice!

"This program has been very well-supported by our community," said Donizete Andrade, Mayor of Gama. "Together with our police and fire departments, community health agents, and schools, it's good to see federal agencies represented here to help." Several NGOs in attendance were coordinated by Mr. John Breyer, director of the Brazilian Chapter of the International Relief Friendship Foundation. The event was covered by many local TV stations and the newspaper, Tribuna do Brasil. ❖

"Imagine young people from enemy nations and from different faiths working side by side in service," he said. "Any initial misunderstandings and suspicions would fade away as they sweat, cry and laugh together with a common purpose and cause. Serving others can be one of the fastest ways to a world of peace."

Earlier in the day, the idea became a local reality when 150 trees were planted and band shelters and playgrounds were painted in GPF's recognition of the United Nations International Volunteer Day in the nearby city of Gama. The young people who came out to volunteer were delighted to find themselves joined by an enthusiastic group of elderly people more



GPF in London Opens New Partnerships

by Michael Balcomb

The Global Peace Festival in London this November brought together Ambassadors for Peace from throughout Europe, Africa, and the Middle East to a wide range of activities from conferences in elegant settings to service projects in inner-city parks and a rousing concert in the ExCel center, one of London's newest and hottest venues.

The Conference in the legendary Palm Court Terrace at the London Waldorf Hotel. A favorite retreat for Oscar Wilde and other literary giants, the room also doubled as the state room in the 1954 film, *Titanic*

Senior statesmen spoke about their experiences addressing a variety of conflict situations, hoping that a new generation of leaders will benefit from their insights. Jan-Willem Bertens, a former Dutch Ambassador in Central America, described working behind the scenes to defuse tensions and bring armed conflicting parties together. H.E. Alfred Moisiu, former president of Albania, talked about ways people in the Balkans have been working together to rise above historic conflicts.

Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, Secretary General of UPF, spoke about the needs for a universal values-

based approach to form a basis for people of diverse races, religions, and nations to live together in peace. Mwalagho Kililo, Secretary General, UPF-Africa, explored the spiritual foundations of leadership and presentations about UPF's understanding of the root cause of conflict and the principles of restoration were given by Mr. Jack Corley and Mr. Michael Balcomb.

Other speakers included Ambassador Makarim Wibisono, former president of the UN Human Rights Council, and Rev. Marcus Braybrooke of the World Peace Council, who spoke about the spiritual impulse behind the creation of the United Nations. Youth representatives from six religious traditions said that young people had a particular responsibility and opportunity to move beyond barriers created by differing religious practices and rituals, and allow the wisdom and universal values of their religions to promote human rights and dignity.

A second session reviewed the quest for common values in Europe throughout 2008, which has been designated the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Iman Abduljalil Sajid, Chair of the Task Force for the

European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, challenged the audience to seek new opportunities for interaction among different cultures.

Focus groups addressed topics of broad interest: women's peace initiatives, marriage and family, interfaith, community cohesion, peace and development, and the environment. Each

in Germany. Service project organizers, women activists, and religious leaders described ways they are building ongoing connections among people of diverse social, economic, and religious backgrounds.

At the Interfaith focus group, various approaches to interfaith work were presented. Speakers explored the poten-

behooves a country to look carefully at how these can be nurtured," according to Edward Hartley, chairman of UPF-UK Marriage and Family Initiative.

The Main Event

At 4:30 PM people began entering the exhibition hall at the ExCel Centre for the main event. Art exhibits and a dozen information booths from various GPF partners on themes of peace attracted much attention.

The 3,000 seats in the auditorium quickly filled up, and another 1,000 people watched the program on a screen in an overflow room. Musicians from various backgrounds and styles performed, to the delight of the audience. Dhol drums and bagpipes opened with an exciting East/West fusion performance, followed by the string section of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by David Eaton playing Benjamin Britten's "Simple Symphony."

Then top UK soul singer Ola Onabule and the Austrian Peace Choir took to the stage to sing Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up." Other singers included "New Generation" from the DaVinci's band, Dawud Wharmsby, Steve Balsamo and

The Storys, the rising teen rap star and Patti Boulaye, a popular singer also known for her charity work in Africa.

Jhr. Drs. Pieter Beelaerts van Blokland, a former Dutch government minister, welcomed Global Peace Festival founder Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, who spoke extemporaneously on the theme of "One Family Under God," a message he has been delivering throughout the year to Global Peace Festivals on five continents. He called upon the crowd to make a commitment to interfaith unity, strong families, and selfless service.

This keynote address was followed by Beatles tribute band, Bernie and the Peacemakers featuring Simon and Jo, Twist and Jive champion dancers. The music and the moves proved irresistible, and people of all ages got out of their seats to dance and mingle with one another to some of the most memorable songs. For once, it was not a Hard Day's Night, and the evening concluded happily with the appointments of many new Ambassadors for Peace.

Following the success of GPF London, organizers say they are already making plans for a much larger festival in 2010. ❖



forum attracted at least 200 participants.

Two Members of Parliament from the UK and one from Germany spoke at the Community Cohesion focus group on issues facing immigrant and minority communities. Tom Brake talked about countering the growing alienation, segregation, and lack of cohesion in his own district in England as well as urban Europe in general. Andrew Pelling described the need to offer young people positive role models and direction, and Bayram Inan described the challenges facing Turkish immigrants

tial benefits that cultural diversity can bring to communities, emphasizing the need to incorporate the entire spectrum of a community in ways that address the needs of all. Examples were given of bringing people together through housing projects in Northern Ireland and interfaith youth service projects.

The Marriage and Family focus group featured presentations about marriage preparation and marriage enrichment programs. Statistics show that such programs help reduce the probability of divorce. "Stable families are the building blocks of a peaceful society; it



GPF Celebrates Holiday of Holidays in Haifa

by Hod Ben Zvi, UPF-Israel

Haifa, Israel - On December 20, 2008, the Global Peace Festival was celebrated in Haifa, Israel, as part of that city's annual December celebrations. The diverse crowd was composed of Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Druze from Haifa and all around the country.

Though it was in mid-winter, a perfect day welcomed families and individuals to the picturesque Wadi Nisnas where multiple festival activities took place. The crowds began to fill up the streets as early as 10:00 in the morning. Walking through the narrow streets, one saw numerous stalls offering colorful tables filled with a large variety of products to attract the crowds.

Our Global Peace Festival program was conducted as a joint venture with Haifa's municipal company, Ethos, that produces the yearly Hag Hachagim event, the holiday of holidays. This is a month-long series of events every December honoring and respecting the four Abrahamic faiths.

The program began at 10:30 am and lasted until 4:00 pm, with more than 24 groups and individuals (200 artists in total) performing on two stages simultaneously. There were rock bands and choirs, martial arts demonstrations and dance groups, vocal singers and ethnic musicians, and much more. Altogether, police estimated that some 40,000 people participated in the day-long events in midtown Haifa.

Everybody seemed to be having great fun. Massoud, one of the neighborhood residents, said, "We haven't seen such

a celebration in years." On one stage surrounded by historic buildings, a special Native American ceremony took place led by Dr. Shuki Ben Ami, who was the events' master of ceremonies.

Twelve people were invited to the stage and paired with representatives

ties. To the sound of a Native American slowly beating her drum and singing a haunting melody, each pair broke their arrows and raised the pieces high above their heads before placing them in the urn at the center of the stage and embracing each other. When all

who participated in the activity, embraced several of the pairs.

Mayor Yahav welcomed everybody and invited the international participants to return in the coming years, and then jokingly said he would tax them after the fourth year! The celebration continued with more performances. The audience filled every available space, including the road overlooking the area as well as windows and balconies of nearby buildings.

After the mayor spoke, Dr. Thomas Walsh, Secretary General of the Universal Peace Federation, led the Middle East Peace Initiative representatives of more than 13 nations onto the stage. He gave an address on behalf of the GPF Founder Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, highlighting the role of the family as "the school of love," the place where we develop the skills of healthy relationships within society at large. The crowd actively participated, raising their hands in agreement to the motto proclaiming: "One family under God."

A dazzling array of performances continued and, even though dusk was approaching, the crowds refused to leave the festival. All stood together as the final song, "Seeds of Love," was performed by Naty Rosenfield with the whole crowd joining in.

All performances were offered voluntarily, and we had more willing performers

than time allowed. The disappointed artists who were not able to perform were comforted with assurances of invitations for a future program. ❖



of enemy nationalities, religions, or races. Each pair was then handed an authentic arrow and asked to break the arrow signaling the end of hostili-

ties. The crowd cheered and Yona Yahav, the Mayor of Haifa,

had finished, the master of ceremonies set fire to the broken arrows as the music continued. The crowd cheered and Yona Yahav, the Mayor of Haifa,

ONE FAMILY from page 11

there are a record number of wars and regional conflicts that continue to plague the human family.

Recently, the United Nations released a very pessimistic report stating that progress towards the Millennium Development Goals is way off track. No wonder it sometimes seems that our world is actually further away from peace than ever before!

One thing is clear: if there is to be any change, the world undeniably needs a new vision of peace for the 21st Century. Moreover, unlike the secular thinking of our recent past, it should be a spiritual vision, rooted in universal values.

We only need to look back to the last century to recognize the futility of tack-

ling the world's problems through the same old military, economic, political, diplomatic and scientific solutions. Dealing with only the symptoms of global crisis and conflict and ignoring the root cause will not work.

We must be bold and break new ground in our search for peace and prosperity, if we are to really go beyond the failures of our past. Today, therefore, I want to share a new vision of lasting peace for Malaysia and for all nations.

That vision is "One Family under God!"

The one who has taken on the mantle to champion this vision around the world is none other than my father, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon. He has devoted his entire life and all his resources to the fulfillment of that dream.

The dream to build "One Family Under God" is not the dream of just

one man, woman or family but belongs to all humanity and, most of all, to God.

As my father explained in a recent Peace Message,

God, the Creator of all things under the sun, is the true parent of all humanity. He is not a parent in the parochial sense, existing only for a certain religion, a certain race, or the residents of a certain region.

You may call Him by any name, be it Allah, Jehovah, God, Heaven or any other. What is important is that He certainly exists and lives as the creator and true parent of all mankind.

A True Family is the Model for Peace. Why is the family the fundamental building block for peace? First and foremost, the family is universal. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality and religious affiliations, we are all members of families.

Secondly, the family represents the

most intimate of human relationships. We use familial terms to describe the closeness of any relationship, saying "that person is like my father, like my mother, like my brother, like my sister, like my son and like my daughter."

Most importantly, the family is the school of love. I believe that the three-generational model of grandparents, parents and children is the paragon of family virtue.

Those generations represent the past, present and future living in harmony in one family, setting the basis of establishing everlasting peace centered upon true love.

Before we call ourselves Muslim or Christian or Hindu, before we see ourselves as Black, White, or Asian, before we identify ourselves as Malaysian, Chinese or Korean, we are first and foremost brothers and sisters and members of God's eternal family. ❖

WINTER HIGH SCHOOL



SCHOOL RETREAT



THIRD ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND CHRISTMAS SOCIAL



GPF Manila 'One Big Family Under God'

Religious and political leaders from various nations shared, Saturday December 13, the limelight in front of thousands of people at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila in a show of unity and symbolic breaking of cultural barriers to become "one big family under God" during the Global Peace Festival.

During the occasion, GPF co-chairman Dr. Hyun Jin Moon announced to festival delegates the holding of the first ever World Convention of the Global Peace Festival in Manila by the end of 2009.

"London, Washington, Tokyo and Seoul were all strong candidates. But in the end, I am pleased to announce to you this evening that this GPF World Convention will be held right here in Manila," he said to the cheering crowd.

According to Moon, the peace festival in Manila which opened last December 11 should serve as a "great awakening" for the people worldwide to stand up and be united in eradicating strife and poverty worldwide.

"The dream of 'One Family under God' will be clarion call of our age. The time has come to tear down the man-made walls of race, culture, religion

and country, and establish the peaceful, ideal world of God's cherished desire," he said.

"As we celebrate the Global Peace Festival here in Manila, we must initiate a worldwide 'Great Awakening' rooted in the true universal spirit of Chris-

tianity taught by Jesus 2000 years ago," Moon added. Moon likewise called on the citizenry to make a solemn pledge in leading the world to peace through the vision of "One Family under God."

"It can end the strife and poverty of Africa, the conflict in the Middle East, and the final remnant of the Cold War on the Korean Peninsula. The power of one human family united with the Will of God can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world," he explained.

Political leaders took a break from politics to join the global peace celebration. Former Speaker of the House Jose De Venecia Jr., former Senate President Manuel Villar and Senator Miguel Zubiri shared the same stage as they joined religious leaders in the symbolic lighting of Peace Candles.

At least 81 governors, 18 congressmen, six senators and 30 mayors were cited by organizers in their efforts to promote peace.

In his welcome remark, Villar reminded the public that peace should start from one's self before it resonates to others as he likened the world and the people as a spaceship in the universe and its passengers. "We share a noble dream of creating a world at peace where love resonates all over, where we focus more on the many things that unite us rather than on our differences, where harmony prevails over discord and where everyone becomes his brother's keeper," he said.

"To build a peaceful world, we must start laying the foundation of peace in ourselves," Villar added.

As to the Philippines being chosen for the GPF world convention, Robert Kittel, GPF Public Relations director, said the country is the leading global peace advocate in the world and a perfect example of a nation with diverse cultures and religions that can live peacefully

in one place.

"Take a look at the people in Mindanao. I think that's the best way to explain how people, no matter what their race is, can live harmoniously," he said.

During the start of the festival, spectators were entertained by marching bands and street dancers donned in colorful costumes. Flags of different countries were paraded by Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) members.

People started converging in front of the Quirino Grandstand as early as 1:30 pm. Yesterday. Organizers said they were expecting some two million people to come but as of 6 p.m. last night, GPF Security Chief Venus Agustin pegged the number of attendees at 1.2 million.

Despite efforts to promote peace through becoming a single, unified family, Moon warned that attaining peace might be hampered should the basic fundamentals of family be eroded.

"Divorce and family breakdown are at an all time high. Every nation faces major challenges with its youth. The social and economic cost of the breakdown of the family is staggering," he lamented.

"The healing of the family is a spiritual task. We must make it our priority to bring God back into every family. When God is the center of our families, all our other problems will fade away," Moon added. ❖



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GPF: Solomon Islands Model Nation of Peace

by Greg Stone

Honiara, Solomon Islands November 29, 2008- "Under the motto of One Family under God, everyone can learn to live in harmony," according to the chair of the Global Peace Festival-Solomon Islands, Hon. Augustine Taneko, a Member of Parliament.

The declaration given by Rev. Sun Myung Moon on November 29, 1992 in Sydney, Australia, entitled "The Unified World Begins from Oceania" bore substantial fruit exactly 16 years later in the summertime nation of the Solomon Islands through the Global Peace Festival held November 28 and 29, 2008. Paraphrased by many in the Solomon Islands as the "Unified World Begins from the Solomon Islands" and strengthened by Father Moon's focus on that nation as the future headquarters of the Federation of Island Nations for World Peace, this motto has been the driving force behind the decision to host the Global Peace Festival in its capital Honiara. The vision is to establish the Solomon Islands as a model nation of peace for Oceania and the world.

The GPF comes on the heels of a tumultuous time in the history of the Solomon Islands due to civil wars and riots. The capital Honiara is still recovering from the wounds of ethnic conflicts between the indigenous population of Guadalcanal and migrants from the island of Malaita. Also, a riot that burned down Chinatown left emotional and psychological scars that are painful and worrisome. The Global Peace Festival with its theme "One Family Under God" could not have come at a better time. Its message has been warmly and openly received by the great majority of its leaders and citizens. The GPF is serving as a platform and vehicle to help unite the diverse peoples of the Solomon Islands into one family under God.

The motto of the Solomon Islands GPF was "Unite Solomon Islands as a Model Nation of Peace: One Family under God!" and the support of the partnerships of church groups, the Deputy Commissioner of Police and police force, media institutions, the Honiara City Mayor and Council, as well as popular bands and artists made the GPF Solomon Islands an all-encompassing effort to initiate positive change in the Pacific.

Father Moon has stressed the role of the Solomon Islands and other small island nations of Oceania as taking the lead in setting the precedent to build unity amongst the nations of the Pacific and the world. The prepared spiritual foundation of the Solomons was instrumental in the tremen-

dous success of the GPF, heralding a time of great potential and hope in the Pacific Rim.

The small island nations dispersed in both the northern and southern regions of the Pacific, on either side of the equator, as well as Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, the Solomon Islands,

provinces and among different faiths was a major under-current of the conference, whose theme was "Towards a New Paradigm of Leadership and Good Governance for Development and Peace."

Perhaps the largest event of its kind ever held in the Solomon Islands, the Global Peace Festival inspired and built upon

the Global Peace Festival for the future of the Solomon Islands. National heroes were recognized for their life-long contributions to their communities and nation.

Almost all major groups attended the festival, from the Chinese community to the indigenous inhabitants of Guadalcanal and Malaita, marking the beginning of a new era of reconciliation, harmony, and peace.

A combination of outreach teams and media advertisements informed schools, the media, and the general public about the GPF's social impact activities, which included the National Song Competition, the Computer Assistance Program, the service projects, and a program of ongoing scholarships.

Starting by serving the community, the Global Peace Festival held a series of publicised clean-up efforts together with schools to demonstrate the culture of "living for the sake of others." Those who joined the clean-ups garnered the curious gaze of people in Honiara City, who encouraged the volunteers in their efforts, even joining in. One resident of Honiara congratulated the Global Peace Festival for its good job, exclaiming: "Show the people of Honiara how to clean their city."

Twelve scholarships to the Queensland Institute of Commerce and Technology were awarded during the Global Peace Festival. They offer a great opportunity to young up-and-coming leaders to make a positive change in their own lives as a basis for changing their



Australia, New Zealand and other countries, should become as one country and form one union to sustain peace throughout the Pacific Rim civilization. This will secure peace and stability for all people.

What I am saying to you is that you have the responsibility to protect and save the oceanic realm, which is a lifeline on which humanity's future depends, from the environmental destruction and conflicts that are worsening by the day, and to shield the natural resources for the sake of peace in the future.

- Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, March 2007

The International Leadership Conference (ILC) brought together leaders from all spheres to discuss and consider good practices of good governance that lead to peace. The Head of State, H.E. Sir Nathaniel Waena, addressed the audience that included ministers of government, members of parliament, as well as major religious, women and youth leaders. He was the first sitting head of state to address a Global Peace Festival, and his presence at the conference brought great distinction and dignity to the historical event.

The need for reconciliation between the

good will and cooperation of the top spheres of society as well as the grassroots, bringing together a diverse audience of some 15,000 people, almost 30 percent of the entire population of Honiara.

The celebration at Lawson Tama Stadium was preceded by a parade led by the police band and various cultural groups in colorful dress that drew hundreds of on-lookers, well-wishers and participants. The crowd began to swell at the stadium through the afternoon, finally reaching capacity during the main program. They came to watch some of the brightest and most popular cultural groups and musical bands from around the region as well as to hear the words of national and local politicians. These included the representative of the Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs Hon. James Tora, Member of Parliament Augustine Taneko, Lord Mayor of Honiara His Worship Andrew Mua, and Pastor Geoffrey Alacky, President of the Solomon Islands Full Gospel Association, speak of the significance of the day and the impor-

society.

In the lead-up to the main event, schools invited the character education and HIV/AIDS prevention team to give presentations to raise social awareness about critical issues facing the Solomon Islands. The Global Peace Festival has launched social impact programs aimed at dealing with these and other important challenges facing Solomon Islands youth. These programs will be ongoing and will continue to make a lasting impact on the educational system of the Solomon Islands ❖

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<p>Natural Castile Glycerin All Vegetable Soaps</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rain</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Safari</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violet</td> <td>Balsam Fir</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oatmeal</td> <td>Smokey Rose</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Honeysuckle</td> <td>Luscious Lilac</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rose Ceranium</td> <td>Atlantic Breeze</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Orange Jasmine</td> <td>Annandale Apple</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lily of the Valley</td> <td>Jasmine's Lavender</td> </tr> </table> <p>Floral Bouquet, and more!</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">\$4.50</p> <p>1.7 oz. Hand Cream \$6.00 4 oz. Hand & Body Lotion ... \$8.00</p>	Rain	Safari	Violet	Balsam Fir	Oatmeal	Smokey Rose	Honeysuckle	Luscious Lilac	Rose Ceranium	Atlantic Breeze	Orange Jasmine	Annandale Apple	Lily of the Valley	Jasmine's Lavender	<p style="text-align: center;">Holiday Gift Basket 1 Soap, 2 Lip Balms & 1 Herring Rock Hand Cream \$15.00</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">caryka@earthlink.net (845) 633-3264</p>
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Music Touches Hearts at Moldova Peace Festival

Sunday, 09 November 2008— Beginning with a few words by Ronald Koonce, the night started with the message that music is the connector of all people, with help from a few words by John Lennon. Then, the entertainment began. Local stars came out to perform and have a hand in peacebuilding, including vocalists Olga Ciolacu, Natalia Barbu, Nelly Ciobanu, Aura, and Janet Erhan. Each provided music and songs with a positive message and briefly explained what this opportunity has meant to them. Dances from all over the world were showcased, thanks to several local dance studios whose talented dancers performed. At one point, they offered a traditional Moldovan folk dance to reinforce the national pride that uniquely characterizes the people of Moldova. Other artists, including Natalia Proca, Surorile Osoianu, El Radu, and Iulian Pusca, also showed their support for the evening.

Dr. Katsumi Ohtsuka's

speech was met with great interest and enthusiasm from those guests hearing for the first time about need for religious people to come together as a

universal family to establish a peaceful world. His presentation was followed by a special group of women who sang an inspiring rendition of the

Moldovan national anthem *Limba Noastra*, which had a powerful emotional impact on the crowd.

Finally, all performers gathered together on stage with candles to sing the finale, "One Family under God" in a spectacular display ending in a touching moment with four doves being released into the air as audience members applauded.

It was evident that this event could have involved many more people, since the large hall was filled to capacity with excited people, internationals and locals alike. Speaking personally as a foreign participant, while the language was not understood, the message rang clear. It transcended national borders, religions, and personalities, which is the true example of peace. Hearts sang louder than words and, in a place that is divided, a time was created when all could come together. ❖



European Leadership Conference Considers Security Issues

By Christopher Davies

The last UPF European Leadership Conference of 2008 was held in UPF-Netherlands' Glory House Conference Center in Bergen aan Zee, North Holland, December 12-14.

Five of the ten sessions were devoted to a presentation of UPF's Founding Principles by Timothy J. Miller, Vice-Chairman of UPF-Europe. Wim Koetsier, UPF-Netherlands Secretary General, was Coordinator and he was ably assisted by Hans Campman and local families.

There were about 30 participants, from Albania, Denmark, Finland, France, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, and the host country.

There were three guest speakers: on Friday evening, Dr. Dick Leurdijk spoke on the "The Situation after the Lebanon War in 2006." He is a senior research associate of the Netherlands Institute for International Relations Clingendael in the Hague and a specialist in political and military UN issues. He is in much demand as a lecturer, policy adviser, and political commentator in the Netherlands and beyond, including the NATO headquarters in Brussels. His detailed analyses of UN resolutions show that substantial help is often hindered by lack of clarity or a limited mandate to act. In this case, the UN Security Council seemed to think that Lebanon had to resolve the situation inside the country. Mr. Leurdijk felt that another war in the Middle East was almost inevitable unless incoming US President Obama could come up with some alternative.

On Saturday afternoon, after an (optional) walk in nature and visits to the beach, Major General (ret.) Kees

Homan, advisor to Clingendael and former director of the Netherlands Defence College, spoke on "Developments and Trends Concerning International Security."

General Homan started with a fictional story of a UN peacekeeping general, driver, and junior officer who were captured by hostile forces. They were



told they could have a final request before they were killed. The general wanted to make a speech, the driver to write a letter to his mother, and the junior officer to be killed before the general made his speech! This general's speech was a roller coaster ride through more aspects of the topic than most of the listeners probably realized existed, starting with the numerous "drivers of change" in security. He examined the effects of climate change, the emergence of Asia and especially China, cyber warfare, intra-state conflicts (now more numerous than those between states), peace support operations, and terrorism.

He contrasted the often-quoted book by Francis Fukuyama *End of History* with Robert Kagan's *The Return of History* and the *End of Dreams* (Knopf, 2008). During the discussion, it was

mentioned that the UN Security Council members were led by their own national interests, not global concern. Corruption was also a concern; for example, the Netherlands invested 1.2 billion euros in Afghanistan, and people wonder to what effect. The Taliban's control seems to be growing, and even Kabul is now threatened. He opined that, ironically, the Afghanis' support for the Taliban was mainly for economic reasons.

Dr. Willem F. van Eekelen, a former Dutch Ambassador, Deputy Foreign Minister, and Defence Minister, presently working with the Netherlands Advisory Committee on European Integration, spoke on "The Future of the EU-Russia Relations after the Recent Conflict in Georgia."

In opening, he reported that he had recently been at the 25th anniversary of Clingendael, where Kofi Annan told of how *The New York Times* had said his first task as Secretary General of the UN was to reform it. When he spoke to the Security Council, he apologized that he had not yet achieved this goal. The Russian Ambassador replied that he had had time enough, since God had created the world in seven days; to which Annan had replied that God had done it all Himself, but that he, Annan, had to work with the Security Council! As Leurdijk had said on Friday, Dr. van Eekelen observed that it is very difficult to secure UN agreements and a clear mandate.

His vision for Europe was inspired by Jean Monnet, not only for his work in creating the Coal and Steel Com-

munity, but also for his suggestion that, if you have a problem, don't tackle it head on, but try to put it in a different context; which he felt was also a good lesson for one's personal life.

He showed that Russia faced many challenges. It was confronted with China's 1.3 billion people (though Russia is huge, its population is a relatively small 170 million) in the east and the Muslim south: Europe was the least of its worries. Putin had restored national self-respect, but its parliament was just a rubber stamp. Its resurgent nationalism needed to be taken into account; he did not think it would be in anybody's interests for the Ukraine or Georgia to join NATO. Everyone had come off badly after the conflict in Georgia.

All three speakers are closely involved in Clingendael, and all are highly influential and command respect because of their attitude as well as knowledge. Leurdijk remains calm and polite and thoughtful even if rudely challenged in the middle of a speech (which did not happen at the ELC); Homan quietly defused the protests of certain Muslims ruffled by some of the photos supporting the text in his PowerPoint presentation by saying he would change them when he arrived home; and Dr. Van Eekelen is a diplomat from his heart as well from experience, always calmly optimistic. He was talking encouragingly at dinner, in French, about the Middle East Peace Initiative to one of the guests, while his wife delighted our Indian Surinami film maker with stories about meeting Pandit Nehru when her husband was Dutch Ambassador to India. Dick Leurdijk also described the MEPI peace trip as one of his best experiences and advised everyone to go.

The Van Eekelens also featured prominently in the cultural evening

see **EUROPE** on page 19

Family Fellowship Retreat in Maryland

by James and Matilda Stewart

A group of more than 25 brothers and sisters gathered November 29, 2008 for a Family Fellowship small-group leaders retreat at Camp Letts, Maryland, on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. The meeting was hosted by the district directors, Reverend and Mrs. Francis.

Pastor Hiroshi Goto of the Northern Virginia (Nova) Family Church in Virginia gave presentations on how to discover the essentials of the family fellowship experience. He shared with us the essentials for building a community of love based on small groups, such as the commitment needed to build this kind of community, a strategic overview of small groups and how to lead them, and a vision of where small groups are going and how they can impact our lives. There was lots of time for discussion and sharing, as well as some time to role-play what should and should not be done by a



leader of a small group.

Many of those at the retreat have been following the Unificationist way of life for more than 30 years, yet it is never disappointing to gather as brothers and sisters in our shared commit-

ment to build a better world. I personally witnessed that kind of dedication, commitment and love again when some younger and some more mature Unificationists came together for this retreat. There were some couples who had been

matched by Father Moon and blessed in marriage in 1975 in a mass wedding of 1800 couples. There were some younger in their faith, couples who joined our Family Fellowship meetings a few months ago. When we all came together, we found common ground in our dedication and desperation to build safe, nurturing and healing communities where families can live together centered on God and living for the sake of each other. As the saying "If you build it, they will come" goes, when we can truly live like this, as a community of heart and love, then many will come and join us. After all, this is what people are searching for - a place to belong.

Thank you, Pastor Hiroshi Goto and Rev. Randy Francis, for sharing some of the tools and the vision needed to build this kind of community through small groups and family fellowships!

James and Matilda Stewart are the National Directors of the Family Fellowship (HDFC) Program. You may contact them at: Truescot4@gmail.com ❖

New Family Church Causes Stir in NC

by Bob Huneycutt

After a 2-year search the Unificationist families in Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill have purchased a church building across from prestigious Northgate Mall in Durham, N.C. The building, built in 1954, is a former Masonic Lodge with nearly 4000 square feet of space and a sanctuary capable of holding over 100 people.

The building is being fully utilized even as it is being renovated, and has hosted a Sunday service by Bishop Jesse Edwards and a Second Generation workshop over the Christmas holiday which was taught mainly by members of the Blessed Teens Academy.

Reverend Edwards, in his message on December 14, urged the members to prepare internally to welcome new members and said that all the ingredients were present to create a mega-church.

With a new church building and a new year beginning, the Unificationist community here is getting organized for new growth. Centered on City Leader Reverend Mamoru Uyama and Youth Coordinator Lucy Park, leaders were chosen for Inreach, Outreach, Building Maintenance and Finance Committees. Each committee leader came up with a mission statement, goals and budget needs. Due to Finance Committee Art Lamson's detailed and balanced budget, the Triangle actually enjoys a budget surplus. Everything is in place for central North Carolina to continue to be an active and vibrant church center.

The name for our local church, chosen by ballot, is Triangle Family Church. The Sunday services have been stream-

lined to be more guest-friendly, and music has been improved with the addition of Stephanie Nishida on piano, along with guitars, drums and bass. Like every most Unification communities nationwide there is much debate about whose name to pray in. District Leader Mike Lamson has advised us that in Ohio, they usually just end with Amen, especially when there are guests, but if someone wants to pray in their own name, that's okay too. Reverend Jesse Edwards, when he was here, said he prays in this way: I, Jesse Edwards, report this in the name of Your son, Jesus. Can I get an Amen?

Many excellent ideas for starting a new church can be found in Rick Warren's superb book, *The Purpose-Driven Church*.

We refer to our two years without a church building as our years of wandering in the wilderness. The problem was unity; we just couldn't agree on what kind of building to buy. Then Reverend Uyama initiated a prayer condition in early 2008, when we were still meeting in community centers, and soon after this building was discovered. The key to our success in the coming year will be each member realizing the importance of their unique contribution to a harmonious church community. ❖



EUROPE from page 18

program, singing a song together - and our Latin American troubadour Carlos Figueroa encouraged Dr. Van Eekelen to accompany him on the maracas. Dutch legendary singing diva Milly Scott also sang.

On Sunday, the participants shared their reflections in the final session. Hans Campman later commented that there seemed to be two distinct groups of attendees: religious Muslims and "somewhat less religious Westerners," whose appreciation of the weekend seemed more to do with intellect and will rather than emotion and heart. They were considering how to apply their weekend experience in their existing activity and how to help UPF be more effective. Wim

Koetsier remarked that the Muslims appreciated the spiritual content of the lectures. All were impressed by Huize Glory and the atmosphere.

Pål Arne Davidsen, foreign affairs adviser to the Progress Party in the Norwegian Parliament, who has been involved in a number of UPF activities, later wrote, "I think one of the most important contributions and benefits of UPF is that it engages people across religious, ethnic, political, and language divides. By discussing relevant issues in such a context, it becomes possible to understand, but not always agree on, the perspectives of others. For me as a politician the weekend was a different experience from everyday life as I also got spiritual input on the topics under consideration." ❖

ADVERTISE IN THE
UNIFICATION NEWS

Building the Cheon-il-guk Society

by Jeffery Kingsley

When I went to my first workshop close to 30 years ago, I was inspired to join for a number of reasons. One reason was the "vision" presented by the lecturer of how everything in the "ideal society," such as economics, politics, arts etc., would center around God rather than around things like power, money and self. I thought about this recently when I had the opportunity to attend a Christian conference put on by a Focus on the Family sponsored group called "The Truth Project." (truthproject.org) This project was started by Dr. Del Tackett who used to be a planning director for the National Security Council under President George H.W. Bush. I attended this conference at a church in New Jersey, and was part of a simulcast which included 34,000 people from around the US as well as several other countries.

The purpose of "The Truth Project," according to Dr. Tackett, is to "build a systematic and comprehensive biblical worldview that looks at all of life." Dr. Tackett believes that God has a design not only for His Creation but also for the social systems of human society, such as the family, the economy, the arts, the government etc, and that this design reflects His nature, which Christians associate with the "trinity." Christians thus have a responsibility to "remake" this world according to God's image. Dr. Tackett believes that God intended for human society, based upon His design, to become even more beautiful and awe-inspiring than the Creation itself!

This made me think about what God and True Parents are calling us to do. On September 7, 2008, we had a special ceremony commemorating True Parents' "substantial resurrection." As a part of the ceremony, we were asked to reexamine our "long-term plan for fulfilling the vision of creating Cheon-Il-Guk by the year 2013." That brings to mind several crucial questions. What is our long-term plan? What is the "vision" for the Cheon-Il-Guk in terms of a Unification worldview which could be applied to all aspects of society?

Hyung Jin Nim has recently talked

about the need for us to have a "clear vision" for what we are trying to create. He is developing some very inspiring, specific plans to actualize the 210,000 Unification Peace Temple (see HJN's speech from Oct. 11, 2008 at tworiversvip.com) which Father has said must be built by Jan. 2013! In the same way, I believe that in order to build the CIG, we need a "clear vision" and specific plans for actualizing God's design in each area of society, such as government, arts, health, architecture etc. This is what Dr. Tackett is attempting to do using Christian theology, and he has created a 12-lesson course expressing these ideas. I truly believe that we need to create a Unification worldview with a similar kind of breadth and depth.

I would like to highlight what I believe to be two key components of such a Unification worldview. The first component is the idea that God is a being of harmonized dual characteristics, and, therefore, in order to reflect God's image, human society (i.e., CIG society) must harmonize Sung Sang (SS) and Hyung Sang (HS), yang (positivity) and yin (negativity). It can be easily seen how this unity occurs in nature when plus and minus ions come together to form something much greater than the sum of their individual parts. For example, chlorine is a gas which can be poisonous in its elemental form, but when it combines with sodium, making unity between a positive sodium ion and a negative chlorine ion, it turns into a substance so essential that life could not exist without it (i.e., salt). In one sense, sodium could never have known when it was "single" what a singularly powerful transformation would result from its union with such an "undesirable" substance like chlorine gas.

Although this coming together of dual characteristics occurs automatically in nature, it doesn't usually happen that way in human society where people may choose not to associate with those of opposing viewpoints. In other words, in human society, plus may not want to have give and take with minus. For example, it seems pretty clear that a part of God's nature is reflected in the Republican Party, while another part is reflected in the Democratic Party. However, they often view each other in a very negative way, and, at least in the past, have often focused on what the other side is missing rather than on what they can do to fill each other's gaps. Clearly, God's design is for both sides to come together to create something much better than each could produce individually (i.e., they can become the "salt of the earth").

Some have speculated that the Republican Party seems to embody more male-type characteristics or yang attributes and

the Democratic Party more female or yin attributes. For example, Republicans believe more in a strong military presence in other countries and a strong national defense at home. They generally promote less government and more reliance on the free market and individual initiative to solve problems. Democrats are more likely to talk about making consensus when it comes to foreign policy, and are more likely to focus on "kitchen-table issues" such as health care, paying for college etc. They generally believe in a government which takes a more activist role in solving societal problems.

Newsweek magazine stated in an article before the election that the "Republicans have seemed fatherly and tough...the Democrats, motherly and soft." (Newsweek, Oct. 27, 2008, pg. 36) So Republicans and Democrats need to come together in order to reflect more fully God's nature of harmonized dual characteristics. Of course, the actual substance of this unity, and the types of "headwing" policies resulting from it, would be subject to debate and discussion (see last paragraph).

In addition, each sector of the CIG society, I believe, would reflect this harmony of dual characteristics within God's nature. It is thus up to us (and our 2nd Gen) to research how this could potentially be accomplished in each field. Our CARP groups may be uniquely suited to conduct such a "research of principles." For example, in music, there are yin and yang parts of the same musical composition, but there may also be certain types of music which, in the CIG, could potentially be combined in ways never before experienced. A number of years ago, I experienced firsthand the potential of bringing disparate parts together musically. I had the opportunity to visit a Messianic Jewish congregation in Washington DC, which is comprised of Jewish people who believe in Christ. For the first time in my life, I heard Christian hymns being sung in Hebrew. I grew up in the Jewish tradition but I had never experienced such a thing before. It was truly awe-inspiring! It gave me a taste of what it would have been like if the connection between Judaism and Christianity had not been severed. I

truly believe that God has this and many more "surprises" in store for us when things come together in the CIG which previously had been divided.

Another example is in the area of health. There seems to be a significant divide between what might be called Eastern and Western medicine. Eastern medicine seems to emphasize more internal/spiritual and natural solutions to health problems. Western medicine seems to focus more on scientific research and using chemically-oriented remedies. At the present time, although things may be changing somewhat, the practitioners of the more SS-type approach, such as acupuncture and chi gung, are often at odds with the practitioners of the more HS-type approach. Another way to describe it is that "Western medicine acts upon the yin of the body, the substance of the body, the actual cells and chemicals," while "Oriental medicine works more on the yang or the energy that animates those cells." So in order to reflect God's design for the CIG society (i.e., harmonized dual characteristics), it is imperative that the "best" elements of Western and Eastern medicine come together. Our movement could potentially sponsor discussions between practitioners of these different healing methods in order to guide our society in such a direction. Of course, when dealing with a wholistic approach to health, other spiritual, psychological and physical factors would also need to be incorporated.

The second key component of such a Unification worldview, I believe, would be an emphasis on family (based on the four realms of heart). Dr. Sang Hyun Lee wrote in *Explaining Unification Thought* (pg. 93) that "a school, a commercial company, a social organization, and a nation are extended forms of a family in the Unification Principle view."

What does this mean exactly? Dr. Lee, in a 4-day workshop he gave in June 1994 at the New Yorker (Note: if anyone has the notes or video for this conference, please let me know), said that we need to explain in more "concrete detail" how the "family as the model" applies to social institutions. He explained that "such clarity is an essential step in the public acceptance of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's vision for the future." (UNews, July 1994)

see **BUILDING** on page 21

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WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

Dr. Joon Ho Seuk Visits UTS to meet with International Students

Dr. Joon Ho Seuk, representing the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International (FFWPUI) headquarters office in Seoul, visited the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) Barrytown campus on December 5, 2008.

In an address to students at lunchtime, Dr. Seuk shared about the ministry of Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, the new International President of the FFWPUI. He discussed in detail Rev. Moon's daily schedule of devotions, rising at 2 a.m., offering kyung baes (prostrations), pledging and meditating for a period of time, then carrying out a prayer walk to the site at which a world temple will be built, the Myung Dong Roman Catholic Church and other churches and temples in Seoul. Rev. Moon prays for victory, illumination and peace upon the peoples of all religions and no religion. Dr. Seuk extolled the seminarians and staff to establish such conditions in their daily lives. He then explained about the vision for the world temple as a house of prayer for people of all nations and religions.

The vision for this temple dovetails with that of UTS as an interfaith seminary, as Dr. Seuk explained it. Rev. Moon will create worship modules expressing his father's ideal through the liturgical and worship traditions of the world's great faiths. The goal is to gather 210,000 people for worship in numerous such services each week. Rev. Moon is being assisted in the prac-

tical implementation of this vision through his older brother, Mr. Kook Jin Justin Moon, who is heading a philanthropic foundation. The South Korean media has reported actively and positively about the ministry ventures being launched by Rev. Moon and Mr. Moon.

After his address, Dr. Seuk took a tour of the facility and met with core staff personnel to discuss future plans for UTS in its important development as an interfaith seminary, a partner to the interfaith vision being articulated by Dr. Moon.

Dr. Seuk served a mission with UTS as the assistant to the first president, Dr. David S. C. Kim, during the late 1970s and early 1980s, prior to becoming the National Director for the American branch of the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP). In that capacity Dr. Seuk even-

tually served as a Unification movement leader in the former Soviet Union 1989-92, bringing thousands of young Russians, Latvians, Estonians and

Eurasia) Continent, consisting of Russia, China and Mongolia. In 2008, he was appointed to the headquarters leadership of the FFWPUI in Korea.

Written by UTS President Dr. Tyler Owen Hendricks

UTS is an international and interdenominational graduate level Seminary. At UTS, students can earn degrees which will serve as a foundation for ministerial work and leadership in a variety of settings. UTS is an interfaith seminary with both faculty and students representing a wide range of religious traditions. The curricula at UTS are likewise interfaith in nature and



Lithuanians to Divine Principle workshops in New York, and coordinating mission work of hundreds of American Unificationists, including the graduates of two seminary classes and professors as well.

Subsequently, he was named Continental Director for the Northeast (now

include courses on Christianity, Islam and Buddhism among others. Established in 1975, by the founder, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, UTS celebrates more than 30 Years of educating international leaders in a wide variety of missions worldwide. ❖

BUILDING from page 20

How could the concept of extended family be applied to neighborhoods as well as other kinds of social organizations within the CIG society? In the CIG, I believe, neighbors would not only know each other's names but would be profoundly involved in each other's lives. Children would treat other children in the neighborhood like they were their brothers/sisters or cousins, while adults would be looked upon as surrogate parents/grandparents or aunts/uncles. Also, neighborhoods would be organized in such a way as to promote a more vibrant community life. Possibly the center of each neighborhood would have a clubhouse, playing fields, meeting rooms, screens for movie viewing etc. Instead of having many individual family dwellings, there would probably be more family-style compounds in which at least three generations would live. The grandparents would have their own place next to the parents. Maybe some cousins or aunts and uncles would also live or visit there frequently. The relationships

between the three generations and the other relatives would carry over to relationships in the neighborhood "family." Senior citizens would perhaps help children with homework as well as using their many talents to provide numerous activities for children in the neighborhood. At the same time, children could help seniors in multiple ways, not the least of which would be to provide a listening ear to the telling of seniors' life stories.

Businesses, sports teams, schools etc. would be like extended families. One can take a look at some current businesses which reflect this type of family-centered ethic. For example, there is a fast-food company called Chick-Fil-A which was started by a dedicated Christian man named Truett Cathy. If you go to the website(Chick-Fil-A.com)and click the links relating to the breakfast menu items, you can see a video showing how the Cathys have modeled their successful business after their own family. Another example is the Grameen Bank, which was created by Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel Prize-winning economist from Bangladesh. This bank gives small loans to poor people who

have been refused by other banks who consider them to be high risks. One of the major reasons for the Grameen Bank's great success, according to Prof. Yunus, is the family-type support system it has established. Each person receiving a loan is required to meet in weekly family-style groups which ensure that each of their members repays loans in a timely fashion.

In order to create and promote this systematic Christian worldview which can apply to "all of life," Focus on the Family has reportedly invested 2 million plus dollars, and has already trained 600,000 people in over 20 countries. They are very serious about inspiring Christians to apply Biblical principles towards the "remaking" of society in His image. In the same way, I firmly believe that we as Unificationists need a "clear vision" of how we

can actualize God's design in each area of the CIG society, such as in politics, the arts, health etc. If you are as excited as we are about such possibilities, then you might want to check out our new discussion group on the web we are calling CIG NOW! You can access this at the BFA website (blessedfamilies.org) under the link "BFA Groups." We have already started discussions in CIG Science/Religion, CIG Politics, and CIG Family. Ultimately our plan is to initiate discussion relating to each sector of the CIG society, such as "CIG Health, CIG Arts, CIG Architecture etc. We would also eventually like to have 1st Gen-2nd Gen teams who can become facilitators of these discussions in each area. So please join us if you if you would like to share ideas about how we can build the CIG NOW! Aju!❖

CHURCH from page 26

Nowadays there's YouTube, Twitter, and some even newer sites, hungry for content and with an avid global following.

Many people are shy. Perhaps afraid of getting rejected, much less persecuted, when speaking about our faith. When it comes to my numerous relatives, friends, and coworkers, I sure get that way sometimes. Even so, are you willing to share the joy and healing you've experienced? The truths you've learned? You can, with a blog, or articles, or posted videos.

We have plenty to talk about, with inter-

national families (and a very low divorce rate), and kids who are succeeding in amazing ways. Add all the personal content you wish, and learn ways to popularize your site, and let each viewer gather as much as they will. (You can also link back to official UC web sites.) I am delighted and gratified every time I get an email out of the blue, in response to some topic I've written about online.

As In Jin says, in the USA our families are still a well-kept secret. We have an amazing story to tell, as families and as a movement. No longer must we rely on a secular mainstream media to share it with the public.

Let's get rolling! ❖

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THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION



Annual Winter Retreat; YMCA Camp Bernie

by Jin Kwon Kim

From December 27th to the 30th 2008, the New Jerusalem and greater New York communities' high school ministries gathered for the annual winter retreat at YMCA Camp Bernie in Port Murray NJ. This year marked the second time that the two areas cooperated inter-regionally with the promise of developing further relationships based on the theme of "Understanding Your Identity as a BC". With a total of 60 people and a nearly 1:2 staff to participant ratio, we were able to spend more time with each participant and getting to know them through discussions and activities planned throughout the retreat.

The first day comprised of building the relationships between the participants and with the staff through a series of questions geared towards addressing specific issues or conflicts in their lives followed by discussion in groups. This was followed by a presentation given by Mike Stewart on "Money and Sex" that proved to open the participants eyes as to how much advertising affects the misconceptions of money and sex altering their understanding of the world. Also, one of the added benefits of going to a YMCA camp was the friendly staff that was on hand to facilitate in the climbing tower, low ropes course and archery range available at the camp after lunch. After lunch and activities, there was panel set up of older brothers and sisters to answer or share about challenges, experiences and questions that the participants asked. One of the breakthroughs this year was the level at which the participants were able to share openly and honestly about things going on in their lives after the initial ice had been broken, allowing some deeply meaningful and highly relevant questions and answers to be shared between the staff and the participants.

This set up the second day to focus on content on "My Identity as a BC" and "Blessing Preparation" given by Krystof Heller and Hanako Ikeno, respectively. Both talks made an impact on the participants in both the content but also the delivery as the heart and concern for their younger brothers and sisters was conveyed. The early afternoon everyone participated in "Core Value" exercises in which the core values promoted by Hyun Jin Nim were expressed, in particular the exercise in which people closed their eyes and were led by someone with the need to trust that person seemed to stand out. The evening was the culmination of the retreat in which everyone wrote a letter to Heavenly Father to report all the things in the past year to make an offering and to confess and let go of things holding them back. The papers were then burned in a fire, followed by a candlelit prayer by the pond. After that, everyone returned to the dining hall to write reflections and set goals for the new year. The evening ended with a slideshow of all the photos taken and

then each group performed skits they had prepared earlier. The night ended rather late with a birthday celebration, but capped off a memorable retreat for everyone including the staff.

Some of the reflections we got from the staff and the participants were:

World Café Questions:

Were the questions relevant to you and your life? Which one stood out the most and what comments made an impression on you?

"For me the question about struggles with my family hit the target because it is a struggle that I find and do not often voice. Once I talked about it I felt like it was a more legitimate problem and it is something I can begin to address immediately..."

"...pros/cons about the church. I didn't know there were so many pros..."

Sex and Money (Mike Stewart):

What did you get out of the presentation? What aspects were relevant to you? What insights did you gain?

"His presentation made me realize that all the gossip magazines, MTV shows etc are really brainwashers for evil. This really hit me because I used to be engaged in those kinds of things constantly. I realized that once I pushed myself away from all that, my mindset changed completely and my relationship with God grew"

Panel/After-panel Discussions:

Which questions and answers were valuable for you and how are they valuable for you? Did you feel your questions were answered and did you feel they resolved some questions or thoughts on your mind?

"All of the questions and answers were meaningful and valuable to me. I feel that my questions were answered. I feel that they resolved a lot of questions and thoughts that were cluttering up my mind."

"All the questions were valuable. Especially the one about caring for your friends who are struggling. They are valuable because I can relate to what the older BC's have gone through, because I am going through them now."

"My questions were answered. The questions that were based on telling someone about the church were valuable. It convinced me to go out and read and really understand the meaning of this movement. Makes me really want to learn about our church."

BC Identity/Blessing Presentations (Krystof and Hanako):

Were these presentations valuable? What insights did you gain?

"Helped me realize how lucky BC's are and how much our parents went through

to have us and allow us to have no original sin."

Other Activities and Overall Retreat Reflections:

"From the blind folded train-walking activity I felt that the ability to trust someone, and even whole groups of people, absolutely is awesome. Everyone needs someone they can always count on. All activities were fun."

"I felt God while I was watching the skit. Yes it was relevant to me because it showed me how God is always with you and will always love you."

"I always tear up at that skit. I love it. There's one part that I felt related to me. I wish I could fight against it like in the skit."

"The group was great. Met new people. My leader really cares about me. The second night touched me the most. Couldn't stop crying."

"The atmosphere was on a higher level than last year... awesome retreat....extremely enlightening"

"Pretty awesome. Liked the people a lot. Loved the staff. Thought lectures/free time was good. Loved the world café and discussions in our group. I liked how a lot of things were practical and I could apply it to my life."

"This retreat was probably the best I have been to and a great choice that I made. I came here to learn and to grow and connect with God on a deeper level. And that's exactly what I did. I was amazed at the experiences I had and the growth that occurred with my relationship and God. You can't make this any better because honestly it was one of the best I've had."

"OMG! At the lake I had the greatest realization that I have been NEEDING! I thought the confessions to TP was BS, but it really did help me. I am sooo grateful! Overall this camp was GREAT"

"The retreat overall was amazing. I can't believe it was only two days. It felt like several days (which is a good thing). The cabins were nice and the food well prepared. I really loved my group and the staff was so loving. It felt like an ideal family. The personal confession and candle light prayer was very touching. I felt more closer to God. I'm so glad I came to the retreat."

For photos of this retreat, check out the centerfold of this issue❖

A Message from the Assistant Editor

The New Voices of Our Generation has now been running successfully for over a year and the editors at UNEWS would like to thank all those who have contributed an article to this section. Spread the word, communicate, and link yourself to the rest of America by subscribing to the paper and submitting your voice at

newvog@gmail.com for this section. We are looking to fill this section of the paper with the following submissions: **articles written by our first and second generation focusing on second generation – that includes ALL second gen's!**

Be as *subjective* as you please, but keep in mind, that as this is a public paper, be respectful in your opinions.

If you have an idea for submissions to this section, please let us know at newvog@gmail.com and send something in. Keep in mind, everything will appear in UNEWS in b&w. All articles must include name, contact info, relevant dates, etc. If you wish to remain anonymous, please include that in your email. Please send all submissions for this section via email

to: newvog@gmail.com. Want to respond to an article, please email at newvog@gmail.com

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THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION

A New Definition of CARP

by Karilee Aoki

The Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles, "CARP", is developing into a world class non-profit educational foundation with a flare for youth development. The successful effort of the past two years by Kazushi Mito, under Dr. Hyun Jin Moon's guidance, resulted in a committed national team of CARP district leaders, leading budding chapters. Upon the inauguration of Kenshu Aoki as the new CARP USA President in August 2008, this is the first time second generation have taken over an entire organization founded by our True Parents in America.

CARP holds Quarterly Meetings to gather over twenty district and state representatives to share best practices and align with current providence. Its signature national projects are annual Principle Workshops held both in the summer and winter breaks, along with a special 21 day leadership training every June. CARP held concurrent Winter Workshops this January, one at UTS and one in Los Angeles partnering with the FF Pilot Team.

Starting November 2008, CARP launched an Alumni Family Association and held two banquets, in NY and in LA. We encouraged them to celebrate what they gained in CARP from the past and informed them of how they can support our current activities. There was a lively and embracing culture, and also a mutual recognition of the new definition of CARP. The mission of CARP today is to raise exemplary young people who want to build Ideal families. By "ideal", we mean happy and harmonious families who seek to give back to their communities. This is how we can contribute towards substantially fulfilling "One Family Under God". CARP members found even more encouragement to do this through the New Year's motto of "proclaiming the victory of absolute sexual ethics".

One of CARP's goals are to expand membership to ten thousand by 2012. We feel this can happen through our on-going campus activities. Two such good examples are the Orientation Seminars, which provide an introduction to our Principle education and the Campus Global Peace Festivals. Through the Campus Global Peace Festivals (C-GPFs), CARP partners with other faith-based and service organizations that hold the same values. In the Fall semester of 2008, the University of Bridgeport and Westchester Community College both volunteered to have trial runs, which were surprisingly successful.

The best words to define CARP come from the personal testimonies of members themselves. Below, Joy Monestere, our State Representative from Louisiana and B. Poland, the

current District Representative of DC area, who both attended the recent LA Quarterly Meeting and NY Winter Workshop, share what they like about CARP.

"I first heard of CARP about three years ago when I started STF. The following year I was able to attend

helping me to grow and own the vision of "One Family Under God". Especially on college campus, it's been a useful tool in developing God-centered relationships with classmates and teachers. By practicing this principle I constantly feel empowered to reach out and expand my level of heart

various workshops. I feel very close to them because they are also people who deeply love God and sincerely love His children, in addition to having overcome many challenges in their lives. With an increasing number of such people as leaders, God has been able to use CARP more and more to impact people, campuses, and our entire nation.

Also very inspiring and hopeful for me is the increasing number of good relationships and partnerships CARP is making with others inside and outside of the Unification Movement with a spirit of interdependence and creating One Family under God. Like never before we have a strong desire and capacity to raise leaders of the heart and to make CARP much more professional and market driven. CARP is young, full of energy, and we have total ownership in making our youth movement something that God will be proud of. I also hope that CARP can be something you feel a part of through lending your wisdom, encouragement, support, and love."

- B. Poland 25

To find out more, please check out our new website at: www.carpusa.org ❖



CARP events and get a better understanding of its objectives.

My experience so far consists of national workshops, biweekly conference calls, quarterly meetings, and events that call for CARP support. I can honestly say that I am proud to be involved in an association that consistently promotes "One Family Under God" and embodies that vision.

At first, I was extremely hesitant to try to establish a CARP chapter on my campus. I live and go to school in Louisiana and the community is very small. I was also questioning my leadership ability as well as my motivation. Nonetheless, I received ongoing support and encouragement from my district rep, Unja Wilson, and the CARP core brothers and sisters.

At our recent quarterly meeting in Los Angeles we all shared reports about our districts and discussed issues such as; membership, the CARP newsletter, and brand projects (C-GPF, My piece of peace, ect.). But what I could take away from all that was from something Kenshu oppa said that, "the qualification to be a leader is to establish absolute sexual ethics." I realized in order to establish "One Family Under God" we need to create ideal Blessed Central Families centered on Heavenly Father.

I feel like CARP is continuously

towards others. I am determined to make "One Family Under God" a vision that students, faculty, and staff at UNO (University of New Orleans) can resonate with."

- Joy Monestere, 21

"Thinking back on my years in college I am amazed at how much deeper I grew in my personal relationship with God, and how much my life has been blessed through following my heart's desire to simply bring Him joy. Especially close to my heart is helping others discover their own personal relationship with Heavenly Father and making a worldwide impact in that area. Since 2002 I have also been an active part of CARP primarily resulting from God's guidance for me to do so. In many ways CARP has been the vehicle God used to bring me into a deeper relationship with Him as well as be better able to help all of my brothers and sisters do the same.

I graduated May 2008 and am currently a fulltime District Coordinator for CARP USA, focusing on the Washington DC area. I made that decision largely to help build a stronger foundation in my Blessing, but also because I see more potential than ever for CARP developing in the US. I have gotten to know most CARP leaders through trainings like STF, NLTP, and

Third Annual New England Christmas Social

by Gullinda Loum

The Third Annual New England Christmas Social took place on Dec 13, 2008 in the historic Boston church site on Beacon Street. The Social was put on for Young Adults in the New England and surrounding areas and drew about 60 young adults, which was a huge increase from the past two years. Everyone came dressed in their best black and white semi-formal attire to enjoy a fine, festive, food and fun-filled evening.

The night started with some light socializing that was followed by dinner, during which a few young adults graced us with their talents. Following dinner, brothers and sisters left their seats to dance to the latest hits and classic beats in an exciting celebration of our community. Finally, true to the holiday tradition of the giving-and-receiving of gifts, the evening ended with a Yankee swap and raffle.

This year was definitely a great success and with every year the Social gets better and better. Next year should be the best one yet!

Check out the centerfold for color photos of the nights festivities!❖

THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION



Junior STF Winter Workshop '08

by kimikami Miyake

Junior STF Winter Workshop

12/20/08 - 12/21/08

Theme: *Owning my identity*

Purpose:

An opportunity for junior high and high school youth to gain a deeper understanding of their identity and personal conviction in building God's long-awaited dream, as well as the importance in maintaining healthy life of faith habits.

Location: Pasadena, CA

Program Components:

- Introduction to and experiences of core values through presentations and activities.
- Presentations and activities coordinated by field educators and green level members.
- Presentations by Michael Holmes, Takeo Mori, and Chris Saarna on identity, sharing my identity with others, and how that contributes to building ideal families as an extended member of true family.

Participants:

- Bay Area 8 participants, 4 Field Educators
- Los Angeles 35 participants, 5 Field Educators

Workshop Summary:

During the weekend of Dec 20th to 21st we recently held a joint workshop between the Northern California and Southern California chapters of Jrstf. It was a one and a half day workshop and our theme was "Owning My Identity".

Everyone came to the workshop after finishing the long semester and were eager to learn about their identity. On the first day we received 3 amazing lectures about our "Identity as a Blessed Child", "Identity as an Extended Member of True Family", and "The Four Great Realms of Heart". For most candidates it was the first time hearing this content and many were deeply moved.

Also on the first day, some of the green level who had previously prepared core values activities, facilitated and guided the candidates in them. We could feel the investment and care the green level had put into preparing the core value activities and many candidates could gain a new understanding in how to apply core values to their lives.

Afterwards Mitsunori Sato led an activity on how to explain our faith to our friends. After practicing in pairs, many volunteered to demonstrate their ability to share their faith. It was a good experience for many of the participants and some even determined to share their faith with some of their friends after the workshop.

In the evening Sakiko Muranaka shared a testimony of finding her identity and developing her

faith while in high school. Many candidates were very moved and felt it applied a lot to their lives and the challenges they are facing right now. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a nice cup of hot cocoa!

On the second day Chris Brown gave a morning service explaining in detail about the 3 faculties of the mind: Emotion, Intellect, and Will. Afterwards was a team competition based on developing these aspects of our mind thru athletics, academics, and the arts.

For the Artistic challenge each team received a morally themed song to which they were to organize and perform a special dance to. For the Academic challenge each team raced to complete short math and English problems. For the Athletic challenge each team competed in a tricky relay race. All the participants had fun and could gain a lot from all the team challenges, especially in understanding how important it is to develop ourselves in different diverse areas.

Finally, to close the workshop we had a deep session of reflection and testimonies in which jrstf members shared their hearts and experiences on Jrstf. Many expressed profound gratitude for the workshop and program and look forward to meeting for the next workshop soon.

Testimonies:

"... I feel like I gained so much more than a normal workshop. This is seriously one of the best workshops I've been to....I'm proud of being a Jr.STF member and the 6 hour road trip here was most definitely worth it. I really want to thank God for this day."

- James Reid, 14 Candidate

"I think that God was trying to teach me that to do anything in life, you have to be confident in who you are as a BC."

- Sarah Mori, Candidate

"Today God was trying to teach me what the 4 great realms of heart are. I have been saying that phrase every day for probably 8 years now, every morning in the family pledge. It feels as though a small empty place in me has been filled up. Like my minds a bottle is how I like at it and I'm trying to put the pieces and parts in to complete myself as a true daughter of God."

- Sayana Hallal 15, Candidate

"My victory today was when I gave a presentation about core values because I was really nervous and I thought I would do bad. But I learned that it's not for me, I'm doing this for everyone else, so during the talk I was thinking about how I need to think and care about everybody. I was actually surprised that I successfully did/finished my presentation."

- Hitoe Hiraki, 14 Green Level

"I learned the importance of why we really believe in this movement. And also finding out what our identity is truly like. I also found a victory to make God happy and that within me, I could make Him filled with joy. So I think that was a really great understanding and authority that I have this power to make Him happy."

- Yumee Kim, 13 Candidate

"As green level, I want to always support the younger ones and see them from God's viewpoint. I really felt like through my experience here, God wants me to become a leader, which is my new focus. But I must remember to have a clear motivation and be aligned with God's vision."

-Harumi Muranaka, 16 Green level

"I also feel that we blessed children are needed in this world to teach True Father's teachings to everyone out there. I feel that I know who I am and could be happy with it since before I felt insecure because of all the influences around me. But this workshop helped a lot in understanding what it means to be a BC."

- Hitomi Fujiki, 13 Candidate

"When I get home, I'm going to try to be the best I can be. I'm going to try to not give up. Remember I'm not alone. God is always with me experiencing exactly what I am. I'm going to start to think more positively about the challenges and learn from them."

-Saeli Kawakami, 11 Candidate ❖

Junior STF Autumn Candidates Workshop

by kimikami Miyake

11/28/08- 11/29/08

Over Thanksgiving break, over 100 from as far as Boston, Montreal, and North Virginia attended an East Coast Junior STF Autumn Candidates Workshop on the beautiful grounds of UTS, New York. Although the workshop spanned within two days and one night, many people gained diverse personal insights and discoveries in their relationships with God and their identity. The theme was "Owning My Identity" with the purpose for junior high and high school youth to gain a deeper understanding of their identity and personal conviction in building God's long-awaited dream, as well as the importance in maintaining healthy life of faith habits.

In UTS, they were introduced to and had an experience of core values through presentations and activities given by their adolescent peers. Through this, whether they were participating or facilitating the activities or even giving the presentations, they gained tremendous inspirations from the experience. On the first evening, a field educator from New York City, Krystof Heller, presented about being a "Child of God" and defined the characteristics in building a personal parent-child relationship. This was followed by testimonies from their peers, Junior STF members, sharing about how they took ownership over their identity and how that affects them in their daily lives.

The next morning, Vice-President of Youth Education for the Family Federation gave a morning service about the vision for youth in building ideal families. Several other presentations followed including an

insightful one about pursuing the ideals of the Blessing and the three great blessings, given by New Jersey field educator, Leonard Soaivan. There was one with a role-play by the Director of the Youth Education Department, Naokimi Ushiroda, about owning our identity and having conviction in sharing our beliefs with friends. The afternoon consisted of a sports competition where core values were applied as well as a final presentation by the National Junior STF Director, Kimikami Miyake, about True Parents and True Family and the dream in building "One Family Under God".

In conclusion, the workshop was a success. Below are information and several reflections given about the participants' experiences at the workshop:

Participants:

Massachusetts- 22 Participants,

1 Field Educator

New York City- 3 Participants,

2 Field Educators

Red Hook- 5 Participants

WestRock- 18 Participants, 2 Field Educators, 1 Staff

Texas- 3 Field Educators

Montreal- 7 Participants, 1 Field Educator

Georgia- 1 Field Educator

Connecticut- 7 Participants, 3 Field Educators

New Jersey- 12 Participants, 1 Field Educator, 1 Staff

Northern Virginia- 3 Participants, 1 Field Educator

NLTP- 4 Staff

HQ- 5 Staff

Total

103 attended

77 Participants,

15 Field Educators, 11 Staff

see **Thanksgiving Break** on page 25



THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION

Thanksgiving Break from page 24

Testimonies:

Three points God wanted to show me through this workshop are that I really need to understand and appreciate all that True Parents and our parents did on their journey so that I can be able to aid them in making an ideal world. Also that we need to take initiative and aid our True Parents. Lastly, that we should work together so we can all reach the goal of an ideal world faster.

- 14 year old sister Worcester MA

I have so many wonderful brothers and sisters. I want to become the best brother possible for them. I learned that being a natural and loving brother (but with a vertically-centered love, of course) is the best way to raise my youngers. I shouldn't try to force anything on them, or try to convey everything in principled terms. What God wants me to do is love them like I would in the original ideal world. I need to express a love that is eternal, that will help move them forward in life, that will bring them closer to understanding the realness and heart of God.

- 16 year old brother, WestRock NY

I liked how people still in high school presented [core values], because it made me think, 'wow they're my age, or younger than me, and they know all this'... I learned a lot from other people. I learned how little I actually think about God, and He's like everything, and I really need to put Him in my life and stop worrying about

little things...
- 17 year old sister, Red Hook NY

The personal testimonies from the Jr. STF members inspired/ touched me the most. The parent-child

God wanted to show me how much faith and conviction I had in Him... And God really desperately wants me to build One Family Under God in my own family and to have my own family someday. God is always showing and

Today's highlight is definitely the testimonies. Owin, Eun Hwa, and Joy's experience and their realization of their identity was just amazing. I learned that God's always there for me and I can depend on Him anytime because He is my eternal parent. Recently, I've been struggling to find my purpose in life and who I am. But listening to these testimonies opened my eyes and I needed this. I really want to stay consistent and be grateful for everything God has done and still does for me. I love God and I want to live my life with a purpose and serve Him by helping True Parents through growing. I'm thankful for all the opportunities that God has laid out for me for my spiritual growth.

- 14 year old brother, WestRock NY

I facilitated the game 'Disability Ball' for 5 teams today... I felt I had learned from the teams more than the teams learned from me... I realized that God was physically disabled. No matter how much He wants to move freely to help us out, He can't directly speak to us in words or move around and show us the right way to go in life. However, He can speak to us spiritually and He is always watching and guiding us and giving us strength. This activity helped me and everyone else learn that no matter what kind of disability you have, you are always capable of providing help and strength to others. I could apply this to my daily life by keeping this message God tried to convey to me all the time. I will always remember everyone can be a strength to others, and I myself will also do my hardest to live for the sake of others.

- 15 year old sister, New Jersey ❖



relationship ... realizing now how much my parents give and give to me, and how they've never given up on me, I want to give back to them. When I go back home, I want my relationship with my parents to be the fullest. I've never really tried. I would just think about it, just dreaming. I learned that that won't help. I need to act on it.

- 12 year old sister, WestRock NY

helping me show others what a True Parent, what my identity really means.

- 16 year old brother, North Virginia

We all need to work together for God's dream. I realized more about how I need to work on perfecting myself and about how it's really important to be perfected.

- 14 year old sister, Bridgeport CT

Westrock SNA Christmas Festivities '08

Photos by Richard Patterson, Irvington, New York





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Mr. Carlson is involved with marine aspects of the Providence in the Bay Area

CHURCH BUILDING

ments, and interested people find them in those ways.

BARRIERS

Our Unification movement grew rapidly in the 1970s, then with shifting social trends and a storm of persecution, leveled off. Now we're growing again, more gradually, and we have a chance to handle things better this time.

Every church finds barriers to its growth, and experts know of many ways to overcome them. Our members have

ity, and the need for embarrassing confessions and repentance. Traditional hymns are sung, along with organ music. All quite majestic, yet not appealing to most young people. Instead of burdensome guilt, most growing churches emphasize warm sharing and companionship.

The exact nature of sin, and the full course of salvation, can and should be openly taught--just not in a harsh way. Each person and family has to reach such these realizations in their own proper time.

PROGRAMS

Our local Family Churches are relatively small, but full of ideas and energy. We've hosted a wide variety of service and public outreach programs.

Sometimes these are ethnic in focus, since we have members from all parts of the world. Others center on personal or social concerns, such as marriage guidance. Then we have our familiar crowd-drawing speech tours.

We've initiated, or pitched in with, many public service programs, in cooperation with local cities and volunteer groups. These are quite popular, and our members invite friends to come work alongside them. (One time a "nego" opponent confronted a city official about our involvement. Finally the official asked him, "So, how many enthusiastic young people do *you* plan to bring to our project?")

Our church schools include many non-Unificationist students, and their parent-teacher events bring lots of fam-



attended seminars at various megachurches, and were well-received, gleaning their best ideas.

In fact, several of those Pastors had learned from our own 'witnessing, workshop series, and actionizing' style, and changed it to focus on entire families, rather than young singles. Now, in a sense, they're returning the favor.

What are some of the common barriers?

Christians are widely perceived as hypocrites, who often "get on people's nerves" by acting judgmentally. Thus, instead of witnessing aggressively, many churches grow by setting a full-life example for each member's friends and coworkers.

Americans are jaded, with a million things competing for our time and attention. So, despite their massive overall size, megachurches center around friendly small groups. These meet at homes or other quiet places, serve a variety personal interests, and are thus deeply attractive to alienated modern folks. In general these small groups have free rein, which fosters creativity and initiative, if at the expense of close supervision.

Meanwhile, old-fashioned churches focus on the sinful nature of human-

ities into our facilities. Maybe not to join, but certainly not to become negative!

At our local BAFC one event has topped all others, in bringing throngs of new people into our building. This project was done by one dedicated brother, with great individual effort, and he wasn't even planning to draw a big crowd.

What project, you ask? He's a lifelong fan of Lego blocks, and knows how to create an entire city, with tiny characters and shops and helicopters and even multiple running trains. Seems there are Lego clubs everywhere, and they know how to get publicity, such as newspaper articles.

As a result, hundreds of people came to see our brother's amazing creation, waiting in line along the upstairs hallway. Many donated toward the refreshments, plus his following year's display. Of course this was not a religious event, however it created a lot of good will in the community.

I'm not suggesting that everyone to take up that particular hobby, but there are hundreds of similar ones. Find something you're enthusiastic about, and can do (or learn) well, then jump right in! My own lifelong interest is science fiction writing and fandom, and I've begun speaking at local conventions.

THE INTERNET

Millions of young people spend hours per day on the Internet. Despite the grumbling of parents, this has not resulted in a social disaster, though it may indeed hamper the 'face to face' social skills of certain people.

A good many of those young people, rather than grabbing a backpack and hitchhiking around, look for spiritual truths on line. It behooves us to respond to that need, and we've made small efforts in that direction.

This past year, with the elevation of In Jin Nim to leadership in the USA, she's made this a major focus. Friends of hers have gone on line to learn about our movement, and what do you know, a Google search brings up a page-full of links to nego web sites. Loads of hyped-up, caustic, and inaccurate online content. It's high time we respond in the appropriate way, with popular sites that give our side of the story.

We're halfway there. Without most of the old fogies (i.e., folks my age) even knowing it, we've already built online communities for like-minded believers. For instance, our young folks often have many hundreds of Facebook Friends, in every part of the globe--more than triple the number linked to the average Facebook user. Not only that, but friends who really are friends; whose parents may already know, and certainly do support, each other.

see **CHURCH** on page 21

This article concerns a topic often seen in religious newsletters: church growth. Religions, denominations, and congregations come in all sizes. However large, for almost all of them, it's not nearly large enough. So the question becomes, how to grow?

GROWTH

In the distant past church growth was simple. You could invade a city and proclaim: convert or die. (More than a few extremists seem to hanker for olden times.) In autocratic societies a strong ruler could change religions, and decree that all his subjects also convert. In the case of the ancient Khazar nation, three different religions claim is was they whom a cautious ruler chose.

These days, with freedom of religion allowed in most nations, churches are fortunate to grow in peace. Slowly, via large families, and/or faster, by attracting new converts. With the globe so tightly knit, those converts might be found next door or on a different continent, and it will affect the entire organization.

In the United States, many older 'mainstream' denominations are shrinking, as people age or convert away. About ten percent of Americans are ex-Roman Catholics, yet that church continues to grow, both here and abroad.

The most successful churches are serious about growth, and have a specific plan to follow. Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and others witness constantly, with full-time missionaries and family-level invitations. The new Evangelical 'megachurches' attract people with a whole panoply of activities, and their sheer size becomes a social phenomena in its own right. Sometimes a spirit-filled ministry will grow really fast, by word-of-mouth plus media coverage. Certain new religions have a strong Internet presence, plus celebrity endorse-

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Publisher & Editor

Richard L. Lewis

Assistant Editor

Shin Young Chang

(212) 997-0050 x 208

fax: (212) 575-5105

e-mail: UNews@HSANAHQ.ORG

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