

The **BLESSING**

Quarterly

VOL. 3 No. 1

Spring/Summer, 1980



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BLESSINGS

36 Couples	1961
72 Couples	1962
124 Couples	1963
430 Couples	1968
43 Couples	1969
777 Couples	1970
1800 Couples	1975
35 Couples	1976
74 Couples	1977
118 Couples	1978

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A message from the editor:

In the spirit of Spring, the Blessing Quarterly has had a rebirth—a resurrection after the long dormant winter. We will do our best to publish a steady flow of *Quarterlies* now that we've started again. Our apologies for the long delay.

Since there are a lot of catch-up news and events, many appropriate articles will have to wait for future issues. You will find the first printing of Father's speech at the May 1979 Engagement and Holy Wine ceremony and Rev. Kwak's letter to the engaged couples in this issue. With over a year's distance between the engagement and the present, the words of Father and Rev. Kwak take on new meaning for all of us.

This issue also includes the first in

a series of articles on the history and practice of Family traditions. It is our hope that this publication can be a valuable and informative reference source for blessed and engaged couples, as well as a source of inspiration.

In conclusion, we want to welcome to our readership the couples who were engaged in 1979. As our number grows, we come closer and closer to the restoration of the ideal family and the kingdom of heaven on earth. Each of us makes our own restorative contribution, thus filling in the gaps. We have struggled; may that very struggle give us the strength of character upon which we can build beautiful new families of the future.

—Nora Spurgin

The Engagement & Holy Wine ceremonies

Engagement of 705 couples

May 13, 1979

Translated by Col. Bo Hi Pak
World Mission Center



Our first ceremony will be the engagement ceremony; it will be followed by the Holy Wine ceremony. The Holy Wine ceremony is the ceremony of restoration. The content of this restoration is quite im-

portant. It is the restoration of lineage. Unless you pass through such a ceremony, you cannot be restored from the satanic realm into the heavenly realm. Before Adam and Eve fell, they were engaged. However,

Satan infiltrated and invaded Eve with an illicit love relationship which was transferred to Adam. This sequence of action brought the satanic lineage. In other words, Satan became the master. So far in history, there has not been even one single instance in which the heavenly lineage has been restored and the blessing given. There has been no heavenly lineage, and no true love. We are doing the true, historical restoration of the heavenly lineage which has never before existed.

In order to create such a moment, God has been working through his dispensation to make the proper environment and circumstances. Originally God planned to create the external environment first, like a fence: a worldwide fence, national fence, tribal fence, and family fence. He wanted to create the internal environment through religion. This is merely preparatory to have the world ready for the ultimate internal restoration, which will start from the individual. The true restoration from satanic lineage to heavenly lineage goes from the individual to the family, tribe, nation and so forth. In order to prepare such a possibility, God worked through religion throughout the years and prepared the external environment. However, the external foundation laid by Christianity has been broken down because of the disunity between Christianity and the Unification Church. Therefore we have been fighting to lay the external foundation, and we have done so. We have a worldwide base, a national base, a tribal base and a family base. We are now experiencing the true

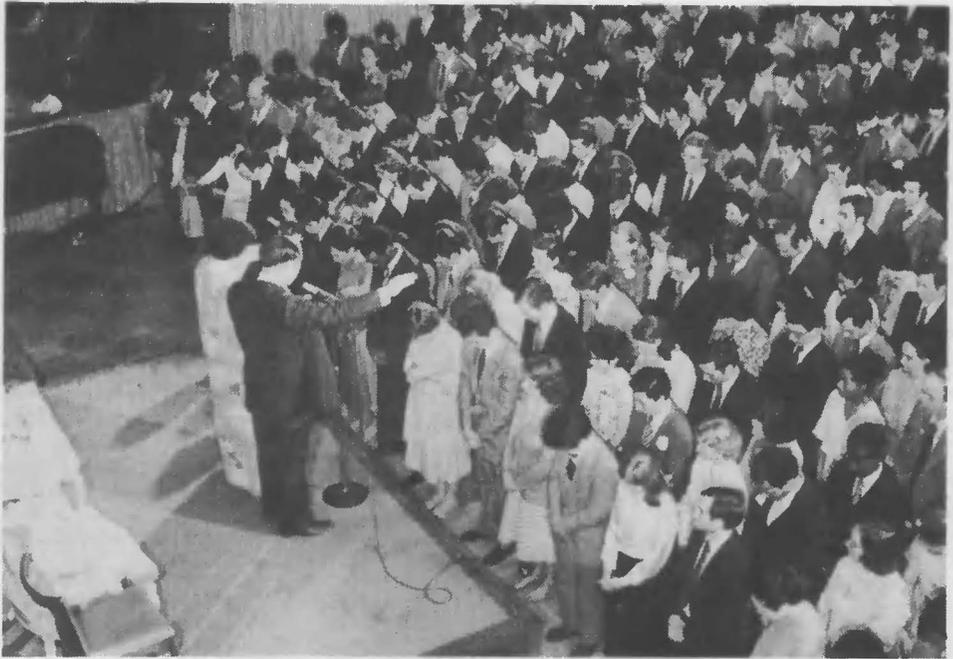
restoration as individuals and families to heaven. Thus I declared a new era, the new age, the Kingdom of Heaven Year One on February 23, 1977, which signifies that God has completed the entire external foundation. Now we are ready to go on with the internal restoration, which comes to us in the form of the blessing.

I completed the various conditions as if Christianity had never opposed us. We restored conditions such that it is as if Christianity had never opposed us. We succeeded in that, and now we move on.

In addition, this kind of dispensation will continue until the third seven year course is over in 1981. We have not only laid the external foundation, but we are solidly restored. You are 100% restored in your lineage. Since we have laid the cornerstone of the kingdom of heaven on the worldwide level, no power under the sun can exclude us from this earth.

And that family of the Unification Church, the family of heaven, is now spreading to all five colors of skin, to every race on earth. We are like a magnetic power. Any country and race in the world just has to plug into us. The core, containing all elements—black, white and yellow—has been created. Any race or culture plugging into us can have our blessing as its own and spread that blessing.

The foundation we have now laid is like the foundation that there could have been in the time of Jesus had the people accepted him. We have created that kind of foundation on the worldwide level, centering upon the second coming of Christ.

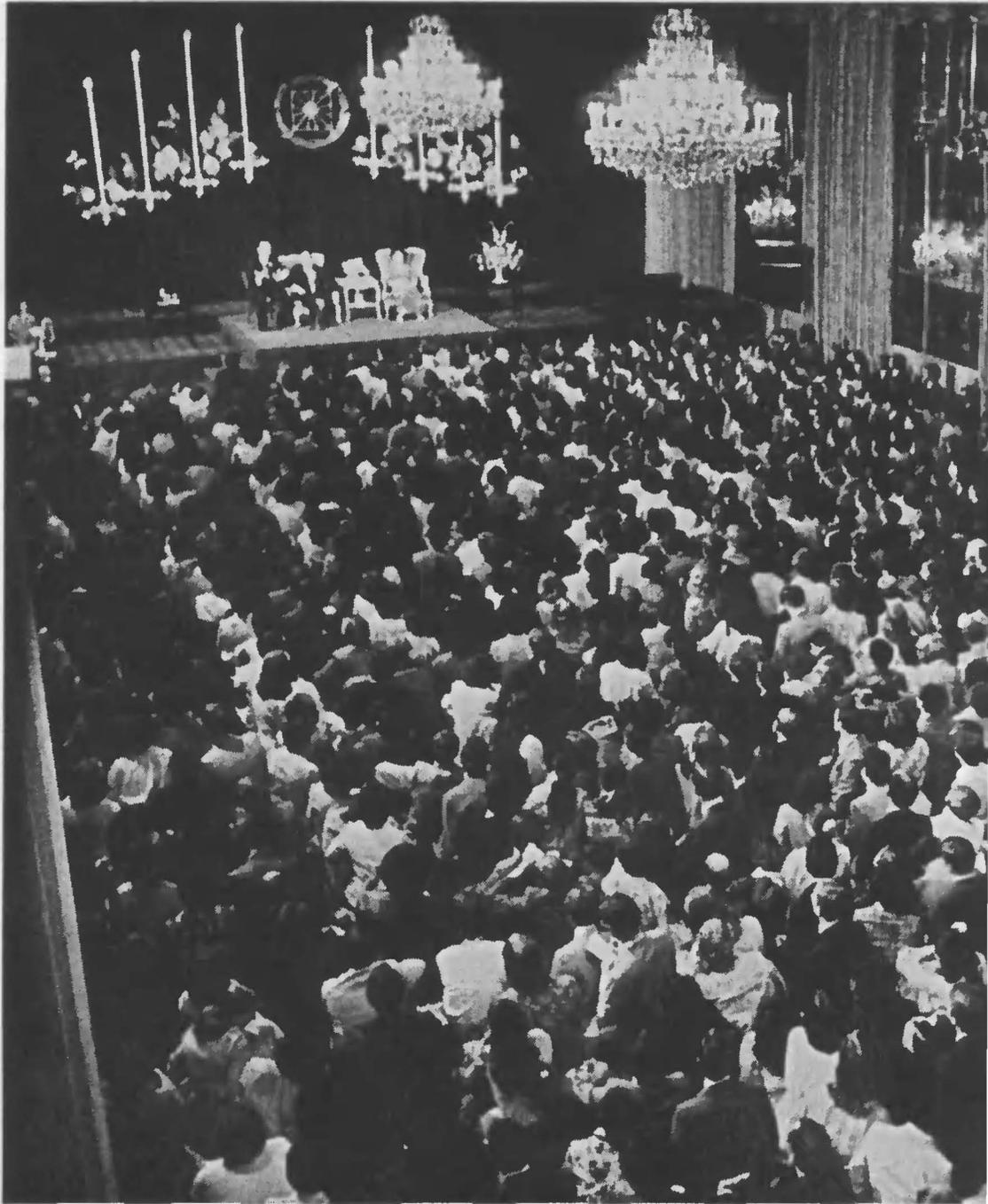


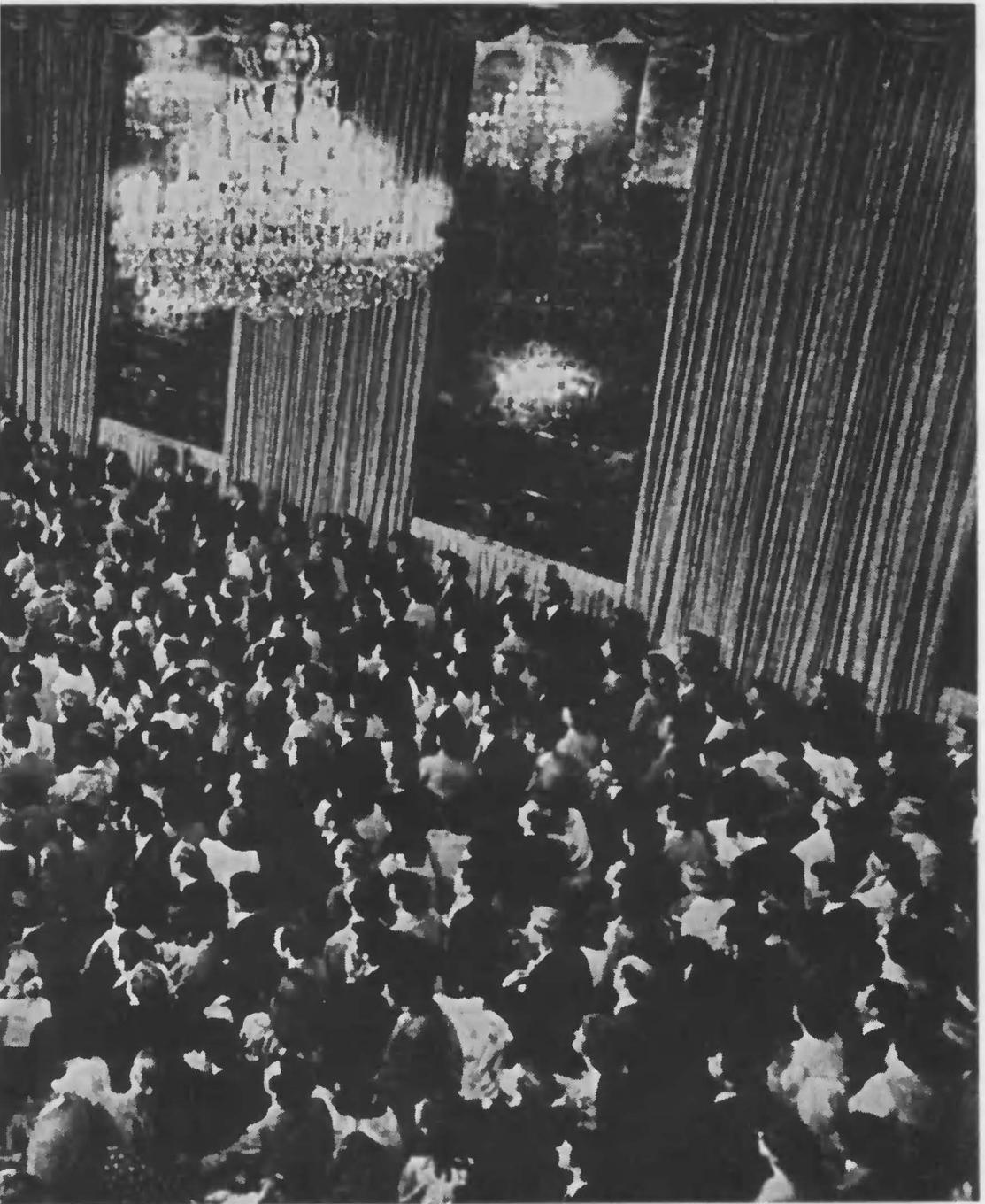
The creation of the tribal Messiah through the home church is now our challenge. The home church system will create a multitude of messiahships. I have already laid the foundation so that each one of you is capable of becoming a messiah. This applies to the whole world—any race, language or cultural background.

So far in history, there has been no restoration of lineage from satanic to heavenly. Satan painted the world in black. Before, there has been no way to turn the black into white. But we are painting a new map in white. We can change the black into white. From this time on we will not only prosper but also change the map of the world into an entirely different creation of a totally unstained color. We can totally eradicate historical sin so that an untainted, genuine, pure quality

can emerge. In other words, we are setting a condition to return to Adam and Eve before the fall. The angelic world, the spirit world, and God himself can directly assist and support us. If you are totally and absolutely united with God and the True Parents, then you are no longer alone. You are linked to this great universal power: the power of God, the power of the spirit world, and the power of the angels. But you must demonstrate one condition. That one condition is superior obedience. If you demonstrate that quality of obedience to God and the True Parents, then the entire universe will move in to assist you.

In this respect, husband and wife can represent total unity. You can go towards a certain goal, like two wheels running together or two feet walk-





ing together. Husband and wife are like two legs. You can't walk without both of them working together.

Let's say we create a heavenly automobile. You can become one of its wheels no matter what. It doesn't matter if you are black, white, yellow or intermingled. The specification, size and quality of the wheel is so much the same that it is interchangeable. You can use any wheel and the automobile is sure to go. So any feeling of cultural or racial superiority is totally against God's will. If any of you thinks that you are superior because you are white, that is against the principle.

America today is proud of its advances and its twentieth century culture. But because America thinks that it is so advanced, it brings more headaches to God. A primitive, rather simple and genuine way of life is better for God. Then he can plant a new culture more easily...

Many cultures in history have worshipped idols. Others have worshipped material goods. And still others worship science, feeling that knowledge can solve all of our problems and bring utopia to mankind. Cultures based on such assumptions will fade. There is no room for them in heaven. The central essence of culture in the Garden of Eden was supposed to be love, and nothing else.

Why do we do matching like this? Why do we go on with the blessing? We have one purpose in mind: to create a new culture. That new culture is the culture of love. For that reason, in order to create a more dramatic culture for heaven, we have

interracially mingled marriages.

This is really amazing. You look around and there is someone sitting beside you called your future wife, your fiancé. And you might wonder: "What happened to me? I never in my life imagined that this would happen." But actually what is happening here is not just for your own satisfaction. I want you to know that you are fulfilling one of God's most important desires. We are moving according to heavenly destiny. The cosmic spring is dawning, and we are receiving cosmic spring weather. We are coming out of the ground, becoming first a leaf and then a bud and finally a blossom. This is where we are going.

From this time on we are creating a wagon. We will call it the family wagon. Each one of us makes one of these wagons in which we ride towards the common goal. In this wagon we circle the globe once, twice, even seven times. In the meantime, we can create here on earth the true, God-desired kingdom of heaven.

Let's say your wagon started in Asia. You shouldn't dwell just in Asia. Your wagon has to go to the Middle East, Europe, America and back to Asia again and again. You are not going to live in one place. Your wagon will circle the earth until eventually the wagons will completely cover every corner of the world. When the world's people see you, they will feel some uncommon parallel between this wagon and themselves. They will notice white, yellow and black on it. Wherever we go, we have elements to give.

This event could not just happen.

Before this could take place, many incredible conditions were set by the spirit world. You have no idea how hard spirit world works to make things happen here.

You are destined to live the life of the family wagon. Then you must live up to the expectations of heaven. If a black and white husband and wife fight, you are not only making yourselves unhappy but making adversaries of the angelic world, the spirit world, and God. God is trying so hard to create the heavenly culture of love. If you work against such a culture, you are as bad as Satan. Satan took over the show just before the perfection level, at the second stage. When Satan took Adam and Eve, they had not yet fully blossomed and they were looking forward to love. You are actually in love. God and the True Parents have given you the authority to love each other. If you fail in this advanced stage, if you make yourself an adversary to God, the consequences could be worse than the consequences of the fall. The Bible frequently mentions that the Lord will bring judgment when he comes—all the evil doers and arrogant ones will be brought down to the pits of nether gloom. And you feel it down there. It is not even hell. It is worse than hell.

The engagement is like the restoration into the heavenly kingdom. We are registering your names as husband and wife into the kingdom of heaven. When you go through the wine ceremony, it is like you are getting a new birth certificate in the heavenly register. When you are registered, the remainder of your task is to move

towards the heavenly Canaan.

So you are driving a heavenly wagon. Normally the husband, the subject, should drive first. But when you are tired, since you are not alone, you can rest and let your mate take over. This is beautiful cooperation. And if both parents get tired, the children can take over.

The children will come in two ways: first the spiritual children and then the physical children. With this, a population explosion will occur. Then not just one but many wagons will line up. And the particular wagon you are riding in will get bigger and bigger to accommodate more people. With so many people in the wagon, someone can take your place. You will be respected by these people. Later on you will not have much work to do in the wagon since you have so many children who can do it. So you can sing, dance, and conduct sightseeing. That will be your job.

Your wagon will be so powerful and invincible that it would not be bothered by a head-on collision. Do you have the confidence to become that wagon?

If someone asks what your wife's race is, what's going to be your answer? The answer is "love race." We are creating a new race. I have named it the love race. The color of your skin is love color. When you talk about this love race, fighting men will stop and enjoy peace. Fighting children will stop and enjoy peace. And any kind of confrontation, squabble, fight or hatred will melt away. The love race is like the judge of the world. Can you do it? From

this time on you are registering into the love race.

Touch your hip. Is there any string attached? If so, cut it. You laugh, but on the spiritual side, many of you still have strings attached. After this ceremony, we must completely subjugate our bodies. Once you do that, Satan will be fearful of you. He will have no power to make you obey, no power to pull you if no strings are left. Maybe you used to fight among yourselves. But from this time on, once you are completely liberated from Satan's power, nobody can affect you. It used to be that Satan could always use a fight between husband and wife as a condition to claim them. But now, if you fight, Satan has to take you to God's courtroom. And God will say, "Do you know why they fight? They fight each other to be more loyal to me."

Today you must completely change your concept. We are entering a new kingdom, a new realm, a new country. From this ceremony on, you are in a new race, a new territory. You don't see it with your physical eyes, but spiritually you are changing your dwelling, your territory, and your citizenship. From this time on, you are holy creatures, you are holy beings. You have to separate yourself from anything ungodly. You must feel that you are a holy temple in your thoughts and actions. When priests enter into their ceremonial place, there is only one route to go. There is no deviation, no shortcut. You should be like the tabernacle in the Old Testament, making the area clean and holy wherever you move. There is only one

way to go. There is no cheap, cheating way.

Are you really thankful to God for this? Why are you appreciative? The answer is very simple and obvious. We are thankful to God for sending us True Parents. Your children and your grandchildren will be thankful to God for the True Parents, but also they will thank Him for their tribal True Parents, their own parents and grandparents. So I am grateful to God, you are grateful to God, and your children will be grateful to God. Each generation will line up together to offer thanksgiving. That is our tradition. We are pioneers of tradition. God established a cosmic tradition, the True Parents established a worldwide tradition. You are creating the national tradition. Your children and your grandchildren will set the tradition for the tribe and family. Unless you have a foundation of gratitude, you have no way to link yourselves to God and the heavenly kingdom. The foundation of gratitude is the key upon which everything will blossom. Your children will be thankful for the heavenly family. You are thankful for the heavenly nation. I am thankful for the worldwide foundation, and God is thankful for the cosmic and universal foundation. The person who does not know how to express gratitude will derail from the Principle. There is no question about it.

God is the root. The True Parents are the trunk. You are the branches of the tree. Your descendants will be the leaves. Anything satanic is always organized from a selfish standpoint. But the heavenly tradition will look

beyond this. We are existing for something. The leaves are existing for the branches. The branches are existing for the trunk. The trunk is existing for the roots. That is the way in which the whole tree can prosper. You must understand this. You exist for something greater than yourself. That is a basic principle and also a physical theory. So we will be armed with such a spirit and conviction. And we must give that tradition and conviction to our children, for we are responsible for their education. Most of you here have white skin, yellow hair, and blue eyes. But you have inherited a yellow face, black hair, and brown eyes.

When children will be asked "What race are your parents?" They may be apt to say: "My daddy is white and my mommy is black." But you teach them: "No, no, we are 'love' color, the 'love' race. When you go out, you must be the exemplar and subject of love. You are going to disseminate love, sprinkle love and give love. You are like a locomotive, pulling the love train." Then the children will say, "Yes, daddy and mommy, we'll do it." That should be the answer of your children.

There has been some criticism in America among the races. The white people often say, "Black people are lazy and stupid. They don't work too hard and they love free handouts." Some white people look at black people like that. But they don't know anything about the black members of the Unification Church.

These days, very few people really like to work. Because of this, this is a good time for us because we can

show ourselves to be superior. While other people are trying to evade work, we are asking for it. We can distinguish ourselves right away because we work day and night. Black people have one great advantage: they can work day and night easier than white people. Take advantage of this, black people, and you will eventually become a superior race.

History is fair; everyone takes his turn at prosperity and failure in history. So far, white people have had supremacy. They have worked very hard in history. But the yellow race has given them stiff competition. But one more oppressed race is waiting for this opportunity. White people have worked so hard to build the foundation; yellow people have worked so hard to decorate it. In the end, the people who will actually go into that building and enjoy it are black people. I have always felt that black people are the most sagacious; they have opened their spiritual eyes to a very deep reality. They have long been waiting for their turn, passing through the hard-working white and yellow histories. And they have been oppressed as a racial minority, persecuted many times.

As a persecuted people, they have heard that another group is being persecuted; they have heard about Reverend Moon and the Unification Church. Many black people are saying, "Why not go see it? You have been persecuted and we have been persecuted; you are a minority and we are a minority; we have a lot in common." So they come in and discover the greatest heavenly truth. Again the black race has a chance to

get ahead. In the Unification Church they find an electrical quality to awaken them. It is now their turn. They cannot remain in an oppressed position. And when they start to work in the Moonie spirit, the minority will become the super-race.

Throughout American history, the black people have been oppressed, so they have a desire for revenge. They are looking forward to vindication. Today, spurred on by the spirit of the Unification Church, the black race has a great opportunity not only for its own sake but for the future.

Yesterday you saw that I called upon the black race first. This is teaching a lesson to the white and yellow people. First I matched the blacks, then the orientals, and last the whites. Why? Because history is such that this is a logical sequence. Black people have a great opportunity here. You have been criticized for being idle and lazy. And it may be true that some black people just wait for their welfare checks. White and yellow people have been working, but they will get tired in time. When they sit down and relax, the black people can stand up and pick it up . . . The way I can bring blessing to the black race is to encourage them to work hard, and they will win respect and admiration. Those couples in which both partners are black could have a great advantage because both of them will be working very hard. White people, when the chips are down, might think that it is getting too hard. They might sit down and wonder: "Why do I need this marriage? Why not separate?"

Who does America belong to? I'm

sure that white people would say, "Yes, I'm sure that America is white America." Black people will say, "No, America is black America." In order to build America in its 200 year history, black people have invested more sweat, tears and labor; therefore it belongs to us. You white people have been having an easy time and have taken advantage of us. But in order to make today's America, we sprinkled our sweat all over the country."

Blacks have paid more sacrifice for the sake of America. So you have set the tradition to claim your sacrifice. Go ahead, ask for it. The time has come. I feel that this is absolutely necessary. History works by cause and effect. If white people take advantage of blacks, the time will come when black people will want to take advantage of whites. This is cause and effect.

I have brought a new movement so that blacks and whites will become united into one harmonious body. In so doing, wonderful indemnity is being paid, preventing anyone from being exploited. The white people of the Unification Church are really indemnifying the crimes of the white people of history. For example, how many whites wanted to be matched with blacks? So many whites volunteered. This has never happened in American history. This dramatically symbolizes that our movement is restoring the white colonialist takeover of the blacks. What we are doing here yesterday and today shows the dramatic repentance of the white people. Indeed, we have shown a willingness to love black people, to unite with them, and to serve them.

So if a black and white couple becomes exemplary in serving each other, the society and the nation, then the entire nation and world will bow down to you. This is a saving grace for the white people. If you demonstrate your repentance in tears and sweat, there will be a chance for the sin of the entire white race to be forgiven.

Today we are about to undertake the ceremony which will proclaim to heaven and earth that we are now registering as a love race. Do you feel to the bone that this is a really historical place? This means that your clothing becomes historical: your tie, your shirt, your jewelry, everything. What about your eyes, nose and cheeks? Everything that participated in this grand auditorium is a historical thing: this is the place where white loves black and black loves white. From a historical standpoint, each one of you is greater than any President or First Lady of the United States. You must be proud of that. In America I have been persecuted and criticized, but not even once did I feel shame. I am proud of what I am. I'm sure some white brothers feel that they are very handsome. If they also feel that their black brides are beautiful, they will receive a citation from God. Because your bride is the opposite of yourself, the declaration of your love will shine. You are going to create the most fantastic family, the family where songs and beauty will never cease. Your children will be ecstatic in joy and will not leave the garden of your family, for it will be such a living kingdom of heaven on earth. Do you have that kind of dream? In your

own Garden of Eden, in your own home, when you laugh with your black bride, her African continent will laugh. If you have a white bride, the European continent will laugh, and if you have a yellow spouse, the Asian continent will laugh. Since all continents and races will be laughing, God will have to do better than anybody else. (Father does an exaggerated laugh) (Col. Paḡ: Do you need a translation? Father says that God will be so ecstatic, so joyful that He will even forget to put the belt in His pants and everything will fall down. And then we will have a real dance!)

One time in the history of the Unification Church we were accused of taking off our clothes and dancing naked. Actually, we never did that. However, this criticism probably forecast this joyful day!

You need a partner to share such joy. You've been sharing this joy with God and the True Parents. Now the time has come that you can share this joy between husband and wife, man and woman, bride and bridegroom. That is why this ceremony is important.

Are you ready? It is a great day, isn't it? I could go on all day and all night, but we must go on with the ceremony. Let's get down to work. There are 705 couples. This is a very historical number. This has never happened in the history of this continent. You know it, right?

Are we happy people? It is incredible that such people are existing here on earth in this country. When we look at what is going on in this country and in the entire world, it is a miracle that this kind of excitement,

this kind of God-centered joy is prevailing in one place.

(Col. Pak: Father is about to pray in the engagement ceremony. This prayer is the most vital and important registration of all of you to heaven. In this prayer, Father will say the date and the hour, and he will declare to heaven and earth in the name of the True Parents that you are now registered as true sons and daughters, solemnly beginning the eternal task as true families.)

We have now set out to create heavenly families. So the engagement ceremony is over. You are already engaged. You are fiances, future husbands and wives. The next ceremony is the ceremony of the restoration of lineage. The Holy Wine ceremony is for the purpose of changing the satanic lineage into the heavenly one. When Adam and Eve fell, there were no True Parents. All of a sudden the archangel came in between Adam and Eve, becoming Satan and dominating them. Now the True Parents emerge into the position of that archangel. You are not only receiving the lineage up to the perfection of the growth level but you are actually given the pure love of the perfection stage. We are restoring the evils and wrongs done in the Garden of Eden. The archangel became the master; the archangel was subjugated. As a restored archangel he gives a wine cup to Mother and Mother will give that cup to Father and Father will give it to the bride. Through the bride the husband will be restored. That is the sequence of the fallen action. Father will give the cup to Eve. Heavenly

love is bestowed upon Eve's position. Right now all men are in the archangel position.

Before we go into the Holy Wine ceremony, there is one more sequence to follow. That is the transference of love ceremony. Perfected Adam comes in the position of True Father and gives the bride true love. In other words, it is almost like a grafting ceremony. You will be grafted into the tree of True Father in true love. Fallen Eve is restored into a heavenly woman who can give new birth to the archangel; the husband is given new birth through the wife. That is the sequence. In the fallen process, the archangel gave birth to fallen Eve. So therefore the True Parents come to give new birth to Eve then she in turn can give heavenly rebirth to her husband. Your bride is in the role of mother because she gives you a new birth. For the next three years the bride will have the mother's role. The husband's position is to serve and obey his wife. For three years your wife is not your wife but your mother. You cannot live with your mother as you would a wife. Until the heavenly blessing comes, you have a mother-son relationship. Until then, you must become one, serving your wife as a mother. If you are not united with her all the way until the day of the wedding, you will not be blessed. When the day of heavenly restoration comes, the woman has to play the important role because women must give new birth to the entire world. At the worldwide level, America is the central country. In America, women's power, women's dignity, and women's rights have been

enhanced for the last 70 years. This is a dispensational happening. According to the Principle, from the heartistic point of view, women will be closer to God and the True Parents for the next three years. After the wedding ceremony is conducted and a 40-day spiritual separation takes place, there is a three day ceremony. After this ceremony, the man finally restores his subject role. So far, everything is upside down. But three years later through the wedding ceremony and three day ceremony fol-

lowing it, the original sequence is restored. You must go through this for the stained lineage to be gradually washed out and for the heavenly subject and object sequence to be restored. Then you have your children. The children are going to be heavenly children. This is the way that the restoration will be conducted. Satan cannot disrupt this principle. In order to do that, Satan has to come up with a better principle, and there is no such thing as a better principle. (Father goes on with the ceremony.)

Letter to engaged couples

By Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak

Dearest Family,

Greetings and my deepest congratulations to each one of you. When you participated in the most wonderful ceremonies which our True Parents conducted recently in New York you officially entered into what our True Father has described as the "love race."

I was touched when I saw the beautiful changes taking place in each of your spirits. You are now not merely in the position of a couple engaged to marry. More importantly, according to the precepts of our precious Divine Principle, each of you is now living the way of salvation and in the process offering your hearts and lives for Heavenly Father's providence. Now you are *truly* involved in the restoration of human history. Through your participation you have, as well, stepped fundamentally closer to Heavenly Father and True Parents.

I want to strongly impress upon you how absolutely vital it is not to think according to the "norm," that is,

what is considered "normal" thinking in fallen society. The society in which we live is very different from outside society, which often judges people or situations on the basis of very external standards. Now you are abiding in an internal world and are involved in the process of salvation.

Of course, the engagement itself is an important part of this process, even before the actual marriage ceremony takes place, but most important is for you to remember that through it, your own individual spiritual level is raised and fundamentally nearer Heavenly Father than before.

If you think of this engagement and upcoming marriage only in horizontal terms, you may be attacked by the spiritual world. I am concerned that this not happen to you. From the moment of your engagement, you inherited the amazing benefit of salvation only because of the conditions set up for you by the True Parents. At that instant, the True

Parents proclaimed that you were together registered in both the physical and spiritual worlds as an eternal couple. However, if you don't realize this or don't think of it as Heavenly Father's grace but rather concentrate only on being "engaged" or "soon to be married," your attitude is absolutely wrong. From the viewpoint of both God and your ancestors, this type of horizontal thinking is really not at all helpful in your personal progress toward the goal of salvation. Furthermore, if you continue this type of thinking, your ancestors will not be able to support you.

Heavenly Father and the True Parents have guided you through this most important step in the process of your salvation through their grace, based on their sacrifice. None of us could ever feel that we ourselves made enough of a foundation to receive such blessing. Therefore, I want to impress upon you just how important it is for each of us to examine ourselves and conclude that the conditions we made in preparation for the blessing were so small compared to what Heavenly Father and True Parents have invested. Thus, if you are not thankful but rather engage in the same kind of horizontal thinking that fallen society espouses, your spiritual growth will be unnecessarily stunted. You need to make indemnity conditions and you need guidance in order to grow in your spiritual power and strength. It is important to research your own attitude; when you are able to align yours with Heavenly Father's and True Parents' then by using this as your base, you will be able to prevent problems from

occurring in your life of faith.

I want to strongly suggest that at this time you think about your past ways of life: reflect on the many times you compared your circumstances with another person's; how many times you vacillated up and down in your spiritual growth; how many times you centered only on worldly thoughts and material things. We know that these types of circumstances are things we all have in common; we are each guilty of doing these things. On the one hand, they make us feel ashamed and not at all really qualified to receive such a wonderful blessing. Yet on another level, even though we realize that the True Parents know exactly what internal attitude we harbor, they are still our parents; their deep love for each of us can cleanse the evil within us and we can receive their beautiful bountiful grace.

Now that you are engaged, the most basic attitude you should have toward Heavenly Father and True Parents is a vertical one—one which displays your spiritual fulfillment and gratitude! You are now no longer a single individual. In God's eyes you and your future mate comprise one unit. He or she cannot be labeled only your "fiancé," however. You are truly each other's "second messiah." As you know, Adam and Eve fell both spiritually and physically. As members of the the Unification Church we are now going through the way of restoration of both this spiritual and physical fall; at the time of the blessing, we arrive at the top of the second stage; however, growth within the *perfection* stage must be done as a couple. Without your bless-

ed husband or wife it is impossible for you to reach the top of the perfection stage.

You *must* realize the deep significance of having a "second messiah." From this viewpoint, your fiancé is not only your fiancé; you *absolutely* need him or her to eventually reach the top of the perfection stage. Therefore, I want to strongly advise you: *NEVER* compare your situation with the situation of your fiancé. You should not compare your characters, your educational backgrounds, your histories in the Church, your present positions or your external facial characteristics. It does not matter whether he is handsome or she beautiful or not. You cannot determine your own messiah. From where stems the motivation to do this? The one who will be beside you for eternity was already hand-picked by God; to do any type of external comparison will cause you to lose time and energy. It is not effective at all. You should start creating your base or foundation to *build* together, not analyze each other.

The best attitude to cultivate is one of deep respect . . . then deep and true love can be born and nurtured. I suggest then, that you look at him or her through the eyes of a central figure: admiring his or her hard work and sacrificial lifestyle. This will foster deep respect. This is the best attitude for Unification Church fiancés to have towards each other.

I also want to advise you to be careful about several points during this period of separation. For example, do not compare your fiancé with other people's fiancés. If you activate this feeling and continually

compare him or her to others, you are making a tragic mistake. The person you compare your fiancé to is not *your* messiah. There is only one central messiah for all mankind, and for you as an individual, there is also only one. Therefore, you need your own "second messiah." No one else will do. I have often used the expression that after engagement or blessing you gain an "eternal running mate." Don't overlook the fact that you have just been given yours, and that you are already involved in the three-legged race toward the goal of perfection. If your eyes are somehow closed to this fact, open them now! I advise you to first learn to deeply respect and then eventually love him or her as your own "second messiah."

You are already engaged and as a couple look forward to the actual blessing ceremony itself. I feel it is imperative, therefore, that you start preparing for it now. Try to cultivate an internally deep and loving relationship based on respect and trust. It is crucial to be strict with yourselves. External closeness and any display of physical affection must be reserved for after the blessing ceremony. At that time, your physical union is granted by Heaven; *now* is the time to truly continue your spiritual purification. Think of this period as a time to be *internally* close to each other and a chance to deepen your respect and admiration for him or her. If you are just physically close or foster only a horizontal relationship at this time, what meaning does it have? We must go the eternal way of the "love race" tradition. You are

in the midst of creating that tradition for yourselves as a couple, for your descendants and for *ALL* people who will be blessed after you. Therefore, I urge you to realize that now is the time to develop a deep, internal, heartlistic relationship with each other.

When we were all together here in New York, your faces were so bright and your peals of laughter so enthusiastic. I know that your joy was impossible to contain. Of course, to feel this way is a good sign, but please remember that Heavenly Father hopes that you can be *eternally* joyful in this manner. I want to know that you will *always* be like this, even when you are faced with serious and difficult circumstances. Can you feel this internal happiness as you pass through *any* circumstance? Later on, when you have children and you must feed and clothe them and pay their doctor bills but don't really have the money . . . will you still feel as a team that you can pass through these things together? In order to really mature and take such responsibility you need time to pursue and work on your internal purification. Please focus on giving birth to a lasting internally heartlistic relationship with him or her. Let me emphasize again: be careful in your relationship; keep it pure. At this stage of your life together, you need to think and develop your own true meaning of faith.

As you know, Father announced a separation period until the actual blessing ceremony. During this time, it is important to strengthen your own personal relation with God. In order to reach this—your first objective purpose—and to develop a hori-

zontal love which can last eternally, you need a strong foundation of vertical love. I mean by this that without vertical love no horizontal love could ever last an eternity.

When we look at this world we can easily detect that throughout all of human history, mankind has remained separated from God. And all historical mistakes have been committed because there was not a strong enough foundation of vertical love. Because human decisions were made only on the basis of horizontal love relationships. Therefore in restoring this, before you think of loving your eternal mate you should first think of your vertical love relationship with Heavenly Father. If you desire your couple to have eternal happiness as charter members of this "love race," you must individually develop strong vertical love relationships. Therefore, I want to advise you that during this period of separation, it is as if we are once again beginning our lives and have the opportunity to firmly establish true vertical love.

I believe that following your engagement you could feel that your unity with the True Parents and Heavenly Father suddenly became stronger and more tangible. Yet, I need to remind you that it occurred not because of anything which you yourself did. I am sure that the majority of you can feel that your spirit has been elevated. I am sure you remember one special thing which Father did in his talk just preceding the the Holy Wine Ceremony. Were you surprised? He is a major religious leader and he is definitely aware that

he must exhibit gentility and social dignity. Since he knew this, why did he do it anyway? There is a special significance to it: it shows that he is so much closer to the blessed couples. There is not the distance between the True Parents and the blessed couples that there is between them and single individuals. When you become his own true sons and daughters, he feels that bond and wants each of you to feel it, too. I urge you, I plead with you to really make a good effort to become closer to Heavenly Father and True Parents during this separation period.

Strengthen your vertical relationship with them at the same time you are cultivating a horizontal relationship with your fiancé. Even though you may enjoy good harmony and love each other very much, it is crucial that you establish an invincible vertical relationship. If you do not have a strong vertical relationship, after the blessing ceremony you will need to make strong indemnity conditions—which might be much more difficult at that time. If you establish the tradition as a couple of creating a strong vertical connection there will be few problems after your blessing ceremony. The vertical love relationship is the root of the horizontal love blossom. The origin of the horizontal love, therefore, is the vertical love. When it is deep-seated, the horizontal love will naturally bloom from it. Please remember the importance of this, not only for your own development as an eternal couple of the “love race” . . . but think of how important it is for all your descendants.

There is another deep meaning behind your separation period. During this time, each of you needs to prepare to eventually join your fiancé and become one unit. You need to prepare for the time when your two personalities will join to become as one. Please don't underestimate how difficult this will be. One very important point to realize in your attempt to become “one” person is that, if you think only of your own standard and are firm in abiding only by it, it will be impossible. Each of you must research and find the viewpoint and standard of your fiancé. In other words, you should try to complement each other and harmonize on the foundation of your fiancé's standard. Your own thinking and viewpoint is only yours; you cannot be so strong or rigid that you try to “force-feed” it to your future spouse. Remember the importance of obeying him or her as well. Remember, too, that your first objective purpose of love is God. When both of you comprise a third standard—the one which is God's—then your relationship with each other will be much smoother. Therefore, I pray that you use this important time of separation to build this kind of standard.

Through the theology of the Divine Principle, we are able to understand that during these first three years the woman is in the subject or “mother” position. Each sister should remember what a “mother figure” really is. A mother must live for her son or daughter. A mother should live with real love. In all your daily activities—working, sleeping,

eating—everything should be done for your children; you must constantly attend them. Before you can actually be in the position to guide and control them it is essential that you live for them. In my understanding of this special time period sisters must maintain a deep respect and love for their fiancés, as in a mother-son relationship. This is the attitude of a true “mother figure.” Brothers must respect their fiancés as a son would his mother. On both sides, it is essential to keep this fundamental attitude. Please never forget that each of you exists as each other’s messiah!

In closing this letter to you, I repeat the words I used in my Belvedere speech on “The Blessing,” in October, 1978:

During your blessing ceremony you will place a wedding ring on the hand of your husband or wife. The women will wear white dresses, the men, navy blus suits. You will attempt to purify your own mind and hearts... feeling deep anticipation and hope... you will pledge before God and the True Parents your undying devotion to live eternally with him or her...

... But even before you arrive at this point—True Parents will claim you as their son or daughter and proclaim you as God’s child. Before the blessing ceremony True Parents will tell Satan that even though you may presently be in his dominion, you have the sincere desire to leave it and obtain permanent residence in Heavenly Father’s territory. Satan will be reminded of the difficult course you have borne since joining the Church, accepting the persecution and living a life of sacrifice for God and mankind. True Parents will further tell Satan that you tried to work hard over these past three or four years and that God gives His forgiveness for anything wrong which you did. Satan will surrender you and you will then go and eternally stay in God’s territory. This is truly the most significant “blessing” God could ever grant to you or me!

My very deepest heart goes to each of you. Allow God’s embrace to hold you closely now. Allow all this, and you will be “allowed” to view the heaven you longed for these many years of your life!

In Their Names,

Chung Hwan Kwak

The history and practice of our church traditions

By Nora Spurgin

The following article is the first in a series on our traditions

PART 1: SUNDAY PLEDGE SERVICE

Any ceremony has most meaning when the internal attitude and content are understood, as well as the formal order. The Sunday Pledge Service is one of the most frequently practiced ceremonies; therefore, it is of value to examine the history and meaning of it.

(A) History

On Children's Day, October 1, 1962 Father gave the five-statement pledge which our members around the world repeat at 5:00 a.m. (local time) at the beginning of each new week, month and year and at 7:00 a.m. on special holidays. It had long been a custom of Father's to rise early every morning to pray. In fact, throughout Korea it is customary for most Christians to rise early and meet at the churches for daily prayer prior to beginning

their daily activities. This is the time when the spiritual atmosphere is clear and fresh and is an opportunity to plan the day with Heavenly Father.

The fundamental meaning of the Pledge is to offer our first "essence" to God, to serve and attend God before doing anything else. In fact, every day it is important that our first thoughts be directed towards God. Leaders and blessed couples especially need to offer and plan each day with God. In the home the children can, then, observe the parents' lifestyle of attendance to God and True Parents. In each home or Church center there should be an "attendance place," a small room or a place to pray—a sanctuary from all the other activities, a place which is kept clean at all times and in which a pure spiritual atmosphere can be cultivated.

(B) Content

The Children's Pledge covers the essence of the Divine Principle, recognizing the history of God's and

man's struggle for the kingdom of heaven on earth. Because of the fall of man, it became necessary for us to remind ourselves of our position as fallen people before God. The pledge is more than a greeting and offering; it is integral to the restoration process by which we restore our original position as true children of God. It is a statement of re-dedication and commitment to God as we begin the new day or week, month or year, and is a time when we unite with all church members in this collective commitment. While Father was in Korea members rose early and walked many miles in order to give their pledge at Headquarters church and to hear Father's sermon immediately afterwards.

(C) Internal and external preparation

Preparation for pledge includes taking a shower and wearing clean clothes, and approaching God with a silent and prayerful heart. The first greeting is to Heavenly Father; therefore, personal greetings to each other should be given only after the service. One can come early enough to quietly prepare his heart and think about the contents of the pledge. The "place of attendance" or "prayerful place" should reflect an attitude of purity of heart, thus it is to be clean and uncluttered. The place chosen should face the direction of the True Parents, i.e. for most of us in the West it would be East. When our True Parents are not physically there, a picture is used to represent their presence. However, Rev. Kwak reminds us that these formalities are

not as important as the internal heart. Therefore, even the picture is not an absolute condition. In Korea, where Christianity is a strong tradition Christians who have newly joined our church have been accustomed to Jesus and to the cross as symbols of their faith and of God; they feel uncomfortable before the picture. In such cases, it is better not to use it.

(D) Order of service

The order of the service is as follows: three bows, the pledge, a representative individual prayer, and unison prayer. We must understand why we bow. In Christianity, prayer has certain specific forms (like bowing the head, folding the hands, etc.) which are visible expressions of the faith. Sometimes people wonder why we need another tradition (bowing) if God is absolute and unchanging. Rev. Kwak explains that the difference is in the age. This is the age of attendance. We express this attendance by our current earthly lifestyle. The position of God never changes whether we are on earth or in the spirit world. Therefore, when we bow we are in attendance to Heavenly Father and to True Parents who are in God's position. We attend the invisible God through a "heart" relationship to the True Parents.

When Father is present physically, we do a full bow once; when we are making our pledge with only brothers and sisters present we bow three times—the number three represents the trinity. The bows are done in unison in the following manner: place your right hand (representing God) on top of your left hand, raise to just above the bridge of your nose,

covering the eyes, then kneel on first the right leg, then the left leg; from this kneeling position, bring your face to the floor and lower your body as flat as possible with your knees under you. Pause a respectful moment and then rise with everyone else.

Following the three bows, the pledge is read or repeated in unison. In certain circumstances only part 1 and 5 can be said. Then the leader prays a representative prayer followed by unison prayer. Sometimes members want to continue in prayer; therefore a silent finish will not disturb those who are still praying.

There is also a Pledge of the Families given by Father at the time of the 36 Couples Blessing. This is a pledge of commitment to God, True Parents, and each other as blessed families and is repeated by blessed families either before or after the Children's pledge.

Some members give a greeting to Heavenly Father, True Parents, and family members (e.g. "Good morning, Heavenly Father") after the pledge. This is not a formal tradition of the service since a greeting has already been made through the pledge.

Blessed children should attend and participate in the Children's Pledge. It is important for them to observe their parents praying and attending our True Parents. There is a Korean saying that "a child's habit at three will go until sixty." In essence, it becomes a life habit.

Since our True Parents are now in America we have been privileged to observe the pledge ceremony with them. Blessed couples who are in the same place as our True Parents may be invited to join them and their family in the ceremony. Father, Mother, and all the children (all dressed in white ceremonial robes) stand behind the offering table which is laden with beautifully stacked foods. For these occasions couples also wear white robes, all whites garments under robes, and white gloves. The final (fifth) statement of the pledge is repeated in Korea. Then after Father prays, he gives each a piece of food from the offering table.

Following is part five of the Children's Pledge in Korean:

Oo-ri-nun, ha-na-nim-ul joon-
shim-han,
ha-na-a joo-kwon-ul ja-rang ha-go,
ha-na-abaek-song-ul ja-rang ha-go,
ha-na-a kook-to-rul ja-rang ha-go,
ha-na-a on-o wa moon-hwa-rul ja-
rang ha-go,
ha-na-a boo-mo-rul joong-shim-
han-ja-nyo-dwim-ul ja-rang ha-go,
i-rul shil-hyon shi-kil ko-sul,
na-nun maeng-se ha-na-i-da.
I-ro-han a-moo-wa sa-myong-ul
song-chui-ha-nun,
de-chaek-im-ul ji-go saeng-myong-
ul ba-chyo sa-ool ko-sul,
na-nun son-so-ha-myo maeng-se
ha-na-i-da,
son-so-ha-maeng-se ha-na-i-da,
son-so-ha-myo maeng-se ha-na-i-da.

Reflections on the foreign mission

By Nancy Hanna

I had to leave America to understand her importance to God. Just being in America, you can't possibly see the privileged position you have and how much God has blessed America at the expense of the other peoples of the world.

I visited America once during my time as a foreign missionary, after having been in my mission country for one and a half years. My impressions of America during that visit are an unforgettable experience. My mission country is not the poorest country, but still the shock of returning to affluent America was great.

While walking down the street in Washington, D.C. shortly after my arrival, I pestered my companions by asking what were the various buildings along the street. I wanted to know what great company or government office could have such a large and expensive building. After a while, I realized that these were just normal buildings in America; nobody

thought that they were extraordinary. But in my mission country, just one of those buildings would have been the largest and richest building in the whole country.

In a section of New York City where there are many restaurants and outdoor cafes, I saw many young people spending money for a Saturday night meal. They put down twenty dollar bills to pay for their food, and I thought, "That amount of money is so precious in my country, but here the people use it so casually."

The people in New York City looked so affluent. In my part of the world a rich country is defined as one where most people wear shoes. With the combination of riches, decadence and a certain hardness and indifference I saw in the people as I walked in New York, the thought that kept coming into my mind was "This is just like the Roman Empire in the period of its decline."

Spiritually, I had the feeling that

America was sinking under the weight of her own riches. The sights I saw gave me a sick feeling. I wanted to begin to throw some of the wealth overboard as if to save a sinking ship.

But there is another kind of wealth in America, her freedom—the protection that you have under the law, the system of justice, the civil and political rights. When I got off my plane in America and after I had gone through customs, I couldn't help breathing a sigh of relief.

In many of our mission countries good laws exist on the books, but in reality, there is only rule by men. For any reason—a whim, a misunderstanding—we can be kicked out of our country, imprisoned indefinitely, or even in some places tortured.

What a precious protective mantle freedom is! With that gone, in my country, I have had to struggle many times with fears about what the government authorities might do to us. When the fears come, I always have two choices: to live in fear or to live in the security that God is with me. In enduring circumstances that were sometimes frightening, I quickly learned that only in God can we be truly free from fear.

One question that you constantly ask yourself when you walk down the street in a poor country and see a miserable person is: "Why am I so blessed and he so unfortunate?" I have come up with only one answer: I was born to serve and he was born to be served. Nothing else makes any sense.

I hope that everyone in the American movement will have the opportunity to work not only abroad,

but in one of the poorer countries. There is no other way to really appreciate what God has given America and how great America's responsibility is.

The blessing of the foreign mission

Sometimes I sit with my fellow missionaries here and talk about how much God has given to us in our mission period while we may not have been able to give so much to our country. We are laden with spiritual treasures from this experience; we don't know what we can do to pay God back for all he has given us.

I am especially grateful for the growth of my heart. If I had lived my whole life in America, I might never have developed certain qualities of heart that I have experienced here in three years.

Most of us in the foreign mission have had to learn to unite our hearts with unfortunate people—people who have suffered or whose ancestors have deeply suffered. Only in the worst slums of America can you find truly unfortunate people, but in most other countries of the world the whole population is very poor. Just to begin to work, we had to expand our hearts to embrace and understand people in miserable circumstances. The situation would be somewhat comparable to someone in the U.S. being assigned to save the people in a ghetto area, having to live there, never going outside for three years. How quickly his heart would have to expand to reach out to those people!

Before my foreign mission I definitely had prejudices against

poorer and less-educated people. But I have learned that the world is not divided between capable and incapable people, but rather between those who have been blessed and those who have not.

When I was a student at the University of California at Berkeley, there was a large number of students from developing countries. Whenever I talked to them I felt some distance—as if somehow they were very different from me. But such a feeling has vanished. Now I can feel a certain oneness, an understanding, a feeling of brotherhood and respect almost immediately.

It is such a free feeling to deeply know that people are fundamentally the same—from the most ragged beggar to the most sophisticated bank president. Each one struggles for happiness—for some truth, beauty and goodness in his life. Some have more opportunities than others, but the desires of the human heart and what it struggles for are very much the same.

Some of my happiest memories here are of when we invited the parents of our members to dinner. We served them and loved them as if they were kings and queens because they are wonderful people and that is how we felt about them. They have never been served that way by foreigners. Instead perhaps sometimes they have been mistreated or ignorantly looked down upon. They are really touched by our service, but I think that we are more touched by them. They open their hearts to us and talk about some of the poverty and difficulties in their lives. But there

is no attitude of bitterness towards God or anyone else for their suffering. Instead they even feel that God has been good.

I have come to respect and admire the people in my country more than I do Americans in general.

The people there do so much with the opportunities they have. Many have suffered and struggled yet they have received little in return.

Communism

Another point of deepest seriousness in this mission is the problem of communism. I think that until you have direct experience with communism you can't realize how evil it is; this is one of the reasons why Americans have a difficult time being anti-communist. My direct experiences with it in my mission country have left a deep impression and I understand much better now why communism is one of the Father's deepest worries. I have been able to watch the effect that Marxist-Leninist ideas have as they are injected into the educational system, the newspapers, the labor unions and the government of a country. Marxism exploits and thrives on the fallen nature of man and multiplies an atmosphere of hate, resentment, conflict and mistrust. When I left America, my opposition to communism was something in my head; now I feel an opposition to the core of my being—to my bone marrow, as the Korean expression goes.

Korea

The foreign mission has also helped me to understand for the first time why God is wise to choose a country

like Korea for the Second Coming of the Messiah. The Messiah has to come from a wretched country; it would be hard to find another country in the world with a history of more suffering than Korea. Only a Messiah who truly understands suffering can unite with the heart of the majority of the people of this world.

Secondly, because communism is the greatest enemy of God, the Messiah has to come from a country that is strongly against communism. There were 3.5 million casualties in the Korean War, including over a million civilians, and millions more were left homeless. The suffering people of this world are looking desperately for a solution to their misery. With no hope forthcoming at this time from America, communism offers the only hope of salvation for many. The Messiah and his people have to know suffering, but they also have to know that communism is not its solution.

To restore this world

The foreign mission is a course of faith and reality. When many of us missionaries look around, nearly all we see is the grim reality of poverty, ignorance and disease. We never knew how monumental is the task described in the words "Let us go forth to restore the world . . ." One fellow missionary wrote me from a poor African country, "My faith glands really have to work overtime." In the foreign missions we have seen the reality of this world for the first time.

But the model that inspires me whenever I wonder if we can really restore this sorry world is Father in

the North Korean prison camp. Sentenced to death Father also was surrounded by poverty, ignorance and disease far worse than that surrounding me. Yet he had absolute faith that this world could be restored. If Father could have faith in those circumstances, then I can certainly have faith in mine.

The present decline of America

The most heartbreaking thing for me is not poverty, ignorance or the spread of communism. These things pain me deeply, but what really breaks my heart is the present decline of America. Poverty and communism would be small problems if America would only put forth its wealth and knowledge to the service of God. From my viewpoint now, it looks like God has put all His eggs in one basket—America. Until America wakes up, Satan has a free hand to work in the countries of the world, which must just wait and suffer.

I don't know which is a greater enemy to God—communism, which is forcing a system that eliminates God from people's lives, or America, a country blessed richly by God for the purpose of saving mankind but which is now using those riches for her own sake.

It is impossible for Americans to realize the poverty and hardships under which the majority of the people of the world live, or how desperate the world situation truly is. From the world's viewpoint our members are very well off. For example, we all have enough to eat—just one thing

that most of the world's people don't have. Seeing with my own eyes the present world situation had helped me to feel that the sacrifices that Father asks of our members are not too great.

Nancy Hanna was blessed with her husband Regis with the 1800 couples. She has been a foreign missionary since 1975, serving in two different Latin American countries.

The family in God's providence

By Keishi Miyako

Excerpted from *Shuku Fuku* Autumn, 1978
and translated by Yoko Azuma

My wife and I were blessed with the 777 Couples on October 21, 1970. At that time I was 25 years old and my wife 26. Just before the wedding, the rumors spread that a blessing would take place. Approximately 70 couples were estimated to be blessed. As an older member, I was one of the blessing candidates. Finally, 210 couples were candidates, including many members who had not expected to participate.

Although I had been informed that I was a candidate, I felt that I wasn't ready, since I had not joined the church to get married. Mr. Sang Ik Choi (first pioneer in Japan) did not start his family until he was over forty years old, and we were taught that we should reach individual perfection before we were married and had children. If a senior member like Mr. Choi did not get married until he was over forty, we naturally felt that we should not get married until we were about fifty or sixty.

But I was 25 years old. Actually I could not consider it with real feel-

ing. At that time I was pioneer witnessing and directing the Kushiro church of Hokkaido. The young members of our church used to say that they could hardly imagine their church leader being married. I myself could not believe it.

Even before I joined the church I hardly thought of marriage. I had a premonition that I would never marry. Also, a fortune teller predicted that I would have neither wife nor children. This was my frame of mind at the time of the blessing.

After the blessing

Our separation period of about five years lasted until July 1975. During that time, I heard that many couples quarrelled. Our case was no exception. The most appropriate word for us was "comrades:" my wife and I were merely comrades both carrying out God's will. We didn't feel like brother and sister, nor like husband and wife.

When I first saw the woman who

was going to be my spouse, I felt: "This is the very person who is going to be my wife!" When I felt that God himself had chosen my spouse, my impulse to fight was checked, even though we sometimes did fight. Sometimes we quarrelled and called each other names, and even spat on each other. But when I meditated on it over and over again, I realized that I was only spitting on myself. The more you speak ill of your spouse, I found, the more it reflects upon you. There was no particular way to become reconciled, but we felt so empty that we could not help but finally unite. It became so foolish for us to continue, so we just had to stop. Father warned us never to hit each other. It is a significant message. However, when we quarrelled and I was emotionally upset, I felt a great temptation to throw anything in my reach and I could not help but hit her. Every time that happened, Father's words accused me. It takes months or even years to heal any injury you inflict upon your spouse. At these times my foundation was very unstable and nothing went well for me, even though I tried hard to witness and do God's will. Everything became empty. Unless you solve your problems you cannot even begin to do God's will. I realized that if I hit my wife, my whole providence was affected and I had to pay a lot of indemnity.

I realized that a good relationship between husband and wife would bring the strength to do God's will, and relief to brothers and sisters. The members around us became anxious when we fought. But no matter

what quarrels we had, because we were given to each other by God, there was always a trusting relationship deep inside.

Starting a family

I was very anxious to start my family and have my wife with me because I was very aware of my limitations as an individual. I knew so well that I was not loving the church members as well as I wanted to. I realized that my wife had another type of love which I lacked—the love of a woman. Because I could not continue to do God's will without this love, I yearned to begin my family as soon as possible.

The separation period for the 777 couples had not yet ended—only those who were 34 years old and over had started their families. I was so anxious to start my family because I felt that I was in a deadlock. I was so pleased when everyone was able to start their families.

I believe that it is necessary for us to consider why we have families. For me, I deeply feel that it is to deepen our love. My love as an individual is inadequate and insufficient. But the love between man and wife is eternal, based on an everlasting relationship. A God-centered family cannot betray itself. That is why we must be sincerely loyal.

Therefore, the love with which you love your spouse, I believe, should be the standard for your love of your fellow church members. Brotherly love falls short of the perfect standard. Other members are not necessarily with us forever, but our spouse

is; the family is eternal and therefore its relationship must be genuine.

Children

My wife has had two miscarriages. Because of that I was even more anxious to have children, so that I could experience parental love. Although we are taught to love our brothers and sisters, our neighbors, and all mankind, unconditional love is uncertain until it is experienced. That is why I was so eager to have children—I wanted to learn to love eternally and unconditionally.

I was very happy when we had our three-day ceremony because I felt relief of my sin being forgiven. The greatness of the Divine Principle is that it can be applied to our lives. If the Divine Principle does not apply to our families, then it is not absolutely true. As we try to create an ideal family, we see how the Divine Principle applies precisely to us.

I believe that everyone has suffered from problems with love and sex before and after joining the Unification Church. But through the three-day ceremony, love and sex became holy and supreme, and we can live without Satan's accusation. This is truly salvation. Many deeply religious people in the past have suffered greatly; not knowing the origin of sin, they have tried to overcome sexual problems by asceticism.

Several months after our three-day ceremony my wife became pregnant. It was a difficult pregnancy, with bleeding and other complications. But she recovered and the doctor said that she was OK. Then I was transferred to the Kanazawa district.

My wife got involved in moving and attending farewell and welcoming parties. We were very busy. Unfortunately soon after that we lost the baby.

I struggled very much, but my wife must have suffered more than I did, with the pain that only a woman could understand. When she became pregnant again, she lost the baby after several months. We expected hopefully to hear the heartbeat in her womb, but we were told that it was in vain. I was so discouraged, thinking that we could never have children.

Among the 777 couples, there are still couples suffering a lot because they have not yet had children. Since we know that the formation of the four position foundation is the essence of our life, our suffering was that much more intense. The fact that you cannot bear live children places you in the same position as not getting pregnant. Being unable to get pregnant is sad and hopeless. A big subject in our marriage was what kind of attitude I would take. Eventually I was able to understand the suffering of other people. I could realize the sadness that many people carry with them which I might have otherwise ignored.

I admired Mrs. Honda, who has often visited us as an IW. She always had hope, even though she had not yet given birth. Instead, she was bearing spiritual children through witnessing, then loving them as if they were her own. Seeing her way of life, I have been impressed so much with her greatness. And I also wondered about the purpose of life.

Is it only for us to have a family and bear children? Then what about those who cannot get married or have children? When I thought about this, I concluded that the only permanent, true and sincere thing is our heart connection, centering on God. I wished that I could become an unchanging man of faith, loyal to God throughout my life whether or not I had a child.

There was another pillar which supported me. That was Mr. Kim in Korea, one of the 72 couples. He had a 5 or 6 year old daughter who excelled in school. When I first saw her in Korea, she was a healthy-looking smart girl. But a year later she became sick and extremely thin, and later died. I witnessed this misery. But Mr. Kim always encouraged me, saying that he was being tested like Job. However many trials came to him, he was determined to attend God with the utmost sincerity and loyalty. Mr. Kim cheered me up to try my best, saying that God's blessing and grace would surely pour upon me eventually.

Then the 1800 couples began their families. Many of them got pregnant immediately, and I became impatient. My younger sister was one of the 1800 couples, so I worried: "What if she gets pregnant before my wife? We have to have a baby at least one day sooner than she does." But this feeling finally disappeared, so I began to reconcile myself to our situation.

One time a spiritual liberation ceremony was held by Mrs. Shin Wook Kim. Husband and wife were to be together for this, so my wife wept and begged me to go. But I was so miserable that I did not want to rely

on anything else. I just wanted to believe that God would give us his love as long as we were working hard for his will. But my wife went to the ceremony and got a special blessing. Right afterwards, she conceived. I'm now grateful that my wife went to the ceremony.

When I found out about our third pregnancy, I felt that this was a special event occurring beyond our will. Really, I had been about to give up. But I totally dedicated myself and made up my mind to rejoice at the successive births of children to the 1800 couples. Then unexpectedly came the good news of the pregnancy.

I felt that this child was going to be given to us by heaven. God is watching our minds so closely. Whenever necessary, God gives us many trials to test us.

My wife asked permission for a leave of absence from her mission as IW for four months. She stayed still in bed during the coldest part of the winter. I hoped that she could successfully make it through the critical early period of her pregnancy. When she entered the fifth month, we were both so grateful to hear the baby's heartbeat.

When our baby was born, I was holding a meeting of our parents' group. We prayed together, and the parents were especially grateful, with tears in their eyes. I did not cry, but I was so grateful that our baby was safely born, helped by the loving prayers of our brothers and sisters. At the baby's dedication ceremony, I prayed to God that he would grow up to be a man of loyalty to God and

Father for his whole life.

It seems like a miracle that I could have a baby. God gave such a blessing to me, who was so sinful and arrogant. I never would have had a family if I had not joined the Unification Church. To have children may be natural for other people, but

for me it was the result of 14 years of a life of faith, and I feel like it was a gift of heaven.

I would like to tell everyone that God has been leading me and loving me for 14 years. Even though there have been many trials, I want to finally say: "God is love!"

What the Blessing has meant to me

By Glenn Carroll Strait

Shock, challenge, struggle, joy, growth, love. The blessing has brought all these to me.

What better way to hasten the demise of my "old self" than to have God ask me to unite with that which I would have rejected? I wanted to reject the wife whom Father selected for me. But fortunately my faith and desire to be obedient to God's will were great enough to override my feeling.

My life of faith in the Unification Church until that time had generally been one of slow, gradual change punctuated by a few events bringing major change. Usually I would first recognize something by reason, only later accepting it in my heart.

I had been an agnostic, but through the Divine Principle and through reason I was forced to admit intellectually the reality of God. But not until two years later did God become substantial to me. While in Korea because of my mission, I attended a prayer meeting. For the first time I focused my

entire being in prayer, desiring to free my ancestors. I knew only by my prayers could they be liberated. As I prayed deeply I felt the effect even physically and knew that the depth of my prayer could be visible to others as well. Subsequently I found that at last I believed in God in my heart!

A few months later I became ill. In a high fever I felt an openness to a sinister spirit world that forced me to admit that I needed a savior. Immobilized in a hospital bed, I could repent and feel God so close to me. Yet the illness passed and so, too, the deep personal connection with God.

Still I couldn't see or admit my fallen nature. I felt composed, calm, stable and reliable—but God could not reach my heart. The True Parents were leaders and role models for me, but not parents whom I loved. I couldn't feel that. I couldn't feel love. I could think love but not feel it.

Then the blessing came. I was jolted to the core, as never before. If I

could have picked three women whom I would have preferred not to marry, the very woman whom Father suggested would have been one of them. God in His great wisdom was giving me such a wife. When Father put us together, I couldn't think or reason. I prayed, but my prayer was not very instructive.

Louise was willing to receive me, but not I her. Yet my character was also to follow Father obediently. When we came out of the consultation room, instead of bowing and accepting the proposed match, I asked Father if there might not have been some mistake. He firmly said to us, "It is a good match."

That was it. For eternity I would have a wife whom I didn't like, I thought. Why did I not like my wife? She had a limp, and at times she had a sharpness to her personality which made me feel uncomfortable. The limp bothered me because of my own limitations. I had always had difficulty with certain bodily movements and functioning in sporting activities because of a congenital absence of muscles in several parts of my body. But since my limitations were not outwardly obvious, they could be masked in most circumstances, whereas Louise's way of walking could not. I had wanted a physically normal wife to help hide my own limitation.

The graspingness and grilling intensity her personality sometimes exhibited had always made me want to leave her presence. Plus I thought that she was intellectually oriented like myself, so she would not complement my rational character.

Gradually I began to realize how

limited my perspective had been of this woman. I had focused only upon aspects I took to be bad or undesirable. Thus I came to recognize now that I had been holding other people at arms' length—being nice and friendly but not really accepting and loving anyone completely. With a wife, however, I could hold no pretense in this regard.

For me, that beginning was the worst and things have been steadily getting better ever since. I thank God that I never pretended with my wife. It was not easy for her that I was so honest about my feelings, but she persevered and now our foundation of love seems quite solid.

God had found the precise instrument to penetrate to the core of my being—my wife. When no one else could disrupt my composure, she could—not by conscious intent, but rather simply by being herself. And thus God had started to work his will in the liberation of my heart.

For example, sometimes my wife asked me if I loved her. Well, at first I didn't. I didn't really love anyone and didn't know what love was. When Father said that we must love even the dirty, smelly feet of our spouses, my first thought was, "Not me—I'd tell my wife to wash her dirty, smelly feet." Having allowed myself to think this, I realized the following: Father wasn't talking about all those other aspects of my wife's character and physique that I had been wanting to change. Oh, I wasn't always nagging my wife about these things. I felt I was too smart for that. I didn't say anything, but I knew in my mind and heart what was wrong with Louise,

and I planned to subtly help her realize her defects. Certainly this way of thinking needed to be changed.

My wife is my channel to attain freedom and joy. Without her, the graft to the True Parents would never take hold. God was able to make me see myself clearly through my wife. The Messiah had been there before as a standard, but I couldn't use that standard to illuminate myself—there were too many barriers. Through Louise I realized that the "transcendence" I had previously achieved in my personality was false and illusory. My own character and identity was seldom bothered by what others said and did because I kept people at a distance and clung to my own narrow perspective of myself and others.

It was for this reason that I couldn't love. I couldn't recognize Father substantially. I could not emulate him because I didn't perceive his essential qualities of love. As I learned to love my wife, I could begin to recognize Father's heartistic attributes. I could see the instability beneath my composed exterior and know that it arose from a deviation from God's standard. Father began to look whole to me. A bridge was built so that he is now becoming an ideal that I can emulate.

As I have come to know my wife, my reluctant acceptance and tolerance have grown—first to an occa-

sional impulse of love and later to a solid abiding love which makes me enjoy her presence. As this growth occurred, the presence of God also began to penetrate my being.

In our brief married life, we have already shared the grief of a miscarriage and the struggle of trying to establish a home life with insufficient time or money. But we have also shared the joy of a wonderful love growing within our embrace. We are striving to find the balance point of mutual love between us and sacrificial love for our missions and for mankind.

External accomplishment may still elude me. My daily struggles in my mission may show slow progress, and I can see Father's restoration timetable still not being reached. But hope wells up strong within me. Clearly God is altering my character. And I thank God for allowing me to share in his restoration providence.

(Reprinted from Fall 1977 Blessing Quarterly)

Glenn Strait

Glenn Carroll Strait joined our church in Washington, D.C. in 1971. When the International Conference on the Sciences (ICUS) began in 1972, he was its American coordinator. Since that time he has served on the ICUS staff. Glenn and Louise Strait were blessed among the 1800 Couples in Korea. They have one daughter, Lenissa, age 2.



Birth of Hyung-jin Moon
(September 26, 1979)



Birth of Young-jin Moon
(June 22, 1978)



**True Parents' Wedding
Anniversary**
(April 30, 1980)

Important dates for 1980

- January 1** God's Day
- January 10** Un-jin's birthday
- January 20** Hyo-jin-s birthday
- January 28** Ye-jin's birthday
- February 21** Father and Mother's birthday
- March 6** Kwon-jin's birthday
- April 7** Grandmother Hong's birthday
- April 15** Parent's Day
- April 30** True Parents' Wedding Anniversary
- May 1** Anniversary of the founding of the Unification Church
- May 23** Hyun-jin's birthday
- June 13** Day of All Things
- June 29** Young-jin's birthday
- July 25** Kook-jin's birthday
- July 26** Sun-jin's birthday
- August 28** In-jin's birthday
- September 14** Hyung-jin's birthday
- October 4** Father's release from South Korean prison
- October 14** Father's release from North Korean prison
- November 8** Children's Day
- November 30** Heung-jin's birthday

Birthdays



Hyun-jin (May 5, 1979)



Young-jin
(June 11, 1979)



Kook-jin
(July 7, 1979)
Sun-jin
(July 8, 1979)



Heung-jin (December 12, 1979)



Un-jin (January 10, 1980)



Ye-jin
(January 28, 1980)



Kwon-jin
(March 6, 1980)

Blessings and engagements

We would like to welcome the members who have been blessed or engaged since our last printing. We congratulate the participants in:

Blessing of 118 Couples

London, England

May 21, 1978

Engagement of 205 Couples

London, England

September 15, 1978

Engagement of 1610 Couples

Tokyo, Japan

September 22, 1978

Engagement of 613 Couples

Seoul, Korea

November 1, 1978

Engagement of 705 Couples

New York, New York

May 13, 1979

New babies



Edmund & Chung Yul BOLTON
daughter—*Sahm Ewee* Sept. 10, 1978

Keith & Sun Sook ANDERSON
son—*Ke Sung* Aug. 25, 1978

Gerhard & Ulrike BESSELL
son—*Daniel Gerhard* Oct. 28, 1978

We are sorry if we have left anyone out: if you would like your baby listed or have a picture not included in this issue, please send information to the *Blessing Quarterly* so we can include it in a special section in the next issue.



William & Nina BERGMAN
son—*Wilnima Andrew* Dec. 17, 1978

Thomas & Alice BOUTTE
son—*Tierson Kim (photo) Sept. 28, 1978* daughter—*Cara Cheney Nov. 13, 1979*



Jan & Rosemarie DE GOEY
son—*Rojan Anka Jan. 15, 1979*

Thomas & Carolyn BURKHOLDER
daughter—*Tolyn Oct. 16, 1979*

Shawn & Traudl BYRNE
son—*Young David July 30, 1978*

Han-Joo & Jung Hee CHA
daughter—*Jim-Young Apr. 11, 1978*
son—*John-Sun Apr. 30, 1979*

William & Jane COOK
son—*Orin Wilson June 6, 1979*

James & Bernice COWIN
daughter—*Lane Alison Victoria
Feb. 25, 1979*
daughter—*Jaime Mar. 28, 1980*



Keith & Sara COOPERRIDER
son—*Caner Michael Feb. 11, 1979*

Steve & Rosemarie DEDDENS

son—*Roster Neil Feb. 10, 1978*

Anthony & Josie DI MARCO

daughter—*Camille Jan. 15, 1978*

son—*Gabriel Anthony May 13, 1979*

Michio & Mayumi FUJII

son—*Kenju Aug. 8, 1978*

daughter—*Miyo Sept. 26, 1979*

Michael & Margaret HERBERS

daughter—*Highmy Nov. 4, 1979*

Franz & Setsuko HALMDIENST

daughter—*Gorielt Aug. 3, 1978*



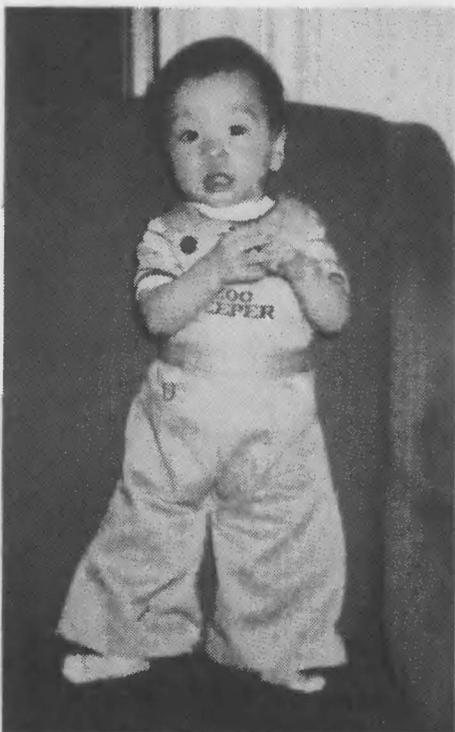
David & Juliana HESS

son—*Daniel Anton Sept. 27, 1979*

daughter—*Aileen Juliana Feb. 10, 1980*

Mark & Walburga FORRESTER

son—*Brady Matthew July 6, 1978*



Hisamori & Mihoko HAMASAKA

son—*Kentoku May 1, 1978*

Hisamori & Mihoko HAMASAKA
son—*Kembun* Oct. 1, 1979

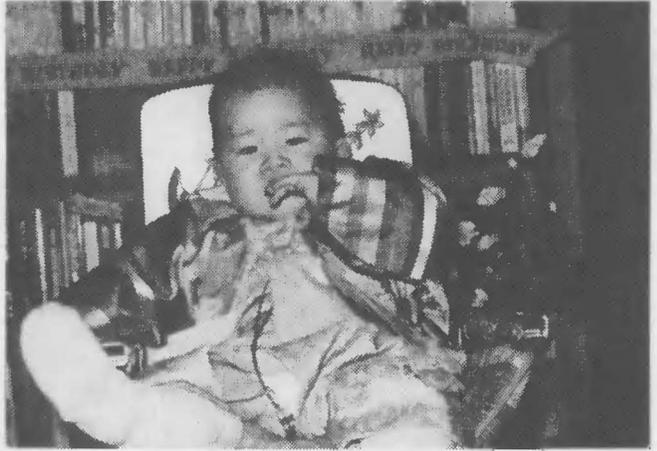


Masatoshi & Masayo HIRAIDE
son—*Akihoshi* Dec. 5, 1978

David & Takeko HOSE
son—*Theodore Jon Paul* Dec. 1, 1978



Richard & Betsy HUNTER
son—*David Paul Richard* Apr. 6, 1978



Takeshi & Yoshiko ITO
son—*Kensei* Dec. 16, 1978



Kazuyoshi & Mieko IKENO
daughter—*Akiko* Aug. 30, 1979



Kazuyoshi & Mieko IKENO
daughter—*Hanako* June 13, 1978



Farley & Betsy JONES
son—*Bowny David* Nov. 24, 1978

Michael & Maria KEILY
son—*Yung Kwang* Nov. 4, 1978



Takeru & Yuko KAMIYAMA
daughter—*Reiko* Dec. 11, 1979

Kazunari & Wendy KATAKURA
son—*Kenji* Feb. 11, 1979

John & Marie France KIRKLEY
daughter—*Sunnie Marie* Aug. 23, 1978

Masahisa & Yoko KOBAYASHI
daughter—*Kiyomi* Mar. 25, 1978



Takashi & Teiko KONO
son—*Kendo* Dec. 31, 1978



Minoru
& Yoshiko
NAKATA
son—Tadao
Sept. 26, 1979



Hiroshi & Kuniko MATSUZAKI
son—Tatekimi Oct. 29, 1979

Yoshihiko & Yasuko MASUDA
daughter—Emi July 6, 1978

Steven & Myung Soon MUDGETT
daughter—Sunmi Ja Mar. 12, 1979

Kijo & Midori MUROTA
daughter—Miharu Feb. 17, 1980

Masahuki & Yoko NIKKUNI
son—Yukumasa Feb. 26, 1980



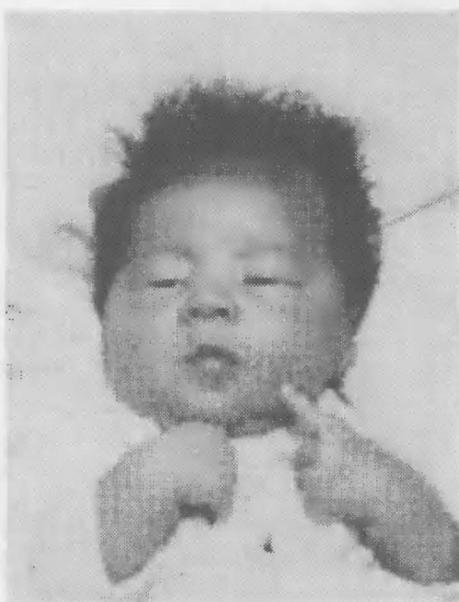
Kazushi & Fumiko MIYOSHI
son—Issei Nov. 22, 1978



Paul & Irene OLIVIER
son—Godwin Alexander May 30, 1978



Spiro & Leslie OLIVAS
son—Victor June 13, 1978
son—Leandros Nov. 4, 1979



Kunihiro & Kuniko ONISHI
son—Tomihiro Sept. 8, 1978

Noriyoshi & Junko SAITO
son—*Shigeki* Nov. 1, 1978



Gilbert & Frannette ROSCHUNI
son—*Michael Bryan* Apr. 12, 1979

Gerhard & Nobuko PEEMOELLER
son—*Jansoo* Aug. 3, 1978

Michael & Soon Ja RICHARDSON
daughter—*Chan Yung* June 19, 1979

Michael & Chizukoi RUNYON
daughter—*Cemo* Apr. 25, 1978





Neil & Rebecca SALONEN
son—*Naony David*
June 26, 1978



Richard & Barbara SAPP
son—*John Edwin*
June 22, 1979

Kazuo & Toshiko SATO
son—*Kenritsu Jan. 1, 1978*
daughter—*Misako (photo)*
Oct. 25, 1979

Ryoji & Yukie SAWAMAKAI
son—*Danjo* Jan. 1, 1979



Henri & Loretta SCHAUFFLER
son—*Sun Il* Apr. 11, 1979

Robert & Rhonda
SCHMITT
daughter—
Melinda Lee
July 4, 1978
son—*Michael Robert*
Oct. 13, 1979



Jon & Sandra SCHUHART
son—*Jon-Nathan Louis*
Apr. 27, 1979



Klaus & Mary Ellen
SCHICK
daughter—*Chiofa*
Nov. 22, 1977
son—*Sumy Richard*
Mar. 28, 1979



Tadaaki & Sumie SHINMYO
daughter—*Keijo* Apr. 17, 1978
son—*Tatenaga* Feb. 11, 1980

Kiyoshi & Fumiko SEINO
daughter—*Mishiko* Jan. 9, 1978
Joon Ho & Moon-Hye SEUK
son—*Jo Hoon* Mar., 1979

Dietrich & Elisabeth SEIDEL
son—*Christopher* Aug. 8, 1978



David & Ann STADELHOFER
daughter—*Jessa-Leigh* Oct. 6, 1979

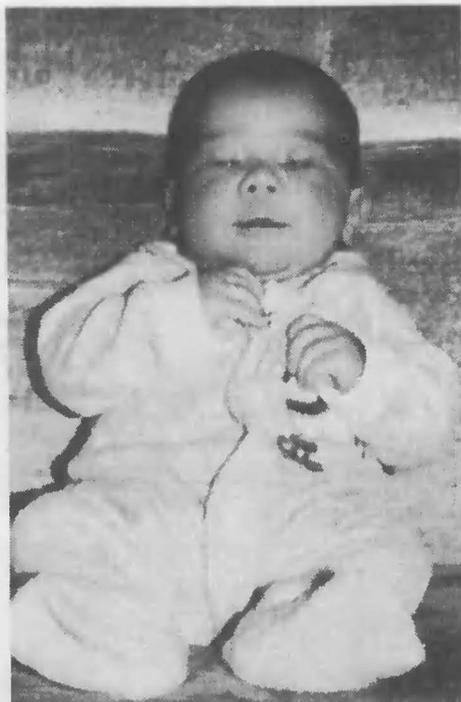


Glenn & Louise STRAIT
daughter—*Lenissa Margaret*
June 25, 1978



Hugh & Nora SPURGIN
son—*High Linn Martin* Apr. 12, 1979

Takashi & Motoko SUGIYAMA
daughter—Keimei March 10, 1979



Kensaku & Mariko TAKAHASHI
daughter—Kiyoko Sept. 18, 1978



Harumi & Lisa TAKE
son—Shuichi (above) Feb. 20, 1979
son—Kūchi (below) Jan. 28, 1980

Dirk & Barbara
TEN WOLDE
daughter—
Elnora Grace
July 29, 1979



Horishi & Machiko
TOYODA
son—*Tokubumi*
Oct. 7, 1978



Yukichi & Kazue TATE
daughter—*Yasuko*
Apr. 12, 1979

Larry & Marlene TRENBEATH
daughter—*Andrea Lynn* Oct. 5, 1978



Herman & Roberta WACKLER
daughter—*Tanya Lynn* Apr. 9, 1978



Makota & Naomi TSUJIMURA
daughter—*Kakiko* Dec. 3, 1978

Joe & Sanae TULLY
daughter—*Bumi* Mar. 26, 1978
daughter—*Mihwa* Jan. 27, 1980

Michael & Cheryl WARDER
daughter—*Omo* Apr. 13, 1978
daughter—*Amy* Aug. 6, 1979

Clifford & Clare YASUTAKE
daughter—Carey Lin July 30, 1978



Akio & Etsuko YONO
daughter—Shukuko Dec. 24, 1979



Shinjiro & Hiromi YAMAMOTO
son—Kentoku Feb. 12, 1980

Tsukasa & Jasuko YOSHIDA
daughter—Miho Jan. 30, 1979

Yuchiyo & Hisako WATANABE
daughter—Emiko Sept. 23, 1978