

TODAY'S WORLD

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If You Trust and Believe, You Will Be Set Free

From Hyung-jin nim's sermon at Cheon Bok Gung on March 25, 2012

Good morning. Today, our Bible quotations are from Galatians chapter five, verses one and six. One: "For freedom, Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." And six: "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love."

St. Paul is writing to Christians in Galatia¹ on the subject of the necessity of circumcision. Among Galatian Christians, one group was saying that circumcision was necessary; that in following Christ, they should still keep the Mosaic Law. Another group was saying, no, because we have received grace from God, we follow God based on faith and love. A dispute arose among the Galatians. At that time, St. Paul was saying to them that Christ had made them free² and that they should stand firm and not be enslaved.

Brothers and sisters, what does it mean to receive the holy blessing from True Parents? It's the change of lineage; the descendants, who were connected to Satan's lineage, are entering God's family. It's an astonishing blessing; not one that ordinary people can receive. Even if you say that you don't have much sin, when you assess your qualification, brothers and sisters, you'll see that a lot of sin has accumulated in your heart. Even if we say that we have lived a perfect life, we actually harbor disbelief and doubts and have complaints against God; we even curse Him. All these things in our hearts are sins. They bring pain to God. That's why, when we look at our qualifications, no one is qualified to receive the blessing. I too would not be able to receive it. We could not receive it. No one could.

One member spoke to me, saying, "Actually I'm not qualified to receive the blessing." She is actually very mature, because she recognizes that the blessing is precious. She understands that she has to grow. This member had spoken to another member, who had advised her that you wouldn't be qualified to receive the blessing from God even if you were to set conditions for thirty, forty or fifty years.

When God gives grace, we have to understand God's heart in giving it to us. We should thank Him and be determined to live for Him. That's being responsible! Taking responsibility for love.

The course of living for God and True Parents isn't just something in the Principle; it's also a responsibility resulting from love. If we receive the blessing with this kind of mind-set, of course we are still unqualified to receive it, but if we are thankful for God's grace and we take responsibility out of love, and set our mind on living for God, that makes it possible to give God joy. If we keep all the laws, we may therefore think that God has to give us everything; that God has to listen to us. It may make us very arrogant, when in fact, none of us is able to follow all God's laws. Fundamentally, as we are unqualified to receive love and grace from God, if we do receive a big blessing and then we thank God and our heart returns glory to God, we won't be trapped by Satan. Satan tells us we are not qualified, which is correct. But Satan keeps on saying to us, "You're not qualified. You're not qualified. You're not qualified!" intending that we will never receive the blessing.

St. Paul points out in the first biblical quotation (Galatians 5:1) that when we receive God's

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1 On the central plateau of present-day Turkey, it was then a Roman province

2 That is, free from Judaic constraints such as Mosaic Law

Photo courtesy of Robert Kittel



A UPF International Leadership Conference (March 29–30) in Davao on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines concluded with the launch of thirty-seven UPF chapters on Mindanao and of the Mindanao Peace Initiative (pictured here). The next day, an estimated 35,000 people took part in the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival, cosponsored by a provincial government on the island.

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Modern-Day Wise Men 31
 As if a gigantic star were shining down on its roof, the spiritually attuned are arriving at the door of one of our smaller churches in Korea. We've never run a story quite like this one.

Photos courtesy of the Korean Culture Department

Cover Photo: Father and Mother at the podium at the Cheongshim Peace World Center, where members assembled on 3.1 (April 21) as Father requested when he called from somewhere over the Pacific Ocean en route to Korea from Alaska. Despite the short notice and steady rain, busloads of the faithful travelled from all parts of the country to fill the large auditorium; **Back Cover:** A view of the event that includes the audience

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Cheongshim Peace World Center Dedication

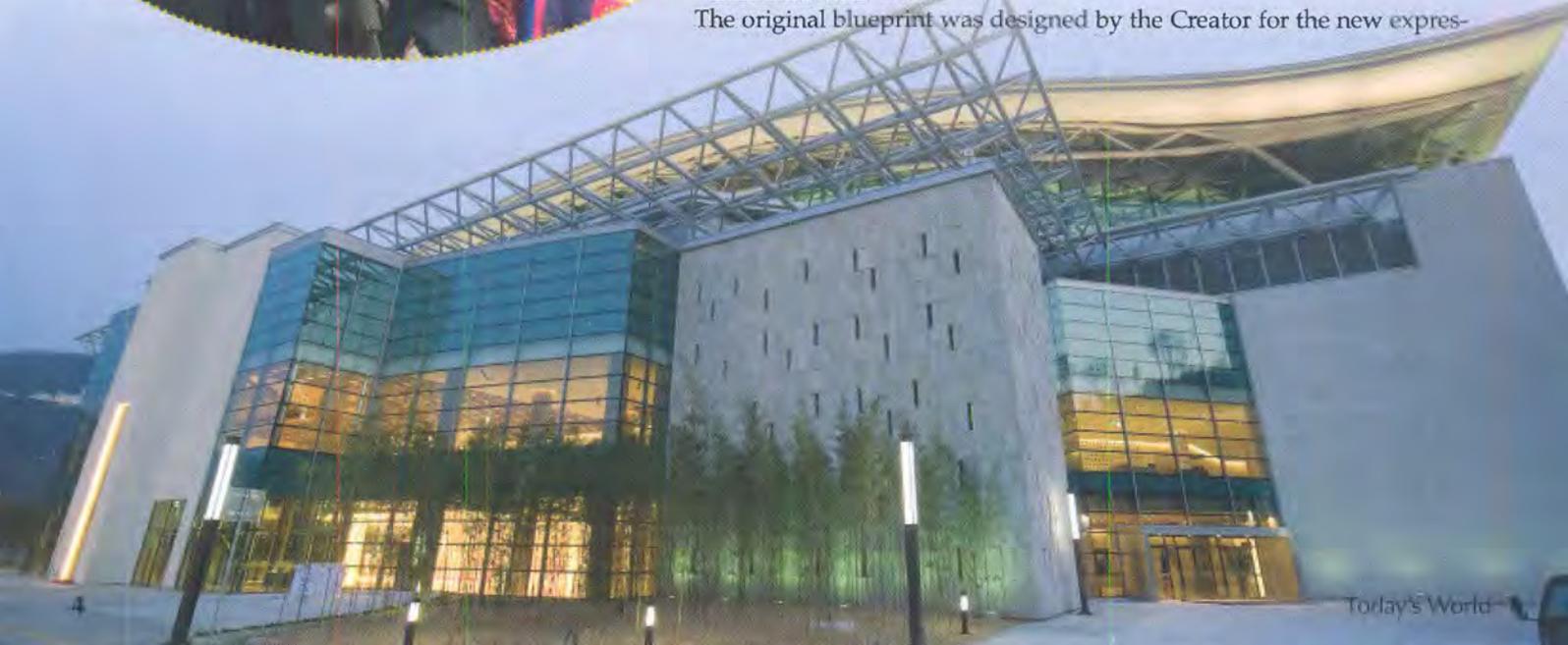
True Parents opened a large auditorium built through donated funds, near the Cheongshim Youth Center, on 3.1 (March 22). We are pleased to bring you parts of the eleven-minute prayer that Father offered at the tape-cutting, plus some brief excerpts from his comments, made before his prepared speech or interjected as he read the speech. The speech text is in blue.

From Father's prayer to dedicate the building, March 22, 2012
Beloved Heavenly Father!

All of heaven and earth, with a united heart, mind and body, have worked to achieve this end and bring this hour into fruition. The Creator of the universe told Adam and Eve at the time of the Creation that when they ate of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, they would surely perish. Centering on the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, we have endeavored to return to their position before the Fall. True Parents have devoted themselves with one heart, one purpose and one love to return to this position, and they were born, raised and made to work to bring this moment into flower. Ninety-three years after the birth of True Parents, on the fifty-third anniversary of True Parents' Day, we have completed and perfected this grand enterprise in Heaven's presence. Before the body and mind were divided, the absolute God planned to realize the ideal of creation in Eden, and began to create the Garden of Eden with the ideal for the future in His heart. Before it could be completed, however, wrong thinking and disobedience led to failure....

In True Parents' names, we should have stood in the original position without the false parents, and the citizens of heaven and earth who were to be raised up on such a broad basis (in a program like a church) should have made the flowers in their hearts blossom and then harvested them. They should have respected the authority of the sole Creator of the entire cosmos and the Parents of Heaven and Earth and offered them more than 3,000, or even 30,000, full bows in gratitude. This land should have become the home of the miracle of their victorious sovereignty. But because of the mistake committed by Adam and Eve, grief and sorrow that had never even been imagined came to us. From that day on, the world of day was taken away from us, and the sky remained dark in a world of night. God, however, shone forth a new light in that darkness, like the light of a firefly, and to light up this vast world with the original light, the True Parents, in place of the false parents, need to complete and fulfill their will....

The original blueprint was designed by the Creator for the new expres-





sion of His triumph, which is this very place closely watched by all heaven and earth, and here our cherished hopes have blossomed into flowers....

After completing and fulfilling the realm of the unity of devoted sons and daughters, we are now in a world of freedom and liberation, and on this day we are all standing before this palace, which You designed. All peoples of the world are praising You in joy, and we are all delighted and glorifying the completion of this Cheongshim Peace World Center. Many blessed families in the spirit world and their descendents on earth are united in celebrating the completion of this center....

We are now preparing for the day on which we can mark the completion of the blessings of liberation and prosperity, and we pray that as we endeavor to finish our work by the set date, we can work together with one heart and one purpose....

For us to prepare our hearts for the day of the fulfillment of True Parents' third Holy Wedding, which is less than a year away, we should remember that we all have the same nationality, and that we are united under the one God.... Before our Heavenly Father, we should forget all our past grief and sorrow and focus on the joyous completion of this central point....

We are making preparations for the day on which You can receive the blessing on the glorious throne of the substantial realm of unity, completion and perfection, so please watch over us, guide us and protect us until that day.

Gathered here are Your blessed children, who are all yearning for the homeland of our hopes, so please shine on us the bright light of the sun of peace, so that we can all enter the fourth homeland of freedom and happiness. On that privileged and triumphant day, please harvest the flowers and fruits that are blossoming based on united hearts throughout all of heaven and earth. This we ask. Please watch over us and guide us until that day....

As we work with the heart of the parents that love God, humankind and all creation, please shine on us the light of glory and protection forevermore until we reach our final destination of completion and perfection. We dedicate this center to You with the heart of True Parents, so please receive it with a joyful heart....

We hope and pray with all our hearts that this place will become the eternal and unchanging place of protection and the royal domain of sacred peace. So Heavenly Father, please receive this. We dedicate it to You in the name of True Parents. Thank you. [Aju.]

Father's Speech

True Parents did not fall away but instead enthroned the God of Night and the God of Day in the position of the God of Night and Day and the king of kings, and now we have ushered in the era of the final conclusion in which True Parents can be perfected and in which their work must be completed.

Therefore, you should respond with "100 percent okay!" to all my teachings. If you say that they're not okay, you won't have any choice but to go to the bottommost pits of hell. When you say "okay," the glory of God will be with you in the kingdom of heaven for generations to come. Saint Paul came to know Jesus halfway through his life and suffered all kinds of hardships for over fourteen years. Yet, in the end, he died, before he could finish his witnessing work. What he came to know after fourteen years of devoted work, traveling across the seas and mountain ranges, was what the fourth dimensional world, the kingdom of heaven, looked like—and that was all.

The realm of the fourth dimension does not require registration, taxes or nations. Why are there so many nations? There are 387 Cain and Abel nations in the world when just one nation would suffice. Of the 387 nations, they have no military secrets or any other secrets about paying taxes and whatnot. They have piles of money as high as Mount Paekdu that they have collected for thousands of years, which are enough to feed and clothe all the poor people in the world, and to share with everyone else in the same class. All such resources, however, are used up and made into trash by Satan and his minions. We have to stop them from doing that. That's all you need to know....

Even if I leave late, I will conclude in no more than an hour and a half, so should you welcome what I say or not? If you welcome it, stand up and clap your hands. [Cheers and applause] No one's sitting down. If you were to sit down, God would not be with you. I've looked on you as families of heaven and earth, the Holy Father, the Holy Son and the Holy Spirit, and I see that there is no one sitting down, so I am truly grateful to you. Now that I have received your greeting, please sit down and make yourselves comfortable....

What are our educational objectives? What are they? What are the three education objectives? [Love God, love humankind and love your country.] What do they say about God? They say to love God, to love people, and to love nature. I've loved nature.

There is not one place on earth that I have not visited. I have had many experiences and have endured more hardships than any of you. I've also been imprisoned and come back from the point of death seven or eight times, but I survived and have come so far in my work, even though I was hounded and hunted like an animal. If you cannot tell if this man standing before you is the Father—whether he is the True Father or the false Father—you should repent with all your heart. You have overturned your nations and the world and will inevitably become newly registered citizens of the kingdom of heaven. I have permitted you to begin now, so start from the beginning.

Mother! Come out here, Mother! Mother! [Applause] We should read this together. Mother will read from page seven to fifty, and I will read from page fifty-one to seventy-four. You cannot hear anything like this in the secular world, and you can learn a lot from what I say.

The title is "The Cosmic Assembly for the Settlement of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind and for the Proclamation of the Word by God's Substantial Self." You should study this diligently. You need to know this; if you don't, you cannot go to the heavenly kingdom. There is Buddhism and there is Confucianism, but they are my disciples. You should check to see if they are, or not. Now then, bearing this in mind, let us begin.

This man is named Sun Myung Moon, and he used to be Yong Myung Moon. I have appeared as a mysterious and puzzling man with some name value who has expanded the ground for the kingdom of dreams, so I hope you will not blush but instead listen to what I say with humility, rediscover your value and reestablish yourselves today.

Everyone! [Yes.] Do you understand? [Yes.] Pay close attention. [Yes.] Then let us begin. The Declaration of the era of True Parents on earth... There have not been any True Parents on earth....

I am conveying the following instructions to the 387 ambassadors of the 194 Abel UN member nations and 193 Cain-type UN member nations, to boonbongwangs and Ambassadors for Peace, to the presidents and national leaders of each nation who are present in Washington DC/New York, and to all of heaven and earth.

This is something the True Parents are conveying for the first time. A new heaven and earth, new followers will emerge. Become well-accomplished disciples. More than that, this is the age for welcoming new, godly disciples. I am speaking of an era without religious, political or economic strife, a new age.

Korea is God's homeland and hometown; because it is True Parents' nation, we should have all the people of Korea take part in these ceremonies [of the Blessing]....

You should not be left out. You may leave if you wish, but this man speaking to you cannot leave, because God is watching over me.

...this proclamation rally being held on the seventeenth day of the tenth month of the heavenly calendar [November 22], in the first year of Cheon-gi [2010], is one of perfecting, completing and concluding the final stages of all the proclamations given in heaven and on earth up until the True Parents' D-day proclamation....

This is the end of things. You may not know it, but the point has already passed. Foundation Day will be upon us in less than a year. You need to accomplish what needs to be done during this period. God does not need 387 nations. We all of one nation, one race, one bloodline and one tradition. We

need to resemble the one bloodline. Those who don't will fall away. What the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind have said are not lies....

Centered on President Myung-bak Lee, who represents the governments of Korea (South and North), which is God's homeland and hometown, former U.S. President George Bush and U.S. President Obama, whose positions correspond to the presidents of the Cain-type UN and Abel-type UN, and all the presidents and citizens who participated in the G20 meetings must unite to bring about the success of these rallies and perfect, complete, conclude and offer them according to True Parents' heavenly decree.

Korea did not accomplish this by itself. God helped it to do so. [Applause] If there is anyone who cannot participate, True Parents will choose their representatives and complete their work.

It wasn't the Korean churches that made Myung-bak Lee president of Korea. He is a public figure that believes in a religion that is of both heaven and earth. If he does not know that it is because of this that he became the representative president of the world, and if he fails to form a direct connection to True Parents—who are the king of kings and True Parents of the religious world—both parties will be in difficulty and Korea will fail to become God's fatherland; and the hometown of Yong Myung Moon, that is, Sun Myung Moon, will move to another nation, because it can be changed. Do you understand? [Yes.] [Applause] The owner will be changed. I can go to live anywhere.

Not long ago, Prime Minister Philip of the Solomon Islands personally visited True Parents. He was deeply moved by God's word, and before he left, he pledged and promised that his nation would become an ally of True Parents.

I don't have a nation or allies. Even though I don't have a nation, I have still followed this path and overcome everything.

The people from these nations will also take part in the cross-cultural marriage blessing on a nationwide scale in order to eradicate the fallen lineage received from Lucifer and inherit the new heavenly lineage.

I cannot bless in marriage those people who do not repent. This is being done in heaven and on earth; why aren't they following that? I don't know why. I will bring them to repentance....

The declaration I am making here in the main palace of Cheon Jeong Peace Palace, positioned at the center of this district, is not a lie. Should I make it, or not? [Make it!] The people who are here, all 27,500 people here, will you cooperate, or not? [We will.] [Applause] If you are going to cooperate, stand up and clap. [Cheers and applause]....

If I give the go-ahead today, I have the power to make people and companies begin to do whatever I want them to do tomorrow. Look at this palace we've built. It was built in Hyundai's name, but we did the actual work. That's all you need to know....

The ongoing project to build undersea tunnels between Korea and Japan and across the Bering Strait, which I have proclaimed to all the world, will be spearheaded by religious leaders on a worldwide scale and completed in attendance to our liberated God.

Even if the world does not help me, I will do it. Has anyone in the world ever helped me? Raise your hand if you have. I have come so far on my own. I've never stolen anything.

In the world, atheism and communism, which deny the existence of God, will be discarded, paving the way to building the world that God originally envisioned, where all people

Cheon Hwa Gung Special Declaration Ceremony

Proclaimed on 3.24 (April 14) at Cheon Hwa Gung in Las Vegas

At the point where the evidently divided internal God and external God are perfectly reunited, Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Moon, who were able to become True Parents in the Garden of Eden with no shadow of the Fall, return to the position at which God said, If you eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you will die.

True Parents teach about purity to not one but tens of thousands of couples, sons and daughters who had been enemies, making them one and then establishing the realm of oneness based on unified families. Welcoming with pleasure heaven's victorious sovereignty and the kingdom of Heaven, all these things that are completed, with Mother as the starting point, centering on True Parents, all descendants of two Adam's families are united. I thank Heavenly Father for all his achievements, for the history of Korean tradition, found in Shim Cheong, Chun Hyang, and Admiral Soonshin Lee, which is able to serve the Original Creator who is divided into the God of Night and the God of Day, and that we can remember and celebrate that such fidelity, loyalty and leadership has been fulfilled, perfected and victorious. I am also grateful for what Mother and Father have done in following God's will. Please accept this moment when all the processes have been clearly set in order in front of Heaven. Please receive this moment, when we can offer a bow to Heaven, with pleasure.

Mother, thank you for your hard work! Please offer a greeting to Father. [Mother bows from the waist to Father.]

I have received a bow by which Mother pledges to fulfill the time-honored principles of True Parents' traditions, which are absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience. From now on we two, as one being, the mother body of the one blood lineage, become the base that can establish the upper and lower, front and back, left and right heavenly pillars. In light of this, please accept, at the heavenly throne, our bow by the two of us who, with our hearts hand in hand, pledge to attend the Absolute Parent, the Original Creator, with gratitude for His grace for the God of Night and the God of Day raising her to the position of perfection, which is the blessing of the perfection of the Parents of Heaven and Earth, the ideal envisaged at the time of the Creation. [True Parents bow from the waist to God.]



Centering on the standard of absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience that stems from our God, who restored the authority of the Creator, I offer in front of You, Heavenly Father, my finally having perfected and concluded the Cosmic Assembly for the Settlement of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind and the Proclamation of the Word by God's Substantial Self. Please receive this! Now True Parents pledge and declare that the blessing of God as the Absolute Lord can be always with us. It can eternally and safely lead the owners of the ideal of the eternally unchanging family that upholds one tradition, one lineage and one resemblance [of God] centering on the original homeland and going beyond the Garden of Eden. Please go along with us while perfecting the kingdom of heaven, the heavenly ideal of unity and the fulfillment of love, which is the eternal victorious supremacy. Please receive this, Father! Knowing what You have permitted, we will receive that; and I pray we can be with you in the place of vertical "noon-time" alignment [that casts no shadow] at the absolute summit. Parents of Heaven and Earth! Mansei for God! Mansei for True Parents! Victorious supremacy will be eternally perfected in Cheon Il Guk, the unified world! Aju, Aju, Aju. Thank you. [All present bow to True Parents.] **STW**

can freely communicate in harmony...

This is not just communication! We will build a world of harmonious understanding. We will begin right away, work all together and finish the work in a few years. Don't think to yourselves that you are the only ones who can finish what you're doing in your individual sectors. When God steps forward, anyone and everyone can do it. We will build a world of harmonious understanding.

A world where all people are equal and all nations become like brother nations to create one family under God is being created right before your eyes.

If you want to participate, participate; if not, don't. I have fulfilled my responsibility. Why are you sitting still? Demonstrate your resolve. [Aju!] Is that "Aju" your resolve? [Applause] Saying "Aju" will suffice! **STW**

Investing for Global Expansion

This is the thirty-ninth installment in our series on Father's life. The series is based on the book series True Parents' Life Course, which was compiled from Father's speeches and published in Korean in twelve volumes. In this installment the year is 1971 and Father is buying land, both in Korea's capital city and in the countryside. He has a grand vision for future development.

God's Day dedication of True Parents' family

I'm going to hold a new registration ceremony for my family in front of God. Because Grandmother Seung-do Ji and other grandmothers who receive revelations have said that this is a joyful day and that we should spend this day dancing, we have made costumes and made preparations to show our joy. Up to this point, I have been unable to register my family's name in front of God. If we want to register our family, we must be a family that can win over Cain-type families.

Through my mobilization order,¹ even though I took away the person you love the most, the person who is the foundation of your heart, your wife, the fact that no one among you opposed me or demonstrated against me is especially wonderful. The fact that centering on the Parents' family, you and I went out to the front line and made a family foundation that enabled us to meet and become one has enabled the condition for a foundation of victory to be established. Through this, for the first time, the condition for True Parents' family to be dedicated to God has been established.

Jesus' birthday celebration at the former Headquarters Church

We celebrate January 3 because we have been told, from the spirit world, that it is the actual day of Jesus' birth. I want you to remember the day we began to celebrate this.² So, now we have a Cain Christmas and an Abel Christmas. [Laughter] This year we have to connect the Cain and Abel Christmases.

1971 is the second year of the three-year period.¹ Because Jesus came to earth as the sec-

1 Father is referring to the three-year witnessing period that all wives have been sent on. (For a testimony from someone who experienced that time as a small boy, see p. 14)

2 In recent years the tradition of celebrating Jesus' actual birthday on January 3 was revived. The occasion was combined with the celebrations for True God's Day and the anniversary of the Coronation of God.

The banner across a street in Busan reads, "Unification Church Grand Revival." It took place at our local church November 21–27, 1971, during a witnessing drive by blessed wives that Father had sent out for three years beginning in 1970.



Photos courtesy of the Korean History Committee



True Parents depart for the third world tour, December 5, 1971. At back is Ye-jin nim and at right is then church president Rev. Young-whi Kim.

ond son in the growth period, the second year of the growth period is very important. The most fundamental reason that Jesus died was that he was unable to find a bride. So, if we want to find a bride for Jesus, who can become his perfect object partner, Christianity and the Unification Church have to be joined centering on the spirit and flesh. For that to be achieved, we must arrange for Jesus to meet his counterpart.

We must relieve Jesus of his bitter pain. In order to dissolve his pain, Christianity has to establish an actual person, a representative, like the Holy Spirit on earth, and connect her to him.... You have to understand that today is the day of an important, new, historic beginning. What is the source of Jesus' bitter pain? It developed because, centering on the restoration of the race and the nation, he couldn't restore the family foundation of at least 120 people and thereby stand in the position of Lord.

Land and buildings as an economic foundation

The Unification Church's time has come, so we must build a headquarters. I have done everything that it was my duty to do. To establish the condition of fulfilling your responsibility, you should prepare a house for me. Before you do that, I must prepare the great foundation that God has planned.

So, at the beginning of this year, I bought land in four areas including on Yeouido [여의도]³ in Cheongpyeong, and for churches. Because we need to establish an economic foundation to restore the four-position foundation, I am gathering all our resources in order to continue this work. We are beginning this project in order to establish the foundation we need in the future for the nation and for the world. We have already finished over half of this beginning stage.

When I consider the headquarters, I should buy a

overcrowding will be a problem. That is what I am thinking.

Unification Church members have to buy the land. Each person should buy one pyeong of land. They must do some kind of business activity or even sell their blood if necessary.⁵ The devoted heart that prepares this money for the land in Yeouido will remain for eternity. We have to enable people to understand that the world headquarters is very important.

The Cheongpa-dong headquarters is not a global one.... A global headquarters must be built in a new place. Because it

⁴ "Pyeong" is among the Korean traditional measurements still in common use. One pyeong (평) is roughly 3.3 square meters. 10,000 pyeong is a bit more than eight acres.

⁵ In past times in Korea, people sold their blood to blood banks.



Freedom Leadership Foundation members (left to right) Jim Cowin and Hal McKenzie visit Korea, September 25, 1971, to discuss the expansion of VOC work in the United States.

³ "Do" means "island" and is traditionally untranslated in this name. It's formed by a branch of the Han River, very narrow in parts, that dips south, parallels the Han for a bit and then returns north to rejoin the Han, thereby creating Yeouido.

has this significance, I have purchased land on Yeouido. I have bought land because we must have somewhere to make a new beginning. Our global headquarters should be there. The land is 360 meters long and 162 meters wide. We have to erect our building there, and when we do it, we will not just build a little house.

Yeouido will become the center of Seoul in the future. With God's help what I had forecast has turned out to be exactly right. A national square will be made in the future, won't it? The fact that the National Assembly⁶ was built in the corner of Yeouido is telling to us to buy the rest. When we bought the land in Yeouido, I gathered hundreds of millions of won over a period of several months and paid each installment in cash. We didn't pay the third installment of nearly 600 million won grudgingly, but joyfully. We bought about 15,000 pyeong but somehow managed to raise the money.

Aid to build churches in the provinces

I gave a little financial support this time in the building of the churches. That is because you all were in the position of having offered your family as a sacrifice. What are we trying to do by offering our families as a sacrifice? We are trying to make the tribal standard. That is the church. The church in the future will become the base with which to connect to other churches. This is why I am giving a certain amount to help the churches in the countryside.

The reason I secured places for you throughout Korea is to uphold our dignity in society. This is not on the basis of it being helpful to you. I am telling you to make the foundation to succeed in building churches that are bigger than the large established churches even if you have to sell the skin off your back. I am not doing this just to help all of you. You must have the right way of thinking.

Religious leaders attend public Divine Principle lectures

This year we gave Divine Principle lectures to more than a thousand ministers of other churches. They were deeply moved and made comments such as, Oh, we didn't know what kind of a man Rev. Moon is.

In the past, they got together to try to drive me out without knowing anything. When they look back now on what they did back then, they are afraid to even recall their past. The fact is that things have changed. The world has changed.

6 Construction began in 1969; the building opened in 1975.

When we told the clergymen to come to the Open Divine Principle Presentation, their superiors sent them official memos telling them not to go. Even though those in high places told them not to go, those on the bottom slipped out one after another. Their bosses sent out official notices once, twice, or three times, and when that didn't work, they decided to turn a blind eye to it. No matter how many official notices they sent out, it wouldn't have mattered. The clergymen came to us and received assistance from us.

Many of them stayed overnight, and they were thunderstruck. When they reflected on themselves, they realized that it was as if they were nothing. They were in trouble, and they bowed their heads in shame. When they first came to one of our churches, their eyes were wide open in amazement, but when they left, their heads were bowed; they had met their match.

We have to continue this work even if it means going into debt. In order for Jacob to subjugate Esau, he offered all the wealth he had worked very hard for for twenty-one years. We should use everything and everyone we have now to work for Korea's sake on the basis of our work with other churches.

Divine Principle lectures for professors

From the beginning of 1970, we started inviting ministers from other churches to Divine Principle meetings and professors to attend Divine Principle seminars at Academy House because I believe this is the time to break through in all directions and connect with the nation's situation.

We are spending a lot of money to have famous university professors research the Divine Principle so that they can offer criticism of it and comment on it in relation to their own fields. We want to make books about lectures quickly. Those who read books that have a renowned professor's stamp of approval wouldn't be able to speak against them. Therefore, we need to hurry to make this type of book. Centering on the extraordinary Unification Principle, we should publish a book within this year, and have it translated into Japanese and English and position it to influence even the leaders in nations across the world.⁷

When a book written by a professor is translated into several languages, it will be a source of pride to the professor who wrote it.

7 Several such volumes were produced, at least in Korean.



The second public presentation of Divine Principle, February 15–17, 1971



Japanese members visiting Korea pass out care packages (here, beef-flavored instant noodle soup) to Korean soldiers.

Three years of prayer and purchasing of the land in Cheongpyeong (1969–1971)

For land to be a good place, it has to be next to a lake or water. But the east coast is too far from Seoul. There are a few cities concentrated on the west coast but the tides are extreme. When the tides go out, it becomes a tideland, a quagmire, which is not suitable. The only large body of water that is close enough to Seoul is Cheongpyeong Lake. After looking around at a place that took more than thirty minutes to get to from the beginning of Cheongpyeong Lake,⁸ I ended up choosing Songsan Village. It is such a beautiful area. I have managed to secure the most beautiful place in the Cheongpyeong area.

The first time I came here and saw this land, I felt that it was a very good place. So, I established myself here and began praying. I have spent my life dedicating myself with complete sincerity, and I began to create a path in prayer. It seems like only yesterday that I went up to the top of a mountain there by myself and prayed.

At that time, the group of tents we had erected became well known. It was thought that people with health problems were coming there to cultivate their minds, or that it was people from Seoul who had nothing else to do but pass the time. It wasn't that. At that time, I was checking out the whole district. Do you think I spent my time fishing? Because we have to acquire the land without spawning rumors, I had already dispatched people here three years ago.

It took me about nine months to buy the land, because I had to buy it from more than a hundred landowners. It took an average of three days to make one contract. No one in the world could achieve such a feat. Do you think they sold those plots easily? When they heard that the Unification Church was buying the land, the landowners said that they would not sell their land for anything less than several times its actual worth.

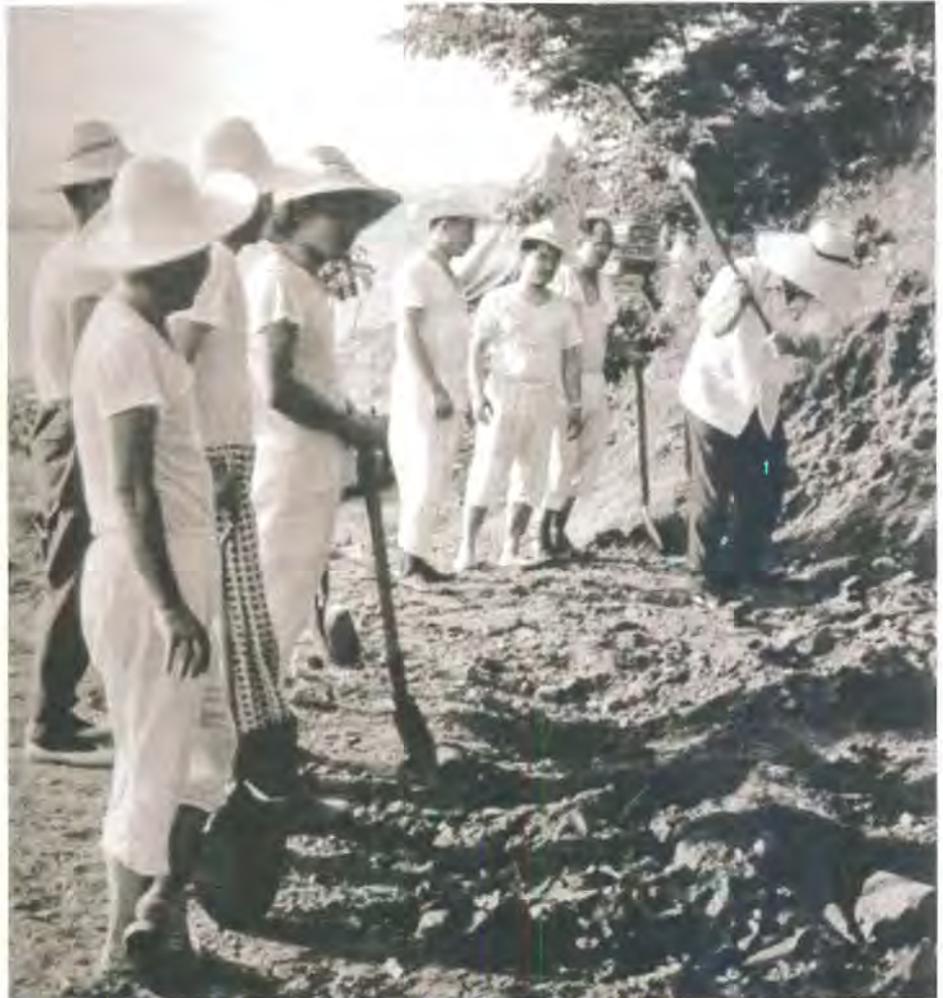
Building the Cheongpyeong training center

The position of assistant district leader was done away with and through this structural reorganization, about thirty people went to the countryside. I called those who had been district leaders to come and start digging the ground in Cheongpyeong.

The people staying in Cheongpyeong prepared the ground, digging for many days, but they still only slept for four or five hours a night. What I am saying is that the course of the Unification Church is one of pioneering. I ordered them to start preparing the ground from the beginning of July, so they started from July 2.

The rainy season had begun and this was a problem. Even though the weather was bad, we proceeded with building, according to plan. Even though it was raining cats and dogs yesterday we had to go out to buy some building materials. To buy the materials I had no choice but to go by boat, and I got thoroughly soaked by the rain. The rain was absolutely pour-

⁸ Cheongpyeong Lake is twenty kilometers long



Father (at right, wielding a pickaxe) breaks the ground for the Cheongpyeong training center, June 17, 1971. A tent is visible in the background.

ing down.

Yesterday, I asked those who had gotten hurt to step forward, and eight out of twenty-six had. A third of the men were injured. I looked at their faces and I saw that none of them was gravely wounded. They had nicked themselves with a pickaxe, or their foot was swollen because it had been pricked with a nail. Yet, they were claiming to be injured and limping around. So I told them that here we needed to have people who were genuinely injured, actually bleeding: "This is a place where indemnity needs to be paid."

Even when the workers were laying stones to make the floor-heating system, I had to coach them. Yesterday, we called some people to dig up well, and they asked me where they should dig. "You've dug wells for decades," I said. "How have you managed until now if you don't know such things?"

Some thought the building would take two months to build, but we completed it in eight days.

When we were tiling the roof with slate, the contractors were supposed to come three days before they did. But the person who was supposed to keep in contact with them had gone somewhere, and the roofing tiles hadn't been put up by the last day. We were in serious trouble. Our church leaders were scheduled to come [for a meeting] on the twelfth. If we weren't finished by then, everything would be ruined. Though the slate seller said he could not give me any tiles unless I paid him, I begged and persuaded him to help me. Then I had to rent a motorboat to deliver the tiles. We finally got them on site at around 2:30 AM. It was too late for the motorboat owner

to go back, so he slept on his boat that night.

When he woke up the next morning, he saw that all the slate had been laid down on the roof overnight. He thought they had been laid temporarily to keep the rain off the roof. He looked closer, though, and saw that the slate had been perfectly put down in a few hours overnight. That's why people called the training center a ghost house.⁹ [Laughter]

The building we erected in Cheongpyeong covers ninety-three pyeong [307 m²]. The hall itself is about seventy pyeong [230 m²]; about two hundred people can sleep in it. We actually finished on July 10, but it took an extra two days to paint. So it took ten days to finish the whole thing but we actually built it in eight days. We held a meeting there on the twelfth and we finished painting on the twelfth. We managed to hold the public opening without any difficulties.

When you look at it closely, you see that it has been colored to fit the landscape. It's a flattish building, and it looks like a religious trainee prostrating himself as an act of atonement. [Laughter]

Cheongpyeong age of prayer and devotion

Every opportunity I get, I visit Cheongpyeong. Not that



Summer workshop on self-improvement for district leaders from around Korea

someone is waiting there for me. No one is. I go there because I miss the place where I endured hardships on the path I pioneered, and also because I miss the fields and mountains, the sound of the wind blowing, and the birdsong. I go there because I miss the feeling of being in contact with the heart-moving world of Heaven through the flowing providence of nature.

Everyone, you miss spring, don't you? When you live through summer and autumn, you come to miss spring. That yearning is something that no one can take away from you until you die. I miss the hours I spent on building a connection to Heaven when I was in difficulty or when I was in meditation while enduring hunger.

Sometimes, when I feel the wind on my skin, it brings perceptions of the past back to the living environment of the present. Whereas in the past, they were motives that propelled me to move forward, in the present they become motives for me

⁹ That is, one built by ghosts

to live everyday life, and Cheongpyeong is the place where that takes place. This is why I like it.

When I am in Cheongpyeong, I don't actually do anything. Some people may say that I have no reason to go there, but do you think so? It's not like that at all. When I go there, I pave the course I need to follow, in my own way. It's a serious task. When you are fighting in a war, carrying a sword becomes a way of life; I need to do that, too. I'm not pursuing my own happiness there.

Not once in my life have I ever thought about how to live in comfort. I never think about how to put nice clothes on my children. I only think about what I should do for the nation and the world.

Visiting the mobilized members

I didn't send you out and then just say "This is great!" and live a comfortable life. In order not to become indebted to you, I traveled to every part of the country this year from January 1 until the end of July.

When I went to those areas and met the women who were witnessing there, they shed a flood of tears when they saw me. Even some of the ladies I used to see every day at the

Headquarters Church and who never used to greet me shed tears because they were so happy to see me. When we see this, we can realize that working for God enables you to meet someone with more joy than you could exchange for gold.

Even though I was the cause of their suffering, they begged me not to go. After this kind of thing, even if I fail, or we all fail, this country will prosper. The tears that have woven the tradition of the Unification Church will cause this race to cry and will melt the hearts of all of humankind.

Forty-day summer witnessing campaign beginning July 20

The husbands must become one with their wives, who are on the front line, and make prayer conditions for them. Be it night or day, in your dreams or even when you're talking in your sleep, you must have the kind of mind that prays to God beseeching Him that your wife can become a victorious daughter who is able to receive God's love. You have to have this kind of mind for these three years. It is

a time of suffering on the family level that you have to pass through with your wife.

Workshops for nationwide church leaders

August 12-18, August 26-September 1, 1971

Tradition needs to be rightly established. If we fail to do that, we will perish. Isn't tradition established in connection to a nation's patriotic philosophy? In that light, this is the only time in which we can establish an ideological tradition. That you have ushered in this era with your wives is truly amazing. It is even more difficult than achieving global unity.

The unification of the world begins right here. Therefore, you can be happier than any other people of any other era. That's the position we're in, and for this reason both sadness and joy can be found here.

Therefore, you should clearly know that it is your mission as Unification Church members, and especially as the leaders of local churches, to have the subjective character by which

you can absorb both sadness and joy.

Didn't I say that we should shed sweat for earth, tears for humanity, and blood for heaven, in the body of a servant and with the heart of a parent? That is what we must do. When the last day comes, you should be able to say, Even if my body crumbles, I have no regrets about having worked for the providence. Even if my hands and feet were cut off and used in whichever way possible, if it is for the providence, I have no regrets.

Blessing of married couples September 12, 1971

The day before yesterday I held a Blessing Ceremony for married couples. An eighty-eight-year-old grandfather was among them but I still blessed him. I asked him, Do you want to get married? He was so embarrassed that he just smiled, unable to speak. He was just like a child. [Laughter]

The grandmother was also embarrassed and she just bit her lips. [Laughter] Even though they were embarrassed, they knew they had to receive the blessing. Old and young alike are extremely serious in that kind of situation. Think about it. If you marry an old person, all you are going to do is take care of him or her. Nevertheless, you do that, run errands for and serve your spouse. If the person loves you, is it good or bad? Even though your spouse interferes in everything you do, the one thing that makes this all right is love. Those of you



First church leaders meeting in Cheongpyeong, August 12–18, 1971, immediately after the training center was completed. The church leaders are standing (with Father and Mother seated) on the stairs down to the boat dock, which are still there today.

here who are unmarried, don't listen when I say such things. [Laughter]

Meeting of the sixteenth group of Sunghwa students October 8–10, 1971

In facing the path we have to take, how can we leave behind a national ideological tradition? That road to restore a nation is a road of hardships, a road on which bloody tears will be shed. The historic, time-honored philosophy of our ancestors

is the starting point... It can be discovered within my lifetime. Six thousand years of history has passed. It was sad history. The story of my life is also sad, but you should create a joyful history centered on me. Until now, I have told you only to work hard; I never told you to eat well and live in comfort, did I? However, the day will come when you can eat well, rest and live in comfort.

The day before yesterday, I selected 142 middle school and high school students as the sixteenth group of Sunghwa students. I called them together and said, All those who want to go out to the front line, raise your hands. I asked each one of them, Will you go or not? I separated out those who didn't want to go and am educating those who said that they would go. We have to make a beginning. That's why they are being educated in Cheongpyeong now. They are doing four hours of farm labor every day, as part of the official course. JW



True Parents at Cheongpyeong in May 1971. Father is holding eleven-month-old Kook-jin nim. The man holding a camera is the then Korean church president Young-whi Kim.

Mommy's Gone

The mobilization of blessed wives as related in True Father's Life Story, this month and last, provides us some sense of the bleak circumstances that the early Korean members suffered through in responding to the Messiah call. We believe readers will value the following account, boyhood memories of the corresponding sacrifice endured by the families that those wives and mothers left behind. The writer's mother is Keum-soon Park. She was blessed among the thirty-six-couple blessing group in 1961 to Chong-goo Park (1939–1982) also known as "Tiger Park," who is remembered beyond Korea for his dynamic leadership of CARP in the United States and Europe 1977–1982.

By Richard Bach

I was a deeply offended—my mommy was gone. True Father had issued marching orders for all blessed wives to go out witnessing for three years, 1970–1972. A corps of blessed wives had assembled and gone to various cities throughout Korea. No provisions were made available to them—just enough money for a one-way bus fare to each person's destination; but I am sure that grim concerns for their safety and health plagued our True Parents' minds and hearts each day.

The mothers among them had taken leave of their young children, some still infants, and joined their colleagues in traveling to remote villages. This must have been a tumultuous year for my mommy, who had just delivered her fifth son (I assure you, I had little say in how many children my parents had). Tiger was one of those husbands who loved his family but was a poor financial planner; he believed in the riches of the promised kingdom and he cared less for his children's welfare than for that of his pupils and fellow teachers.

Tiger looked after us five boys, the youngest being a year old, all in the vocational school he had built for indigent children whose parents could not afford the small administrative fees required at the time. Only two decades removed from the war, Korea was a still a poor country that had experienced decades of colonial rule before becoming a divided nation.

Tiger accomplished it by running a gang of shoe-shiners, consisting of volunteer teachers and young children. He built the school from scratch, by creating his own mold for bricks, with the support of volunteers only, laying the foundation by hand, and brick by brick, the walls were erected without windows, finally resulting in a building that appeared more like a factory than a school.

Those were hard times, when most people made do with what little they had. Mommy



Richard, whose name was then Jin-yong Park, as a toddler, with two of his older brothers, around 1969

Photos courtesy of Richard Bach



Jin-yong and his mother, near the primary school he was attending

recalled an incident during the monsoon season when the roof caved in while all of us were sleeping beneath it. We were terrified when that happened, but Tiger was possessed of the spirit. He took the main beam that held the structure in place and lifted it back up, saving the lives of his mortified children. Those were hard times. The winter months were too hard to bear. We were sleeping on concrete floors with no heat. When mommy took a short leave and visited us during the witnessing campaign, she found us five boys outside, standing in front of a wall, trying to soak up the sunrays, because our bodies had been frozen during the night.

Mommy was determined then to send us boys away, removed from Tiger, where we could at least sleep on a warm floor. I am sure it tore her apart having to separate us boys—some were delivered to our uncles, some to our paternal grandmother. I was one of the lucky ones going to my grandmother's house. My two younger brothers joined me.

As a young boy, five years old, I remember being brought to my grandmother's home in the hills, where there was no running water, electricity only at night, and a dreadful outhouse I was afraid to go to. My recurring dream was of my mommy returning to bring us back home.

I came to love my grandmother and the stench left on her hand from constant smoking. I remember distinctly how she used to stroke my head, soothing me to sleep. Actually, the cigarette smell was comforting, because I knew she was there, watching over me. Her coarse hands were a reminder that however hard the times, most certainly grandmother would not leave me.

But I was deeply offended.

To this day, I abhor taking naps—and I rarely commit to shutting my eyes for even a short duration during the day. You see, I had been fooled into taking a nap. My mommy left me without saying goodbye. I knew instinctively that the adults were talking about something they did not want us to hear, plotting how she would leave us at grandmother's without our noticing her departure. Nevertheless, the long distance we'd traveled and mommy's encouragement were sedatives that induced me to sleep. The watchful eyes of young boys are like that of young chicks, awaiting the comforting brush of their mother hen's warm, soft feathers. This I would not accept; yet, I foolishly trusted my mommy and fell asleep.

I cried and cried for hours. My younger brothers also cried and cried. We did not know our grandmother; she was very much a foreigner to us then.

Mommy senses where she's needed

The second year into the witnessing campaign, our mother felt a strong premonition; she needed to hurry back to see her little children. The pangs of conscience, if you will, or a God-derived instinct forced her to leave her mission for a day and return to Seoul to see us. I could feel her intense emotions and hear a tremor in her voice as she recounted this event to me very recently.

Once in Seoul, she was running—running frantically—at times without direction, as if entangled by a strange spirit. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw from afar a glimpse of her toddler, Jin-hwan, who was then three or four years old, lying in the street, in a fetal position. By miracle, or pure chance, she had found her boy, covered in dirt, having collapsed from exhaustion and gone to sleep in the road. You see, my brother was lost. Grandmother was at work as a seamstress, and no one was at home to take care of us boys.

God had kept her child safe. She carried her toddler, Jin-hwan, back to grandmother's home.

I don't remember the event clearly. I recall being happy to see my mommy and happy to see my brother too. Grandmother said that we didn't recognize our mommy and sought shelter in grandmother's bosom. I am sure that deeply pained our mommy—but we boys quickly forgave Mommy for leaving us; that is, after she offered us sweet buns.

Unificationists wonder sometimes, with stubbornness of heart, whether the sacrifices we make are futile, leaving us with only painful emotional scars. I say that the kingdom is built with sincerity of heart, or at times with blood, sweat and tears—all of which are the true measures of ones who might be accorded eternal happiness. **TW**

True Mother Reflects On Her Time in Japan

From Mother's testimony the day after she returned from her speaking tour of Japan on 2.21 (March 13) at Cheon Jeong Peace Palace



I visited Japan when the nation was in difficulty, both internally and externally. Externally, they had undergone a tsunami and earthquakes, and they also had problems with the nuclear reactors and people were worried. Internally, our Japanese members have also had problems. Our church in Japan dates back over fifty years, doesn't it? [Fifty-two years]

There have been many changes in the global providence in accordance with True Father's work. Among those who have worked at the forefront from the beginning, one church leader, one of the first to receive the blessing, is now over seventy years old.¹ He has cancer in three places in his body, as Rev. Song told you earlier. Because of that, he can hardly move around. Yet he works at the risk of his life, with the resolution to continue working until his dying moment. His son, who is now a church leader himself, has been raised well. His wife takes such good care of her father-in-law that it is beautiful to behold. Her father-in-law sits in a wheelchair, and she takes him anywhere he wants to go and waits on him hand and foot. I thought she was just wonderful.

Wherever I go, I try to see as much of our members as possible, but there are so many places to visit and so many meetings to hold. I heard later that the members asked if I could come to see them every six months. If that seemed too often, they asked me to come to see them at least once a year. I said that that was up to Father, not me, and laughed, but I felt that I had done well to visit them this time.

The message was wonderful, too. At a timely moment, we were reawakening Japan. God was blessing them by giving them this last opportunity to do their best in the providence. I keenly felt that when we offer devotions to God, they help us in the long run, one way or another.

The faith of those members is also very beautiful. I've visited Hokkaido several times; among our members there, is one musical family. When I saw them five years ago, I thought they were quite young, but they have grown up.

The wife sang "Wish to Go" at the party afterward, and she sang it very well. Five years ago, I was told that she had been abducted and confined and had escaped at the risk of her life. As you can see, Japan has many internal and external issues. Even under such dire circumstances, our members are keeping true to their faith and doing their very best. As I looked at them, I wanted to do everything I could for them [Mother holds back a sob], but I had to leave them and come back, Father. [Applause] *TW*

¹ She is speaking about Gentaro Kajikuri, who was blessed among forty-three couples in 1969. He is president of the church in Japan. His son, Masayoshi, is the senior director in charge of providential organizations.

love and grace and offer glory with gratitude and love, it is only when we take action that we will truly find freedom. If I think that because I kept all the laws I could receive the blessing, therefore I am worthy of receiving Father's grace, that is arrogance. In such a case, I will inevitably be distant from Father forever.

However, even if I kept all those laws, I am not qualified to receive this great blessing, or have a lovely wife and family. But, although I am not qualified, God gave these all to me. Therefore, I deeply thank God and must live for Him, taking responsibility based on love. I think that having a heart like that is very important. If we have such a heart, our relationship of heart with Father becomes closer.

When I was young, I liked martial arts very much. When I was a high school student, I concentrated on martial arts. As a result I wasn't affected by the party and drinking culture. From that point of view, at that time, martial arts saved me.

In a recent interview in Korea, one reporter asked me, "What kind of martial arts do you like?" I replied that I had done many kinds; that I had done Kendo, and so forth. However, if it came out that the Unification Church international president practiced full contact fighting style martial arts, or Jujitsu, with its choking techniques, some people might have disapproved. But I did those kinds of martial arts—combat style, Muay Thai (kick boxing), boxing, Jujitsu, wrestling. As a religious person, I wondered if I should be doing such strong martial arts. While I was doing my church leader duties over three years, I didn't put on any demonstrations although I had plenty of opportunities. I was thinking, What if people misunderstand it?

I continue practicing during my meditation time, even as I attend True Father directly these days. As you might have noticed, these are real martial arts and may look quite fearsome or merciless. However, I believe that everything depends on the purpose for which one uses these skills.... As you know, I was doing church ministry for three years. I have always tried to be kind and caring and to behave as a gentleman, as a mature person. That all takes effort. If you do that, it doesn't mean you can't do martial arts, it simply means you don't show it off. A true martial artist practices to control not only his body but also his heart, mind-set and emotions.

That is why I think meditation practice is important for training the mind and heart. I always tell our hoonsanim³ that they are practicing the most difficult martial art—offering jeongseong, fighting every day for mastery of the mind. That is the highest level.

Why would I say this now? Because even though I have benefited a lot not only from the exercise but also spiritually from this kind of training, I felt I could never speak to members or the public about my involvement with martial arts. I worried about how people in society would see me. After giving a demonstration of my skills in front of True Father, at his request, on Geomun Island, he asked me to repeat that demonstration every day.

I asked Father repeatedly not to make me do it. My point was that a true martial artist would never show off his skills. However, True Father's reply was "Don't say that!" He never changed his stance on that. He asked me to do a public demonstration in Korea. I had no choice but to follow Father's direction.

Yet, actually, Father liberated me. He said that in order to bring great blessing to the Wongsu Peace Cup, I should give a

³ The church leaders at Cheon Bok Gung who have this title practice a rigorous daily regimen of spiritual training.

martial arts demonstration. So we made a demonstration video and showed it to Father. Father was very happy and said we had done a great job.

Through this experience, I had a deep realization. Oh! If someone trusts and believes in True Father, he or she will be liberated! I never intended to show my skills to anyone. I thought I could not go public with my involvement with martial arts, but Father pushed me, and he challenged me as to whether I was going to have faith in him or not. Because Father pushed me and because I followed the direction he gave—although at first it was difficult—I found I was attaining new freedom for myself. I was able to reveal something I had been hiding, and I can do it now with a new sense of responsibility because True Father allowed me to make my skills public.

It is not for the sake of showing off or of learning something to oppress those weaker than yourself that you would train your body. It is with the objective of growing to maturity and in order to train the mind through meditation. It is for this reason that I realized that if one trusts and believes in True Parents, he will find freedom. True Parents know us better than we know ourselves.

All this is related to the themes of having a strong fatherland, a strong Abel UN and to the Pacific Rim era. True Father urges us to witness to our families and become tribal messiahs. In fact, not everyone is willing to do that, but if we think about establishing the Abel UN, we cannot make excuses just because it is difficult to do.

I feel very strongly that for us actually to be able to establish the Abel UN, we need to be strong, not in a sense that we should flex our muscles; we should be humble but strong at the same time. Only under those circumstances can Abel and Cain unite. As you know from Divine Principle, only on the foundation of unity between Cain and Abel can the Messiah establish a worldwide foundation.

The regaining of strong homelands that are not suppressed by anyone will be necessary for the establishment of the Abel UN, and this is going to be decisive in the realization of world peace. If we look back at the history of warfare, we see that Abel-type nations won because they were strong, not when they were weak. The United States, Great Britain and others were strong enough to confront the Soviet Union and that is why they won. It was not through being weak.

President Reagan was gentle but pursued strong policies. In order to win over the Soviet Union, which was manufacturing fearful weapons, the United States did not give up its own weapons. On the contrary, Pres. Reagan announced that the U.S. would make more dreadful weapons than those of the Soviet Union. Reagan proved historically that one does not obtain power in order to use it.

Abel needs to be strong not to be able to exercise this power or show it off, but because Abel needs this power to control Cain's bad character, which seeks to dominate weaker people. After gaining control over these things, Abel can open the way to the next stage of peace, which is achieved through communication. Power is not acquired just to be used. However, it can be used if one is being attacked; people can defend themselves. But it should never be used to oppress people.

Precisely for this reason we need to become strong Abels. Also, establishing the Abel UN is because Abel-type nations must realize world peace in the face of the rising power of strong Cain-type nations.

If we trust True Parents' great wisdom, as we create a strong homeland and establish the Abel UN, and work to realize world peace, we will see the dawning of True Parents' era of eternal peace and prosperity for all. **97W**

Blessing Raises Hopes for a Peaceful Society

By Robert Kittel



Photos courtesy of Robert Kittel

The front cover of the program for the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival in March



UPF officially partnered with the government of Sultan Kudarat Province¹ to hold the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival on March 31, 2012 at the provincial gymnasium. An estimated 35,000 people came. According to Cathy Trinidad, the chief of staff for the governor of Sultan Kudarat, 16,000 people filled the gym and another 19,000 people remained outside.

What drew so many people? Simply put, it was our True Parents' teachings. Our brothers and sisters went out to teach the Divine Principle. Regional president Dr. Chung-shik Yong emphasized that this was not an "event." Success would not be measured by having a full gymnasium. Instead success would be measured by having people understand the Principle and on that foundation come to the peace blessing.

Unique to Mindanao, the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival itself was to be the basis to solve a major social problem. To address the current hostility and conflict between ethnic and religious groups, UPF would conduct a celebration to develop good character in young people, strengthen the family and promote sexual purity. In other words teaching the Principle and holding the Blessing Ceremony would be used to build peace in Mindanao. It would start in the family.

Signing a peace accord is actually only the cessation of war. The Peace Blessing Festival, on the other hand, allows people to express a personal responsibility to bring genuine peace. Peace is not something other people do. It becomes the responsibility of each person.

Teams were set up across the island of Mindanao. In order for the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival to become a foundation to expand our movement throughout Mindanao, these teams brought people to the blessing from all parts of the island. Naturally, though, there was a concentration of manpower in and around Isulan, the capital city of Sultan Kudarat.

The spiritual world could not help being inspired and therefore mobilized to help the members who thought hoondokhae was the best condition to offer.² While moving from one place to another, members took every single opportunity to do hoondokhae, even on the buses they traveled in.

The Philippines movement developed an educational package consisting of a one-day and three-day program. The Five Principles of Peace advocated by UPF were used as the framework to teach all of the Principle of Creation. The next lecture was the Human Fall, followed by Restoration and finally the Meaning of the Blessing. One specially developed presentation explained "Why a Government Would Support the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival." After these presentations, people were invited to apply to participate in the Blessing Ceremony.

One of the educators described his experience in this way:

Everywhere we go, people are responding with enthusiasm and inviting us, imploring us to come. We were invited to schools, universities and colleges, women's groups, to meet religious leaders, politicians, media people, the staff from Sultan Kudarat Province, governors, mayors, district leaders... We were invited to teach graduating students at three Sultan Kudarat State

1 One of eighty provinces, it is named after Sultan Mohammed Dipatuan Kudarat, who ruled the Sultanate of Maguindanao (1625–1671).

2 For more on this intense reading condition, after free registration, read "Exposition of the Divine Principle Experience in Asia" at <http://www.lovinlifeministries.net>



Some 16,000 people filled the gymnasium for the Blessing Festival—and even more were outside.

University campuses. Students and teachers were deeply touched by the power and clarity of the Principle. Even at the lunch break during one presentation, faculty members organized programs on another campus with six hundred students.

The provincial government committed itself fully. They took responsibility for food and transportation. In areas our teams did not cover, or were not permitted to go, they mobilized people. Datu Pax Mangudadatu (father of the governor and a former governor himself)³ was interviewed on radio and television. They placed advertisements in the local papers and electronic media outlets, but he told his staff, “We must put the ads in the Manila papers too. Only then can we get national coverage and impact this whole nation.” Of course, this cost more money, but they did it.

At one point, we encountered a serious challenge. The Catholic archbishop of a neighboring province issued a pastoral letter telling people not to attend the blessing. Apparently this letter was sent to all the Catholic churches in Sultan Kudarat.⁴ A report from a team leaders read, “In Esulan [a municipality near the capital] they had planned an educational program but no one showed up. Now people are afraid.” In another place, our members were no longer welcomed.

The title of the letter was Circular: On the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon. Parts of the letter, which was addressed to Beloved People of God, read:

Let me warn all Catholics about the general nature of the

³ See our September 2011 issue (page 26) on a remarkable joint interfaith effort between the provincial government and UPE, made possible in large part because of Datu Pax Mangudadatu’s benevolent support.

⁴ The province has at least ten Catholic churches.

Unification Church and some of its beliefs and practices...

- [Sun Myung Moon’s] church is religious-based but has great influence in politics and vast business holdings in various countries...
- The Unification Church believes in the Bible but its interpretation differs from that of the Catholic Church.
- Moon claimed the following: “(God) gave me the qualification to be the Savior, Messiah and returning Lord, and the True Parent who appears in the world as the substantial body of God Himself.”
- The Blessing Ceremony of the Unification Church is the rite of marriage performed by a Unification Church minister... It is connected with the doctrine of original sin.
- Therefore on behalf of safeguarding your Catholic faith, faith in Jesus, our Lord and Savior, whose return of Second Coming we still await, I, as Archbishop of Catobato, prohibit you, especially our lay leaders, from participating in the ceremonies of the Unification Church.

Datu Pax took a strong position. He said, “People will misunderstand us in the beginning. We are doing something that is impossible. It’s never been done before. Later they will come to understand. But what we are doing is absolutely right and needed. We must find a way to unify religions. God called Father Moon to do this.”

Datu Pax then issued a letter entitled Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival: One Family Under God, which read:

The Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival on Saturday March 31, 2012 is cosponsored by the provincial government of Sultan Kudarat. It is not the celebration of one religious

tradition. It is a recommitment of marriage and family, which are institutions held sacred by Christians, Muslims and Lumads.⁵ Prayers from many religions will be offered.

In this age, when there is so much confusion about marriage, family and human sexuality, as people of faith, especially as people of the book, we must work together on this common ground. No single religion is strong enough to stand against this tsunami of immorality sweeping our world today. God is using the Universal Peace Federation, a UN-affiliated NGO, to bring us together on this issue. Let's stand together for the sake of our family, for the sake of our children and for our nation.

A group of religious leaders went to meet the archbishop. He said we should have informed him earlier. He did not know the program was cosponsored by the government. In the end said he would pray for our success!

Some other churches also opposed us; even Islamic leaders started raising their voices. At this point, tensions grew and the situation became very serious, even dangerous.

From secondhand reports, we heard that Datu Pax had received death threats. He became concerned about the foreign members living and working in Sultan Kudarat and called all of them to the Governor's Palace and told them to stay there. They were not to go out without an escort. He also placed two armed police guards at the front gate.

Datu Pax personally visited many groups and conducted a radio campaign. In one live interview, he said:

We are not speaking of an alternative religion here, but only of the unity of religions. Believing in God is the first qualification.

We are showing that "right" does not come by having the biggest missile, but by living for the sake of others, by serving humanity as one family. Let's love each other. I'm grateful to UPF. I'm grateful to Father Moon, who founded UPF and has invested so much into it. He is appointed

⁵ The largest indigenous group on Mindanao.



Kook-jin nim brought his Strong Korea message to the International Leadership Conference in Davao City, Mindanao, which took place prior to the Blessing Festival.

by God. Otherwise, he could not do this. His religion... that's his. But he is working for the unity of religions...to prove that God is greater than any human being. Why did God create religion? So that we all become good and avoid evil. We have different roots but the same destiny. There are apprehensions that there will be conversion in this festival. No conversion. Only transformation. I will resign if there is conversion. I invite everyone to attend the March 31 event. It is purely a unification of religions to combat what is happening in the whole world.

In the end the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival was an overwhelming success. Datu Pax turned the tide and gave people confidence to attend the festival. At least 35,000 came, according to government estimates. Even after the Blessing Ceremony, people were still coming to the gymnasium. Because of limited vehicles, several trips to shuttle the people to the festival had to be made.



The launch of UPF chapters around the island of Mindanao, in the Sultan Kudarat provincial capitol. Representatives from all thirty-seven new locations attended.

Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival: The Ceremony

Young, unmarried people had been invited to a pre-program. Through lectures that included quotations from religious scripture of many faith traditions, they were taught about the importance of purity before marriage. Then they were asked to make the Pure Love Pledge publicly, which they did.

After this, the meaning of the Holy Juice Ceremony was explained and couples were invited to share one cup of juice to symbolize the renewal of their commitment as eternal partners and the beginning of a new family. Then the official ceremony began.

It was a magnificently beautiful atmosphere. Heaven opened. Hearts were changed. The ceremony was conducted by Heavenly norms and modeled after the event that had been held in Korea a few weeks earlier. In fact, the benediction prayer was Father's eleven-minute prayer in Korean. It was telecast on the jumbo LED screen with Father's voice echoing in the gymnasium and to the overflow crowd outside through the PA system.

Datu Pax was the first to give congratulatory remarks. He began by telling the crowd that "husbands and wives are here today to renew our wedding vows because of a big mistake that Adam and Eve make at the very beginning." Here are some highlights from the rest of his remarks:

"Father Moon is from Korea and we are so grateful God sent us such a man to bring unification among religions."

"I've longed to fulfill a dream. I had a dream in 1991 and heard God. I wanted to propagate the true meaning of Islam and bring harmony among the Muslims, Christians and Lumads."

"This event, the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival, should awaken us. Nothing is impossible if we believe in one God."

"UPF is the best organization I have ever joined in my life. UPF allows us to see eye-to-eye. We can learn to love and understand each other as brothers."

Datu Pax concluded by proclaiming that "we are here to renew our wedding vows together, and this will be a witness to the world!" He was talking about the fact that Christians, Muslims and Lumads, who had been fighting and even killing each other, could join in one celebration honoring marriage and family. The spirit was truly that of one family under God.

TESTIMONIES

Umberto Angelucci (Italy)

One hundred and fifty members, from the Philippines and other countries, were mobilized to support this event. We all did hoondokhae at 5 AM, and then went out to give God's word to families and individuals, trying to convince them to come to a three-day Divine Principle seminar. Members lived in rented houses and adapted themselves to very humble circumstances—sleeping on the floor, eating simple food, focusing on offering the best jeongseong (conditions) to support our True Parents' desire to give the blessing to the entire world. We all united under the guidance of our continental director Dr. Chung-shik Yong and with the full support of our John-the-Baptist figure, Datu Pax Mangudadatu, we challenged all the difficulties we encountered along the way.

The event drew all types—national political leaders, religious leaders and couples that believe in local religions. There were Christian couples, Muslim couples, even single university students making their pledge of purity and resolving to achieve ideal families in the near future. It was a very mystical experience. Participants experienced God's love and many shed tears of joy.

Maria Elena Romano (Philippines)

Town mayors welcomed us and sent letters to the leaders of the barangays (local districts) explaining that we would visit them. We showed "Why the Government Should Support the Blessing Festival," a video about the importance of establishing ideal families, to the employees of many different organizations. In the city where Datu Pax's daughter is the mayor, they said, You have given us a big headache—we have to find 7,000 chairs for the event! But they said it was a happy problem to solve.

When persecution came, Dr. Yong advised us to keep going, saying that our members' dedication would overcome opposition. Our members' dedication did move people and the persecution melted away.

Many more people came than we expected. A good number, perhaps 80–90 percent, were Muslims. Former governor Datu Pax is himself a Muslim. Many of Mindanao's native Lumad people also came.

Every day, the mobilized members held seminars to explain the Principle. Now our members are recontacting those who participated and teaching them further.

Constance Gabb (United States)

While I was sick during the winter, I had a dream of True Father. I was sitting in what looked like a typical Christian church. Father was standing beside me, looking straight ahead at the altar. He said in a loud voice, "Just do it." I looked up at him and responded, "Do what?"

Ma. Elena Romano at the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival on March 31





Presenting the autobiography to Florante Agduma, mayor of Lambayong, are volunteers (left to right) Connie Gawec, Constance Gabb, Shanti Iwata and Vilma Calma.

Father said, "Witness!" Then he disappeared.

Later we heard the call for members to volunteer to invite couples to attend a blessing festival in Mindanao, in the Philippines. I spent eighteen days there.

We wanted to witness. We wanted to be on the ground. First, we joined a mobilization team in Tacurong City, close to the event venue. From a house the Philippine church had rented, we canvassed the neighborhoods. As volunteers we went to Christian and Muslim communities teaching principles of peace in churches, universities, schools, hospitals and municipal buildings. People became so inspired that they gladly filled out applications to attend the Blessing Ceremony.

We gave *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* to imams, to priests, to government officials, to presidents of universities—it was fantastic. They were so gracious.

In the city of Lambayong. A Filipina sister, Connie Gawec, made an appointment with the mayor, Florante Agduma. We presented him with Father's autobiography. The next day I gave a presentation on the Blessing Festival to Mayor Agduma and his staff. He invited us to go to all his offices and share the information the next day.

It was like a miracle. Wherever we went people stopped what they were doing to listen to our short video presentation and announcement of the festival. We passed out application forms for them to fill out.

Every door was opened to us. We spent the whole day there. We were inviting married couples, although the single men and women were also encouraged to come to the event to pledge their purity.

The Holy Spirit was everywhere. I have never seen anything like that in all my life.

Rene Lansangan (Philippines)

We had a good partnership with the government. They protected us and encouraged us to march forward no matter what happened. I was interviewed twice by Radyo Natin [the largest radio network in the Philippines]. I presented and promoted UPF's five principles of peace during an hour-long program, and had the opportunity to answer their questions about

UPF and the Unification Church.

Leading up to the event we were very nervous and tense. Supposing participants don't come? We kept on praying that we could offer victory to God and True Parents. As I prepared to go to the venue on the day of the blessing festival, I saw many people coming to our event and also many police and military personnel securing and maintaining peace and order. It was an amazing sight. Policemen and soldiers told us they were amazed at our event and that it was their first time to secure such a big crowd. They informed us that for almost a week the province had had a zero crime rate because the people are very excited to have lasting peace in Mindanao.

Shanti Iwata (Malaysia)

We were in an area where there has been conflict between Muslims and Christians. Rarely had they seen foreigners before. It made an impression.

We went to two universities. The Sultan Kudarat State University gave its graduating class the gift of a one-day Divine Principle seminar. Dr. Robert Kittel and Dr. Elias Soria were among the presenters. Constance Gabb and I were there too, representing the women's side. They were happy to see women involved! Many students gave us their e-mail addresses.

It is always very energizing when a group of people works together on a specific daily task. If everyone offers the same jeongseong together, the atmosphere becomes lighter and results start pouring in. This is what I experienced. It would be nice if such a beautiful spirit of working together for witnessing—not only when we prepare for an upcoming event, but on a regular basis—could spread throughout the world.

Tsang-Hsin (Taiwan)

Through this mobilization I could observe and understand the Filipino lifestyle. I was very inspired by their passion and by the smiles on their faces. I could feel their heart. They always welcomed us into their homes. I can't speak their language, or even English. I told myself to forget about language. Just love everyone. **TW**



Mobilization team members with 120-day workshop leader Umberto Angelucci (in yellow) at a house from which they conducted the campaign.

Beyond Previous Limits through Lovin' Life

Desiring to understand more about Lovin' Life Ministries' creative approach to and effect on witnessing and empowering members, Today's World interviewed its director of education and ministry development, Heather Thalheimer.



Heather Thalheimer

Today's World: Now that a few years have passed, what effect has Lovin' Life Ministries had on the American movement?

Heather Thalheimer: Lovin' Life Ministries¹ has catapulted us into the twenty-first century. There is a song we often sing at church called, "With Everything" by the Hillsong Band. My favorite lyric is, "to be the church that You would desire." For me, Lovin' Life Ministries is the church our Heavenly Parent desires because it is bringing life all across America. It's touching the hearts of brothers and sisters, especially our young people through inspiring, contemporary music that is a prayer to the soul and thought provoking messages that are relevant and equip us for the coming week, so we can build a life we love.

Through In-jin nim's leadership, we focus on sharing the breaking news² and growing our church. When Hyung-jin nim came to America, he emphasized being proud of being a Unificationist and sharing about who True Parents are. For a long time in America, we had been debating about how to witness. Do we go in soft, share ideas from the Divine Principle, maybe introduce the Divine Principle and then speak about True Parents? Or do we start with True Parents, explaining who they are and the salvation they offer? Because of persecution in the past, I think we have been shy about doing that, and because of that shyness, we couldn't actually be who we are. So, under Hyung-jin nim's and In-jin nim's leadership, we are emphasizing that we are proud as Unificationists.

Twenty years ago, there was no internet. Nowadays, everyone has a cell phone, and everyone is sitting in workshops and events, tweeting, texting, communicating. We're living in a time when it's impossible to withhold who you are; so it's very important to be proud of who you are. We need to be up-front and share the breaking news. I think that when we do that, people naturally respond, because there's integrity there.

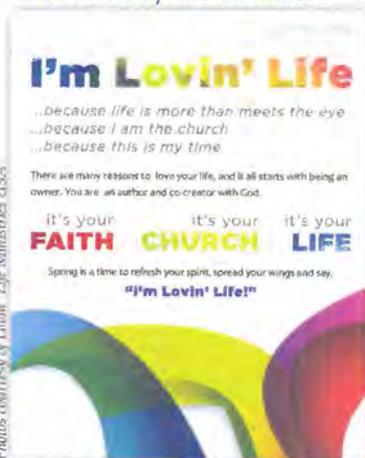
We've had incredible experiences at Lovin' Life Ministries. I feel that In-jin nim is teaching us how to witness. In her sermons, she sometimes tells stories about sharing the breaking news with people. We'd lost touch with how to share about True Parents, but she does it so naturally. Sometimes she'll start talking about True Parents in the Sunday service, and then our own members worry. What will the guests think? My personal experience is that the only ones not okay with this are the long-time members! New people hear what they need to hear. They tend to only understand as much as they can understand, and if they don't understand, they ask questions. "The pastor was talking about 'true parents'—what does she mean?" Then you have an opportunity to discuss that with them and help them understand what we mean when we say messiah and True Parents. This is where you can introduce them to the opportunity to study the Divine Principle. I love the way Kook-jin nim witnesses as well. He never misses an opportunity to share the breaking news. Because he is so comfortable with his own faith, he testifies naturally to True Parents. True Children are helping us find a deeper faith and confidence in who we are.

In-jin nim never compromises the breaking news; she's always testifying to True Parents, but in a way that people can understand. Another thing is that she's never too shy to talk

1 From the LLM web site (www.lovinlifeministries.org): "We are a contemporary ministry of the Unification Church. Launched on Easter Sunday 2009, our goal has been to reach the lives of a new generation in America. Today, Lovin' Life is simultaneously broadcast to over one hundred locations across America, unifying the thousands that attend services each weekend through the power of one heart, one voice, and one message. We are a faith that has something new to offer; our message is contemporary because it speaks to how God is working in the world right now. Those who hear our message, regardless of whether they were raised with religion or not, feel refreshed and discover a new relationship with God."

2 In-jin nim began a practice of using the term "breaking news" as a pun on the term "good news" (the literal meaning of "Gospel"). Whereas Christians proclaim the good news of the advent of Jesus Christ two thousand years ago, the breaking news conveys the excitement of proclaiming True Father as Christ and True Parents as the fulfillment of Christ's mission on earth today.

A feature of Lovin' Life Ministries is its creative approach to outreach, as evidenced by this handout.



Photos courtesy of Lovin' Life Ministries USA



True Parents came to one of the early Lovin' Life services in 2009; With Father and Mother (holding Shin-kook nim's hand) and Lovin' Life Ministries' senior pastor Rev. In-jin Moon are: (far left) three of In-jin nim's children, Ariana (Shin-sun nim), Shin-yul nim, Shin-pyung nim; (with In-jin nim) her sister Jeong-jin nim, and sisters-in-law Hoon-sook nim and Yeon-ah nim.

about issues like human trafficking and the challenges families face.

After every sermon I speak with the new members, and they are amazed because In-jin nim's sermons are so relevant and touch on real issues in their lives. They make comments such as, It's amazing; I never imagined church could be relevant, and I need this in my life.

Her focus is that we need to understand how to apply the Divine Principle. We need to know how to transform our own lives, our families and our society in order to build the kingdom of heaven.

The members in our church are so committed to the ideal—they talk about it and raise their children with it. However, as these children grow up, they realize that we're not perfect or ideal, and that creates a disconnect that causes them to question their faith. They wonder why we have not realized all the things we teach about. I think In-jin nim is trying to help

us recognize that growth is a process and takes time. Yes, our families aren't ideal but our Heavenly Parents³ gave us the family that He and She did so that in learning how to deal with the relationships that we have, we are able to mature ourselves and ultimately inherit the true love of God. In-jin nim's mantra is my family is an "ideal family" because it is the one that "I deal" with and grow through.

In-jin nim and our brothers and sisters in America are committed to sharing the breaking news but also want to help people transform their lives through their relationship with the True Parents, which requires an education process; it's not a one-time event. We have to provide education so that we can grow in our understanding and develop a real relationship with the True Parents.

³ That is, God as the harmonious union of masculinity and femininity



Left: Lovin' Life Ministries uses music as a form of prayer, but you can keep your eyes open, smile and dance; Right: The younger set cheer for the Lovin' Life band, Sonic Cult, at the "Autumnfest" Halloween costume party in Las Vegas last November.

In this way, we will begin an electronic church. I have a plan underway to witness through broadcasting. Nowadays, people do not want to go to church; they want to stay at home, but they still want to worship if they can. In the United States, I have already invested a million dollars in the Manhattan Center to make a good studio. We will show good musical performances together with a good sermon, for an hour or half an hour, and distribute tapes of this performance all over America and the English-speaking world, both on television and radio.

Then no one will have to go to church! Our sermon will be a hundred times better. We will ask people to send contributions, so that we can make more tapes. Now we are making investments, but later we will be making money. Then we will build our own broadcasting station. The day for just building a church is already past.

You will have a direct connection with this project. When your performance is successful, you will become an important part of the electronic church. We need many band teams, even as many as forty. Each team will make live video recordings that will introduce you to the public and to the television stations. If you are selected to perform twice-yearly, that will be enough to pay your way.

In this way, the broadcasting providence can be expanded to all different countries. As our standard goes up and our spirit becomes greater, I would like to add dancers to the groups. This will be a hot thing. Now we are beginning to organize this spiritually. After England is organized, then France, Germany, Italy and Spain will all organize their own teams. We will go on, and become very active in this way. The band will also be a good recruiting station. The best people will be picked up to play for the New York City Symphony. You know we have our own performing center in the Manhattan Center, once a famous opera house that we are now restoring.

We are opening up a new age, where we are witnessing to the truth with music. People don't have to come to church to hear the truth. They can watch television and listen to the radio and become Unification Church members. Nowadays, music often has no life to it. But when people hear your spirit-filled music more than three times, they will not be able to stop. They will want to hear more and more and they will want to come to your lectures.

¹ From a transcript of the speech, "The Go World Brass Band," which Father gave at Cleeve House in Wiltshire, England, while he was launching the home church providence. This extract is from the consecutive translation by Col. Sang-kil Han.

How do you help someone build a relationship with True Parents? These days it is difficult to meet them face to face.

We share who True Parents are. We invite people to church and they enjoy Sunday service, and through this they hear a lot about True Parents and become curious. As they get to know us more, we introduce them to the Divine Principle. They enjoy being a part of our community, getting connected, developing friendships and learning the Divine Principle, even prior to membership. We don't want them to join the church without knowing who we are and what we believe, though it's not essential that they believe True Parents are the Messiah right away. We recognize that it takes time for a true understanding of True Parents' value to develop in a person's heart.

There comes a point when they ask, "How can I become a member of this church?" And that's when we introduce them to the membership class, where we share with them the basics. The most important thing we ask of them in the membership class is to commit to five spiritual practices: Inspire (go to church on Sundays), Empower (commit themselves to

studying the Divine Principle and learning), Connect (develop sincere relationships with brothers and sisters at church), and Contribute (invest in the community—tithing, donating, volunteering, and so on).

We don't have a faith test, such as Do you believe in True Parents? Instead, we say, Are you committed to Inspire, Empower, Connect, Contribute, and Inherit? Because if you are, incredible things are going to happen in your life and God is going to speak to you. He will be able to guide you into the understanding that you need. The exciting thing about making a commitment to our Heavenly Parents is that He and She are right there ready to respond and encourage you on your faith journey to inherit the true love of God.

If people in the membership class are hesitant, we advise them not to worry. If they are ready to make that commitment, they can join. If not, they can continue to come to church and enjoy our community. There is no pressure to join. They are encouraged to join when they are ready to make a commitment to God and to themselves.



Left: Lovin' Life Ministries assistant pastor Rev. Joshua Cotter speaks at Junction, the New York City mid-week interactive service for young people; **Middle:** Young pastor couples such as Cliff and Tiff Gaines are supporting the growth of Lovin' Life Ministries around America; **Right:** Bishop Jessie Edwards raises the spiritual atmosphere at a Lovin' Life Ministries service.

I also think it important that the church provide a commitment to new members. We cannot ask them to attend Sunday service (Inspire) if we're not committed to putting on a great Sunday service every single week. And under In-jin nim's leadership you know Sunday service is going to provide great music, an inspiring message that's meaningful and a powerful experience. And if they genuinely invest in that experience, God is going to speak to them every single week. If we ask them to learn (Empower) we need to be offering seminars, learning opportunities, small study groups, and so on. We, as a church community, have the responsibility to provide that.

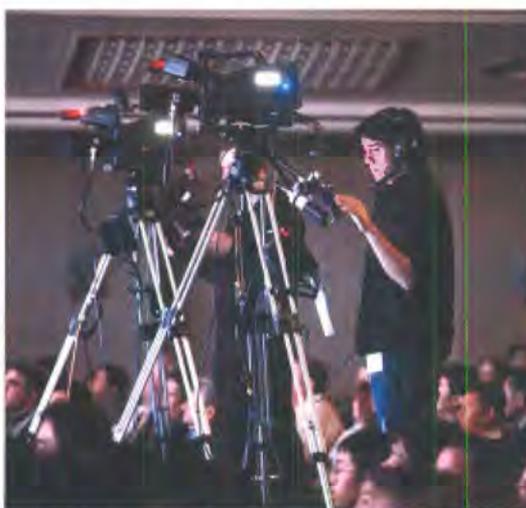
Members in our 106 satellite churches across America have become excited about our small group ministry. We have two types of small groups. Affinity groups are based on shared interests, such as sailing, knitting or anything else that people love doing. It's easy to invite people to do something they love doing, and it's very natural to invite someone to church on Sundays after the person has been in your affinity group for a few weeks. Growth groups are where you are learning something together. In the last quarter, I ran a growth group based on a Christian curriculum. My group of young adults and I had an incredible spiritual journey of discovery together based on the study of a book called *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*. The premise of the course was that spiritual maturity is impossible if you're not emotionally mature. Emotional immaturity

Just by eating breakfast together, they end up talking about something meaningful, and because of this group, the men in our area have become closer to each other. Some young adults in Boston started an outing club, that meets for an outdoor adventure once a month. Someone else I know started a knitting group. The members of this group bring whatever they're working on and then just chat. Through this, they connect and talk about their lives. This creates community. Launching a small group is based on the desire to offer something you love to others.

These groups help people belong to the church, and through our educational material we assist people as they assimilate the culture that we're creating centered on our True Parents.

When you mention culture, do you mean celebrating Ahn Shi Il, and the like?

Absolutely! We have so much to communicate about. It's not just the Divine Principle, but it includes the beautiful lifestyle we have to share. We're tackling this through our educational track, called the Journey, which is centered on supporting people to develop the four realms of heart. We want to inherit the true love of God, which means we have to re-create ourselves as children of God, inheriting a child's heart toward our Heavenly Parent, develop sibling love through the brother-sister realm, learning to truly love in the conjugal realm and finally



Left: Lovin' Life makes it a policy to be up there with the best in visual and sound quality; **Middle:** Ballroom dancing has become a social activity of choice for Lovin' Lifers; here, the recent CARP Winter Ball showcases the enthusiasm.

often pulls you back from spiritual growth and maturity.

Lovin' Life is committed to our small groups. Each quarter starts with a launch party, like a fair, where people can sign up for any activity they choose, from an array of growth and affinity groups. People sign up based on their individual interests. This introduces a social element to our church experience, which is important. In the past I think we were often very truth-centered at the expense of relationships. To grow spiritually, people also need community; in a small group experience, you develop relationships, think about where you are at and how you can grow. In the intimacy of friendship you discover that you can be open and honest, and you grow in new ways. Sunday service is a large environment, where you are receiving an awesome message. In a small group environment, you go deep with a handful of people. This is why we promote small groups in Lovin' Life Ministries.

My husband started a group where all the dads in our small community meet at 7:00 AM for breakfast before going to work.

grow a parental heart not just for our own children but for all people.

We have a growth group called Starting Point for new members starting off in their spiritual life. It's basic, yet powerful. The first session has fun exercises to help people think about making room for God in their lives; it's about learning to make God their first priority. It has a session on prayer, because new members often don't have a lifestyle of prayer. It teaches the hoondokhae tradition, including how to study religious texts. Another session is about getting the most out of Sunday service. A session on traditions shows their role—creating a rhythm in your life through which you can connect to God. It introduces some of our traditions—holy salt, holy candles, and honoring pictures of True Parents. We defined these as three traditions we want to bequeath, so new members can naturally become a part of our culture. We have to explain why one would expect to see a picture of True Parents in a Unificationist's home. We explain the significance of the picture of

True Parents and bequeath one to them. We also bequeath the holy candle. In our prayer session, we introduce the concept of delineating a physical space in your home where you can pray in the light of your candle. We bequeath to them holy salt and we ask them to holy salt all their things at home. The following week we ask them about their experience.

We always pilot what we do. We piloted this small group curriculum in New York and in a number of our satellite churches to get feedback. The young members were very inspired, because it helped them transform their lives, holy salting things to purify them and to live in an environment where they can build something beautiful together with God. Having a holy candle made praying feel more sacred and enabled them to be serious about taking time with God each day. They came back with testimonies, feeling very good about their experience.

I always try to have second-generation young adults in these groups, because I think they benefit, too. Sometimes, they're the most inspired. One young lady told me that she had been using holy salt all her life but only after reading what Father has said about holy salt could she finally grasp the meaning.

Our curriculum is written with a facilitator's guide and is scripted for the facilitator. It's interactive, always with an activity, so it creates discussion. We learn from each other in

ing a life of faith but are thinking about how to contribute to the ministry with what God has put uniquely into oneself that can be shared with others. The idea is to get involved in the ministry—we're not just here for ourselves, we're here for others, too. Our young people like it, because generally people are curious about who they are and seek insight.

That sounds like a way to make friends.

Ironically, somehow, doing something enjoyable is not always considered spiritual yet it can open you to new possibilities in your spiritual life. Enabling people to appreciate themselves for who they are is an important role that the growth and affinity groups play.

The third realm of heart, the conjugal realm, is where, obviously, we prepare people to receive the blessing. This third level is called Two Become One. When members first join, they may know what we understand about True Parents and may, on some level, believe that themselves. As in any relationship, it's continually developing. We always allow people to advance at their own pace. Within Starting Point, we don't introduce people to the matching process, because we want them to become strong in their life of faith before they start thinking about having a family. Often new members are moved by the love they feel in our community and the freedom that pure relationships as brothers and sisters offer. Through their on-



The Lovin' Life Band, Sonic Cult, provides a creative and energetic musical backdrop for the service that is broadcast to more than a hundred locations throughout the United States.

our small group through this process. People enjoy it. There is always a homework piece, a reading for that week from Father, Hyung-jin nim, or In-jin nim, or from a text that we found particularly useful. We encourage them to practice what they learned during the week.

Our members live at home, and continue going to school or work. Through this education, they begin to be acculturated into the lifestyle of a Unificationist and see the benefits of that lifestyle, where you carve out time for prayer, for hoondokhae. We do a session on service, not focused so much on doing a service project but on how to become a serving person, developing the consciousness of living for the sake of others.

Developing the brother-sister realm of heart is the next step, and it is explored through a curriculum called WIRED. It's very interactive and fun; the activities help you gain insight into who you are, the unique aspect of God's divinity that was imbued in you for the sake of others. More importantly, it teaches you how to use that in ministry. We're not just develop-

going study of the Divine Principle, they come to understand why we don't date and the important role the blessing plays in their own course to inherit God's lineage. Their spiritual mentor plays a huge part in helping them understand the lifestyle changes they want to make as they become a son or daughter of True Parents.

The fourth realm is the parental realm of heart. We don't just talk about having our own children, but we also talk about spiritual children, and about developing a heart for the community and for others. This education focuses on the responsibilities associated with tribal messiahship, taking care of one's community, loving others with a parental heart.

We have developed a curriculum to help brothers and sisters understand the meaning of the Family Pledge. True Parents consider this the Cheon Il Guk constitution. We want to understand what it means in terms of how we live day-to-day. When we live like this, we can become the Generation of Peace.

We have just published a booklet on spiritual mentoring

called *I'll Walk With You*. I love reading about the early days of our church, because in Father we see an example of constantly taking care of members as a spiritual parent. He lived for those people; he considered not just their spiritual needs but also their physical needs. We need to develop our ability to spiritually mentor others. I am reading an awesome book, *Authentic Spiritual Mentoring*, which says everyone is looking for a spiritual parent and we need to be spiritual parents for each other. You can have the truth, but you need an actual relationship with someone who is immediately available to help you internalize the truth. We need others to tangibly show us God's love.

It makes sense to me; we all live in a fallen world. One big consequence of the Fall is that everyone inherited a huge hole in their hearts. People suffer from tremendous insecurity and have a great need for love, which they're looking for in a variety of different ways, some of which are unhealthy.

I can see the sense in fostering mentoring. I would think older members would need this as much as younger ones.

I encourage people of all ages to participate in our educational small groups. I've seen long-time members join a group and experience major developments in their spiritual lives. For instance, one person participated in a class on setting priorities in one's life of faith. The activity involved using a paper plate segmented by lines into various categories such as career, leisure, and all other areas of life. You have to think of all the things you have to do in the course of a week and put them into the relevant category. You see how cluttered your life is. And the question is, How does God fit into this picture?

This long-time member filled in her paper plate, and we shared about our lives. She was surprised to recognize that she never does anything for recreation. That area of the plate was empty. She said that her life was lopsided, everything was related to "mission." For her to observe and to think about that was profound.

Our senior pastor is helping us to bring our life into balance. How can we attract people into our church if we're all about hard work and don't manifest joy? Why would our children want to inherit our faith if there is no joy and it's all focused on the mission? This simple activity has actually had a very profound impact on long-time members, who're very serious about life. In-jin nim is encouraging us to be serious about being joyful, because joy is the purpose of life!

That particular session uses the Bible story of Martha and Mary⁴ and talks about what it means to have God in your life. It includes a quotation from Father about how you'd do business differently if God were at the center of your life. This kind of practical education enhances our understanding of our theology. Theology can be very conceptual, but we have to bring it home, into our daily life. In-jin nim's sermons are always relevant to daily living.

The missionary to Palau told me that for her country she needed the Divine Principle in stories, because people aren't as focused on formal education and inherit knowledge instead through oral tradition. When she tried to lecture, sometimes she would be getting nowhere. In Japan, they made plays from the Divine Principle, from the Creation all the way to the end. Some of the members in Palau saw the plays performed by Japanese missionaries and could for the first time gain a deep

⁴ Lk 10:38-42, in which Mary listens at Jesus' feet, while her sister Martha is distracted by many tasks

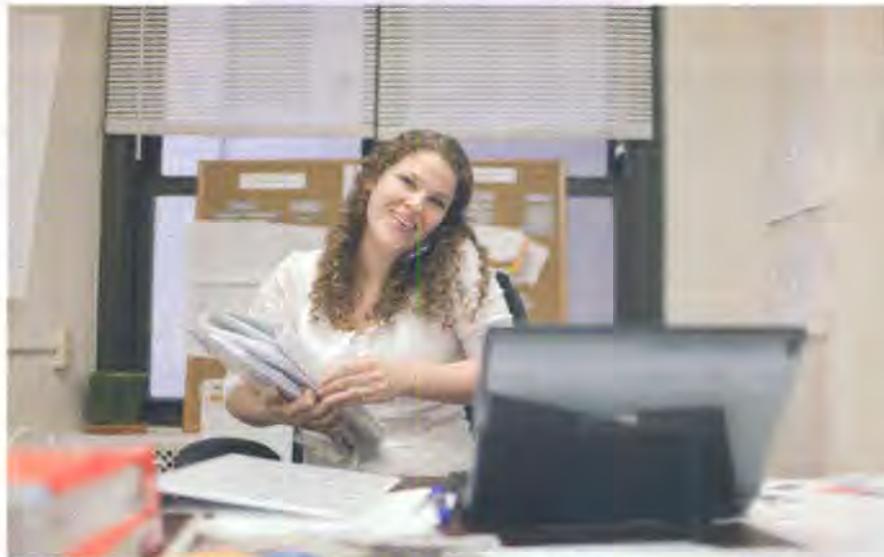
understanding of the Divine Principle. Because they have a strong oral tradition and learn through stories, suddenly, the Divine Principle came alive to them.

This is why In-jin nim wants to use the arts and other media to communicate. We need to reach people in diverse ways. Nowadays, people are more visually oriented. On our web site, lovinlifeministries.org, we're using more video presentations. If we try to teach only through reading materials, we're going to miss a huge section of the population. We want to be relevant and contemporary.

Sunday service is obviously very central to the whole, and seems to be the showcase of the church community.

Sunday service is now central to our life of faith. It has to be friendly, but there's a message to it, even in the music. In-jin nim is trying to engage people emotionally through music; we look at the songs as prayer before the service. She even wants to increase the quality of the videography that goes along with the music, because that's what young people need. They are exposed to so much visual media that if we don't have that quality in our videography, people won't pay attention. This is very serious.

We are a very truth-centered church, because want to teach



Behind the Lovin' Life inspiration is a lot of perspiration; many, including a small army of volunteers, work hard to grow the ministry nationwide.

the Divine Principle so that people can understand who Father is. However, we didn't fully understand the value of Sunday service. Once you know who Father is, you need to be fed weekly. Sometimes young people tell me that they are not feeling anything in their lives and have lost inspiration. So, I ask when they last went to church and tell them that they have to go to church every week to allow God to speak to them. Church, for us in America, is that kind of place. In Starting Point we teach how to approach church, how to prepare for it, how to think about it. You need to be constantly feeding yourself, just as Father said, you have to do hoondokhae every day.

I'm responsible for ministry development in America. I go around visiting other churches and providing support to pastors. My job is to help the pastors be successful.

What is the reasoning behind the Lovin' Life's sermon being broadcast nationwide, rather than each church leader delivering his own sermon on Sunday?

The rationale for having the national broadcast is that In-jin

nim is serious about transforming our church, raising blessed families to inherit the true love of God and knowing and loving True Parents on a deeper level. The national broadcast is part of the means through which we do that. She is the leader of the church and as a True Child, she understands True Parents' heart on a completely different level. True Children have a unique window into True Parents' hearts. Also, I think they understand the needs of our second generation. In-jin nim wants to share that with us.

She wants to share True Parents with us. But she cannot change the church unless she has a vehicle through which to communicate with everyone. We now have a common language, because we're hearing the same sermon, and we're dialoguing about the same ideas. If you've studied about change at all, you'll understand that it's impossible for an organization to accomplish change unless all its members connect to an essential, common idea. Hence, the Sunday service became the way to get us all on the same page.

Watching a broadcast sermon is different from listening to a live pastor. Like any change, it's hard at first. America now has many broadcast ministries, a result, I think, of young people being centered on the media culture. If you've seen other ministries it often looks as if the pastor is just standing in front of a



Mailing out the latest Loving Life Ministries approach book and materials to our churches all across America

curtain. Lovin' Life's technology and production are at a much higher level.

My home is in a small state with just a handful of families, so we just gather around the Lovin' Life broadcast sermon. It's very informal. Some small communities meet in someone's home, a bit earlier than the time when the broadcast starts, and have a delicious breakfast together. They have fun, they connect, they meet, they chat and then they take their coffee into the living room and watch Lovin' Life. Afterward, because they are a small group, they can talk about the sermon and are empowered for the week. Now, no matter where you live or how large or small your community is, you have the highest quality experience, each and every Sunday.

A few weeks ago, I went to visit the Los Angeles church. They're in a movie theater now, the perfect location for a national broadcast ministry. They contacted a company called Church on Wheels, which loads everything you need for church into containers that fit into a small truck. It takes an

hour to unpack and twenty minutes to get back into the truck. It's all prepackaged. You roll it in, do church, and roll it out. They're saving money because they don't have to pay monthly rent for a church building.

What's exciting about the movie theater church is the big screen and great sound system. I love the comfortable chairs. This is twenty-first century church. One sister's way to contribute is to make croissants. When you arrive, you are greeted by the aroma of fresh bread and coffee. After a little socializing, it's time to enter the theater and be drawn into the music and the message and to meet God.

The children's service was incredible! In-jin nim encourages ten-year-olds and up to join the main services. She wants young people to learn alongside their parents, so they can talk about it in the car going home and during the week. But for the younger children—maybe third or fourth grade and below—they have *KidsLIFE*, with a child-friendly ten or fifteen minute clip of In-jin nim speaking and then games and activities, like dancing and singing. After the local band finishes playing in the main movie theater, they come over to the kids' movie theater and play; they do sing-alongs, Wii dancing,⁵ etc., and because of that, the kids love coming to church. Actually, many mega-churches grow through their children's ministries.

If it's exciting, children will want to go to church.

We always show a clip of In-jin nim's sermon, because we want the kids to grow up knowing our senior pastor and having a familiar relationship with a True Child. They should know True Children through hearing them speak, telling stories and giving insight into who the True Parents are. We also show clips of other True Children's speeches that have been edited into child friendly segments.

I would imagine that pastors may struggle with the idea that they have to make way for a video sermon, even if it is from In-jin nim.

They did struggle initially. They felt as if the broadcast sermons took away their pulpits, which is why I think In-jin nim stressed the importance of a Ministry Development Department. She tells us, "If I take care of the sermon, it'll free up your time. I want you to visit families every week. I want you to be doing the pastoring." I feel that I'm here to support the pastors. I encourage them. I tell them that they no longer have to prepare a sermon. In-jin nim and now other District Pastors are doing that, so their job should be to support that message and make a dynamic ministry that has something for everyone, all week long.

We want what we call a "living ministry," with activity during the week. Many churches have midweek services, especially for young people. In New York City, we have Junction, where young adults⁶ give a short sermon every week with music and other activities. We also have educational small groups, and pastors are generally encouraged to meet the needs of their community.

In many of the growing Christian churches, they actually have more people in the small group ministries than they do in the main ministry. We anticipate that also happening in our case. Some people might only want to come to the midweek services or join the small groups, and we welcome them. But the heart of our ministry is the membership, and the center of our ministry is Sunday service, where we can learn and grow

⁵ Wii is a Nintendo game machine. In dance mode, you try to match the moves made by cartoon characters on a screen or monitor.

⁶ Aged eighteen to twenty-five

together with a True Child. How awesome is that?

I feel that we've expanded the role of the pastor; their job is to make sure that every member in their church can Inspire, Empower, Connect, Contribute, and Inherit. We expect the pastors to be able to take In-jin nim's messages or the messages of the District Pastors and bring them home through small group discussions, or through integrating them into other activities in the community, reinforcing the messages. That's a full-time job!

Change is challenging for anybody. For some of our older members, or members from other cultures, this may be a non-traditional way of doing church, but this is the way of the future. Honestly, we've accomplished so much through it that couldn't have been accomplished without it. In one of the sermons that I gave, I read from a 1978 speech by Father, in which he talked about a broadcast ministry. [See box, p. 25] He bought the Manhattan Center for the purpose of having a broadcast ministry. The Messiah should be able to speak to the world.

In-jin nim is realizing Father's vision from 1978. In the past, he'd have done a fifty-state tour, taking a long time to get around the nation physically. But last year, Father was able to reach members in America using the broadcast technology that we now have through Lovin' Life. In one day he spoke in all fifty states. How incredible is that?

It takes true leadership to be able to persevere until achieving a vision. I feel that In-jin nim has tremendous guts, courage and perseverance. Over time, people have been won over because of the fruit of the ministry. We've been able to receive so much from True Parents through her. I know that she's transformed my understanding of True Parents.

She's helped transform the understanding of the young people who are sometimes the hardest to reach, in such an artful way. For instance, she'll tell stories about True Parents that even a young child could understand. Once, she told us a story of Father combining chocolate and *kochujang*⁷ to make a new

7 A thick paste-like condiment made from hot red peppers



- Attending Sunday Service
- Getting involved in the community
- Joining Small Groups
- Coming to programs and events

Committed to a lifestyle of Lovin' Life's 5 spiritual practices

- Inspire
- Empower
- Connect
- Contribute
- Inherit

The journey Lovin' Life hopes to inspire everyone to take

tasty desert. Her own understanding of who the True Parents are has transformed us.

Sometimes, people look at In-jin nim's ballroom dance ministry, led by Ariana Moon,⁸ and wonder why we would encourage such a ministry. To me it's perfect, because ballroom dance has a certain structure that keeps it very appropriate; it enables brothers and sisters to naturally relate to one another while respecting each other. The frame of ballroom dancing allows very appropriate and healthy interaction. Ariana's dance ministry brings so much joy into our church. At the CARP Winter Ball, I saw the joy of people having pure fun. Our church needs that. If we want to attract people, we need to embrace both the serious and fun aspects of life.

You have talked about young pastor couples being sent out to inject youthful spirit into the ministry.

While respectful of the experience of long-time pastors that she works with, In-jin nim has a vision of where the church can go now and in the future, and she knows that it can reach that place through young leadership. Hence, we're working to raise Lovin' Life pastor couples. We're focusing on husband-and-wife teams. In-jin nim is always encouraging the wives to pastor together with their husbands instead of just supporting them. I appreciate working with our younger pastors, because they see the world differently. A young couple in Boston, Dmitry and Natalia Vilchitsky, are excited and have energy to outreach in ways that we older members don't immediately think of, such as through Twitter and Facebook. We have a second-generation couple who've been youth pastors and are now stepping into the role of Lovin' Life pastors. It's great, because they bring with them a lot of young people. That's why I want them to be the pastoral couple. They have a different reach. I consider it a privilege to be there for them as a mentor when they need it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

8 Ariana Shin-sun Moon, In-jin nim's daughter, works in the Communications Department at the U.S. church headquarters.



Left: One week's theme for Junction, encouraging participants to express their beliefs; **Right:** A table set up at the Lovin' Life Sunday service at the Manhattan Center invites all comers to join programs and activities, to take part in the fun.

Modern-Day Wise Men

This story begins in 2007, when a small church just north of Seoul with a membership of about fifty souls experienced an unusual phenomenon.

By Julian Gray

"I had been working at the church in my hometown of Euijeongbu [의정부] for two or three years when about thirty spiritualists¹ suddenly visited the church within the space of a about ten days." With these words, Rev. Heung-tae Kim, the church leader of this small town, to which he had returned in 2004, begins this story. "What was interesting was that none of them knew each other. They had all come because they had received a revelation to go to Euijeongbu Unification Church. Upon arrival, they introduced themselves to one another, saying such things as "I am one who offers prayer on Mt. Dobong." They mostly wore ordinary clothes and looked the same as anyone you might meet.

Assistant church leader Chan-kyum Kim clarified, "The spiritualists already understood that True Father was the Messiah. They have all received revelations from the spirit world that True Father is the son of God, and they testify to that. We thought their coming to our church was a miracle, and welcomed them warmly."

Mr. Kim further explained how, for three months, the spiritualists had continued to come to the Euijeongbu church. "However, they were used to receiving communication and direction from the spirit world, and not so used to following an earthly leader! That revelation had brought them as far as our church. But from that point, of course, they were meant to receive guidance from True Parents' earthly representatives. They would only move based on personal revelation from the spirit world. They found it very hard to follow our church tradition."

An earthly church leader who did not always show much respect for their spiritual gifts proved a challenge for many of the new associates.

"They had a certain pride," reminisced Mr. Kim. "Some felt they had certain missions, for example the mission of Noah, or of Moses. Some had revelations about the central role of the nation of Korea, or about reunification...."

"They said things about our church being small, and not having many members; they were expecting something bigger. They never really followed the church leader's instructions. Rather than committing themselves, they just came from time to time."

It was interesting to learn that such devoutly religious people could receive such understanding and yet remain at a distance from the main thrust of the movement's work.

¹ These were spiritually open people who were mainly living deeply ascetic lives, making conditions, praying, often in very simple circumstances.

Some of the spiritualists who came to Euijeongbu Church participate in a three-day workshop under the guidance of Pastor Heung-tae Kim (seated at front). Jeong-ju Moon, a lady who had a profound conversion experience, is fourth from left.



Photo courtesy of Unification Church-Euijeonbu

Rev. Heung-tae Kim said, "Most spiritualists believe they are better than others and that they are always right! The group worked as a team for the first three months, but after that they began to put their own desires first and one by one they began to fall away."

However, not everyone disappeared. Some maintained their relationship with our church.

"Remarkably," he continued, "on October 2, 2010, forty-four people came to our church again. Half of them were completely new people, and the rest were from the original group. The remarkable thing is that the forty-four people came from different religions, such as Confucianism, Christianity, Buddhism and even Korean Islam. They all believe that True Parents are the returning Lord and the king of kings. They came to Euijeongbu church as people connected to each of their faiths, to testify to True Parents."

Euijeongbu church is unremarkable in its external appearance—three floors of a small five-story building on a corner in a quiet part of town. But the assistant church leader explained that a core of forty determined families had for some years come every morning at 5:00 AM and offered hoondokhae and prayer in the large prayer room, where holy candles burned twenty-four hours a day. Moreover, as Rev. Kim explained, on one occasion Father had asked him the population of Euijeongbu. "When I told him it was about 400,000, Father



Left: Chil-seong Choi, a spiritualist interviewed for this article; Rev. Chan-kyeom Kim, assistant pastor at Euijeongbu Church

instructed that our church distribute at least 10,000 copies of the autobiography." The small group of families have now far exceeded that goal. One Christian minister in the town liked the autobiography so much that he bought twelve copies for his church library and encouraged his congregation to read it.

Rev. Kim felt that it was because the members offered such conditions that the church in Euijeongbu (they had even scraped together the money to buy the building), had drawn these spiritually gifted folk toward it like moths toward a light.

One of the new group, a Mr. Chil-seong Choi, had already known Rev. Heung-tae Kim personally for many years. Of his life as an ascetic he said, "We have the vision that when we travel to all parts of Korea and pray, the kingdom of God can be established. When it will be established depends on our prayers." He explained that his prayers were for others:

Many other countries sacrificed their young men to help us, and that's how this nation developed to what it is now. I got a list from Yongsan [War Memorial offices] of all the soldiers who participated in the war, and I prayed to send them all to good places in the spirit world.

In my religion—Cheon Ji Gyo [Heaven and Earth Religion]—we endeavor to save those in the spirit world who were killed in the past. By doing so, this nation can become stronger and more stable. On that foundation, we can inherit the hard work of those who sacrificed themselves for Korea. The best we can do is to offer prayers and return glory to God and encourage Him.

Rev. Kim explained that some of those who had come in the first group had not lived a Principled life and the spirit world had struck them; some died in car accidents or had ended up in prison. Overall, some fifteen among them disappeared one way or another. "However," he said, "the second group came and around ten of these had been educated by the spirit world through God's guidance; they read from the eight textbooks."

Just a week after the new group arrived at the church, the October 10, 2010 Blessing Ceremony was to take place. "I told them that a Blessing Ceremony was scheduled to be held the following week, on October 10," Rev. Kim explained. "I asked them if they were aware of why God had suddenly called for a year or two by the spirit world, and asked them to raise their hands if they knew the value of the blessing. About fifteen among the group put up their hands. The spirit world had educated them to such an extent. Among them, six received



Spiritualists attended some of the Divine Principle lectures that the Euijeongbu Church holds on a regular basis.

the blessing the following week. Others were preparing.

"One thing this group had in common," Rev. Kim added, "was that they all spoke about True Parents' realm of heart. They'd say, 'What matters most is whether we understand True Parents' heart or not.'"

Chil-seong Choi said of Father, "I've heard President Moon speak in person several times. When I saw him speak to high school students, to elderly people and to college professors, I realized that he was not speaking to a particular part of the audience. Each word he spoke was about true love. I admire him for his being able to speak on three levels."

Among the spiritualists who came to the church in October 2010 was one lady named Jeong-ju Moon, whose family name is the same as Father's and whose given name sounds like True Father's hometown in North Korea. Rev. Kim pointed this out to her. She had been a Christian church deaconess, and an ascetic, and had opposed Father for thirty years. However, "when Jeong-ju Moon read the autobiography, she realized that she had been wrong, so from that time on she started calling him Father Moon, because she is also in the Moon family; she repented of her past. After that, she read the Divine

Principle, which explained all that she had read in the Bible. She then read a book of Father's prayers, and as she read that book she burst into tears and sobbed deeply."

Jeong-ju Moon told this story at a meeting Rev. Heung-tae Kim organized so that the spiritualist group could hear the testimonies of the wives of the great religious founders. She also explained how she had persecuted Father Moon in the past but that now she was determined to testify to him and repent of her sins until she died.

Another spiritualist, Hong Shim, who testified at the same meeting said that he had been practicing an ascetic life here and there when he came to our church three years before. Since he knew it took money to build the Kingdom of God, He had traveled to China to contact businessmen; but then he realized it was more important to learn about God's word, and so for the next two years he had stayed in his room, read the eight textbooks and learned them by heart. He concluded that we needed to become one with True Parents' realm of heart.

Hyun-shil Kang, whom True Parents had blessed to St. Augustine, was one of three wives of the great saints who then came out to testify. Mrs. Kang spoke about how she met True Father in Beomnaetgol in Busan and how several spiritualists had come to testify to Father every year during the 1950s and 1960s. She remembered the precise dates and hours of their appearance, and even their names. She even gave details about what each of them had said. And then she asked the group of spiritualists present why they had been so late in coming!

According to a headquarters report of the meeting, the spiritualists recognized that their task was to make conditions for the peaceful reunification of Korea centered on True Parents.

Rev. Kim has hopes that, late or not, because this group of spiritualists represents such a variety of faiths, they will enable people from their own religious background to repent, attend Divine Principle lectures and receive the blessing.

It is not enough, he emphasizes, that they visit the church and testify to members about their latest revelations; members already know that the Messiah is on the earth! It's the rest of humankind they must speak to. Rev. Heung-tae Kim also spoke to the spiritualists at the meeting:

God summoned you to offer devotions for twenty, thirty or forty years, and you left your children at home with your spouses while you wandered around. The time has passed, providentially speaking, for just making conditions and praying. Through your direct revelations you know True Father is the Messiah and the True Parent. So you must come down from the mountains and stand in the forefront of testifying to True Parents. You must do so by returning to your hometowns, becoming tribal messiahs and carrying our grass-roots witnessing activities.

Rev. Kim has recently asked twenty of the spiritualists to read the one-hour lecture book a hundred times as a condition to prepare for this.² They are now in the midst of this. Rev. Kim has set up an organization for the spiritualists called the Korean Peninsula Planning Team, and based on their having received revelations about the central role of Korea, they will have an organizational base from which to disseminate such understanding.

This story does not end here, for it remains to be seen what will happen next. Will more of the spiritualists work closely with the movement or will they remain at a distance? For some, surrendering their solitude, and perhaps temporarily letting go of the spiritual gift that has guided them, would be like sacrificing their own Isaac. We pray that they will have the courage to use the knowledge that has been thrust upon them to support God's providence in this time. **TW**

2 A condition that members in various nations are now doing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

We have a Book of the Month Club. I have a weekly conference call with my Lovin' Life pastors, and once a month we discuss a book. The most recent one was *The U-Turn Church*, case studies of a few churches that have made a complete turnaround, transforming themselves from stagnant to dynamic, growing churches. We read about that process and discussed how we might apply some of those strategies to Lovin' Life.

I try to provide educational opportunities for the pastors; we have webinars,⁹ and the tools we send out in Launch Pad¹⁰ and through our national conferences. I see our team's job as helping pastors do a great job and find success. I love my job!

I recall Dr. Tyler Hendricks working to create a seeker-friendly service in the 1990s when he was church president.

I appreciate my team. We work as a team to develop the ministry resources including curriculum. Dr. Hendricks has been a church president and is passionate about church growth and development. Having a great deal of maturity, he's exactly what our young pastors need, someone to think things through with. He's a quiet and supportive type of person, and he's also a very good listener. I contribute from my background in experiential learning and discovery learning. Camia Gavin brings the perspective of the second generation

9 Seminars via the internet, often in conjunction with a conference call, so that as participants experience a live presentation by computer and can comment and discuss the material

10 A complete package of ministry materials and guidance on church and small group development

and young adults and has an incredible eye for marketing and understands the mind-set of young adults. We have dynamic and sometimes heated discussions about what we should do, and out of that give-and-take is born our curriculum and ministry resources. It's an incredibly creative process, through which we have become so close to one another.

On every team I'm on, I want it to be a multi-generational. I think this reflects In-jin nim's spirit, because she appreciates the experience that those in our first generation have and all they have accomplished. She also appreciates that the second generation is the future. They understand our audience. They were born into this church, and they know where it needs to go. We need to listen to them.

I appreciate the True Children because they are inheriting the ministry from True Parents and can take us to the next level. If you look at In-jin nim and everything that we are doing through the ministry, you could think it's a secular or horizontal approach. Yet In-jin nim is the most vertical person I know, because True Parents are her anchor. At the same time, she realizes that we need to reach out to society and that we need to use technology and use a contemporary approach. I think that's the strength she brings to the ministry, and that's why I've come to work for the ministry. It's easy to become too vertical or too horizontal, but I see in In-jin nim a remarkable balance. I love her honesty and integrity in everything she does. I am so grateful to her for connecting us to True Parents in a much deeper way and helping us create this amazing church.

I am so proud of my church. **TW**

Unificationists around the World

What's happening in your nation? Please send photographs and an explanation of successful projects in your country or hometown to news@todaysworld.org.

Haiti

Photos courtesy of the Unification Church-Haiti



The church in Haiti has been rebuilding since the catastrophic earthquake that struck in January 2010. The church headquarters building collapsed, and members were lucky to escape with their lives. One building was only partially damaged, and this has been restored to use. With the support of donations from overseas, construction of a new church was completed in February. Our church in Haiti is still raising funds for painting and interior decoration.

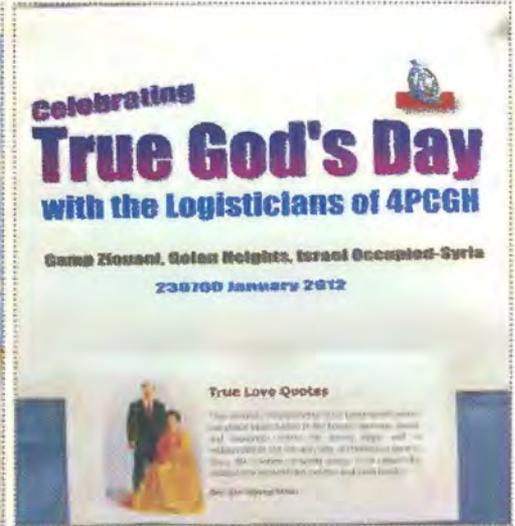
South Africa

Photos courtesy of the Unification Church-South Africa



We held a workshop for religious leaders March 3–4 at the Peace Embassy in Forest Town, Johannesburg. The eighteen participants came from Hinduism, Bahai, Judaism, different Christian denominations and independent churches. Among them was an archbishop who subsequently showed so much interest that we are teaching him Divine Principle. We gave him True Father's autobiography and he testified in tears that he couldn't read the book without shedding tears. Eight years ago, he had a dream in which he was driving a busload of people but suddenly lost control of the bus. For a long time the bus veered from one side of the road to the other, until they reached a stadium full of people. The journey had traumatized him so much that he sat at the back of the stadium to listen to the message. The person who was to deliver the message came to him and gave him a book. He realizes now that this person, whom he had seen eight years ago, was True Father. April 14–15, we are holding a two-day Divine Principle workshop for ten of the eighteen.

Golan Heights



Lt. Col. Armando Diango (seated, one hand on the other) is chief logistics officer for the Philippines United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) battalion deployed on a peace-keeping mission in the Golan Heights in Syria. He held a True God's Day celebration for his troops on 1.1.2012 (January 23), and gave a speech that explained the Fall, the purpose of the Messiah, and the advent of the True Parents.

Palau

On February 10, 2012, Margaret Sisserson (standing at left), the national leader of Palau, a Pacific island nation, population 21,000, gave a presentation to the girls at Mindszenty High School, a Catholic school, as part of a character-based abstinence education program. Thirty-nine girls attended. She is scheduled to teach the young male students on her next visit.



St. Lucia



Every year, under UPF, we hold a five-day summer camp for adolescents on the theme Fighting HIV/AIDS through Character Building. We have about seventy participants each time. We give Pure Love presentations. They have many discussions and reflections in groups of six or seven. Many St. Lucia families are broken and children are raised by single mothers. It's a good opportunity for these adolescents to reflect about sexuality, pure love, the benefits of abstinence and how to prepare for marriage. For example one question they discuss in small groups is, What are the qualities you expect from your future spouse? Through this, they can realize that becoming a better person is the best way to prepare to be a good spouse and a good parent.

