

TODAY'S

WORLD

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Photos courtesy of the Unification Church-USA

Unlocking Your Spouse's Heart

Following what Hyung-jin nim described as a powerful spiritual encounter with True Father in which Father clarified the direction for Hyung-jin nim's ministry, he and Yeon-ah nim have begun the Good Sex Marriage Ministry. Their jointly presented Wednesday evening services in January sought to inspire and help blessed members throughout the United States and beyond. We are bringing you brief extracts from their sermons on January 16 and January 30. These sermons are available at <http://vimeo.com/tongil/videos>. This content has been edited for Today's World.

JANUARY 16

Hyung-jin nim: Brothers and sisters we have to remember there's a process, and nobody's perfect, so every week we want to improve. Every day, every week, we don't have to try to make huge leaps, but we want to make many small leaps, tiny, tiny steps, and then watch: two or three years later, we find God has worked a miracle! You don't even know it is happening day by day, but when you look back to three years earlier, life has changed!

From Cheon Seong Gyeong, p. 1289

The key that can unlock the sexual organ of a man is owned by the woman, and the key for the woman is owned by the man. There is only one key for every person. There must only be one key per person. Do you want to possess ten or twenty keys, as in the case of free sex? Do you want to become a ruined house who has its gates open for everyone and does not have an owner? Do you want to become a place that anyone can pass through, and come and go at will?

Look at that again: Father speaks of the sexual organs as "the house" Of course, he speaks of the "gates" and the "key" and the "owner"—the house needs an owner—Father is clear.... The key to a man's heart is not just his stomach. You don't win a man by just making him a nice steak. Father is very clear; it's his holy palace. And the key to a woman's holy palace is her heart.

When you look at the Chinese character for "sex," it has the character for "heart" within it, on the left. On the right side is the character for "life." So the key to the heart, the key to life, is absolute sex. The man, as the subject, should first give love to his wife, he should touch her heart. For women, their heart needs to be unlocked first.

Men, we cannot just be like little gorillas, asking our wife, Are you awake? That is not what a woman wants to hear. She wants to hear, "I love you." Don't be like gorillas, people! We have to be sons of God. We've got to unlock the heart. This is key. This is essential. We have to unlock her heart. We have to unlock this first, and then the palace gate can unlock. We must be princes and princesses. Why? In the world of absolute sex, we must be princes

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Photos courtesy of the Korean Culture Department

True Parents changed the name True God's Day to Heavenly Parent's Day (하늘부모의 날), and clarified that this year, beginning 1.1 by the heavenly calendar, is the first year of Cheon Il Guk (천일국원년). On Heavenly Parent's Day we also celebrated True Parents' Birthday, the anniversary of the Coronation for God's Kingship, and True Parents' Day. The Family Pledge has been revised to include the terms "Heavenly Parent" and "Era of Cheon Il Guk," and a new Cheon Il Guk anthem has been created.

TRUE PARENTS, TRUE FAMILY

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THE BLESSING

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Cover Photo: Father and Mother greet the world with love; Back Cover: True Father meditates

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New Year's Benediction by True Mother

Beloved Heavenly Parent, we have now ushered in the new year, 2013. We are deeply grateful to you for allowing the heavenly world and the earthly world to unite as one in mind and heart and solemnly begin this first day of the year in which we will celebrate the Foundation Day of Cheon Il Guk, in the presence of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind.

Our Heavenly Parent, what a history of sorrow and grief You have had to go through to establish Cheon Il Guk!

To complete the history of the providence of restoration through indemnity caused by the fall of the first human ancestors, You have had to lead the providence of salvation and have Your heart rent by each and every one of the sacrifices and mistakes made by the providential central figures whom You established. How many tears of blood You have wept in the background of such history!

In particular, ever since the Coronation Ceremony of the Kingship of God was performed and Cheon Il Guk declared in 2001 on the foundation of True Parents' victorious realm, during the last twelve years we have lived each day as if it were a thousand years and a thousand years as if it were a day, begrudging every moment that passed and exerting ourselves to the utmost.

The era after the coming of heaven was proclaimed, and Cheon Jeong Gung was built on earth and dedicated to You, thus establishing on the rock of ages the ground whereon the Heavenly Parent could come to settle on earth. And in the presence of all of heaven and earth, enthronement and coronation ceremonies were performed through which the Heavenly Parent was liberated and freed.

Most beloved Heavenly Parent, with Foundation Day only twelve days away, we should repent with all our heart for all the responsibilities we have failed to fulfill until now. The True Family and the blessed families should become one under the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind and prepare a new environment in which we can give ourselves as living offerings for Cheon Il Guk in the realm of *shimjeong*, which is characterized by one heart, one body, one mind-set and one harmony.

I declare that all members of the Unification Family across the world are resolving to become one with True Parents' will and to fulfill their mission as tribal messiahs at all costs, and to make a new beginning.

As we usher in the first year of Cheon Il Guk, in 2013, I hope and pray that the entire worldwide Unification Family, and all peoples, will open the gates to an amazing new era of peace and prosperity, in which the physical and spiritual worlds will overflow with heavenly blessings and the Heavenly Parent's great love.

All this we offer and request in the name of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. Aju! Aju! Aju!

天地人 참부모의 勝利解放完成時代 天基 元日

천지인 참부모 승리 해방 완성 시대

Last year, 2012, True Parents gave the motto "Era of the Victory, Liberation and Completion of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind" and on Heavenly Parent's Day we learned that it will be the motto for this year as well.

True Mother's Message for the New Year

After True Mother prayed and a video was shown of True Father writing the motto, she gave the following brief greeting: The day long hoped for by the Heavenly Parent, the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind and all humankind has dawned. This is a message of blessing from True Parents to all people of the world on this first day of the new year. May this year be one of hope begun in True Parents' great love.

Heavenly Parent's Day 2013

True Mother's Speech

May you receive many New Year blessings.¹ This is a year in which you should go beyond receiving blessings and work hard to share them with others.

I believe we have all been greatly moved by True Father's words, which we read in today's hoondokhae. When Father established God's Day, he had God's liberation and Foundation Day already in mind and he called God our Heavenly Parent. You heard that in Father's prayer just now. Didn't you? That's right. God's wish is to become the parent. To achieve this, we have followed a path for sixty years, the path of the providence of restoration through indemnity, under True Parents' guidance.

As you may have heard read in Father's speech moments ago, at the time that Father established Parents' Day, the world population was 3 billion. What is the number now? [It is 7 billion.] So the number has more than doubled. Now it is 7 billion. It may even be 7.5 billion.

The world population has grown rapidly in those forty-six years,² but we should not merely feel glad about it. Our responsibility and mission has grown that much more important. Heaven and humanity have sought after a world of peace, a world without wars and hunger, a world of freedom, but history to this point has been unable to achieve this goal.

Father led the history of the providence of restoration through indemnity to victory. However, the truth is that behind it all was too much sorrow, grief and suffering to measure. That is how it is with indemnity. He recovered and established everything for us, but the fact of the matter is that we are not in a position where we can just receive it. If we fail to fulfill our responsibility, we too need to pay indemnity. Do we, or don't we? [We do.]

In forty-some years the world population of 3 billion has become 7 billion, and it is the wish of our Heavenly Parent and our wish, as well as a responsibility to be fulfilled in our lifetimes, to make sure that no one in the world, not even those living in the far corners of the world, remains ignorant of the Heavenly Parent, at this point in time when the era of Cheon Il Guk is only days away.

Titles like filial son or daughter and loyal patriot cannot be given when you are comfortable. Unless you have endured much suffering and difficulty and risked your lives for your parents, devoted all your energies for your country, unless you have such a heart and have translated it into action, you can-

not receive such titles. Do you understand this?

This moment in time, never seen in history and never to be seen again, is truly the most blessed and happiest time in your life, but if you fail to fulfill your responsibility, it will become the most wretched moment. Why? Because the 7 billion people of the world to whom you have failed to witness will accuse you. Do you understand the term "accusation"? [Yes.] They will say, "Why did you receive the blessing and not tell us about it?" When those living in the farthest reaches of the world join our church, learn about the providence and come to know that the long awaited Lord at his Second Coming, the Messiah, the Savior, came to earth and lived in the same era that they did, breathing the same air, yet they did not have one chance to see him before he passed away, they will deplore this fact forever. Do you understand that? Moreover, you should know that the True Family and blessed families have an even greater responsibility and that they may have to pay much more indemnity for that.

As we usher in the new year today and celebrate God's Day, we should respect and uphold our Heavenly Parent. Also, we need to pass on the word to all peoples in all corners of the world. What does the Bible say about the word and the rod of iron? It says all nations will be ruled by them. What do you think this means? It means we need to witness to others. Do you understand? [Yes.]

This is why, starting with the senior couples, I am summoning to the homeland those who are working hard and achieving good results as national messiahs, one by one. Do you think I am doing the right thing?

We need a nation in which God, our Heavenly Parent, can dwell. We need citizens as well. What, then, do we need to do? What should be done? Let me see the people at the back.³ What needs to be done? [We need to witness.] Witness! We need to witness. We need to fulfill our mission as tribal messiahs. Can you do this? [Yes.]

You need to do this in the remaining years of your life. If you fail to do so, you will not be able to face True Father when you go to the spirit world. He will say to you, "I taught you to do that while I was on earth; moreover Mother also asked you earnestly to do it." You need to do this at all costs, not only for yourselves but also for the future generations of your descendants. Is this true or not? [It is true.]

I have sometimes said that we need to create a good environment. In a good environment, when you say one word those listening to you will understand ten words. In the beginning, when God created Adam and Eve, were they able to

³ Mother walked down the aisle to the back of the hall as she spoke.

¹ This is the traditional Korean New Year's greeting.

² This is the forty-sixth God's Day (now renamed Heavenly Parent's Day) thus, the forty-sixth year had just begun.



Photos courtesy of the Korean Culture Department

communicate with God or not? They were able to exchange questions and answers with Him. The same can be true for us. When the blessed families create such an environment for themselves, they will be able to witness to others with the littlest of effort. After Foundation Day, you may see such amazing miracles being wrought, depending on how much sincere effort you make. I guarantee this. [Aju! Applause]

You may have very little time left on earth, by which I mean your time on earth in the flesh. I am not young myself, and I know that the thirty-six couples and seventy-two couples are very old now. However, I summoned these senior couples and said to them, "The term life-and-death resolution applies to you now."

They can't know if they will have ten or twenty more years on earth, but if they devote their whole lives to working for the providence, when they pass away they will automatically enter the kingdom of heaven and receive a title such as loyal patriot or filial son or daughter. Won't they? Isn't that true? [It is true.]

Don't men in particular care a lot about honor? When they are given a title, they never want to separate from it. Women, on the other hand, are a little different, I think. Because they have motherly love, I believe they are better at practicing the act of embracing, of giving and forgetting, than men. Is that true, or not, ladies? [It is true. Applause]

Even if I suffer some small loss, I give and forget and invest again, for everyone and for the future. Today is the forty-sixth anniversary. Isn't it? Will you resolve on this day to lead such a life, or not?

Life-and-death resolution! [Life-and-death resolution!] Devoting all our energies! [Devoting all our energies!] Let us set ourselves on fire with passion! [Let us set ourselves on fire with passion!] You need to put these words into action.

Hoping that you will all become proud Unification Church blessed families, I have told you earlier that I called the senior members of the seventy-two couples and asked them to shoulder the burden. By 2020, when we celebrate one hundred years since Father's birth, we need to establish this nation, not only in name but in reality, as God's homeland. Can this possibly be done? [Yes.] Is it possible? [Yes.] Let us make it happen. [Applause]

Therefore, though there are many providential nations, we will carry out great works centering on Korea, Japan and the United States. I believe the preparation for it is well underway in Korea. It will also be done in Japan. Japan! [Yes.] Will you do it? [Yes.] Will you be outdone? [No.]

However, I think there are some problems in United States. So, is Regional President Kim Ki-hoon here? [Yes, I am here.] Stand up. Is Kim Moon-shik here? [Yes.] Kim Moon-shik was an itinerant worker, but should now go to Canada. [Yes, I will.] And Regional President Kim Ki-hoon will become the Chairman of the Unification Movement in the United States. Has Mr. Balcomb come? [Yes, I am here.] [Michael] Balcomb will be appointed president [national leader in the U.S.]. [Applause]

Centering on the international president, Hyung-jin, you three should become one in heart and in mind-set and devote yourselves completely for the restoration of North America. [Yes, we will.]

The fact is that the United States is a nation that Father spared no effort in for forty-some years. He established it as the eldest-son nation, but it has not fulfilled its responsibility. The eldest son needs to embrace his brothers, but it has been absorbed in saving itself and hasn't looked after its brothers. That is wrong. So I will reorganize everything and right all the wrongs. Is that clear? [Yes.]

Kim Ki-hoon! [Yes.] Many foundations were prepared by Father, like those for Christianity and ambassadors for peace. Henceforth, the U.S. Unification Church needs to march forward with the Holy Spirit and the truth. [Yes, I understand.] What have I been saying? The lights in the churches should be on twenty-four hours a day, and they should overflow with the Holy Spirit and the truth. Did I say this or not? [Yes, you did.] I hope you will translate those words into action. [Yes, I will.] Please sit down.

Besides those three, there are many other important providential nations. I have summoned those who have been working as regional directors in the United States. Through them and others, we will focus on managing not only Korea, Japan and U.S., but also nations with potential and other important providential nations that cannot be put aside, so that by 2020 we will be in a position where we can save Heaven's honor



and prestige. Witnessing activities! We will invest ourselves and do it at all cost! [We will! Applause]

Do we not have hope? [We do!] We do! [Applause] You should listen to the Cheon Il Guk national anthem every morning and evening as you go to and from work, savoring every word. When you practice the lyrics, you will become free. That is how the world of freedom, peace, unity and happiness can be built. That is why you are the problem. You are the problem! Do you understand? [Yes.] You are the problem! [We understand.] I am the problem! We need to establish traditions.

That is why I will work diligently, following you around to see how you work. In all likelihood you will receive many revelations through your dreams. I can actually feel it. Rather than borrowing help from the spirit world, however, I hope that you will each do your best as blessed family members to fulfill your responsibility. Do you understand? [Yes.] Then by watching you I will gain strength.

We are talking not only about Korea's restoration but of the world's restoration. Is it good if I pass away quickly, leaving the world's 7 billion people behind, or do you wish me to remain on earth for a long time? [Please stay a long time.] So, is National Messiah Yu Jong-yeong here? [Yes.] Is Gang Jeong-ja here? Both of you, please come to the front and sing the Tumen River song, and give us a short, five-minute, testimony of how you were mobilized and what you have achieved.

[After his wife sang, Rev. Yu Jong-yeong testified about returning to Korea and his experience in his hometown.]

I will add something here.

From this year, I will make it so that the celebrations of God's Day, True Parents' Day, the Day of All Things, and Children's Day will take root in each of the nations. Why? Since all the church celebrations are held at one place, the leaders come, but the members do not understand the significance of those days. Do you understand my what I mean? [Yes.]

Each and every national church, regardless of how many churches it has, should prepare for the celebrations of God's Day or Parents' Day or Day of All Things or Children's Day. While preparing, all the members should unite with the church

president's leadership and offer many conditions to ready themselves for the celebrations. You cannot go to heaven if you live your lives halfheartedly. We have studied True Father's teachings, explaining how holy days, such as this God's Day, came to be established, and it is only too true that without shedding tears of blood in the background, we cannot pay indemnity to move forward. Because the world is wrong, because it is fallen, we need to rise above it, and to do so we need to pay indemnity. This, however, is very difficult to do.

We need to make Satan throw up his hands and admit defeat. Those days were established after winning victory after victory in each stage. Members need to comprehend this. From the leaders in the highest positions to the newest members, you all need to be aware that True Parents have passed through a course of blood and tears to establish those days for you. If you realized this, every time you celebrated one of those days you would become all the more determined in your heart to be loyal and devoted to Heaven. Wouldn't you? [We would.] A nation with such members will then grow and develop.

I want to spread this practice worldwide so that I can bring every one of you in front of Heaven. Do you understand? [Yes.] The next celebrations we will hold on a grand scale is Foundation Day. This Foundation Day will be our greatest event, because it is the day on which we begin anew under the Heavenly Parent. It is to be the grandest day.

On the day marking Father's ascension, not only members of the Unification Church but, when they learn about him, all the world's 7 billion people will wish to visit the place where he was laid to rest. Where is that? It is Bonhyangwon. [Yes.] Pilgrimage. This pilgrimage will become another great event. I believe Father said at the time the church began, "People will come to visit Korea in an endless line." What do you think that means? We need to establish that day in such a way. [Yes; Aju!] I am right in thinking so. Aren't I? [Yes.] Don't you agree with me? [Yes; Applause]

Then, may there be endless glory in heaven and eternal thanksgiving, acclamation and praise on earth! [Aju! Applause] **JW**



True Mother Sets the Course for the Future

This selection of extracts from True Mother's recent speeches permits insights into some of the changes she is bringing and what she is asking members to make their focus during the time to come.

Beloved blessed families around the world, family members, ambassadors for peace, I am praying that this day will be one filled with Heaven's grace for all of you.

Beloved members! How are your preparations for Foundation Day going? In a phrase, it is the era of the re-creation of heaven and earth.

Do you all have unity between mind and body? Have you created oneness in the circumstances you are in, oneness in your family, and oneness in your society? Those who have achieved that, please raise your hands. There are presently thirty-three days remaining until Foundation Day.

Today Church President Yang Chang-shik gave a good sermon. Beloved members, you will have been thinking about many things. To put it briefly, we are sinners in front of Heaven. In front of the grace we have received from Heaven, we have not been able to fulfill our responsibility at all. Is there anyone who can stand up and proudly say he or she has completed everything?

At this point in time, what is very clear to us is that for the first time in history we are ushering in Foundation Day, a day of blessing never before seen and which will never be seen again.

However, what is your attitude toward it at this time? Do you intend to receive it without doing anything for it? Will you receive it in the capacity of sons and daughters? Tell me.

Is there one person among you who can place a hand over your heart and listen to what your innermost conscience tells you?

Once again, we need to think about Father, who has gone before us, and repent while dressed in sackcloth. We need to be able to forgive one another. How? How?

The work for God's providence of restoration

through indemnity was hard enough, but True Parents still give everything unsparingly and wish for you to become proud citizens of Cheon Il Guk. We, however, are so unworthy in front of them. We are not ready at all. What, then, should we do?

You need to place yourselves in the lowest position and receive the coming Foundation Day with a repentant heart while asking Heaven to take pity on you.

On that note, I would like to say this: Those who are involved in these unnecessary lawsuits in Korea and overseas should repent. I wish to tell them to put everything down and start afresh through Foundation Day. The blessed families in all parts of the world who are making preparations to welcome Foundation Day should observe a period of time during which they have nothing to be ashamed of in front of Heaven.

I have opened all doors through Foundation Day. I have opened the doors wide for anyone who will resolve to join the ranks of the filial, the loyal and the faithful and translate beliefs into action, practicing absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience until his or her last moment on earth, centering on True Parents.

When we make such a resolution and carry it out, we will not need to indemnify anything in the future. Do you understand? We need to prepare for the era of Cheon Il Guk, which is free from indemnity. We need to fulfill our responsibility, therefore. No one else can do it for us. It is up to us to fulfill it. That is why, as I have said, we now need to stake our lives on and devote all our energies toward doing so.

Such things will be unnecessary in an ideal world. Isn't that so? Will you do it? If you promise to do so, clap as loudly as you can, until all of heaven and earth is ringing with your applause.

Thank you. I hope and pray that your devotions will bring glory to heaven and joy to earth and that you will all become beloved and acknowledged citizens of Cheon Il Guk in the eternal era of Cheon Il Guk.

Let us once again make the resolution to do our best to accelerate our work of guiding all 7 billion people of the world to become its citizens under our Heavenly Parents. Only when you have achieved this can you be free when you pass into the next world.

We will live in a world that is free from accusation. If you fail to fulfill your responsibility on earth, accusations will follow you into the eternal world. Then, in the spirit world, where you breathe with your heart of love, you will have trouble breathing. You need to know this.

Therefore, even if you are getting older, that is fine. I ask you once again to fulfill your responsibilities while you are still on earth, so that you can freely stand in front of True Parents in the eternal world and be proud of yourselves.

With these words, I would like to conclude this assembly.

*January 20, 2013 (12.12.09 by the heavenly calendar)
Joint service for Korean members, Peace World Center*



The Foundation Day logo, named in English and Chinese characters, with a phoenix and crane, symbols of a divine being and True Parents, represents the Holy Wedding of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind and the Registration Blessing of all blessed families.

Until now, True Father carried out his work for the providence worldwide, and he established leaders in each nation to take charge of their respective nations, but they have failed to fulfill their responsibilities. Not one nation can boast of having made any great achievements. In particular, they have failed to educate their successors, their second-generation members, and their leaders. Therefore, to set an example for others, I have established a military-type school. [Applause] It is not a military school like West Point. Actually, it is an educational institute for the nurturing of leaders, which will become world famous in time. It offers courses for a master's degree. We will select students with the required qualities from amongst the graduates of four-year colleges and focus on educating them in the Divine Principle and character development for two years, after which they will go out to work in the field. Thus, they will be educated for a total of three years. Then, we will send them out to carry out witnessing work officially. Depending on their aptitude, they will be able to choose between spending their life in the ministry or working in other providential organizations.

*October 27, 2012 (9.13 by the Heavenly Calendar)
WFWP Assembly, Las Vegas, U.S.*

For sixty years following the establishment of our church, True Father worked publicly and earnestly for the sake of God's providence. It is not an overstatement to say that he spent two thirds of that time, that is, forty years of his life, in America. Our eternal homeland is Korea, but he invested more in America. Why was that? He was thinking about all humankind. The great blessing that America is the eldest-son nation means it should gather the brothers together in unity and bring them to the parents. Have you been thinking about this, day and night?

To the world, at this time, and to this nation, True Father came and did his work as the returning Lord, the Messiah and the Savior. Given that, is it enough that you bring just a few blessed families? For more than sixty years of his life, True Father took responsibility, devoting himself to raising you, explaining that you are to fulfill the tribal messiah mission and bless 430 couples. If blessed families had fulfilled these responsibilities, we could have honored Father more gloriously when sending him off to Heaven. The world's six billion people could have seen with their own eyes that the Messiah's Second Advent had occurred and on that basis determined their

own paths. We failed to prepare. We committed a serious sin in front of Heaven. Our wearing sackcloth, mourning bitterly and offering prayers of repentance for a year would be insufficient because the sin we have committed is too serious. The fact that we did not fulfill our responsibility is a serious sin. We only received love but we did not know how to share it. We ourselves did not grow.

*November 5, 2012 (9.22 by the heavenly calendar)
Members meeting, New York*

True Father worked day and night without rest, throughout his whole life. (I also have never slept more than three hours a day from when I began attending True Father.) Therefore, we are tired throughout the day, aren't we? Because we are human. Now, True Father has gone to the spirit world. He transcends time and space and is working busily. I imagine he does not have time to sleep. Today, I speak to you in order to open the way not only for you but also for your descendants in the future.

*November 5, 2012 (9.22 by the heavenly calendar)
Members meeting, New York*

True Father's teachings and life's work are like gemstones. No matter how precious a gemstone is, it must be cut and polished so that it glitters. Briefly stated, a gemstone is a gemstone, yet it starts out unrefined. I want to bring glory to Heaven by preserving these teachings permanently. This would be to prevent some overconfident person in the future touching them; so that there would be nothing added or subtracted in future generations. I alone can do this. Isn't that true? Who else could do this?

I am well aware of the process by which *Cheon Seong Gyeong* was made. From now on, things will never happen in that way. When True Father's teachings are published, the content should go through many committees—a process of examination—before a book comes out. All of this is for your benefit, and for your descendants' benefit. I do this so that you can hold this book in your arms when you go to the spirit world at the end of your earthly life. Be proud in front of True Father. Report to him, "During my life, thanks to receiving training from Mother, I loved this book, I loved your teachings so much that I have come with it in my arms." I am saying that I am going to perfect, complete and conclude this clearly.

*January 7, 2013 (11.26 by the heavenly calendar)
New Year's Celebration, Cheon Jeong Gung*

We must change the names we use. When we pray to God, from now please change what you say to "Heavenly Parent." The name "Heavenly Parent" is smooth in English and it is meaningful in the Korean, too. Don't you agree? The first words you say when you pray should be "Heavenly Parent" and then "Loving True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind." Make these changes first. If I don't sort this out as we welcome Foundation Day, you will not be able to do that. Not even my children can do that. This is something I have asked my original mind. Do you understand? [Yes.]

From now, we are not the Unification Church but the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. I planned to announce this after Foundation Day, but we need to be united on this matter before the Foundation Day Ceremony. I am say-

ing this because there needs to be unity.

*January 7, 2013 (11.26 by the Heavenly Calendar)
New Year Celebration, Cheon Jeong Palace*

Come with me to the end.... Actually, since True Father's ascension I cannot fall into a deep sleep without taking something. I guess that reflects my character. I am the kind of person that cannot sleep if something remains unsettled. But after meeting you today, I realize I am not alone. I think that here are the laborers, my sisters and daughters, who will accept my will and work accordingly.

*January 10, 2013 (11.29 by the heavenly calendar)
WFWP New Year Celebration, Cheon Jeong Gung*

Let's make the coming seven years, until 2020, the best years of our lives, until the day we offer this nation to Heaven. Will you do that?

And didn't I say that after Foundation Day I am going to offer this nation to Heaven in 2020, one hundred years since True Father's birth? I sincerely ask everyone here to participate and to be woman leaders who are grounded in loyalty, devotion and virtue. There can be no king without a people. Therefore, we women must nurture, give birth to, and increase the citizens of Cheon Il Guk. It is not only for this nation. Until we give rebirth to the 7 billion people of the world, we will use the expression "devoting ourselves completely with a life or death commitment." Will you do that? So, what must we do? Invest our very lives. We have a nation that we must offer to Heaven in seven years' time. It's a small country. Thinking in terms of the world, it is small.

It should be unified, first of all. We ought to lead it in that direction. Therefore, how important the role of our women is! Think about it. Moreover, it's not now a time to do a daughter's work. Rather, it's a time in which we must take on a mother's mission. We should give birth to and raise a child.

True Father built a big house and gave it to us. We should organize and arrange it neatly and equip it well. That's our responsibility....

It has been twelve years since Father proclaimed before us at the Coronation Ceremony for the Kingship of God that Foundation Day, the thirteenth day of the first month, would be the most important day of all. During those years he carried out many providential tasks for the coming Foundation Day. In truth, this important day was not easily or accidentally established. Back in the days of the Old Testament, God established the concept of the chosen people for His providence of restoration and prepared the people of Israel to be His chosen people. The Israelites knew they were a special people and they waited for the coming of the Savior, believing that everything would be resolved when he came. They also believed that he would come in all splendor. It is my opinion that they did not know about indemnity. In working for the providence of restoration, you are given special responsibilities, and if you fail to fulfill them, you need to indemnify that. This is also true in the present era. When you have responsibilities, there is every chance that you may need to offer indemnity.

Everyone of you here should participate and sincerely invest your whole self.

*January 10, 2013 (11.29 by the heavenly calendar)
WFWP New Year Celebration, Cheon Jeong Gung*

A Warrior's Final Days



Photos courtesy of the Kogenshu

Kook-jin nim gave the following eulogy at the Seonghwa Ceremony for Rev. Kajikuri Gentaro, president of the church in Japan, who passed into the spiritual world after a long illness on December 26 at the age of seventy-five.

I'd like to offer my condolences to Church President Kajikuri's family. You all have known President Kajikuri much longer than I, and with him you fought many battles for the sake of the development of the world-wide Unification movement and church financial soundness. You have all known President Kajikuri to be a warrior, a man of principle, righteous spirit, without fear for his own personal situation or even personal safety.

Yet, I did have a chance to work with President Kajikuri in probably his last fight, the most difficult fight. In 2009 when our church was facing the most difficult time in its entire history here in Japan, Father asked me to come here and to advise the church and to advise him on how to overcome this situation. Even at that time, Kajikuri san's body was broken and diseased and he was dying.

But, given the situation, we had to make some very difficult decisions. If we were to overcome the challenges that we faced, there were going to be tremendously difficult fights to come. So, at that time, President Tokuno, who was then the president, acted very courageously to take personal responsibility¹ for the moral disturbance in society even though he himself had done nothing wrong.

I reported to True Father that even though this man's body was dying, his spirit was what the church in Japan needed to overcome the challenge. Despite many concerns from many people all throughout the church—not just in Japan—Father made the courageous decision to appoint Kajikuri president of Japanese church.

From Day One of his appointment, he conducted himself with courage and honor. He worked in two areas, of course to reform areas where we needed reformation as a church, but also to stand up for righteousness and the dignity of our

¹ That is, at a televised press conference, Tokuno Eiji personally apologized and publicly resigned as president of the Unification Church of Japan.

church members in Japan, to fight for the right to be free, to be free to believe in the religion of your choosing, to be free from the violence of kidnapping. President Kajikuri stood up courageously for these fundamental and basic human rights and the dignity of our brothers and sisters. For his courage in the face of adversity all the members of the Unification Church will remember him as a hero of the providence. [Applause]

As we go forward as a community and as a church, we must be ever mindful of the sacrifices of our predecessors. Regarding President Kajikuri, a leader in this community, who has died in office, we should remember what he fought for, what he died for. We have pursued very clear policies, and these policies should continue. We have worked to harmonize with society, but that does not mean we have surrendered. We are vigorous and must fight to defend the rights of our brothers and sisters and their human dignity.

As a community, we have worked to fight for the dignity of our brothers and sisters against all enemies, external and internal. We have a responsibility to all members of our community, to understand their burdens and their troubles, to feel their pain. We, as a community, must understand and address those issues, to lighten the burden of our brothers and sisters who have carried the weight of this providence on their shoulders.

The leadership must understand that as leaders we hold the public trust and that that trust requires us, as leaders, to put the people's welfare before our own. This is the heart with which President Kajikuri conducted his duty in his public office. This is the heart which our leaders from now on must conduct themselves in their time in public office, to stand for righteousness, for justice, not only for yourself, but for all.

So I hope that our new leader and leaders to come will lead this church being always mindful of this lesson: conduct yourselves with honor in a way that people of the Unification Church may be honored. In so doing, we may honor the memory of President Kajikuri. Thank you very much. **SW**

and princesses because we are talking about the "royal palace."

If the princess welcomes her blessed prince into her holy palace with joy, expressing her pleasure to be with him, this unlocks the prince's holy palace, which then unlocks his heart—which is the thing that she actually wants most, the prince's heart—with gratitude and joy. That's incredible. It's incredible give-and-receive between husband and wife, the unlocking of the hearts and of the palace....

When this virtuous cycle of life is happening between husband and wife, where the husband, as the subject partner, is taking the initiative to unlock the wife's heart, then by really winning her heart, her love—by unlocking that—her holy palace can unlock, and then the husband's holy palace can unlock, and then the husband's heart can unlock. This amazing power of true love begins—as Father said—"spinning in a vortex." Powerful. This is what we are talking about when we are talking about absolute, good sex—blessed sex.

Yeon-ah nim: From a woman's perspective, it's as if a woman is always in the "giving mode." Whether they have a job in society or not, they feel obligated to take care of the children, to do the housework, cooking breakfast and dinner, and when children get sick, they are the ones who have to go to pick the children up and do the consultation with the teacher, and if they're at work they have to come back, and then they have to cook dinner for everybody, for the whole family. So, the woman is always in the giving mode.

At the end of the day, the last thing she wants to do is have intimacy with her husband. She just wants to have some resting time for herself. Not only is she physically tired but she is mentally tired. She's been giving all day. She just needs some time to rest, to give herself a break at the end of the day. For a woman, it is like another time of having to give. That's why women are not always willing to initiate a good sex life.

From the man's perspective the true reason he wants to come home is to experience intimacy with his wife. For the man, that time with his wife is not only a physical thing, but the intimacy with his wife is also a healing time. It gives acceptance; it gives appreciation to the other person, [it relieves] all the "beatings," all the stress, all the failure he might feel in society; by his woman accepting him at night—or even in the day. [*Hyung-jin nim, laughing: Praise God!*] To be accepted into her palace means so much to him. It's a healing time, literally.

For many women, this is very hard to understand because God designed man and woman very differently. But I believe that if a woman practices absolute sex with her husband, God will bless them more.

It's very interesting how God blesses a woman. If a woman has a lot of absolute sex with her husband, the husband is willing to help his wife more. He will help her around the house. He will—guess what?—listen to you more! If your husband doesn't listen to you well, I absolutely guarantee that if you practice absolute good sex with him more, he will help you, he will listen to you. Then truly God will bless your family, and you as a human being.

Women are used to giving and giving, but do we really think of intimacy time as a time of giving? Is this only about us sacrificing our time? I think we women need to shift our perspective about sex. This is something through which the Heavenly Parents dwell with us, in the union with our husband. It's a wonderful time. This can unlock our husband's heart.

What a woman ultimately wants is happiness for her children. She want her children to receive blessing. She wants her husband to receive blessing, and she wants to be happy, too.



So if that's what women ultimately want, if we really want to be blessed, the absolute good sex practice is actually a way to bring a lot of fortune and blessing into our families.

Hyung-jin nim: I notice if my wife gets a new eye-blush color, a new hairstyle, new earrings. I notice these things, and I say it. You know, those small things—we have to always be interested in her. I am always saying, "I love you so much. You're amazing." Every day, every minute, "Oh, you have your short socks on today—I love those." Or "You've got your long socks on—beautiful!" I am making those kinds of "heartistic" offerings to her heart. These can be small or large.

One thing I love about Jesus' last parable,¹ when he talks about new treasures and old, is that it reminds us that when there is true, absolute sex within the blessing of marriage, as Jesus says, "treasures old and new come forth from that." That means that new precious gifts continually emerge. Our motto in our marriage is, Every year gets better. We've been married fifteen years now—praise God, thank you, True Parents for blessing us for fifteen years—and every year gets better.

Every marriage has its ups and downs. Every marriage has them. The key is to keep the trajectory going up. You cannot stop the ups and downs, you can't have a straight line up. But you don't want it going down, that is bad. You don't want it "flat-lining"—that's not good either. You want it to make more up than down, for eternity.

Yeon-ah nim: Hyung-jin nim said, Notice your wife. You know, like pick up a flower for her on your way back from work. Just as he mentioned, you have to unlock your wife's heart first. That's a message for men.

But I would like to give a message to women, too: We have to recognize that our husbands are truly making effort. If he does bring a flower, you know it takes a lot of courage for a man to do that. He might say very casually that he got the flower on the way home, but that doesn't mean it is a very casual gift. He might have put a lot of thought into it, but he's

¹ Mt 13:52

a little bit shy to mention that.

So when he does something nice—say, he took out the trash—Oh, you're a good husband! You should say nice things to him.

JANUARY 30

Yeon-ah nim: When my husband reintroduced the concept of repentance and of our being sinners to our church a couple of years ago, many of our church members did not know how to deal with it, how to digest it. It may be interesting for you to hear me say this, but I also had a problem with that concept—repentance and being a sinner. I joined the True Family when I was nineteen years old. I had kept my purity and didn't have any other problems. So I was wondering, What do I have to really repent for?

I had never before been told that I had to repent in front of Heavenly Father and True Parents. I was thinking, I am in the second generation, so what do I have to repent for?

It was a new concept and I didn't know how to digest it. After hearing my husband's teaching about repentance, I looked back on my life and realized that in some way I had been resenting God, and even True Parents. When True Parents blessed my parents, True Father gave a blessing to my father and mother, saying that from you will come a great war general; that a great world leader would appear in your family. My mother was struggling a little bit with their blessing, so my father and mother really cherished those words, and they really wanted to fulfill them. They had a daughter, then a second daughter, and then a third daughter—which was me—and then, finally, they had a son.

At the time that my brother was born, however, he suffered oxygen deficiency and his brain was damaged; he has a mental disability. I had thought what True Father said would come true, but his words were not actualized. True Father—Heavenly Father—had said there would be a blessing, but actually there was not. Because of that, for many years of my life, I could not open myself to Heavenly Father and True Parents. I was struggling.

Then, when I realized how I had been feeling, I repented, knowing I had been a sinner for resenting Heavenly Father and True Parents. I truly repented. Then a couple of months later, at a small gathering, True Father told me to give my testimony. So I stood up and gave my testimony; I said, True Father, I truly repent in front of you; at one point of my life I resented you and I even could not see you as the True Parent.

What True Father said to me was remarkable, You know what? Who said only a man can be a general? You, as a woman, can be a general, too!"

I am a very shy person. I'm a very bashful person, as you can see, but I became a "world general" to preach for the Good Sex Marriage Ministry. This is where God has worked a miracle....

[*Hyung-jin nim, laughing:* I am the chairman of her fan club....] All ladies, let's be our husband's biggest fan. A couple of weeks ago I mentioned this: As Foundation Day is coming and as we develop our Good Sex Marriage Ministry, many of our blessed couples who are in difficult situations may actually feel scarred and hurt. They sometimes feel judged and even condemned, as if we were saying that if you don't have a good sex marriage, you'd better work it out.

Some of our blessed family members may feel like this. Even so, this is truly True Father's teaching. This is actually God's teaching, one that we need to manifest in our lives. This

is what True Parents want for us to have in our lives as blessed family members.

So, all that the Good Sex Marriage Ministry is saying is: Let's take a step toward having a good sex marriage. Let's do it step by step. We don't have to have everything perfect overnight.

My husband and I are not perfect. That's why our marriage motto is Every year gets better. Even though we are not perfect, that's okay! As was said today, if we move one step, God will do two steps. God will push us forward two steps. We cannot do it with our own might or power alone, but with God everything is possible.

Hyung-jin nim: Oh, give Him praise!

We were sharing with another group the other day, and I realized we could never grasp the heroic task we are involved in. What is our heroic mission?

Think of the "Bad Sex Movement." They have heroic missions. They're fighting for "civil rights," they're going to eradicate AIDS through condom education. Right? They have "heroic" missions, heroic "grand" visions.

What we have is "We will create world peace and unification." But how are we going to do that? What's the method? We might do service work, but it never hit me that that is going to totally transform the world. Yet I always knew, deep in my heart that we have an amazing, heroic mission. We have something that nobody else has. We've been told that, but why aren't we clear about how we are going to do this?

Yet, Father made it clear: We are here to build the kingdom of God. How are we going to do that? Through good sex marriages.

There's been so much research done on this. We saw two articles this week. When a man focuses on his wife's happiness, as his priority... The study was that some men had to do three good validating things every day. They found that these men made more money, became more productive at work, became happier in the household, became healthier and wanted to become more attractive (through lifting weights, etc.). They started prospering in all sorts of ways just because they started focusing on their spouse and on a good sex marriage. [*Yeon-ah nim:* I liked those articles.] My wife loved those articles.

We want to believe we are in a heroic mission, that we have a heroic purpose. What is that? It's good sex marriage. That is how the kingdom of God will be built.

When couples are loving, when couples are fulfilled, when couples are in joy, when they are one and giving joy to God, the kingdom is starting! That energy is going to influence their children. We had remarkable lectures by Richard Panzer here, showing the signs and key factors to child poverty—all were related to how the parents are. For example, the top three factors (from the national Kids Count report²) were, first, out of wedlock birth; second, when the mother has her first child as a teen; and third, that the mother has not graduated from high school. These are the three key factors accounting for over 79 percent of children in poverty. They are directly related to their parents' "marriage" situation.

So, when we talk about good sex marriage, I know this is something that changes the world.

Many people are in difficult marriages. Yet it is not hopeless if that changes, step by step. One person makes a commitment. The other person makes that commitment. Step by step. And it starts things changing. That relationship can change to the kingdom of heaven. **JW**

2 Available at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

True Mother's Life Story



Photos courtesy of the Korean History Committee

This look at Mother's early life is drawn from a book entitled True Mother's Life Course, published in Korean by the Unification Church History Committee last year. Last month, we covered Mother's middle and high school years. In this final installment three we look at the period just before True Parents' Holy Wedding.

After enduring a time of imprisonment,¹ Hong Soon-ae moved from Chuncheon to live in Seoul. She continued to lead a life of prayer in a difficult living environment; she took up residence in the former headquarters church where she devoted herself. Entrusting her mother and her daughter to the care of her younger brother, she began her life of dedication to the providence and offered devotions.

True Father said, "Hong Soon-ae suffered much in the Unification Church. In the beginning, she carried out the duties of a housemaid. She was even imprisoned. Yet she has never complained. Before she joined the church, she had been a member of the Holy Lord Church and a follower of Baek Nam-joo of Cheolsan. Even though I knew of their recent history and that the Unification Church had inherited their tradition, which made her the most central of all central members, when she joined our church I made her start again from the beginning." Father also said that Hong Soon-ae's life of devotion was based on his wish for her to "show her loyalty from the lowest position."

However, during this time she contracted an illness. When she became ill, after eight months of leading a life of devotion, True Father told her to go somewhere quiet to recuperate. Accordingly, Hong Soon-ae moved to a house rented by Mrs. Oh Yeong-choon, across the street from her own home in Noryangjin. At the time, her daughter Hak-ja (True Mother) was living at her maternal uncle's home in Shindang-dong. On weekends, she would visit the Noryangjin house to spend time with her mother.

True Mother as a teenager

Mrs. Gang Eui-hong, who was sharing the house with

¹ She had attempted a "faith healing" of a young, mentally unstable man who later died.

Hong Soon-ae at the time, distinctly remembered what Hak-ja looked like in her school uniform. "Though she was only a young, sixteen-year-old girl, it was amazing to see how well she had grown up. She was as beautiful and fragrant as a flower, and intellectually, and in all other aspects, she seemed mature. I felt that she was neat and tidy—although a little cool in her personality."

At that time, Han Hak-ja was attending the headquarters church as a member of the Seonghwa Students' Association and practicing a mature life of faith. Until the age of sixteen, she had seemed like a young student, but by the time she reached seventeen, she was becoming more and more mature.

In the eyes of the members of the time, True Mother had uncommonly beautiful features, and she had a noble air, almost as if she had never known hardships in her life. She always appeared smart and neat. Untainted by the secular world, she looked pure and innocent, and she practiced the virtues of obedience and submission to the providence. She was silent, chaste, and courteous, yet she had good judgment and wonderful powers of observation.

True Mother remembered those days as a time when she lived a life guided by Heaven under God's complete protection:

Until the 1960s, I lived an inconspicuous life, almost as if I was covered up in clothes. Heaven guided me to lead a life in which I could not make compromises with the world, so I lived in a simple environment. God protected me so completely that I hated even to inhale the air of the satanic world; in such an environment, I rid myself of all of my personal thoughts and lived following only Heaven's guidance.

I also kept a journal every day; interestingly, I wrote things in it without thinking, phrases such as "our cherished hopes are for unity." Afterward, when I heard True Father's teachings, I remembered those words and saw their significance.

... I always feel that Heaven had prepared everything based on my character and background. When Isaac climbed the mountain with Abraham to make the altar, he asked his father where the sacrificial offering was. Abraham answered that God would prepare one for them and refused to say more. Young Isaac, however, already knew what was actually happening right there and then. Similarly, I, too, could determine what was expected of me from a young age. Deep down, I realized that I had been prepared to become the wife of the returned Lord.

Chosen as True Mother

From three years prior to True Father's reaching the age of forty, a great number of members offered devotions in silence as they waited for the manifestation of the new bride of Heaven prepared by God, that is, the True Mother. Meanwhile, the spring wind of true love swept across the female members, and they competed invisibly against one another, each of them anticipating and aspiring to become the mother of the universe. As a result, tension and internal confusion built up with each passing day. Every one of them believed themselves to be the right woman to assume this position, and from women at or around the age of thirty, to grandmothers who could communicate with the spirit world, every one of them was convinced that she was to be the spouse of True Father.

The candidate for the position of True Mother, however, needs to inherit the realm of *shimjeong* (the heart) of women, passing through three generations from her grandmother, to

her mother, to herself. In other words, if the grandmother met the Lord, she needed to pass down the position of serving the Lord to the mother, and the mother to her daughter. Based on this principle, after waiting for many years for the Second Coming of the Lord, Grandmother Cho Won-mo and Hong Soon-ae fully passed down, to True Mother, the position of serving True Father.

Moreover, the candidate for the True Mother needed to be younger than twenty. Since Eve had fallen at the age of sixteen, the candidate should not be more than three years older—no more than nineteen. In addition, she would need to give birth to at least twelve children in the course of twenty years, so she needed to be young, healthy and physically strong.

In October 1959 preparations for True Father's engagement were begun centering on Mrs. Ji Seung-do. From early 1960, signs heralding the appearance of the bride of Heaven began to appear. As the announced date drew near, Mrs. Oh Yeong-choon, who had offered devotions for years to attend the bride of Heaven, received a revelation and recommended True Mother, even though she had not known about True Mother during the years of offering devotions.

Mrs. Oh said, "At the right moment I presented Father with the *saju* astrological information about Mother and told him about her; two months later, Father finally decided. Thus, I succeeded in finding Mother after seven years of offering prayers. I came to know that Heaven gives to those who pray, and I attended Miss Han Hak-ja as the True Mother even though I had never thought of her before, even in my dreams." [See Mrs. Oh's testimonies on pages 18 and 20.]

Around that time, Mrs. Ji Seung-do also received a revelation in her dream, and she made her way to True Father in all haste and reported, "I saw innumerable cranes come flying down from the heavens, and even though I kept trying to chase them away with my hands, they came and covered True Father." Explaining about her revelatory dream, she expressed the opinion that Heaven wanted someone whose name included the character for *hak* (crane).

Hong Soon-ae also had a revelation through a dream. A phoenix flew down from the sky and another flew up from the ground to meet it. The phoenix from the sky had eyes that looked like True Father's. One day, after taking a cold shower in the early morning, she was reciting the Pledge, and she saw a vision. Then she heard the words, "The phoenix from Heaven symbolizes True Father, and the phoenix from the earth symbolizes True Mother." At the time, Hong Soon-ae had no inkling that her daughter would become the True Mother, and she danced with joy and said, "Heavenly Father, thank you. We are no longer orphans, for we will now become the children of True Parents. Isn't that so, Father?"

After that, Hong Soon-ae received revelations every day. She received the revelation that her daughter would be chosen as the True Mother. After this, she could no longer think of True Mother as her daughter.

In February 1960, True Mother dreamt that True Father came down from heaven and said to her, "The day is close, so prepare yourself." True Mother prayed with a heart of complete selflessness and resigned herself to the decision of the providence. She answered, "Until now, I have lived in accordance with God's providence. From now on, no matter what God wills, or the purpose of His Providence, I will follow all that I am commanded to do as Your humble servant."

Just as Isaac had obeyed Abraham in silence, True Mother had felt for a long time that she had a path she must follow, and her faith was such that she was determined to walk what-



True Mother (left) with her mother Hong Soon-ae and with her grandmother Cho Won-mo

ever path was laid before her.

On February 25, True Father mentioned Han Hak-ja for the first time, and he told Hong Soon-ae, "Bring your daughter here right away." On the next day, the 26th, True Mother met face to face with True Father, and her internal disposition and character were examined as the bride of Heaven. It was True Mother's second face-to-face meeting with True Father, the first meeting having been when she came before him at the age of thirteen. During this nine-hour meeting, True Father asked True Mother many questions, and True Mother answered them all honestly, boldly and clearly. She also drew a picture for him that day, and the way she shyly showed her drawing was more wonderful and charming than her drawing. Her mother later said that she had been much amazed on that day to see Mother so gentle in appearance but strong in spirit.

After the long interview, True Father said to her, "I will introduce

Finding the Messiah's Bride

By Oh Yeong-choon



One day, in October 1959, Mrs. Ji Seung-do summoned me, telling me to come the next day to the second floor of the Tonghwadang Pharmacy.¹ Accordingly, I made my way there, where she told me that she had bought some cloth and I should help her with sewing. Surprised, I asked her what this was about. She said that Father's engagement ceremony would be held in a while and we should make his clothes. I had had experience making clothes for Father.

"Who will be his wife?" I asked. She said it was to be so-and-so. "Really? Does that mean Choi so-and-so was not chosen?" At my question, she answered, "She is not the right person because she is too old. Eve fell when she was sixteen, so Father's wife should be younger than twenty." In my heart, I wondered to myself how I had failed to realize this during the seven years I had been praying. I offered more prayer. "Father, is this true?"

While praying, I had a strong inspiration: "Isn't there a girl named Hak-ja, who is seventeen years old?" Before then, I had not thought about her, not even in my dreams.

I was busy working, but my heart was all aflutter with impatience. However, I continued to work patiently, promising myself that I would go to ask Mrs. Hong Soon-ae when I was done about her daughter's birthday and birth hour.

At ten o'clock at night, I stopped working and took the bus to Noryangjin. As I crossed the Han River, my heart still remained impatient, telling me repeatedly that Hak-ja was

the one. At eleven o'clock, I stopped by Mrs. Hong Soon-ae's home, and without further ado, I asked, "How old is Hak-ja?" She asked me why I was asking such a question, out of the blue. Then she answered that her daughter was born on the same day as Father at between 3 and 5 AM.

I closed her door and came home, but I could not sleep at all. I had been friends with Hong Soon-ae for a long time. My maternal family had also believed in the New Lord [Kim Seong-do] of the Inside the Belly Church. Through that church, my mother and her mother had become friends. She was the same age as I. We became close. She joined our church in Chuncheon in 1956. Afterward, she came to the Seoul church. Some of the members had prayed for a student member, but the student had died by accident. So three of the members had been imprisoned for a year and a half in Chuncheon Prison. She had been one them, and I went to visit her in prison twenty times.

After that, Hong Soon-ae lived and worked in the church, but she had a weak constitution. So, I had rented a room for her, across the street from my own, and at the time she was living there and we were fast friends.

The next day, as soon as day broke, I headed for Tonghwadang Pharmacy. Though I had a lot of work to do, my mind was elsewhere. I wished for the day to pass so I could go and have her *saju*² astrological information examined. My sewing

¹ Apparently, an early church business venture, in Seoul
² In English, "pillar." Astrologers examine four pillars—the year, month, day and hour of a person's birth.

you to an excellent teacher." He told her mother to leave and called in Mrs. Choi Won-bok. From then on, for a month until the engagement ceremony of March 27, True Mother was given bridal instruction under the guidance of Mrs. Choi Won-bok. However, True Mother was not officially introduced to the members. She was once asked to sing on the podium of the headquarters church, and the members were deeply impressed by the way she sang so naturally and boldly. In addition, when they saw True Mother eating the food prepared for the table of True Father together with Mrs. Choi Won-bok, they wondered, "Who is that young woman?" A few of the more thoughtful members assumed that there was a great purpose behind her being there.

Foundation for True Mother

For the holy wedding of True Mother, three great foundations had been prepared.

First, God prepared a foundation of devotion for the Lord at his Second Coming through devout Christian groups in Korea. In particular, centering on the history of Eve, He established women leaders to fulfill the mission of the bride to receive the Lord of the Second Coming. True Father said, "Kim Seong-do's legacy was inherited by Huh Ho-bin, and by her daughter, who was being prepared to receive the Lord. It is amazing to see that they also made other preparations such as twelve disciples." However, Huh Ho-bin, who had been thus prepared, failed to fulfill her mission to attend the True

Father, and so she passed on the mission of the bride to True Mother with the benediction, "You were born with the destiny to become the bride of Heaven."

Second, the three generations of True Mother's maternal grandmother, Cho Won-mo, her mother Hong Soon-ae, and Mother herself united together in heart and the three eras of the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Completed Testament were connected. Thus True Mother's family prepared a family-level foundation to receive the returning Lord. Their family had practiced a life of faith to receive the Lord at his Second Coming, and inherited the foundation established by devout Christian groups from Kim Seong-do to Huh Ho-bin, and her daughter. After coming to the South, Hong Soon-ae continued to offer devotions and eat raw food in preparation to receive the returning Lord. Moreover, after she met True Father, she lived a life of absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience and True Mother was able to stand on this foundation.

Third, True Mother inherited the foundation of devotions laid through the history of the preparation for the Second Coming that Korean Christian groups carried out. On the family-level foundation to receive the Lord at his Second Coming, she learned to practice absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience naturally, as part of her life. True Mother therefore lived a chaste life according to her faith—similar to that of a Catholic nun—growing up in an environment completely separated from the secular world in all its aspects. **TW**

was done by evening, and without anyone knowing about it, I left right away. Fortunately, there was a workshop at the church and I had a good excuse to leave.

I went straight to a certain place, where a Mr. Lee Myeong-hak examined the *saju* of the two [Father and Mother], without knowing who they were, and told me, "Though they have a big age difference, they are a match made in heaven. They are perfect for each other, so you should make it happen." Holding the piece of paper with this information tightly in my hand, I ran all the way to Cheongpa-dong. Father was in the master bedroom. "Could I see you for a minute?"

"What is this, all of a sudden?"

"The astrological information for Mrs. Hong Soon-ae's daughter is very good."

"So what if it is good? Was that what you wanted to tell me?"

With those words, he left the room.

I was attending the workshop, but my heart was beating wildly. I did not know what to do. When the workshop ended, I met Elder Song and told him the story and gave the astrological reading to him. At the time, Elder Song had been attending Father wherever he went, be it hunting or anything else. When we had the time I presented Father with the astrological information of Mother and told him about her, and two months later Father finally consented. Thus, I succeeded in finding Mother after seven years of offering prayers. I came to know that Heaven gives to those who pray, and I served Miss Han Hak-ja as the True Mother, even though I had never thought of her before, even in a dream. **TW**





On the Suffering Path of the Lord

A Personal Testimony

We present here the first part of a testimony by one of the earliest members of our church, Mrs. Oh Yeong-choon, whose life course, like that of many of her generation, was disrupted by the Korean War and the communist takeover.

I was born into the Oh clan of Dongchon Village in South Pyeong-an Province, in 1914. My father was Oh Deok-je, and my mother, Kim Deok-hong. My father was the oldest of six siblings, and the one who was to carry on the family traditions. As a young man, he had studied modern sciences and done well for himself. At the time, he was staying in Seoul. In accordance with the custom of the time, by which the wife did not accompany her husband wherever he went, my father lived in a small house and came to visit my mother now and then. My mother gave birth to two girls; I am the younger of the two. Since my father was the oldest son, for years, my mother prayed every day for a son, but my father only came home once a year and stayed only two days at that.

The Oh clan had converted to Christianity early on, and we went to a church that was about four kilometers away, my mother carrying me on her back.

We lived in a farming village only forty kilometers from Pyongyang that was made up only of members of the Oh clan, about forty households in total. None of the families were poor. It did not have an actual school, only a village school where children learned to write Chinese characters.

In the year I turned six, the March 1 Independence Uprising¹ took place. I remember seeing people shouting *Mansei* while being carried on my mother's back.

Fortunately, there was a church in a village called Gamsan, and a school of the modern sciences was established there. To get there, I had to walk four kilometers. At the time, women were not allowed to go out of their homesteads, but my parents allowed me to go to school, saying that I was like a son to them. Worried that I might get hurt or become sick, my mother swept the road every morning when it snowed, and in the evening she came out to meet me and carried me home on her back. Six years passed in this manner.

The road consisted mainly of a ridge between rice fields and vegetable patches, which became muddy when it rained, the mud sticking to my shoes and not coming off.

1 The March 1st Movement (1919) was a peaceful but vocal uprising of the Korean people against Japanese annexation, and included a declaration of independence proclaimed in Seoul (the text is visible in the photo below). Yu Gwang-sun became famous as a patriot due to her role in this. The uprising was ruthlessly crushed.



Mrs. Oh remembered the March 1st Movement, a nationwide uprising against Japanese domination of Korea. The photo shows a rally in central Seoul during the uprising and the text of the Declaration of Independence.



I also had to pass through a narrow trail, which in spring was so dewy that the bottom half of my clothes became wet and in winter so buried in snow that my feet froze. My feet would become so numb that I lost all feeling in them but would thaw by themselves and become warm, by which time I would arrive at school. My school was founded by Christians, and except for Japanese language classes we did not speak Japanese. All the teachers had gone to college in Japan, but they had lost their jobs when they participated in the independence movement. My class was the first to graduate in that school. The people who taught us had been college professors at one time, but they taught us without receiving a salary.

When I turned fifteen, I graduated from elementary school. I was intending to continue my studies at Pyongyang High School. On the morning of the entrance exam, my grandfather said that it was enough for a girl to know how to read the newspaper and that I should not do something that no one in the clan had yet done. I had no choice but to give up higher education. I stayed in my room for a whole year, in complete seclusion. My mother, worried that I might become ill, thought that I would forget about studying if I married. It was customary then for people to marry young, so she hastily prepared to marry me off. Thus, I came to be married into the family of a church elder in Anju² in the year that I became eighteen.

Anju was about thirty kilometers from my parents' home by train. My father-in-law was a church elder, my mother-in-law a deaconess. Though theirs was a headstrong and strict clan, it was also one of the earliest to be enlightened. My father-in-law had been accused of being one of the ringleaders in the

independence movement³ and had suffered long imprisonment in Pyongyang. He viewed all Japanese people with a mortal hatred, but he was very intelligent and kind. I thus became the wife of the oldest son of five brothers. Though my husband's family was rich, they had strict rules in housekeeping and for eighteen years I learned endurance. I was highly praised for maintaining a harmonious and peaceful household. During those years, I gave birth to and raised six children.

Some time back, after I was married, my parents learned about the new truth.⁴ At the time, Rev. Lee Yong-do performed many works of the Holy Spirit, and they were greatly influenced. Having received grace through Rev. Lee, his followers built a temple and lived in joy. At first, the denominations other churches seemed to accept them, but later they accused the followers of heresy, and in time the followers formed a separate denomination. The reverend died at the age of thirty-three.

A while later, Mrs. Kim Seong-do (mother of Jeong Seok-on) of Cheolsan appeared as the "New Lord" and performed many works of the Holy Spirit, and all the followers shared whatever they had or did not have and experienced miracles. The Oh clan also shared this joy with them, though they were called heretics. Mrs. Kim, however, passed away. When the New Lord passed away, all the followers were devastated. They wept in sorrow and offered deep prayers.

Then a miracle happened. One of Mrs. Kim's followers, Mrs. Huh Ho-bin, received grace, and the works of the Holy Spirit recommenced. The Inside the Belly Church was founded through Mrs. Huh. Their doctrine taught that the returning Lord would not come on a cloud but as a person, that he would come to Pyongyang, Korea, and that whereas the Lord who came two thousand years ago came as a baby to Israel, the returning Lord would come as an adult. It also taught that the Fall had not occurred as the result of eating a certain fruit but that the Fall was sexual, and that the entire Bible was made up of metaphors and symbols.

My mother had not studied much; at best, she knew how to read hymn lyrics, but she confidently made effort to witness to me. At first, I thought that it was the traditional faith to believe the Bible literally, and I did not obey her. My mother grew impatient and called me stone headed. When I opened my mouth to oppose her, she covered it, lest I sin through it. She loved me best of all her children, and since I did not relent she had no choice but to offer bows incessantly for my sake every night, facing east. Not only that, but she said that when the Lord came the first time, he was born in a manger, did not dress well, was not believed by the Jewish people and suffered all his life until he died in wretchedness. Hence, we needed to do our best to serve the Lord at his Second Coming well and do everything for him that the first Lord had not had done for him when he came. Thus, I became connected to the Inside the Belly Church.

Escape from Communist domination

Though Korea was liberated on August 15, 1945, Kim Il-sung followed the Russian army into northern Korea.⁵ Our joy

³ That is, against Japanese domination of Korea

⁴ Seemingly a reference to new understanding being brought by certain among the Korean spiritual Christian groups

⁵ Through a decision reached at the U.S. Pentagon on August 10, 1945, Russian troops entered northern Korea and effectively created the Russian zone of occupation down to the thirty-eighth parallel. On September 9, American troops landed at Incheon and took control of the southern zone. This division was intended to be valid for only as long as it took for the Japanese army to be disarmed and for all Japanese people to be repatriated.

² True Mother's hometown; but her marriage would have taken place some twelve years before True Mother's birth.



Civilians desperate to get away from conflict during the Korean War clamber onto a south-bound train at Gaeseong, near the border. Mrs. Oh travelled all the way to Busan in this way.

at being liberated was short-lived; everyone soon began to tremble in fear. During the night, Russian soldiers turned into thieves, and during the day they forcibly took whatever precious objects they could find, such as watches and so on. The communist ringleader first got rid of the landowners and made their servants the new owners. If you said one wrong word, you were arrested for being a reactionary or pro-Japanese. Pandemonium reigned. Japanese people were killed on sight, and we had cause only to sigh deeply. At the time, those who were quick enough fled south. Thankfully, we were not purged because we owned many factories. I however, was so anxious all the time that I could not go on living in this way.

For a start, we left Anju and bought a house in Pyongyang and moved there in 1946. Sometime later, they⁶ made me the head of my neighborhood. I was in trouble, because I disliked them deeply but if I refused they would have accused me of being a reactionary. Also, I did not want the job of checking on twelve households every day; after racking my brains about it, we sold the house and moved again, from Gyeongganggol to a big house situated in the middle of the Shinchang-ri market. During the day, Russian soldiers filled the streets, and during the night thieves were everywhere. Once, we were robbed at midnight. Thieves opened the door of the shop and took everything without restriction. We could do nothing but sit still and breathe quietly. During the night, the townspeople used to chase away thieves by wildly drumming on brass basins.

I had sent my husband to Seoul a few months before. After I gave birth to my youngest daughter in February 1948, I heard a rumor that a presidential election was scheduled to take place on May 10 in Seoul,⁷ and that afterward the roads would be blocked completely and no one would be able to cross the thirty-eighth parallel. I could not endure it any longer, and twenty-five days after giving birth, I resolved to go to Seoul. I first sent off my two oldest boys to Haeju,⁸ after which I left home, after

6 Presumably the communist authorities

7 On this date, Syngman Rhee won a seat in the first national assembly of the new republic. Three months later, he would win a national election and go on to govern South Korea until 1960.

8 A town near the coast of what is today southwest North Korea; Mrs. Oh does not say how or if her oldest sons joined her in the south.

paying two guides to show us the way, with Hye-sook, Yoon-joo, Eui-joo, and the newborn baby on my back. I did not give a thought to the house in Pyongyang or all our things, but it broke my heart to part with my beloved mother. Mother could not stop me from leaving, and she could not tell me to go, so all she did was sigh and ask why I was going to Seoul when the Lord was going to come to Pyongyang. Some time back, the people who were making preparations to receive the Lord had received the revelation that Pyongyang would become Eden, and they had even prepared a site at the foot of Moran Hill to build a palace as they waited for his coming. My older sister was one of the zealous followers. It was a time when no one even thought about Seoul. I alone stubbornly insisted on going there, thinking vaguely that we would meet again in three years. At the time, it was my opinion

that if the Lord did come to Pyongyang he would have to move to Seoul because he would not be able to find a place to settle down in a communist state. I left, saying, "Mother, please be well. I will see you in three years." Thirty years have now passed. It is truly heartrending.

Fearing that others might see us, they could not even come to the gate to see me off. I turned my back on the house and went to Pyongyang Station, where I bought train tickets and made my way to the ticket barrier. All my companions were allowed to pass through, but they stopped me. Perhaps Satan knew I was leaving; at any rate, I was very uneasy. I finally made my way through, telling lies though I wasn't good at it. A woman who had just delivered a child and had been lying in bed only a while ago was forced to risk her life. We got on the train to Gaeseong⁹ but were forced to alight from the train midway. They investigated each of us, asking why we had come there and if we were planning to go to Seoul. I broke into a sweat. With God's help, we were finally freed. We spent the night in an inn. We rested during the day and walked through the night. Four days later about sunrise, we met a policeman who told us that we were in southern Korea. When I realized that we had finally crossed that infamous, invisible thirty-eighth parallel, I all but fainted. This meeting with the policeman felt like a meeting with the Savior. I sat down right there and then and wept.

We had walked all night, crossing mountains and rivers, and because my rubber shoes were slippery, I had taken them off and had walked wearing nothing but socks. The policeman said, "Ma'am, you have done well." I replied, "I will never go back to Pyongyang" and handed him my northern Korean citizen's identification card.

When I came to my senses and examined myself, I saw that I had lost my shoes, my legs were swollen and I looked like a crazy person. In a word, I was a mess. With much difficulty, I went downtown and bought a pair of rubber shoes, put them on, and took a direct train to Seoul via Gaeseong.¹⁰

9 The thirty-eight parallel crossed Gaeseong's northern outskirts.

10 Gaeseong proper was then in southern Korea. The line of division

When I got off the train at Seoul Station with my little children, I felt helpless, not knowing where I should go or what direction I should take, being the rustic that I was. After much thought, I remembered hearing that Dr. Jang Ri-wook, a relative of her husband, was the head of the teacher's college. Not knowing anything about streetcars, I hailed three rickshaws—there were rickshaws at the time—and told the pullers to take us to the official residence of the head of the teacher's college. We soon arrived at the residence. They let us stay with them for a while.

Though I met my husband, he did not tell me even once that I had done well. Instead, he harassed me every night, asking why I had come and how we were to live. I endured it, without answering him, and resolved in my heart that if we had to die we would die in Seoul, and that I would educate my six children as well as anyone else.

We finally found a small home in Huam-dong¹¹ and settled down in Seoul.

The children were going to school and we were all but settled down when the Korean civil war broke out on June 25, 1950. The communists in North Korea came to Seoul. All our neighbors in front of us and next to us became communists as well. Seoul was in turmoil. Including the family of my brother-in-law, we were fifteen people in total, and we were unable to leave Seoul in time. Moreover, we had no end of trouble hiding five men. One of the communists asked me if I believed in Jesus, and I answered yes. Then he asked me how long I had believed in him, and when I answered truthfully that it had been thirty years, they started to pay special attention to us. To

changed through the Korean War Armistice, resulting in Gaeseong being in North Korea. Today, it is the location of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex that employs North Korean workers in South Korean business ventures.

¹¹ A short distance to the east of Cheongpa-dong; ten years later it would be on the route Father would walk when he went to the mountain (Namsan) in the center of Seoul to pray with members.



General Douglas MacArthur

get away from them, we fled northward, not southward, walking about thirty kilometers.¹²

At our place of refuge, we suffered much, and my husband and oldest son were taken at one time. Then the South recovered their lost land on September 28¹³ and we returned home, only to find that two of our next-door neighbors had died and our porch had been burned. Not only that, when the South Korean Army marched north and took Pyongyang and Anju,¹⁴ my impatient husband and oldest son went with them to Pyongyang and Anju and met with the family members we had left behind. They also met with my mother and sister, who were still waiting, saying that the Lord was going to come to Pyongyang.

We were all overjoyed, thinking that the nation would be united soon, but there came a rude awakening. The Communist Chinese army came flooding down,¹⁵ and everyone

had to retreat. We had left early this time, with the intention of going south, but the train was already full. In the end, our family rode on top of a train car, on blankets spread out to protect the children, and we shouted to each other not to fall asleep because we would die if we dozed. We finally reached Busan¹⁶ after riding in this way for five days. **JW**

(To be continued...)

¹² 18.6 miles

¹³ With General Douglas MacArthur's landing at Incheon on September 15, the tide of the Korea War turned and the UN-commissioned forces recaptured Seoul very swiftly. Mrs. Oh is describing this time.

¹⁴ The advance of the combined ROK and allied forces would, within weeks, liberate True Father from prison in Hungnam; this was one of the only times (if not the only time) the border between North and South Korea was open for people to traverse. Father also managed to come to South Korea about two months after this, just as the border was closing again.

¹⁵ The entry of China into the Korean War in October 1950 reversed the tide of the conflict again.

¹⁶ True Father was by this time either in Pyongyang looking for his followers, or also making his way to South Korea by a much more arduous route. He would not arrive in Busan until January 27, 1951.



Left: The hastily conceived division at the thirty-eighth parallel was originally part of a plan to facilitate Japanese surrender and repatriation; for how it changed through the Korean Armistice see the map on p. 21; **Right:** Wartime refugees stream south



Let's Take Command of Our Future

The following is drawn from Dr. Yang Chang-shik's address at his inauguration in Seoul on 12.3 (January 14, 2013) as chairman of the Unification Movement in Korea. He is also International Executive Vice-President of FFWPU.

T rue Father ascended so suddenly that we could not imagine he was actually gone. Our Unification Family has had to confront that reality and is still reeling from the shock. It has already been four months since his passing.

Like you, I have felt drawn to True Parents by a very special connection over the past forty-three years. I first heard news of Father during my school days, as a dream-filled young man of eighteen. In Seoul, I was able to meet this "man with the great vision of unifying the homeland." Since there was no convenient transportation at the time, two friends and I walked from Hampyeong, South Jeolla Province to the Central Training Center in Sutaek-ri¹ and met Father in Cheongpyeong. I feels like only yesterday that he said, "It does a young man good to suffer a bit in this world."

I have spent much of the past eighteen years in America, the last four in Las Vegas. It was a time in the providence, like others, when a fierce spiritual battle seemed to be raging. Even in the most colorful city in the world, Father's self-imposed living conditions were miserable; his was a life in which he was fully constrained. He ate one or two fist-sized rice balls for breakfast to hold him over, skipped lunch and did not sleep, but words flowed from his mouth day and night. He organized a large convention once a month, following a path in line with the God of Day and the God of Night in the last great battle for humankind.

But, looking back, as a key disciple, one of True Parents' own spiritual children, I feel nothing but regret. True Parents' expectations are never influenced by people around them. No matter what others do, it does not meet True Parents' expectations. On many occasions, the Lord, in a holy rage, struck terror in heaven and on earth.

What's worse is the tragic reality of Father having ascended amidst our constant talk of unification and peace, while we were not even able to solve the divisions and conflict among ourselves. No matter the cause, no matter who is responsible, we cannot avoid collective responsibility; I especially cannot, as a leader who has been with Father from the beginning. We have no choice but to confess that we are perpetrators of the situation facing us today.

Even if we were to properly lead the way in mourning Father by wearing sackcloth and living near the Bonhyangwon,² we would still have no choice but to confess. My honest feeling is that whatever mission one may be responsible for, one cannot now feel joy, and whatever congratulations one may receive can only makes one's heart heavier. Likewise, whether we have been given a grand task or a small one in the providence, the positions we hold have not come to command an authority that is recognized by society. So when the confident and very holy Father suddenly ascended, from the outside it seemed as if the movement is facing a crisis, and members feel empty, as if they have just been orphaned.

¹ A distance of 320 kilometers (200 miles)

² This is the name given to True Father's grave. Traditionally, Koreans admired stories of an oldest son of a deceased father that would remain by his father's graveside, living in misery, for three years.

Whenever a core member has a Seonghwa Ceremony, Father would write in calligraphy, always starting with the character *chuk* [축] meaning “congratulations”—“Congratulations on your entry into the kingdom.” Though it is a moment for congratulations, that character did not appear in Father’s Seonghwa Ceremony because the founding of Cheon Il Guk that we were supposed to achieve during his lifetime is still ahead of us.

From this viewpoint, now is the time for the Unification Family to firmly move forward by reawakening a sense of impending life or death. From this standpoint, let us think about the path we must resolve to follow.

First, the primary path for us to take in inheriting and completing Father’s unfinished work is that of absolutely uniting with True Mother, who has led the providence with True Father for more than half a century.

Just a short time before the much hoped-for Foundation Day, Father suddenly became an intangible being to us. Yet he will be watching over us, day and night, in relation to the providence on earth. At the fortieth-day memorial of Father’s ascension, the initial point True Mother made was to confirm that “now Father’s thoughts have become my own, and my thoughts have become Father’s.” In numerous declarations, Father asserted that in the physical world he was one in heart, body, outlook and harmony with True Mother. Father is not now in some separate place in the spirit world; he is within True Mother, with True Mother and can work directly through True Mother.

In line with the blueprint for building Cheon Il Guk that Father has laid out, she is leading, hands-on, at the construction site. By revising how we address God to “Heavenly Parent” and revising the name of the church to the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, she has taken steps to expedite the providence.

Accordingly, our organization will now attend True Mother as chairwoman and Hyung-jin nim as international president, pivotal points firmly connecting our global missionary organization. We are at a point where the heavenly soldiers, whose intention it is to found the nation of Cheon Il Guk, must regroup before engaging in combat to ensure victory in the battle for goodness.

True Parents actually stand in front of us in True Mother. How surprised must she be when she awakens at night to find that True Father is not there by her side! Mother frequents the Bonhyangwon at one or two o’clock in the morning to talk to

True Father. At other times she meditates deeply in Father’s office, concerned about the future of the Unification Family.

Based on heavenly instinct alone and without anyone telling her what to do, True Mother knew Heaven’s will regarding her wedding day. From the time she was a bride, prepared over three generations, through grandmother Cho Won-mo, and Hong Soon-ae, she has attended Father, and maintained a resolute heart to complete the providence.

The other day, 350 women under the leadership of Women’s Federation president Moon Lan-young assembled in Cheon Jeong Gung. That was the first time Mother spoke of passing through four life-or-death trials—including giving birth to the True Children and the course she walked to achieve victory according to certain providential numbers. Everyone present was solemn. The slogan “At the risk of our lives” that we have often shouted out is not an abstract idea. We have confirmed that the path True Mother took has been nothing less than that.

Second, Mother presented Vision 2020, which means establishing the homeland by 2020, the one hundredth anniversary of Father’s birth. She has proceeded to reorganize the front line of our movement’s leadership. She declared a seven-year course, 2013–2020, in time for Father’s one hundredth birthday, Mother’s seventy-seventh birthday and their sixtieth Holy Wedding anniversary. On the worldwide foundation of the global Unification Church movement that began in the 1950s, True Mother will now lead with all her might, devoting herself to seeing God’s homeland.

Mother is saying, “Let’s establish the homeland within seven years.” This means that the Cheon Il Guk flag will fly in every Korean city, county, district, town, village and hamlet. To accomplish this True Mother sincerely asks that we invest every ounce of energy—regardless of who we are, who our family is and regardless of our age or position—into the work of building the homeland. She is saying, “Let’s found one homeland under the one God, under the flag of one family church that transcends national, cultural and religious barriers.”

Third, building Cheon Il Guk will require erecting a providential foundation that creates the environment. Internally, through Vision 2020, Cheon Il Guk elite forces will be trained through developing our church. Externally, a citizens’ movement based on Unification Thought will grow to become the main force for the reunification of our divided homeland. To that end, True Parents have established the *Wonmo Pyeongae*



Photo courtesy of the Korean Culture Department

Foundation³ to sponsor the training of capable people and to support the movement for global peace. The unification of our ancestral homeland is our people's destiny.

In order to assuage the pain of families separated by the border and to erect the homeland of faith for 194 countries, the division must be resolved. We know through the Principle that the cause of the division is providential. On this basis, unification absolutely must also be inevitable.

The various efforts to reunify Korea led by the Unification Church transcend denomination and social class. We are to digest and overcome North Korea's Juche⁴ philosophy through Godism, which must position itself as the ideology centered on the nation of one unified homeland. The International Federation for Victory Over Communism, the Citizens' Federation for the Unification of North and South Korea, the Universal Peace Federation, the Youth Federation for World Peace, and the Association of Religions in Korea, as well as academic organizations, sports teams and providential social groups, will devote resources to effecting the reunification of the homeland. The next seven years will decide the fate of the Korean people.

Fourth, is the personal perfection of one's true self and the establishment of the four-position foundation on a family level. The crux of our faith is the Principle, the force that burns away fallen nature and transforms us, through restoration, into living beings.

The saying, "Serve one another as you would serve Heaven" is correct. We should serve members as we serve Heaven. We must become shepherds through serving, being humble, loving, volunteering and going through all the hardships of life and abundantly feeding the members who seek us out. Tithing is members' blood and sweat being donated. If even better nutrients are not given in return, members will suffer malnutrition and eventually go in search of another shepherd, another flock. There are also the two sayings, "Treat all people and all things as you would treat the Buddha," and "With a prayerful mind, live with reverence, and solemnity."

Father gave a very simple yet powerful message to pastors: Let us shed sweat for earth, tears for man and blood for heaven with the heart of a parent in the body of servant. The church leaders' position is a parental position, but with a servant's body. For as long as I can recall, we have been hearing from members about the difficulties presented by the aloofness of church leaders. We must walk the fundamental path of true pastors that Father showed us.

Let's consider members as precious and create a climate that respects senior members. In the old days, if someone had joined only a month before we did, we treated that person as Abel and were even afraid to crowd that person's personal space. First, regarding senior blessed couples, we should serve those members as we do Heaven. The beautiful Unification Family tradition of younger members loving and serving older ones, and older members caring for and leading younger ones must be brought back into our midst.

Beloved brothers and sisters, Jesus could not build a four-position foundation on earth. In the end, he did not have disciples to follow him to the death, and he went to heaven without having built a church. Tens of billions of other people have come and quietly passed by without a trace. But, today Christianity has nearly a billion followers, and Christianity is the foundation of European and Western civilization for no other reason than that Jesus was the Messiah. All those in

³ The organization tasked with providing scholarships to support the education of young Unificationists.

⁴ The autarkic North Korean national ideology since 1972. For more on this see www.stanford.edu/group/sjeaa/journal3/korea1.pdf

authority denied it, but because Heaven planned for and sent him, he was able to display the power of resurrection (despite having given up his body as a condition) and this resulted in the Christianity we see today.

On August 12, Father came out of the hospital and before he returned, this time to the intensive care unit, he forced out his last prayer, the content of which we have heard many times. At the end, he stated, "I have accomplished everything. It is all finished." Upon earth Father lived a turbulent life. How many times did he say, it is done, it is accomplished, it is completed, it is over, it is through? There is not a verse in the Bible that Jesus wrote himself nor is there a single photograph of him.

Father has left us a waterfall of his teachings, and we have armed ourselves with the powerful weapons of the word and the truth. Now we must take an interest in watching when and where the amazing phenomena of Father's dynamic spirit will appear. We have already begun to witness the reality of such works here and there around the globe. Among them are the amazing work of the Holy Spirit in the Philippines. Father is manifesting himself in one place and another, appearing to leaders and encouraging them personally, directly leading the providence from behind the scenes.

I attended the Blessing Ceremony of 13,000 couples in the Philippines before returning to Korea in the early hours of this morning. The *Segye Times* carried lengthy coverage of this event. Fifty thousand couples have received the blessing on over eight occasions. Those blessed couples all received some Divine Principle education. During the congratulatory message, Jose de Venecia Jr., former Speaker of the House in the Philippines said, "Father Moon is here!" He delivered a fiery congratulatory address that turned the place into a crucible of the Holy Spirit. "Father Moon! Look! Look at this great scene!" he shouted excitedly as he touched the hearts of all the people who watched him attending Father through this expression of loyalty. He received a standing ovation.

Beloved brothers and sisters, the seven years remaining until 2020 is not a long time. Father is aware of all of our passion and sense of urgency. Take note of this point: When we attend Father properly, and make the right relationship with him, startling works that are ten, a hundred or 1,000 times greater than what we were expecting can occur to bring decisive momentum toward the unification of our homeland.

So, separate from evil and raise the standard of goodness. Our Unification Family is a proud family; True Parents are the saviors of humankind and the Lords of the Unification Family, so go out into the world with confidence. Lead and command the world giving your entire body and soul when there is the need.

It has been a long time since I last returned to Korea; there is much that I am not aware of. I feel very humbled to be here, but I am passionate. That is what I learned from Father. I think of Father's tendency to set a goal and forget the time of day or forget to eat or sleep until the goal is achieved. I reflect on how such great effort disperses darkness and erects a flag of victory. Our youth must mold themselves after that temperament.

I would like to return to the state of purity and cleanliness I experienced when I walked those many miles to see Father and to the passion that Heaven inspired in me. I will willingly accept reprimands from older members. Colleagues and young members, we will once again march toward the fearsome battle line, and we will surely fulfill our responsibilities on earth before we meet Father in heaven with confidence. I hope you all can become providential warriors centering on Mother, who has stepped forward to take on this great task. **TW**



ACLCLC Ministers as Divine Principle Lecturers

Rev. Michael Jenkins (pictured above) was recently reassigned from his mission as chairman of the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLCLC) to one of overseeing the U.S. church's business development. He writes here of working, during his final year with ACLCLC, to fulfill Father's hopes for Christian ministers.

The very day we concluded the Original Substance of Divine Principle workshop that completed the goal of educating 3,000 ministers—December 17, 2011—a huge change in leadership came about in North Korea.¹ The ministers were running around saying, “Oh, my God!” They felt that it was clearly the influence of Father Moon leading the way to bring unification between North Korea and South Korea.

Father had taken the initiative to bring 172 ministers to Korea in 2011, and he trained them; they had heard the OSDP workshop there. Then in Las Vegas, True Father had commissioned twelve from among that group to educate the 3,000 in OSDP by the end of December 2011. During that time, Rev. Yu Jeong-ok was the main lecturer; he trained many of us. Finally, True Father allowed the ministers also to be approved to become OSDP lecturers. It helped us reach our goal more quickly. Archbishop Stallings and I were the first two to lecture. Then many more came.

After fulfilling that goal, True Father told us to increase the number from 3,000 to 13,000. We were asked to fulfill this by going into the local churches to teach, to spread the word. That's what we did. It wasn't easy to keep up, but the ministers, especially many of the original 172, were so deeply moved by Father that they felt an urgent desire to bring this “new wine” to Christianity. Thanks to the American Unification Church members, who gave full support, the momentum built until Father's goal could be reached.

As we taught in small churches across the country, Dr. Yang Chang-shik and Bishop Kim Ki-hoon would give Father, in Las Vegas, constant updates and reports about our progress. It was deeply encouraging to receive Father's love and guidance, even for the small seminars—he was interested even when just five pastors had gathered and wanted to hear about their testimonies on awakening to the Principle. This gave religious leaders who were close to us, such as Bishop Stallings, Bishop Jesse Edwards and Rev. Tanya Edwards, tremendous energy.

We always felt that achieving Father's goal was the most important thing. Whenever True

Parents set a goal, once you make it, a completely different foundation is laid. We were very serious to make the goal, and the whole American Unification Church membership got behind it. We remember when the goal of bringing 7,000 clerics to Korea in the 1980s and the clergy education on Godism in America goal were met. Father said that education in the “word” was what caused the Communist world to collapse, because it was centered on the “false word.” Of course, the work of the Washington Times, together with all the other efforts that Father made to counter communism, was also critical.

It was during this time that the ministers began to teach. We trained many pastors to lecture the Principle of Creation, the Human Fall, the Mission of Jesus, Restoration, and the Second Coming. They struggled with it initially. As the Principle teachings reveal the



Photos courtesy of the Unification Church-USA

The December 15 workshop that was broadcast to 2,800

¹ Kim Jong-il died December 17, the same calendar day as the True Family Values Awards Banquet that concluded the workshop.

hidden meanings of the Bible, this created a lot of controversy and difficulty for the ministers.

For instance, it was hard for them to understand that John the Baptist had not completed his mission. He had baptized Jesus, yet in the end he doubted Jesus. The ministers would read that in the Bible and become so disturbed. Ministers would get hung up on certain points until others in a “John the Baptist” position could explain how they had overcome their own struggles. Through their understanding of the Bible based on the Principle, they could help other pastors cross the bridge in understanding.

For example, all ministers know that Adam and Eve disobeyed God; but Genesis chapter 3 shows that it involved the misuse of love. When the ministers saw it written in Genesis 2:5 that Adam and Eve had been naked and unashamed, but by Genesis 3 they were ashamed of their nakedness and covered their lower parts, that helped them change their view.

During a lecture, Bishop Michael Sykes of the United Baptist Church in New Jersey testified:

Listen, I’m a Baptist; we were raised all of our life to understand how great John the Baptist was. However, when we studied the Bible more deeply through the Principle, though John the Baptist initially baptized and testified to Jesus, he fell into to doubt. This is what my Bible tells me. I never thought that as a Baptist I would be saying this. However it’s because Rev. Moon was able to bring out the deeper meaning of the Bible—Jesus appeared to him and revealed it to him!

What were the practical steps in bringing ministers to become Divine Principle educators? We organized Pastors’ Forums, bringing together twenty to twenty-five ministers at a time. We held these all over the country, and from these we picked the OSDP lecturers. In the forums we would read the OSDP content and each relevant Bible verse, so that ministers could see what the Bible was saying on the key points.

Educating the 3,000 had been the foundation to open ministers’ hearts. All of this was Father’s work and that was key here; all this came about because Father had made sure that everyone studied the Principle. It was one of his last directions for ACLC; to be prepared for Foundation Day we had to go through the OSDP. Father made no exceptions for our ACLC ministers. It was a mandate from Heaven.

Even so, it was often uncomfortable for the ministers to attend the lectures—for the 172 it was from 5:00 AM until 10:00 PM with Rev. Yu. Many, many difficulties arose. But somehow

God’s word washes people. Ephesians 5:25-26 says, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.” Father loved the “Bride” of the church and brought cleansing and washing through the water of the OSDP teachings. This is not just intellectual understanding, but purification that comes from receiving the word.

The ministers studied hard. The most controversial and difficult point was that Jesus could not complete his mission, that there was actually more to come. That also becomes evident as you study the scriptures along with the Divine Principle. Moreover, in True Father’s autobiography, Father’s personal testimony of meeting Jesus is one of the most valuable things to share with ministers.

As members of the Unification Church, we always heard that Father met Jesus on Easter Day when he was a young boy, that he received his mission—and that was about it. We didn’t know much detail until Father’s autobiography, which reveals remarkably deep encounters with Jesus. It was not a one-off experience. After Father met Jesus, he began searching in prayer. When his prayers were truly sincere and earnest, Father says, Jesus would appear. It was at that time that Father uncovered the principles of the Bible, together with Jesus—that’s what’s very beautiful. The ministers began to understand this. They could feel it from the autobiography. There is nothing more powerful than the ministers realizing that this could not just come from a man—even from a very intelligent or spiritual person. This had to have come from God.

Even so, when they first began to teach at local seminars, it was somewhat awkward. The ministers had a hard time staying within the framework of the Principle’s core content. A minister would begin to lecture and sometimes he would be so inspired by just one Bible verse that he would talk about it for twenty minutes. We had to work with them. We developed scripts. Dr. Tyler Hendricks and I worked together very closely to develop a much more concise version of OSDP. That’s the version we would use in the workshops that were later broadcasted. We also upgraded the slides both for the members and the ministers and we found they were able to lecture very systematically.

Just as it was with us, when the ministers first studied Divine Principle and lectured, they didn’t really know the Principle content, but as soon as they got up there and started to speak, they began to feel power. Sometimes a gap in their knowledge would be covered by God’s guidance and revelation. You come to discover the power of the Principle; it’s not



Giving Divine Principle lectures are (left to right) Bishop Michael Sykes, Bishop Sulanch Grant Lewis, and Rev. Tanya Edwards; Right: Archbishop George A. Stallings and Bishop Jesse Edwards have become accomplished Divine Principle presenters.



At the December 15 Original Substance of Divine Principle Workshop, Hyung-jin nim and Yeon-ah nim meet with participating ministers.

through True Parents' love and Foundation Day, and we'll see the kingdom of God on earth.

Some forty pastors have become lecturers. Once they have lectured a few times, they know from the Bible that this is the truth. Our members can do the same thing. We can have a lecturing revolution to convey God's word. When you have content that is so clear and concise, and the visuals are also clear, the ministers become inspired. Our members become inspired. I have learned that nothing inspires a Unification Church member more than seeing a Christian minister believing in the Divine Principle and lecturing it!

When Rev. Hyung-jin Moon became the American church president, he

just an intellectual confirmation but you actually experience deep confirmation from God and the Holy Spirit. And when ministers are teaching other ministers, they all get so excited when they learn something new about the Bible.

More than a hundred and fifty pastors' forums have been held over the past two years. Those discussions were the foundation. Then we continued to hold OSDP seminars throughout the country. Although it was awkward at first, as we continued on, Bishop Jesse Edwards became extremely good on the Human Fall, for example, and Archbishop Stallings became an outstanding presenter on the Mission of Jesus.

When he lectured, Bishop Michael Sykes felt confirmation from God. He had been part of ACLC for many years but had never really been convinced. Then, during the OSDP workshop as one of the 172 called to Korea, something happened. His life was so deeply touched by God's word. He felt, "This is it!"

When Father pushed the ministers to each bring twelve others, Bishop Sykes was one who actually did so. Father actually encouraged them to not only bring other ministers but to bring their church members too. Bishop Sykes wanted to bring his congregation, although he was worried that once they heard that Jesus didn't complete his mission, or that John the Baptist had failed, or that the Fall was sexual, he might lose them all. But we are now in a completely new era. Twenty-two people from his church attended the education of the 3,000. The OSDP seminar was even held several times in Bishop Sykes' own church.

I'll never forget when we sent him off to teach in Detroit. He was lecturing both the Human Fall and the Mission of Jesus. He had done these two lectures separately before, but this time he did them together. He called and was very excited. He had had a revelation. He had come to understand that the first Adam fell, and that Jesus was the second Adam. So for Jesus to complete his mission, he has to not only restore Adam, he has to find a bride (Eve). Bishop Sykes had such a deep revelation that Jesus' course is directly connected to the Fall. He said, "As a Christian I had never understood that Jesus came as Adam, but that's what the Bible says in First Corinthians; Jesus is called the last Adam."

Also, Bishop Sulanch Grant Lewis, who brought the most ministers to the conferences—over 200 ministers over the last year—had a spiritual experience of seeing Father onstage while we were lecturing. She had been one of the twelve in Las Vegas. She continues to bring minister in the door. She's so deeply convinced that we will stand through the word,

wanted us to use the Bible more in our teaching, and he fervently wanted to fulfill Father's goal. We had more than 8,000 graduates of the lecture series by that time, but we needed 5,000 more. Father had said we should finish by Foundation Day, but we felt we had to finish before the end of 2012.

We used the broadcast system that In-jin nim had set up to broadcast to all fifty states. It was fantastic. We had a reasonable goal for all of the fifty states to bring the ministers—thirty for most states, with the larger states asked to bring at least a hundred. We were very concerned: What if we don't make it? What if the broadcast doesn't work?

But more than 2,300 attended on December 1. Some states had fifteen guests, others had multiple locations with five or six at each, some had two hundred. Then on December 15, 2,800 attended. With that, we went well over the 13,000 goal.

This opened up a feeling of Pentecost, as in the early days when Father had only a small group of men and women that were true members but things were deeply spiritual. We could feel the Lord was with us, and is with us. Since Father transitioned to heaven last September, our ministers had begun to have the feeling that Father was guiding us all. They felt no gap between them and Father.

During Hyung-jin nim's first experience with Father after his ascension, he received an absolute commission. He said that when Father came through in the vision, Father was so fiercely against what is bad in the world, so strong, and he looked at Hyung-jin nim directly and communicated with him that through "absolute sex" everything would be solved.

Hyung-jin nim shared about this openly with the ministers, and they were very responsive. Twenty-eight hundred were assembled from all fifty states. His "absolute good sex" teaching has expanded to become a new ministry.

True Father knew exactly which conditions would open the way for the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. That condition was giving truth and love to the clergy, knowing that the risk was great. However the pastors did not reject this "new wine" but have received it, embraced it and now teach it. The word is like fire and it is now spreading throughout Christianity.

Father once said, around 1995, that "Christianity and all faiths are going to merge into us. When they do they will come with different traditions and ways and clothing. When they do, just let them come. As they come to understand the God's word they will come to believe in True Parents."

True Father and True Mother, thank you, that day has come. Just before our glorious Foundation Day. **TW**

Life Out of Chaos

A Behind the Scenes Look at Recent Filipino Successes

By Stephen and Constance Gabb



Mrs. Gabb worked in the Philippines three times in the last year assisting our hearty Filipino members. The following reminiscences cover a time when her husband joined her during a holiday from his work.

What has been happening in the Philippines over the past year is nothing short of miraculous. Working in this country with our dear brothers and sisters who have gone through so much, we are keenly aware of the watchful and loving eye of our True Parents, especially of our True Father, who is now free to travel anywhere at any time to inspire us.

Leading up to the eighth Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival was an all-out, day-and-night effort to reach the areas surrounding metro-Manila. The Smart Araneta Stadium in the heart of Quezon City has a capacity of sixteen thousand. However, to actually bring that many people requires a commitment to finding at least twice that number.

In addition to organizing this event, no less than six other events were being arranged at the same time: an International Leadership Conference (ILC) involving 300-400 dignitaries from the Philippines and ten other Asian nations; the Inauguration of the Asian Global Women's Peace Network (Abel Women's UN); a Youth Assembly organized by World CARP in association with YFWP; a Pure Love rally in downtown Manila; the official opening of the new International Peace Leadership College (a university for young Filipinos committed to serving as FFWPU volunteers after graduating;¹ and the "soft" opening of the new FFWPU headquarters in Manila (it is still under construction). All these events were accomplished successfully over a four-day period beginning January 11.

The Filipino members were organized into different groups under the inspired leadership of Dr. Yong Chung-sik, who follows True Parents' formula course with absolute love, faith and obedience. Forty to fifty minutes of hoondokhae at 5 AM and twelve minutes' prayer were the starting points of every day. Testimonies from members' daily experiences often followed. Afterward, Dr. Yong would go around the room and personally greet each member. Once a day for eight days, young members and elders alike took part in "Jericho" walks around the event venues, including

¹ For more on this, see our January-February 2012 issue.





Photos courtesy of the Unification Church-Philippines

Above left: Religious leaders give their blessings at the inauguration of the International Peace Leadership College; **Middle and right:** Scenes from the Blessing Festival; **Bottom inset:** Dr. Jose de Venecia rousing the crowd with his testimony to Father Moon.

the Smart Araneta Stadium, where the Blessing Festival was to be held.

At first, and even up to a week before the event, we did not have the support of the major government offices. However, by the day of the event, the mayors of both Quezon City and Manila, and even the president's office, had all come around and sent letters expressing support for the program. The government actually encouraged people to come to our meetings. One reason is that we cared about the simplest people. Whether you are a government official or a poor person on the street, you could receive the blessing.

Our role in the campaign was on the public relations team, reaching out to prominent members of society to invite them to the ILC, and to the embassies to gain the support of the ambassadors. We were also inviting individuals to come to the stadium for the Blessing Ceremony. We would travel to the barangay offices² to present videos and lectures on Divine Principle chapters one and two to the captains and to inspire married couples to register to attend the festival.

[Constance:] Most of the people I witnessed to were Catholic,

² A local district or ward

and always the doors opened to me, I never had anyone reject me or saw any sign of disapproval. I grew up Catholic. People noticed I was someone of faith, who loved God; they noticed how passionate I was about morality.

Traveling was hectic and often long due to the rough roads and heavy traffic. Finding the barangay offices was sometimes a real challenge, even for local taxi drivers. We had to compete with other groups also trying to win the people. Every day was a battle!

As we got closer and closer to the Blessing Festival and ILC, the house we were staying in became increasingly full, starting out with about ten members and ending up with about fifty, sleeping all over the place. Bishop Elias Soria was there, inviting religious leaders, and there were lectures going on in the main PR office, which was our bedroom at night.

We sent out invitations to the embassies and repeated the invitations by fax. Our headquarters building is under construction and the phone and fax machine were in the guard house outside the building. It was just a hut on stilts, ten feet off the ground, so we had to climb a ladder to get to the fax and phone.

We met personally with representatives from a number of





A Pure Love demonstration and rally held in downtown Manila was well attended by members and associates.

embassies. Jacy Manabat from Brazil came with me to her embassy, where the deputy minister welcomed us warmly, and accepted Father's autobiography. After two months of outreach, the Cambodian embassy responded best. They sent their chargé d'affaires for the first night of the conference; moreover, on the night of the Ambassador for Peace Awards the Cambodian ambassador and her husband arrived unexpectedly and sat at the head table with the guests of honor.

At the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival, more than 13,000 couples came to receive the blessing. An overflow crowd filled an adjacent conference hall. As husband and wife we had the honor of serving at this additional venue through blessing the crowd with Holy Water.

Former Speaker of the House Jose de Venecia was completely won over. To the vast crowd in the stadium, he declared that Father Moon was "absolutely with us today!" He declared that this signified a whole new stage for UPF and the movement in the Philippines. Twenty-one religious leaders, including prominent members of the Roman Catholic Church, offered their prayers of blessing.

One of our guests not only attended a four-day workshop but also paid to attend the ILC, and even was made an ambassador for peace.

The day before the conference we met a medical doctor, who after a one-hour presentation committed to the conference and attended the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival, staying up all night to attend the following day's events because it was too far for him to travel back and forth from his home.

All our members had such testimonies. The spirit of the Philippines is truly the spirit of miracles! **STW**

When Dr. Yong Chung-sik instructed us to mobilize 13,000 couples for the Peace Blessing in Manila we all thought it was impossible. In March 2012 we mobilized 40,000 people to attend the Blessing Ceremony in the rural area of Mindanao with the support of the local government and community. That in itself was a miracle, but how could we repeat with similar large numbers in the capital city with no support from the local government and not much support from the community? A key factor is that the members in the Philippines are people of heart and loyalty. This proved to be our strongest asset.

Dr. Yong gave us deep internal guidance every day and worked side by side with the members. This gave us power and strength to face this seemingly impossible task. We just went forward remembering that Mother had told us "for us, there is no stopping." It was really like that. We didn't think too much; if we had, we would have had difficulty believing that we could do it.

The Filipino members work so hard, young and old alike, without exception dedicating themselves to a task. They have a deep commitment to the mission, and even the home members work as if they are full-time members. I believe it was through their faith in the goals given to us by Dr. Yong and their total dedication that God could accomplish the impossible.

Contributed by Marilyn Angelucci, dean of student affairs at the International Peace Leadership College



At back, left to right: Umberto Angelucci (in the yellow shirt) and his wife Marilyn, Ursula McLackland and Constance Gabb with local members who mobilized themselves to invite people to the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival

Our Family's Damascus Experience

By David Fraser Harris

As I write, Syria is in turmoil and thousands are dying. It is difficult to write calmly in such circumstances, but for the sake of history we must record our efforts to advance Heaven's providence in the nation assigned to us as the Abel national messiah family.

Preparation

When the call came in 1996, it took some prayer before we decided to leave behind our Vatican (European interfaith) mission and head for Cheongpyeong. Following the national messiah workshop, we took almost a year to find a suitable way to move from Rome to Damascus and to raise the funds to make that possible. We moved on August 11, 1997, which has become a special day for our family.

Much was in place to support a good beginning for us. Already the ten WFWP sisters were settled there and taking care of the early (1992) Muslim blessed couples. Both the Adam and Eve national messiahs visited Syria.

Nevertheless, we were in no doubt as to the difficulty of such a mission. When asked by the many Italian Christians who donated to support our future mission in Syria what kind of mission it was, I answered, "Not changing people's religion." When asked by members in Italy, "What are you going to do in Syria?" I answered with one word, "Stay," mindful of the fact that so many had been unable to stay very long. In fact, one thing that gave us strength was the very fact that the national messiah mission was supposed to continue for three generations. We quickly realized that very little would be possible in a short few years. This definitely was a family mission.

Getting started

Even though we came to represent True Parents, we could not approach our challenge as missionaries. In fact, rather like Mission Butterfly¹ twenty years earlier, we felt we had to more or less disappear off the Unificationist map for a while. We had to build a foundation of our own, winning respect from those around us. A teaching job at an international

1 A code name for Unificationist outreach missions into Communist Eastern Europe

David Fraser Harris (center), his wife Keiko (at left) and children in the home of Feras (standing), a Palestinian man who tutored the Fraser Harris children in Arabic. During this visit they took turns reading excerpts from one of Father's peace messages.



Photos courtesy of David F. Harris

school provided us with a way to begin—legal residency, family income and schooling for the children. When the international school closed down after a year, I became a teacher at the American Language Center, which provided the legal and financial support for most of our time in Syria.

Over time, the respect I earned as a teacher began to open doors for us. As I talked with students and colleagues, I explained my interest and experience in interfaith work and peace projects. Students began to attend our events in Istanbul and Beirut. One student used to linger after class, wanting to talk about deeper things. We took to walking together to his bus stop twice a week. That was how he heard Divine Principle—walking to the bus. Later he became an Arabic tutor to our children, as a favor. Feras, a Palestinian Muslim, later wrote, “At first, I knew only about Islam. I had never thought about any other religion or gotten any idea about what they believe in and how they express their faith. David is the one who introduced me to other faiths. He... led me to believe that how I view others outside of Islam is wrong. I know a lot of people propagating hatred for other religions, but David is different: he is the man that I know who spreads love not just among his fellows in their beliefs but with others as well.”

In late 2001, I was sharing with Feras about the need to find a good religious leader to attend an international conference. He said he would take me to meet a sheikh “who teaches that we should only have one wife.” I took with me the report on the Jakarta conference. When the sheikh saw it, he said, “Kaufmann—I know that name.” I became very worried. Just a few months before, Frank Kaufmann had explained at an Istanbul conference how one particular Arab event had almost collapsed just because of his name, which sounds Jewish. Then the sheikh continued, “I met him at the New Yorker Hotel.” As we began to unravel the story, we discovered that this sheikh had been with the Grand Mufti of Syria when he brought a group of followers to study the Principle at the New Yorker in 1991. He had later married the granddaughter of the mufti and become a respected sheikh in his own right. Dr. Mohammad Habash was delighted to accept the invitation to Seoul for the 2002 celebration of True Parents’ birthday. When True Father heard that a Syrian was present, he immediately asked about the Grand Mufti, and Taj Hamad was asked to visit Syria to meet him again.

Challenges

Life in Syria definitely had its unique challenges. In my early days there, teachers used to say that in a class of sixteen you could guarantee that two were government informers. I know of several teachers who were forced to leave the country because they openly spoke as evangelical Christians. On more than one occasion, when I visited Dr. Habash’s office, he would tell me that the person who was just leaving was from the secret police. I also heard the same when I visited my travel agent. I had no difficulty with this. I remembered True Father saying in East Garden, “I am sure there are people from the CIA and the KGB here. I hope they listen carefully.” From later reports, it appears that at least the KGB did. I hoped the Syrians would, too!

In 2005, as the Interreligious Peace Sports Festival (IPSF) was developing, I received a call from a Syrian Christian living in Germany. He had read about IPSF online and was coming to Syria for Easter. We arranged to meet, and he became keen to find Syrian participants for the project. Later he set up an appointment for me at a Damascus office. At the request of the lady in charge I brought an IPSF leaflet with me. After a fifteen-minute meeting, in which the lady spoke once and her “medical advisor” took over, repeating several times that Syria “does not need such interfaith work,” I realized that progress was unlikely. Two days later my wife received a call: “This is the police. Your husband’s passport is out of order.” When the man came around a day later to interview me, he put a copy of the leaflet on the table. “You are not allowed to hand these out,” he said. I explained that I had brought it because I had been asked to. A year later, I received a follow-up call, checking whether we had sent any Syrians to the project. In 2006, Play Football Make Peace had a successful regional tournament in Amman. The Syrian school team was on the bus ready to leave when they received orders from the government that it would be a security risk for them to participate.

The government was evidently unhappy with any effective foreign influence. The successful international school where I taught for my first year was closed down by the government amid rumors and recriminations. One such rumor had it that there was Middle School teacher called David (a suspiciously Jewish-sounding name) who was teaching propaganda in a back room. Another rumor (not about the school) claimed that senior TV personalities had been hanged in the square near



Left: David Fraser Harris explains the work of UPF to Cardinal Nasrallah Butros Sfeir, Patriarch of the Maronite Catholic Church in Lebanon (1986–2011); **Right:** Dr. Mohammad Habash speaks at an event at his Islamic Studies Center in Damascus, in 2006, at which a peace message of Father’s was read (in Arabic) by Alfred and Heather Fraser Harris, seated here next to their father.

our house for passing information to the enemy. In such a climate, unverified rumors have a life of their own.

Public projects, family roots

Following Dr. Habash's attendance in Seoul, I was asked to take on the role of regional secretary-general for IIFWP. I replied that I could not take a national position, but a regional one would be possible. I was thus able to actively support programs and activities across the region, especially in Jordan and Lebanon. Syria was able to send participants to many of these programs. Dr. Habash himself became a member of the Syrian parliament² (2003–2011). He also became a member of UPF's Global Peace Council and assisted in key projects. One unsuccessful one was the translation of *World Scripture* into Arabic. Less moderate opponents of Dr. Habash spread rumors that *World Scripture* was intended to supplant the Koran, which caused most of the student translators to back out of the project for fear of damaging their reputation. More successful was the translation of True Father's autobiography into Arabic. While the actual translation was done in Egypt, Japan, Korea and Sudan, the final editing was done by a Syrian lady (living in Hama) in the early months of the Syrian uprising.

The family element of the mission has remained constant. Early on, I found inspiration in the approach of the sixteenth century Jesuit, Matteo Ricci, to his mission in China. His success in becoming respected in the Chinese culture inspired me. My hope was that our family would be able to do something similar in Syria over time. Now we are all outside Syria, but Syria is in our hearts and it will be difficult to stop our children from returning there. All five of them speak Arabic, four as native speakers. All of them keep in touch with their friends there, especially in these troubled times. WFWP's recent Geneva conference on the Middle East included five second-generation members, one of whom was one of our daughters. The same daughter took responsibility for translating fifty pages of True Father's autobiography. Many providential events were held on a family level in our home.

Heaven's Help

Looking back, we have to testify to the help received from Heaven, both in getting started and in weathering the many storms we faced. The move to Syria was unbelievably smooth.

2 The 250-seat Majlis al-Shaab (People's Assembly)

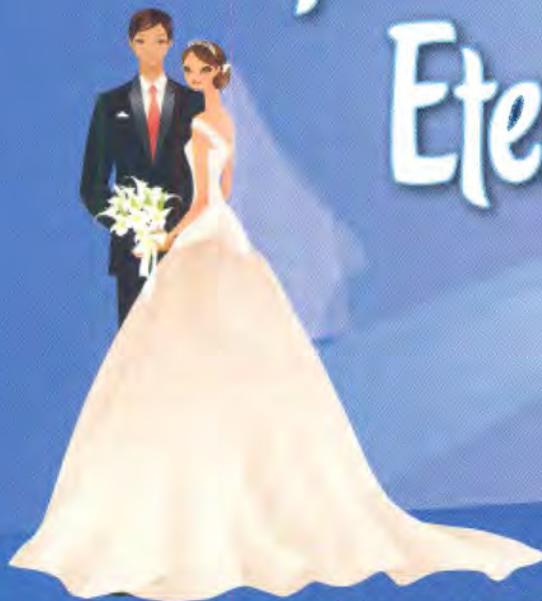
Since the school I was going to work for was sponsored by the EU office in Damascus, we received VIP treatment on arrival, being ushered through customs. The many boxes we shipped from Rome were delivered directly to the EU office. The experience of meeting Dr. Habash showed me that True Parents really have walked the path ahead of us. When the international school was closed, a new lifeline opened in the form of the American Language center. Among other things, this made it possible for me to support my family on half a week's work and then devote a lot of time to UPF work throughout the region. Riots (in protest against the Iraq no-fly zone) in 1998 could easily have destroyed the language center, eliminating our way of staying there, but the building was spared. Faced with the Syrian government's closure of all American institutions in late 2008, we were ordered to leave the country. With two children in twelfth grade schooling, we felt that we needed to find a way to stay. A Christian member of the parliament was moved to write to the minister of the interior on our behalf, impressed by our desire to stay in Syria against all odds. Eventually I managed to find work teaching at one of Syria's new private universities. When the university offered to arrange a visa for me, I advised against it, saying that my name was on the blacklist and it would only cause problems. A year and a half later, the ministry ordered the university to fire me, but by then the language center had reopened and there was no objection to my resuming teaching there.

Even at the end, Heaven's help was there. As we saw the situation deteriorating in 2011, it gradually became clearer how much worse it was going to get. In late November we finally came to the conclusion that we had to leave, and informed the language center that we would leave at the end of the term, taking up an offer for evacuation that had been available since April. On December 22, the day the term ended, we were informed that the school would be closed. Some teachers protested that it was not necessary, while others remarked that our decision had been prescient. The next day the first bombs went off in central Damascus. When we finally left on January 9, 2012, a security firm monitored our safe exit every step of the way, even calling us at Amman airport and after our arrival in Scotland. Our son stayed on in Syria until August 2012, hoping to be able to complete his studies there. When he finally left, our family had spent fifteen years in Syria. None of us feels as if our time there has finished. **TW**



Left: The Eve national messiah to Syria presents a gift to Mahmoud Kufaro, son of the late Grand Mufti Ahmed Kufaro (photo on the wall) who was active in interfaith relations; he and True Father met several times; **Right:** On Straight Street in Damascus, where Saul, later St. Paul, stayed and had his sight restored (Acts 9: 11–17) after his spiritual experience on the road to the city.

Help with Finding Your Eternal Love



From much thought and prayer comes a system of support for first-generation members who sincerely want to receive the holy blessing of marriage.

This interview was conducted with Susan Crosthwaite, one of the eight members of the Organizing Committee of the European Blessed Family Department. Aware that new (and not-so-new) first-generation members struggle at times with the task of finding their eternal spouse, some years ago, as Blessed Family Department co-director for the United Kingdom, she sought to design a support system that helps candidates experience God's guidance in finding the right person. We asked her to explain how it works.



Susan Crosthwaite

Today's World: What motivated you to initiate this?

Susan Crosthwaite: In 1995, when True Parents globalized the blessing, people began coming to the ceremony with far less preparation than those blessed before that time. Sadly, this led to many broken blessings. I was counseling members who had experienced one, two or even three matchings or blessings that had ended in tragedy. Not to mention the pain of those members' broken hearts, I was very concerned that the dignity and value of the blessing itself was being eroded in the eyes of members.

In response to this situation, in 1998, I began doing two things: first, searching for spouses for those who had experienced this heartbreak, in order that they might find happiness; and second, working to raise the standard of the matching qualifications. This was so that in making effort to meet the qualifications, candidates would be better prepared for the challenges of restoration in the course of their blessing relationship and would more deeply value what they had received. This would in turn protect the value and sacredness of the holy blessing. In that way, I wanted to support our blessing candidates to have higher aspirations.

Fundamentally, we developed a system¹ under which people could be free to say yes or no at any time during the process. According to the Principle, God created us as beings with free will. This is one of the points we emphasize in our system—people having the freedom at any point in the process to say no. This feature encourages and emphasizes the importance of freedom to invest in the relationship without particular time pressure.

The logic behind our system is one of free will and ownership; if you feel you cannot say no, you may not freely say yes with your whole heart. When one does not feel

¹ Now officially known as the European First Generation Matching System

obliged to say yes, one can freely say no if one wants to or needs to. This actually helps people say yes when they really want to.

Did you seek the support of national or regional leaders?

From the outset, the European regional president (then, Dr. Song Yong-cheon²) and the UK national leader at the time (Tim Read) placed great trust in the process we were developing. With the encouragement of the European Blessed Family Department committee chairman (Geros Kunkel), I presented the procedure we developed at a European leaders' meeting.

At these meetings we always highlight our best practices and receive much encouragement. President Song gave us the authority to work on the European level. "I give you the authority to do the introductions," he said. "Just let me know when members are matched so that I can give my approval." He and his wife liked to see the commitment photos, but they relied on and trusted our staff and the matching advocates,³ who know the candidates, to make caring and responsible decisions about the introductions, and they trusted and supported the commitment made by the couples.

We launched the program officially, after ten years of effort and development, at the 2008 European Cheon Il Guk Annual Assembly, our annual Europe-wide meeting.

What qualifies a matching applicant for participation in your system?

We require that the person be tithing regularly, attending Sunday service a minimum of three times a month and making effort to find spiritual children. These requirements are for the purpose of demonstrating that the candidate is trying his or her best to share the faith and care for people, and that he or she is an active part of a Unificationist community.

We also asked members to spend at least a year in active membership after coming to have faith in True Parents. The candidate is also expected to have been sexually abstinent for at least a year prior to the matching process. Under the Korean Family Education Department, a person has to have been a member for just six months, but in Europe we would still prefer that it be a year. Candidates must have also attended a minimum of a seven-day Principle workshop, plus, of course, blessing education.

They need to be involved in responsible employment or study and in developing their local Unificationist community. There is no value in introducing people to each other if one of them is living at a remote distance from a church community and has no interaction with our members. It tends not to work. These are the standards we have set, based on much experience.

How do people actually meet?

Blessed Family Department representatives—we have sixteen throughout Europe—and other matching supporters across the continent can view candidate profiles in our secure database

2 President of our church in Europe for ten years until very recently.

3 In Europe, an advocate is someone in good standing who supports someone to be a candidate for introduction; he or she cannot be a member of the candidate's family.

and suggest for introduction a suitable person that is in their care.

As system supervisor, I accept potential candidate applications after all the forms are presented electronically. The forms are checked and signed by local and national leadership before being sent to me, after which they are put into our database.

Each person seeking to be matched has a matching supporter (sometimes the national Blessed Family Department director) and an advocate, who knows the person well and who is willing to help with that person's initial introduction and when the candidate needs personal support. The candidates' supporters communicate and pray as they feel necessary (over at least three days) and then if they still feel it would be a good match, introduce the two candidates by presenting the other candidate's picture and profile to the person they are supporting, in their own locality. Individually, the candidates have some time to decide whether to be formally introduced to each other. If it is "no" from either side, no further introduction takes place. It sometimes takes days or even weeks for the process of suggestions and introductions to reach the point that the potential couple actually start communicating with each other.



Susan with young European members in Cheongpyeong around the time of the Blessing Ceremony last year.

Photos courtesy of Susan Croshamite

Matching supervisors in other countries—for example the United States, Thailand, Japan, Oceania—are in communication. We have also built working relationships with Blessed Family Department representatives in those parts, and we introduce people in the same way.

Some candidates who have been blessed before have experienced the heartbreak of divorce. Sometimes we encourage those brothers and sisters to witness with the express desire and intention of finding their own spouse. This has worked successfully four times in the past several years.

Is there reference to the vertical values we have always associated with the matching?

Yes, very much. The vertical element needs to be strong in order to help us maintain our focus on God, rather than focusing on the horizontal aspect of the relationship. I believe this is part of reversing the results of the Fall in our lineages and in our lives. Without this vertical element, we would become no different from the dating sites of the worldly culture, some

of which are very good programs but do not comprehend or serve the purposes of God and True Parents' providence to fill the world with families of true love.

What is the next stage for those who have been introduced?

There is a seven-month period of "heavenly courtship." The reason I coined this term—and I like it a lot—is that we want to see develop, within the Cheon Il Guk culture, a sense of not taking anything for granted when you are introduced to someone. We want people to make effort from the deepest part of their hearts, see and serve the other person as God's child and win the heart of that person. In the old-fashioned sense, we want to see couples treasure one another and make effort.

This is especially important because it will bring out the manliness in our young men, and therefore bring out the womanliness of our young women, which are important aspects of the heavenly culture.

Specifically, that seven months means a twenty-one-day communication period followed by a twenty-five-week heavenly courtship phase. At any stage in the seven months the couple can choose to discontinue the relationship. After twenty-one days of communication they can say no, and return to the matching candidate group, or say yes and take the twenty-five weeks to consider whether to accept and be committed to loving the person he or she has been introduced to.

The system is carried out flexibly. Two people who have been introduced should take a minimum of four months and a maximum of seven months, and certainly not more than a year. (Some people subconsciously hang on and won't come to a decision, due to unresolved issues in themselves.) A couple is considered matched when we present the commitment photos, names and data to our regional president.

Is your main work with young members?

We have been blessed with quite a number of new members in Europe, particularly in Albania, and Eastern Europe generally. I have been so amazed to watch the young ones in their twenties being so happy to receive an introduction from their elders. It has been such a joy for me to watch them in their beautiful faith, in their understanding and gratitude that this is coming from God.

For example, we introduced a young lady from Albania to a young man from a Slavic country. After she was presented with his photographs and profile, she went into shock a little bit. She said to her advocate, "I have to show you my diary from a year ago." They looked at her record of a dream that she had had one night. She had dreamt of being in a room with blessed couples, where the leader was showing on a board who was to be matched. In the dream, when it was her turn, he said "And who will be the spouse of this sister?" A big heart, representing God's heart, appeared over Eastern Europe. She understood that she would have to learn a Slavic language. God said to her (in the dream), "I hope you don't mind, but this person only joined yesterday; he's a young member." When she looked on the forms of the person she had been introduced to, she saw that he had joined our movement two or three days before she had the dream.

Have you seen many instances of spiritual guidance?

Out of seven couples whom we had introduced to each other in one country since True Father went to the spirit world, four of them had had dreams of whom they would be introduced to, three weeks to a month before the introduction.

One young Eastern European sister that has been a member for four years, an active member with spiritual children, had several dreams in which True Father asked her why she had

Susan Crosthwaite includes here two micro-testimonies about successful matchings. She describes the first couple, the second tells their own story.

Jozsef came from a background in the military and professional security services in Hungary, protecting the very high level political leaders, pop musicians and religious leaders that visited the country. He had been a member, and was blessed in 1995 but was later confined to his native Romania because of visa problems for two years, so his fiancée gave up the relationship. A few years later he managed to settle in Hungary. Even though Jozsef did not have contact with our church in Hungary for eight years, he maintained his purity.

In 2010, Jozsef was praying for help and guidance for his life, and felt that God was calling him. Hajni had regularly witnessed with the Hungarian members, and served their families in various ways, even though her own blessing relationship had broken down. She courageously kept going with love and faith. One day in 2010 Hajni saw Jozsef in the city square. Remembering him from earlier days, she invited him to come to their Peace House. He rejoined the church. The Hungarian national leader recommended to me that they would make a beautiful couple, so we prayed over that and decided to "introduce" them.

A few months ago they sent me this beautiful photograph with their baby son.

Jozsef Olah and Hajnalka Csöndör who received the blessing at ages 41 and 35 respectively, with their son, Doman Petrik



not applied for matching and encouraged her to do so.

These are, I think, good examples of how the spirit world is deeply involved; and it has been more apparent since True Father went to the spirit world.

My only hesitation in relating this is that people who don't have dreams may feel their matching is less valuable. But you don't have to have a dream or vision to be moved by God. Far more important than having spiritual experiences is how you invest in the relationship and develop your love.

The preceding points seem to contain valuable guidelines for first- or second-generation members alike.

I believe certain aspects of our system can be useful for our children. For example, giving our children freedom, giving them time, within reasonable parameters, and encouraging the second-generation members to have good preparation in faith and heart, allows them to experience the foundation of faith and foundation of substance long before they are introduced to someone for the blessing.

Can you say a word about second-generation matching?

That is a responsibility for parents. In Europe we are very focused on empowering parents through the Parents Matching Convocations and the Blessing Preparation Workshops to which parents are encouraged to come—as indeed they are in the United States. We learned from the U.S. when they began the parents' matching convocations. We find parents need, and deserve, a lot of support and encouragement to take on that responsibility and to gain confidence.

There are various matching web sites, for both first- and second-generation members, that help candidates from different countries and different continents find each other. How do

these fit in?

We rely more on unity between people and candidates' advocates than on the undoubtedly excellent technology of the web sites. Our cooperation with other regions is more through personal contact by e-mail or in personal meetings, as exemplified by our communication with the Thai Blessed Family Department. Thai sisters have been matched with brothers in Italy and Germany.

You must have faced obstacles—cultural barriers, etc.

In some situations where I had tried to facilitate international cooperation, I really felt True Father was working from the spirit world in easing some difficult relationships between national Blessed Family Departments—in the context of specific situations. But even this would not be possible without having built relationships of love, care and friendship. More than anything else, that is what our system is based on. President and Mrs. Song had encouraged us to unite in love and to work together, and we have invested our effort to be true friends to one another.

With thirty-six countries come as many languages, so every time we have an international meeting we have to extend ourselves in order to understand each other. Having to make effort to work together and to be kinder to each other is a blessing in disguise. It makes us work at it. It deepens our unity. *STW*

Endnote: To establish and maintain such a system required the willing effort and sacrifice of many people, including South London church directors Franklin and Cecilia Fortune, European Blessed Family Department Director Rainer Fuchs and my husband Ashley! —Susan

For further information please visit the European Blessed Family Department web site at www.bfdeu.org.

Veronika: I was very serious when preparing for matching, and I tried to set up many meaningful conditions that would be at the same time good for my personal development. It took me some time to even decide about it, so after I decided, I was trying to use everything that came as an opportunity to prepare myself for my future partner. After a year and a half of waiting, it came and it was intense. I felt connected with Pedro somehow from the beginning. When we were introduced, I was so nervous and emotional. Still when I think back, I remember that it was, for me, like a miracle to meet Pedro. Our lives and personalities were in some way so similar, but at the same time different. After a few days of Skype meetings, I felt that I was sure about being matched with Pedro. Skyping with him was very romantic.

Now we are living together in Prague. We have been through many ups and downs, but I can see that this makes our relationship stronger and represents the first building blocks of our blessed family life. Even though it is not always easy, I really love Pedro and feel strongly that he is a huge blessing given to me, for which I am very grateful to God.

Pedro: My preparation for matching was done mostly through prayer but also through development of my qualities so that I could be a good partner. Being introduced was a beautiful and intense experience. It seemed as if we had known each other for a long time. During our twenty-one-day "heavenly courtship," we communicated mostly through Skype and e-mail. We are now living in Prague and working with CARP. We love each other very much and we hope to create an exemplary family in the future.



