

TODAY'S WORLD

天一國 1年（天曆）12月
JANUARY 2014





When you refer to an ideal partner, what do you mean by that? You would probably say, If you and I like each other, we are ideal partners. Wouldn't you say that? That is not an ideal partner. God must be present. God would tell man A and woman B, I cannot live without you. I desire that you love and like each other. I hope that you can like each other more than I like you.

Only when this happens, does one become an ideal partner to God. Simply put, a person that can set this standard is an ideal partner. Do you understand? Being good-looking is not ideal; nor is succeeding in society after getting a master's or doctorate degree ideal. People that love each other, from a position that God can like, are ideal partners.

—From Father's speech on October 16, 1967



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Photos courtesy of the Korean Culture Department

Cover Photo: True Parents visit a church training center on Jeju Island, on May 9, 1983; **Above:** True Mother, Choi Yeon-ah nim (left), Hoon-sook nim and their children on January 1, 2014; **Back Cover:** True Parents on Jeju Island in the winter of 1983

TODAY'S WORLD

VOLUME 35, Number 1
January 2014

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TODAY'S WORLD is a publication of the FFWPU International Headquarters. The views expressed are not necessarily those of FFWPU or its founders.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Outside Korea: 1 year (12 issues) \$65, €50, £40, ¥6700 or ₩70,000; Two years (24 issues) \$115, €85, £70, ¥12,000 or ₩125,000; 6 months (6 issues) \$35 or equivalent (subject to adjustment for exchange rates). **In Korea:** 12 issues ₩45,000, 24 issues ₩79,000, six issues ₩25,000.

CHECKS and MONEY ORDERS can be made payable to "Mission Foundation for FFWPU." **WIRE TRANSFERS:** SC First Bank account # 303-20-306839, Swift Code: SCBLKRSE, Account name "Mission Foundation for FFWPU." **CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS** can be made through PayPal at todaysworld@gmail.com.

ADDRESS: 13th fl., Dohwa Building Dohwa 2 dong 292-20, Mapo gu, Seoul, Korea 121-728; **TELEPHONE:** (82-2) 3275-4241 Fax: (82-2) 3275-4220 **E-MAIL:** subscription@todaysworld.org / todaysworld@gmail.com; **WEB SITE:** www.todaysworld.org
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The 2014-2020 Motto Announcement

"Let us become true owners of Cheon Il Guk who practice true love in resemblance to our Creator, the Heavenly Parent!"

True Mother gave the following message on 12.1 (January 1, 2014) during hoondokhae at the Cheon Jeong Peace Palace.

I will give you the motto we should uphold until 2020. "Let us become true owners of Cheon Il Guk who practice true love in resemblance to our Creator, the Heavenly Parent!"

We should not forget about our Heavenly Parent in our daily life. We should be able to preserve the earth, which was created by God, the Creator, during our earthly lives. Our mission is to witness¹ to and educate people. Fallen people must go through restoration.

What we have to do is to witness. Next, we must enlarge our influence to our surroundings and be able to preserve the beautiful creation that our Heavenly Parent made with all his strength. Please think of the many damages inflicted on the entire world today as a result of man's ignorance. What about the great harm caused on us by the yellow dust and fine dust coming from China, the huge land within our vicinity? Korea is not the only country suffering from this. This dust moves across the Pacific Ocean with the winds all the way, even, to Hawaii. This is a problem that should be handled. It is not something that will stop just because we experience less damage.

Human beings must be awakened from their ignorance and must preserve the environment well. We must save the dying land and oceans. We cannot deny responsibility for this. We must do it. We should feel true ownership just as God does and become one in all respects, cooperating with one another to fulfill this work at all costs. We should not forget about the true owner for even a day, an hour or a minute until 2020 for the sake of the restoration of the nation and world. We must reflect on it repeatedly, borrow Heaven's wisdom, mobilize all the methods and skills we can muster as humans and resolve the problem. If we fail to resolve this problem, we also have no future. You must understand this.

Are you all mostly from the Korean FFWPU Headquarters or from the businesses? [Members working in the church and businesses] We are all part of the Unification family. We are one family. With this objective in mind, we must strive to achieve this purpose with one heart and one will wherever we are. Do you understand? Let us become true devoted sons and daughters who can achieve higher results with every passing month and year through which our Creator, the Heavenly Parent, can delight in and trust us.

We must not become people who keep changing. I trust that you will act responsibly with a sense of ownership in all respects where responsibility is required. This is your message of blessings as this New Year starts. Remember these words every day as you solve problems one after another in 2014. Just like the motto I gave you mentions, let us become true owners of Cheon Il Guk that practice true love in resemblance to our Creator, the Heavenly Parent. This motto does not imply our becoming so later, but becoming so now. It means we must absolutely be victorious. We should not think of it as something we will do in the future, but a motto we should achieve now. Even though the first anniversary of Foundation Day is around the corner, please make strong determinations and advance with this heart. **GTW**

¹ The term for "witness" in Korean includes the concept of conversion.



Photos courtesy of the Korean Culture Department



What Makes One's Existence Valuable?

True Mother spoke to members at Cheon Hwa Gung (Palace of Heavenly Harmony) a residence in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 12.8 (January 7) shortly after her arrival. This was translated by a Today's World staff member from the Korean transcript.

I hope you have all been doing fine. Are those here today members of the church in Las Vegas? The number of members has increased a lot. Are you new members or members who have moved here? How many people are here today—about fifty to sixty members? [Yes, around fifty.] That's many.

Do you all remember the yearly motto I gave you during New Year's Day of the Gregorian calendar? Please tell me what it is. Have you made the determination to become true owners? This is not about something you resolve to do in the future, but something you must become. When we look at today's world, we cannot say it is one of peace and joy. We find problems within the individual, society and nation. This is not the ideal world our Creator, the Heavenly Parent, originally created. The damage brought about by the Fall not only affected mankind but also the creation. For instance, the United States is a democratic nation that represents free nations. Yet, it is unaware of God's providence. Even though it is a central Christian nation that has been waiting for the Returning Lord, it is pouring all its energy into developing weapons and waging wars that bring about destruction to humans and the natural world, when it should be looking for the Messiah instead.

Isaiah 2:4 mentions that a world of peace will come when swords are beaten into plowshares. I am saying that we should all get rid of killing weapons and return to nature. We must return to the days when God made his creation. Do you understand? Imagine if everything that is being made to reinforce the immense military power—including weapons, planes, and other equipment—were used instead for the process of being reborn into true people through the actions of the original mind or conscience. What do you think would happen?

First of all, you have met the True Parents, who are what humanity and God have hoped for. Through True Parents, you are standing in a blessed position. You are blessed families; however, that does not mean you know everything about God's providence and about True Parents. You must continue to learn. In order to get rid of the bad and false habits that have been ingrained over the past six-thousand-year history, as mentioned in the Bible, you must learn. From Heaven's point of view, blessed families cannot be regarded as being

perfect or complete.

In light of that, how long would Heaven wait for the seven billion people on earth? You should be able to expand your surroundings and there is only one method—you must witness.

Human beings are like orphans without knowledge of True Parents. You must let them know about True Parents. Only by expanding the environment through which people can come to understand True Parents can Heaven and humanity's hope of realizing the ideal world—the kingdom of God on earth—be fulfilled. You are not that young anymore.

You have met True Parents and have established blessed families that True Parents have educated. Hence, you carry some responsibilities. One gains the term "owner" through one's own efforts. People do not just call you an owner and serve you. Do you understand?

Please ensure that you are in the position of having fulfilled God's will before you die, because only by doing so can you be called a true devoted son or daughter. Let us say you have set up the position of a true child. Responsibilities will follow the setting up of that position.

How much have you contributed to God's providence during your lifetime? How much have you loved others and restored them to the non-fallen people and creation God originally formed? It is true that you are now in a position where you can fulfill this precious responsibility.

I work on too many things because I am one of the True Parents.¹ I have the significant responsibilities of harvesting the fruit of the blood, sweat and tears that True Parents have shed for the restoration of the world and of setting it up on a strong foundation.

It is true that Heaven made many preparations around the world for the providence. However, the providence depends on blessed families to yield results. In other words, if blessed families were in a position where they had fulfilled their responsibilities, this could happen at a faster rate. However,

¹ The Korean literally states, "...because I am the True Parents."

because you have not been in such positions, True Parents had to unfold God's will in all details themselves. There were many such cases in the providence. Therefore, what I am trying to do is to distinguish them and carry out the responsibility that must be set upon the rock.

For instance, let's take the Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma, the soccer team. No prominent soccer team existed in Korea in the days when this team began its existence. The Ilhwa Chunma soccer team can be seen as having played a key role in the development of soccer in Korea. Furthermore, the Chunma Ilhwa soccer team greatly contributed to the hosting of the 1988 Olympics in Korea. Our soccer team received seven stars. They were champions seven times in twenty-five years. Now, we have big conglomerates like Samsung and Hyundai that own many soccer teams. However, because the soccer team requires a huge amount of money to cover its operations every year, I gave the Chunma Ilhwa soccer team to the city of Seongnam. The reason I am saying this is... The soccer team could have been preserved, but I did it for you. To spur the worldwide missionary work, I decided to halt outside activities. Do you understand?

To be able to find one more life as quickly as possible and to bless you, I stopped such outside activities. As of now, I am investing everything in the development of the church through the Holy Spirit and the truth.

Witnessing is being conducted actively within the Asian region in countries such as Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Nepal and other nations. However, the United States is the problem in the West. You must wake up. I did not plan to come to Las Vegas, but I had reasons that made it necessary. Wongu, which was founded by Father.... Which Wongu was that? Wongu University of Oriental Medicine... I cannot help investing a tremendous amount of money into Wongu University of Oriental Medicine; hence, you must conduct activities with a serious heart of responsibility. Taking into consideration not only the health of the people in the United



Photos courtesy of Rev. Ken Doo

States but also that of people around the world, the Wongu Oriental school must be developed according to the reforms Father has carried out. Since I have to invest here what I had planned to invest in missions worldwide, I had to come to Las Vegas.

Who is the president of Wongu University? Tony,² I will free you from your responsibility as the senior pastor here. I want you to focus on your tasks as the president and be responsible, including for the development of the school and for the establishment of good relationships with the federal government and state government. Raise this school into a strong one. We also need to promote the school. Please do what you are good at, using either the internet or other means in that direction, to recruit many students and develop the school.

I have provided you with all the support I can give you. From now on, you are responsible for it. Please do everything you can with a sense of ownership to ensure that this school is on a firm foundation. Please become one with the teachers and do not expect that anyone will help you again.

God's creation started from nothing. However, I have provided you with the right environment and conditions to be able



True Mother, with Kwon-jin nim by her side, is warmly welcomed in Las Vegas by young, bright flower-bearers.

to do what you have to do; hence, not developing the school is inexcusable. Do you understand Dr. Guerra? [Yes, Mother] Please work with the determination of developing the school at the risk of your life.

Do so with the heart that you are witnessing to the students. The pastor of Las Vegas is Rev. Doo... Doo Su-yeon, Rev. Ken Doo, you are responsible from now on. Please unite with Kwon-jin nim. Do you understand? [Yes]

What was the name of your university? [UNLV³] I heard it has many students. You and your wife must witness on campus. Do you understand? [Yes] We must raise young leaders.

The American Family Church is old now. It must become younger. I said that you should become noble families. Do you know what a noble family is?

Father set up the "top guns" in America⁴ and educated

2 "Tony" is the short form of "Anthony." Anthony Guerra is the president of the university to which Mother is referring.

3 The University of Nevada—Las Vegas; that is, a state university located in Las Vegas

4 See page 21 for historical background to the top gun workshop.

them; however, these top guns have no second-generation that took after them; in other words, the noble family line has been cut off. They could not set up their second generation. They did not fulfill their responsibility in setting up the second- and third-generations. We must come to our senses from now on. Do you understand?

I set up a second-generation leader as the president of FFWPU Korea this time. Before doing that, I conducted a top-gun workshop in which forty leaders partook. I initially planned to make it into a forty-day workshop, but because there was not much time, it ended up being a twenty-one day workshop. I chose him⁵ from among these forty participants.

During the twenty-one-day workshop, they completed reading *Cheon Seong Gyeong* once. I asked all members to finish reading *Cheon Seong Gyeong* before the New Year, but because the English *Cheon Seong Gyeong* has not been completed, you have not been able to do that. I feel this condition will be completed fully probably before the second anniversary of Foundation Day. Korea and Japan are already doing this condition; unfortunately, you are always one-step late.

That is why you must come to your senses. When Father told you all to study Korean, why did you just sleep and play? If you go to the spiritual world without knowing Father's language, do you think you can become one in heart with Father? Do you understand?

From now on, the Las Vegas Family Church should also become young. I went on a tour of Japan too while conducting the top-gun workshop with the forty leaders. After everything was concluded, those top-gun participants each wrote a reflection on the workshop. I read every single one of them. They touched my heart; I felt that if they moved forward with such determination and became one, they would have such power that no one would be able to stop them wherever they go. They were even capable of persuading peace ambassadors to go through a two-day workshop in Cheongpyeong. But what is more important is that they have changed. This is how much a person's determination and actions can change the person. That is why America too.... Rev. Doo, you must strongly move forward. I asked that the top-gun participants' reflections be translated into English and have brought it with me. Please read it every day. Please invest everything in fostering second- and third-generation members into leaders. They are our future.

Do you know that I am raising many talented people through the Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation? Did you hear the news that some of the UPA students are traversing America?

Those children.... They are on America's east coast, experiencing the traces of the blood and sweat that Father shed there over a long time. Their experiences have moved them. They are now on their way to the west coast.

The children of all of your blessed families should be such second-generation members. Only by having such second-generation members can we see the traces of our lives. Do you understand?

Please make suitable determinations and resolutions. From now on, we must put everything into practice and must become productive. I am saying that without results, there is no value to our existence. Aju. **GW**

5 Rev. Ryu Kyeong-seuk, the new president of FFWPU—Korea



Photos courtesy of Rev. Ken Doo

United Amidst the Whirlwind

On 12.13 (January 13) True Mother spoke in Las Vegas, Nevada, to Japanese members working in businesses. In the text, which was translated from the Korean by a Today's World staff member, Mother begins by commenting on her December 15, 2013, speech, a video of which they had just watched together.

I am the one who gave that speech, but seeing it again, I realize that I speak well. Didn't you understand? Did you understand everything said in the video? Are most of you here Japanese members? [Yes] Everyone on this side speaks Japanese while those on the other side speaks English. Is that right? Those on the English side please be seated.

Well then, what did you feel after watching the video? Do you feel grateful to have Mother sit here at this time? Please keep an unchanging heart of gratitude and be determined to make good on the sacrifices of our Heavenly Parent at all costs while True Mother is still alive. Whenever you are in charge of a field and achieve something, you are lucky that you still have Mother to whom you can report and share your joy with. Have you experienced that?

It is sheer joy to be able to have this time to share joy with one another by closely conversing and by sharing our true hearts during our lifetime on earth. I am over seventy years old now and there is no guarantee that I will live up to a hundred in good health. How old do I look to you? Do I look young?

This is not only your hope but also the hope of those prepared people on earth that still don't know of God's will. Whether or not they know of God's will or God's providence, mankind must ultimately know of our Heavenly Parent and must attend him. What is the motto for 2020 that I gave you this time? I would like to hear it from you. [Let us become true owners of Cheon Il Guk who practice true love in resemblance to our Creator, the Heavenly Parent!]

Whether consciously done or not, the actions of the conscience within all the people in the fallen world are certainly guiding humanity toward Heaven. You, the blessed families, are the first among them. God's hope is to make all fallen people into citizens of Cheon Il Guk; hence, as the first chosen people, how much we cooperate for this hope will decide whether we are remembered in history.

Just as you saw through the video, I spoke about Joshua and Caleb as an example to the leaders of the second-generation realm in Korea. Ten other people were sent spying with

Joshua and Caleb. Upon their return, the ten people reported that it would be difficult to take the city. Those ten that said it would be difficult were excluded from history and were not remembered. Only Joshua and Caleb, who remained faithful to Heaven, and Moses were remembered in history. In other words, they became the central figures. You are such beings today.

Receiving the blessing through True Parents alone makes you into historic people. However, its importance would greatly differ depending on whether you love and live for yourselves and your family or for a greater good and for God's will. That is why I said that we must become true owners. What is a true owner?

A true owner is a person in a position where one fulfills the hope of our Heavenly Parent and the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind. It is your responsibility to obtain the authority to keep this universe, earth and world, which were created by our Heavenly Parent, steady.

This is how big our hopes are; yet, the world today, which is ignorant of God's will, is continuing to collapse, descend and go through destruction. Nature is also being destroyed as a result of fallen people. We should not become blessed families that let such things happen without taking any action.

Let us all mobilize based on what True Father showed us and taught us for the past sixty years and change the wrong direction of the world today. We have a clear purpose. We must save humanity in order to reach that purpose. Always remember that this is not only for the nation you live in but for the world. Do you understand?

And God's will will certainly... What will happen to the world if this big, big whirlwind passes through it? There will be devastation but we will be able to see one goal and one purpose. When a whirlwind rages through, nature may be

destroyed but people would be able to see one purpose. Do you understand? It appears as if you did not grasp what I just said. If you see the direction that the tornado rages through, we become one.

That is why you must learn Korean. For a child not to know the language spoken by his or her parents is embarrassing.

People are not perfect. As people that live in a time when you attend True Parents and work with them, especially when considering your descendants.... Yes? Aren't we all moving forward with the goal of one world under God? There cannot be different languages in God's world. When I speak in Korean, you must be able to understand everything; however, you can only listen through translations here and there. There is no perfect translation. That is why people place importance on the original manuscripts and the native language. Do you understand?

You are young. Don't you want to challenge yourselves to do something like that? Why are your answers lukewarm? Even out there in the world, when parents reach a certain age, like this, children should be able to mature, attend them and make the parents comfortable.... Yet, True Parents have no comfortable time until the day they go to the spiritual world. I came here to have some rest, but now, things that keep me from oversleeping continue to take place.

You are probably happy because you can see me every day. Isn't that right?

Seeing me every day is important, but you must also fulfill your responsibilities. Particularly, do everything in your power within your range of responsibility. This is a big problem. Shouldn't we be able to report about putting a lot of effort and being able to yield fruit and results? Do you understand?

I had to come to Las Vegas in order to decide and conclude the work Father had conducted here. Do you understand? **STW**



True Mother met and spoke to this group of Japanese members that have been investing their effort into business-related missions.



Photos courtesy of Rev. Ken Doo

God's Providence in the Western Hemisphere

True Mother gave this message to a group of graduate students attending the Korea-based Universal Peace Academy that were touring parts of the United States at that time. She spoke to them in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 12.13 (January 13).

Because Father loved the world and humanity, a process by which all fallen human beings are restored as citizens of Cheon Il Guk was needed to perfect and complete God's providence. Centered on the history of Christian civilization, the United States was supposed to meet the Messiah in the end and fulfill its responsibility within the providence. That is why Father left Korea, Japan and Asia in the early days and conducted the providence in the Western Hemisphere. I am not sure whether you have heard of this or not, but the providence of restoration through indemnity has continued to unfold ever since the Fall. Humanity plunged into ignorance but continued to pursue goodness through the actions of the conscience; however, the atmosphere of the fallen world did not leave the people alone. It was difficult. Heaven should not have had to experience this man-inflicted sorrowful past. Through the manifestation of True Parents, True Father could liberate Heaven, comfort Heaven and complete the providence of restoration through indemnity. True Father attended God as the Heavenly Parent. He even conducted the Coronation Ceremony for the Kingship of God. True Father could restore the position of our Heavenly Parent. Our Heavenly Parent could find his position through the True Parents alone at only one time in humanity's history. You can imagine how hard God had to work throughout this immense history, as six thousand years passed.

You are in the second-generation realm¹ within this Cheon Il Guk era, which True Parents began. Isn't that right? You are in a position in which you must learn well and carry out your responsibilities.

What was the motto I gave you this time? [Let us become true owners of Cheon Il Guk who practice true love in resemblance to our Creator, the Heavenly Parent!] Yes. Becoming true owners... Without meeting True Parents, one cannot become a true owner. You can be in the position of owners in front of humanity because of True Parents. You have been set

¹ Blessed children and young first-generation members that grew up among them are together in this realm.

up in a position where you can be infinitely precious, proud of yourselves and shine down through history. However, while you are still alive, you must open the way so that the seven billion people on Earth can also be in the same position as you; this is your responsibility. One world or one culture centered on the Heavenly Parent.... You are in a position through which you must save the seven billion people, which is why it is a good thing that you have traversed through America. In the early days, to be more accurate, in 1972, True Father began the providence in the United States, and in 1975, he unfolded the providence on a worldwide scale in earnest.

When he first came to the U. S. and toured the fifty states, what did True Father say? I have come as a doctor because America has become ill; I have come as a firefighter because families in America are collapsing and are on fire. In those days, upper-class society greatly welcomed Father. That was a time when family break-ups, juvenile problems, drugs and communism threatened American society; the future seemed quite hopeless to them. Those were days when America was truly waiting for the Messiah.

However, though the Christian foundation was prepared to welcome the Messiah, Christians became jealous instead. Think about what happened two thousand years ago with Israel, as the background to this. For four thousand years, Heaven worked on separating the chosen people of Israel from Satan. Literally, it is said to have taken four thousand years, but it might have taken longer. How difficult would that have been for Heaven?

When you read the Old Testament, you find that God had set up people in charge and that many such figures were appointed to conduct the providence. Yet every single time a person was appointed, he could not succeed. The central figure failed to fulfill his responsibility, and the resulting prolongation of the providence reached four thousand years. After they went through the four thousand years, Heaven promised to send them the Messiah.

Israel was then under the control of the Roman Empire. It is said that Rome in those days extended to all corners of the world. They had a foundation equivalent to that of America today. This is how thoroughly Heaven had made preparations. The people of Israel were to welcome the Messiah, reform the Roman Empire and unfold God's providence through the Roman Empire. If they had done so, the world would have become one centered on Jesus in those days.

What happened instead? He died on the cross without even being able to carry out God's will fully. Jesus could not teach everything about how to welcome the returning Lord in the future during his three-year public course, which I believe might have been less than three years. A few hundred years later, Christianity was formed. However, how great was the damage inflicted on Heaven and people as a result?

Enormous sacrifice followed because an individual nation failed to fulfill its responsibility. They were unaware of indemnity. True Parents have opened a new era without indemnity; however, those in the first and second generations did not fulfill their responsibilities. The seven billion people on Earth are still waiting for True Parents. Only by restoring everyone, can we move on to an era without indemnity for real.

What must be done to achieve that? Every single one of you carries the tremendous responsibility of being able to save a nation, the world and humanity. This is necessary to ensure that our descendants live in an era without indemnity. The returning Messiah.... Jesus said that he was coming back after he died on the cross. Two thousand years have passed as Christianity waited for the returning Lord.

Meanwhile, in the sixteenth century the scripture known as the Bible became well known to many people. One thousand six hundred years had passed. You must consider this. That is why this nation came to be formed through the Puritans and Protestants. Without knowing God's will, people of this fallen world cannot see the general picture no matter how hard they try. That is why Heaven allowed religions to appear around the



Universal Peace Academy students with True Mother in Las Vegas; To True Mother's left is Principle Kim Dong-woo; Standing at the back, right to left: Kim Dong-woo's son and Kim Jae-hyun



True Mother reviews concept drawings for a plot of land covering 12,540 square meters in south Las Vegas, acquired in 2011. Inset: She visited the site, where workmen have begun construction.

world to save people. Among them, Christianity is the central religion. Yet, when we look at Christianity, too, did the Catholic Church fulfill its responsibility? Protestantism appeared and the United States as a nation could be set up in a position where it can fulfill its responsibility vis-à-vis the global providence because of that. Hence, the United States must and should have attended the Messiah.

Heaven's providence works in mysterious ways; toward the end of World War II, the victorious countries helped the defeated countries. Even though Japan did wrong, the victorious countries did not ask Japan to indemnify the damages caused; instead, they helped Japan. Do you know why? It was because True Parents had appeared and all nations are sibling countries under True Parents.

True Father appointed the United States as the eldest-son nation within the providence. In orientalism, the oldest son is supposed to take all responsibility; thus, instead of the parents doing so, he must embrace all his siblings. The oldest son must guide all the siblings to the parents. Isn't that right? That is why the eldest son idea is highly regarded within orientalism in Korea. Responsibility follows. Father once gave an example about a family with many siblings. He said that what matters is who lives for the sake of others the most; hence, if the youngest sibling lived for the sake of everyone else in the family, more so than even his oldest sibling, that youngest sibling would become the central figure of that family. Heaven is fair; Heaven gives blessings to those that try to live for others' sake.

What do you think of our present Unification family today? It is on a firm foundation. No one can have a free hand on the foundation that I have made now. You are indeed blessed in

this new era of Cheon Il Guk. You should become one with True Parents and become proud, devoted children and patriots in setting up this tradition.

You have been given everything. The new scripture will also be given to you all soon—*Cheong Seong Gyeong*, *Pyeonghwa Gyeong* and *Champumo Gyeong*.² The Bible alone was the textbook Christianity used for two thousand years. In the future, these teachings will be gems for eternity. There will be nothing higher.

Some people are thoughtless and foolish. You, however, are tremendously happy people with True Parents still alive. I usually say that happiness grows the more you share it. Only by doing so can the kingdom of heaven on earth be realized. Isn't that right? After realizing the kingdom of heaven on earth, your next destination would be the kingdom of God in Heaven. Do not forget that you are in the most important central position and do not think of studying as being hard. For people to be able to be reborn through you, you need to go through this compulsory period. You must go through it because you have to teach people.

Principal Kim,³ you must work hard. Jae-hyun,⁴ you have worked hard. Let us all work hard! You are lucky indeed. You will be watching Michael Jackson's show,⁵ which I myself have not seen yet. *GTW*

2 *Cheong Seong Gyeong* and *Pyeonghwa Gyeong* have been available in Korean since last June. Korean church figures are reviewing an early prototype of *Champumo Gyeong*.

3 Kim Dong-woo recently became head of Universal Peace Academy.

4 Kim Jae-hyun is part of the UPAcademy administration. He works closely with the students.

5 They may have been going to see a Las Vegas show based on the late Mr. Jackson's music—Michael Jackson: One by Cirque Du Soleil

True Mother Sets our Motto until 2020

창조주 하늘부모님을 닮은 참사랑을
실천하는 천일국의 참주인이 되자!

By Thomas Hwang



On January 1, 2014, True Mother entered the room where members were waiting to begin hoondokhae and immediately announced the motto for the new year, "Let's become true owners of Cheon Il Guk who practice true love in resemblance to our Creator, the Heavenly Parent!"¹ She said that this would be our motto not only for 2014, but for every year until 2020. It is an amazing aspiration for each one of us, challenging us to become the kind of people who embody the ideal we have learned about from our True Parents, the original ideal of God.

As we contemplate how to fulfill this motto, let us examine it more closely. It calls upon us to resemble our Heavenly Parent in one specific aspect, the practice of true love. In order to do this we have to clearly understand the way our Heavenly Parent practices true love.

Divine Principle tells us that true love is innate within our Creator. It flows forth from God's heart like water from a spring. Then, what does it mean to "practice" true love? As a Creator, God takes this innate force and directs it with his will to nourish his creation. As a Parent, God directs his innate true love to nourish his children. He wants to see us grow, to fulfill the potential he imbued in us. To that end, he has devoted his entire being.

True Father has explained to us in depth the extent of God's suffering as a parent whose children were lost and damaged through the Fall. Yet our Heavenly Parent never stops pouring out his love for us, believing in us, and upholding his expectations of us. He continues despite facing disappointment, rejection and betrayal because of us. God's practice of true love knows no limits and accepts no constraints. It is eternal and unchanging. Our Heavenly Parent has such a high and noble character. How can we be like that?

In reality, it is not easy. We live in a world where we face many limits and constraints, both within ourselves and from the society around us. We become tired and discouraged when people and circumstances fail to meet our expectations. God lives in a distant abstract reality, but we have to face this harsh earthly reality. How can we resemble that kind of parent?

¹ The hangul lettering above is the motto in Korean.



In response to this dilemma, our Heavenly Parent sent our True Parents to us as examples. We have only to examine their lives to learn how to practice true love. We have listened to True Father speak for hours and hours, beyond earthly reason, in his intense desire to share his understanding of God's will and God's love. We have seen how he reached out to powerful people, even his enemies, to explain to them the time they were living in and their potential to impact the world if they would only unite with God's will. We have seen how he initiated one project after another to bring people together across racial, religious and national barriers and create peace and harmony among them. True Father has shown us how to practice true love. Can we be like that?

We also have another example of true love. Through all Father's activities—his speeches, his campaigns, his travels—there was one person always at his side. One person shared his demanding lifestyle, sleeping very little, ready to pack up and go here or there at a moment's notice, tirelessly and without complaint, for over fifty years. One person shared his suffering, his struggles, his pain, understood his deepest heart and supported his highest ambitions. One person lived a life of absolute selflessness to fulfill her holy mission alongside her husband. That is True Mother.

True Mother has lived an astonishing life. She gave birth to fourteen children, several by Caesarian section. She endured the loss of four of her beloved children. She never had the time or opportunity to pursue her own interests. Through every kind of hardship and trial, she remained absolutely obedient to True Father and focused on God's will. That is why our Heavenly Parent can completely trust this beloved daughter to guide his providence forward toward the firm establishment of Cheon Il Guk on earth. True Mother has shown us how to

practice true love. Can we be like that?

Our True Parents have bequeathed to us the incredible position of owners of Cheon Il Guk. This heavenly nation exists as a clear reality in the mind of God, and in the determination of our True Parents, though it has yet to fully manifest upon the earth. Our motto calls for us to become "true owners" of Cheon Il Guk. This is the second challenge it poses for us. If we build this nation with our own sweat and blood, surely we will be worthy of being called its true owners. If we raise our children to serve this nation, they will become the princes and princesses of the heavenly kingdom; our families will become the noble families of Cheon Il Guk.

In this era of Cheon Il Guk, our life of faith requires that we grasp the vision of our Heavenly Parent, pull it down to earth and secure it firmly upon solid ground. We will need to work together, following the examples of true love set by our True Parents. Can we do this? How many Unificationists does it take to build a nation? I don't know the answer, but surely our Heavenly Parent does. If we don't have enough, we simply have to create more!

True Mother keeps reminding us, gently but persistently, that we must witness to the people around us and bring them to True Parents. If we truly love people and see them from the viewpoint of our Heavenly Parent, as lost children, we cannot help but reach out to them. They need us, and we need them to work with us to complete our divine mission. This is nothing other than the practice of true love and the responsibility of true owners of Cheon Il Guk.

Our motto is both a blessing and a heavenly challenge. Let's work together to make it a reality. **GTW**

Thomas Hwang is an international vice-president of FFWPU.

Strategic Frameworks for Our Vision 2020 Project

Part II

This is an edited article based on a presentation given during the Vision 2020 Strategy Conference for Strategic and Providential Nations held in August 2013, in Yongpyeong, Korea. The first part appeared in our December issue.

By Sam Nagasaka

Components and Elements of Cheon Il Guk

Since we have covered the perspective of the development of growth through stages, I would like to move on to another perspective, which is that of components and elements of growth. A nation is often said to require three components; namely, government, territory and people. In order to make Cheon Il Guk or a nation of peace, we can say that our initiatives in our countries should be composed of those that develop good governance a good environment and good people. We in the international headquarters tried to break the components down into smaller elements. (See diagram 3) This model is a work in progress, and is an attempt to give you an overview of the elements we need to pay attention to.

Good governance

Since I wanted to have some consistency with the previous concepts of development, I categorized our elements for good governance as national contribution and national credibility. If we want to make any contribution for the betterment of the governance of our country, we may need a think tank to come up with relevant analysis and proposals, a media outlet that can communicate those to the people of the nation, and some kind of a political arm to help the implementation of those ideas.

However, before we think of applying our ideas, we should first build some credibility in the realm of governance. In Taiwan, there is a consultative committee of religious organizations that serves the government, of which our national leaders have continuously been included as a member. This shows that we have certain national credibility; in other words, we have started to enter the mainstream. I have already mentioned about the municipal presence of the Mormons in the state of Utah as an example. Also, we are now seeing a growth of our national voting base in Nepal. These are examples of emergence of national credibility.

Good environment

Society, a realm where people live, can be a synonym for "environment." Similar to the good governance, I categorized it into social contribution and social credibility. Under social contribution, I separated the social infrastructure as being a more stable and sustaining contribution in comparison to other social development initiatives that require less commitment. In the same manner as above, as we work on our contribution, we must secure our credibility. I have listed some of the minimal requirements in building such credibility within the society. It goes without saying that these elements are required as we build the elements of good governance, but all these elements and foundations must be supported by the foundation of people.

Good people

As we all say, "first things first"; we need to secure and enhance our people. Here, I categorized what we should pay attention to into four major areas. One is the area of faith growth, such as witnessing and education. The second is family, which is not just about the Blessing Ceremonies, but about important programs such as those for after starting a family, married life, having children, the intricacies of parenting and of course education of the second-generation—add to that a system to manage all of these. Then comes the area of building our church community. We need to think of a type and quality of ministry our church leaders engage in, what kind of infrastructure we have, such as media for members, and church buildings and training sites that can support our community. Areas such as education for group leaders and choir development can

also be included. Last is the area of human resources. I identified two categories for human resources we must develop. One is raising full-time members, as ministers, administrators or theologians. Sometimes we have geniuses that can work in all those areas, but then again, often we have good theologians that are not good administrators, good ministers that are not cut out for theological debates, or someone who may not be a great minister or theologian but can become a great administrator or specialist of some type. I think we should accept that not everyone can become an almighty leader, but everyone can become valuable to the organization if we pay attention to their talents and train them according to their qualities.

The other area of HR is developing victors out of blessed members that are more integrated in society, especially to support them to become victorious tribal messiahs or leaders of communities, as well as excellent and respected professionals.

The importance of balanced growth

All these ideas are not new to you, I am sure. As I said, these are from what I heard and learned from our leaders and elders in world missions. I am just laying the components and elements out. What I wanted to stress was the importance of balanced growth. Please ask yourselves, how is the balance in your organizations? What is missing and what is being over-invested into, compared to the other elements? Which elements are urgent? After asking these questions, please think of what you want to maintain or add focus to in the next two to three years. You don't have to do everything at the same

time, but I recommend working on the elements starting from the area of people; that is, from faith, family, community and human resources and then work your way through social credibility, social contribution, and finally the national elements.

Balanced Growth Assessment

Areas of growth to assess

In order to make an assessment of balanced growth, I pointed out eight major areas in which we should evaluate the potentiality of the field—leadership, recruits (or witnessing), education, family, community, organization, social and national. (See diagram 4) I have listed checking points for each area. (For details, please refer to the separate handout that lists checking points for each area.)¹⁾ For example, the checking points for leadership are not about the ability of the top leaders, but questions such as: Whether the national leader is indigenous or has local citizenship, whether candidates for the next national leader exist and whether you have a system of developing mid-level leaders and Divine Principle lecturers. Without a good leadership base in terms of quality and sustainability, we cannot have growth or maintain it. With a good recruiting foundation, your mission may hold promise for success for at least a few years. But without a good education foundation to raise people and keep them, your membership may be depleted. Likewise, if you do not have various programs to enrich family life, or to build good church communities that bind our families together, even after working

¹⁾ See www.todaysworld.org for this handout material.

Elements of CIG

3

Substantial CIG

"One Family under God"

Good Governance (善統治)

National Contribution

- National Party
- National Media
- Think Tank of national policies

National Credibility

- National Consultative Status
- Municipal Majority
- National Voting Base

Good Environment (善環境)

Social Contribution

- Social Infrastructure (School, Hospital, Cultural Institution)

- Social Development Initiatives (Community NGOs)

Social Credibility

1. Administrative Discipline (decision making & internal com)
2. Compliance to law & social rules
3. Communication w/ public & social sectors
4. Financial sustainability

Good People (善人民)

Faith

- **Witnessing:** education of evangelists, approaches to guests
- **Education:** workshop curriculums education system
- **Tool Development** for approach, early edu, evangelist training
- **Lecture standardization:** standardized content implementation system
- Blessing education
- Matching system
- Married life guidance
- Parenting guidance
- 2G education
- Family tradition practice
- Tribal Messiah support
- Center Administration: Social compliance, post-2D curriculums, guest management system

Family

Community

- **Ministry:** worship service, ministerial activities, home/small group, church community
- **Infrastructure:** media for members, church building, WS site
- **Content:** continuous ed. programs, group leader ed. programs, cultural initiatives, social relations & services

Human Resource

- **Staff Development**
 - Ministers
 - Administrators
 - Theologians
- **BF Development**
 - Tribal Messiah Victors (community leaders)
 - Social Victors (professionals)

hard at witnessing and workshops, you may be left with the same number or even fewer members after several years. Furthermore, if you are looking for long, stable growth, you need to look into the quality of the organization, its administration, and your engagement with the society and the nation.

The focuses of the international headquarters

Typically, we receive many reports about witnessing, mobilization, events, workshop participation, meetings with prominent societal figures and appointments of ambassadors for peace. In other words, more reporting and evaluation is done of recruitment and education than of other areas. This may be because the recognition of results in those areas is easier to achieve, or results in those areas can be gained comparatively faster.

You have already developed know-how and have invested much into those areas, so we encourage you to maintain those pursuits. Having said that, over the next few years, I would like to have the international headquarters add value to the mid- and long-term growth of world missions by focusing initiatives on the areas that are comparatively neglected and require attention; namely leadership, family development and organization.

I would like to discuss with all of you how we can strengthen leadership. For example, next February, we could have a workshop for national leaders—not for everybody, but for those that require an enhanced comprehension of the basics of what a national leader should understand and do. Many leaders struggle in their mission, trying to maximize the limited resources and the training they have received. We can support them by giving them a chance to learn about different aspects of leadership and management on a national level. Even for those who already have a basic understanding, it is good to be reminded of the concepts and to upgrade their standards.

Family development is also a very important area that we want to invest our resources in. We lose many members, children, and active leaders through their struggles related to family issues. We want to learn how we can support our blessed families to be stronger, wiser and happier all across the regions of the world. We can also provide family programs to our ambassadors for peace. When they experience salvation in their marriages and families, they will become more committed and be part of us in heart and for life. They would not be

looking for any other benefits. I would like to work with Family Department heads and leaders of family programs in different countries to hold functions where we could come together and start creating an international inter-regional environment to empower family support. Korea, Japan, Europe and the U.S. have produced good materials after many years of trial and error. I believe that the newly emerged mission nations do not need to go through the same processes of losses and pain, if we only share our resources, our experiences and know-how. I hope that we can install a person in our office to support these functions.

Lastly, we would like to find ways to support our churches to enhance their administration and organization discipline and skills. The improvement in this area is not easily recognized or often dismissed, but accumulation of such small and less visible improvements prevents risks, loss and problems and supports efficient growth.

Aspects of balanced growth

As I was asked to assess the nations and make strategic recommendations in light of Vision 2020, I went through various reports and listened to information and opinions. I realized that there are a few points that I need to bear in mind as we try to evaluate and assess our situation.

One is the quantity and quality of the numerical reports. When we deal with numerical reports, we look at the quantitative. But we also need to assess the quality or significance of the numbers—the specific definitions of what was measured, and the accuracy or adequacy of the manner of measurement.

Next is the organic balance, as I mentioned above, seeing the balance in growth. Overdevelopment in one area could be unhealthy or even detrimental or harmful to another.

The last is the importance of survey research. We want the perspectives and input of as many different people as we can get to keep our approach becoming overly subjective or our response becoming self-satisfied. Abel cannot bring victory by being in a world his own. In the end, Abel's victory is determined through recognition by and appreciation from Cain. By "survey research," I am specifically referring to practices used in marketing research and customer satisfaction inquiries. This includes analyzing the inflow and retention of new members, having a membership database to increase our understanding of members' situations, creating a system where members can report problems and dissatisfaction, or doing a regular survey of membership satisfaction or happiness. Japan is comparatively good at these; they have very good databases and reporting systems to analyze the health of different churches. They have a designated e-mail address and fax number to which members can directly contact the headquarters to ask questions, seek consultation or to report misdeeds. The Japan church also conducts a national survey on membership happiness about every two years. The input from all of these methods is reflected in the management of organizations to some degree.

4

10: Perfect

8: Strong, comprehensive & stable

6: Strong & stable

4: Not strong or stable

2: very weak

0: almost none

To develop our social engagement levels, we also need to find ways to measure the recognition, by the people outside of our church, of our organizations, initiatives and pursuits. Korea did this once and although there are arguments over the validity of the research, the outcomes were very insightful.

Balanced Growth Assessment



All these initiatives are not easy and may consume resources of effort, time and money. They may not create quick results, but if we are serious about our goals and efficiently getting there, these should be looked into, encouraged and supported.

Mid-term and Long-term Perspectives

Phased development

As we went through the basic consensus of the vision, mission, road map and the components and elements of the project, we should spend time on building relevant goals. One of the keywords of Vision 2020 is “mid-term and Long-term growth.” Here mid-term means five to seven years and long-term can mean ten or more years. In other words, 2020 is mid-term, and beyond that is the long-term. Based on our experience, we do not believe that the world is going to end, or that everything will perfect by 2020. Whatever we accomplish by that time, will be for the sake of greater developments afterward. We also do not need to think that we have to accomplish everything at once. My proposal here is to design phased development. (See Diagram 5.)

People-related goal settings

The first phase involves focusing on building sustainable growth in the “people” component, starting from faith, family, church community and human resources. You should begin focusing on this immediately if you have not done so already. I recommend setting various goals. One set of goals is obvious, numerical membership goals of different types. The second is goals for the model of church that you want to grow into as seen in the church growth process. (See Part 1) This calls for changing the form or quality of the container that is to hold your targeted membership size. Following that comes the identification of elements to strengthen and the methods to improve. The final step involves conducting a survey of membership satisfaction and happiness or the needs and goals to improve in those areas.

Environment-related goal setting

If you have some confidence from the first phase, you may start initiatives in the second phase, which covers the environment. I was often told to work on changing the “image of our church” or to do “good PR.” I felt uncomfortable every time I heard it, because these days, image is closely connected, in fact, completely inseparable, from the actual substance. Public relations or communications can work only if we have something to relate or communicate.

As Father said, the purpose of the word is substance, and the purpose of substance is heart; the world is increasingly becoming keen to know the deeds and motivation of an organization and less and less trusts what it tries to advertise. I believe that before we talk about changing our image or doing good PR, we should be talking about building social credibility and making a social contribution, which will result in building quality public relations and an improved image.

Here, of course, we should have a set of goals for ambassadors for peace,

associates or supporters. But we should have goals regarding how to improve our administrative discipline, legal compliance and financial health and sustainability. When we pursue public relations or develop contacts, we should be assessing the contact’s qualities, such as at what level they actually operate, and the depth of commitment in the relationship. Lastly, we should find a way to gauge how society evaluates or appreciates our initiatives and infrastructure, and then set relevant goals.

Governance-related goals

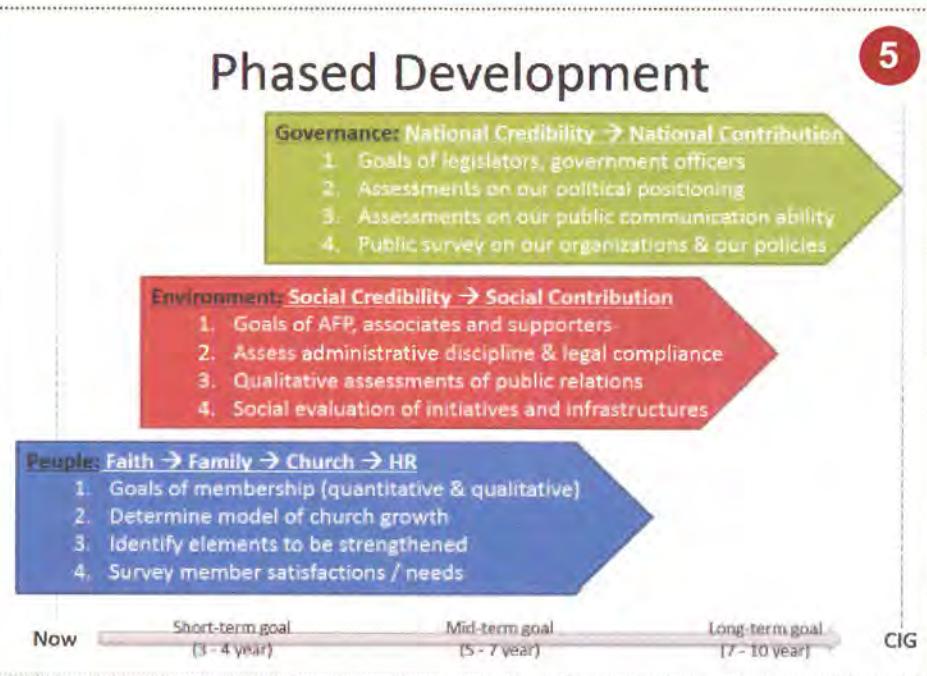
Finally, based on the foundations related to “people” and “the environment,” we may start setting goals for the betterment of national governance. There can be numerical goals of politicians and bureaucrats that we want to raise or support, but more to the point, we need to assess how we want to position ourselves politically. In order to accomplish our goals safely, we would need to have assessments on the ability of our institutions and their public communications. Finally, we must measure how the public sees our organizations and the policies we propose.

As I mentioned above, you do not need to start every initiative at the same time, but start to ponder what you may be working on in the near future as you invest in the current focuses of your work. What I am proposing here is to have a broader view of phased development and try to figure out the right timing when shift gears, changing focus and pursuing new goals.

Core values for strategic management

I would like to share some of the values that I appreciate when I see those who lead and manage our organizations. The most important value that I appreciate is the leadership of “heart,” how a leader or manager cares about Heaven, the mission, our people, the society and the world. As I stressed in the beginning, our work should not be about showing off or winning a power game, but about how we genuinely love Heaven, love people, love the nation and try to improve their circumstances.

True Mother often mentions this lately. Our church used to be called a church of tears. Perhaps we may have forgotten how to care, share and cry for others, as Pope Francis has said of his church. In order to appreciate a leader’s passions,



Our Strength

International Presence

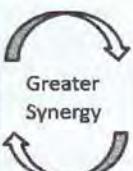
World Providence
"Abel UN"
(Global Good Governance)
Driven by UPF



AFP



Reinforce



Our Weakness

National Presence

National Strategies
"Cheon Il Gook"
(Nation of Peace)
Driven by FFWPU

6



BCF

Focus

Providential Nations



Strategic Nations



Support

General Mission Nations



Close coordination and collaboration with UPF International strategy is needed.

I usually ask leaders why they love their mission country and how they understand God's love and heart toward that mission country. I also ask what the problems or pains of that country are and how we can contribute to their solution, so that I can understand the depth and relevancy of their passions. Without genuine passion, our purposes are already defeated from the start.

What I also appreciate in leaders is their intelligence and professionalism. Being intelligent or systematic and logical, keen on information and strategic insights, makes a big difference. Being intelligent enough to appreciate the skills and intelligence of others is also important. What could debate what professionalism means, but we should move away from our amateur ways, learn discipline in our work, and have the identity that we are professionals in what we do. Intelligence and professionalism so that our passions explode in the right direction toward the right opportunities and so those passions can penetrate but not destroy.

The Mission of Nations

UPF and FFWPU as two wheels

Finally, I would like to touch on the missions of strategic, providential and general-mission nations, and the differentiation between UPF and FFWPU goals and functions.

When we look at our foundations worldwide, we can see that our strength in making changes in the world has been our international presence; we exist in almost every country. Based on that, we built our world providence with the goals such as an "Abel UN" and global good governance driven by UPF. Our network of ambassadors for peace is impressive. I believe that all nations, especially the strategic and providential nations, should invest in reinforcing our international presence. Strategies for approaching international pursuits and alliances should be provided by the UPF international office, which has the specialists and professionals in that arena.

On the other hand, however, our national presence has been our weakness: in every country, our foundation is neither stable nor impressive. That is why Vision 2020 focuses on the strategic nations, which we believe have great potential to enhance their presence nationally. Our focus in the FFWPU International Headquarters for Vision 2020 is to

help build national strategies that drive toward the goal of substantiating Cheon Il Guk or at a minimum entering the mainstream in all those strategic countries. Our communities of Blessed Central Families must become impressive.

That is the focus of the strategic nations, while providential nations should support the strategic nations in their endeavors. Other mission nations can connect to the providential and strategic nations, and focus on their basic growth, so that they can rise to take on higher missions and roles in the near future.

Closing words

What I have mentioned here is nothing new. I do not claim to have invented these ideas. On the contrary, this is the result of learning through hearing and observing our leaders and organizations. I intended to confirm our consensus and build some kind of framework, so that

it will be easier to set goals and assess outcomes. As you can see, the keywords of our vision 2020 project are "becoming or entering the mainstream," "balanced growth," "mid- and long-term growth" (that is, growth to be achieved by 2020 and beyond 2020) and "leadership of heart." True Mother recently spoke about rebuilding the community of heart, caring for members and those in our second generation. Looking back, True Father genuinely cared about people be they our members, Korean citizens, Christians and people under communism and so on. I firmly believe that caring for our members and for our neighbors are the fundamentals of our identity and the basis for all our successes. Our job as leaders is to translate our love, heart, revelations and inspirations into initiatives and systems that are relevant to the lives of our members as well as our neighbors in our respective countries and mission areas. We stand on the historical foundation of the sincerity expressed by God, True Parents and all our predecessors. Let us move forward with life-or-death determination and provide a substantial offering to Heaven within the next six years. SW

2020 Project Keywords

7

Enter/become the Mainstream

Mid & long-term growth
(2020 & beyond)

Balanced Growth

Leadership of Heart

Brothers United to Counter Communism

The following is a historical testimony by the founder of a group of dedicated members that were influential in uniting conservative religious and political groups and individuals to fight to preserve traditional values in the United States.

By Pak Bo-hi



Early in 1986, True Father spoke with me about the need to establish a nationwide organization in order to assist in educating leaders about the direction America needed to go in order to fulfill its providential mission. I formed a planning committee of American brothers to discuss this new mission and to work out a way of fulfilling it.

Together, we painstakingly researched all fifty states¹ to see what would be required to establish such an organization in each one. We also needed to look into all of the legal work involved in getting things incorporated, as well as a myriad of other details that required our attention pertaining to this. After this initial preparation was completed, we had to find the manpower in order to accomplish True Father's wishes.

Forming the committee of brothers

On January 2, 1987, True Father held a meeting in the Grand Ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel with the leadership of all the Unification Church organizations and businesses throughout the United States. After speaking for quite a long time, Father asked everyone, "How many of you would be willing to go to Africa and work there as missionaries—to even live and die there? If you would rather not, it's okay and there is no shame in that, just move to the back of the room." A few people moved to the back, however, most of the people stayed where they were sitting. He explained that this mission would be very important. The mission later became known as the African Mission.

Father then told everyone that before going, there would be a three-day seminar in order to orientate everyone to their new assignment. I was responsible for this mobilization and for conducting the seminar. Arrangements were made for several buses to take the leaders to the orientation seminar the following day. Until they arrived, however, none of them knew the location where the seminar was going to be held. After traveling for what probably seemed like a very long time to them, they arrived at a hotel in Princeton, New Jersey, where I welcomed them.

Much to their surprise, after they had all assembled in a meeting room, I spoke to them and told them, "None of you will be going to Africa!" I went on to explain that Father was testing them, to see which of them would step forward with absolute faith and trust when asked to do something that they did not even fully understand yet. I then disclosed to them that in fact, Father wanted to set up a nationwide organization of leaders that would be able to gather and organize the movers and the shakers, as well as the opinion-makers throughout the country, and educate them with the CAUSA materials of anti-communism and Godism.

To make a long story short, for the next couple of days I explained to them what we would be doing and how we would go about doing it. The organization that we would initially establish would be called the American Constitution Committee (ACC), to be headed by Mr. Joe Tully.²

In the midst of our organizational and strategy sessions, someone mentioned the name "top guns" to me. They explained that "Top Gun" was actually the name of a popular movie that had come out the previous year, and that (in the movie) it was the name given to the very best that America had to offer in terms of Navy fighter pilots.³ I felt that it was a great name with a great

1 The U. S. is one of only six nations that have a federal system of government, under which some federal laws affect all states, while some laws, such as those involved here, are different for each state.

2 Joe Tully (1946–2010) was in the 1,800-couple blessing group.

3 It is the nickname for the U. S. Navy's elite Fighter Weapons School.

meaning, and I decided to adopt it in reference to the ACC leaders. In fact, the ACC top guns were a group of some of the finest and brightest young American leaders in the Unification Church in the 1980s.⁴

True Father led the way

In the fight against communism, Father was so intent on getting the organization up and running quickly that he contributed money for each state leader to lease and furnish an office and to requisition a car, so that they could travel throughout their state to meet with people in leadership positions, as well as past CAUSA conference participants. Through this way, each of the top guns was able to begin immediately to make contact with many patriotic and capable people and organizations.

A broad and righteous coalition

Later, the ACC top guns joined field personnel of a non-UC organization by the name of Christian Voice (CV) and formed the American Freedom Coalition (AFC), which was registered in each state. Where possible, the leaders were assigned to their home state, where they grew-up.

The national headquarters of the AFC was established in Washington DC. It was headed by Dr. Robert Grant (CV's chairman and one of its founding members) who served as AFC's president. Michael Leone served as the executive director, and Gary Jarmin as the national field director. The AFC cochairs were Congressmen Richard Ichord (Democrat-Missouri⁵) and Bob Wilson (Republican-California⁶). Famous civil rights leader Dr. Ralph David Abernathy⁷ and Phillip Sanchez⁸ also served on AFC's Board. God's providence was moving forward so quickly at that time, and Father was very serious.

4 Today, True Mother uses the term "top gun" specifically for the brightest and most active members or our younger generations.

5 (1926–1992) He served ten terms in the U. S. Congress

6 (1916–1999) He served fourteen terms in the U. S. Congress

7 (1926–1990) He was a Baptist minister and civil rights leader that worked with Martin Luther King.

8 He had been a U. S. ambassador to Colombia and to Honduras

Several months after our preparatory meeting, on June 12, 1987, President Ronald Reagan laid down his momentous challenge to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Communist Party, leader of the USSR, when he said, "General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization, come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"⁹

While President Regan was making his declaration, AFC had already set up offices in all fifty states and had them legally registered. The state and regional offices provided local leadership, served as a vehicle through which educational seminars were carried out and community- and state-level projects and programs were established.

Father often spoke about God's three big headaches—communism, the breakdown of the family, and disunity among the world's religions. The Washington Times served as the "air force" to bring this message through the media to America. Father saw AFC as the ground troops in the field, whose mission was to bring this message to religious, political, business and community leaders in every state. We did this by taking on the issues of the day that confronted America.

One of those issues was the fight against communism in Central America and South America. Communism was approaching America's front door and President Reagan was taking a stand to stop it. Colonel Oliver North became a symbol for that fight against the advance of Communism and was targeted by the left in America for his role in the Iran-Contra controversy.¹⁰ He testified before the U.S. Senate about his activities and the stand that the Reagan administration was taking against communism and warned about the rise of terrorism around the world.

9 He was referring to the Berlin Wall dividing communist East Germany from democratic West Germany; the "tearing down" began on November 9, 1989.

10 This involved weapons sales to apparent moderates in Iran with the money earned funding the Contras, guerilla opponents of the communist Sandinista government of Nicaragua.



The "top gun" workshop was held in Princeton, New Jersey, in January 1987; these were the participants.

Photos courtesy of Dr. Pak

Some battles that AFC took on

AFC took the part of defending Col. Oliver North and produced a video "Oliver North—Fight for Freedom" that aired on television stations all over America. The TV special got out an anti-communist pro-American message and raised funds through advertisements and an 800 number to support these issues in all fifty states. I created a promotional arm for AFC, Global Image Associates, headed up by Mike Smith, PA Beltrami and Jim Gavin who worked to create the video, buy the TV time, collect the contributions and build a donor list that continued to support the activities of AFC.

AFC took on another issue that was dear to True Parents' hearts; the Strategic Defense Initiative, promoted by President Reagan. Global Image Associates was again tasked with creating this for AFC. I met General Daniel Graham, the founder of the organization, High Frontiers, and worked with his organization to create a new TV special called "One Incoming." General Graham was able to solicit the assistance of the actor Charlton Heston to narrate the TV drama, which depicted what would happen if America was attacked with no missile defense, and on the other hand, what would happen if we had a defense. The TV special went on the air, educated the public and raised funds for the activities of AFC.

The "Fight for Freedom" and "One Incoming" videos were also shown at programs set up by our AFC representatives all over the country. Local political and community leaders would speak at these functions and through this kind of activity we continued to build our local coalitions. AFC grew to become a respected player on a local and on the national level.

The voter education work conducted through the distribution of Voters' Guides and Candidate Scorecards in the 1988 elections also helped build the AFC nationwide coalition. On a local level, we were able to network with like-minded organizations to distribute these critical educational materials. This educational effort helped people vote for candidates that stood for their ideals and values. AFC was recognized locally and nationally for its voter education campaign.

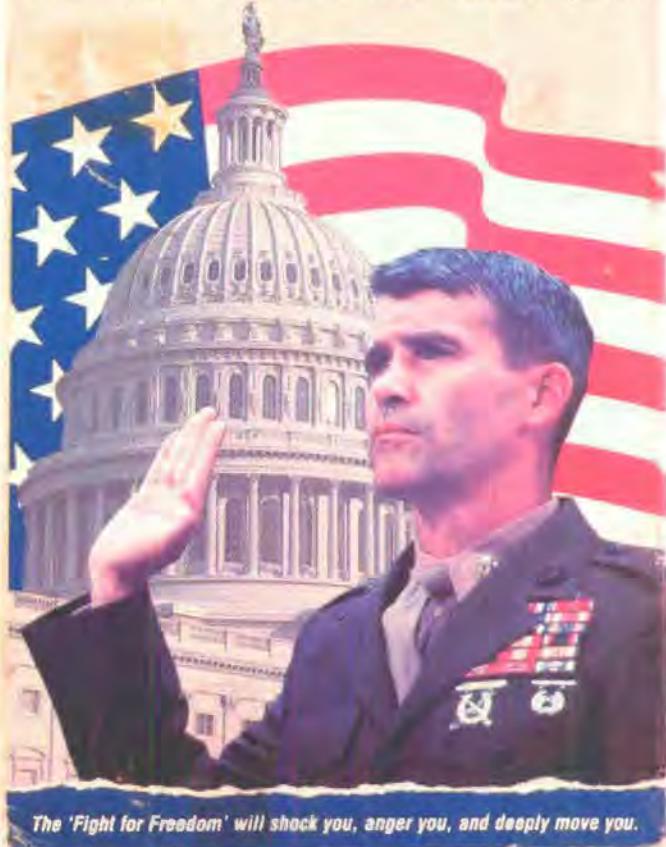
Our top guns wore many hats and one of those hats was representing the Washington Times. I was president of the Washington Times during this time and our AFC representatives received copies of the Times to distribute and actively sold subscriptions for the Washington Times' national edition. This enabled our top guns to get out vital news from the newspaper and gave our representatives added credibility as they networked with movers and shakers in their states.

Throughout the year, I held American Leadership Conferences in Washington DC, where we presented pro-American, anti-Communist seminars. Our AFC representatives would participate with leaders from their states who were always inspired by the seminars and by the speakers who supported our conferences. Members of Congress and nationally renowned political and spiritual leaders would encourage our conference to bring America back to its founding spirit and create an America that can be like that "shining city on a hill" that President Reagan so often spoke about. At the end of every conference, I concluded with a testimony on Rev. Moon's life and work, which was always the highlight of the conference.

Father was the inspiration for all our endeavors and he personally met with AFC representatives on a regular basis. He would listen to reports from each of the fifty states and comment on what was reported. Most importantly, he gave us a vision of the importance of America as a global leader. He often told us that America can lead the world to do great things for God and mankind; or America can cause the world

OLIVER NORTH FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

*The story of his rise from obscurity to national renown.
*Dramatic highlights of Oliver North's testimony before Congress.
*Exclusive interviews with the people who know him best.
*Contains excerpts of the slide show Congress wouldn't let you see.



The American Freedom Coalition produced this television show to support a former National Security Council aide, who was under attack from soft-on-communism politicians in the U.S. Congress for his support of democracy in Nicaragua.

to decline if it loses its moral compass. He talked to us with great urgency; after these meetings, our top guns would go back to their respective states, recommitted and reinvigorated to bring about a moral and spiritual revolution in America.

Our AFC representatives were respected for what they stood for, and respected for the incredible effort they put forth to build coalitions in their states. To their credit, the AFC representatives were instrumental in the passage of the law in the U.S. establishing Parents' Day as an annual, national day of commemoration.

Many of our top guns went on to become respected political, business, spiritual and community leaders in their states. Most importantly, however, our top guns were proud to represent the fighting spirit and vision of our True Parents. **GW**

Dr. Pak is president of the Korean Cultural Foundation.

The Nitty-Gritty in a Spiritual Life

PART I

By Kim Won-jong



This testimony, from a still active early member, presents a type of Unificationist that was right for the times in which he was most active. Strong willed and bombastic in speech, he is nevertheless sensitive to the people and was thus able to help drive the movement forward, including overseeing the construction of several churches during a time when Korea was desperately poor.

The Korean War broke out the year I turned sixteen. I lost my one and only older brother in combat in the Battle of White Horse Hill. My brother was ten years older than I; as a result, I was usually afraid of him, but as we grew, I began to grow fond of him. When I heard the sad news that my brother had been killed, I felt, for the first time in my life, a bitter and painful sadness.

The shock of my brother being killed was so great that at the time I began to ask myself "Why are we alive?" and "What happens at the end of life's journey?" I was gripped with feelings of doubt and a sense of futility. In the midst of not being able to find an answer that could relieve me from my questions, I chanced to read "A Critique of Das Kapital" published in Monthly Thoughts and felt that communism was the absolute truth. According to the principle that "truth conquers all," I was convinced that capitalism would collapse and communism would reign supreme. After developing this notion, I thought that my brother had died in vain, and I evaded compulsory military service for seven years. I also had prepared my heart to join the communist movement if given the chance.

One day, my mother was so grief-stricken about my brother's death that she went to a medium who told her, "Your son is being held as a prisoner of war in North Korea. You can see him again if you go to a Buddhist temple and offer many Buddhist prayers." I went immediately to a Buddhist temple and asked a Buddhist monk, "If I offer Buddhist prayers, will I be able to see my brother again?" to which he replied, "Man has essentially fallen and is born with sin. Mankind has lost all good fortune. Therefore, if you chant the Amitabha



August 1967, Rev. Kim among people in his hometown (seated, center right)

Photo courtesy of Kim Won-jong

the Bodhisattva Buddhist mantra, evil will leave your body and you will naturally be engaged with good fortune." He added that if I did so I could see my brother again.

I recited the Amitabha and the Bodhisattva Buddhist mantras for seven years. I started seeing strange visions and hearing voices. When walking along the street, I could look at people and tell what their fate was. I would then actually try to find the background of the person and would discover it was exactly what I had thought. I felt insecure, thinking, Am I turning into a face physiognomist¹ or some kind of astrologer?

Thus, I stopped reciting the Buddhist prayers and limited my visits to the Buddhist temple to three times a year. Nevertheless, I was so taken by Buddhism that I thought of dedicating myself by becoming a monk in the future. If that did not work out, I considered getting involved in the communist movement or killing myself.

Conveying the word in the army

I was spiritually confused and wandering, when one day in October 1960, I had the opportunity to listen to the Unification Church Divine Principle, day and night for a week from a friend named Kim Bok-hyeon. It felt as though I were dreaming and possessed by a spirit, because these teachings were ones that I had never heard before.

Following this, I tried to read *Explanation of the Divine Principle*² but could not finish it. One day, I was determined to read the entire book on that same day. I read one page after the other, and I repeatedly read each page until I understood everything. I finally finished reading it at 2 am. While reading the book, I felt deep in my heart that it was a book that could not be written with human skills. I turned the last page thinking, I did not believe in God, who is alive, because of my ignorance.

The moment I thought of that, I saw a light sparkling brightly in front of me and suddenly my body grew hot. I began to shake. To stop the shaking, I grabbed onto the desk, but the desk began shaking and it would not stop. At the same time, tears were streaming from my eyes for no reason and the words, "God, God," kept coming from my mouth. After what seemed like about thirty minutes of that, I was concerned and afraid that something might be wrong with me mentally. I sat with my head lying flush against the desk.

One night, I was lying down with my eyes closed, when I saw a white airplane flying about twenty centimeters above my face and from the plane dropped a white cloth. As it unfolded, I saw "Unification Church" in large type written on it. It was so vivid that I wasn't sure if it was a dream or reality. After dreaming, I felt that the Unification Church was the true church.

On a different night when I was in bed, a snake as thick as a pillar appeared and after reaching my ankle, it started climbing up my leg. It flicked a spatula shaped tongue and when it tried to bite my face, I grabbed its upper and lower jaws trying to rip its jaws apart. As the snake's jaws grew more apart, I looked down the cave-like innards of the snake. At that point, I awoke to find my blankets all wet.

Two months after that episode, on February 2, 1962, the Reverend Sun Myung Moon came to Daegu on a tour. He spoke for six hours. He said, "To know what was in the mind of the snake when he tempted Eve six thousand years ago, grab the upper and lower jaws of the snake and shout, 'Snake! Let's have a look at your innards,' and unless you can see everything

1 Someone that tries to read others' temperament and character from his or her outward appearance

2 This is an earlier version than the *Exposition of Divine Principle*. No English version of this has yet been produced.

that is inside the snake, you cannot know the snake's mind." I suddenly felt dizzy upon hearing this and my head just went numb. Obviously, I once again felt that Father knew all the secrets of heaven.

After acknowledging the presence of both the truth and the Holy Spirit, I could not just sit back and watch. I could not stop speaking for even an hour wherever I was. Everyone seemed pathetic in my eyes and seeing how they were living frustrated me. Knowing that they would end up following the path of death if I did not inform them about the Unification Church, I randomly visited any place with an on-going big event whenever I could; I would gather an audience in a room and convey the word for a whole day. When I was finished, however, I could not remember what I had said.

While I actively went around conveying the word, I also performed ancestral rites for my deceased father and I placed rice on an altar every morning and evening and wailed. However, when my father appeared in my dreams, family discord and accidents always would take place. After reading the chapter Resurrection in depth, I learned that I could dedicate myself to Heaven because of my father. Hence, I put away the altar and stopped performing ancestral rites. After doing so, my neighbors, relatives and siblings came and asked, "Death is a sorrowful matter in itself, do you have to do that?" and asked if I could continue the ancestral rites and maintain my faith in the Unification Church at the same time. I drove them out roaring, "My life is my problem and my family's problems are up to me to resolve, so everyone please leave." After that, no one came to our house. I altered the table where I had placed a photograph of my late father into a holy altar, around which the people I witnessed to each night would gather for service. I was not sure about how others gave services, but I had the guests offer silent prayers, we would read key parts from the Divine Principle and they would take notes on those important parts.

Once I could understand the Principle intimately, a desire to serve my country formed within me; I joined the army in May 1962. At boot camp, I would go to the front and lecture every time we had a five-minute break. I gladly took on punishments and thought of it as indemnity. When we were assigned to our units after boot camp, I prayed hard that I would be able to go to the headquarters church.

Fortunately, I was assigned to a camp where I could take a day off in Seoul on the very first week of my assignment to the unit. The unit I was in was assigned all night watch duties; I stood watch from 4:00 AM to 5:00 AM. While on night watch, I would go to the cafeteria, light a candle, study and pray. Being able to do that was a blessed grace given by God. One day, the unit commander said, "Those that believe that there is a God and those that believe there isn't one, come up and have a debate," upon which I promptly came to the front and lectured for an hour about the existence of God.

After a few days, the unit commander called me, and we spoke until 3:00 AM. Upon returning to the barracks the following day, the veteran soldiers said they could not sleep because of all my talking with the unit commander. They threatened to beat me to death, but they could not do that because the unit commander and I were close. Soon after, the unit commander was replaced. The new unit commander came and asked to see me first. Upon meeting him, he told me that he, too, was religious, a Methodist, and complimented me. He then called me "Private First Class Kim." One day, I gave the unit commander a copy of *Explanations of the Divine Principle* to read. He looked at it for a long time and said, "That book has the power to carry me away; I am too afraid to read it."

I gave many lectures to the unit commander and to the unit. At times, after I gave a lecture, the unit would be inspired and would say, "Let us all drive to the Unification Church with our army vehicles next week." However, once training began, this spirit would fade out again.

I began a seven-day fast to show them that God is alive. After the third day of standing guard during meal times, the unit commander found out and spoke to me holding my hands, "You've shown us enough by fasting for three days. Please eat." I told him I must do this. He replied, "Hey, this is the army" and his treatment of me completely changed. Faced with no other choice, I told him I would eat and then went ahead and completed my seven-day fast. When I went to eat, the unit commander found me and asked, "Are religious people permitted to tell lies?" He expressed his concern and left.

I brought many soldiers from my unit to the headquarters church, but not one of them became a complete member. In our unit, there was one terrible bully among the veteran soldiers; if you chanced to cross his path, he would swing his stick; he was a source of fear and anxiety. Everyone was afraid of him. However, this same person always came to my side yearning for the word. We would talk and I taught him hymns and took him to the headquarters church where we attended service together. In 1963, he filled a membership application and he never swore at the other soldiers again. If one of the soldiers caused trouble, he would even go as far as saying, "I would have killed such a fool before I came to know the Principle. Now that I know God, I cannot do that anymore." The soldiers were overwhelmingly thankful to me.

I felt pangs of conscience for eating comfortably in the army, so I began skipping a meal a day as a fasting condition for twenty-one days and brought the extra rice to the pioneer members in Beobwon-ri.

One thing I regret in front of Heaven for doing while I served in the army was that I knowingly ate pork from a pig stolen by soldiers from our unit. I was tormented by a

guilty conscience, so I begged God saying, "Please allow me to indemnify the pork I had eaten with an equal amount of blood from my body." Soon after, a boil appeared above my ankle and swelled to such an extent that I could not get up and required surgery. I asked the doctor to forego giving me an anesthetic and did not budge an inch even though he cut through the flesh. Later, the unit commander commented, "You're the toughest guy I've ever met in my life," to which I replied, "I thought of it as a condition to remove the contaminated blood of sin, so it did not hurt much." Upon hearing this, he said, "That's why faith is a fearful thing" and added, "This is exactly the right military spirit."

Restoration of my hometown

After my discharge from the army in December 1964, I was assigned as a church pastor to Yeongyang. However, just as the saying goes that "a righteous person is not received in his hometown," my activities in my hometown wavered. Yeongyang is a small town made up of six villages and sixty thousand people.

Just as the Israelites marched around the wall surrounding Jericho, I walked around the town several times and chose to walk instead of using transportation even if I had the money. I roughly walked for about six thousand ri³ a year while conducting activities. Whenever I called for a general meeting in the area, around seventy to eighty people convened. We bought land, built church buildings by ourselves and conducted dedication ceremonies in Subi, Jukpa, Ibam, Gyegan-ri and the local district church headquarters.

Later, I participated in a forty-day workshop conducted by the headquarters. During this workshop, Father's statement, "You must plant fruit trees on all mountains to revive the Garden of Eden," stuck with me. I wanted to take the initiative when the opportunity arose. During the members' general meeting, I suggested that we raise money through

3 Roughly two thousand miles or 3,220 kilometers



In this March 3, 1974 photograph, the congregation surrounds Pastor Kim and his wife.

farming to build the local district headquarters, which was unanimously passed. So, while looking for land to cultivate, we found an abandoned flat area that was hundreds of thousands of *pyeong*⁴ wide within a forest preserve owned by the government. We chose this land; I took full responsibility as the pastor in charge and we started our cultivation. Four young members formed a team and having brought food for four days, they began working day and night. All the residents in that region created an uproar saying the "Unification Church is stripping the entire mountain," but surprisingly, there was not a stir from the forest management office.

We originally planned to cultivate 4,000 *pyeong* but later realized that we had cultivated more than 5,000 *pyeong*. We built a cozy four-room house and a tobacco drying room. Around the beginning of the year, we applied for a tobacco cultivation permit and transplanted tobacco onto 1,300 *pyeong* of the land.

In March, I attended a local pastors' meeting for three days. Upon my return, I found out that the church general affairs manager, Choi Byeong-seon, and two other members, Ha Gil-ung and Kim Seong-heon, had been detained. By the time I had finished a local seven-day workshop and had gone to visit them, the prosecutor had already announced his intention to seek a three-year prison sentence with a hefty fine. However, the prosecutor was unable to close the case because all three members confessed that they were each personally responsible. My eyes welled up when I saw the members come out in handcuffs. The two young members seemed embarrassed, but the general affairs manager was composed. The general affairs manager had heard a voice from Heaven when he closed his eyes for a moment during the day that said, "Even your teacher did not stay in prison for over three months in South Korea. Do you think you will?" However, he did not tell the two members in case they considered it a lie. Soon after, the judge concluded that their acts had roots in patriotic intentions; he greatly reduced their sentence to a month in a guardhouse and a fine of ₩12,000. They were then released with a two-year suspension of indictment. When True Father heard the news, he was glad and said, "These three people have judged Peter's faith." We were able to obtain the cultivated land through which we harvested 150 sacks of potatoes, two sacks of beans, and tobacco that could fill a car in this way. With the revenue from our yearly harvest, we subtracted the costs associated with the sentence and the fines and to our surprise, it matched exactly the total cost; not even a single won was left from it. We just stood there looking at each other. Even if we had tried to make it come out even, we could never be as accurate as this. It was no doubt God's doing.

Though we failed to build a local district headquarters with the proceeds from the farming, we later were able to build a thirty-six-pyeong church from donations members made and the profits gained from the air gun sales.

When I first understood the Principle, I wished I had waited though I had already married. Upon learning from the Principle that the Fall, involving our human ancestors, was rooted in illicit love, I felt that there would be a new concept of love. Even though I had been married for ten months, I talked my wife into starting a life of separation. We conducted this lifestyle for five years and finally received the married couples blessing in 1965.

Later, with the help of the provincial district director, Kwak Cheong-hwan, we were able to establish a consumers' cooperative and Tongil Pharmacy in Yeongyang. The building was then managed by Yeongyang Town and when Director Kwak

realized the necessity of the business, he provided the entire business fund and dispatched a provincial district business director to run it. Basic commodities and agricultural supplies were bought at a high price in farming villages while middlemen tricked farmers into selling their crop for almost nothing. Under these circumstances, products that went for ₩30 in the market were sold for just ₩20 at our consumers' cooperative. Every ten percent, or two won of the purchase, would be saved in the consumer's account. Hence, on market day, customers flocked to our cooperative lining up to buy products. Even though we were barely able to eke out an existence, eating boiled barley and kimchi every day and having difficulties even having radish kimchi, we voluntarily carried out the work.

Members also volunteered their effort to run the Tongil Pharmacy. Then a rumor that the Unification Church was very rich started spreading in Yeongyang and we were asked to purchase the largest pharmacy in town. As the operation scale of the consumers' cooperatives and pharmacy we ran grew in size, the market middlemen would come in front of our store and cry out, "Now, you have to feed our families." However, the business that had grown to such a scale ended up falling into the hands of outsiders after I had to move to another area because my mission had changed. It was then that I experienced what Father meant when he said, "Even though you feel physically sick, you cannot get sick and have no time to get sick." Heaps of work, including anticomunism lectures, farming within reclaimed land, constructing a local headquarters, circuiting in the precincts, revival meetings, public assemblies and others tasks swamp the life of a pastor.

One thing I will never forget about Yeongyang was the time we sold our family's last cow. I remember in 1967 during a pastors' national meeting how Father personally came out holding an air gun and intensely said, "We must sell air guns to support the operation of our Tongil Industries." Just a few days later, each region was ranked by potential and given separate total air gun sales goals they had to reach.

The pastors held prayer conditions all night long and strengthened their determination to accomplish the goal no matter what. I decided, come what may, I would fast and circuit Yeongyang until we met our air gun sales goal. I walked all around Yeongyang pleading to members. After four days of this, I arrived home on the fifth day but did not have the strength to stand.

We had five cows at home and I had given one cow to the church. The family had to sell the cows because I was not at home and they were using the last one to continue the farming. This cow was the lifeline for my sister-in-law, my aging mother, my wife and my young ones. However, I thought I should set a condition to compensate, if possible, even one-millionth of Heaven's pitiable circumstances by selling the last remaining cow. I was also well aware that if I were to do it hastily, God would not grant my wish; hence, I called all the members and told them, "I will fast until I fulfill my responsibilities. If I fail to achieve my responsibilities, I will die. If I die fasting, please use this cow to live well." I then added, "I will give you all air guns equivalent to the price of a cow; if you can sell them, not only would you be helping Heaven but you would also be able to buy a cow. This would be like killing two birds with one stone." Upon seeing me putting my life at risk, they agreed to help. Two days later, I took the cow to the town of Yeongyang, which was 24 km away and sold the cow for ₩33,300. Combined with the donations from members, I could offer a total payment of ₩100,000 for the air guns. **TW**

To Be Continued...

⁴ One hundred thousand *pyeong* is equal to about eighty acres.

Engaging with Second-Generation Concerns

The Irish HARP Winter Workshop 2013–2014

By Joy Kennedy



Left to right: Elinora Iversen, Linda Marchan and Joy Kennedy (author of this article) were staff members at the Irish winter workshop. **Below:** The whole staff, HARP and pre-HARP members at this year's workshop

Every year, for the past few years, it has become somewhat of a tradition to hold a workshop for second-generation members in Ireland. Although we have a small community and see each other fairly often, there was always something quite distinctive about these gatherings that allowed us to gain a new sense of camaraderie with one another, and the feeling that we had been given a privileged insight into one another's lives that would often be missed in our usual interactions. Through these workshops, we had the opportunity to step back and see each other from a new angle, from a fresh perspective. These times of retreat also provided a platform for a more open communication among participants and the staff about God, faith, and the big questions of life. Although our numbers were always on the modest side, everyone naturally came together and pooled their skills, talents and resources to contribute to the success of the workshop. Being a small island nation, we wanted to share these experiences with other small communities, so we partnered with Iceland and Malta on different occasions.

This most recent winter workshop, we wanted to venture a little farther and open our doors to the wider European community, with an emphasis on the smaller nations, particularly those that may not have the numbers or facilities to have their own workshop. This desire sprouted from some of the Irish HARP¹ members, who felt inspired by the European Second Generation Department² summer activities that they had previously attended. After a bit of brainstorming and research, they presented the idea to a few of us older members of the second generation. Although many of us were busy with university and work, those of us who could were very happy to assist in the materialization of these ideas. In this way, the preparation for the workshop was very much a collaboration between the younger and older second-generation members.

Akin to the changes occurring in the movement on the wider international scale, it had become apparent that we, as an Irish community, had also entered into somewhat of a transition stage. Although not intentionally, the preparation for the workshop coincided

1. High School Association for the Research of the Principle

2. For more on their activities, see <http://esgd.org>



Photos courtesy of Joy Kennedy

with the Irish members' entrance into extensive discussion on the progress of our community and the future of the movement as a whole. Within this dialogue, it became evident that we, in the second generation, often understand and relate to the movement in a different way than those in the first generation. Although we feel value as members of the church and want to contribute, it sometimes felt that there was a slight disconnect between the ideals of the movement and where we were in our own spiritual journeys. In this sense, those of us on the staff desired to understand and to acknowledge what the HARP members wanted from the workshop, and more importantly what they felt they needed at this stage in their spiritual lives. With this in mind, we held a creative meeting with the HARP members and together with them, decided on the workshop theme, A Guide to Thrive, Principle Living for Dummies. The reasoning behind this theme was that we wanted to provide very practical, real guidelines for them to flourish in their spiritual lives despite challenges that they may face along the way. The sub-theme, Principle Living for Dummies is based off the very well known For Dummies series, which are a range of easy-to-digest, instructional books that present a topic or a skill in a very clear, accessible and non-intimidating fashion. We wanted to take this idea and convey the Divine Principle in a more practical and attainable form that could translate and apply to their everyday lives.

This year, we held the workshop over the New Year, from December 28, 2013 to January 1, 2014. The workshop venue was held in a scout center nestled in the heart of the Wicklow Mountains, which served as an ideal location to reflect in the final few days leading up to the New Year. We conducted two workshops simultaneously; one for the HARP age group (twelve to eighteen years old) and one for the pre-HARP age group (seven to eleven years old). Although both were held in the same venue, the schedules and education were kept separate to facilitate the needs of the different groups. However, during free time and meal times everyone came together and a very natural and loving bond grew among all participants and staff members. Just over thirty-five participants and staff members came, with quite a few joining us from other countries around Europe. In total, people from seven countries took part—Belgium, Luxembourg, Iceland, Scotland, England, Portugal and Ireland.

We were very fortunate to be able to have Patrick Hanna as the main lecturer. He delivered eloquent talks on our position as second-generation members in the context of the family and the church, our value and purity and character building. From personal observation throughout the workshop, I could see that the audience was engaged, intent on listening, and enjoy-



Sending lanterns up to God to welcome in the New Year

ing the guidance. Patrick approached the daily topics and the theme of the workshop in a very relatable manner and often with a tasteful touch of humor. The content was a varied combination of lectures, personal testimonies, peer guidance, sharing and team activities. When considering how to approach the guidance beforehand, a strong consensus formed that sharing from personal experience in guidance through testimony was a very powerful way of communicating the chosen message. Among the staff members, we felt passionate about the fact that we wanted to be much more personal and real about some of the chosen topics. We all were in agreement that we wanted to actively engage with the younger ones and not just stand back in a distant position. Listening to the ideas and the desires that the HARP members expressed reminded us that many of the challenges they are facing at present are the same things that we went through and indeed still encounter. These include defining our identity as second-generation members and deciding how we choose to express that in all areas of our lives; relating with our parents and trying to understand the true value of their history; connecting with God; choosing the company we keep and the implications of those choices on our spiritual health; comprehending the meaning and value of the blessing and the choices that we make in order to preserve our purity. All of these and more affect us to varying degrees at some point in our lives and often necessitate explanation, guidance and discussion in a candid and non-judgmental manner. Accordingly, each day of lectures was accompanied by one of the staff members sharing some guidance based on the person's own experience of the particular theme or topic that Patrick had already spoken on. In addition, we had an evening of testimony with first- and second-generation perspectives on joining the movement or in the case of a second-generation speaker, making the active decision to accept the movement as his or her own.

The combination of guidance provided a good platform for individual reflection, goal setting and prayer leading up to the New Year. On the last full day of the workshop, on the cusp of midnight, we gathered outside, and in candlelight counted down the last few seconds of 2013. As we celebrated the new beginning, the success of the workshop was palpable in the atmosphere and in the beaming faces all around, and most notably measured by the excited and eager request from one of the participants to "start planning the next workshop" before the ongoing workshop had even ended. **SW**





Rebuilding with Vision In the Democratic Republic of Congo

Based on a report by UPF-DR Congo



**Rev. Futila Di Mayeko Michel,
national leader of the Democratic
Republic of Congo, in an isolated area
of the nation meeting with members
that maintain their faith despite never
having met True Parents.**

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) is located in central Africa. It is the second largest African country after Algeria and is surrounded by nine neighboring countries.

Filled with 9 million inhabitants, the population of Congo comprises more than six hundred ethnic groups and as many spoken languages: a cultural richness.

In addition to the diversity of the population, nature has also endowed DR Congo with great wealth in mineral resources, agricultural produce and sources of hydraulic energy. This potential for fruitfulness confronts the spiritual reality of human beings; that is to say, a bad nature characterized by conflicts, immorality and murder that has brought a repeating cycle of violence and war to Congolese through its leaders, since independence in 1960.

Wars affected mainly the eastern part of DR Congo, principally the northern part of Katanga Province and all of Maniema Province, South Kivu Province, North Kivu Province and Oriental Province.

We held a Universal Peace Federation conference to inaugurate UPF in Kindu, the capital of Maniema Province on December 19. The conference was made possible and was initiated by Mr. Tunda Kasongo Lukali, a local politician that wanted to set up UPF in his electoral stronghold in an effort to resolve the problems produced by years of warfare in the eastern part of the country.

This reality of war has extensively slowed development and has compelled UPF to choose as the conference theme Conflicts in DR Congo: A Challenge for the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In excess of a hundred and twenty-five people attended the conference—religious and political figures as well as social activists, intellectuals and members of the media.



Photos courtesy of UPF-DR Congo

UN Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Global partnership for development

Conference highlights

The conference opened with Rev. Futila, the UPF secretary general, introducing UPF and briefly speaking about Father's life.

Three strong points characterized the conference. An ambassador for peace that is an expert in the area of conflicts presented a review of conflicts in the Congo since 1960. His lecture demonstrated how DR Congo has been a theater of conflicts and war ever since it gained independence, pinpointing exploitation of its natural resources as the main reason behind these problems. He explained other causes as well, spoke about the dire consequences of war in DR Congo and made some suggestions.

Then an expert in the Congolese government Ministry of Planning talked about the MDGs in DR Congo, in particular the goal for education. He demonstrated that the balance sheet was decidedly negative.

Finally, Rev. Futila explained the UPF approach to causes of conflicts and gave some suggestions as well. He showed that the causes of conflicts—individual, familial, national and international—were in fact only effects. The true source of conflicts is a spiritual one—the separation of God from the first human beings.

He asserted that true and lasting peace is not possible without God at the center and without applying the principles of restoration to solve conflicts. Ultimately, the main public figure at the conference recognized this truth and developed a new image of True Father's personality. He describes Father as having been a great visionary.

At the conclusion of the conference, we recognized that generally in Africa, and particularly in DR Congo, no problems arise from speaking about God and the Divine Principle during a UPF conference.

Church construction in Kindu

As the church leader, Rev. Futila had visited Kindu in the past and had promised he would return. Kalima can be regarded as the nursery of all missions in its province. It is growing and setting a good example for other pioneer efforts. We travelled the hundred and forty kilometers from Kindu to Kamundala on a motorcycle. Over sixty-five kilometers of the way to Kalima was unpaved and the

rainy season made it even more difficult. We had a flat tire six times.

Our members in Kindu have decided to build a new church, bigger and more modern than the former one. They are raising funds for the construction by selling ginger juice for a dollar a bottle. Work is progressing slowly but they are determined to achieve completion.

One day, the roof of the church came off in a heavy rain-storm. Technicians advised Kindu church members to tear down the building and restart. One member, however, convinced the pastor that he had an inspired solution that would allow them to move forward with the work without destroying the roof.

Hometown witnessing in Kamundala

Mr. Swedi Lukwabantu is a member of our church in Kalima, which is located in the same province but is a hundred and twenty kilometers northeast of Kindu. After listening to presentations on the Vision 2020 Project in Kindu, he went to his hometown farm in Kamundala, twenty kilometers away from Kalima. There he has witnessed to twenty-five new members and held a two-day workshop.

From Kalima, Rev. Futila went to Kamundala to greet him and to observe firsthand the results of his mission work. This tribal messiah, Mr. Lukwabantu, was blessed among the 3.6-million-couple group. He has four blessed children. Rev. Futila said, "The atmosphere created by their sincere desire to learn the Divine Principle obliged me to speak for an hour, though I had intended to speak for only ten minutes. For our meeting, they had rented a Methodist Church, larger than our church in Kalima. That the pastor of the church allowed us to display True Parents' picture rather than one of Jesus surprised me. To encourage these new members to dig deeper into our teachings, we gave a copy of Exposition of Divine Principle to them, and I promised to send more shortly. I have to admit that the enthusiasm and the purity of those members reminded me of my first moments in the DR Congo church."

Faith in remote areas

The trip from Kindu to Kalima and Kamundala, took us past many mission churches with blessed families. I stopped in Nyoka, where twenty-four blessed families live and met with the local leader. Even in the most undeveloped corner of the



The fruit of a tribal messiah's efforts; they thirst for the Divine Principle teachings.



UPF held a Vision 2020 conference to help spur development in eastern DR Congo.

country, True Parents' picture can be found in the homes of our sincere members. Those members have never personally seen True Parents but they remain faithful to them. As Jesus said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."¹

War in DR Congo

In practical terms, war in DR Congo started in 1994, after the genocide in Rwanda and the massive influx of Rwandan refugees into the provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu. After a certain time, this situation resulted in the Rwandan army crossing into DR Congo in pursuit of those refugees, resulting in the Rwandan refugees (enemies of the Rwandan government's army) moving deeper into DR Congo. The Rwandans pursued them with the support of a Congolese rebel group. As allies they fought both the DR Congo army and armed (as well as unarmed) refugees.

Eventually, the Rwandans toppled the DR Congo's government and installed the Congolese rebel group leader as president. The Congolese rebel group leader, after being made president of DR Congo, ceased cooperating with the Rwandans that had installed him. Not only that, when the Rwandan army invaded again in 1998, he used the Rwandan refugees, sworn enemies of the Rwandan government, to bolster DR Congo's forces in war against the Rwandan army. This opened the door to the protracted war that raged for years afterward. It drew the military forces of Burundi and Uganda to ally with

¹ John 20:29

Rwanda and the military forces of Zimbabwe and Angola to ally with DR Congo.

In that many foreign armies fought in a single nation, the war in DR Congo, at least fifteen years in duration, closely resembled a war from the distant past, World War I, which was mainly fought on French soil. It has often been said that DR Congo experienced Africa's first world war.

Overall, including the years before 1998, more than six million DR Congolese have died as the human cost of this conflict. In November 2012, a rebel military movement called M23, took over eastern Congo and set itself up as an illegal government. For a year previous to the takeover, they had already been spreading terror and confusion in that part of the country.

With the victory of the national army and the surrender of M23 in November 2013, the war appears to have ended. Rev. Futila recently said, "Today calm has returned and I'm just coming from Goma² myself. Most of the peoples who died there were innocent. Because of that, we organized in four provinces (Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu and Oriental Province), prayers of consolation for them and also to claim 2014 as a year of peace in order to bring more results for Vision 2020."

We nightly had a twelve-minute condition of sincere and deep prayer with great devotion. After sharing the situation of those people in the spiritual world according to the Divine Principle, we did a prayer to claim 2014. We are determined to work effectively in those four provinces worst affected by the ravages of warfare.

Being a strategic nation is a great privilege, but we also feel a deepening sense of responsibility for our nation. DR Congo members are determined to assume this responsibility. To achieve Vision 2020, constant mobilization and education are necessary for members. Our weak point is the lack of appropriate resources and materials to do our work, such as flood-lights, computers, etc. Even today, the church does not have a means of transportation for the activities of the provinces.

We cannot conclude without extending to you, brothers and sisters, our best wishes for the New Year, 2014. *SW*

² A city in eastern DR Congo that has been a seat of conflict; it is located near the Rwandan border.



Left: Members are selling \$1 bottles of ginger juice to fund a new church, which they are building, in Kindu; **Right:** Rev. Futila leads a prayer for the spirits of those killed through years of war in the eastern provinces of DR Congo.

The 2013 African Church Choir Competition



By Otsuka Katsumi

As we all know well, music is a universal language and goes beyond any border. Music and song have been playing very important roles in most religious activities in the world. Holy songs to glorify God and salvation by Christ are crucial in Christian faith.

Traveling around the African region, I came to realize the African people's high musical and dance ability. In any Sunday Service, in spite of poor musical instruments, they sing Holy Songs joyfully with just an African drum. Particularly, those in the second-generation sing beautifully. So, we decided to organize the FFWPU Church Choir Group Competition for Africa to commemorate the first anniversary of True Father's seonghwa. The competition had certain requirements. A choir had to have at least five choristers. A nation could have as many as three choirs in the competition. For example, one of first-generation members, one of second-generation members and a group from one city's church. They had to sing three songs; one had to be one of our holy songs. The other two could be a traditional folk song or pop song. For the holy song, singing in Korean was highly recommended. By September 30, each choir had to submit a video of about 10-minute length. The judging was completed by October 7.

Of course, a major criterion was the quality of singing, but the spirit with which songs were sung was also evaluated. Creativity invested in the dancing, costumes and other areas were also factors. The prize money will be announced soon.

Fifteen choirs from thirteen nations competed. An international vice-president of FFWPU, Thomas Hwang; the leader of the SunHak choirs in Japan; a professional singer; and I comprised the panel of judges. The judges were unanimous in our surprise at the African cultural uniqueness and singing capabilities.

Overall, the choirs presented several original compositions. A choir of first-generation members from the Democratic Republic of the Congo sang, "This is True Parents," highlighting their achievements through song and dance. A choir of second-generation members from Angola created "Sun Myung Moon." Another unique song from Angola was "The Eternal Love," in which they sang, "True Parents triumphed over Satan and evil, so we do not have to be with Satan anymore—bye, bye." The power of the choir group from Cote d'Ivoire was astonishing.

The choir of first-generation members from the Democratic Republic of the Congo won the

The choir from Cabinda, Angola, that competed in the first African Choir Group Competition



Photos courtesy of Rev. Katsumi



gold medal. The silver went to the local Cabinda church choir in Angola. The second-generation members' choir from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (pictured above) won the bronze medal. The Burundi group won a special award and Kenya won the award for the best holy song. Côte d'Ivoire was recognized for its good performance and Liberia for its good effort.

The competition became a very good occasion to encourage all nations to form choirs. Coming to the realization that even deep in the African jungle members are offering bows to photographs of True Parents is impressive. These members sing accompanied by a single African drum to glorify True Parents' victories.

Of course, in various ways, improvements need to be made in order to make their singing and presentations more sophisticated. They have a long way to go to catch up with Korean and Japanese choir groups, but they hold a great hope in common: to someday stand in front of True Parents and offer their songs in person. The African choir groups' investments will never end until their dream comes true. **TW**

Dr. Otsuka is the FFWPU regional president in Africa.



A VOICE FROM ANGEL'S HEART

My name is Hu-wang Futila. I am a second-generation member in the DR Congo and a member of the choir called Angel's Heart (pictured below). The choir chose me to describe our experience during the choir tournament.

We received an invitation to compete in the tournament at an inconvenient moment. We were preparing to return to school, because 99.9 percent of our singers are high school students.

More important to us than winning a trophy was honoring True Father's memory by participating, because the tournament was connected to the first anniversary of our True Father's ascension to the spiritual world. The tournament was an opportunity for us to thank our True Father. With that motivation, we made many sacrifices like staying up all night. We recorded songs between 11:00 PM and 3:00 AM though we were supposed to leave for school by 6:00 AM.

We also had to raise funds and ask for donations to find some cash for uniforms. It was tough, but motivated by a desire to express gratitude to True Father, we were determined and thus overcame all those difficult obstacles.

At the same time, it was a good experience and we were so happy that we could not even sleep. It was like that for a full week.

In the end, we won third prize, but most important for us was that we offered our hearts and love to the True Parents through the tournament. All the members of Angel's Heart thank our Heavenly Parent, the True Parents and the regional president for this opportunity, and we wish that God blesses all *Today's World* readers in 2014. **TW**





Religious Youth Experience Israel

Based on a report by UPF-Israel

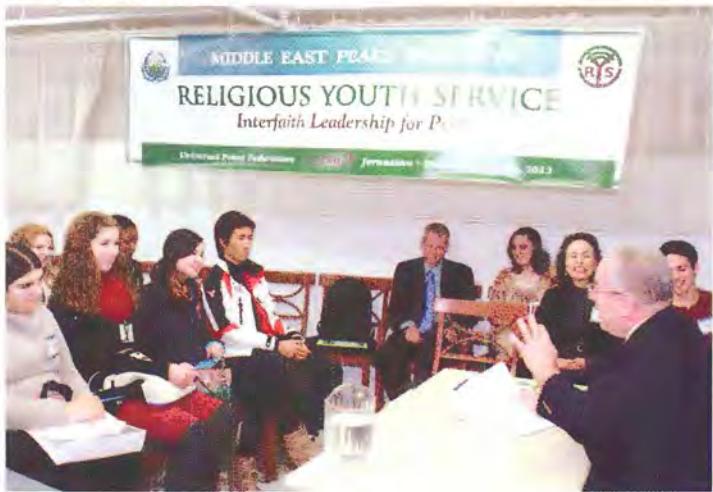
Toward the end of 2013, the international Religious Youth Service (RYS) conducted a project in Jerusalem. Taking part in this program were forty-two participants from fifteen nations. These young high-spirited leaders came to the Holy Land to learn about the complicated geopolitical reality here, and to try to understand better the hearts of the locals, Israelis and Palestinians. Being together, the participants had an opportunity to get to know one another and to experience one another's different religious and cultural background.

From its outset, the program had three pillars: interfaith exploration, leadership and service. Despite the short time allocated to each aspect, we tried to weave them in the overall experience. On the first day, we went to the Old City, to experience closely the three Abrahamic faith traditions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, by exploring their holy sites. First, we visited the Temple Mount, with its magnificent Dome of the Rock, which is one of the three holiest places for Muslims, the other two being the Mosque of the Ka'ba in Mecca and the Mosque of the Prophet Muhammad in Medina. We were able to hear about the Prophet Muhammad, who ascended to heaven from Temple Mount. Muslim are not unanimous in their view of the ascension—some think it occurred physically while others believe it was a purely mystical experience. In either case, it occurred before the end of the Prophet Muhammad's earthly life.

In the seventh century, Muslims conquered Jerusalem. Fifty years after the Prophet Muhammad's death, Caliph Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan ordered a temple built on the Dome of the Rock site. As one recent Islamic visitor to the site observed, "The Dome of the Rock is like Jerusalem's own sun, a gleaming, powerful presence that tells the world that Islam is here to stay—which was its builder's purpose."

Next, we went through the Via Dolorosa, literally, "the suffering path," the course that Jesus is thought to have taken on the way to his crucifixion. Since soon after Emperor Constantine formally recognized Christianity as a legal religion, pilgrims have come to Jerusalem to gain some vicarious understanding of what Jesus endured in his last hours on earth by walking where it is thought Jesus walked. In the earliest times, pilgrims

Below left: Dr. Frank LaGrotteria greets the RYS participants; **(By the wall, from left):** Hod Ben Zvi, UPF-Israel; Liel Shmueli, Tomiko Duggan and Koriel Ben Zvi; **Right:** Participants respond to a panel discussion



Photos courtesy of UPF Israel



Left: Participants learn about Judaism as part of the interfaith education that is integral to the RYS experience; **Right:** A couple, offers a prayer during the peace march.

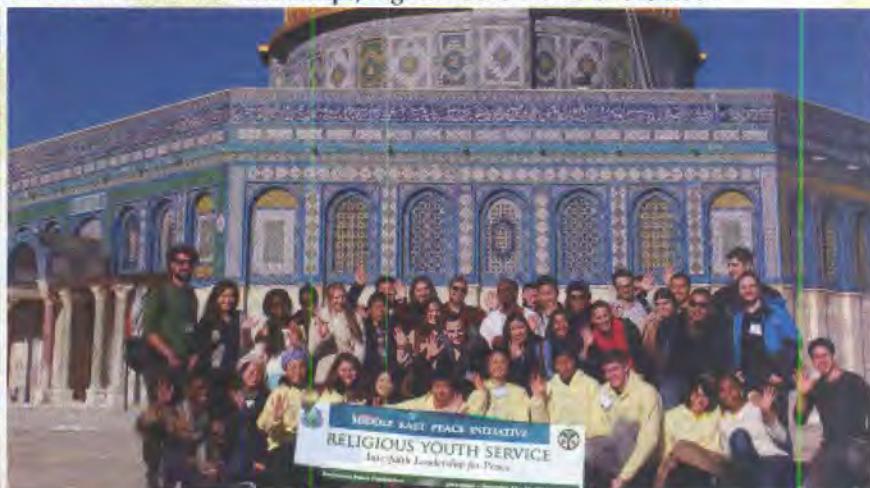
walked without stopping but today those who follow the course stop at what represent significant moments in Jesus' course toward execution, crucifixion. The actual course believers follow has changed periodically, the emphasis being on the emotional experience rather than on historical veracity. In the Middle Ages, when the Roman Empire had split into eastern and western empires, Christianity developed differently in the east and in the west. The Pope led Christianity in the Western Roman Empire. A Patriarch led the church in the Eastern Roman Empire. When experiencing the Via Delarosa, believers whose churches were in the west went generally west; believers whose churches were in the east followed an eastern trajectory. In Christian churches today, you may have encountered a series of bas-relief plaques depicting "stations of the cross." These depict the stops along the Via Delarosa course, which extends about five hundred meters. At the time that the concept of stations of the cross was developing in Europe, the Via Delarosa had eight stops. This was increased to fourteen to coincide with the European Christians' efforts to help the faithful to deeply sense the emotional aspects of Jesus' final hours. Next, we headed towards the Jewish quarter and met with Rabbi Reuben. This inspiring Rabbi showed us the unique way that Jews practice their belief in God. They truly believe it is through studying the word of God.

On the second day, we held two special panels at Hebrew University. Among the panelists were Ephraim Meir, who once headed the Department of Philosophy at Bar-Ill Univer-

sity. The author of numerous books in Dutch and in Hebrew, Professor Meir was born in Belgium and immigrated to Israel in 1983. Haim Koen is a professional diplomat. He has been the director of the Political Planning Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, deputy director of the Religious and Sects Department and was an instructor at the National Security College. He was appointed ambassador to Egypt in late October 2013. Kobi Nehushtan is a practitioner of homeopathic medicine and a student of Kabbalah, a mystical aspect of Judaism. Naomi Tsur is the deputy mayor of Jerusalem. Before being elected to the Jerusalem City Council, from which post she was appointed deputy mayor, she was a leader of the environmental movement in Israel. She headed SPNI, the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. Dr. Nurit Hirschfeld is a doctor of Rabbinic literature and head of UPF-Israel's Jerusalem Forum for Interfaith and Cooperation among Religions and Adi Sasaki, is director of UPF-Israel's Jerusalem Office for Peace and Security. The expert panelists discussed the geopolitical situation in the Middle East and the importance of having interfaith dialogue and cooperation. The participants were enthusiastic and wanted to learn and absorb the information. They asked the panelists important and challenging questions.

After the sessions, we went together to see the beautiful view of the Old City from one of the mountains surrounding it. In the evening, we experienced together the Jewish Sabbath. To welcome the Sabbath, we went to pray at a famous

Left: RYS members enter a school, in East Jerusalem, for children with various handicaps; **Right:** At the Dome of the Rock



Two Reflections on the Experience

Julien Bernard Grau (in sunglasses):

"I have made some long lasting friendships and am glad to have spent time with RYS and the Youth UPF that made me feel very welcome and accepted even though I don't belong to any faith in particular. MEPI is doing great work and learning about the work they do was inspirational. This has left a warm feeling of support and hope for world peace in the future."

Anita Chandel (in the brown jacket):

"I am so very grateful for having been a part of this blessed journey, I still feel like this is all a dream, a beautiful dream. The complete schedule was diverse, incorporating a vast array of activities, all very apt and relevant to the reason why we were on this trip. We achieved so very much in a matter of 4 days and it feels quite unreal that we accomplished so much in such little time with such amazing results and outcomes. This trip, this journey of both the outward and inward journey has left me feeling grateful, appreciative of what I have, hopeful for what is to come, and confident that I can make a difference in the lives of others.

"I was told various things from the participants, and each time I was spoken to, I felt the presence of God through their words, I felt that my being on this journey in Jerusalem is not a coincidence, but intentionally planned by God. The beauty within every participant was both unique and special, and God answered every question, every hope, every



desire I went with, through the spirit of the participants....

"Seeing Jerusalem for what it is now, and for what we all hope it shall emerge as has taught me to be strong, courageous, faithful and positive....

"Viewing the struggles, the sadness and the upset amongst the faces of those that live in this country, has allowed me to have hope and to acknowledge and be grateful for all that I have, but to also strive to help alleviate the challenges the Israelis and Palestinians encounter....

"I have returned from Jerusalem with a greater desire to be of assistance to others, and the belief that I can make a positive difference in the world. This journey has been both rewarding, beautiful, inspiring and unforgettable. The memories are priceless and shall be cherished forever."

reform synagogue. Even though the whole prayer was held in Hebrew, the atmosphere was very nice and inviting.

The next day (Saturday), we went to an Arab village named Isawie, which is located on the east side of Jerusalem. There we did a service project at an important school which provides special education for children with disabilities of various types. The manager and some staff members welcomed us warmly and gave us a tour of the place. We were surprised to see all the different and creative ways the school was using to help the children. After the tour, we divided ourselves into small groups and went to spend some time with the children. The interaction with the kids was amazing; through the experience we could learn to accept other people regardless of background or the differences.

The other part of the day was held in Al-Quds University, in Beit Hanina, which is an Arab town near Jerusalem. In this university, we attended a panel discussion that dealt with the topic, "democratic values in Middle East tribal society." A woman lawyer gave us her perspective on Palestine as an independent country; also, Dr. Mansur gave us an introduction of the history in the Middle East. Later, we met Arab students and had a session of questions and answers with them about their views and feelings on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In the evening, we participated in a special celebration—the tenth anniversary of the Middle East Peace Initiative. The

event took place at a famous hotel, and the group met many important ambassadors for peace from all over the world. The young members mixed in with all of them and were excited to talk to them. Later in the event's program, our group was called up to stage, to share our vision and thoughts. The adults were very happy and inspired to hear the young and courageous members.

On the final day (Sunday), we went to the Old City and took part in the famous peace march, which is a customary part of UPF's MEPI program. The march touched some participants. Next, we went to the famous Holocaust Museum of Israel. After the tour, we had some time to ask our tour guide questions about the holocaust.

After lunch, we went back to our hotel, where we had a chance to hear from a former soldier in the Israeli Defense Forces who took part in one of the latest wars in south Israel. She shared about the difficulties of commanding other soldiers during that time even though her parents had raised her with values that stressed the pursuit of peace. In the evening we had a concluding ceremony at which all the participants received the RYS graduate certificate. **SW**

Mr. Koriel Ben Zvi and Ms. Liel Shmueli directed the RYS project.

Drawing on Experience to Face New Challenges

An interview with a newly appointed regional president

This interview of Rev. Kwun In-soung took place on 11.2 (December 4) in the FFWPU International Headquarters soon after True Mother appointed him regional president of Oceania.

TODAY'S WORLD: Please tell us a bit about your background.

Rev. Kwun In-soung: Let me introduce myself briefly. I was born in 1969 and received the blessing in 1992. My wife and I have three daughters. The first one is already a university student, the second is in high school and the third is in middle school. My parents received the blessing among the four hundred and thirty couples. I am their first child out of four siblings, three boys and a girl, one of which is my younger twin brother. All are active in the movement. My twin brother is working in the Korea Religions Association, as secretary general. My youngest brother works here.¹

When I graduated from university, my parents, who are the national messiahs of Belarus, I, my twin brother, our wives and children all went to Belarus. I graduated from Sun Moon University. Eight of us went together to Belarus. I worked there first for seven years, and then I came back to Korea.

I then completed a graduate course in Leisure Sports in Hoseo University. I studied there because I worked for the Peace Cup for seven years. I was the director of the corporate branch of the Peace Cup. After my years with the Peace Cup, True Mother appointed me as the Second-Generation Department director. I did that for just a year until a month ago, when I received a new mission. The Second-Generation Department and CARP, which had different leaders before, merged and formed the Youth Federation. I was appointed as its president. I did that for only a month and then received this new mission as regional president. That's my story, basically.

How do you think your experience, particularly in Belarus, will help you in Oceania?

Mission experience is very important in my life because I could learn many things; not only internal things but also external things. When I went to Belarus to have some experience in missionary work, I had to solve two problems. One was how to solve the problem of funding and the other was how I could educate the Belarussian members so that they could understand God's heart and feelings. I tried to do my best and to inherit God's feelings from True Parents. As you know, Korea has a good family tradition; I tried to teach that to the members in Belarus. I wasn't only teaching. We were living together, so I had to show what a Korean lifestyle is like.

The other area, not being dependent, or the funding problem, troubled me, because I wanted to work for God's providence, but knew that it would be difficult to do anything without a foundation. Then, I had an idea. Whenever Korea hosts a special leaders' meeting, members in all the different countries bring special guests for conferences or to meet True Parents. Many of these people are famous or prominent but because they were just coming to conferences we were holding ourselves, the Korean media were usually unaware of their visits. For example, when I invited the former president of Belarus, Stanislau Shushkevich,² I asked him to please give me three days of his visit. He could go to our conference and meetings but I asked him to give me three days during which I could guide him or introduce him to people. When he came to Korea, I worked with the government—the city government, regional government and its leaders. I was trying to make an exchange program at the city-government level. After our conference ended, I worked for the government. The police came to escort us. We had meetings not only with the city government leaders but I took him to universities where he gave lectures on how

1 His youngest brother works in the FFWPU International Headquarters where the interview took place.

2 He was the chairman of the Supreme Soviet from 1991–January 1994. Two men briefly followed him in that post until Belarus' first president Lukashenka won election in July 1994.

communism collapsed.

People in society were very inspired by him. They asked him why he came to Korea. He answered that True Parents had called him to Korea. This was a good development and the media—newspapers and television—focused on him and they would show it on the news on the prime time news at 9:00 o'clock in the evening.

I carried out this kind of work for several years. With different important figures in society, I visited twenty different Korean cities, where we met city leaders. People like Mr. Shushkevich developed relationships with city mayors, and after he went back to Belarus, he invited city mayors to visit his country.

I suggested that he invites mayors and I told him I would support it and I would provide good communication between him and others with these Korean figures. The mayors would come with a group and I would arrange for a "sisterhood" ceremony between the cities, between the universities, between different groups. In this way, the government people came to see True Parents' abilities and their foundation on the world



Rev. Lim, the Australian national leader (far left) and other members welcome Rev. Kwun on his arrival in Sydney, where he will begin his mission as regional president.

level. At the same time, the Belarusians could see that Korea had a more developed foundation and they could learn new things through the exchange or receive some support from the Korean government.

I did this for about five years, when the mayor in one city, Cheongju—he is now working on a higher level than the city—made me a public relations ambassador for the Cheongju city government. After being given this post, when I visited other countries, such as Moldova for example, a mayor in Moldova met me at the airport and with a police escort, guided me to his city. I worked for five years with this foundation as a city ambassador.

Even though I was a missionary, the people I met in Korea thought I was doing something special when they saw my activities. Thanks to this, one organization approached me and asked me to become their director. I was a missionary but I was sponsored by them while I was fully working for God's providence. I could learn this kind of thing from my Belarus life.

That's not all; I invited students to Belarus to learn the

Russian language or study English. I worked with institutes there. That was interesting. I also invited a Korean traditional dance troupe to Belarus. I invited a political leader to each of the dance performances. So, we had a student exchange program, a cultural exchange program, an economic exchange program and a political exchange program. Doing this work, I learned about public relations and I learned how to indirectly demonstrate that True Parents are the Messiah. It was a good experience for me.

Of course the foundation I gained from this experience is inadequate for a regional president and I do not have good enough English skills, but from my point of view, my experiences working in this manner made me stronger, gave me a better foundation and was a good experience in relation to the new position I have to take on.

This should help me to work on that level, but usually when someone is given a higher position, he loses humility. I have been learning how to avoid that since I was a child, because my parents were church leaders. A church leader's life, externally, is not very good. Internally, it may be the most important position but externally it isn't nice. I could learn exactly what my position is. Internally, we have good values—I am a second generation member, I have been following the movement until now, etc.. This is good. Externally, we have to compare ourselves with those in society. I know exactly how they see us. We have to maintain balance.

In relation to members, we usually speak of Abel and Cain. In order to be Abel, Abel needs permission from those on Cain's side. Cain needs to accept Abel before Abel can be a real Abel. I have to obey Cain or to extend myself to do more for Cain before I can become Abel.

I want to become a humbler leader. I want to become more practical. I am not trying to teach. I am trying to show how to live together with them. And then, with the life style, if they can accept me, it will be easier to work together. That is my story.

You are headed to one of the most exotic and unusual areas of the world. How will you connect to a region that is so scattered?

A leader is an important position. Leaders have desires and they have things they are willing to do. My style is somewhat more focused on reality, on substance. I am trying to make a substantial foundation. This means that if I am living in Sydney Australia, I am going to try and change Sydney, my area, first. If I invest in my area for, say, six months and something changes there, that can be a good influence for places that are even far from Sydney. I don't have to go everywhere. I can show it through my lifestyle and if people there are moved—rumors of this, or this good story, can influence... fly everywhere, and others can move. Of course, if there is a chance to meet one another more often, that would be best, but now the internet and things of that sort are quite developed.

When I was a university student, I had a chance to go to Australia for six months; I learned English and traveled. It was a good experience to learn about Australia. I also went

to New Zealand, but I have never been to any of the smaller islands. If possible, first of all, I should visit each nation to see the situation. After that I can make a clear plan. For now, I am thinking of investing in whatever area I live in, not far from there.

You are sure to encounter a diverse population in your region.

I had the opportunity to be in more than forty countries and could meet many types of people. For example, when I worked as the corporate director for the Peace Cup, I mainly met members of the media and government officials, to set up deals with them. I also met with football clubs, lawyers, sponsor groups, the people that were going to pay, and representatives of the broadcasting companies. All of them were professionals and they were special people. I had to make a deal with them. Even though my English was not good enough, I worked in my own style. I did it in this way. I tried to make them understand by expressing my heart. Once we could all learn to trust each other, we could agree.

Of course, language and culture are very important. History is also important, but I think the heart is the most important

and that everything is possible if I try to do my best.

My last question: What do you foresee for your wife and your daughters in the years ahead?

Every time I get a new mission, I feel thankful to my family, because they don't know what mission I have or what I do exactly, but they support me. They see that the mission is from God and True Parents and that I have to follow it. Under those circumstances, they want to know what they can do for me or what they have to do for me. That is their first question. With that kind of support, I feel I have a background: God and True Parents are the most powerful background, but realistically, physically, my family provides me a good, supportive background. That makes me feel good.

My three daughters all have different situations. So, I have to think about their futures. When I go to Australia, I will see what I can do for them. One aspect of the mission is that True Parents said our family should go with us. I will obey because True Parents said this. They may not be able to be in Australia all the time. They may come once, twice or thrice. It doesn't matter. At least they should have the right mind and they should come. **TW**

Our Special Envoy to a Heavenly Garden on the Sea

This interview of Rev. Seo Young-ju took place on 11.3 (December 5) at the FFWPU International Headquarters, where he was preparing for his new mission to Palau.



TODAY'S WORLD: How did you first respond when you learned that you would be working in Palau?

Rev. Seo Young-ju: I graduated from Korea University. My major was sociology. I also graduated from Unification Theological Seminary with a master's degree in religious education. I have an interest in social activities, such as overseas service projects from Korea. I have experience in the non-governmental organization sector.

Palau is a heavenly garden on the sea. I have experienced developing countries before. I have been a missionary to Nepal since 2006. I very much enjoy local life in underdeveloped countries. I appreciate being able to communicate with the people. I have already experienced staying in Palau, two times.

Now, as a special envoy to Palau, I am planning for my family to live there after I have prepared the way for them. I hope they will enjoy having this different experience in their lives.

What brought you to Palau in the past?

I went as an assistant to the then regional president of Oceania, Dr. Kim. I went there in support of a project that he had designed. In February last year, I went there with Dr. Kim to do research on local projects. The second time I stayed there was in May; I stayed for two weeks researching in relation to the New Village Movement.

Will you be continuing the New Village Movement in Palau?

We are just at the research stage in Palau but in the Oceania region we have implemented the New Village movement to

make a better life for the local people. To restore nations, this was the Oceania region's plan under former Regional President Kim.

I take it, then, that you have met most of the main members in Palau.

No, I haven't met many. I have just been meeting grassroots organization and local village leaders. I met the man that is now the former president, Johnson Toribiong, with Dr. Kim to discuss how to develop their nation.

You met him while he was president?

Yes.¹ Palau is important internationally and geopolitically. It is between two great powers, China and the United States. Also, environmentally, global warming is a hot issue and along with that comes the rising sea. I am expecting that UPF International will increasingly direct its attention and concern to our small island nations, including Palau and to help make peace and a good life.

If I'm not incorrect, I believe the U.S. is planning to pull out of Palau.

They extended their contract to 2025. Before that time, they need to set up their own plan to manage their people. Otherwise, they will lose their chance to manage their blessing.

Have you ever read Today's World magazine?

It is very good for studying English and has news connected to our True Family. **TW**

¹ Johnson Toribiong's term began in 2009 and ended on January 17, 2013.



The Asian Peace and Unity Corps

Based on a report by Ursula McLackland

Thailand continues to develop based on their close cooperation with societal figures. UPF-Thailand, whose president is a retired Thai army general, held an event in mid-November that attracted participants from throughout their region.

My Family and My Country: Toward Unity, Peace and Prosperity attracted two hundred and eighty participants to its opening session.

Father saw things from a perspective that no one has had access to for at least two thousand years. He launched initiatives that even our own members sometimes had difficulty fully understanding. One of Father's proposals, which he first announced in 2004 at an Assembly of the Mongolian Peoples' Federation for World Peace, which took place in Korea, was for the Peace Army¹ and the Peace Police. Father spoke about these protective forces at various times. He said the following on October 5, 2007:

Of course, we have the ambassadors for peace and the Peace Police. Women have to become peace police officers and men have to join the Peace Army. Now is the time if we want to protect family and protect society. The red corpuscles simply take care of them — but the white blood cells are there to take care of the wider environment. ... needs to be that kind of protective system. You know, in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve placed too much trust in Lucifer. Lucifer was raised to be a perfect assistant to God, but in ignorance of the fact that he had been entrusted with that, he could not take measures to protect the situation.

An initiative reminiscent of what True Father suggested a decade ago has been launched in Asia. For the conference that launched it, the prestigious National Defense

¹ Because of the sensitive, seemingly aggressive, nature of the term, *Today's World* used different renderings over the years, including "Peace Army" for this term.





UPF-International Chairman Yang Chang-shik; Regional President Yong Chung-sik; Gen. Vishwa Nath Sharma, Indian Army Chief of Staff, 1988–1990; Chairman Kullavanijaya of the think tank that cosponsored the event and Supreme Commander, Royal Thai Armed Forces, Gen. Boonsrang Niumpradit spoke at the launching of the Asian Peace and Unity Corps.

College Alumni Think Tank of Thailand (NDC-TTT) and the Universal Peace Federation were cohosts and they cooperated as well in the development of the concept that they call the Peace and Unity Corps. The president of UPF-Thailand, Terdsak Marrome, a retired Thai army general, described this pan-Asian body of security forces as a “network of peace-builders.”

The launch of the Asian Peace and Unity Corps occurred at the Grand Fourwings Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, on December 13. Two hundred and eighty people were on hand for the event. Among them were many military and law enforcement figures. It is significant that the participants came from throughout the region. The participants from Vietnam were business and education figures. A media figure and the director of the Planning Division of the government’s Ministry of Information came from Laos. A former chief inspector of the police force accompanied the FFWPU national leader from Malaysia. Two deputy inspector generals of the national police force of Nepal came, as did a deputy inspector general of the armed national police force from the same nation. The commanding general of the Second Infantry Division of the Army

of the Philippines also attended.

In his opening remarks at the launching, Charan Kullavanijaya, president of the NDC-TTT, and a former general and one-time secretary-general of Thailand’s National Security Council, said that human beings tend to have selfish minds. To counter this, he emphasized, we need to be self-governed and therefore “morality is our best armor.”

V. N. Sharma, a retired general and chief of the Army Staff of India (1988–1990) stated that the fundamental cause of violence is rooted in selfishness and that conflicts arise from the desire for others’ money and resources. The solution is to control our greedy minds.

Sanat Kumar Basnet, a retired general and a former inspector general of the Armed Police Force of Nepal, drew on personal experience. In November 2004, Maoist insurgents ambushed him and one of them shot him. His troops captured the person that shot him, but the then Gen. Basnet forgave his enemy. Although he recovered from his injuries, he concluded that “forgiveness is the true healing.”

Among the fourteen guests from the Philippines was Dioni-



The ceremonial launching of the Asian Peace and Unity Corps

sio R. Santiago, who has a background in a great variety of martial occupations. As well as having been the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (2002–2003), he has also been in charge of his nation's prison system and chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. In his remarks to the audience, he emphasized the importance of thorough training and education.

Two hundred and twenty members of the Thai defense and police forces and civil society participated in this event with great enthusiasm, despite the precarious political situation in Thailand at the time. While the world is suffering from violent conflicts and moral confusion, True Mother said during hoondokhae on December 1, 2013, "The peace army and peace police are to bring order within this disorganized and messy world and take charge of education. I am not saying here that they should fight with arms but with the word."

Father has indicated that he may was thinking ahead to when he is in spiritual world and Mother is on earth when he proposed the creation of a Peace Army and Peace Police. At a time when Mother was about to embark on a twelve-city speaking tour of the United States and Canada, he said the following:

The Mother has appeared. Therefore centering on the Mother, people must be born again. Policemen and soldiers should cooperate. That's why I appointed twelve people each for the Peace Kingdom Police and Peace Kingdom Corps. They're to be like the UN peace-keeping forces that were dispatched to Korea during the Korean War. Yet they failed to protect the people of this nation and the land. If Korea had been protected and if I had announced at that time the things I am saying now, it would have taken less than seven years to bring about a world of peace.... Cain and Abel stand before Mother. When Jesus died the women opposed him, and the three women ran away. If the wives of the three disciples had offered their lives instead, things would not have turned out the way they did. Centering on the mother, Cain and Abel—the Peace Kingdom Corps and Peace Kingdom Police should unite. Such security measures were not in place in the Garden of Eden. This should be done on a national scale. The peace-keeping forces should also play the role of a global security measure.

Dr. Yang Chang-shik, chairman of UPF International, expressed that the inauguration of the "peace military and peace police" has been a long-cherished wish of Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. Members of the Peace and Unity Corps, he said, "would not carry weapons or use 'hard power.' Rather, they would build character in young people. They would teach self-discipline, loyalty and patriotism."

Dr. Yong Chung-sik, regional president of Asia, compared filial piety with patriotism saying they are both, essentially, attributes of true love. "Patriotism is filial piety on a larger scale," he explained, "Each generates the willingness to sacri-



Military and law enforcement figures from throughout Asia attended the conference.

fice, even your own life, for others."

Throughout 2013, with the heart of a devoted son to True Parents, Dr. Yong kept urging all Asian leaders to quickly implement True Father's vision by establishing the Asian Peace and Unity Corps with the goal of a thousand members throughout Asia. True Parents see their role as "righteous military and police to cooperate with each other and educate humanity in True Love in order to create true individuals, families, nations and world."

After retirement, these capable, well-trained and disciplined officers have the time and heart to serve their nations as patriots. We are making plans to train them as lecturers for the pure love and true family movement through character building and Divine Principle education.

On December 15, at the end of the three-day Divine Principle education program that followed the inauguration, the participants rededicated themselves to their marriages by repenting for past mistakes, forgiving each other and determining to become models of true love for the younger generation. The atmosphere was full of warmth and inspiration. Participants appeared invigorated by the vision of UPF and look forward to working with us. We were deeply touched when True Mother expressed the same hope during her address to our worldwide membership at the Cheongshim Peace World Center the very same morning. **SW**

Mrs. McLackland is the regional secretary-general of UPF-Asia.



From this issue, we will have a QR code with a quotation from True Father that you can see on phones with a QR reader.

